



GOVERNMENT TIMES

A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff

Eimear O'Leary is conferred with PhD at UCC Winter Ceremony



Eimear O'Leary became the latest Department of Government doctoral student to graduate when she was conferred before Christmas at UCC's winter ceremony. Eimear was supervised by **Dr Theresa Reidy** and her external examiner was Professor Pablo Onate, University of Valencia. Eimear's doctoral thesis is entitled 'Political Gatekeepers: An Analysis of the Brokerage Activities of TDs and MLAs.' One of Eimear's PhD colleagues in the Department of Government, **Fergal MacDonald**, also graduated in December while **Niall Duggan** successfully passed his Viva examination in January (see page 5).



Much to look forward to in second semester

Welcome to the first *Government Times* of 2012 and happy New Year to all of our readers. In today's issue we strongly feature the Department of Government's PhD programme. **Eimear O'Leary** (cover page) and **Fergal MacDonald** graduated in December while **Niall Duggan** (page 5) passed his Viva examination.

In addition, a recent graduate from the programme, **Dr Sardar Aziz**, returns on Wednesday to deliver a public lecture analysing the Arab Spring one year on.

Another PhD graduate, **Dr Tim McCarthy**, joins the teaching staff for the second semester along with **Philip Murphy** who has recently submitted his doctoral thesis (page 10). All in all, it is clear to see that the Department's PhD programme is thriving with a high completion rate.

Also at post-graduate level, a little piece of history was made in December with the first graduations from the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy. Congratulations to **Dr Andrew Cottey** (Director of the programme) and all involved.

There is a lot to look forward to in the second semester. One visiting speaker, announced in this issue, is **Fr Sean Healy** of Social Justice Ireland who will be coming to the Department on 24 February.

Politics Week is always a highlight of this semester and details will be provided in the next issue, including the Government Cup and the Annual Government Ball.

Best wishes to you all for the semester ahead. Enjoy it.

Aodh Quinlivan
Director BSc Government
Co-editor of *Government Times*

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Fr Seán Healy to visit Department of Government in February



Fr Seán Healy has accepted an invitation from **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** to deliver a lecture in UCC on Friday 24 February. For 30 years Seán has been active on issues of socio-economic policy in Ireland. Before that he worked for more than 10 years in Africa. He holds a PhD in sociology. Seán has worked on many government task forces dealing with social and economic policy issues ranging from taxation to the labour market, from housing to poverty, from income adequacy to rural development. He has been a member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC) since 1997. He has been a leading member of the Community and Voluntary Pillar since that Pillar was included in the social partnership process in Ireland in 1996. As Director of CORI Justice Seán wrote or edited (with Brigid Reynolds) over 20 books on public policy as well as two books on spirituality for social engagement (2004 and 2006). The work of Healy and Reynolds work has also been published in a wide range of other books and journals. Their book, *Social Policy in Ireland*, (first published in 1998, second edition in 2006) has become a standard textbook on social policy in Ireland. Since leaving CORI, Seán - together with Brigid Reynolds - set up *Social Justice Ireland* which is an independent, stand alone organisation anyone or any organisation may join. Its mission statement is to "work to build a just society where human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated and the environment is respected and protected."

See <http://www.socialjustice.ie/>.

Fr Seán Healy will be delivering a special lecture to the MBA class of 2012 as part of the GV6503 Public Sector module.

Viva Success for Niall Duggan

In the week before Christmas, **Niall Duggan** successfully passed his PhD Viva. Previously, Niall received a BSc in Government and Public Policy from UCC and later graduated with an MA in East and Southeast Asian Studies from Lund University, with a thesis entitled “The Rise of Chinese Nationalism since 1982 Reflected in Chinese Cinema”. He has worked as a research assistant for the University of Limerick on comparative politics, comparing European Union security issues with that of East and South East Asia.

Niall, who hails from Bandon in West Cork, joined the Irish Institute for Chinese Studies (IICS) in UCC in January 2007 and enrolled for a PhD through the Department of Government and the IICS.

Niall’s research interests include Sino-African relations, Chinese foreign policy in the developing world, nationalism in international relations and post-colonial politics, particularly African and Southeast Asian Politics.



Above from left: Professor Neil Collins, Dr Joern-Carsten Gottwald (co-supervisor), Professor Sebastian Harnisch (external examiner), Dr Niall Duggan and Dr Andrew Cottey (co-supervisor).

Niall Duggan is the fourth BSc Government graduate to successfully complete a PhD through the Department of Government. Niall follows in the footsteps of Drs. Monica O’Mullane, Tim McCarthy and Sardar Aziz.

THE ARAB SPRING: ONE YEAR ON



Lecture by Dr Sardar Aziz

Researcher and journalist from Kurdistan/Iraq

Wed 11th January, 4.00-5.30

Venue: Aras na Laoi, G19

Sardar Aziz (PhD) is a researcher and journalist from Kurdistan/Iraq. His doctoral thesis, completed at the Department of Government, University College Cork, was on: 'Why Occidental Modernity Failed in the Arab Middle East: The Emergence of the Failed Modern State'. He is currently working on 'the relationship between natural resources and state formation in Iraqi Kurdistan' for the Kurdistan Regional Government. He is a columnist in a weekly Kurdish newspaper Awene (<http://www.awene.com>) and in the English-language on-line paper Rudaw (<http://www.rudaw.net/english/>).

Hosted by

MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy

All welcome

Field Trip to Brussels: Making Sense of the EU

By Dr Andrew Cottey

Students of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy took part in a field trip to Brussels at the end of November to visit the various European institutions. They were joined by Dr. Andrew Cottey, Director of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy, Dr. Mary Murphy, Ms. Dearbhail O'Callaghan and Barry McSweeney an Associate Professor of UCC's College of Business and Law and former head of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The group visited the European Commission, the EU Council Secretariat, the European Parliament, the JRC and NATO. Andrew Cottey says 'in my view, one of the most useful things about these field trips is that students get a sense of how the European institutions work on a day-to-day basis, the types of work international officials do and the career paths they have followed. All this gives students a much better feel for and understanding of the EU and international policy-making.'

The group also met with two of last year's MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy students, Patrick Flavin and Colm O'Mahony, who are now undertaking internships (or stage – short for the French term *Stagiaire*) in the European Parliament. Patrick is working in the office of MEP Sean Kelly. Colm is working for the European People's Party (EPP) group within the European Parliament. A third student from last year's MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy class, Eamon McSweeney, will be starting a fellowship as part of the Pat Cox-Humanity in Action (HIA) programme in 2012. 'Another useful thing,' says Andrew Cottey 'is to know your way around Brussels. Place du Luxembourg (sometimes simply referred to as 'Place Lux') on a Thursday evening is the place to meet people.' Students from the programme, for example, had the chance to informally meet and talk with a variety of people working for the EU institutions and other students doing internships in Brussels.

One of the highlights of the trip was two talks by officials from the EU's new European External Action Service (EEAS). The EEAS was set up under the Lisbon Treaty and brings together officials from the European Commission, the EU Council Secretariat and member states' foreign ministries. As was explained, the aim is to give the EU a more coherent foreign policy and international presence.

With the current euro crisis, Europe and the EU are going to remain to the forefront of political debate in coming months and years. We hope that in a few years students from the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy will be amongst those working in the European institutions, contributing to policy-making – and meeting the next generation of UCC students!



Thanks to the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy students for participating in the field trip and Dearbhail O'Callaghan for most of the hard work of making the trip possible.

History is made with first graduations from MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy programme



Students from the first cohort of students on the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy graduated in December. The group photo is above, featuring Department of Government staff members Professor Neil Collins, Dr Andrew Cottey, Dr Theresa Reidy and Dr Clodagh Harris.



The winter ceremony also saw conferrings for the MBS Government and the BSc Government. Director of the MBS Government, Dr Clodagh Harris, is seen above with Raymond O'Mahony.

BSc Government Graduates Doing Well



Dr Seamus O'Tuama attended the award ceremony for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development at Heineken before Christmas. One of the graduates **Evelyn McCarthy** (above) and one of the committee members of the Southern Branch of CIPD, **Fiona O'Connor** (below), are BSc Government graduates.



New staff appointments in the Department of Government



The Department of Government staff list for the second semester has been supplemented by **Philip Murphy** (left), **Dr Tim McCarthy** (right) and **Dr Laurence Davis** (centre). Philip and Tim are well-known in the Department (both graduates of the BSc Government) and have tutored for the past few years. Laurence is a political science graduate from Columbia University, New York and he received his D.Phil (Doctor of Philosophy) from Oxford University. He has tutored in the University of Oxford and Stanford University and, in recent times, has lectured in UCD, UCG and Maynooth.

Laurence is based in ORB 2.53 while Philip and Tim are in ORB 2.07.

Snippets



BSc Government graduate and star of TMZ television in Hollywood, **Peter O'Riordan**, was home over the holidays and appeared on the *Saturday Night Show* with Brendan O'Connor.

- **Thomas McHugh** (BSc Government graduate, 2007) delivered a guest lecture before Christmas as part of Dr Aodh Quinlivan's 'Planning Policy' module. After completing his BSc Government degree, Thomas undertook the Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development and he currently works as a planning consultant.
- Well done to **Ben English** (BSc Government II) and **Dean Duke** (BSc Government III) who took part in Monday's Philosoph debate about whether the controversial politician Nick Griffin should be allowed to speak in UCC.