



The award-winning newsletter of
students and staff of UCC's
Department of Government and
Politics
Issue 82, Wednesday 17 April 2024

GOVERNMENT TIMES

RANKINGS RISE

UCC has been named as one of the world's top universities for the study of 24 subjects according to the latest world subject rankings produced by the renowned higher education analysts, QS. This includes the disciplinary area of Politics and International Studies which has risen to a global ranking of between 151-200. See page 3.



Students and staff of the Department of Government and Politics with the President of UCC, Professor John O'Halloran, and European Commissioner, Máiréad McGuinness.

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RANKINGS RISE

‘I am delighted to see the news that the latest QS rankings have acknowledged the high quality and richness of UCC’s work in the politics and international studies realm. Being ranked among the top 200 globally is deserved recognition of the multi-faceted work undertaken and delivered by the Department of Government and Politics. It is testament to the strong research outputs, positive employer feedback and growing profile and reputation of our staff and graduates, and it demonstrates that UCC is now a key location for anyone wishing to study politics in Ireland’ –

DR MARY C. MURPHY

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS





I hope you enjoy Issue 82 of *Government Times*. As you will read, a lot has been happening of late in the Department of Government and Politics. Our flagship event was the annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture with Commissioner Máiréad McGuinness. This is covered in great detail on pages 21 to 24. We offer special congratulations to the three student award winners who were recognised at the Monahan Lecture – Robert Palmer, Sinéad McMahan and Sarah O’Mahony. Our Government and Politics Society enjoyed a successful year and the European Parliament town-hall style debate on Monday 8 April was a real highlight (see page 28). The AGM for the Government and Politics Society takes place on Thursday 18 April and we encourage all students to get involved. Of course, we were thrilled with the news of the QS rankings rise, recognition and validation for the quality of work and research being conducted in UCC in the discipline of political science. Two constituent elements of the Department of Government and Politics – the Hub in Active European Citizenship and the Centre for Local and Regional Governance – have been very active and the activities of both units are highlighted in this issue. Though the academic teaching year is drawing to a close, there is much to look forward to, including Dr. Andrew Cottey’s lecture, ‘Europe’s Liberal Peace: Liberalism in Illiberal Times’ (see pages 15 and 16).



President of UCC, Prof. John O’Halloran, and European Commissioner, Máiréad McGuinness

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan

Editor, *Government Times*

a.quinlivan@ucc.ie



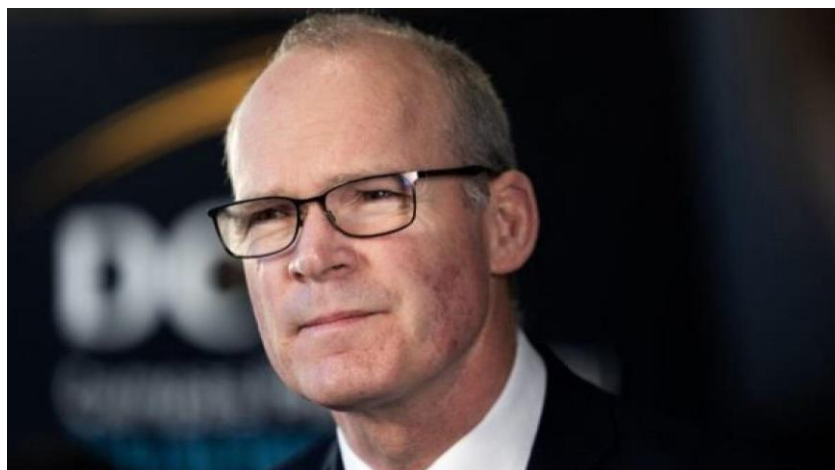
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT ADDRESSES EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
ÉIRE IRELAND

On 4 April, **Dr. Mary C. Murphy** spoke at the European Youth Parliament opening ceremony event in UCC. She was joined by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, Minister Simon Coveney and Deputy UCC President, Prof. Stephen Byrne

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) Ireland is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organisation that runs a number of conferences every year for young people. EYP Ireland is one of 36 national committees of the European Youth Parliament Network. It is the mission of EYP Ireland to develop an interest in European issues among young people in Ireland. EYP Ireland seeks to empower the youth to question the world around them and come up with innovative solutions to global problems, while emphasising concepts of cooperation and respect.





CALL TO REINFORCE THE BONDS BETWEEN IRELAND AND WALES



On Thursday 22 February, the latest lecture in the **Jean Monnet Series** was delivered by **Rhun ap Iorwerth**, leader of the Welsh political party, Plaid Cymru. He made a compelling case for reinforcing the bonds between Wales and Ireland. The seasoned politician underscored the urgency for Wales to re-join the European single market, emphasising the detrimental effects of Brexit on the nation. Ap Iorwerth began his keynote speech by lamenting the profound impact of Brexit, describing it as ‘deeply damaging for Wales’ and outlining the challenges it has posed in shaping a constructive relationship with Ireland. However, he expressed confidence that these obstacles could be surmounted, emphasizing the need to revitalize and strengthen Wales’ connections with European allies. Highlighting the strategic importance of closer ties with Ireland, Ap Iorwerth articulated: ‘Those closer links can be broad-ranging, but should certainly include economic cooperation, for example around developments either side of the Irish sea in renewables and hydrogen.’ This perspective aligns with a vision of collaboration that extends beyond political boundaries to encompass mutually beneficial economic partnerships.



Advocating for a closer alignment with the European Union, the Plaid Cymru leader asserted: ‘There is one immediate step which must be taken not only to safeguard Welsh jobs and trade but also as a statement of intent about our nation’s constitutional future. The UK Government should commence urgent discussions with Brussels to negotiate rejoining the single market and customs union.’ This proactive stance seeks to address the economic repercussions of Brexit while signalling a commitment to a more integrated future.

In a critical reflection on the consequences of Brexit, Ap Iorwerth remarked: ‘It gives me no pleasure for Plaid Cymru to have been proven right when we warned that what “taking back control” meant in reality was the UK establishment ‘taking back control’ from Brussels and clinging onto it in Westminster.’ He criticised Boris Johnson’s handling of Brexit and the subsequent economic instability caused by what he termed ‘Trussonomics.’ Asserting the party’s unwavering commitment to Wales’ independence in Europe, Ap Iorwerth quoted Plaid Cymru’s constitution, stating: ‘As the National Party of Wales, the Party’s aims shall be to secure independence for Wales in Europe.’ Far from seeing Brexit as an impediment to this goal, he argued that the movement has not forgotten the social and economic benefits of being part of the world’s largest trading area and economic community.

‘As we cling to those memories, the full extent of the damage that cutting ties with our closest trading partners has reaped becomes ever clearer,’ Ap Iorwerth concluded. This acknowledgment of the tangible consequences of Brexit underscores the urgency of re-evaluating Wales’ place in the global economic landscape and the imperative to rebuild and fortify relationships with key allies, particularly in Europe. In this nuanced and insightful address, Rhun ap Iorwerth has positioned himself as a stalwart advocate for Wales, urging decisive actions to navigate the challenges post-Brexit and fostering stronger ties with Ireland and the European Union.





BEYOND THE BALLOT BOX

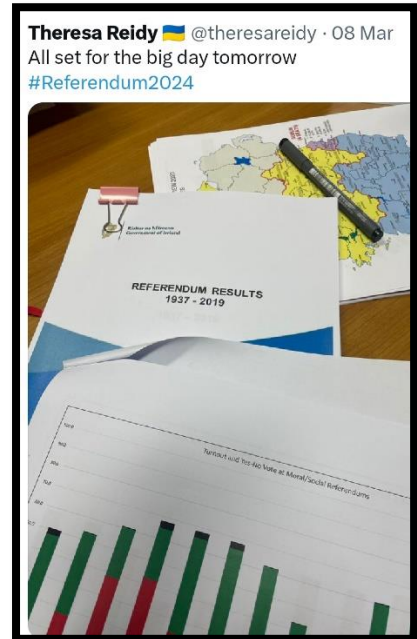
Between 6 and 9 June 2024, citizens across the continent will exercise their democratic rights to shape the future of the European Union. The European Parliament elections will be a significant moment as newly elected, and re-elected MEPs (now 705 but growing to 720 after the elections) will play a crucial role in formulating policies, legislation, and the overall direction of the European Union for the coming years, or at least until their mandate ends in 2029. Since the previous elections in 2019, Europe has witnessed substantial changes, including the global COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery efforts, climate change concerns, and the EU's renewed efforts to become energy independent.

These were some of the issues discussed at an informative webinar (organised jointly by UACES and IACES) - 'Beyond the Ballot Box: Domestic Politics and the Future of the European Union' – on Wednesday 27 March. Amongst the distinguished speakers was **Dr. Mary C. Murphy**, Head of the Department of Government and Politics. She was joined by Prof. Daniela Braun (Saarland University), Dr Kathryn Simpson (Keele University) and Dr William Daniel (University of Nottingham).





REFERENDUMS, RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTIONS ENSURE A BUSY TIME FOR DR. THERESA REIDY



Dr. Theresa Reidy (on left of picture) was a regular contributor on Irish television and radio during the recent referendums on 'Family' and 'Care', both of which were defeated by a wide margin.

Theresa Reidy: Leo Varadkar leaves Ireland a prosperous state in an uncertain world

In his final week as Taoiseach, Taoiseach brought uncomfortable truths to the US political elite about their enabling of atrocity in Gaza

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and his partner Matt Barrett at the St. Patrick's Day brunch in the East Room of the White House as part of his visit to the US for St. Patrick's Day. Picture: Niall Carson/PA

THU, 21 MAR, 2024 - 09:46

Theresa Reidy

Leo Varadkar caused an unexpected earthquake in Irish politics with the abrupt announcement of his resignation as Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael.

Mr Varadkar didn't settle into his second period as Taoiseach with the same assured ease that marked his first tenure from 2017-2020.

He often appeared distracted and, just last week, there were reports that he was not embracing the St. Patrick's Day visit to the White House with his usual energy and focus. While the decision was a surprise, taking a step back, there have been subtle signposts for many months.

Mr Varadkar has been on the national political stage for 17 years. A politician of enormous intellect, he showed early promise when he was first elected in 2007 and he emerged as a straight-talking and ambitious high-flyer. He served a short political apprenticeship in the Fine Gael backbenches, before being appointed to Cabinet by Enda Kenny in 2011.

Following the recent surprise resignation of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, **Dr. Theresa Reidy** had a thought-provoking opinion piece in the *Irish Examiner* on Thursday 21 March, entitled: 'Leo Varadkar leaves Ireland a prosperous state in an uncertain world.'

Theresa Reidy 🇮🇪 @theresareidy · 30 Mar ⋮
When politicians are attacked and abused, it is democracy that suffers



irishtimes.com

Dr. Theresa Reidy wrote an opinion piece for *The Irish Times*, published on Saturday 30 March under the heading ‘When politicians are attacked and abused, it is democracy that suffers.’



Gender Publication Gap Discussed in Major New Article by Theresa Reidy and Daniel Stockemer

Reidy T, Stockemer D. The Gender Publication Gap Revisited: Evidence from the International Political Science Review. *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

‘This article should not be considered a call to inaction or an indication that deep structurally gendered imbalances in the discipline have been resolved. On the contrary, the most obvious recommendation is that it is essential for more women to be recruited ... Whereas women are the global majority, they remain a minority in academia. Assuming that men and women continue to publish at approximately equal rates, this also implies that the gender gap in publishing will only erode if there is parity in academia. Considering that achieving parity is a slow process, we likely will continue to see more articles by male scholars in the short and medium terms. This poses real challenges for the types of questions that are asked, the way research is conducted, and how knowledge is created.’



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>

ON THE ROAD TO BELGIUM

The Hub in Active European Citizenship undertook its annual study trip to EU institutions last week. Sixteen teachers from primary and post-primary schools across the country undertook a range of cultural and educational sessions and activities in Belgium.

Day 1 opened with a session on 'How the EU Works' with Dr. Eoin Drea of the Wilfried Martens Centre. The was followed by a road trip to the *Island of Ireland Peace Park* commemorating those who fought and died in World War I. We then headed to the *In Flanders Fields* museum in Ypres, with a presentation by Wouter Cardoen on 'Teaching The Importance of European Cooperation'. The day wrapped up with attendance at the *Last Post* ceremony at the Menin Gate.



Day 2 focussed on visits and meetings at EU institutions in Brussels. It opened with a tour of the European Parliament and Q&A sessions with MEPs Sean Kelly and Mick Wallace. The afternoon featured a visit to the European Commission for presentations and Q&A sessions with Stephen Davies (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and Angelos Agalianos / Brenda Maher (DG Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture).



The final day of the trip involved presentations and workshops on the BFGtoEU and DABtheEU programmes at the Irish College in Leuven.

 **Mary** @boyceoc · 05 Apr

Heading home from a wonderful study trip to Brussels & Ypres with @HubEuropCitizen & @ESchonQuinlivan

Míle buíochas to Emmanuelle , Philip & team for looking after us so well.

👏👏👏👏





Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs

The Hub in active European Citizenship has been invited to appear before the Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs to discuss 'EU in schools' on 24 April 2024. Having started this journey of developing awareness, teaching material and training opportunities on the EU in schools since 2017, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**, Director of the Hub, is looking forward to sharing her expertise and impress on the Committee that many things can be done to strengthen Ireland's Europeaness at school level, be it linguistic, cultural, social or political.

Ireland's Second Europe Day Festival

On 9 May 2024, the Hub in Active European Citizenship is organising Ireland's second Europe Day festival in University College Cork from 10 to 12pm. It is aimed at primary school children who want to celebrate Europe Day and discover more about the European Union. The morning will revolve around games, arts and craft, music and multilingual activities to explore in an engaging and fun way the diversity of the European Union. We will be joined by my MEP Grace O'Sullivan who will come and answer questions from pupils. The Deputy Lord Mayor will formally open the Festival which will see schools from Munster come and perform their own songs on the theme: 'Imagine your EU'. We also have three schools that have imagined their own map of the European Union and won our competition. You are more than welcome to come and have a look.



Flashback to the inaugural Europe Day Festival in 2023.



Blue Star Programme Tender

My Big Friendly Guide to the European Union, which is the primary level teaching and learning programme on active European citizenship **Trish Collier**, principal of Kilmurry NS, and **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** created in 2017/2018, has applied for the Blue Star programme tender, requested by the Department for Foreign Affairs. If the BFGtoEU tender was successful it would mean that the Hub in Active European Citizenship would become responsible of the Government's Blue Star programme aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the European Union at primary school level. It would also set the Blue Star programme in a wider continuum of education through citizenship on European matters from Junior Infants to 6th class with all the activities offered by the Hub.



‘Europe’s Liberal Peace: Liberalism in Illiberal Times’

Lecture by Professor Andrew Cottey



Collective Social Futures invites you to the first lecture in our inaugural series 2024 by
Professor Andrew Cottey, Department of Government and Politics, UCC

Wednesday 15 May, 5-6.30pm,

Dora Allman Room, The Student Hub



Against the background of Russia’s continuing war against Ukraine – Europe’s largest armed conflict since the Second World War – Prof. Andrew Cottey will explore the sources of war and peace in Europe and the prospects for peace on the continent in the 2020s and beyond. Drawing on international relations theory, he will argue that a liberal peace emerged in Western Europe after 1945, was extended into much of Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s and 2000s, has fundamentally transformed international politics in Europe. For reasons that are likely to remain contested, however, Russia remains outside this liberal peace.

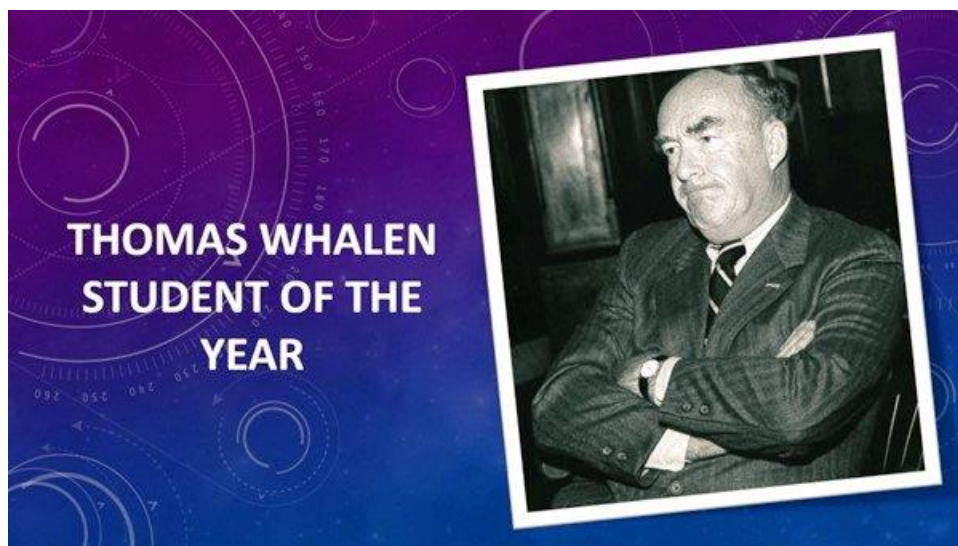
Today, Europe's liberal peace is threatened by illiberalism from without, in the form of Russia and other authoritarian powers, and within, in the form of populism. Cottey will also address the liberal imperialist critique of liberalism, arguing that it misunderstands the causes of war and peace in international politics. He will argue that we need to find a middle road between liberal hubris and liberal defeatism.

Andrew Cottey is a Professor in the Department of Government and Politics, University College Cork. He was Head of the Department of Government and Politics from 2013 to 2018. He has published widely on European security, EU foreign policy, NATO, European relations with China and Irish security and defence policy. He has been a NATO Research Fellow, a Research Associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), a Visiting Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and was Chair of the Royal Irish Academy's Standing Committee on International Affairs. His work has been published in the journals *International Affairs*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *European Security* and *Contemporary Security Policy*. The third edition of his book *Security in 21st Century Europe* will be published by Bloomsbury in 2025.

Respondent: Prof. Mark Webber will respond to Andrew Cottey's lecture. Mark Webber is Professor of International Politics at the University of Birmingham. Formerly the Head of the Department of Politics, History and International Relations at Loughborough University, he was also the Head of the School of Government and Society at Birmingham from 2011 to 2019. He has been a Trustee of the British International Studies Association (BISA) since 2014 and was BISA's Chair in 2019–2020. Mark is a NATO specialist and a one-time scholar of Russia and the former Soviet Union. His work has been published in the journals *International Affairs*, *European Journal of International Security*, *Review of International Studies*, *European Security*, *West European Politics*, and *Journal of European Integration*. He is co-editor (with James Sperling) of the forthcoming Oxford University Press *Handbook on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation*.

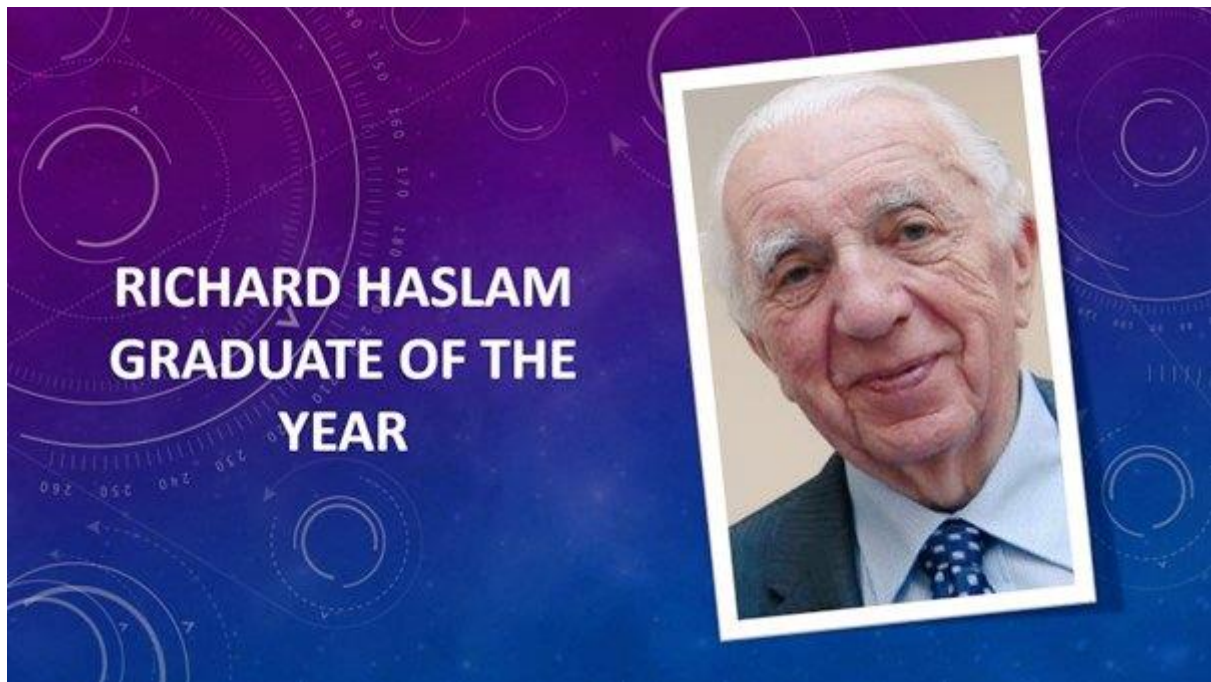


NEW ADDITIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS ROLL OF HONOUR



2000	Holly Hardwicke
2001	Elizabeth Harrington
2002	Peter Ryan
2003	Hannah Lane
2004	Ann-Marie Tierney
2005	Denis Twomey
2006	Andrea Merrigan
2007	Darragh Mehigan
2008	Patrick Higgins
2009	Tracey O'Rourke
2010	John Kenny
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaídn
2012	Louis O'Keeffe
2013	Jack Corbett
2014	Michael Lyons
2015	Richard Creedon
2016	Anja Tossenberger
2017	Lewis O'Shea
2018	Colum Buckley
2019	Luc O'Leary
2020	Sinéad McMahon
2021	Jennifer Flynn
2022	Conor Brennan
2023	ROBERT PALMER

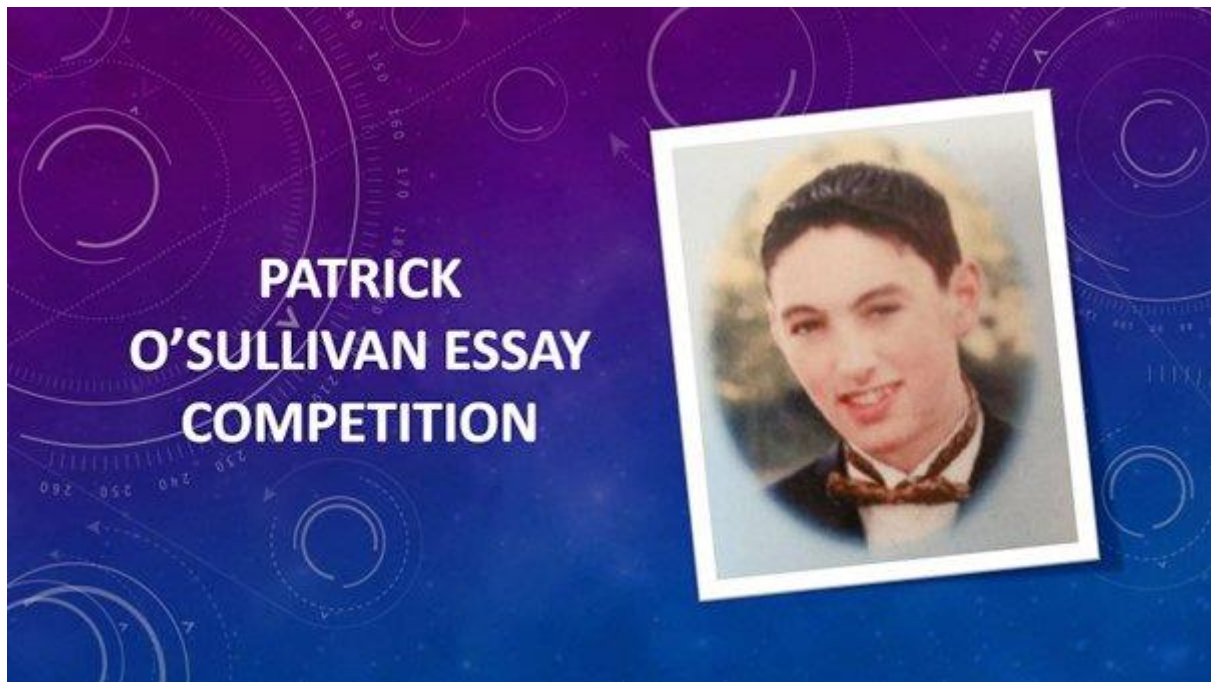




- 2003 Holly Hardwicke
- 2004 Elizabeth Harrington
- 2005 Jeremiah O’Sullivan
- 2006 Brenda Keating
- 2007 Tim McCarthy
- 2008 Matthew Ryan
- 2009 Colm Diamond
- 2010 Neepa Sodhi
- 2011 Laura Murphy
- 2012 Tracey O’Rourke
- 2013 John Kenny
- 2014 Pádraig Mac Consaidín
- 2015 Jack Barry
- 2016 Eoin Quill
- 2017 Michael Lyons
- 2018 Laura Cummins
- 2019 Amy Brett
- 2020 Ciaran Dineen
- 2021 Sami Chakchouk and David Collins
- 2022 Laura O’Keeffe and Luc O’Leary
- 2023 SINÉAD McMAHON**

Lord Mayor, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy, presented the Haslam Award to Sinéad McMahon.





2002	Andrew O'Leary
2003	Donal Holohan
2004	John O'Sullivan
2005	John O'Sullivan
2006	Cormac Cahill
2007	Ian Mawe
2008	Niall Duggan
2009	Andrew Aherne
2010	Declan Keating
2011	Pádraig Mac Consaídín
2012	John Somers
2013	Pádraig Mac Consaídín
2014	Don O'Neill
2015	Luke Foley
2016	Emily O'Regan
2017	Nathan Board
2018	Nathan Board
2019	Diarmaid Hanley
2020/2021	Robert O'Driscoll
2022/2023	Ava Ní Loingsigh
2023/2024	SARAH O'MAHONY

Sarah O'Mahony was the worthy recipient of the Patrick O'Sullivan Shield.



LAUNCH OF COMMITMENT, COLLABORATION & CONTINUITY



Dr. Monica O'Mullane (School of Public Health at UCC and BSc Government graduate 2004, PhD in the Department of Government and Political Science 2008) is the co-editor, with Denise Cahill, of a new book entitled *Commitment, Collaboration & Continuity: Celebrating Cork as a Healthy City*. The book was formally launched by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, in the Council Chamber of Cork City Hall on Thursday 14 March.

Commitment, Collaboration & Continuity reflects on Cork as a designated Health City; it shares the hard-earned experiences of individuals and groups who engage with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in order to improve population health and wellbeing in the city. The new publication features a chapter by **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** (with Monica, Joan Devlin and Councillor Tony Fitzgerald) entitled 'A global movement working locally in Cork.' Congratulations to Monica!

‘We are part of the European Union. We voted to join in 1973. Nothing is imposed, nothing happens without democratic scrutiny’ – Commissioner Máiréad McGuinness at #Monahan24

The 2023/24 Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Ireland’s European Commissioner, Máiréad McGuinness, before a full house in the Aula Maxima on Tuesday 9 April. In a wide-ranging address, Commissioner McGuinness linked local, national and European public administration and frequently referred to the work of Philip Monahan in the 1920s and 1930s.



In the President’s Office at UCC, from left to right: - Dr. Mary C. Murphy (Head, Department of Government and Politics), Prof. John O’Halloran (UCC President), Máiréad McGuinness (European Commissioner) and Patricia Kelly (Head of Cabinet for Commissioner McGuinness).



‘Regardless of political persuasion, we do need institutions, rules and processes for things to function properly’ – Commissioner McGuinness, #Monahan24



Commissioner McGuinness chatting with Cian Walsh (BSc I), a member of our wonderful team of student helpers.

‘We have to keep reminding people that the EU is not “over there in Brussels”. We are part of Europe; we voted to join the European Economic Community in 1973 and we are fully involved in all of the EU institutions. Nothing is imposed, nothing happens without democratic scrutiny’ - **Commissioner McGuinness, #Monahan24**



Following her lecture, Commissioner McGuinness took part in a lively Q & A session.

‘At EU level, relations with people in the room are really important. Knowing when to speak, learning to read body language and, sometimes, being silent at the right time are vital skills. To get the time to think, discuss, debate and change your mind while everything is being recorded can be difficult. We leave very little room for that in the modern, fast-moving world of politics’ - **Commissioner McGuinness, #Monahan24**

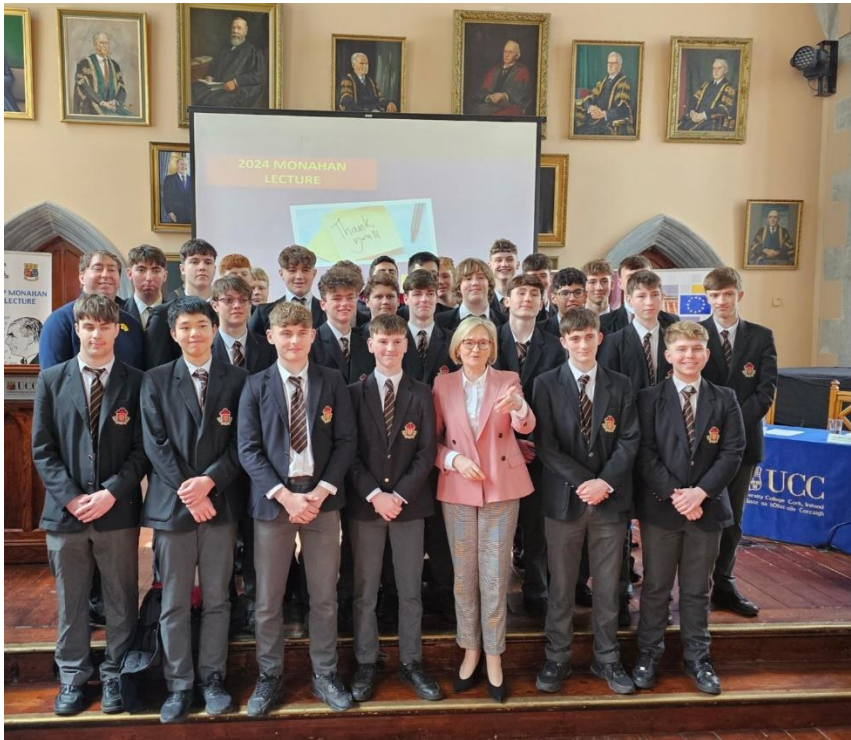


‘Security and defence matter to Ireland, even as a neutral state. The cables that run under the sea, the risks to the financial system due to a cyber-attack ... that is security and defence. It is not all about bullets and tanks’ – **Commissioner McGuinness, #Monahan24**

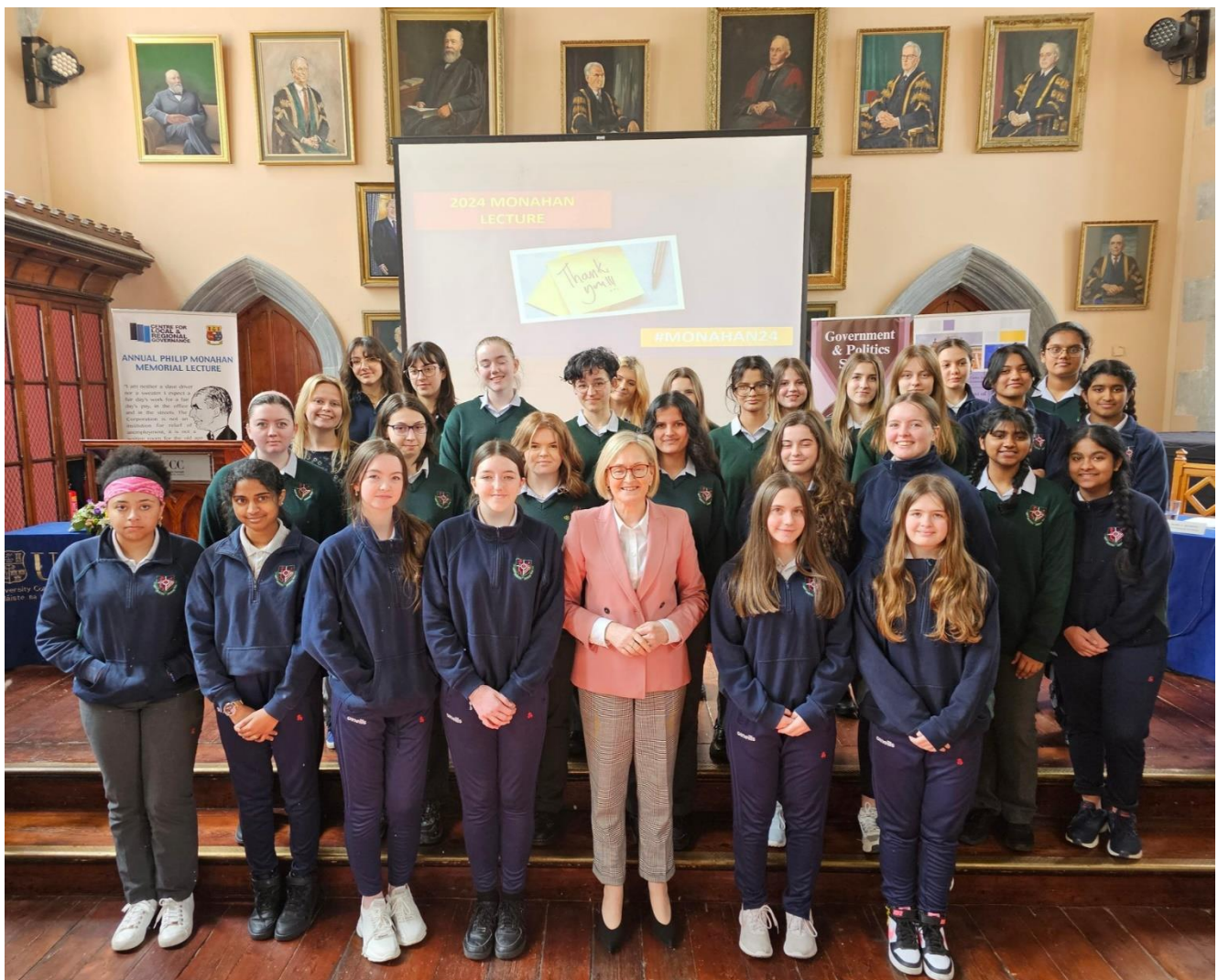
Thank you to the UCC Media Team for taking excellent photographs at #Monahan24.

A Panopto recording of the lecture by Commissioner McGuinness is available on request – please e-mail a.quinlivan@ucc.ie.

It was great to welcome students and teachers from Christian Brothers College and St. Aloysius School to #Monahan24.



 **Edmondhussey** @EamonnOhEosa · 5d
Privileged to attend the European Commissioner @McGuinnessEU 2024 Monahan Lecture @UCC with my TY students @ESchonQuinlivan @HubEuropCitizen @AodhQuinlivan
Commissioner McGuinness addressed the reality of working in the EU institutions @EU_Commission #Monahan24 @cllrkmac



Joe Biden's Support for Israel Might Cost Him the Election

BY LAURENCE DAVIS

*As published in *Jacobin* on 26 March 2024

<https://jacobin.com/2024/03/joe-biden-israel-2024-election>



Laurence Davis is a senior lecturer in government and politics at University College Cork, Ireland, and director of the university's MSc International Public Policy and Diplomacy. He is a cofounder of Jewish Voice for Just Peace Ireland and was a coordinator of the Irish Ship to Gaza campaign.

Let's talk about the elephant in the room of the 2024 US presidential election: Gaza. There are, of course, overwhelming ethical reasons for President Biden to reconsider and reset his administration's Israel-Palestine policy, not least an imminent and entirely preventable famine endangering the lives of over one million people. The International Court of Justice summarized the case against Israel in its landmark January 26 ruling, when it found it plausible that Israel's actions in Gaza could amount to genocide, understood in accordance with the international Genocide Convention as actions intended 'to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such.' Such reasoning has thus far proved insufficient to sway President Biden, who, consistent with a position he has staked out throughout his entire political career, has insisted repeatedly that the United States must maintain its unqualified military and economic support for Israel. Where ethics and the law have failed, electorally focused movement politics is now beginning to alter the prevailing political calculus. This is evident in the decision of the United States to abstain in the March 25 UN Security Council vote demanding an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, following three US vetoes of earlier cease-fire resolutions. However, it may be a case of too little, too late.

The electoral numbers are stark. If Biden wishes to replicate his 2020 election victory then he must maintain the disparate coalition that enabled it. Moreover, he must do so in the crucial "swing" states that in the American electoral college system are the key to political success. Yet Biden is now haemorrhaging support on both counts. Regarding the first, in 2020 Biden was able to win over the so-called "Obama voters," namely young voters, voters of colour (black, Latino, and Asian), and college-educated women voters. Since Israel's invasion of Gaza, however, all these demographics have become increasingly critical of Biden's one-sided support for Israel. According to an NBC poll conducted in November, 70 percent of voters aged eighteen to thirty-four said they disapproved of Biden's handling of the conflict. Similarly, a *New York Times* poll published in December found that 46 percent of voters between the ages of eighteen and twenty-nine strongly disapproved of his Israel-Palestine policy. In consequence, whereas exit polls in 2020 indicated that Biden won among voters under thirty by more than 20 percentage points, recent surveys show the president competitive with or in some cases trailing Trump among young people. Polls among people of colour show a similar declining trend.

Regarding the second, Biden is rapidly losing support in precisely those swing states that were crucial to his victory in 2020. In Michigan, a three-week grassroots campaign urging voters to mark 'uncommitted' on the ballot was an unexpected success. 'Uncommitted' came second in the Michigan primary with 13 percent of the vote, totalling over one hundred thousand votes in a near-unprecedented repudiation of a sitting president by those who were meant to be some of his most committed supporters. Not since the Vietnam War and the protest movements of the late 1960s has the Democratic Party confronted such a determined internal revolt. A half dozen other Super Tuesday states saw a similar protest vote against Biden, including North Carolina, in which more than 12 percent of voters selected "no preference." The political danger to Biden is clear. In the case of Michigan, vital to Biden's electoral success, his winning margin four years ago was less than 155,000 votes, when his approval ratings were significantly higher and those now protesting against him were leading grassroots campaigns to get him elected.

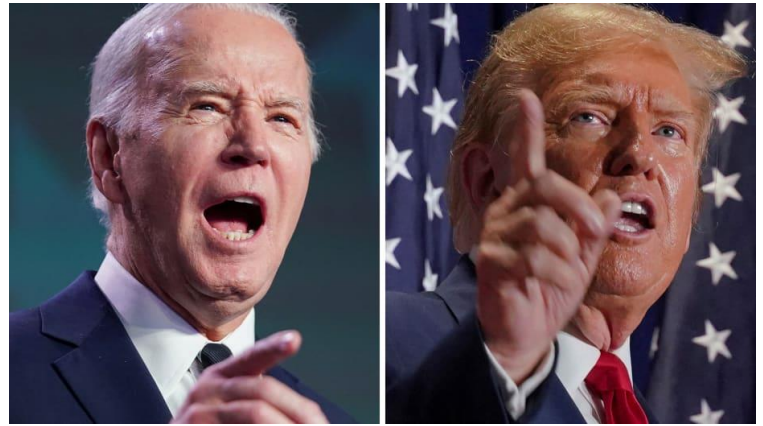
This last point suggests an even bigger political peril, connected to but not defined by Biden's Israel policy. Whereas Trump has spent years building his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, the Democratic Party under Biden's stewardship has largely abandoned movement building in favour of party politics. Whereas Trump's followers are willing to go to the wall for their leader, including increasingly by resorting to violence or the threat of violence — a remarkable 41 percent of pro-Trump Americans now openly acknowledge the virtues of political violence — Biden's Democratic Party apparatus has focused primarily on fundraising and legislative policy reform at the expense of inspiring and leading a grassroots movement of democratic solidarity and hope. Whereas the Trump-controlled MAGA machine broadcasts its hate-filled propaganda around the clock via countless radio and television outlets and billionaire-owned social media companies, and movement-leader Trump demagogically, if ramblingly, fires the emotions of his followers at grievance-driven campaign rallies, Biden's political handlers have increasingly been stage-managing their candidate to avoid the now ubiquitous Palestinian solidarity protesters even as his re-election campaign relies heavily on large donations from pro-Israel groups and individuals.

A very similar political dynamic resulted in the shock defeat of Hillary Clinton in 2016. Then, as now, the Trump campaign tapped into, and stoked, an "anti-politics" of fear and hatred rooted in popular mistrust of and anger with the political classes. It castigated the corruption of governing elites, emphasized the government's ineffectuality in the face of extreme threats to national well-being posed by Muslims and illegal immigrants and other easily scapegoated "outsider" groups, and maintained that Trump and Trump alone could "make America great again." In response, the Clinton campaign noted the irony of a billionaire insider portraying himself as populist outsider and critic of elites. They also highlighted the authoritarianism of Trump's claim that only he could fix America's problems. However, they struggled to portray Clinton, the consummate insider, as a plausible champion of a participatory democratic alternative. Far more damagingly, they made a concerted effort to crush the campaign of Bernie Sanders, which had inspired a visionary democratic socialist alternative to Trump's mendacious faux populism.

In 2020, the Biden campaign learned from mistakes made in 2016 by making common cause with its youthful progressive base following Biden's victory over Sanders in the Democratic primary campaign. The result was a grassroots movement-fired victory over Trump in the general election campaign. By contrast, in 2024 the Biden campaign has thus far alienated this crucial constituency with its disastrous pro-Israel policy and ill-advised turn away from movement building in favour of traditional party politics. It is gambling that young and non-white voters will return to the Biden fold in November rather than see the victory of an even more unpalatable and now vengeful and openly authoritarian former president Trump.

This is a very big gamble on the outcome of which the future of democracy in the United States and indeed the wider world may well depend.

THE 2024 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY



A seminar on Tuesday 19 March discussed the forthcoming US Presidential election. The event was chaired by **Dr. Mary C. Murphy** and the speakers were: -

- **Professor Andrew Rudalevige** (Visiting Scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science)
- **Dr. Laurence Davis** (Department of Government and Politics, UCC)
- **Dr. Clodagh Harrington** (School of History and Department of Government and Politics, UCC)
- **Dr. David Fitzgerald** (School of History, UCC)



*The event was jointly sponsored by the School of History and the Department of Government and Politics.



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS SOCIETY


The Government and Politics Society closed off its year with two superb events. On Monday 8 April, the society hosted **UCC Path to the Polls: Meet your EU Election Candidate**. The town-hall style debate was the first of Ireland South's hustings for the upcoming EU elections. The candidates present were: Grace O'Sullivan (Green Party), Paul Gavan (Sinn Féin), Lorna Bogue (An Rabhertas Glas), John Mullins (Fine Gael), Niamh Hourigan (Labour Party) and Billy Kelleher (Fianna Fáil). UCC President, Prof. John O'Halloran, opened the event. The society encourages everyone to make their voices heard on 7 June by voting in the local and European elections.



***Thanks to the European Parliament for funding and to Emer Neville - @capturedbyeim - for photography.**

Post Truth
A discussion on
misinformation





Shtepps, The Hub

Monday 15th April

17:00 - 19:00


UCC Philosophy Dept.



In conjunction with UCC's Department of Philosophy and the Philosophical Society, the Government and Politics Society hosted a stimulating discussion on 'Post Truth' and 'Misinformation' – extremely relevant in this year of elections!

GET INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SOCIETY

AGM 2024
THE UCC GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SOCIETY



18.04.2024

NW Council Chambers

6.30pm

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- + Chairperson
- + Vice-Chairperson
- + Finance
- + Deputy-Finance
- + Secretary
- + Public Relations Officer
- + Webmaster
- + Events Officer
- + x2 OCMs
- + Vice-Events & Accessibility Officer

ATTEND THE AGM ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL.

WHY NOT GO FORWARD FOR AN OFFICER ROLE?

EXCITING TIMES FOR THE CLRG

Book Publications: - Three books bearing the CLRG logo, written or co-written by Dr. Aodh Quinlivan, are planned for publication over the next two years. The first, due later this year, marks the 125th anniversary of local elections in Ireland and tells the story of each set of local elections from 1899 to 2024 inclusive. The second book profiles women who have made a major contribution to local government in Cork city. These include Suzanne Rouviere Day (the first women to seek election to Cork Corporation in 1914), Anne Sutton (the first woman elected to Cork Corporation in 1920) and Ann Doherty (the first woman to serve as City Manager/Chief Executive in Cork). The book is co-written by Anne Twomey and John Ger O’Riordan. The third book – in conjunction with the Cork City and County Archives – is based on the diaries of Liam de Róiste, politician, writer and Irish-language activist.



**Left: Director of the CLRG, Dr. Aodh Quinlivan.
Right: Chief Executive of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty**

Limerick Mayoral Election: - Local government history will be made in Limerick on Friday 7 June. For the first time in Ireland, the people of Limerick will go to the ballot boxes to choose a Directly Elected Mayor (DEM). In the next issue of the journal, *Local Authority Times* (end April/early May), Dr. Aodh Quinlivan will describe how we got to this point. The Limerick DEM experiment is fascinating for those of us interested in local government and local democracy. Limerick has a unique opportunity to lead the way and set an example for the rest of the country to follow. However, Limerick is also the guinea pig for a mayoral model that has taken a quarter of a century to implement. This will bring pressure and intense scrutiny.

Local Elections Conference: - Marking 125 years of local elections in Ireland, the CLRG will host a conference on Friday 14 June in collaboration with Cork City Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.