



Engaging Cross Borders: Perspectives from Ireland and Europe

20th International Conference of the Centre for Irish-German Studies

University of Limerick, Ireland

16-17 November 2023

Organisation: The Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick in coordination with the Centre for Public Administration, Ulster University, the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung UK & Ireland office.

This international conference is the latest in a series devised and organised jointly by the University of Limerick and Ulster University, and developed in partnership with the support of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. It builds on the success of the two earlier events. The initial conference was entitled 'Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships – Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships' (18th International Conference in Irish-German Studies) and was held at the University of Limerick, 4-5 November 2021. The second conference was held at Ulster University, 3-4 November 2022, and entitled 'New Ways of Engagement and the International Context: Northern Ireland and Ireland'. In this third event, entitled 'Engaging Cross Borders: Perspectives from Ireland and Europe', we will explore in more detail some of the themes and issues considered hitherto. The conference format reflects the experiences of, and participant feedback from, both previous events. As a multi-disciplinary gathering, the conference will focus on the following aspects: Current & Future Challenges Across Borders in Comparative Perspective; Reflections on Key Anniversaries in Cross-Border Relations; The European Union and Cross Border Relations; Crossing Borders – the Role of Languages, Culture and Identity; Trade Across Borders; and Cross-Border Engagements – Imagining the Future.

Thursday 16 November

2.00pm Welcome and Opening of the Conference UL, Glucksman Library, Appellate Court Room

Dr Sandra Joyce, Dean of the Faculty for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
H.E. Dr Nicholas O'Brien, Irish Ambassador to Germany
Robert Henneberg, German Cultural Attaché
Prof. Gisela Holfter, Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick
Dr Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre Brussels
Prof. Paul Carmichael, Ulster University

2.30pm – 4.00pm – Session 1 Chaired by Jack O'Connor, UL Centre for Sustainability & Futures

Current & Future Challenges Across Borders in Comparative Perspective – Roundtable

Focus on Sustainability & Views of the Next Generation - with Marah Moloney Weissbrich (UL student), Brian Ronayne (UL student), Brian Morgan (UU student), Anne Nospickel (UL), Robert Henneberg, German Embassy.

4.00pm - 4.30pm Break

4.30pm – 6.00pm – Session 2 Chaired by David Donoghue, Dublin

Reflections on Key Anniversaries in Cross-Border Relations -

Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach, in conversation with Deaglán de Bréadún, Journalist and Author

Friday 17 November UL, Glucksman Library, Appellate Court Room

9.00 Welcome to Day 2 - President of the University of Limerick, Prof. Kerstin Mey

followed by– Session 3 Chaired by Dr Bernadette Connaughton, UL

European Union and Cross Border Relations – Roundtable

Barbara Nolan, Head of Representation, European Commission Representation, Dublin

Dr Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre Brussels

Caitriona Mullan, Cross Border Co-operation Specialist

Emeritus Prof. Joachim Fischer, UL

10.30am Break

10.45am - 12.10pm – Session 4 Chaired by Dr Conor Little, UL

Trade Across Borders

John McGrane, Director General, British-Irish Chamber of Commerce

David Parkmann, Head of DE International, German-Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Dr Lisa Claire Whitten, Queen’s University Belfast

Prof. Bernadette Andreosso, UL

Dr Niall Moran, Deputy Director Brexit Institute DCU

12.10pm - 1.20pm Break

1.20pm – 2.50pm – Session 5 Chaired by Dr David O’Donoghue

Crossing Borders – The Role of Languages, Culture and Identity

Hugo Hamilton, Author, Dublin/Berlin

Donal Ryan, Creative Writing, UL

Prof. Helen Phelan, Director of The Irish World Academy, UL

Dr Florence Le Baron-Earle, UL

Neasa Ní Chianáin, Documentary/film maker

3.00pm – 4.00pm - Concluding Roundtable Chaired by Lucinda Creighton, CEO, Vulcan Consulting

Cross-Border Engagements - Imagining the Future

Richard Hill, Northern Ireland Joint Secretary, North/South Ministerial Council

Ruairí de Búrca, DFA Assistant Secretary, Ireland, UK and Americas

John Gormley, former Green Party leader

H.E. Cord Meier-Klodt, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dublin

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