



18th International Conference in Irish-German Studies
**Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships –
Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships**

University of Limerick, 4-5 November 2021

Organisation: Centre for Irish-German Studies, UL, in coordination with Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, Ulster University, the Centre for European Studies, UL and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Dublin/London

This conference will focus on three aspects:

- 1) A discussion of the initial impact and ongoing repercussions of Brexit for British-German Relations and British Studies in Germany/German Studies in the UK as well as Irish-German relations and German Studies in Ireland and Irish Studies in Germany.
- 2) With the benefit of hindsight ... – Reflecting on German unification from a cultural, political, legal and economic perspective. Focussing on reunification itself, this part will ask what lessons can be learned from the German experience? Aspects that have been of particular relevance in Germany included the question of whether accession or unification was/would have been the best course of action. Keeping in mind the vastly different situation in Ireland North and South, are there aspects that could of interest in the ‘Shared Ireland, Shared Island’ discussions?
- 3) Engagement with Europe and the European Union in Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit. This part will analyse the situation north and south of the Irish border vis-a-vis the EU and the European context of economic, legal, policy and cultural questions.

Thursday 4 November 2021

Venue: A&L Goodbody Moot Appeal Court Room, Glucksman Library, UL

2.30pm Welcome – *Daniel Butler, Mayor of Limerick; Prof Kerstin Mey, UL President; H.E. Cord Meier-Klodt, German Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Matthias Barner, Director KAS UK & Ireland; Prof Gisela Holfter, Director CIGS, UL*

Part I Academia and Languages: British-German Relations and British Studies in Germany/German Studies in the UK as well as Irish-German relations and German Studies in Ireland and Irish Studies in Germany

2.45pm – 4.15pm – Session 1 Chair: *Robert Henneberg (Cultural Attaché, German Embassy Dublin)*

Prof Katharina Rennhak (Wuppertal) – Irish Studies in Germany

Prof Nicola McLelland (Nottingham) – German Studies in Britain

Prof Pól O Dochartaigh (NUI Galway)/ Dr Marieke Krajenbrink (UL & Co-Chair GSAI) – German Studies in Ireland North and South

4.45pm – 6.15pm – Session 2 Chair: Prof Joachim Fischer (UL)

Dr Paul Gillespie (Dep. Director, Institute British-Irish Studies, UCD) – British-Irish Studies

Prof Gisela Holfter (UL) – Irish-German Studies

Dr Marius Guderjan (Centre for British Studies, HU Berlin) – German-British Relations

7pm Conference dinner

Friday 5 November 2021

Part II Different Experiences of Coming Together, Dividing and Sharing

9am – 10am – Session 3 Chair: Dr iur. Patricia Conlan (UL)

With the benefit of hindsight ... – Reflecting on German unification from a political and cultural perspective

Prof Constantin Goschler (Bochum) – Reflecting on German reunification

Prof Jürgen Pelzer (Athens/Los Angeles) – Poetry from East & West - Before and After.

Poetic reflections on the 'Wende' and reunification

10.30am - 11.30am – Session 4 Chair: Prof Shane Kilcommins (Dean AHSS, UL)

A Shared Ireland, Shared Island? – Reflecting on challenges and opportunities of the Irish situation

Prof Oran Doyle (Trinity College, Dublin) – Constitutional issues

Prof James McAuley (University of Huddersfield) – The future of Northern Ireland

11.30am – 12.00pm Open Discussion

12.00pm - 1.15pm lunch

Part III Europe and the European Union in Ireland North and South after Brexit

1.15pm – 2.45pm – Session 5 Chair: Prof Edward Moxon-Browne

Analysing the situation north and south of the Irish border vis-a-vis the EU and the European context of economic, legal, policy and cultural questions.

Prof John Coakley (QUB) – Ireland, Northern Ireland and the EU

Prof Mary Murphy (UCC) – Northern Ireland, Ireland and the EU

Prof Joachim Fischer (UL) – Irish Visions of the EU, North and South: Cultural and Educational Discourses

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Concluding Roundtable chaired by Prof Paul Carmichael (Ulster University)

Prof Edward Moxon-Browne (Emeritus Professor European Studies, UL)

Tony Connelly (RTE, Brussels)

Prof John O'Brennan (Maynooth University)

Prof Oran Doyle (Trinity College Dublin)

Prof Katy Hayward (QUB)

4.30pm – Possibility for a short presentation of the Gottschalk collection in Irish-German Studies, Special Collections, Glucksman Library (ground floor) by Ken Bergin (Head of Special Collections)