



NEGOTIATING THE NEGOTIATIONS:

New Perspectives and Appraisals of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1921-2021

A Conference hosted by University College Cork, 1-2 October 2021

October 2021 marks the centenary of the Anglo-Irish Conference held in London which lasted from 11 October to 6 December 1921. The negotiations produced the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which created the Irish Free State following its approval by Dáil Éireann.

While this Treaty may be viewed through the prism of the Irish Civil War and the later Northern Ireland Troubles, the negotiations themselves produced their own dynamics. The talks reflected evolving positions on fundamental issues such as empire, citizenship, identity, free trade, the role of minorities, defence and democratic representation.

The University College Cork School of History will host a two-day virtual conference on Friday 1 October and Saturday 2 October to explore these complex issues and the processes of the Anglo-Irish negotiations. Acting in collaboration with the Steering Group of Descendants of the Irish Delegation sent by Dáil Éireann in 1921, and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, this conference will also seek to understand the involvement of the men and women who formed the Irish Delegation, and their counterparts on the British side. In doing so, it will hope to illuminate the challenges facing the Treaty negotiations and the ways in which the negotiators sought to resolve them.

Register for your place here



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Cork County Council

Day 1

Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll (UCC) Welcome and Introductions	Noon – 12:15
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid (University of Sheffield), 'Ending the Scrap: From War of Independence to Truce'	12:15 – 12:45
Dr Sínead McCoolle (Historian, Commemorations Unit, Dept Tourism, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media), 'Negotiating: Did Women have an influence?'	12:45 – 1:15
Q&A	1:15 – 1:30
15 minute break	
Prof Bernadette Whelan (Univ of Limerick), 'President Harding, Irish-America and the treaty negotiations, July to December, 1921'	1:45 – 2:15
Dr Michael Kennedy (RIA) – 'The Treaty and National Defence'	2:15 – 2:45
Q&A	2:45 – 3:00
15 minute break	
Prof Chris Williams (UCC) – 'The Anglo-Irish Treaty in British Political Cartoons'	3:15 – 3:45
Q&A	3:45 – 3:55
10 minute break	
Plenary Paul Johnston , (Ambassador to the Embassy of the United Kingdom to Ireland), Introduction	4:05 – 5:05
Prof Richard Toye (Univ of Exeter) – 'Lloyd George, the British Cabinet, and the Treaty Negotiations'	

Day 2

UCC President Professor John O'Halloran , Welcome and introduction	10:00-10:10
An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin	10:10 – 10:30
5 minute break	
Carol Fawsitt , 'London 1921: the men and women behind the Plenipotentiaries'	10:35 – 11:05
Prof Eunan O'Halpin (TCD), 'The Plenipotentiaries'	11:05 – 11:35
Q&A	11:35 – 11:50
30 minute break	
[Live In-Person Session, Devere Hall, UCC]	
Dr Ide Milne (Carlow College) and Select Family Descendants of the Treaty Delegation, 'Descendants Roundtable, An Oral history of the Treaty Delegation Families'	12:20 – 1:10
15 minute break	
Dr Robert Lynch (Univ of Glasgow) 'Ireland's Other Civil War: Ulster and the Treaty'	1:25 – 1:55
Dr Ian D'Alton (TCD), 'The end of the road or a new journey? Southern Protestants Loyalist Minorities and the Anglo-Irish Treaty'	1:55 – 2:25
Q&A	2:25 – 2:40
15 minute break	
Dr Blathna Ruane SC , (UCD), 'Legal implication of the Anglo-Irish Treaty'	2:55 – 3:25
Erskine Childers , 'Reflections on Civil Service and the Treaty Centenary'	3:25 – 3:55
Q&A	3:55 - 4:10
Dr John Borgonovo (UCC), Closing Remarks	4:10 – 4:20