

Department of Government staff members appointed by government to expert groups



Before Christmas, the Taoiseach established a Working Group on Seanad Reform with **Dr. Mary C. Murphy** appointed as one of its members. In January, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government appointed a statutory group of experts to examine if Cork city should be granted a boundary extension and if Cork City Council and Cork County Council should be merged; **Dr. Theresa Reidy** is a member of this group. We wish Mary and Theresa well with their work on these prestigious committees. See further details on page 3.

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Aodh Quinlivan (Staff), Caroline Hofman (BSc Government IV), and Lorna Murphy (BSc Government II),
co-editors of *Government Times*, 2014/2015

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COVER STORY

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS FOR DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

Following the announcement in the Dáil on 11 November last, the Taoiseach has now established a Working Group on Seanad Reform. The Group will be chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning (Chancellor of the National University of Ireland and former Senator) and the members will be Mary O'Rourke (former Minister and Senator), Pat Magner (former Senator), Dr. Maurice Hayes (former Senator, former Northern Ireland Ombudsman and former Chairman of the National Forum on Europe), Joe O'Toole (former Senator), Tom Arnold (former Chairman of the Constitutional Convention), **Dr. Mary C Murphy (lecturer in politics in UCC)** and Dr. Elaine Byrne (commentator and author on public policy). The principal focus of the working group will be on possible reforms of the Seanad Electoral system within the existing constitutional parameters. The Working Group will also explore ways of reforming Seanad Éireann generally and the manner in which it carries out its business. The Group will examine these issues also within existing Constitutional parameters. The Working Group will examine submissions and proposals for reform which have already been made and will also look at: the role of a reformed Seanad within the political process; the powers and functions of a reformed Seanad; and any such matter as the working party sees as relevant. The working group will be entitled to receive new proposals or presentations on these matters at its discretion. The Group has been asked to report back to Government not later than the end of March 2015. The Taoiseach has thanked all those involved for their willingness to participate.

On 15 January, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, appointed a statutory committee to review the Cork city boundary and other local government arrangements in Cork. The Minister sees a clear case for extending the Cork City boundary to encompass a wider metropolitan area and has appointed an independent group to review the boundary and examine whether the local authority structures should be merged. Following a meeting with the mayors and chief executives of Cork City & County, the Minister said: 'From the point of view of coherent development, it's important that both the city and county are not held back in terms of economic progress and resolving the boundary issue permanently is part of that. This is about selecting the most appropriate system of local government for Cork city and County and ensuring proper democratic representation. Issues such as commercial rates, planning and unnecessary duplication of administration are holding Cork back and need to be addressed. The environs of the Cork city which is not part of the Cork City Council area for local government purposes, has a population of 79,000 people so there is a clear need to have an independent overview of local Government structures in Cork.' The review aligns with the Government's overall approach to Local Government Reform which has seen changes to local administration in Tipperary, Limerick and Waterford. The statutory review committee includes leading academics from UCC (**including Dr. Theresa Reidy**), a former county manager and will be chaired by former Beamish & Crawford CEO, Alf Smiddy.



Are things about to change for Seanad Éireann and Cork City Council?

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan to guest edit special issue of *Administration* on the changing nature of local government in Ireland



Administration is the peer-reviewed journal of the Institute of Public Administration and it has been published quarterly since 1953. As the principal journal concerned with Irish public administration and its development, it seeks to combine original scholarship on public administration from a variety of disciplines with the insights and experiences of practitioners. **Dr. Aodh Quinlivan** of the Department of Government has accepted an invitation to edit a special issue of the journal which will be entitled **The Changing Nature of Local Government in Ireland, North and South**. It is expected that the issue will be published in August 2015. In an exclusive interview with *Government Times* (!), Aodh said, 'It's an honour to be the guest editor of *Administration* as it is a journal I have published in and referenced extensively in the past. I am confident that the local government special issue will be a very interesting one and I am especially delighted to have a couple of my departmental colleagues – Theresa Reidy and Fiona Buckley – on board as well as a current BSc Government student, Caroline Hofman. All going well we will see the outcome of our work in August.'

Former BSc Government student appointed to permanent lectureship in the Department of Government



The Department of Government is delighted that **Dr. Niall Duggan** has joined its academic staff from January 2015. Niall received his BSc in Government and Public Policy from UCC in 2005 and obtained his MA in East and Southeast Asian Studies in 2007 from Lund University, Sweden. In 2011, Niall obtained his PhD from UCC. After completing his PhD, Niall became a lecturer in both the School of Asian Studies and the Department of Government in UCC before joining the Department of East Asian Politics at the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, in January 2012. His main research interests are Sino-African relations, China's foreign policy, global governance (Asia's role in the G-20), role theory in international relations, and non-traditional security studies (food security). Welcome on board, Niall; it's great to have you back!

GOVERNMENT CUP SUCCESS FOR GALLANT BSc GOVERNMENT II TEAM

An unbiased special report from John Martin on how the famous cup was won

After a difficult round of games in which the players from 2nd year put up valiant displays against opposition that on paper far exceeded the dysfunctional, and often bickering outfit, Year 2 (with two draws and a win) still needed a result in the final group game to progress. Thanks to a wonder strike from Mike Lyons who scored directly from the corner spot, the aging warriors progressed to the semi-finals as group winners.

In the semi-finals our four supporters were treated to a real spectacle as the underdogs valiantly fought back from a one goal deficit against a physical Labour outfit. Ronan Organ finished off a fine move that started in the defensive half of the field. A string of precision passes tore through the opposition, and led to a strike that had the opposing keeper rooted to the spot. The second half started much the same as the first with the favourites on the back foot, and the government students being very much on the ascendancy. This time though the superior football and constant pressure paid off as Mike Lyons once more found the net with his fourth goal of the afternoon. The 2-1 score-line flattered Labour who did not threaten birthday boy and team captain Mick McCarthy's goal once in the 2nd half.

The final was where the 2nd years were to meet their match, playing against a 3rd year outfit that had players from semi-professional teams, and who had prepared rigorously through the winter months. Once again the team who started the tournaments as the whipping boys, more than held their own, and but for the width off the post, and dodgy decisions by the official should have led in the opening minutes. But Lady Luck and Howard Webb Junior could not prevent the inevitable, with Mike Lyons once more slotting home following fine build-up play. The half finished with the favourites hanging on against a confident and exuberant minnows outfit.

After the break the tide shifted with what could only be described as one of the most biased displays by an official since Sheffield FC was founded in 1863. Following a string of wrong calls, unexplained, unwarranted and unjust free kicks, the 3rd years gained the impetus, and only for a raft of fine saves that Packie Bonner himself would have been proud of, by "key of the door" stopper Micky Mac the result could have been so much different. The referee calling 'only four seconds remaining' mid-way through the second half did little to help the small fish to keep their concentration. But eventually after playing 11 minutes added on time in a five minute half the referee blew for full time, and the security and Guards could do little to prevent the fans spilling onto the playing area, and carry man of the tournament Mike Lyons on a lap of honour. The cup will be engraved and put on display to mark a tremendous achievement, not only for the whole class, but for "Our Beautiful Game".



ADVICE SESSION FOR BSc GOVERNMENT STUDENTS FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF SEMESTER 1 PROVISIONAL RESULTS

- WHEN?** Wednesday 11 February
- WHERE?** ORB, 2.54
- WHAT TIME?** 10:00-1:00 (drop-in service)
- WITH?** AODH QUINLIVAN



A REPORT FROM THE BRUSSELS FIELD-TRIP

**BY SHANE BARRY,
MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy**

The fieldtrip to Brussels finally offered us a chance to put some meat on the bones of a semester of theorising; policy and law application; and debating the legitimacy of the European project. It is all too easy to lay out these arguments from the safety of a university campus on an island off mainland Europe. Our first introduction to the bureaucracy of Brussels was, ironically, a public transport strike at the airport that directed us to the back of an endless taxi queue.

Our first morning began with a visit to the European External Action Service, one of the impressive edifices overlooking Rond-point Schuman. We convened in a conference room within the building and were met by a number of speakers providing an overview of their various roles. The communication advisor Ms Julia De Clerck-Sachsse outlined how the EEAS supports the role of the EU High Commissioner. Current issues, such as the Ukraine and Israel, were discussed in an open and frank manner with no questions considered 'off the table'.

This approach became the norm for the entire trip as our dealings with the various representatives gave us a personal insight into the lives and opinions of the people behind the scenes in Brussels. In the afternoon, we visited the Commission, where our visit was restricted to a small room near the entrance. The presenter, Mr Mark Corner, found it difficult to hide his left-leaning view when speaking off-script about the current College. It was difficult to take away a true impression of the Commission due to the lack of access. The following morning, we visited the Irish Permanent Representation where the press secretary described Brussels as 'like living in a large ministry', with 14 hour days and constant disruption. This certainly removed some of the romance we had associated with working in the EU.



Staff and students at NATO

In the afternoon, we visited MEP Sean Kelly in the Parliament. Sean explained the nature of being part of the EP party system and how domestic party allegiances lose importance as rival Irish MEP's often collaborate on certain issues. He was keen to criticise the level of absenteeism of Irish MEP's, considering his own perfect record of attendance. He became more animated when discussing his association with the Brussels GAA. His press secretary explained how she, being a non-EU citizen, through sheer determination, spent the last number of years living on part-time jobs while interning in the Parliament, in order to gain a full-time job in the EU. Again, the romantic ideal of life in Brussels was stripped away. On the final day we visited NATO. The Cold-War architecture of the building made us even more envious of new state of the art headquarters, 2 years from completion, across the road. After going through various security checks, passing numerous signs that designated certain areas unsafe for classified discussions and strangely enough a NATO gift shop, we made our way into the conference room.

Our meeting finished with Mr Myles Geiran, the Irish Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission who, exhibiting years of negotiating tactics with his tone of delivery and minimal use of gestures, explained Ireland's role within the NATO spectrum and how Ireland's neutrality did not necessarily equate to inactivity. As we made our way back to Cork, free pens and badges in hand, it was worth reflecting on the nature of what the EU has achieved. If EU citizens had access to the same matter-of-fact discussions we had encountered on our trip then perhaps the legitimacy of the European project would not be as debated in such a way as it has in recent years. The fieldtrip gave us the opportunity to move beyond the confines of a textbook or academic paper and step into this 'giant ministry' for ourselves.



Sean Kelly, MEP, met with students in the European Parliament

Interested in a research masters at the Department of Government?

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“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought”

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi



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MORE INFORMATION:

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<http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/PostgraduateStudy/MScPhD/>

Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan in *The Irish Times* and *Irish Examiner*



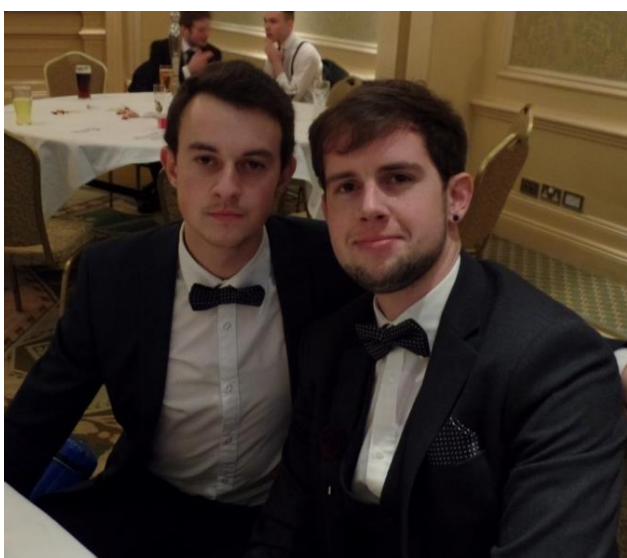
Following the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, the Department of Government's French politics expert, Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan has been in the national media. After *The Irish Times* published her letter on 9 January, Emmanuelle had an opinion piece in the *Irish Examiner* on 13 January.

Je suis Charlie.

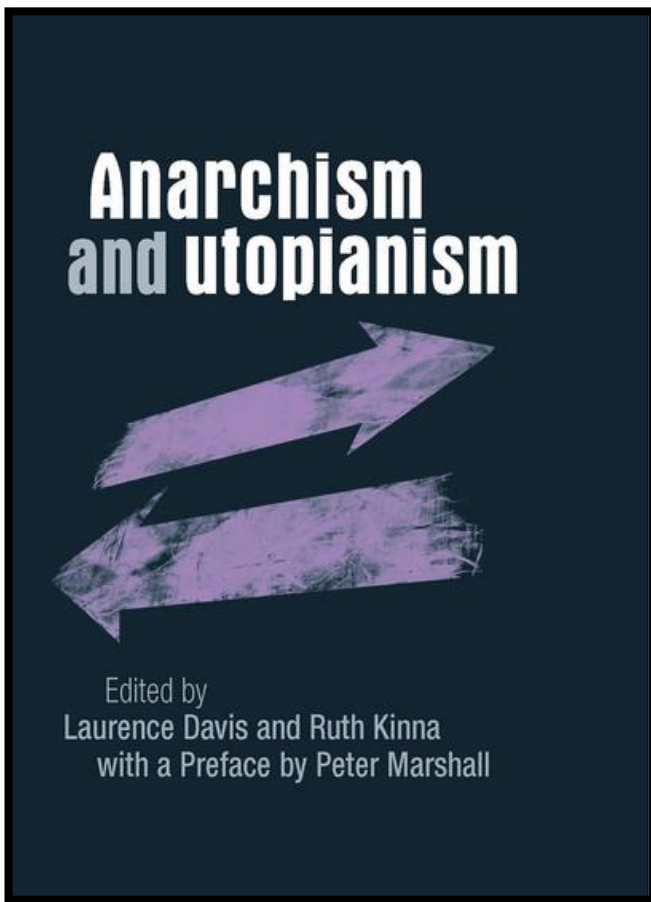


GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS BALL 2015

@ Imperial Hotel Cork
Wednesday 21 January



BOOK BY DR. LAURENCE DAVIS OF DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT



The paperback version of *Anarchism and Utopianism*, edited by Dr. Laurence Davis (Department of Government) and Ruth Kinna has recently been published. The first book-length treatment of the relationship between anarchism and utopianism, the volume reveals the anarchistic influences active in the history of utopian thought, and provides fresh perspectives on academic and activist debates about ecology, alternatives to capitalism, revolutionary theory and practice, and the politics of art, gender and sexuality.

<http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/cgi-bin/indexer?product=9780719096679>

‘This is a fascinating and innovative collection of essays on the relationship between two concepts that are attracting growing contemporary interest – anarchism and utopianism. The volume manages to combine scholarly rigour with both enthusiasm and engagement. The scope, depth and clarity of the contributions made the book a pleasure to read. Highly recommended.’

**Professor Vincent Geoghegan
Queen’s University Belfast**