



4th UL – UU International Conference

Reflections on a Changing Ireland and its Relationships

Ulster University, Belfast

Thursday 28-Friday 29 November 2024

Organisation: The Centre for Public Administration, Ulster University in coordination with the Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick, the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) 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 Wilfried Martens Centre Brussels and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. It builds on the success of the three earlier events. The initial conference was entitled ‘Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships – Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships’ (University of Limerick, 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 the third event, ‘Engaging Cross Borders: Perspectives from Ireland and Europe’ (University of Limerick, 20th International Conference in Irish-German Studies), we explored current & future challenges across borders in comparative perspective (including in trade and culture) and reflections on key anniversaries in cross-border relations. In this fourth event, with Reflections on a Changing Ireland and its Relationships, the conference will focus on the following aspects:

- Relationships within a Changing Northern Ireland
- The Cultural Context and its Impact on Changing Relationships and Identities
- Irish Relationships in a changed Europe – Roundtable
- North-South Relationships
- West-East Relationships
- Changing Relationships in Historical Perspective - Roundtable of Politicians

DAY ONE

12.00pm-1.00pm Registration in the main foyer, ground floor of BC building

Initial networking over an informal light lunch of sandwiches, tea and coffee will be available.

1.00-1.30 pm Welcome and Opening of the Conference – Board Room Belfast Campus UU

- Professor Paul Carmichael (UU) as compère/MC
- Ulster University senior officer TBC
- H.E. David Gill German Ambassador to Ireland and Ms. Anne-Katrin Finger Harries (German Embassy London)
- Dr Canan Atilgan, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (London Office), Director
- Dr Eoin Drea, Martens Centre, Brussels
- Prof Gisela Holfter (UL)

1.30pm-2.45pm – Session 1 – Chaired by Prof Pól Ó Dochartaigh (University of Galway)

Relationships within a Changing Northern Ireland

- Dr Jamie Pow, QUB *confirmed*
- Emma De Souza, Writer, Journalist and Political Campaigner *confirmed*
- David Sterling, former Head of NICS *confirmed*
- Prof Alan Whysall, The Constitution Unit (UCL) (former NIO C St) *confirmed*

2.45pm-3.15pm - Break with Light Refreshments and Networking

3.15pm – 4.30pm - Session 2 – Chaired by Professor Liam Murray (UL) *confirmed*

The Cultural Context and its Impact on Changing Relationships and Identities

- Jan Carson, Northern Irish Writer *confirmed*
- Kevin McArevey, School Principal *confirmed*
- Neasa Ní Chianáin, Film maker *Young Plato confirmed*
- Alex Bleistein, Deputy Director DAAD London *confirmed*

4.45pm-6.00pm Session 3 – Chaired by Professor Joachim Fischer (UL) *confirmed*

Irish Relationships in a changed Europe – Roundtable

- Sam McBride, Belfast Telegraph *confirmed*
- Katy Haskins, UU PhD Student *confirmed*
- John McGrane, Director General of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce *confirmed*
- Katherine Meenan, IIEA in Dublin *confirmed*

Intermission

7.30pm-9.30pm Conference Dinner at the Academy Restaurant, Ulster University

DAY TWO

9.00am-10.00am - Session 4 – Chaired by Dr Claire Wright (UU)

North-South Relationships / Taking Stock of the North South Ministerial Council

- Tim Attwood, Secretary John and Pat Hume Foundation *confirmed*
- Catriona Mullan, Cross Border Co-operation Specialist *confirmed*
- Hilary Reilly, NSMC Joint Secretary *confirmed*
- Richard Hill, NSMC Joint Secretary *confirmed*

10.05am-11.05am - Session 5 – Chaired by Prof Paul Carmichael (UU)

West-East Relationships

- Mark Hennessy (Irish Times) *confirmed*
- Etain Tannam, Trinity College Dublin *confirmed*
- Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross-Border Studies *confirmed*
- Emer Currie, Senator, FG Spokesperson on Special Education and Inclusion in NI *confirmed*

11.05-11.20am – Break for Light Refreshments and Networking

11.20am-12.45pm –Concluding Roundtable – Chaired by David Donoghue *confirmed*

Changing Relationships in Historical Perspective - Roundtable of Politicians

Charles Flannagan (FG), *confirmed*
John Gormley (Green Party) *confirmed*
Claire Hanna (SDLP) *confirmed*
Declan Kearney (SF) *confirmed*
Nuala MacAlister (Alliance Party) *confirmed*
Doug Beatty (UUP) *confirmed*
Peter Martin (DUP) *confirmed*

12.45pm Closing remarks followed by an informal light lunch of sandwiches and refreshments