



CENTRE FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNANCE



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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At the CLRG launch in February 2016 – Dr Andrew Cottey (Head, Department of Government), Councillor Chris O’Leary (Lord Mayor of Cork) and Dr Aodh Quinlivan (Director, CLRG).

<http://clrg.eu/>

The CLRG web site will go live at the end of January 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) was officially launched on 25 February 2016 but started operating the previous month, following a successful application to University College Cork in September 2015. The past 12 months have proved to be an exciting time for the CLRG and this report highlights our activity under a number of headings.

One of the first things we did was to establish an international advisory board and I am grateful to Filipe Teles, Norbert Kersting, Katarzyna Szmigiel-Rawska, Colin Copus and Ivan Koprivic for coming on board and providing guidance, encouragement and wisdom.

As mentioned above, the CLRG was launched in February as part of our inaugural Public Lecture Series. The symbolic ribbon was cut by Professors Anita Maguire (Vice President for Research and Innovation, University College Cork) and Colin Copus (Professor of Local Politics, De Montfort University). The lectures series drew a crowd of over 150 people to UCC and was a great success. The lecture by the former Mayor of Hartlepool, Stuart Drummond (aka H'Angus the Monkey), was especially well received. It was also fitting that the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Chris O'Leary, was present for the occasion. At the time of writing, the second CLRG Annual Public Lecture Series is being prepared for February 2017 and an excellent panel of speakers is lined-up.

Financially, the CLRG brought in revenue of €18,000 through three sources – UCC's Strategic Research Fund, Cork City Council (Bursary Award) and the Cork City Public Participation Network (Research and Training). The CLRG has also entered into international collaborations with major research funding bids submitted to the ESRC and to COST Action. Hopefully, there will be good news from these research bids in 2017.

Cork City Council is a valued partner with the CLRG and we were delighted that the organisation offered a bursary to a staff member to undertake a local government Masters thesis through us. Pat Ruane was the recipient of the inaugural CLRG/Cork City Council Philip Monahan Bursary (see page 7) and we hope to continue the initiative with a new post-graduate student registering in January 2018. As you will see in this report, there were many other highlights during an active 2016 including the Martin McEvoy Conference in DCU, the conferring of Steven Browne, participation in UCC's Learning Neighbourhoods project and the acceptance of a book proposal.

Dr Aodh Quinlivan
Director
Centre for Local and Regional Governance

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Filipe Teles

Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences
University of Aveiro, Portugal



Professor Norbert Kersting

Institute of Political Science
University of Muenster,
Germany



Dr Katarzyna Szmigiel-Rawska

Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies
University of Warsaw, Poland



Professor Colin Copus

Department of Politics and Public Policy
De Montfort University,
Leicester, United Kingdom



Professor Ivan Kopic

Faculty of Law
University of Zagreb, Croatia



INAUGURAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

25 FEBRUARY 2016

SPEAKERS

Danny McLoughlin – Chief Executive, South Dublin County Council

Karen Smyth – Head of Policy, Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Professor Colin Copus – Professor of Local Politics at De Montfort University, Leicester

Stuart Drummond – First Independent directly elected mayor in the UK

The session was chaired by the broadcaster, **Deirdre O'Shaughnessy**.

After the lectures, the CLRG was launched at a drinks reception by **Professor Colin Copus** and **Professor Anita Maguire**, Vice-President for Research and Innovation, UCC.



Above (left to right):- Professor Colin Copus and Karen Smyth
Below (left to right):- Danny McLoughlin and Deirdre O'Shaughnessy



Enjoying the CLRG launch were Kristof Steyvers (Ghent University), Rachel Wall (De Montfort University) and Eva Marin Hlyndóttir (University of Iceland); Pádraig Mac Consaidín (Cork City Council, now Department of Agriculture), Aodh Quinlivan (CLRG) and J.P. Quinn (Visitors' Centre, UCC).



Norbert Kersting (University of Muenster) and Stuart Drummond (former Mayor of Hartlepool, now PhD student at De Montfort University).



Filipe Teles (University of Aveiro), Marta Lackowska and Pawel Swianiewicz (both University of Warsaw); Aodh Quinlivan (CLRG), Anita Maguire (Vice President for Research and Innovation, UCC) and Colin Copus (De Montfort University).

RESEARCH FUNDING

€4,000 was received through UCC's Strategic Research Fund (SRF) for the purpose of establishing the CLRG. This funding helped greatly in getting the Centre off the ground and in organising the inaugural public lecture series. We are grateful to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation for this vital financial support.

Cork City Council contributed €6,000 to enable a staff member to undertake an MSc Government (By Research) thesis on a local government topic, under the supervision of the Director of the CLRG. Following an open competition, Pat Ruane won the bursary and commenced his thesis in January 2016. Pat's research topic is 'The identification, significance and management of maritime heritage in Atlantic port cities' and he is due to submit in December 2017 (two years, part-time). It is hoped that the bursary scheme will continue with a launch and competition in autumn 2017, to enable a new post-graduate student to commence in January 2018. Thanks to the Chief Executive of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty, and her staff, for supporting this initiative.



From left to right: Michael Burke (Director of Service, Cork City Council), Ann Doherty (Chief Executive, Cork City Council), Pat Ruane (Philip Monahan Bursary winner), Aodh Quinlivan (Director, CLRG), and Sean Crowley (Training and Development, Cork City Council)

The CLRG was awarded research funding of €8,000 through the Cork City Public Participation Network and Ballyphehane/Togher Community Development Project to engage in research and provide training supports for PPN representatives. This work will take place in the first three months of 2017.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Martin McEvoy Conference in Dublin City University

The Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, was an invited speaker at the Martin McEvoy Conference in Dublin City University on 16 September 2016. The conference title was **New Politics and Policy in the City – Mayoral Governance of the Dublin City Region**. Dr Quinlivan addressed the conference on the topic of a directly elected mayor for Dublin. It is hoped that the conference proceedings will be published in 2017. The presentations from the conference can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZCAv2VO04sT4n2qmPsTIVw>.



From left to right, Mark Callanan, Colin Copus, Orla O'Donnell, Pauline Cullen, Colin Knox, Eoin O'Malley and Aodh Quinlivan.

Book Publication

The first CLRG book, written by Dr Aodh Quinlivan, is due to be published in September 2017. The book will have the CLRG logo on its cover and is entitled, *Dissolved – The Remarkable Story of how Cork lost its Corporation in 1924*. The book is being published by Cork City Council, through the City Library's 'Occasional' series. Dr Aodh Quinlivan's book will tell the story behind the dissolution of Cork Corporation in 1924. The councillors remained out of office for five years until 1929. Dr Quinlivan describes it as 'a book about political intrigue, abuse of power, civil war politics, petty corruption, big egos and attempted murder.'

Journal Article in Administration about Local Government Reform

The Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, has been invited to write an article for the journal *Administration* in a special issue on political reform. Dr Quinlivan's article will cover reform efforts in Irish local government following the financial crisis from 2008. The special issue will be published in the first half of 2017.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

ESRC Bid – Public Accountability Project



The Director of the CLRG has been working closely with a group of international colleagues preparing a research bid for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in the area of public accountability at the local level. A meeting of the group took place in Cork in February and this was followed by two meetings over the summer in Zagreb and Leicester. The research bid will be ready for submission in early 2017. The picture above shows some members of the research team at the meeting in Zagreb.

COST Action – European Charter of Local Self Government

The CLRG is part of a COST Action proposal to assess the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The primary proposer is Professor Bostjan Brezovnik, University of Maribor (below), and the application was formally submitted in December.



RESEARCH STUDENTS

The CLRG is a research centre and any post-graduate students affiliated to it and undertaking studies in local and regional governance are formally registered with the Department of Government. 2016 saw one Masters student with a CLRG affiliation register for an MSc Government (By Research). As covered on page 7, this student is Pat Ruane, the first recipient of the CLRG/Cork City Council Philip Monahan Bursary. A second bursary recipient will be announced in October 2017 with a view to registering in January 2018. In the autumn, Steven Browne (supervised by Dr Aodh Quinlivan) was conferred with his MSc Government (By Research) for a thesis examining local governance and spatial planning in Cork with a focus on the harbour area. Long Pham is a PhD student, supervised by Dr Aodh Quinlivan, and she will be completing her thesis in the summer of 2017. Long is investigating local governance through the lens of citizen engagement in Smart City initiatives.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CLRG, through Director, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, was delighted to participate in UCC's inaugural 'Learning Neighbourhoods' initiative. The initiative celebrated learners of all ages and brought learning to the community. The selected areas in 2016 were Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny and Dr Quinlivan delivered a lecture entitled *All Politics is Local – Especially in Cork*.

The CLRG looks forward to contributing to Learning Neighbourhoods in 2017 in the selected communities of Mayfield and Togher.

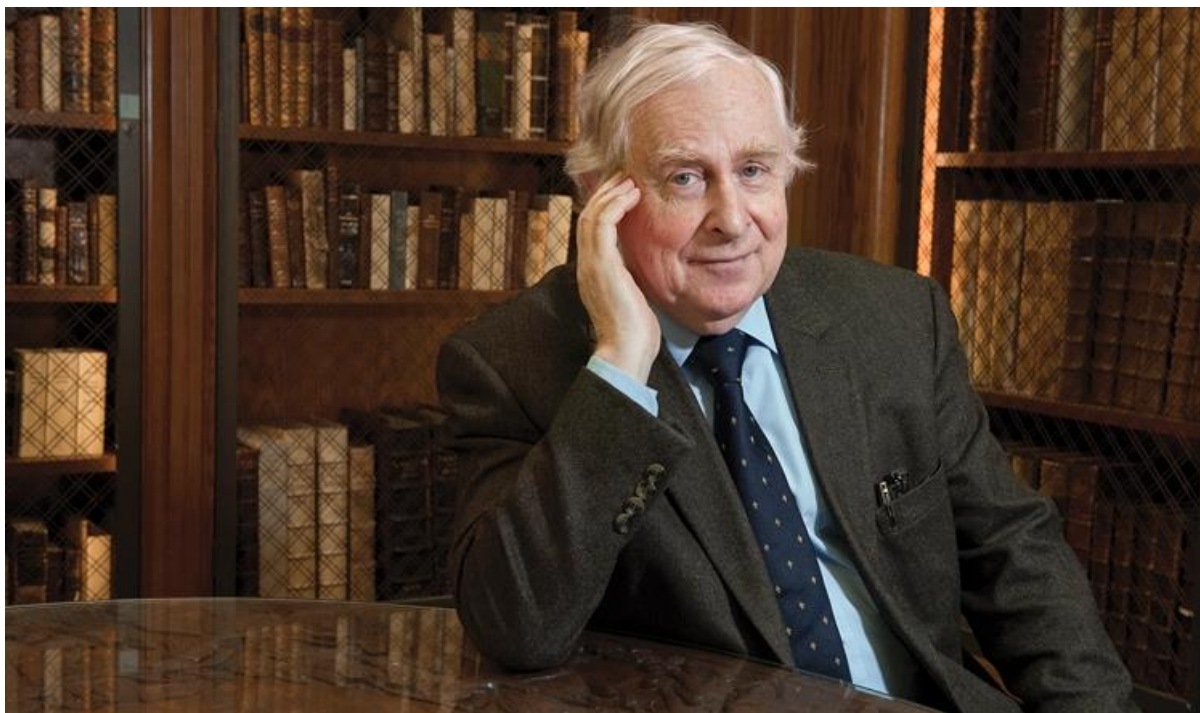


The Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Fergal Dennehy, presented Dr Aodh Quinlivan with a certificate of recognition for his participation in the 2016 Learning Neighbourhoods initiative.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP

Coinciding with the launch of the CLRG, we ran a successful workshop (in partnership with UCC's Centre for Planning Education and Research) in February entitled **Reforming Local Government in Cork – The Next Steps** in the wake of the recommendations of the statutory committee examining local governance arrangements in Cork.

Three members of the committee wrote a majority report recommending the merger of Cork County Council and Cork City Council while two members wrote a minority report rejecting the merger and calling for a city boundary extension.



Professor Dermot Keogh wrote the minority report with Dr Theresa Reidy (recommending a boundary extension rather than a merger) and he spoke at the workshop.

The workshop heard from both sides of the debate (pro and anti-merger) and produced a useful discussion which was covered in the local and national media. Amongst the contributors were Professor Colin Copus, Professor Filipe Teles, Professor Dermot Keogh, Will Brady (Centre for Planning Education and Research, UCC), Owen O'Callaghan (property developer) and Brian McCutcheon (Planning Consultant). Among those in attendance was the former President of UCC, Professor Gerry Wrixon.