



# GOVERNMENT TIMES

*A Newsletter for Department of Government Students and Staff*

## Understanding Ireland's Relationship with the EU



At the Department of Government's third annual Ireland and EU participative conference (Communicating Europe Initiative) were **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**, Department of Government, UCC (organiser); **Dr PJ Paul**, School of Politics and International Relations, UCD; **Lucinda Creighton TD**, Minister for European Affairs; **Dr Seamus Coffey**, Department of Economics, UCC and **Professor Irene Lynch-Fannon**, Head of College of Business and Law, UCC. See more on pages 4 and 5.

**Inside:** BSc Government graduate making it big in Hollywood (see page 11)



# Editorial Page

## Showcasing Government, Thursday 17 November 2011

Welcome to another exceptionally packed issue of *Government Times* which we sincerely hope you will enjoy. Since our last edition, a lot has happened as you will see over the pages which follow. We are also gearing up for our big departmental Showcase on **Thursday 17 November** which is a tremendous opportunity to draw attention to the Department of Government and its various programmes, with particular emphasis on the BSc Government degree (see pages 12 and 13 for more details). The day will culminate in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture with **Emily O'Reilly**, Ombudsman and Freedom of Information Commissioner.

In another busy fortnight, the Government and Politics Society continued its good start to the year in bringing yet another presidential candidate to UCC. In conjunction with UCC E&S Society, the Government and Politics Society hosted **Senator David Norris** as he outlined his vision for the Presidency. On 10 November, the Society will be hosting an event with **Minister Simon Coveney** concerning 'The Role of Media in Politics today.' In addition to this, the Society will also be planning an overnight trip to Dáil Éireann with all political societies. We'll have more information on this in the next issue. As always, a huge thank you to those who continue to get involved and support the efforts of the Government and Politics Society.

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

*Ben English*  
Auditor Government and Politics Society  
Co-editor of *Government Times*

## PICTURE PERFECT



Greystones Town Council recently made a presentation to **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** for his work in promoting local democracy; **Michelle Healy** (BSc Government 2005) was a welcome visitor to the department last week while on a trip home from her work with the Mines Advisory Group in South Sudan.



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# Ireland and the EU: Can we understand each other?

Pictures from successful conference  
Saturday 29 October 2011



# Ireland and the EU: Can we understand each other?

**Report from successful conference  
Saturday 29 October 2011**



On 29 October, the Department of Government hosted for the third year in a row a one-day participative conference aimed at engaging young people with European issues. This event was funded by the Communicating Europe Initiative. Entitled ‘Ireland and the EU: can we understand each other?’ the conference was centred on two themes: the Common and Foreign Security Policy and the Euro crisis.

Following an introduction by **Professor Lynch-Fannon**, Minister for European Affairs, **Lucinda Creighton TD** launched the proceedings and highlighted the significance of the European Union for Ireland. She insisted that it was necessary for young Irish people to understand the work and institutions of the European Union better in order to keep Ireland ‘punching above its weight’. Focusing on the country’s nationals in places of power within the European Union, such as having two of the Commission’s Secretaries General since its creation in 1958, Minister Creighton however warned that there seemed to be a disaffection of young Irish citizens for European jobs. She encouraged everyone to consider a career in EU institutions.

Following the Minister’s opening of the conference, **Dr P J Paul** discussed the role of Ireland within the CFSP and the development of the CFSP itself. He made a clear distinction between a foreign policy and a security policy and highlighted that both were working within an intergovernmental context. **Dr Seamus Coffey** gave a very engaging presentation on the unfolding Euro crisis and compared the Greek debt with the Irish one.

In the afternoon, students were divided into smaller workshops which gave them the opportunity to discuss issues and recommendations that they see to both issues raised in the morning. They stressed the benefit of a Common Foreign Policy for the EU and Ireland. While the reality of Ireland’s neutrality was questioned, there was a very strong consensus that there should not be a European army or policy force. Regarding the Euro crisis, students argued that Ireland should stay no matter what in the Eurozone. Some suggested the emergence of European economic federalism.

The conference was a great success with 55 students from UCC, UCD, UL and DCU participating throughout the day in very lively debates. **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** will write a report for the Department for Foreign Affairs analysing the debates of the day and putting forward the numerous recommendations made by students.

# Another success for Government and Politics Society as Senator David Norris completes the 'Presidential Talks' Series



As you can see from the above pictures, a large crowd attended the recent 'Evening with David Norris' lecture. The Government and Politics Society organised three such events with Mary Davis, Sean Gallagher and Senator David Norris. Well done to all involved.

# PSAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

As reported in the last issue of *Government Times*, Department of Government staff and post-graduates presented 14 papers at the Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland which took place in UCD from 21-23 October.

Departmental staff also convened a number of panels. This included the first ever PSAI panel convened by the Local Government Specialist Group, under **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**.

The panel was chaired by **Professor Neil Collins** and drew a large crowd.



The above picture shows three of the speakers at the inaugural local government panel.

From left to right, **Dr Mark Callanan**, Institute of Public Administration; **Dr Brid Quinn**, University of Limerick; **Dr Matthew Potter**, University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

Mark Callanan is a graduate of the Department of Government (PhD 2006) and his PSAI paper, 'Is big really so efficient? Investigating assumptions concerning local government reform and amalgamation' was co-written with **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** and **Ronan Murphy**.

# PSAI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2011 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



The above picture shows Dr Clodagh Harris with students from the MBS Government and MA Politics programmes who attended the PSAI conference on Friday.



Fiona Buckley presented a variety of papers as the PSAI Annual Conference and here she is pictured with Claire McGing, NIU Maynooth and Jennifer Kavanagh, WIT.

# *Dadaab... a forgotten city in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

**Damien Mc Sweeney** is a PhD candidate from the Department of Government supervised by **Dr. Andrew Cottey**. He was deployed to Dadaab as a member of Irish Aid's Rapid Response Corps to work with UNHCR for eight months in 2010. His research is focusing on Humanitarian Interventions especially in the area of protection and security of vulnerable populations in complex emergencies.

Damien has an article in the current issue of *The Boolean* which makes interesting reading. Read Damien's article by following the link below:

<http://publish.ucc.ie/boolean/2011/00/McSweeney/33/en>

Damien's PhD title is: 'An examination of the Security and Protection of Vulnerable Populations in Complex Emergencies, using Dadaab Refugee camp in the North Easter Territories of Kenya as a case study'.



**Above: Damien Mc Sweeney at Dadaab**



**Above: Refugees from Somalia at Dadaab**

# Lecture on the EU's Role in Peacekeeping

MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy [Director: Dr Andrew Cottey]



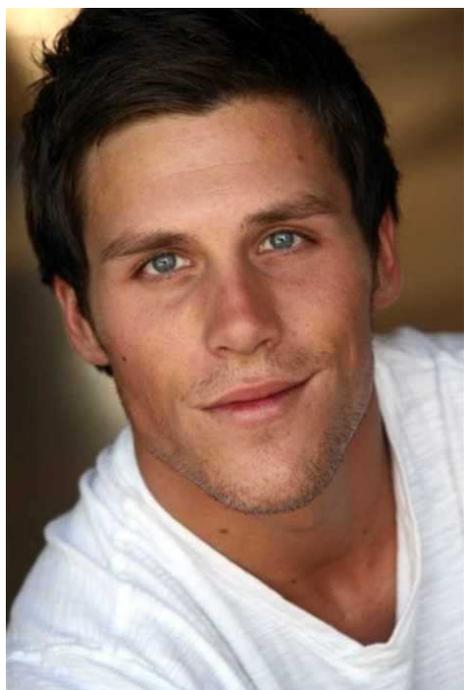
One of Ireland's most senior retired military officers, **Lieutenant General Pat Nash**, gave a fascinating lecture at UCC on the 26 October on the challenges involved in developing the EU's foreign, security and defence policy. Lieutenant General Nash is a former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, has long experience of UN peacekeeping operations and was Operational Commander of the EU's peacekeeping operation in Chad and the Central African Republic from 2007 to 2009 – an operation widely regarded as a model for what the EU can contribute in this area. Lieutenant General Nash's lecture focused on the EU's peacekeeping operation in Chad and the Central African Republic. He explained the complex political background to the operation: the on-going conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan had produced a major humanitarian crisis and EU governments faced pressure to respond. A United Nations-African Union peacekeeping operation was deployed in Darfur, but refugees continued to flee into Chad and the Central African Republic, threatening to destabilise both countries. Disagreements amongst EU member states over whether and how to respond delayed action, but it was eventually agreed that an EU peacekeeping force should be deployed into Chad and the Central African Republic. Lieutenant General Nash was then appointed as Operational Commander for the mission.

The challenges involved in setting up the EU operation were many and complex. In military terms, the operation covered a very large and remote area, which created major problems in terms of moving troops into and around the region and establishing the necessary logistical support. Diplomatically, Lieutenant General Nash had to balance the competing perspectives and interests of different EU member states, as well as the views of the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. Nevertheless, the EU force was deployed and succeeded in providing protection to refugees and thereby helping to stabilise the situation in the region.

In concluding, Lieutenant General Nash turned to the future prospects for EU foreign, security and defence policy. He argued that the EU lacks a real strategy: there is no clear sense of EU objectives in this area and EU policy is too often driven by the divergent views and interests of individual member states. He suggested that the current financial crisis facing the EU may alter the situation: EU governments now face pressure to pursue deeper economic and financial integration and this may gradually spill over into the area of foreign, security and defence policy. If this occurs, it will pose challenges for Ireland in balancing its national interests with a process of deeper European integration.

The lecture took place in the context of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy, a taught masters degree for those interested in working in international affairs. Lieutenant General Nash is a member of the Advisory Board to the programme. For more information on MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy see: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/PostgraduateStudy/MBSIPPandDiplomacy/>

# BSc Government Graduate Taking Hollywood by Storm



When **Peter O’Riordan** graduated with a BSc Government degree in 2007, he could not have imagined that within four years he would be the new Irish face of TMZ, the American celebrity-news group. Since its inception, TMZ has broken some of the biggest celebrity news stories, including the death of Michael Jackson in 2009.

Peter’s initial breakthrough in the United States came about by chance when he got talking to somebody while walking his dog in a Hollywood park. The stranger turned out to be an executive producer for NBC and, from that chance meeting, Peter landed a role in the soap opera *All My Children*.

From there, Peter was hired by the celebrity news organisation TMZ and he now finds himself scouting the hills of Hollywood for celebrity gossip, presenting on television and writing for the TMZ website.

“I’m a pretty humble guy,” says Peter. “I don’t come from glitz or glam. I like to work and I really like to interact with people.”

**Peter will be presenting at the Department of Government showcase on 17 November through a video link to Hollywood.**

**See the full showcase programme on the following pages.**

# Showcasing the Department of Government

While the Department of Government (under its former name, Department of Public Administration) has existed in UCC for over 70 years, it was modernised and rebranded in 1998. The BSc Government (and Public Policy) degree was launched the following year with the first crop of graduates in 2003.

The Department of Government is proud of its progress and of the fact that it was the only Commerce Faculty department awarded a 5 quality mark for Research Related Activity in the 2009 quality review. As recently as last weekend, departmental staff and post-graduates presented 14 papers at the annual conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland. This was significantly more than any other political science institution on the island of Ireland.

On Thursday 17 November, the Department of Government is showcasing its activities with a concentration on its flagship under-graduate programme, the BSc Government (CK210).

One of the highlights of the day will be presentations by graduates from the programme who are enjoying successful and varied careers across the public sector, private sector, voluntary sector, media, journalism, communications, consultancy and finance.

The showcase programme is below, culminating in a public lecture by the current Ombudsman and Freedom of Information Commissioner, Emily O'Reilly.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<i>10.30am – 11.30am</i>	Arrival and visits to Department of Government stands
<i>11.30am – 12.30pm</i>	Talks by graduates and employers
<i>12.30pm – 1.00pm</i>	'Meet and greet' with Department of Government staff and graduates
<i>1.00pm – 2.00pm</i>	Break for lunch
<i>2.00pm – 2.45pm</i>	Tour of UCC Campus with JP Quinn, UCC Visitors' Centre
<i>3.00pm – 4.00pm</i>	Talks by graduates and employers (repeat of earlier talks)
<i>4.00pm – 5.00pm</i>	'Meet and greet' with Department of Government staff and graduates plus announcement of essay competition
<i>6.30pm – 8.00pm</i>	Public Lecture by Emily O'Reilly and presentation of annual Department of Government student awards by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Terry Shannon

The confirmed list of graduate speakers on the day include:

- **Alison Donnelly** – Head of Communications, London Wasps (Rugby) and Wycombe Wanderers (Soccer), London
- **Michelle Green** – Project Manager SMILE, Resource Exchange, Macroom-e
- **Niamh Hennessy** – Journalist, Irish Examiner
- **Eoin Weldon** – Journalist, Cork Independent
- **Mary Dalton** - Economic Analysis, Competitiveness, Tax & Finance Department, Forfás, Dublin
- **Arne O'Donoghue** – Senior Economic Officer, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Oslo
- **Sean O'Leary** – Policy and Research Executive, Cork Chambers of Commerce
- **Padraig Love** - Head of Operations, Public Appointments Service
- **Laura Murphy** – Talking about being an Albany intern at New York State Legislature
- **Brenda Keating** – Project Officer, Foroige
- **Craig Conway** – Senior Consultant, Ernst & Young, London
- **Andrea Merrigan** – PrepZone, Singapore (via video)
- **Monica O'Mullane** – College Lecturer, Department of Public Health, Trnavska University, Slovakia (via video)
- **Brian Crowley** – Risk Operations Manager with Google International, San Francisco and Dublin (via video)
- **Rebecca Spillane** – Equality and Diversity Officer, East Lothian Council, Scotland (via video)
- **Peter O'Riordan** – Presenter on TMZ Television, Hollywood, LA (via video)
- **Michelle Healy** – Mines Advisory Group (MAGS), South Sudan (via video)



**Clockwise from top: Craig Conway, Sean O'Leary, Peter O'Riordan and Andrea Merrigan**

## Upcoming Lecture by Dr John Barry, Queens University Belfast



**Above:** Dr John Barry with Dr Seamus O'Tuama, the lecture organiser

**Presenter:** Dr. John Barry, Reader, School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queens University, Belfast

**Title:** 'Economics as ideology, economics as myth: why modern economics has failed and how to fix it'

**Venue:** Brookfield Health Sciences Building, Room BHSC\_G10

**Date:** Wednesday 9 November

**Time:** 2pm - 4pm

### **Abstract:**

"Every society needs myths to live by. Ours is economic growth," Tim Jackson

This presentation offers an analysis and a narrative of the emergence of one school of thinking about the economy (neo-classical economics and especially its neo-liberal incarnations in policy) and how it has 'crowded out' rival accounts of economics and become the hegemonic and authoritative 'regime of truth' about economics, what the economy is and how it should be organised. The presentation will contextualise this critical analysis of modern economic thinking in terms of the successful, ideological and deliberately managed 'sleight of hand', which has seen a crisis of banking in the private sector become politically transformed into a crisis of public debt under the new 'regime of austerity' and welfare cuts. It begins from the child-like question: if we encourage and expect alternative discourses and perspectives on how to organize the polity, why then when it comes to the economy would we expect anything less?

Taking up Foucault's insight that 'economic growth' is neo-liberalism's 'one true social policy' (Foucault, 2008: 144), the presentation will, from a green political economy perspective, argue that as well as having a whole range of regressive and profoundly negative social consequences (ranging from corrupting democratic politics and communication, undermining active citizenship and reconfiguring the state to align with 'market fundamentals'), this dominant form of economic thinking is also locking us into an unsustainable and indeed ecocidal forms of economic development.

Revealing the ideological and mythic characteristics of modern economics, with detours outlining how university courses in economics have effectively become ideological indoctrination (in that neither the history of economics as a discipline nor the variety of theories of economics available), and the failure of this dominant economic account to rethink some of its basic premises on account of the current global economic recession (including its failure to predict it or build resilience into the economic system to cope with shocks for example), the presentation will suggest that it is only in seeing modern hegemonic economics (and all alternatives) as forms of **political economy**, can we begin to construct more progressive, ecologically sustainable and socially just accounts of how the economy should be defined, ordered and constructed. In conclusion the presentation will offer some ideas about alternative political economies and why we need new myths to live by.

# UCC Reception for Leuven Delegation



Dr Clodagh Harris, Department of Government (UCC) and graduate of K.U. Leuven (MA European Studies) with **Professor Piet Verhesschen**, Manager, Office for Educational Policy, K.U. Leuven at the recent welcome reception for the K.U. Leuven delegation in the Staff Common Room.

# Government Lecturer prominent in national media



Dr Theresa Reidy contributed hugely to RTÉ's presidential election coverage last with a host of appearances on television and radio with the likes of Bryan Dobson, Miriam O'Callaghan and Mary Wilson.

# Department of Government lecturers in *How Ireland Voted 2011*



Above: Theresa Reidy, Fiona Buckley, David Farrell (UCD) and Jane Suiter all feature in *How Ireland Voted 2011*

*How Ireland Voted 2011* (edited by Michael Gallagher and Michael Marsh, published by Palgrave Macmillan) came out in October. As its title suggests, the book covers the 2001 General Election and is steeped in the financial crisis and the related political upheaval.

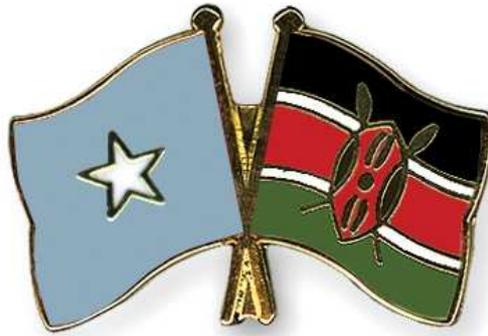
Department of Government lecturers, **Dr Jane Suiter**, **Dr Theresa Reidy** and **Fiona Buckley** contribute three chapters as follows:

- *The Parties' Manifestos* – David Farrell and Jane Suiter
- *Candidate Selection* – Theresa Reidy
- *Women and the Election* – Fiona Buckley and Claire McGing



Fiona Buckley (seen her presenting recently at a conference in Letterkenny) is in *How Ireland Voted 2011*

# Open Lecture on Somalia/Kenya Refugee Crisis



*'The Dadaab Refugee Camp: 20 Years of Continuous Deterioration'*

[See also page 9]

**Damien McSweeney**, Irish Aid emergency response/development worker and PhD candidate, Department of Government, UCC

Wed 9 November, 4.00-5.30pm.

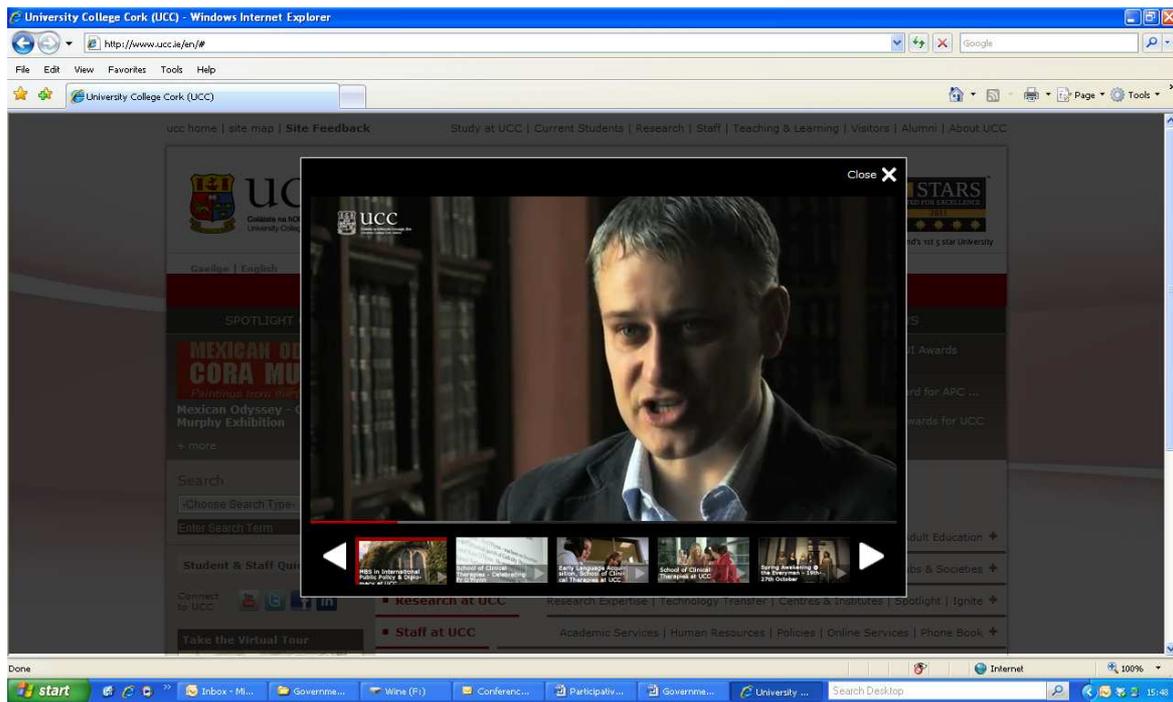
Venue: Connolly Building, Room C

## New Job for Dr Seamus O'Tuama



**Dr Seamus O'Tuama** has been offered the Directorship of the Centre for Adult Continuing Education as a 9-month secondment from the Department of Government. He will be leaving to start his new post within the next two weeks. Everyone associated with the Department of Government wishes Seamus all the best for this new phase of his career.

# MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy



The Department of Government's MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy currently features on the 'Video Hub' section of the UCC homepage at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/>. In the video, the programme's Director **Dr Andrew Cottey** describes the prestigious post-graduate degree.

## Research Spotlight: Dr Mary C Murphy

### A YEAR IN THE LIFE: FROM MEMBER OF PUBLIC TO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



The 2011 Irish General Election returned the highest ever number of first-time TDs – 84 of the 166 Dáil Deputies were not members of the previous Dáil and 76 of those are first-time TDs. The Department of Government, UCC, is involved in a project examining the aspirations and expectations of this new generation of TDs, how they approach their work and their experiences of life in Dáil Éireann. **Dr Mary C. Murphy** is leading this unique study of Irish TDs. The project forms part of a broader study of parliamentarians across Westminster and the devolved assemblies in the UK. It is being conducted in close partnership with the Hansard Society in the UK. Although in its early stages, the survey-based research project has been well-received by Ireland's new TDs who have responded positively to the research. The project will conclude with the publication of a report in spring 2012. It is anticipated that the results of the surveys will provide unique insights into the role and work of TDs and may facilitate the introduction of practical recommendations aimed at providing a better and more comprehensive package of induction and support for new Deputies. The study will also help build a broader picture about the life of TDs, the challenges they face and the environment they work in.