

# GOVERNMENT TIMES

The award-winning newsletter of students and staff in  
UCC's Department of Government & Politics.



Issue 73 – Thursday 9 November 2017

## Timely Launch of *Dissolved* ahead of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Philip Monahan Lecture



At the launch of *Dissolved: The remarkable story of how Cork lost its Corporation in 1924* were (from left to right): Ann Doherty (Chief Executive, Cork City Council), Professor Patrick O'Shea (President of UCC), Councillor Tony Fitzgerald (Lord Mayor of Cork), Dr Aodh Quinlivan (Department of Government and Politics, UCC), Liam Ronayne (City Librarian) and Paul Moynihan (Director of Service, Cork City Council).



## EDITORIAL

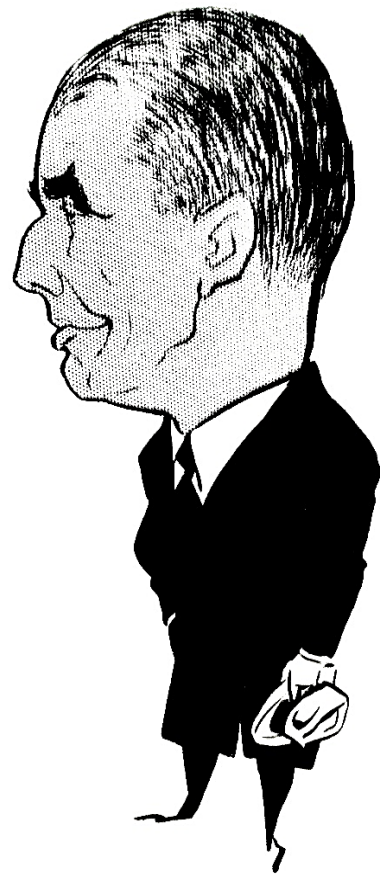
# Celebrating a major Cork figure

“I am neither a slave driver nor a sweater. I expect a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, in the office and in the streets. The Corporation is not an institution for relief of unemployment, it is not a waiting room for the old age pension; it is a business concern, to be run on business lines, with a definite programme of work to be done in a definite time, and for a definite amount of money” –

**Philip Monahan**

**Cork Commissioner**

**11 November 1924**



The annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture is a momentous event each year for the Department of Government and Politics and we are delighted to be celebrating 20 years of the series on Thursday night with Carol Monaghan MP. It is fair to say that the years have flown by since the inaugural lecture by Professor Tom Garvin in 1997. Our cover story in this issue, which continues on pages 4, 5 and 6, is the launch of *Dissolved* in City Hall at the end of October. The infamous dissolution of Cork Corporation in 1924 led to Philip Monahan coming to Leaside where he served the people of Cork as Commissioner and later City Manager until he retired in 1959. Fittingly, *Dissolved* was launched in the council chamber of Cork City Hall, a room where Monahan wielded his power in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

*Stodh Quinlivan*

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# COVER STORY: LAUNCH OF *DISSOLVED*



**Lord Mayor, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald, addresses the crowd; Dr Aodh Quinlivan recounts the story of *Dissolved*.**

On Thursday 26 October, the historic meeting chamber of Cork City Council was full for the launch of Dr Aodh Quinlivan's book, *Dissolved: The remarkable story of how Cork lost its Corporation in 1924*.

When Dublin Corporation was dissolved by ministerial order in May 1924, there was an inevitability that attention would next turn to Cork Corporation. In the politically sensitive post-Civil War years, there was a determination on behalf of the Government to divorce local government from national issues. Politically, Cork Corporation was a difficult council which was divided on pro and anti-Treaty lines. The Corporation elected in 1920 had an anti-Treaty majority but, in the General Election of August 1923, the people of Cork had elected a majority of pro-Treaty TDs. This fed into a consistent campaign by the *Cork Examiner* that the Corporation did not represent the feelings of its citizens. The controversial and bitter mayoral election of January 1924 did nothing to ease tensions in an already divided Corporation. Councillor Seán French, who was anti-Treaty, was elected by his fellow councillors on a vote of twenty-three to twenty-two. Lord Mayor French struggled to unite the council over the months which followed and some high-profile elected members resigned. With the Cork Progressive Association and the *Cork Examiner* calling for an inquiry into local administration on Leaside, Minister Séamus Burke eventually intervened. He ordered the holding of a public sworn inquiry which would take place in Cork Courthouse, starting on Monday 26 August. The inquiry was chaired by Nicholas O'Dwyer, Chief Engineering Inspector in the Department of Local Government and Public Health, and it ran for nine dramatic and tension-filled days until it concluded on Saturday 6 September. *Dissolved* brings the story of the historic inquiry to life. The public galleries were full each day as Corkonians were enthralled by the evidence provided by the likes of Richard Beamish TD and Lord Mayor Seán French – the latter spent three days in the witness box. At times, Nicholas O'Dwyer struggled to retain control as proceedings became heated and, on at least one occasion, opposing witnesses nearly came to blows. While tension filled the air in the Courthouse, the nine days of the inquiry also brought moments of light relief and humour, all of which are colourfully described in this book. Following the inquiry, Nicholas O'Dwyer presented his report to Minister for Local Government and Public Health, Séamus Burke TD, on 15 October 1924. The report was weak and inconclusive; despite this, to no-one's surprise, Minister Burke ordered the dissolution of Cork Corporation with effect from noon on 31 October. At the appointed time, Commissioner Philip Monahan entered the Corporation during a council meeting. He ordered the councillors present to take their belongings and leave immediately. Monahan was now in charge and Cork Corporation would remain dissolved for four and-a-half years.



# COVER STORY: LAUNCH OF *DISSOLVED*



**The President of UCC, Professor Patrick O'Shea, delivered a very lively speech to the crowd; amongst those in attendance were Dan Boyle, Councillor Marcia D'Alton, and Senator Jerry Buttimer.**



**The BSc Government first year class attended in big numbers and picked up copies of the book!**



**Dr Tim McCarthy (BSc Government graduate of 2007 who went on to complete his PhD in the Department of Government and Politics) was in attendance, along with Cian Hallahan (BSc Government graduate of 2017), now doing a Masters by Research in the Department of Government and Politics.**



# COVER STORY: LAUNCH OF *DISSOLVED*

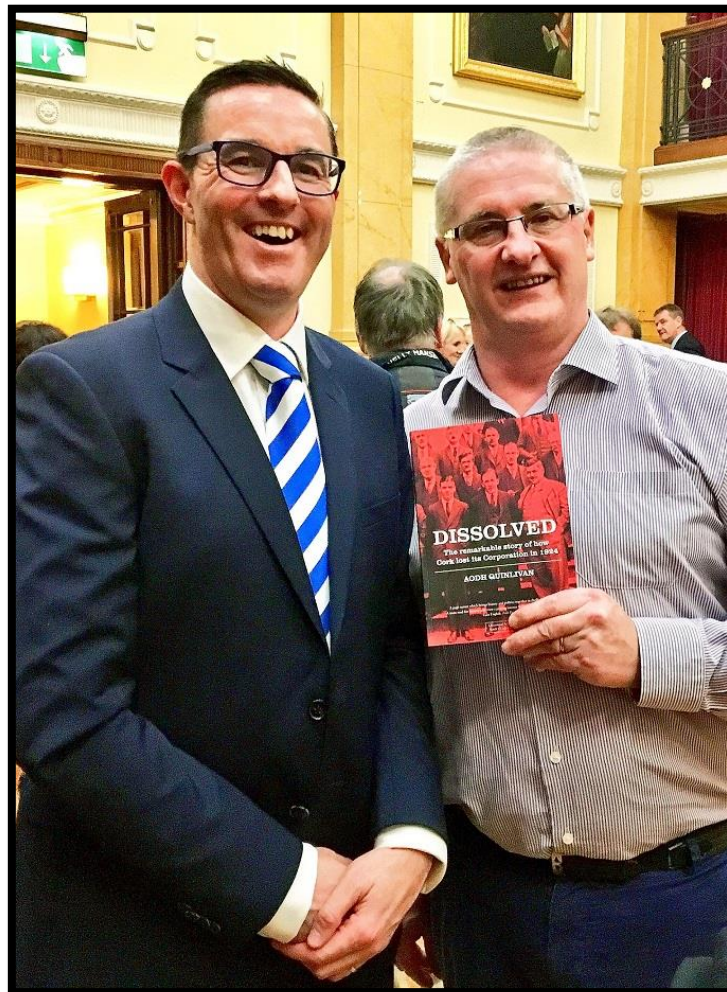
## **Praise for *Dissolved***

‘A page-turner which brings history and politics together in thrilling fashion. A must-read for anyone with even a passing interest in the birth of modern Cork’

- Eoin English, *Irish Examiner*

‘Aodh writes with great authority but in an easy style; he’s a natural storyteller and this is a great Cork story. A most enjoyable book!’

- P.J. Coogan, *Cork’s 96FM*



**P.J. Coogan at the launch in City Hall with Aodh Quinlivan**

***Dissolved* is available in the Liam Russell Bookshop in Cork city (Oliver Plunkett Street) and in the UCC Visitors’ Centre.**

# Soapbox on Brexit



On Tuesday 7 November, Dr Mary C. Murphy was on the judging panel for the **Grand Final of the Soapbox Competition** which took place in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. This year's theme was **'Brexit: Ireland's Opportunity'**.

Minister Sean Kyne was guest of honour at the award ceremony and he presented the prizes. Gerard Kiely, Head of Representation, European Commission Representation, gave an address.

This is the seventh year of the annual Europe Direct Information Centre Network Soapbox Competition. The competition is an annual autumn event, raising awareness locally and nationally of topical issues in Europe and providing people with the opportunity to have their say. This year the theme for the soapbox was the topical 'Brexit: Ireland's Opportunity'. Eight regional finals were held in two categories, 18 & under and 19 & over, drawing a host of participants of all ages, backgrounds and stages in life. All regional contests were supported by local MEPs, held in front of a local audience and a panel of judges. From the regional finals, sixteen contestants emerged to take part in the Grand Final. Both 18 & under and 19 & over successful candidates competed for overall prizes of €1,000 and a trip to visit the European Parliament in Brussels, sponsored by MEP Mairead McGuinness.



# Department staff in the local media



Staff of the Department of Government and Politics have appeared recently in the local print media, through the *Cork Evening Echo*. The story of *Dissolved* was heavily covered by the newspaper, while **Dr Emmabelle Schön-Quinlivan** wrote an opinion piece about her EU project (which featured in the last issue of *Government Times*).



@BFGtoEU – please do not hesitate to share as widely as possible with friends and family who are teachers and interested in getting involved.



: @BFGtoEU



: bfgtoeu@gmail.com



# Congratulations to the BSc Government Graduation Class of 2017!



Unfortunately the weather was not overly kind but the BSc Government class of 2017 enjoyed their conferring ceremony on Wednesday 18 October at UCC.

They also celebrated in style at a party that evening!

Good luck to all the class for very bright futures at home and abroad. We will be watching your careers with pride



# Recent Guest Speakers in the Department of Government and Politics



As part of the 'Public Sector' module on UCC's Executive MBA programme, the class has enjoyed four excellent guest speakers of late.

**13 October** – Kevin O'Malley (top left), former US Ambassador to Ireland, spoke of his appointment by President Barack Obama and offered a commentary on the current state of US politics.

**20 October** – Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan spoke about populism in Europe in the wake of Brexit and recent European elections.

**27 October** – Fr. Peter McVerry (top right) addressed the housing and homelessness crises in Ireland and outlined his solutions.

**3 November** – Patricia King (bottom left), General Secretary of ICTU, presented on public sector reform from the trade union perspective, covering issues such as public sector pay.

**THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

**6:30pm in BOOLE 2**

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture**  
#Monahan20



**PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS**

- Student of the Year Award
- Graduate of the Year Award
- Patrick O'Sullivan Essay
- Work Placement Award

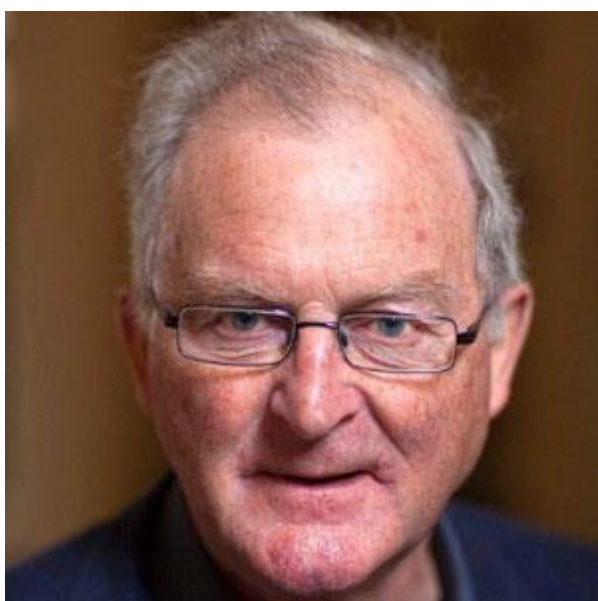


**Department of Government and Politics**  
College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences  
Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, 1997-2017

**Carol Monaghan MP**  
**'Scotland: From Brexit to Independence?'**

The biggest annual event for the Department of Government and Politics takes places on Thursday 9 November!

The Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with guest speaker, Carol Monaghan MP. Carol Monaghan is a second cousin of Dr Mary O'Brien, Philip Monahan's daughter.



Professor Tom Garvin, the celebrated political scientist and historian, delivered the first Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture in 1997. That event took place in Cork's City Hall. Every subsequent lecture has been held in UCC.



# GRADUATE NEWS



## CORK FOUNDATION DIASPORA PHOTO EXHIBITION



**BSc Government graduate, Padraic Vallely (middle of picture) is the Chief Executive of the Cork Foundation. On 26 October, the Cork Foundation launched a very successful Diaspora Photographic Exhibition in conjunction with Cork County Council.**

**The photographs are now on display in Cork Airport. Padraic maintains regular contact with the Department of Government and Politics and, in 2017, the Cork Foundation took two of our BSc Government third year students on work placement.**

# GRADUATE NEWS



Well done to **Steven Day** (front of picture) who was the main organiser of the reunion party for the BSc Government class of 2007.

It was great to see everyone looking so well!



BSc Government graduates continue to do us proud in the world of sport! **Leanne O'Neill** (left) graduated in 2017 and she was recently recognised by UCC for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Irish Disc Sports'. Leanne is a champion player in the sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

**Jennifer Goggion Walsh** (right) recently finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Cork Masters (age 35 and above) Cross Country Championships. Jennifer now qualifies to run on the Cork team in the upcoming Munster Cross Country Championships. Jennifer is also a BSc Government graduate.



# GRADUATE NEWS

## JAYNE RONAYNE AND JO MALONE!



BSc Government graduate, **Jayne Ronayne** (left), is the co-founder and Managing Director of *KonnectAgain* and she now lives in New York.

Last week, Jayne attended the international *Image Inspires* event where she met Jo Malone MBE (middle).

Jo Malone is one of the top businesswomen in the UK and is the founder of *Jo Malone London* and *Jo Loves*.

### IN **D**Opinion YOUR SAY . . . .

#### Are we seeing a generational shift in politics?

In some democracies around the world, a generational shift is underway in politics.

People are no longer purely obedient to the parties of their parents and grandparents. In some places, France for example, new parties have steamrolled their way into power on the crest of a wave of newly found interest in the political system.

The issues of climate change, equality of rights, workers conditions have now transcended the traditional political party hierarchy.

Labour doesn't own worker's rights, the Greens don't own the environment.

We need all parties and none to work together, but the main parties don't seem interested a lot of the time - so we need individuals to do that.

In Austria, a 31 year old is due to assume the chairmanship while the relative golden oldies Leo Varadkar (39) and Emmanuel Macron (38) have already taken office and overseen

a sea change in their party or country's parliament, as is the case with the President Macron.

New Zealand oversaw its youngest premier in 150 years being sworn in on Wednesday last week. Given that Jacinda Ardern assumed leadership of New Zealand Labour after the election was called, it is all the more compelling a story.

How she does now holding together a risky coalition will be an important test of new politics in New Zealand.

One person at a time is not enough however, even if that person has been catapulted to the zenith of a political system. If we are truly to see generational leadership reshaped in the Western world it needs to be wholesale and thorough. It is not enough for one office holder to be generationally different and believe that's the game changer.

New ideas, new solutions need to filter throughout the political system, including the civil service.

#### Wait your turn

In Ireland there has always been a culture of 'wait your turn'. Whether it's in politics or in business, there's almost a countrywide deference to the hierarchical needs of the seniority.

One could not be a candidate for high office because one hasn't done their time on the ground.

We saw this with Leo refusing to elevate any of his new intake from 2016 to ministerial office five months ago. Has it caused a rift between the young turks of the Government party and the leadership? It remains to be seen.

Every politician is aware of the mantra: campaign in poetry but govern in prose.

However, younger politicians and political candidates must now be prepared to take opportunities when they arise.

A feeling of lethargy has pervaded the Irish political system because the people, from whom the mandates are achieved, no

longer believe that the majority of politicians elected can do anything.

"You'll just be told to sit down and shut up", said one individual to me over the weekend on the prospects of new candidates in Cork City Hall, in Dull Egan or any other elected chamber.

Despite this feeling of apathy, the wait your turn philosophy is dying, albeit slowly. Politics is now something different than a lifetime career choice.

There is a shelf life for all political careers but those in their 20s and 30s want to affect change now and move on to other areas.

Academics will point to term limits and gender quotas as a way to replicate any generational change.

The change must come from the people, guided by the existence of candidates who espouse generational change on a wide variety of topics.

"It's always been done this way" is no longer acceptable and Irish people will no longer accept it, but only the electorate will

determine if Ireland is to continue with the same faces or retain the same views that have remained since then foundation of the State.

It's not easy to change a status quo. It's long and laborious and riddled with pitfalls. One needs to only see the impact of the Bernie Sanders campaign. Yes it inspired a generational movement in the United States, but they lost.

They're disillusioned now with what followed and what now infects the American dream. Yet they need to be active outside of primary season if they want to win.

Ireland's new leaders need to step up to the plate now.

Not in 2018. Not just ahead of the next general election. Now.

Ireland is not perfect and no one has ever claimed it to be. Espousing generational change is not to slam the work done by those who went before us but it is a call to ask others to step up.



Peter Horgan is a journalist and parliamentary advisor and a Labour Party Local Area Representative for the Cork City Council South East Ward.

To ask those who never stood for election to stand. To get engaged with your community. Do the work that no one else will do. Forget the Civil War. Work with people who want to see a more perfect union on this island, regardless of their political colours.

Yet how can those who want to see generational change affect it? Simple. Get involved. Challenge assumed beliefs. Don't be afraid to have an argu-

ment. Joining any political movement within the democratic make up of any country is to be applauded regardless of the persuasion. This is why I am engaged in politics.

I was fed up of hearing, and saying myself, someone should do this, someone should do that. Get out and do it. Make your voice heard. That's what I'm going to do.

Well done to BSc Government graduate, **Peter Horgan**, on his opinion piece last week in the *Cork Independent* about a generational shift in Irish politics. Thought-provoking!



## Ask an American: Donal Trump – Partisan Politics and the Decline in US Democracy



On Wednesday 8 November, **Dr Laurence Davis** of the Department of Government and Politics spoke at the above event, which was organised by the Graduate School of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences.

Laurence was joined on the panel by:

- Professor Kathleen Manning – Visiting Fulbright Fellow from the University of Vermont
- Keith Kennedy – University of Vermont
- Dr David Fitzgerald – School of History, UCC

## Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy

On Saturday 11 November, **Dr Clodagh Harris** will be addressing a workshop on the institutionalization of participatory and deliberative democracy. The workshop is organised by the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster. Clodagh will be joined by fellow speakers Leonardo Avritzer and Oliver Escobar. Over recent decades there has been increasing experimentation worldwide with new forms of public engagement that are more or less participatory and/or deliberative in character. Some of these institutional innovations have been transitory, whereas others have become more regularized elements of democratic governance. Participatory budgeting is perhaps the best-known example of such institutionalized democratic engagement, with elements of its practice travelling from Brazilian cities to municipalities across the world. But this is just one of a number of examples of participatory institutions that have been embedded across Latin America. In a similar fashion, randomly selected citizens' assemblies and other deliberative mini-publics have come to play a more central role in decision making in a number of states including Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, Ireland and the US. The workshop focuses on the modes and impacts of institutionalization of participatory and deliberative innovations, drawing on experience from Brazil, Ireland, Scotland and other polities.



# Award for Dr Liam Weeks



At the Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) held in All Hallows, Drumcondra, 15-17 October, Dr Liam Weeks of the Department of Government and Politics was awarded the annual prize for the best paper presented at the 2016 conference.

Titled 'More than Words? Explaining the origins of the Irish party system', it was co-authored with colleagues in Dublin Business School, the University of Essex and Clemson University, and forms part of a wider research project funded by the Irish Research Council, and which will be published as a book in 2018.

**Picture: Dr Liam Weeks with Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh, President of the PSai, and former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern**

## BREXIT POST-DOC OPPORTUNITY

### Position Summary

Working under the direction of **Dr Mary C. Murphy**, the post holder will support Dr Murphy and the project team in undertaking the programme of research and knowledge exchange activities funded under the ESRC Large Grant, *Between Two Unions: The Constitutional Challenge in the UK and Ireland after Brexit*. The research fellow will work in particular on two project themes: Political Union and Institutional Relations; and Ireland/Northern Ireland. The main responsibilities of the post-holder will include:

- To conduct reviews of relevant literature.
- To support the development and refinement of research design and implementation, including identifying key interviewees and conducting research interviews.
- To collate, code, analyse and interpret policy documents and other data, as appropriate, to help the team identify 'critical moments'.
- To support the PI and Co-Is in designing, organising and conducting project meetings, workshops and other events with key stakeholders.
- To support the preparation of a range of documents for dissemination to key academic and non-academic audiences, and their dissemination through a range of media in cooperation with communications colleagues.
- To compile and document evidence of research outputs, activities and impact.

Further details at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/hr/vacancies/research/full-details-819448-en.html>