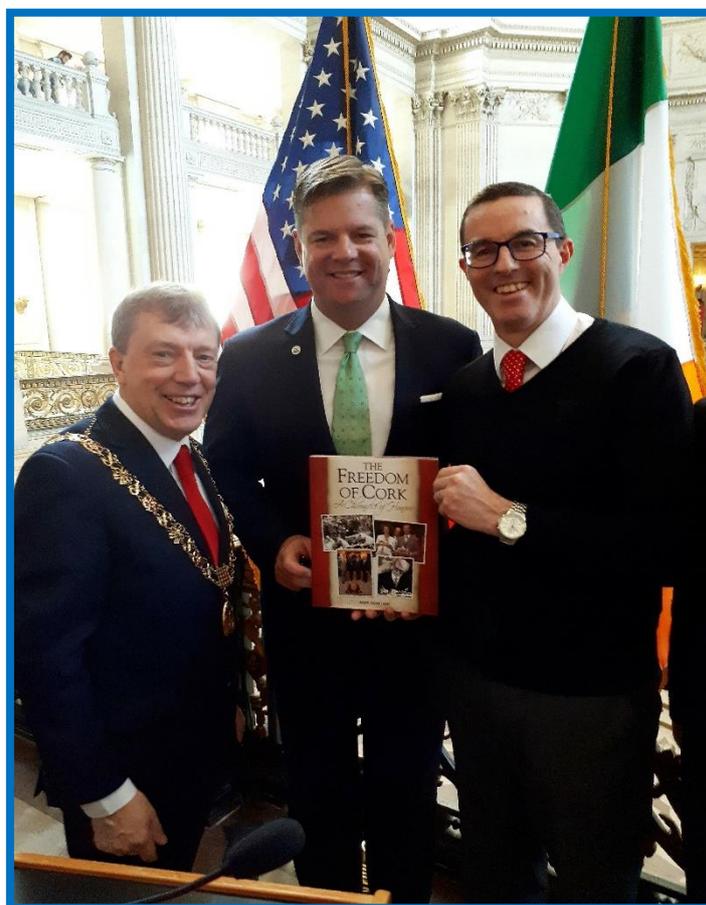




## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018



**Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald, and Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, present a copy of *The Freedom of Cork* to the Mayor of San Francisco, Mark Farrell, in April 2018.**

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**The 20<sup>th</sup> Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the CLRG, was delivered by Professor Fiona Mackay from the University of Edinburgh.**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am delighted to report that 2018 was another fantastic year for UCC's Centre for Local and Regional Governance. In this 20-page annual report, I hope that you get a sense of the activities of the CLRG and the research in which we are engaged. 2018 saw the CLRG increase its range of international undertakings. These included promoting our research and developing partnerships in Boston and San Francisco, as well as enhancing our research collaboration with the Department of Political Science in the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In April, we were delighted to host Dr Simona Kukovic and Dr Miro on Erasmus Mobility Learning Agreements. The CLRG's relationships with European institutions continues to grow in strength. As you will see on page 20, the CLRG is now a partner on the Atlantic Social Lab Project which is funded under the EU Interreg Atlantic Area Programme. At the Council of Europe level, I am honoured to have been appointed as an alternate member of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government. Within the next twelve months, I hope to become a full member of the group and contribute to the vital work which is ongoing in relation to local democracy in Europe. While the CLRG has an increasing international focus, we cherish our local links and especially the relationship with Cork City Council as a lead partner. I am grateful to Chief Executive, Ann Doherty, and Lord Mayors Councillor Tony Fitzgerald and Councillor Mick Finn who were extremely supportive of the CLRG throughout 2018.

As one annual report is published, our attention immediately turns to the year ahead, and it promises to be an exciting one with local elections and local mayoral plebiscites in May. An anticipated highlight for the CLRG in 2019 will be the publication of our second book, *Vindicating Dublin*, in September.

**Dr Aodh Quinlivan**

**Director, Centre for Local and Regional Governance**

## ONGOING SPONSORSHIP OF ANNUAL PHILIP MONAHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The CLRG continues to sponsor and support the annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture, organised by the Department of Government and Politics. The latest lecture in the series took place on 22 November 2018 and was delivered by Fiona Mackay, Professor of Politics in the University of Edinburgh. The theme of the lecture was 'The Gendered Consequences of Brexit'. The question of the prospects for women and women's rights post-Brexit was given thought-provoking answers. Additionally, Professor Mackay assessed the pitfalls and perspectives for gender equality policy and women's rights in these uncertain times.

# CLRG ADVISORY BOARDS AND AFFILIATIONS



The CLRG has a five-person international advisory board. From left to right, **Professor Filipe Teles**, Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences, University of Aveiro, Portugal; **Professor Norbert Kersting**, Institute of Political Science, University of Muenster, Germany; **Professor Colin Copus**, Department of Politics and Public Policy, De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom; **Dr Katarzyna Szmigiel-Rawska**, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland; **Professor Ivan Kopric** Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia.



The CLRG National Advisory Board comprises (from left to right): **Ann Doherty**, Chief Executive, Cork City Council; **Liam Kenny**, Director, Association of Irish Local Government (AILG); **Councillor Marcia D'Alton**, Cork County Council; **Paul Reid**, Chief Executive, Fingal County Council.

## CLRG STRUCTURE

### **Director:**

Dr Aodh Quinlivan

### **UCC staff associated with CLRG:**

**Dr Theresa Reidy** (Department of Government and Politics); **Dr Fiona Buckley** (Department of Government and Politics); **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** (Department of Government and Politics); **Dr Clodagh Harris** (Department of Government and Politics); **Dr Frank Crowley** (School of Economics); **Dr John Considine** (School of Economics); **Dr Ger Mullally** (Department of Sociology); **Will Brady** (Centre for Planning and Sustainable Development)

# GUEST LECTURE BY DANNY O'CONNOR



**Pictures: (left) Danny O'Connor spoke to students about the value of local government and encouraged them to get involved, where possible; (right) Danny O'Connor with the Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, and BSc Government first year student, Bryan O'Shea. Danny kindly provided an interview to Bryan for *Government Times*, the Department of Government and Politics newsletter.**

On 18 January, the CLRG hosted a guest lecture by Daniel J. O'Connor Jr, the Franklin County Recorder in the state of Ohio, USA. Danny is a former student of the Department of Government and Politics and he delivered his lecture to BSc Government first year students as part of the GV1215 (Local Government and Politics in the Republic of Ireland). The role of the County Recorder in Franklin, which has a population of 1.25 million, is a large and diverse one. Responsibilities of the Recorder include the verification and indexing of all real estate documents in the County, the issuing of veteran I.D. cards, affordable housing, homelessness, a depository for health care documents and County development. For this workload, Danny has a team of 60 staff working in the Recorder's office. In an interesting and engaging presentation, Danny contrasted the local government systems in America and Ireland and he spoke to students about to get involved in politics at a local level.

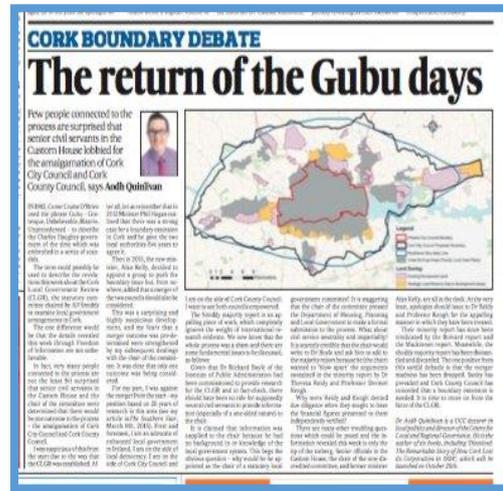


In November, Danny contested for a seat in the US Congress but narrowly lost out to Troy Balderson.

# CORK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

On 20 January, the Cork Business Association (CBA) held its Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Director of the CLRG, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, was invited as a guest of the CBA and was recognised for his contribution to local governance in Cork and, in particular the recent debates about the boundary controversy.

The picture below shows Aodh with BSc Government graduate, Eoin Weldon. Eoin works in AM O'Sullivan PR and the company won the award for best professional services.



<http://corkbusiness.ie/>



**CBA**  
Cork Business  
Association

## TIP O'NEILL ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE LAUNCHED IN CORK AND BOSTON



In a joint collaboration between Cork City Council and UCC, the university will host an annual public lecture series in honour of Tip O'Neill. Tip O'Neill dedicated his life to public service with a contribution of over 50 years in US politics. During this time, he built a reputation as an independent-minded legislator, known for his hard work and integrity. He was conferred with the Freedom of Cork in 1985, at which he stated, 'I am now a Corkman. I want to tell you I have been a Corkman all my life. I learned at my grandfather's knee that there are two classes of people, those from Cork and those who wished they were.' The annual lecture series – which will commence in 2019 – was launched in Cork City Hall by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald, the Deputy President and Registrar of UCC, Professor John O'Halloran and Dr Aodh Quinlivan of the CLRG (top two pictures). The lecture series was also launched in Boston College and Aodh Quinlivan presented a copy of his book *The Freedom of Cork – A Chronicle of Honour* to the Burns Library (bottom two pictures).

# THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



**CENTRE FOR  
LOCAL &  
REGIONAL  
GOVERNANCE**

**THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES**

Thursday 15 February 2018

6:30pm, Boole 1, UCC

## ***Making Local Government Better***

- **SIR STEVE BULLOCK**, Directly elected mayor of Lewisham, London
- **CLLR TOIRÉASA FERRIS**, Kerry County Council
- **DR FRANK CROWLEY**, School of Economics, UCC









Opening remarks by the Lord Mayor of Cork, **Councillor Tony Fitzgerald**.

The event will be chaired by **Dr Fiona Buckley**, Department of Government and Politics, UCC.

**15 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **SPEAKERS**

- **Sir Steve Bullock** – Mayor of Lewisham, London
- **Councillor Toiréasa Ferris** – Elected member, Kerry County Council
- **Dr Frank Crowley** – Lecturer, School of Economics, University College Cork
- **Cllr Tony Fitzgerald** – Lord Mayor of Cork

The session was chaired by **Dr Fiona Buckley**, Department of Government and Politics, UCC.

# THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



The pros and cons of directly elected mayors was one of the topics discussed in UCC in February, as part of the third Annual Public Lecture Series of UCC's Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG), organised by Dr Aodh Quinlivan. Sir Steve Bullock (top left) described his experiences as the four-time directly elected mayor of Lewisham in London. The evolving role of the councillor was explored by Councillor Toireasa Ferris (below, right) of Kerry County Council. UCC's Dr Frank Crowley (next page, top right) spoke about economic geography and regional development in the context of the Cork boundary extension debate and the National Planning Framework. The event was chaired by Dr Fiona Buckley (below, left) of UCC's Department of Government and Politics. The Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald, opened the event and the CLRG Annual Report for 2017 was officially launched by the new Registrar of UCC, Professor John O'Halloran (next page, top left). CLRG awards were presented to Dr Long Pham, Liam Ronayne and Diarmuid Hanley (next page, bottom picture).



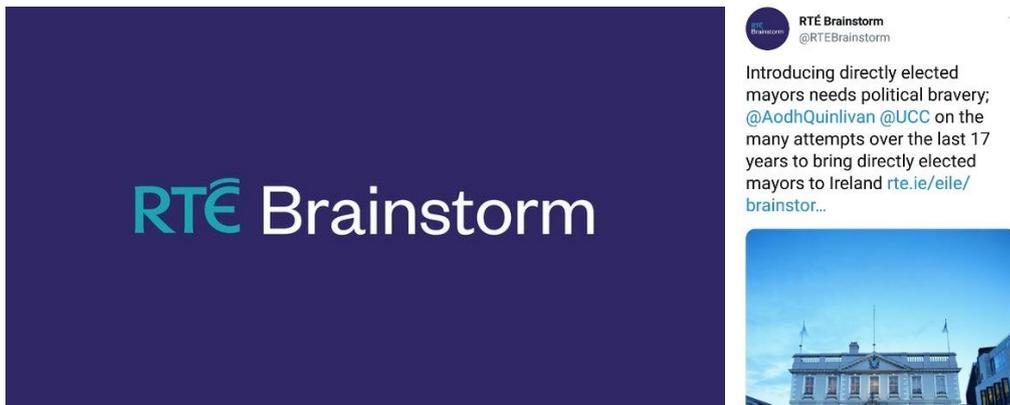
# THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES



**The Fourth Annual CLRG Public Lecture Series will take place on 14 March 2019. Stay tuned for details and follow @CLRGUCC on Twitter!**

# RTÉ BRAINSTORM – DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS

## Introducing directly elected mayors needs political bravery



<https://www.rte.ie/eile/brainstorm/2018/0221/942326-introducing-directly-elected-mayors-needs-political-bravery/>

In February, Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Director of the CLRG, wrote an opinion piece for the RTÉ Brainstorm series on the topic of whether Ireland should introduce a system of directly elected mayors (see link above). This has been an ongoing area of research for Aodh over the past 20 years. Ireland first legislated for directly elected mayors in 2001 and there are plans to hold local plebiscites on the issue in May 2019.

# SINN FÉIN LEADER PRESENTED WITH *DISSOLVED*



New Sinn Féin leader, Mary Lou McDonald, visited Cork City Hall at the end of February and was presented with copy of Aodh Quinlivan's book, *Dissolved*, by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald. *Dissolved* is the first book publication of the CLRG.

# VISITS TO CITY HALL

There were many visits to Cork City Hall during 2018 for a variety of purposes – here is a sample of the visits!



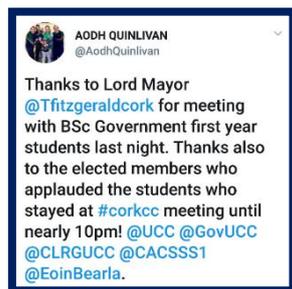
As part of his trip to Cork for the CLRG Annual Public Lecture Series, the directly elected mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, called to City Hall, accompanied by the CLRG's Dr Aodh Quinlivan, and signed the 'Distinguished Visitors' book.

In April, Dr Simona Kukovic and Dr Miro Hacek (both from the Department of Political Science at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) visited the CLRG on Erasmus Mobility Learning Agreements and made a courtesy call to City Hall.



# VISITS TO CITY HALL

In April, the BSc Government first year class met with the Lord Mayor and attended a full meeting of Cork City Council.

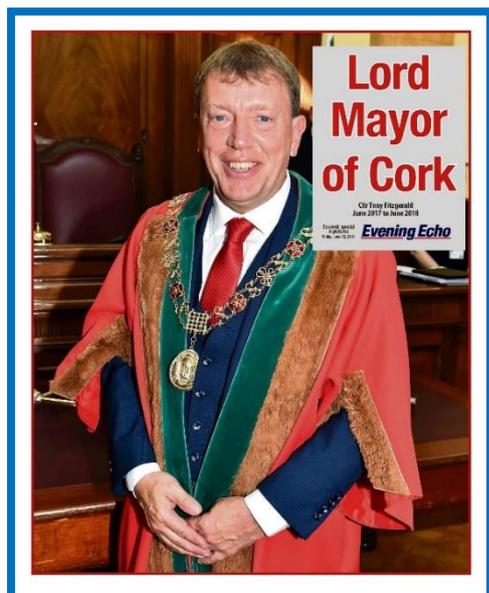


## CORK CITY DELEGATION TO SISTER CITY, SAN FRANCISCO



In late April, Dr Aodh Quinlivan was part of a business and education delegation from Cork to San Francisco. Cork has been twinned with San Francisco since 1984 and the relationship has been a successful one in developing links in many areas – cultural, educational, social, tourist, technical, scientific and economic. Aodh held meetings in San Francisco City Hall, attended a meeting of the City Council, and presented a copy of his *Freedom of Cork* book to the Mayor at the time, Mark Farrell (cover picture). In addition, he established links between the CLRG and the San Francisco State University and met with a former student of his, Ashlinn Marron, who now works for the Irish Network in the San Francisco Bay Area.

# EVENING ECHO LORD MAYOR SPECIAL



**Dr Aodh Quinlivan contributed to a special supplement in the *Cork Evening Echo* about the historic role of the Lord Mayor of Cork. An extract is contained below:**

On Monday, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Tony Fitzgerald, unveiled a portrait of Domhnall Óg O’Ceallacháin in City Hall. In many ways, O’Ceallacháin is Cork’s forgotten Lord Mayor; he was the city’s third Lord Mayor of 1920, following the deaths of Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney. The wonderful affinity that the people of Cork have with the office of Lord Mayor can, in my opinion, be traced back directly to 1920. When Terence MacSwiney was arrested on 12 August 1920, he was wearing the Lord Mayor’s chain of office (which dates back to 1787) and he refused to part with it, declaring that he would rather die first. As Antóin O’Callaghan notes in his wonderful book, *The Lord Mayors of Cork*, with MacSwiney’s words of defiance, the position of Lord Mayor and the status of the chain of office became a symbol for which one man had died (MacCurtain) and whom another had declared he would follow to the grave. There is a key point here – the symbolic significance of the office of Lord Mayor of Cork greatly exceeds the actual powers of the position.

The office of Lord Mayor of Cork dates back to 1900 but the origins can be traced to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the city’s first charter of 1185, at a time when Ireland was under Norman rule. The Cork City Council web site contains a list of all of the Mayors of Cork from 1199 to the present day. The head of the Corporation in 1199 was given the title ‘Provost’. From 1273, the term ‘Mayor’ was used and this changed to ‘Lord Mayor’ in 1900. Daniel J. Hegarty was the elected Mayor of Cork in 1900 but his title became Lord Mayor following the signing of a charter by Queen Victoria. The original parchment of the Lord Mayor’s charter was kept for many years by a descendant of Hegarty, before being lodged in the City Archives in 2007; a full-sized copy is on display in the Lord Mayor’s chamber.

In the 118 years since 1900, Cork has been well served by 80 different Lord Mayors. Only five of these have been women – Jane Dowdall (1959), Chrissie Aherne (1989), Deirdre Clune (2005), Catherine Clancy (2013), and Mary Shields (2014). It is to the credit of Lord Mayor,

Councillor Tony Fitzgerald that in February of this year he unveiled a portrait of Dowdall in City Hall, as part of the commemoration of 100 years of women's right to vote. There are many fascinating names and historical reference points on the list of Cork's Lord Mayors. I have already mentioned the three Lord Mayors of 1920 – MacCurtain, MacSwiney and O'Ceallacháin. They were followed by Seán French, who became Cork's longest serving Lord Mayor. However, his status as Lord Mayor in the period 1924-1929 can be queried given that Cork Corporation had been dissolved! French held the position of the city's first citizen during the dissolution years in an honorary capacity, without a salary. He was Lord Mayor over the fourteen years from 1924 to 1937, with the exceptions of 1930 and 1931. He unexpectedly died in office in 1937 and thousands of people subsequently lined the streets as his funeral cortege passed through the city. Other names jump off the list. For example, Gerald Goldberg became the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Cork in 1977. Jim Corr was Lord Mayor in 1979 and also seventeen years later in 1996. In 2015, Chris O'Leary was elected as the first Sinn Féin Lord Mayor of Cork since Seán French.

The office of Lord Mayor of Cork, with its exceptionally rich history, continues to be held in high regard by Corkonians. The Lord Mayor has symbolic power and is the city's respected and apolitical first citizen. Returning to Seán French, who died in office in 1937, Antóin O'Callaghan places his legacy in context and these words can be used as a general guide to the role of Lord Mayor –

'While respected men of various political persuasions rightly sought to establish their beliefs and ideologies on the political agenda for the betterment of the city, he [French] sought and succeeded in holding the office of the Lord Mayor about political agendas, sacrificing much in his own life and remaining the city's First Citizen until his dying days.'

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS



In September 2019, the CLRG hopes to launch ***Vindicating Dublin: The Story behind the Controversial Dissolution of the Corporation in 1924*** in both Dublin City Hall and in UCC. The book is published through Dublin City Library and Archive in conjunction with Four Courts Press. It is a companion book to ***Dissolved: The Remarkable Story of how Cork lost its Corporation in 1924*** which was published in 2017. ***The book has come to fruition with the generous assistance of the CACSSS Research Support Fund.*** By the end of 2019, it is envisaged that Dr Aodh Quinlivan's book, ***Public Management and Local Governance in the Republic of Ireland*** will be submitted to Palgrave as part of a book series which he leads.

# Directly Elected Mayors – The gift that keeps on giving

## A directly-elected mayor may not address the power imbalance between local and national government

David Linnane

CORK needs more detail before it consents to a directly elected mayor, according to UCC local government expert Aodh Quinlivan.

Over the weekend, the government confirmed that Cork will have a plebiscite alongside the local elections next May on establishing a directly elected Mayor. A number of options were outlined, including adding new powers to the current ceremonial role or electing a mayor with executive powers currently held by the council's top staff.

Mr Quinlivan said that the government needs to provide detailed proposals between now and May, rather than having a vote and working out the details afterwards.

"Brexit shows us that it's a bad idea to say yes to a concept and then work out the details," he said.

"We're talking in a vacuum at the moment. We don't know any of the details. We don't know what powers the mayor would have. What powers would they take from the chief executive? Would they replace the chief executive?"

He believes that it is a good idea in principle, but said that it will not address the power imbalance between local and national government. Adding a directly elected mayor on top of a weak local authority would not change much for the public, he said.



## Plebiscite to decide if voters want elected mayors

Aodh Quinlivan, Director of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance at University College Cork, discusses proposals to introduce directly elected Mayors in Cork, Limerick and Waterford

Listen

Share:   

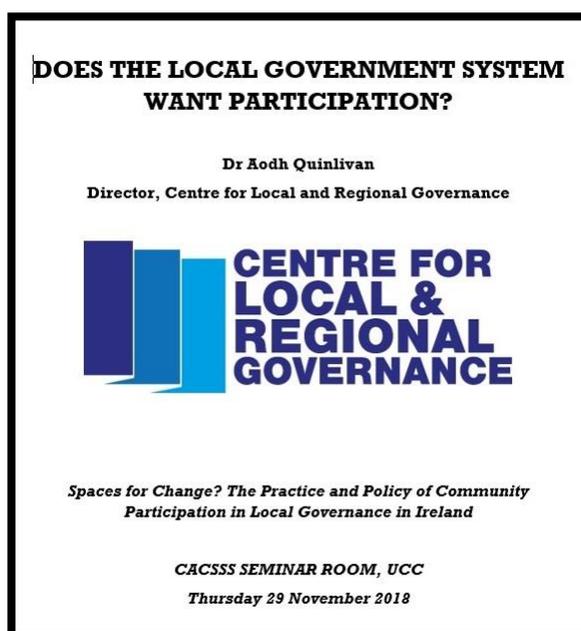
<https://www.rte.ie/radiol/morning-ireland/programmes/2018/1001/999174-morning-ireland-monday-1-october-2018/?clipid=102940151>

For 20 years, Dr Aodh Quinlivan has been researching, writing, and talking about the introduction of Directly Elected Mayors (DEMs) into Ireland. The issue was again topical and prominent throughout 2018 and Aodh contributed a range of opinion pieces and interviews to local and national newspapers. He also was interviewed on the subject on local (96FM) and national radio (RTÉ Radio 1, Morning Ireland). The link to the Morning Ireland interview of 1 October is above.

In the early months of 2019, Aodh has many events lined up in relation to DEMs. He will be interviewed on the topic for RTÉ's flagship current affairs programme, *A Week in Politics*. In addition, he is speaking at a public workshop organised by the Cork Mayor Campaign and he is scheduled to speak at a public meeting in Cork with Minister John Paul Phelan.

# ISS21 SEMINAR ON LOCAL PARTICIPATION

In November, Dr Aodh Quinlivan spoke at the CACSS Research Seminar, *Spaces for Change? The Practice and Policy of Community Participation in Local Governance in Ireland*. Aodh's paper posed the question – 'Does the Local Government System Want Participation?' The seminar was run under the auspices of the ISS21 Civil Society Research Cluster.



Other speakers at the seminar included:

- **Dr Mary Murphy**, Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth;
- **Aiden Lloyd**, Chair of the Rights Platform and member of South Dublin PPN Secretariat and LCDC;
- **Dr Catherine Forde**, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork.



**Dr Mary Murphy (Maynooth) and Dr Catherine Forde (UCC) spoke at the seminar on public participation in Irish local governance.**

## OIREACHTAS TV



In the summer of 2018, Dr Aodh Quinlivan gave an extensive interview to Oireachtas TV on the local government reform agenda in Ireland, covering issues such as finance, structure, powers, subsidiarity, and directly elected mayors.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE APPOINTMENT

In May 2018, Dr Aodh Quinlivan was appointed as an alternate member of the Council of Europe's Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government. In this role, Aodh supports the work of the committee and assists Ireland's lead member, Dr Bríd Quinn of the University of Limerick.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# BRAND AMBASSADOR – ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB PROJECT



The CLRG, through Dr Aodh Quinlivan, is now a Brand Ambassador for the Atlantic Social Lab Project. The primary aim of the project is to promote and use social innovation to address challenging social issues in the Atlantic Area. Cork is focussing on two strands – public engagement and social enterprise. The CLRG is involved with the public engagement strand and there are plans for a series of events in 2019 for migrant communities and young people; the provision of mentoring to support community consultations; and, the development of an animated video on the planning process to stimulate engagement.

The Atlantic Social Lab Project is funded under the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme, which runs from May 2017 to November 2019. There are nine partners involved from Spain, the UK, France, Portugal and Ireland. Cork City Council is the lead Irish partner.

Twitter: @atlantic\_lab

