

GOVERNMENT TIMES

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

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Monahan Lecture & Government Ball are highlights of second semester



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Good luck in the exams, enjoy the summer

As we approach the end of the academic year, it is appropriate to wish all students the very best as they submit those final few assignments and prepare to sit exams. In particular, it is a special time for fourth year students who will be moving on from the BSc Government to pastures new – perhaps the world of work, post-graduate studies or travel. Whatever the next step is, we wish you well and we will be proudly following your careers. The third years have already completed their academic year with spring exams and are now out on work placement in New York, Boston, Brussels, Edinburgh, Dublin and Cork etc. We hope that you enjoy this invaluable experience and we look forward to hearing your stories in due course. Across the degree, some students will invariably have to repeat a few modules over the summer. This is not the end of the world and our doors are always open to you if you need to talk things through.

This is our final issue of *Government Times* for the 2016/2017 academic year and it is fair to describe it as an epic one! We have 20 pages of terrific stories and reports, including the French Presidential election symposium, the CLRG public lecture series, the Government Ball, the Government Cup, the 18th Philip Monahan Lecture and much much more!

A fair bit of work has gone into this issue so we would urge you all to read it and enjoy it.

Good luck for your exams and enjoy the summer break!

Diandra & Aodh



Co-editors of *Government Times* 2016/2017
Diandra Ní Bhuachalla (BSc Government 2)
Aodh Quinlivan (Director, BSc Government)



Well done to all involved in the Government Cup 2017 and congrats to the victorious third years.



Kate Stapleton
@kate_stapes

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In Holyrood for the day of Article 50 - what a fantastic opportunity as a [@GovUCC](#) student

Kate Stapleton (BSc Gov III) enjoying her work placement experience in the Scottish Parliament.

- Congratulations to **Brandon McEvoy** (BSc Gov II) who has been selected on the Irish University hockey team. This is a tremendous honour and we wish Brandon well for his big match in London next Thursday, 6 April.
- Well done to **Eva O'Driscoll** (BSc Government graduate 2005) whose career continues to flourish. Eva is currently a Vice President at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch. We hope to include a profile of Eva in a future issue.

‘Expect the unexpected!’

Excellent symposium on the French Presidential election



From left to right:- Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Professor Patrick O'Donovan, Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan and Professor Robert Elgie

The Department of Government ran a very successful symposium on the French presidential elections in UCC on 30 March. The event was organised by **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** and she was one of the four speakers on the night. The opening presentation was delivered by **Dr Rainbow Murray** from Queen Mary University in London and she discussed the role of the primaries in the 2017 election. She argued that the primaries had not proved successful. The current leading candidate, Emmanuel Macron, would not have won a primary and he benefitted from staying out. The second speaker was **Professor Robert Elgie** from Dublin City University and he located the eleven presidential candidates on the left-right spectrum. He stressed that there may be a few twists to come in the campaign, noting that the centre has a long and inglorious history in the fifth Republic and that Francois Fillon cannot be discounted. UCC's **Professor Patrick O'Donovan** described the election as a potentially momentous one. He focussed on the economy and made the point that France has remained more egalitarian than many other countries, such as the US. The final presentation was by Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan who claimed that France is at a crossroads in terms of its place and role in the European Union. She analysed the manifestos of each candidate to see what they had to say about the EU. Based on this analysis, she was able to state that five candidates favoured a Frexit. In likening Emmanuel Macron to Barack Obama, Emmanuelle spoke about 'who would come next' if Macron won the 2017 election but was unable to deliver on his promises. Following the presentations, **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** chaired a lively questions and answers session. One issue which was keenly debated was whether Emmanuel Macron is anti-establishment or is part of the establishment! The speakers also linked the presidential campaign with the legislative elections which should prove very interesting and pivotal. The symposium drew a large crowd to the O'Rahilly Building and the hashtag #FrenchPres17 trended on the night.

CLRG Second Annual Lecture Series Fills Boole 1



Top, left to right:- Micheál Martin TD and Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan.

Middle, left to right:- Dr Aodh Quinlivan and Lewis O'Shea (BSc Government I); the panel of speakers, including Micheál Martin and Dr Theresa Reidy.

Bottom, left to right:- Dr Aodh Quinlivan, Rachel Wall and Professor Colin Copus; Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Des Cahill.

CLRG LECTURE SERIES: THE CHALLENGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MODERNISATION

Speaking in UCC in February, **Micheál Martin TD**, referred to local government as the ‘Cinderella’ of the Irish political system. Deputy Martin was addressing 200 people at the second Annual Public Lecture Series of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG), discussing the theme ‘The Challenges of Local Government Modernisation’. He espoused the principle of subsidiarity which asserts that powers, functions and funding should be devolved to the lowest possible level closest to the citizen. This principle dates back to 1931 and the papal encyclical of Pope Pius XI entitled *Quadragesimo Anno*. This document stated: ‘It is an injustice, a grave evil, and a disturbance of the right order for a large and higher organisation to arrogate to itself functions which can be performed efficiently by smaller and lower bodies’.

In theory, Ireland is signed up to the principle of subsidiarity through the Council of Europe’s *Charter of Local Self-Government* and the EU’s *Maastricht Treaty*. However, there is a gulf between the theory and the practice. The conclusion reached by Rhodes and Boyle in 2012 was that local government reforms had resulted in very little devolved authority or capacity in local government. In that same year, Minister Phil produced a reform strategy called *Putting People First* which, amongst other things, proposed the abolition of all town councils and the reduction of two-tier system of local government to a single tier. A delegation from the Council of Europe visited Ireland in 2013 to assess our adherence to the *Charter of Local Self-Government* and reached a damning conclusion: ‘The new policy paper (*Putting People First*), although it praises decentralisation in spirit, does not appear to provide many concrete steps in that direction. Some of the actual steps proposed go in the opposite direction.’ The *Putting People First* proposals became law via the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The focus was on structural and territorial changes with the abolition of 80 town councils and the mergers of two authorities in Waterford, Limerick and Tipperary. By any standards, a 73 per cent reduction in the number of local authorities from 114 to 31 was a drastic measure. With 114 local authorities Ireland already possessed, from a comparative perspective, fewer local authorities than most countries in Europe and had very high ratios of citizen to council and citizen to councillor. With just 31 councils, an even greater distance has been created between the citizen and the local council. The predictable rationale for the structural changes was economies of scale and cost savings but the international research evidence suggests that large scale authorities do not necessarily produce efficiencies and savings. During his speech on Thursday night, Micheál Martin was fiercely critical of Phil Hogan’s ‘slash and burn’ approach and argued that the fiscal impact of the decision was miniscule. The fact that a whole tier of local democracy could be wiped out by the stroke of a legislative pen is worthy of comment because, unlike Seanad Éireann for example, local government in Ireland has no constitutional protection. Civil servants in the Custom House, home of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government will argue that local government is recognised in the constitution. However, this is meaningless. *Recognition* and *protection* are different. The lack of constitutional protection for local government in Ireland reflects a fundamental lack of respect for the Cinderella part of Irish politics. This was a point developed by all of the speakers at the CLRG Lecture Series, with the renowned Professor Colin Copus from De Montfort University bluntly saying: ‘Central government does not trust local government, local democracy or local people.’ The aforementioned Council of Europe delegation which visited in 2013 also heavily criticised the staggering lack of constitutional protection – a point made in all of their previous reports on Ireland.

Of course, once local government stops being *local*, a democratic deficit is created and the evidence is that citizen satisfaction with local services tends to be higher in smaller local authorities. Currently, the government is considering more local government amalgamations in Cork and Galway which could reduce the number of councils still further to 29. It may only be a matter of time before smaller county councils are amalgamated to sustain the ‘big is beautiful’ narrative.

Micheál Martin slammed this philosophy and said he was ‘passionately opposed’ to the possible amalgamation of Cork City Council and Cork County Council. He then proceeded to present his plans to

re-introduce an enhanced town council model for areas with a population in excess of 7,500. In turn, town councils would be supported by a new community council structure which would have a dedicated legislative role. He described community councils as ‘voluntary, cost neutral and the first level of representation.’ In a comprehensive speech, the Fianna Fáil leader said he supported the introduction of directly elected mayors and favoured the ring-fencing of money, for example through the sugar-sweetened drinks tax, for local authorities to invest in their communities.

The topical issue of directly elected mayors was the primary focus of the lecture by **Professor Colin Copus**. He spoke passionately in favour of the concept but warned that Ireland should not repeat the mistakes made in England where 36 out of 52 local referendums ended in a rejection of the mayoral model. The virtual failure of the model reflected ‘the lack of genuine local self-government existing in England and centralist attitudes’. Despite this, Professor Copus stated that directly elected mayors were a good idea and could provide accountable and high-profile local political leadership. His colleague in De Montfort University, **Rachel Wall**, spoke about devolution in England and lamented that the ‘devolution revolution’ had not occurred. This was partly due to the lack of public consultation and engagement. She was critical of the fact that where devolution fails, reorganisation is presented as the solution. Like Micheál Martin before her, she did not agree with the ‘big is beautiful’ model of local government. **Dr Theresa Reidy** of the Department of Government at UCC delivered a fascinating lecture in which she described Ireland as ‘the most fiscally centralised state in the OECD’. In her view, the traditional classifications used in local government finance are obsolete and should be changed. Her analysis of the fiscal patterns point to a stripping of powers from local government and she argued that local authorities in 2017 were more reliant than ever on commercial rates which is dangerous.

The Centre for Local and Regional Governance Public Lecture Series demonstrated that plenty of people are interested in local government, local democracy and community. Unfortunately, it also highlighted that local government in Ireland (and in England) has many weaknesses, the majority of which stem from a centralist mentality.



Professor Colin Copus spoke in favour of directly elected mayors but warned Ireland not to repeat the mistakes made in England.

Diandra Ní Bhuachalla rounds off the 2016/2017 academic year

What a year it has been! Drowning under assignments, the looming pressure of exams, the excitement of summer, don't forget to start thinking about next year! UCC societies are one of the most enjoyable things you will do during your college life! All the pleas for us to get involved are really for our own benefit. The friends that you make are amazing because you all have a common interest and can enjoy it together, compared with most your conversations with your course friends which revolve around your assignments!. As well as the socials and trips, there is also nothing like the sense of achievement that you feel when you and your society make a difference; whether that is doing a fundraiser for charity, making changes to students' college life, or raising awareness about an important topic. Taking on responsibility, however big or small, is something that will stand to you going forward and is so handy for your CV! There are two societies affiliated with the Government Department; The Government and Politics Society, and the Europa Society, and of course the political party societies, but we'll remain neutral here.

Both societies hold events such as debates on topical, current issues which affect students. Whether they are concerning student life, national or international relations, they always attract large numbers and prove to be very interesting! This year there were debates on Brexit, the Apple Tax Ruling and the refugee crisis. Between helping you with assignments and making you more aware of the issues happening around you, the debates proved to be very useful! Politics week was a great success which saw the annual Philip Monahan lecture, the Government Cup (will Aodh ever be part of the winning team?), and the famous Gov Ball. This was all organised by the expertise of the Government and Politics Society, who are owed major congratulations! The Europa society is more concerned with raising awareness around European affairs. However, it's not all serious! They hold mingle linguals throughout the year, in conjunction with the language societies of the college where we eat and show off our (questionable) language skills. Denial of any knowledge of any language other than English usually occurs when faced with French nationals who would love to speak to you about politics! They also hold food meetings, yes, food meetings, where you can sample some of the finest cuisines from European countries. The highlight of the society this year was their trip to Berlin in January which was featured in the last edition of the *Government Times* – be sure to have a nose for further inspiration!

Your ideal opportunity to get involved is through the AGMs of the societies. The G&P society AGM has yet to confirm a date but will happen towards the end of this month – keep your eyes peeled! All positions are up for nomination so be sure to think about getting involved! The Europa Society unfortunately has already held their AGM at the end of last month but don't be disheartened! There are still positions available which will be elected at the beginning of next year!

ps. Congratulations to Diandra who was too modest to mention that she has been elected as Auditor of the Europa Society for the next academic year.

DR NIALL DUGGAN IN FINLAND



In line with the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Finland, the University of Helsinki hosted an international seminar 'China and Africa in Regional and Global Governance'. **Dr Niall Duggan** of the Department of Government presented a paper titled 'Global Governance: The Securitization of Sino-Africa Relations'. The paper was discussed by Prof. Barry Gills Barry and Prof. Julie Yu-Wen Chen, University of Helsinki (formerly Department of Government, UCC) chaired the event.

18th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture



The 18th Annual Philip Monahan Memorial Lecture was one of our best! The Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett (a graduate of the Department of Government), addressed a packed Aula Maxima on the topic, 'Coping with complexity: A perspective on contemporary leadership challenges'. The event was chaired by Professor Ursula Kilkelly, the Head of the College of Business and Law. The opening remarks were delivered by the President of UCC, Professor Patrick O'Shea. A tribute was paid to Philip Monahan by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Des Cahill, and he also presented three student awards (see next page).



- The Thomas Whalen Student of the Year award was presented to **Anja Tossenberger** (BSc Government II).
- The Patrick O’Sullivan Shield was presented to **Emily O’Regan** (BSc Government II).
- The Richard Haslam Graduate of the Year award was presented to Mary Claire Quill on behalf of her brother, **Eoin**.
- At the end of the proceedings, the Auditor of the Government and Politics Society, **Robert Cassidy**, made a presentation to our guest speaker.



YOU CAN'T TRUMP TRUMP!

The winning Patrick O'Sullivan Essay by Emily O'Regan

Most dogs are picked to be loved, to be cherished and experience nurturing; I was adopted for a role in the media circus ring. I suppose in one way I was adopted by a child. Getting banned from Twitter, bullying and racist remarking, and they say I'm the one who's barking!

It did not take much detection to work out that I was a prop for this Presidential election. Posed and portrayed without a single flaw, to show the world my owner was deserving of their awe.

My name is Donald and in case my introduction has left you stumped, I am the dog of President Donald J. Trump.

Before I begin my story, let's just take a moment to imagine a man so self-obsessed that he believed naming me after himself was best. But I won't feel special as he possesses a son with this very name, I believe narcissism is clearly the aim.

I will never forget the day I met Donald. I was brought into a room with this dark yellow creature, orange to the human eye. I was told this was my master and I was to obey him until I die. Now Donald never approached. He stood firmly in the corner but I heard him issue a very rude order. It was to keep me away, that I was a walking parasite. I was very confused by that statement, I've never been to Paris in my life.

The next time I saw Donald was the day of a huge rally. It was like being dragged down a blind, scary alley. Even the ten-year-old boy wore a suit to this event. He resembled a child attending mass for Lent. I was again told Donald was my master but this time he called me an unattractive mutt and thereafter I devised a plan for revenge. I jumped from the step I was standing on, onto Donald's head and bit his hair, but to my surprise, the give was not there. The toupee I had expected to reveal, was not in fact a toupee, his hair was real. My whole body bounced back and I toppled Donald to the floor, creating an excellent photo opportunity that definitely would not bore.

I wasn't allowed out much after that, an odd rally here and there. The next time I was at a truly big occasion was when Donald was elected. I was posed to look strong and fierce, the photo was perfected. I've been hidden away now; Donald's children are either too big or still in their school district. I spend my days eating and walking around this house that still seems mystic.

I am not very proud of my owner, his misogyny, racism and homophobia and did I mention, Donald's inability to abide by the Geneva Convention. His blatant discrimination of the disabled hurts me most of all, but the thing that bugs me just as much is Donald's insistence on building a wall.

I know Donald's new found power has turned this time into a rather fearful hour. The term 'You can't trump Trump' has been passed around. However, I feel there is a new solution to be found. If everyone would just take my point of view, then the voices of the many can match the voices of the powerful few.

Now my story has ended, I cannot wait to see what this amazing world looks like once it is mended. Please don't take my story seriously, it's meant to be amusing - I did not intend any psychological bruising, just a fun anecdote to satisfy your perusing.

Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan on French and German TV



On 20 March, a TV crew from the popular French politics show ARTE Vox Pop came to UCC to interview **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**. During a wide-ranging 40-minute interview, Emmanuelle discussed EU fiscal policy, the CCCTB, the European Commission and the Apple Tax ruling. The interview will form part of an episode which will be shown in France and Germany. It is initially airing in France on 6 May.



Department of Government in House of Commons



On 17 January, **Dr Fiona Buckley** was an invited speaker at a seminar in the House of Commons in London. The seminar was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and examined the theme of Feminizing Politics. Fiona's paper was co-authored with Prof Yvonne Galligan of Queen's University Belfast and was entitled 'Gender quotas: a catalyst for change in Irish politics?' The event was attended by gender politics scholars and addressed a wide range of issues including gendered parliaments, Brexit and gender, and representation debates in gender politics. The audience consisted of politicians, and parliamentary clerks and research staff. The event was organised by Prof Sarah Childs (University of Bristol) and Dr Elizabeth Evans (Goldsmiths, University of London).

The Director of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance, **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**, presented evidence to a House of Commons inquiry on 7 March. The All Party Parliament Group for District Councils comprises members of parliament and the House of Lords and is chaired by Mark Pawsey MP. The focus of the session on 7 March was collaboration and devolution and evidence was heard from local government academics about experiences in Ireland, Slovenia, Finland, Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands.

The report from the inquiry will be launched by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, in the House of Commons on 24 May, with Dr Quinlivan in attendance.

Following on from presenting evidence at the inquiry, Dr Quinlivan has written an article for agendaNi about cross-jurisdictional collaboration between local authorities in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the potential impact of Brexit.



Gender Quota Seminar at UCC hosted by Dr Fiona Buckley

Before Christmas, a seminar examining the first roll out of legislative gender quotas in an Irish election was held in the Aula Maxima. The seminar included contributions from national and international experts who shared their research on candidate selection and gender quotas. Speakers and chairpersons included Prof Sarah Childs (University of Bristol), Prof Yvonne Galligan (Queen's University Belfast), Dr Theresa Reidy (UCC), Dr Peter Allen (Queen Mary, University of London), Lisa Keenan (Trinity), Mary Brennan (UCD), Prof Michael Gallagher (Trinity), Dr Liam Weeks (UCC) and Noel Whelan (Irish Times). The event also heard from politicians who contested the 2016 general election, and who had first-hand experience of the impact of gender quotas. The seminar was hosted by Dr Fiona Buckley and funded through the Irish Research Council's New Foundation grants' scheme.



From left to right:- Anne Rabbitte, TD (FF), Cllr Fiona McLoughlin-Healy (Ind), Joanna Tuffy (Labour), Ciarán Lynch (Labour), Noel Whelan (Irish Times – chair), Connie Gerety-Quinn (FF), Senator Colm Burke (FG) and Cllr Fiona Ryan (AAA).



Professors Sarah Childs and Yvonne Galligan have strong associations with the Department of Government and both presented at the seminar hosted by Dr Fiona Buckley.

9th Annual Journalism Conference at UCC



In February, **Dr Laurence Davis** of the Department of Government delivered an invited lecture on 'Politics and the Media' at the 9th Annual Journalism Conference, hosted by the UCC Journalism Society. His fellow panellists were John Gormley (former leader of the Green party, below) and Matt Cooper (journalist and television/radio presenter).



Government Department European Study trip, March 2017



Students from the MSc International Public Policy and Diplomacy and MSc Government undertook a field trip to Brussels in early March. Students stayed at the Leuven institute For Ireland in Europe. The trip included visits to NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Power Europe, the European Parliament and the Permanent representation of Ireland to the EU. The students were also attended a lecture at the European external action service including the crisis in Syria and the Ukraine. At the European Commissions the students were given overviews of the Migration crisis and Brexit. They were accompanied on the trip by **Dr Niall Duggan** and **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan**.





Well done to the Government and Politics Society on a superb annual ball on 2 March, with the theme 'A Night in Monte Carlo'. Thanks to the society for allowing us to use photos from their Facebook page and from 'Photos by Hayley'.





Focus on International Relations with Dr Niall Duggan

Dr Niall Duggan presented a paper titled *China – the Champion of the Developing World: A Study of China’s Role in Global Economic Governance* at the 58th annual convention of the International Studies Association (ISA) in Baltimore, Maryland. The paper was part of the panel ‘The Changing Role Dynamics of East Asia in the Era of Rising China’. The panel was attended by renowned scholars such as Prof. Joseph Nye and Prof. Wei Shen. The ISA is the world’s largest International Relations Conference and is normally held in North America. However due to the US travel ban, the ISA will now be move out of North America in the coming years.



As part of the MSc International Public Policy, **Dr. Tomasz Młynarski** (left) of the Institute of Political Science and International Relations, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, delivered a lecture on *The EU - Russian Energy Dilemmas in the 21 Century: between cooperation and dependence – the view from Polish perspective*. The Institute of Political Science and International Relations, Jagiellonian University is one of the Department of Government’s Erasmus partners. Others include: Universita degli Studi Bologna, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Madrid and Virje Universiteit Brussels.

CHINA and the CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER



The University of Manchester and the University of Warwick recently hosted a joint conference with the theme ***China and the Changing Global Order***. This conference took a distinctive approach to analysing China’s changing leadership role in the international community with a focus on examining the PRC’s visions for global governance. **Dr Niall Duggan** together with two former Department of Government staff members, Prof. Jörn-Carsten Gottwald and Prof. Sebastian Bersick, presented a paper ‘China’s New Role in Global Financial Governance’. Both Prof. Gottwald and Prof. Bersick are now working and Ruhr University Bochum, an Erasmus partner of University College Cork.