



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

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GOVERNMENT TIMES

Government and Politics Student Attends COP29 in Baku



Cian Walsh (BSc Government and Political Science II) being interviewed by George Lee, RTÉ Environment Correspondent, in Baku at COP29.

See Pages 4-6.

Table of Contents

Page 1 -	Cover Page: Cian Walsh at COP29 in Baku
Page 2 -	Table of Contents
Page 3 -	Editorial
Page 4 -	Cian Walsh at COP29
Page 5 -	Cian Walsh at COP29
Page 6 -	Cian Walsh at COP29
Page 7 -	Prestigious Research Award for Dr. Fiona Buckley
Page 8 -	Prestigious Research Award for Dr. Fiona Buckley
Page 9 -	GV1215 Class in City Hall
Page 10 -	Conferring Joy for Dr. Rachel Gregory
Page 11 -	UCC and <i>Irish Examiner</i> Election Watch Series
Page 12 -	On Tour in Copenhagen: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 13 -	Scavenger Hunt: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 14 -	Cities of Welcome: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 15 -	Ireland's Place in Europe: Hub in Active European Citizenship
Page 16 -	Jean Monnet Celebrations and Visitors from Valencia
Page 17 -	CLRG: Reoport from the 9 th Public Lecture Series
Page 18 -	CLRG: Report from the 9 th Public Lecture Series
Page 19 -	CLRG: Launch of <i>Democracy on Your Doorstep</i>
Page 20 -	CLRG: Jane Dowdall Undergraduate Essay Award
Page 21 -	CLRG: Philip Monahan Local Government Recognition Award
Page 22 -	Request for General Election Poster Photos
Page 23 -	Art O'Leary Visits UCC
Page 24 -	The Dissolution of Cork Corporation
Page 25 -	The Dissolution of Cork Corporation
Page 26 -	The Dissolution of Cork Corporation
Page 27 -	Local Councillors Visit First Year Class
Page 28 -	Research Seminars on Green Urbanism and Paganism
Page 29 -	General Election 2024: Therea Reidy's Prominence
Page 30 -	Christmas Wishes

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL EXAMS AND A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

As we approach the end of a busy first semester at UCC, I am delighted to share 30 pages of news highlighting the extraordinary activities of staff and students in the Department of Government and Politics over the past two months. Our students are very much to the fore in this issue, with pride of place going to **Cian Walsh** (BSc Government and Political Science II) who recently attended COP29 in Baku. Cian was a marvellous representative for our department, the Students' Union, and the overall UCC community. Our **Government and Politics Students Society** has been really active over the past few months; we congratulate them on all of their events and highlight the most recent one with **Art O'Leary** of the Electoral Commission (page 23). We look forward to more Society events in the New Year. Our BSc Government and Political Science first years have been immersing themselves in local government, visiting City Hall (page 9), receiving a delegation of local councillors (page 27), and attending the 9th public lecture series of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (pages 17 and 18). Special congratulations to **Jessica Hurley**, who received the CLRG Undergraduate Essay Prize (page 20). Staff in the department have also been engaged in a range of activities. **Dr. Theresa Reidy** has been prominent on television and radio in advance of Friday's General Election (page 29), while **Dr. Fiona Buckley** was announced as the deserving winner of the 2024 Elizabeth Meehan Prize by the Political Studies Association of Ireland (pages 7 and 8). Congratulations, Fiona! On behalf of the Hub in Active European Citizenship, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** and **Dr. Philip Murphy** have been travelling to Glanmire, Castleblaney, Brussels, Copenhagen ... and all points in between (pages 12 to 16). We have also had the launch of *Democracy on Your Doorstep* by Lord Mayor, Councillor Dan Boyle (page 19).



Enjoy Issue 84!

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan

Editor, *Government Times*

a.quinlivan@ucc.ie

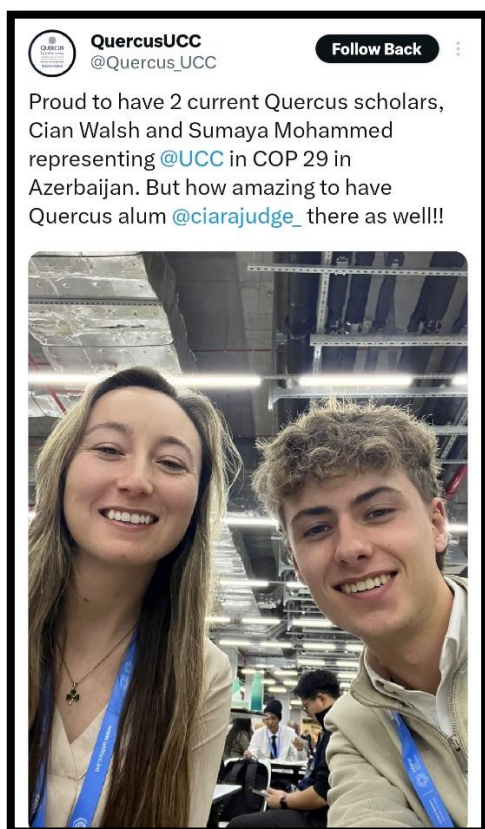
pg. 3 *Government Times*, 2024/25 academic year

COVER STORY

Students and researchers from University College Cork (UCC) again attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP) when the 29th edition of the summit took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. COP29 (November 11-22) brought together nations to assess global efforts to limit the levels climate change against targets set by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, and other international accords.

The most recent COP, COP28, was held last year in Dubai and was the largest attended climate COP in history, convening 97,000 delegates, and more than 150 heads of state. For the first time in 28 years of negotiations, nearly 200 countries agreed to "transition away" from fossil fuels. Dr. Fionn Rogan, Senior Research Fellow in Energy Systems Modelling at UCC who led the delegation, noted: -

'The annual COP is an opportunity to evaluate progress on the climate action pledges that were made last year. In addition to the pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, last year's COP agreed targets to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030. COP29 in Azerbaijan was billed as the finance COP. Success or failure will be measured on whether or not the countries of the world can agree sufficient climate finance to achieve targets for energy, loss and damages, and climate adaptation.'



COVER/STORY

Erin O’Riordan, a recent UCC Law graduate who attended COP29 said: ‘I attended as a Youth Delegate for Plan International Ireland, so I was really excited to connect with other young people passionate about climate justice.’

Cian Walsh, UCC Students’ Union Environmental and Sustainability Representative stated: ‘In advance, I was excited and nervous for COP29, the ‘Finance COP’. I attended to advocate for greater investment in sustainable development, particularly in agriculture and food systems. My hope was to leave COP29 with concrete commitments to drive real, positive change for both people and the planet.’

Four key words dominated negotiations at Baku’s climate summit: loss, damage, adaptation and mitigation. These refer to the four pillars of climate action, where countries fund new infrastructure to protect people against the worst effects of climate change.

Speaking ahead of the delegation’s departure, UCC President Prof. John O’Halloran said: ‘Climate Change remains the greatest challenge of our time, and the annual COP summits are an important opportunity to hold leading nations to account for their commitment to finding solutions to an ever-changing world.’

[Watch: Young Irish delegates voice concerns at ‘slow’ COP](#)

‘This year, COP progressed very slowly. Overall, it was quite disheartening to see parties failing to find consensus in a number of areas, particularly finance, which does of course affect every other climate action issue’ – **Cian Walsh, UCC.**

COVER/STORY

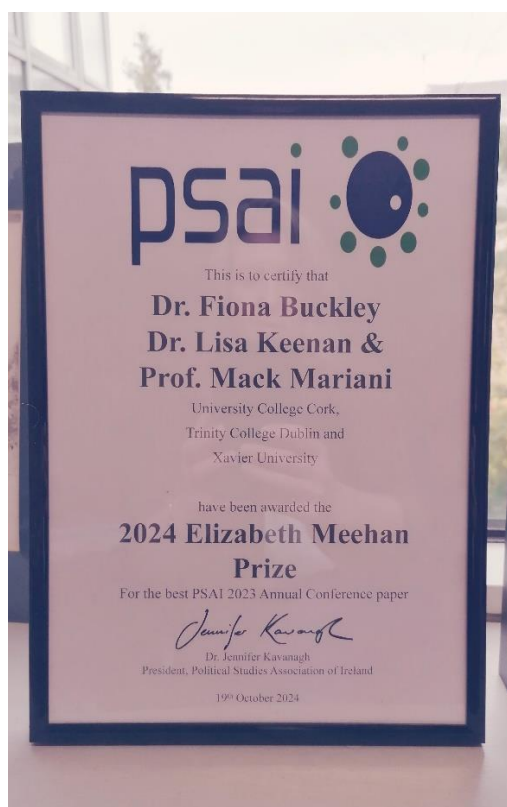


‘It was a truly exhausting fortnight at the climate talks in Baku. And it seems clear from the anger articulated by the civil society groups that the fight for climate justice is going to go on and on’ – **George Lee, RTÉ Environment Correspondent.**



PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH AWARD FOR DR. FIONA BUCKLEY

The 2024 Elizabeth Meehan Prize for best paper presented at the previous year's Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) was awarded to **Dr. Fiona Buckley** (University College Cork), **Dr. Lisa Keenan** (Trinity College Dublin) and **Prof. Mack Mariani** (Xavier University) for their paper entitled 'The cost of doing politics in Ireland: what does violence against politicians look like and how is it gendered?'



The *Cost of Doing Politics* project brings together an international research team to undertake a comprehensive, multi-method examination of if and how gender shapes political violence targeting politicians. The project investigates gender differences in the extent and type of political violence experienced by men and women, and the gendered consequences of violence against political actors in Norway, Ireland, Ghana and Uganda. The project is hosted by the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen, Norway and is funded by the Research Council of Norway (grant number 300618). Fiona is Co-PI on the project and heads up the Irish research team. A synopsis of the award winning paper may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.cmi.no/publications/8986-the-cost-of-doing-politics-in-ireland>

CONCLUSION

While our study is rooted in the Irish experience, the findings are not unusual from a global perspective. International research points to the “devastating consequences for the quality of democracy” of political violence directed at politicians (Krook 2017), especially for women in politics. This includes its impact on sustaining women in politics and inhibiting the ambitions, motivation and mobilisation of new candidates. Research also highlights the intersectional nature of political violence, particularly that directed at women, with women of colour, young women and women from the LGBTQ+ community particular targets (see Collignon *et al* 2021).

Given the increasing global evidence of the abuse, intimidation and harassment directed at politicians, questions have arisen about *who* would want to enter political life and *who* can withstand the level of abuse directed at political actors? Moreover, *who* ends up running for political office is important to consider, as they will have a significant bearing on future policy and political decisions. Thus, to ensure a diversity of people feel safe to participate in political life and a multiplicity of perspectives are brought to bear on policymaking, we need to acknowledge that political violence is happening, recognise its various forms and understand its differential consequences for women and men.





BSc Government First Years in City Hall



On Monday 11 November, the enthusiastic BSc Government and Political Science First Year class visited Cork City Hall. Following a private meeting with the Lord Mayor, the group attended the monthly public meeting of Cork City Council which ran from 5.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The meeting marked the 'debut' of new Chief Executive, Valerie O'Sullivan, and there were lively debates on the deferral of the annual budget meeting, disinformation, Irish Water, postal voting and Donald Trump!



RACHEL'S CONFERRING JOY

At the Autumn Graduations on 31 October, Dr. Rachel Gregory was conferred with her PhD. Rachel's thesis was titled *The impact of gender quotas on progressive ambition for cabinet* and she was supervised by **Dr. Fiona Buckley**, **Dr. Liam Weeks** and **Prof. Yvonne Galligan** (Technological University Dublin). The Department of Government and Politics warmly congratulates Rachel on her PhD success, and we wish her the very best for a bright future.





UCC-Irish Examiner Election Watch series

Well done to BSc Government and Political Science students **Alice Bogue**, **Caitlin Holland**, and **Reuban Murray** for their impressive contributions to the UCC-Irish Examiner 'Election Watch' series. Alice and Caitlin featured in an episode on 'Young People and Faith in Politics' along with Dr. Philip Murphy (Hub in Active European Citizenship)

Reuban took part in an episode on 'Housing as a Campaign Issue'. The series featured in the *Irish Examiner* daily edition and aired on The Mick Clifford Podcast.





<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>



On Tour in Copenhagen

The **Hub in Active European Citizenship** recently took a delegation of six post-primary school teachers to Copenhagen for a Pan European Awareness in Collaborative Education (PEACE) workshop. The workshop involved 24 post-primary teachers and 6 academic partners from Belgium, Denmark, and Ireland. It focussed on the development of a semi-digital escape room on climate change in the EU. Day 2 of the workshop involved a pilot of the escape room in high schools around Denmark. The Irish teachers were particularly positive about the active learning nature of the escape room and their exchanges with Belgian and Danish counterparts on the teaching of politics at post-primary level.



Philip Murphy @philipmurphy81 · 15 Nov
Big 🙌 to Cáit (@StMarysCollege), Edmond (@cbc_cork), James (@KinsaleComSch), Karen (@SPSL_Rathmore), Martin (@cbc_cork) & Rosemary (@StMarysCollege) for contributions with @DeoEuropa & @europahuis in 🇩🇰. @HubEuropCitizen's escape room on climate change gathers pace.





SCAVENGER HUNT ON THE STREETS OF CORK

Just before Storm Bert landed on Leaside, CSPE students from St. Aloysius' Secondary School (Sharman Crawford Street) gave an inaugural run-out to Hub AEC's Cork City Scavenger Hunt. The hunt involved 34 clues along a 2km trail of the city centre. Working in small teams, students' powers of observation, deduction, and wordplay were put to the test. The hunt used socio-political and historic artefacts to engage students in active learning of their local streetscape. It also challenged them to reflect on the interplay of local, national, and European influences on Cork's civic space.





SCHOOL VISIT AND CITIES OF WELCOME CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 19 November, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** visited Glanmire Community College to speak to over 200 students about active citizenship and the various programmes being run by the Hub in Active European Citizenship. The invitation stemmed from contact made by a student in Glanmire Community College who took part in the BFGtoEU programme when she was a third class primary school pupil in 2018! It is wonderful to see the real impact that the Hub is having across the country.

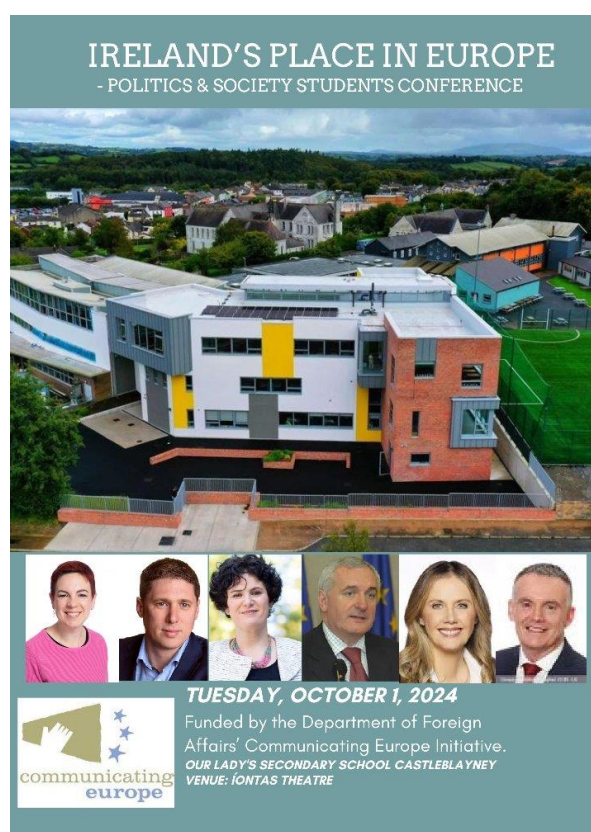


Cork City Council hosted a successful 'Cities of Welcome' conference from 25-27 November which brought together delegations from Cork, Cologne and Rennes. The primary purpose of the event was to discuss ways to better integrate migrants into our societies.

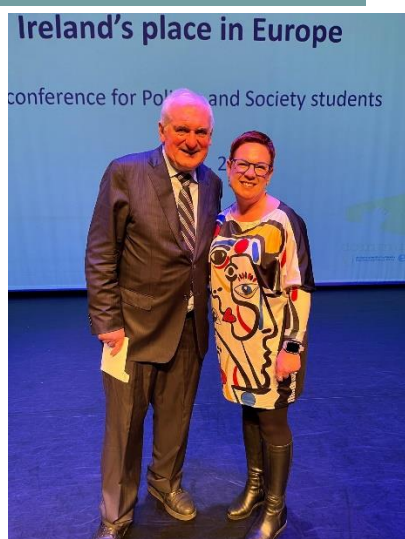
Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan was centrally involved in the event and made a presentation to the delegates on European migration policy. Along with student helpers from the Department of Government and Politics, she also provided translation and interpreter services across the three days.



Ireland's Place in Europe Debated



Ireland's place in Europe was discussed at a major conference in Castleblaney on Tuesday 1 October. Among the invited speakers were **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** (UCC), Bertie Ahern (former Taoiseach), Audrey Carville (BBC/RTÉ), Matt Carthy TD (Sinn Féin), Claire Hanna MP (SDLP) and Senator Robbie Gallagher (Fianna Fáil). Emmanuelle's presented on how the European Union functions, and she explored challenges faced by the EU institutions and explored improvements which could be made.





Jean Monnet Celebrations, PASTAI Annual Conference and Valencia Visitors

35 years of Jean Monnet actions were celebrated in Brussels in early October. As the Director of UCC's Hub in Active European Citizenship and as a Jean Monnet Chair in Active European Citizenship, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** was invited to take part. As well as presenting on the activities of the Hub, she hosted a workshop with **Dr. Philip Murphy**.



In mid-October, the Hub in Active European Citizenship hosted students from Kinsale Community School plus a delegation of Spanish students from Valencia. **Dr. Philip Murphy** ran a stimulating workshop on European citizenship education and political efficacy. On 9 November, **Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** spoke at the annual PASTAI (Politics and Society Teachers) conference about pedagogy, educational resources and elections!

REPORT FROM CLRG24 AND LAUNCH OF *DEMOCRACY ON YOUR DOORSTEP*

On Wednesday 20 November, University College Cork hosted the 9th Annual Public Lecture Series of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG). Before a large and appreciative audience, three lectures were delivered by Dr. Rory Costello (University of Limerick), Councillor Gillian Coughlan (Cork County Council) and Dr. Aodh Quinlivan (University College Cork). Dr. Costello discussed voting behaviour in Ireland's first direct mayoral election which took place in Limerick five months ago and he highlighted the importance of personal contact and canvassing.



Councillor Coughlan delivered a lively account of the realities of being a 21st century local elected representative, while also making suggestions for reform of the system. The Director of the CLRG, Dr. Quinlivan, analysed local government issues from 100 years ago and linked them to the present day.



The evening was chaired by UCC's Dr. Theresa Reidy, and the Jane Dowdall Undergraduate Essay prize was presented to Jessica Hurley (BSc Government and Political Science I). Marking the successful completion of her 10-year term as Chief Executive of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty was presented with the Philip Monahan Local Government Recognition Award.



As part of the proceedings, Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Dan Boyle, officially launched the latest book to emerge from the CLRG – *Democracy on Your Doorstep* by Dr. Aodh Quinlivan. The publication of the book - supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – was officially announced in October by Alan Dillon TD, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning. *Democracy on Your Doorstep* examines each set of local elections in Ireland from 1899 to 2024 inclusive and was described by the Lord Mayor Boyle as a valuable addition to the understocked library of books on local government in Ireland. The Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, Art O'Leary, has welcomed the book as 'an absorbing must-read' for anyone with an interest in local government.

In *Democracy on Your Doorstep*, Dr. Quinlivan attempts the difficult task of categorising the 26 sets of local elections since 1899. The six elections from 1899 to 1914 represent the national struggle for Home Rule. The seminal election of 1920 stands alone due to the success of Sinn Féin and the use of the local councils in the war against British authorities. The elections after the Civil War, in 1925 and 1928, were absorbing due to the efforts - mainly of Cumann na nGaedheal – to depoliticise local government and make it less partisan.

Those efforts largely failed and the 17 local contests that have taken place since 1934 have tended to match, with some variations, the results of Dáil elections. In 1934, Fianna Fáil emerged as the strongest grouping in local government, followed by the United Ireland Party or Fine Gael. Fast forward 90 years to 2024 and Fianna Fáil was, once again, the strongest party of local government with 248 seats, closely followed by Fine Gael on 245.



Expressing his delight at the publication and launch of his 10th book, Dr. Quinlivan stated: ‘The aim of *Democracy on Your Doorstep* is modest, merely to tell the stories behind the city and county council elections over the past 125 years and to give a flavour of the colour, excitement, and controversy ... not to mention some of the fascinating characters involved.’

CONGRATULATIONS, JESS!



CLRG Jane Dowdall Undergraduate Award

2016/17	Lewis O'Shea
2017/18	Diarmaid Hanley
2018/19	Aisling O'Leary
2019/20	Sinéad McMahon
2020/21	Conor Ruth
2021/22	Conor Brennan
2022/23	Robert Palmer
2023/24	Alan O'Brien
2024/25	Jessica Hurley

RECOGNITION FOR ANN



CLRG Philip Monahan Recognition Award

2017	Pat Ruane
2018	Long Pham; Liam Ronayne
2019	Richard Kelly; Pat Ledwidge
2020	Councillor Ben Dalton O'Sullivan
2021	John Ger O'Riordan
2022	Councillor Mary Roche
2023	Dr. Bríd Quinn
2024	Ann Doherty

Call for Photos: Irish General Election Poster



Professor Neil Collins

I am currently researching political branding and marketing, specifically focusing on the use of election posters in the Irish general election. Your help would be invaluable in gathering diverse visual examples to enhance our understanding of campaign strategies in this context.

What I am looking for:

- Photos of election posters from any political party or independent candidates used in the current Irish general election (tight images of posters, please, rather than poles, ditches, and a lot of background!).
- Images capturing key design elements, slogans, and branding features.

Please take clear photos of the election posters you encounter and **email them to** n.collins@ucc.ie, along with any relevant information (e.g., the date and location of the poster, and any notable features).

Please ensure the photos are taken in public spaces and respect people's privacy. Your contributions will directly support ongoing academic research in political marketing, providing a valuable resource for analysing the evolution of Ireland's political branding.



HOW GREAT THOU ART



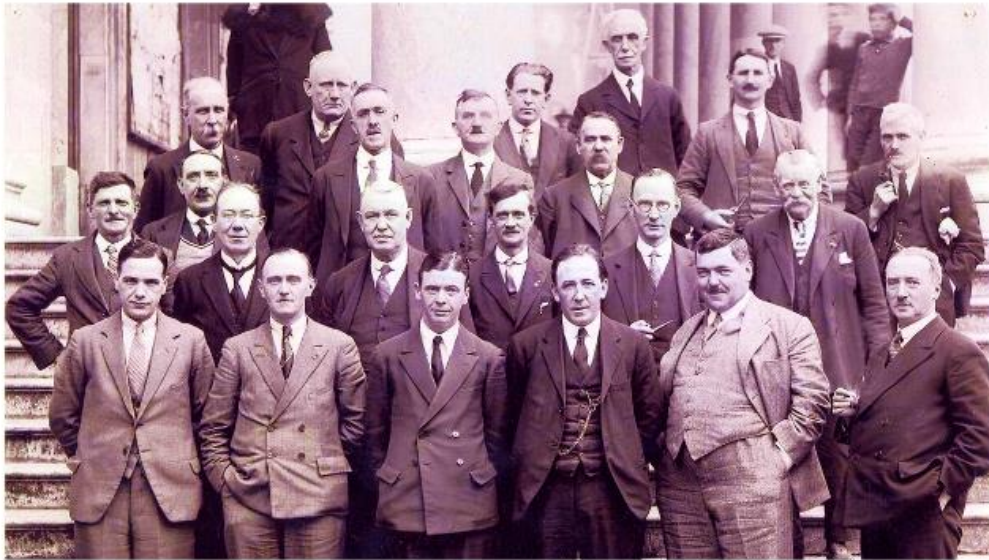
In an event jointly organised by the Government and Politics Society and the Law Society, the Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, **Art O'Leary**, visited UCC on Monday 25 November to engage with students and encourage them to vote in the upcoming General Election. Thanks for your time, as always, Art.



A CENTENARY WORTH MARKING

How the dissolution 100 years ago of Cork Corporation led to our local government system today

The country's first City Manager was appointed in Cork in 1929 and effectively saw the sharing of power between the manager and the elected council



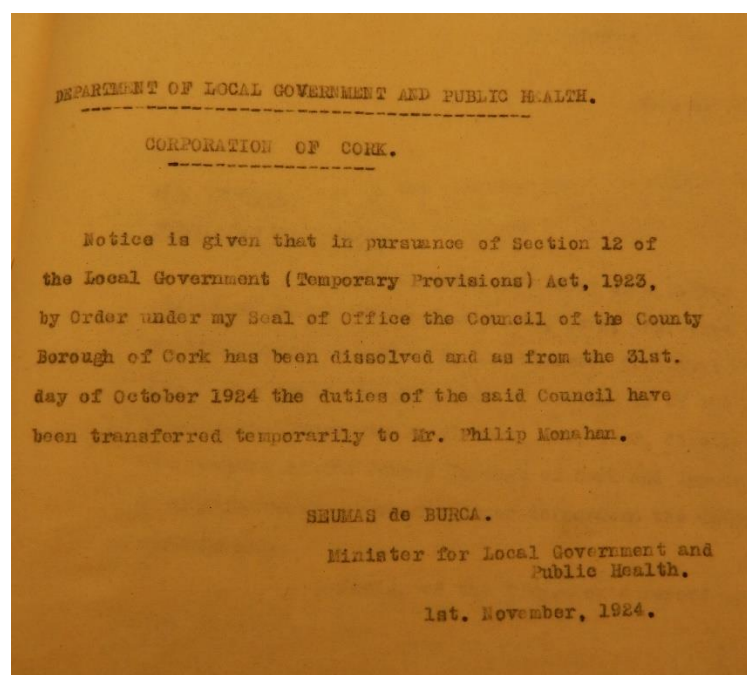
Cork Corporation was re-instated following a local election in 1929. Lord Mayor, Alderman Seán French, is the third from the right on the front row, with City Manager, Philip Monahan, on his left.

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan and **Councillor Dan Boyle**, Lord Mayor of Cork, combined recently to write an article for the *Irish Examiner* commemorating the (in)famous dissolution of Cork Corporation in on 31 October 1924.

Today marks the centenary of the famous dissolution of Cork Corporation on 31 October 1924. To set the scene, there was a pessimistic mood across local councils in the early months of 1923, and not just because of the continuing Civil War. Another factor is what Diarmaid Ferriter has referred to as the ‘utter contempt’ that had quickly developed at central government level for local democracy. Ernest Blythe had been appointed as Minister for Local Government and Public Health in 1922 by William T. Cosgrave and he wasted little time in stamping his authority. The attitude of Blythe and the senior officials in the Department of Local Government and Public Health was paternalistic and austere – they were interested in rectitude and efficiency rather than local democracy. The minister was also working on a significant piece of legislation, the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act.

This legislation gave power to the minister to dissolve local authorities and replace them with a centrally appointed Commissioner. May 1923, just at the end of the Civil War, saw the first local authority dissolved under the provisions of the 1923 act and, to no one's surprise, the victim was Kerry County Council which had passed into Republican control. Dublin Corporation was also in the firing line. It had antagonised the government, particularly on the issue of the treatment of prisoners. On 20 February 1924, the Town Clerk of Dublin, John J. Murphy, received a letter informing him that an inquiry into the performance of Dublin Corporation was to be held, under the 1923 Act. At the end of the inquiry, chaired by Nicholas O'Dwyer, it came as little surprise when Minister Séamus Burke announced that Dublin Corporation was to be dissolved, with its properties, powers and duties transferred to three government appointed Commissioners from 20 May 1924.

After the dissolution of Dublin Corporation, the government's attention turned to Cork. In 1924, Cork Corporation was a difficult council, divided on pro and anti-Treaty lines. The bitter mayoral election of January 1924, which anti-Treaty councillor Seán French won by one vote, did nothing to ease hostilities. Lord Mayor French struggled to unite the council and, with the Cork Progressive Association and the *Cork Examiner* questioning the quality of local administration, Minister Séamus Burke intervened, ordering the holding of an inquiry, starting on 26 August in Cork Courthouse. There was controversy even before the inquiry commenced. Alderman Richard Beamish – a councillor, TD and the city's largest ratepayer through Beamish & Crawford – was quoted in the local media as saying that the decision had already been made in Dublin to dissolve Cork Corporation.



The inquiry, chaired once again by Nicholas O'Dwyer, sat for nine dramatic days, before packed public galleries at each session. Lord Mayor Seán French offered a staunch defence of the Corporation, highlighting the tremendous difficulties it had faced in recent years. These included the murder of Lord Mayor Tomás MacCurtain, the death on hunger strike of his successor, Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney, and the burning of much of the city, including City Hall. In addition, MacSwiney's successor as Lord Mayor, Donal Óg O'Callaghan, had spent much of his tenure on the run. Interestingly, Lord Mayor French asserted that the people of Cork were partly to blame if local government in the city was not as effective as it should be, saying: 'A real and serious attempt should be made to educate the citizens in local services and to instill into them an interest in local government bodies and generally in local affairs.'

As was the case in Dublin, Nicholas O'Dwyer wrote an anodyne report which did not contain a firm recommendation. However, confirming the assertion made by Alderman Richard Beamish in advance of the inquiry, Cork Corporation was duly dissolved, with Philip Monahan taking over as Commissioner from 12.00 noon on Friday 31 October. At the appointed time, Monahan entered the council chamber in Cork Courthouse, interrupting a meeting of Cork Corporation, and he formally asked the councillors present to take their belongings and leave. Cork Corporation was now dissolved.

An advantage of the Commissionership years in Dublin and Cork was that it gave the government the breathing space to formulate proposals for the reform of local government, specifically the introduction of the management system, whereby power would be shared between an appointed City or County Manager and the elected council. Councillors would be responsible for policy. The City/County Manager would be responsible for the implementation of policy, staffing matters and day-to-day administration. The government decided that this system should be trialled in Cork city and accordingly the Cork City Management Act was passed in 1929. During a heated debate in Dáil Éireann on the Cork legislation, Seán French TD – Lord Mayor of Cork when the Corporation was dissolved, and now a Fianna Fáil deputy – argued that he wanted ‘a City Manager appointed and not a city master.’ Éamon de Valera made a telling contribution to the debate. He supported the idea of separating the deliberate functions from the executive powers and stated: ‘I welcome the fact that we are at last giving up this idea of keeping all power centralised in Dublin.’ Cork Corporation was re-instated in March 1929 following the city’s first local elections since January 1920. Once again, Seán French was elected Lord Mayor.



The Lord Mayor marked the centenary of the dissolution of Cork Corporation by visiting Cork Courthouse on 31 October 2024.

The country’s first City Manager was duly appointed in Cork in 1929, Philip Monahan. In his subsequent 30-year reign as the City Manager in Cork, Monahan was an efficient and decisive – albeit abrasive – official, extremely confident in his own judgement. He was openly dismissive of local councillors, despite having been one himself. Most unusually for a man with his experience of revolutionary activism and imprisonment, he did not let fraternal ties interfere in anything to do with public employment and public funds. Furthermore, although imposed on the city by central government, he was never the minister’s man, nor the Lord Mayor’s man. The dissolution of Cork Corporation 100 years ago was a means to an end – a critical juncture that led to the emergence of the management system which underpins the entire local government system to this day.

LOCAL COUNCILLORS SPEAK TO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS



On Tuesday 12 November, we were delighted to welcome **Councillor Honore Kamegni** (Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Green Party) and **Councillor Joe Lynch** (Sinn Féin) to the first year local government class, GV1215. Both councillors delivered brief presentations about their interest in politics and their pathway into Cork City Council.

This was followed by a lively interactive session where students quizzed both councillors about issues such as transportation, housing, planning and the environment as well the length of council meetings (!) and the abuse faced by public representatives.

Thank you to Honore and Joe for being so generous with their time.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES 2024/2025



The latest two seminars in the Department of Government and Politics Research Seminar Series were delivered by **Professor Des Fitzgerald** (15 October) and **Dr. Jenny Butler** (19 November).

Drawing on themes discussed in his acclaimed book, *The City of Today is a Dying Thing*, Professor Fitzgerald's engrossing presentation was titled 'Forest Time: Landscapes of RETVRN in the memory-politics of ecotherapy.'

Dr. Butler spoke about the research she conducted for her forthcoming book, *21st Century Irish Paganism: Worldview, Ritual, Identity*. Both seminars were very well attended by staff and students.



DR. THERESA REIDY PROMINENT IN GENERAL ELECTION COVERAGE



Dr. Theresa Reidy has been a prominent feature of the General Election 2024 coverage on television, radio, podcasts and in the print media. Widely regarded as one of Ireland's leading election experts, Theresa's contributions have been a breath of fresh air.

We look forward to hearing and seeing more of her over the weekend as results are counted and seats are won or lost!

‘The political parties, the media and all of us voters, have not yet fully come to terms with the new political disposition that is laid before us in the opinion polls. There are no large parties, there are three medium-sized parties, four to five small parties, a couple of ‘one (wo)man bands’ that we call micro-parties, one collection of independents that have registered as a political party, some other collections of independents that might be willing to co-operate with certain parties in government, in bilateral agreements, and some other independents that are committed to having nothing to do with the government whatsoever’ – **Dr. Theresa Reidy, Irish Examiner.**

Issue 85 of *Government Times* will be published in mid-February 2025.

If you would like to contribute to it, please e-mail Dr. Aodh Quinlivan at a.quinlivan@ucc.ie.

Until then, good luck in your exams and we wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe Christmas.

