

GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter produced by students and staff of UCC's
Department of Government

ISSUE 59

Co-edited by Aodh Quinlivan, Caroline Hofman & Lorna Murphy



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Major International Conference Brings Nearly 500 Delegates to UCC and Contributes €700,000 to the Local Economy



Dr. Mary C. Murphy who brought the UACES
Conference to UCC.

Last week, from 1-3 September, the Department of Government hosted the 44th UACES (University Association for Contemporary European Studies) Annual Conference. The conference was one of the largest gatherings of European Studies specialists in the world this year, and took place at a time when the EU faces an unprecedented mix of economic, political, and foreign policy challenges.

Leading academics from the worlds of politics, political science and law addressed recent European and global events and assessed their implications for the EU and the European integration project. Amongst the speakers were Professor Brigid Laffan, Professor Charlie Jeffery and Pat Cox. With 470 delegates from 39 countries attending, it is estimated to be worth €700,000 to the local economy]. Congratulations to conference organiser, Dr Mary C. Murphy.

We will carry a full report from UACES 2014 in the next issue of *Government Times*.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Welcome to the new academic year in UCC! As the new editorial team for *Government Times* we hope you will enjoy Issue 59 and also the new features we plan to introduce over the coming issues. One of our aims is to have a stronger student focus in our newsletter and we have started in the right vein with a great article by Don O'Neill (BSc Government IV) about his experiences at the Icelandic Summer School on 'Small States in Europe'. Don's article is on pages 11 and 12 and you will want to book a trip to Iceland after you read it! We also have graduate news and on the next page we feature 2006 BSc Government and Public Policy graduate, Seán O'Leary, who has written *Sense of Place: A History of Irish Planning*. This is a tremendous achievement and we take great pride in Seán's success. We are equally proud of Peter O'Riordan who graduated a year after Seán. After a successful few years based in Hollywood on TMZ, Peter is returning home to take up a position on TV3. We look forward to seeing him on the airwaves. Current and former students also did us proud in the May 2014 local elections with four of them winning seats in local authorities in Cork, Limerick and Dublin. Of course, there is a fair sprinkling of staff news in this issue from the stunning success of the UACES conference last week (well done to Dr Mary C. Murphy), to significant research grant funding for Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and a prestigious visiting scholarship for Dr Theresa Reidy.

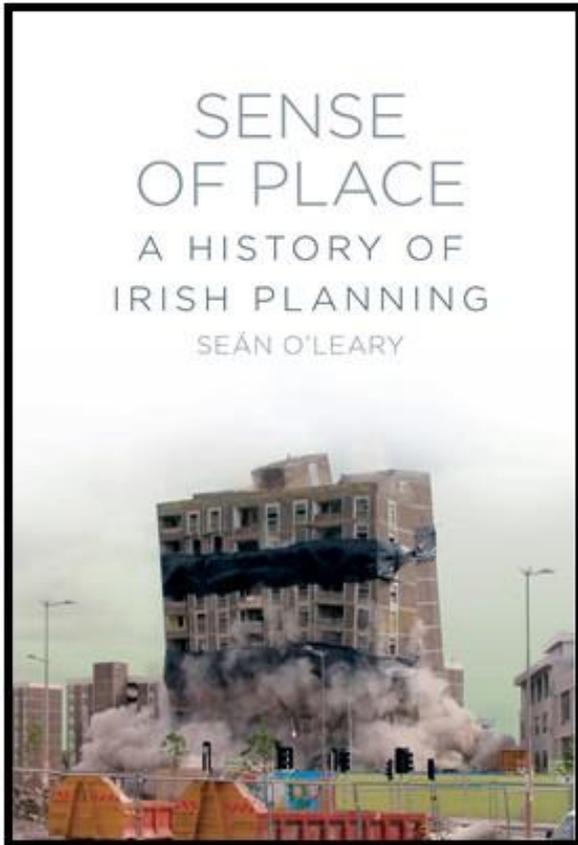
As ever, there is a lot happening in the Department of Government and we wish all of our students, across all of our programmes, a fantastic academic year in 2014/2015.

Aodh Quinlivan (Staff), Caroline Hofman (BSc Government IV), and Lorna Murphy (BSc Government II), co-editors of *Government Times*, 2014/2015





New Planning Book by BSc Government Graduate



Seán O'Leary's *Sense of Place: A History of Irish Planning* will form part of the GV3408 module this year in the third year of the BSc Government.

2006 BSc Government and Public Policy graduate, Seán O'Leary, has written *Sense of Place: A History of Irish Planning* which will shortly be published. Seán currently works as an Executive Director in the Irish Planning Institute and he also sits on Dublin City Council's Environment and Engineering Strategic Policy Committee. Seán studied planning as part of his BSc and he graduated with a 1H degree. He then undertook a Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development in UCC where he also received a 1H. His post-graduate thesis was entitled 'The Impact of Neoliberalism on the Irish Planning System'. As well as writing books and working in the Irish Planning Institute, Seán is also working on his PhD thesis in Maynooth University and he hopes to complete in 2015.

Everyone in the Department of Government is thrilled by Seán's success and we are proud of his achievements. *Sense of Place: A History of Irish Planning* will be published by The History Press on 6 October. It can be pre-ordered from <http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/index.php/sense-of-place.html> at £12.99.

WORKSHOP ON PARLIAMENTS ORGANISED BY DR. LIAM WEEKS



Liam Weeks with Lucinda Creighton, Aengus O Snodaigh, Catherine Murphy and the renowned Professor Kaare Strom at the workshop.

A workshop on the theme 'Parliaments without Parties' was held at the National University of Ireland, July 2-3. Convened by **Dr. Liam Weeks** it included a number of distinguished academics and politicians, all of whom addressed the necessity of political parties for parliaments to function. Liam Weeks and Mary Murphy of the Department's academic staff presented papers, as did Yvonne Murphy, a 1st year PhD student in the Department. Senator John Crown and TDs Lucinda Creighton, Aengus O Snodaigh (Sinn Féin whip), Sean O Fearghail (Fianna Fáil whip) and Catherine Murphy gave presentations on the role of parties. The workshop was funded by the Irish Research Council New Foundations

NEW EXTERNAL EXAMINER APPOINTED FOR BSc GOVERNMENT AND MSc GOVERNMENT



The Department of Government is delighted to announce Professor Colin Copus as the new External Examiner on the BSc Government for a three-year term. Professor Copus is Professor of Local Politics and Director of the Local Governance Research Unit in the Department of Politics and Public Policy, De Montfort University, Leicester. He has worked closely with policy-makers and practitioners in central and local government and he has been the editor *Local Government Studies* since 2001. He has served as a councillor on a London Borough council, a county and a district council and three parish councils. Professor Copus also takes over as extern on the MSc Government and he replaces Dr Alan Greer in both roles.

Professor Colin Copus takes over from Dr. Alan Greer as the External Examiner on the BSc Government and MSc Government programmes.

BSc Government graduate moves from TMZ to TV3



Peter O'Riordan has forged a successful television career and is now moving from TMZ to TV3.

In a major coup for the Xposé TV3 team, Peter O'Riordan, formally of TMZ will take his place on the programme alongside Karen Koster, Glenda Gilson, Lisa Cannon and Aisling O'Loughlin.

Peter brings a wealth of experience to Xposé having risen from a Field Producer to Assignment Manager at TMZ's LA offices and he has played a part in breaking some of the biggest pop culture news stories in the world including the deaths of Whitney Houston and Paul Walker, and Jay Z and Solange's elevator fight. Not to mention Peter was running the assignment desk when TMZ.com reached record highs of 60 million unique visitors monthly.

Originally from Ballincollig in Cork, Peter moved to LA in 2010. The first European ever on the EMMY nominated TV show TMZ, Peter graduated from UCC with a degree in Government and Public Policy in 2007. He admits his heart will always be in Ireland and he is ecstatic to be joining TV3.

Peter and his partner Stephanie have a five month old baby boy named Olivier together.

Peter has always been grateful for his education on the BSc Government. In 2011 he recorded a video clip in LA promoting the BSc as part of a showcase event we ran that year. We wish Peter all the best on his career move.

Department of Government Lecturer Wins Major Research Grant



Congratulations to Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan who has been awarded €124,165 by the Irish Research Council (IRC) under the 2013 Grant Scheme. Emmanuelle's successful funding bid was for her and her team to research the following topic: - 'The role of the European Commission in multi-level financial management in the European Union: a step closer to governmentalising and further integration?'

Funding through the IRC is very difficult to achieve due to the strong level of competition so Emmanuelle's achievement is a note-worthy one for the Department of Government, the College of Business and Law, and UCC as well as for the Irish political science community. Emmanuelle commenced her research in June and the project will run for 15 months.

Prestigious Visiting Scholarship for Dr. Theresa Reidy



Congratulations to Dr. Theresa Reidy who will be spending the autumn 2014 semester as the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar at the School of Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University, Montreal Canada. This position, jointly funded by Concordia University and the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, brings a distinguished scholar to teach within the programmes of the School of Canadian Irish Studies every fall semester. The duties of the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar are to teach two undergraduate courses within an appropriate department and to give a public lecture under the auspices of the School's Irish Lecture Series.

Current and Former BSc Government Students Win Four Seats in the 2014 Local Elections



Department of Government students, past and present, featured prominently in the 2014 local elections, with notable success. Shane O'Shea (2014 graduation class) and Stephen Cunningham (going into BSc Government II) won seats for Sinn Féin on Cork City Council. The picture above (top left) shows Shane and Stephen being congratulated at their first City Council meeting in City Hall by Pádraig Mac Consaidín (class-mate of Shane) and Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan. Deirdre Kingston (top right), who is a 2005 graduate of the BSc Government and Public Policy, won a seat for the Labour Party on Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council which is a tremendous achievement given that the party struggled at these elections. As well as serving as a councillor, Deirdre works as a parliamentary assistant in Dáil Éireann. Lisa-Marie Sheehy (going into BSc Government III) won a seat on the newly formed Limerick City and County Council. She is seen here (bottom left) being congratulated by Sinn Féin Vice-President, Mary Lou McDonald TD.

Bsc Government and Public Policy graduate, Liz Dunphy (bottom middle) and MBS Government graduate, Garret Kelleher, contested the elections for the Green Party and Fine Gael respectively but narrowly failed to win seats on Cork County Council. Current MBS Government student, Dan Boyle, also just missed out on a seat for the Greens on Cork City Council.

Significant Media Exposure for Department of Government During Local and European Elections



Department of Government staff members were very much in demand during the local and European elections and featured prominently on television, radio and in the print media. Dr. Theresa Reidy led the way with a number of high-profile appearances and she was joined by Dr. Aodh Quinlivan, Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and Dr. Mary C. Murphy.

Theresa Reidy during RTE's election coverage with Pat Leahy and Noel Whelan.

'Albany Three' Return from New York State Assembly



Well done to Brian Conmy, Leona Cantillon and Louis O'Keeffe on the successful completion of their work placements in the New York State Assembly. They are seen here next to a statute of the former Mayor of Albany, Tom Whalen, who established the placement link between Albany and the Department of Government.

FOND FAREWELL TO DR. JULIE YU-WEN CHEN AND MARGARET O'LEARY



The Department of Government lost two valued staff members at the end of the 2013/14 academic year with the departures of Dr. Julie Yu-Wen Chen and Margaret O'Leary. Both Julie and Margaret were very highly regarded by their colleagues and by students and both will be missed.

Julie has moved to the Graduate School of Public Policy at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan where she joins forces again with former Head of Department, Professor Neil Collins.

Margaret remains in UCC and is now based in the main administrative office of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences.



‘AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE’

A report by Don O’Neill (BSc Government IV) from the Icelandic Summer School on ‘Small States in Europe’



Above: Icelandic National Park.

During the summer I was given the opportunity to visit Iceland as a part of a summer school course. My trip to Iceland was outstanding. Friendly people, lovely country, amazing scenery and a dedicated university made my trip spectacular. When I first heard of the Icelandic summer school programme I jumped at the opportunity. The University of Iceland had a summer school course in late June to early July on ‘Small States in the Europe.’ As someone interested in the European Union it was a great opportunity to learn about how small states in Europe (both inside and outside the European Union) deal with a supranational organisation dominated by large countries, especially since the Financial Crisis.

The trip over to Iceland was as interesting; upon arrival I was taken by surprise by the midnight sun. Throughout the two weeks it was constantly bright even at 1am. The city, Reykjavik, was a very spread out city with low lying buildings that went on for miles. The main street was not built up and there were houses just off the main street. Upon arrival I got a sense of how small Iceland’s population is. For our two weeks we stayed at a hostel that was on campus and only a two minute walk from our classes. Due to the summer school being funded by the European Union, all hostel and university fees were paid and we were reimbursed for the flights to Iceland.

The students who attended were all political scientists either completing an undergraduate course or doing a Masters. This led to a lot of interesting conversations but also allowed us to become friends due to a shared interest. I made friends with several students and we spent all of our time doing the summer school and exploring Iceland. We made the most of our time but we only saw a small section of the country.

The course was very interesting; we had lecturers from all over Europe talking to us about Small state politics and how small states can influence European Union decisions. The first few days were dedicated to

defining a small state. For example Ireland is a small country with 4.6 million people but in comparison to Iceland who only has 340,000 people Ireland is a large country. A perfect example was given by civil servants from the Foreign Department who visited us in class. They explained that due to their small size most civil servants have to do multiple jobs. This allows the civil service to be more consistent but also limits their role in the international scene. There are simply not enough civil servants in Iceland for every international conference, debate, and meeting or even for embassies abroad. Thus Iceland has top focus on key economic areas that are vital to Iceland's economy.

The second week was dedicated to how states assert themselves internationally and within the European Union. Dr Liam Weeks, a lecturer in the Government Department, also gave a lecture in Iceland on 'Small States and their democratic practices.' We had two separate meetings with Icelandic officials; the first meeting was with the President of Iceland. We were transported by bus from the university to the Presidential buildings outside the capital for a talk and a Q&A session with the President.

As political students the main topic of interest was on the financial crisis and how the President played a vital role in Iceland's default. The President had refused to ratify a Bill designed to repay the failed banks loans in 2007 and instead had the people of Iceland decide by referendum. This led to the collapse of the government and the formation of a new government. Talking to Icelandic citizens, the President is a polarising figure in the country.

The second official visit was to the Icelandic parliament, Althing. The parliament is located in the centre of the city and to my surprise had minimal security. One of our classmates was a former member of parliament and was able to get us a tour of the parliament. Then we were given an informal Q&A session with the leader of the Opposition party! What made the visit very special was the Opposition leader did not agree with the policies of the President of Iceland.

We had two 600 word reports each week and an exam at the end but the coursework was not hard. It was interesting and the workload was manageable. Aside from the coursework, I befriended the students and we bonded in Iceland. While we formed our own groups, you could hang out with anyone. Everyone was very friendly and open. The entire trip was brilliant but one notable event was when we rented cars and drove around the 'Golden Circle', a route that took us to the National Park of Iceland, to a famous geyser site and to the crater of an extinct volcano. The scenery was amazing; it would be fields of grass to barren Burren like landscape to black rocks. We visited and saw a beach that had black sand due to the black volcanic rock.

We even went hiking. We got a bus to another town and hiked through a small mountain range that had geothermal vents spewing sulphur smelling liquids. At the top of the hike there was a natural river that ran through the valley that was geothermally heated to room temperature. We were able to sit in the river and relax. Geothermal heating was used throughout Iceland and we visited several geothermally heated pools and saunas. I liked them a lot and I miss the opportunity to go to them in Ireland although they smell of sulphur. Iceland did not live up to its name as a cold country. The weather was mild with some wind and rain; I never needed a coat or a jacket. To conclude, I had an amazing trip, I learnt a lot about international politics, European politics and a lot about Iceland. I made lifelong friends and had an unforgettable experience. If anyone ever has the opportunity to visit Iceland I would highly recommend the trip.

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