



The award-winning newsletter of
students and staff of UCC's Department
of Government and Politics
Issue 80, Tuesday 28 November 2023



GOVERNMENT TIMES

Launch of 'a towering book'



'First Citizen is a towering book ... scholarly, well researched and very readable. It adds to our understanding of the developmental stories of Cork and Ireland, remembering a forgotten figure, Seán French, who played a major role in Ireland's fight for freedom and successfully coming out of a devastating civil war by democratic political service' – Tadhg Coakley.

See pages 4 and 5

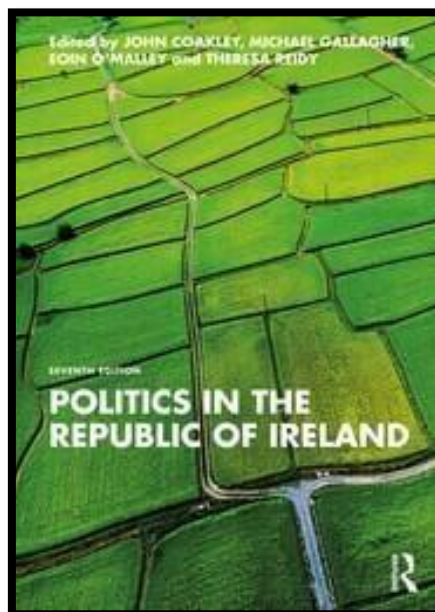
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What an issue we have for you, 30 pages jam-packed with stories from current students, alumni and staff of UCC's Department of Government and Politics. While the launch of *First Citizen*, CLRG23 and the various activities of the Hub in Active European Citizenship are presented in detail, we are really thrilled with the material from students and graduates. For example, on pages 19 and 20, you can read about our **Government and Politics Society** which has had an active first semester. Quercus scholars, **Robyn Murphy** and **Cian Walsh**, are profiled on pages 21 and 22 and we wish them well as they make embark on their UCC journeys.

Graduates of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes feature strongly – check out the stories of **Fiona O'Donovan** (page 24), **Joe Lynch** (page 25), **Tim McCarthy** (page 26), **Kevin Hiney** (page 26), and **Diandra Ní Bhuachalla** (page 27). If you would like to get involved as a student editor of *Government Times* please send me an e-mail and you could be on board for issue 81 in the New Year.



Book Launches! *First Citizen* (page 4 and 5), *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* (page 6).

Dr. Aodh Quinlivan

Editor, *Government Times*

a.quinlivan@ucc.ie

pg. 3 *Government Times*, 2023/24 academic year



COVER STORY: *FIRST CITIZEN* LAUNCH



Above: (left) Authors, John Ger O'Riordan and Aodh Quinlivan; (right) Lord Mayor, Councillor Kieran McCarthy

First Citizen was launched in Cork City Hall on Tuesday 14 November by Lord Mayor, Councillor Kieran McCarthy. The book, co-written by Aodh Quinlivan and John Ger O'Riordan, tells the story of Seán French, Cork's longest-serving, twelve-term Lord Mayor. French came to prominence during a period of revolutionary change and turmoil, earning a deserved reputation as an eloquent, intelligent and passionate man who possessed an unyielding fidelity to principle. His extraordinary political life unfolded against a backdrop of the War of Independence, the Burning of Cork, the Civil War and the dissolution of Cork Corporation. French was also a founding member of Fianna Fáil and he was twice elected to Dáil Éireann.

In launching the book, Lord Mayor McCarthy commented:

‘On behalf of Cork City Council, I offer sincere thanks to Aodh Quinlivan and John Ger O'Riordan for producing another important lost piece of the puzzle of not just Cork history but also Irish local government history.’

At a personal level, Seán French was quiet, studious, and unassuming, occasionally austere and even dour. However, when in the company of family and friends at social occasions, he came alive and could be gregarious and charming, often demonstrating a wicked sense of humour. He took a keen interest in sport, especially rugby, rowing and cricket. Undoubtedly, Seán French was an outstanding figure in public life who was held in high esteem by all. His contributions in the Dáil, Cork Corporation, the Harbour Board and numerous other public bodies and charities of which he was a member, were consistently eloquent, intelligent and passionate. A keynote of his character was his straightforwardness, integrity and unyielding fidelity to principle.



Above: Chief Executive of Cork City Council, Ann Doherty, speaking at the launch of *First Citizen*.

The office and status of Lord Mayor lives on in Cork city and many great men and women have held the position, but Seán French has the unique distinction of being the longest-serving First Citizen. For that alone, he warrants a prominent place in the rich history of Cork, the city he loved and served unconditionally throughout his life.

***First Citizen* forms part of Cork City Council's 1920-1923 Commemoration Programme and is published by Cork City Libraries. It is available in Waterstone's, Dubray, Vibes and Scribes and UCC.**

Seventh Edition of *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*



Above: Dr. Theresa Reidy of the Department of Government and Politics, speaking in Belfast at the launch of *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* (7th edition).

The seventh edition of *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* was launched at the annual conference of the Political Studies Association of Ireland in Belfast on 21 October. Eoin O'Malley (DCU) and Theresa Reidy (UCC) have joined the editorial team of the popular textbook for this edition. The textbook features many colleagues from the Department of Government and Politics writing on their specialist areas.



Left: Art O'Leary, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, launching *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*.

Chapters by staff of the Department of Government and Politics at UCC:

- 'Parties and the Party System' – Dr. Liam Weeks
- 'Direct and Deliberative Democracy' – Dr. Theresa Reidy (with Jane Suiter)
- 'Women in Politics' – Dr. Fiona Buckley (with Yvonne Galligan)
- 'Ireland and the European Union' – Dr. Mary C. Murphy (with John O'Brennan)

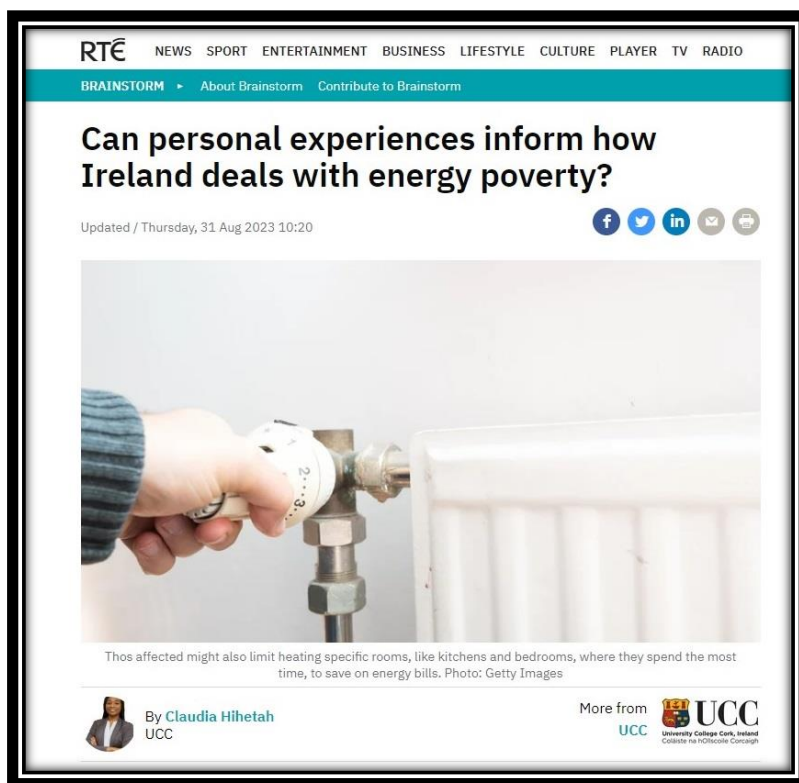
Brainstorm article on energy poverty by Claudia Hihetah

Claudia Hihetah – a PhD candidate in the Department of Government and Politics, supervised by Professor Brian O'Gallachoir, Dr. Niall Dunphy and Dr. Clodagh Harris, recently wrote about researching the lived experience of energy poverty for RTÉ Brainstorm.

‘With colder months approaching, the Government needs to recognise and include the experiences of energy-poor households and those at risk in their policies. On an individual level, boost your energy awareness by learning how to read your energy bills, assessing if you qualify for free energy upgrades, and adopting simple ways to save energy and reduce costs. And do not hesitate to share personal experiences; it is valuable in addressing broader societal challenges.’

See full article at this link:

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2023/0831/1402517-energy-poverty-ireland-policy-personal-experiences/>.



BSc Government first years visit City Hall ... and see a graduate co-opted to council!



Above – (left) Lord Mayor Councillor Kieran McCarthy talking to the BSc Government and Political Science first year students; (right) New councillor, Orla O’Leary, in City Hall with her party colleague Joe Lynch.

The BSc Government and Political Science first year class enjoyed an outing to Cork City Hall on Monday 13 November. Following a private session with Lord Mayor, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, the students attended the full monthly meeting of the City Council which commenced at 5.30 p.m. and ended just after 11.00 p.m. At the beginning of the meeting, Sinn Féin’s Orla O’Leary – a graduate of the BSc and the Masters in International Public Policy and Diplomacy – was formally co-opted onto the council, replacing Eolan Ryng who has stepped down.

Orla was proposed by Councillor Fiona Kerins, who said she was no stranger to politics or City Hall, having worked on the election campaigns of her father, Chris O’Leary, a former Sinn Féin councillor for the South-East ward and former Lord Mayor, who lost his seat in the 2019 local elections and who has been selected by the party to run in next year’s local elections. In her maiden speech as a councillor, Orla said the Republican principles of Terence MacSwiney and Tomás MacCurtain will guide her approach on council.

‘It’s an honour to have the opportunity to represent people in the community where I live, the community in which my baby daughter will grow up. I’m determined to hit the ground running and to make a real difference.’

She spoke of her pride of growing up in a council estate, and said she was able to make most of her education because of the security and stability provided by public housing. She said she believed the housing crisis could be fixed with the right policies and with a massive increase in Government funding for both the delivery of public housing, and for housing maintenance.

The meeting itself was a lengthy one with passionate debates about the city's (in)famous 'robotrees', the Middle East and the turning on of the Christmas lights.



Irish Examiner @irishexaminer

Cork's 'robotrees' survive for at least six more months



irishexaminer.com
Cork's 'robotrees' survive for at least six more months



Cllr. John Maher @jmaher0 **Follow Back**

#CorkCityCouncil agreed to my @labour motion below calling for ceasefire, humanitarian aid, release of hostages & for Irish Commissioner & EU President of Commission to Oireachtas Committee of Foreign Affairs to account for their actions #CeasefireForGazaNOW

28.9 **URGENT SPECIAL SITTING OF THE JOINT OIREACTHAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

*That Cork City Council demands the Irish Government utilise all diplomatic leverage it has to insist upon a ceasefire in Gaza; condemns the attacks by Hamas on October 7th; calls for the release of all hostages by Hamas and for Israel to lift the blockade to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza and for Irish nationals to leave Gaza; that this Council condemns all war crimes being carried out on an hourly basis in Gaza; and further demands

the Government to bring Ireland's Commissioner and the President of the European Commission into an urgent special sitting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs to account for the Commissions' actions to secure a ceasefire and condemn the war crimes being perpetrated by Israel on the people of Gaza.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Maher 23/534)



RedFM News @RedFMNews **Follow**

Safety concerns prevent public Christmas lights switch on in Cork



redfm.ie
Safety concerns prevent public Christmas lights switch on in Cork | www.redfm.ie

Closing the meeting after 11.00 p.m. the Lord Mayor led a round of applause for the students who remained to the 'bitter end'. They were each presented with a commemorative 'White Rose' pin badge.

Meet the Councillor/Candidate



On Tuesday 14 November the BSc Government first year GV1215 class enjoyed a lively and constructive conversation about local democracy with (as left to right above): **Councillor Colette Finn** (Green Party, current Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork), **Councillor Terry Shannon** (Fianna Fáil., former Lord Mayor of Cork), **Joe Lynch** (Sinn Féin candidate in local elections 2024 – see page 25) and **Councillor Brian McCarthy** (Solidarity – People Before Profit). This is a traditional component of the GV1215 module and we are very grateful to the four speakers for giving up their time so generously. Perhaps they inspired some students to go for forward in the 2029 local elections?

Departmental research series gets off to a great start with Katelyn Dooley



Katelyn Dooley recently started this year's departmental research series with a thought-provoking presentation entitled: 'An examination of the European Union's Counter Terrorism Strategy: the implications it has on the far right in Europe.'

Global Speaker Series



In recognition of 50 years of membership of the European Union, this Global Speaker Series discussion on 8 November brought together UCC alum, Noelle O'Connell (CEO of European Movement Ireland) and Dr. Mary C. Murphy (Head of UCC's Department of Government and Politics and a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration) for a discussion chaired by Professor Andrew Cottey (Department of Government and Politics and a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration). Marking the 50th anniversary of Ireland's accession to the community of European states, the speakers took a look back at the past half century of European cooperation, and a look forward at what the future may hold.

DEFENDING COUNCILLORS



Above: Dr. Bríd Quinn and Councillor Emma Blain addressing CLR23.

The eighth Annual Public Lecture Series of UCC's Centre for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) took place on Thursday 9 November, under the theme 'In Defence of Councillors'. The welcoming address was delivered by Dr. Mary C. Murphy, Head of the Department of Government and Politics. She was followed by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, who said that councillors have to be prepared to make sacrifices in their personal lives and in their personal time but that being a local public representative remains an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Next, Dr. Aodh Quinlivan presented his Director's Report for 2022/23. He highlighted recent CLRG publications and research outputs, including a report on gender equality in Cork City Council. Marking her immense contribution to the study and understanding of Irish local government, the CLRG Recognition Award (named after Philip Monahan) was then presented to Dr. Bríd Quinn. Undergraduate awards were presented to Robert Palmer (BSc II) and Alan O'Brien (BSc I).

The first of the night's three keynote lectures was delivered by Dr. Quinn who described the 'saga' of Limerick's directly elected mayor and what we might expect from the historic mayoral election of 2024. She raised issues about the three Ms – mandate, mechanisms and means – and queried if the political will exists to enable Limerick to pioneer a strong DEM system. Ending on a positive note, Dr. Quinn argued that the draft DEM model for Limerick is ambitious and comprehensive and she expressed confidence that Limerick can make history in 2024 and become an exemplar within the Irish local government system.

Councillor Emma Blain, from Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, told the audience that it was a great privilege to serve in public life and she described being a councillor as a vocation rather than a job. However, being at the coalface of democracy presented challenges, especially in relation to emerging issues which are impacting on the well-being and safety of elected members. Councillor Blain criticised protests which have taken place outside the homes of councillors, as well as the growing incidents of physical attacks and online abuse. Drawing on recent research by the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) she drew attention to the fact that over 57% of respondents were worried or extremely worried about the impact of threats, harassment and intimidation on their families. Amongst other safety measures, Councillor Blain called for the postal addresses of councillors to be removed from local authority websites.



Above: Lord Mayor, Councillor Kieran McCarthy, presented undergraduate awards to Robert Palmer and Alan O'Brien.

As the final speaker, Professor Colin Copus (Emeritus Professor of Local Politics at De Montfort University, Leicester), noted that abuse and intimidation of councillors is unfortunately a global trend. He pointed out that the accessibility of elected members is a great strength of local government but also a danger. The effects of abuse and intimidation are such that councillors may be deterred from making decisions or speaking on certain issues. Many councillors in the United Kingdom have resigned their seats in recent years, often citing concerns about their mental and physical well-being. People are fearful of standing for election and this is weakening democratic participation. In terms of improvements that can be made, Professor Copus recommended that local authorities provide training for councillors in responding to intimidating and physically threatening situations. Consideration needs to be given to providing councillors with 'minders' when on-site visits or alone on council business, as well as the use of personal alarm systems and a 24-hour emergency phone number. Finally, Professor Copus argued that local authorities need to have specialist staff members with the role of identifying fake sites and news, so as to refute false allegations about or involving councillors.

This drew the curtain down on an illuminating, but also sobering, night of local government conversation.

HUB IN ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>

Erasmus+ visitors from Austria to the Hub

On 16 November 2023, the Hub in Active European Citizenship was delighted to welcome during their Erasmus+ trip to Ireland 10 Austrian students and their teachers together with their Kinsale Community School hosts. Emmanuelle delivered an introduction to what the Hub does and how those students could get involved. Then Philip engaged them in an activity to reflect on their sense of attachment to different communities. It was particularly interesting to see that the Austrian students tended to have a stronger sense of attachment to the EU than the Irish students whose attachment to the local community was the strongest.



KA2 successes - Cooperation partnerships in school education

Over the last few months, the Hub has been successful in three Erasmus+ KA2 applications, lasting between 24 and 36 months.

1. PEACE led by DEO in Denmark. This project aims to deliver four new learning materials developed by partners in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark and Ireland:
 - semi-digital escape room about climate change,
 - interactive role-play format about EU defence policy,
 - debate format about climate change
 - debate format about common EU values

The project aims to strengthen the participation of young people in the democratic process and make education about European matters more accessible.

2. CitiGen'Z led by Pistes Solidaires, Pau from France. Partners in France, Slovenia and Ireland will create learning materials and events aimed at strengthening the sense of European identity among young people while increasing their participation at the European level. Know EU – Understand EU – Act EU are the three pillars of this project.
3. Soif d'Europe led by InterPlusValue from France includes exchanges of best practices in teaching about the European Union in all its cultural and linguistic diversity. Five partners from France, Portugal, Italy, Romania, Ireland are involved.

EU TV Premium

As part of the Chair in Active European Citizenship, the Hub has developed a YouTube channel on European issues for 13- to 18-year-olds. It focuses on current affairs as much as central topics to the understanding of the EU. Scripts are written by third year student in the BSc Government and Political Science, **Alex O'Connell**. The episodes are presented this year by **Ethan McIntyre** and **Ella Tängdén**. They are filmed and masterfully edited by **Natalia Fabia Brandi**. Go and check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/@eutvpremium>.



Understanding the European Parliament

What is the Dáil? Who, what, why? How can you...

MEP moments on green energies

On 14 November, the Hub organised MEP – Making Europe Personal - moments with secondary and third level students on the questions: ‘Can green energies fix the climate crisis?’ Through a new format of democratic participation, relying on dichotomous presentations by two experts, **Sadhbh O’Neill**, senior climate advisor, and **Eoin Drea** from the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies think-tank, the event focused on bringing back conflict of opinions in the democratic arena. The feedback from both groups and experts was excellent. Participants highlighted how useful they thought it was to consider opposite arguments and to be able to express very diverse views on a topic without seeking a consensus. Participants were asked to position themselves on a scale twice during the proceedings. On both occasions, some participants changed views. The event was coordinated by expert BSc Government and Political Science students from 2nd and 3rd years: **Thimote Bozzetto, Ella Tängdén, Sofia Rea, Caitlin Holland and Ognjen Uzelac**.



2023 PSAI Conference

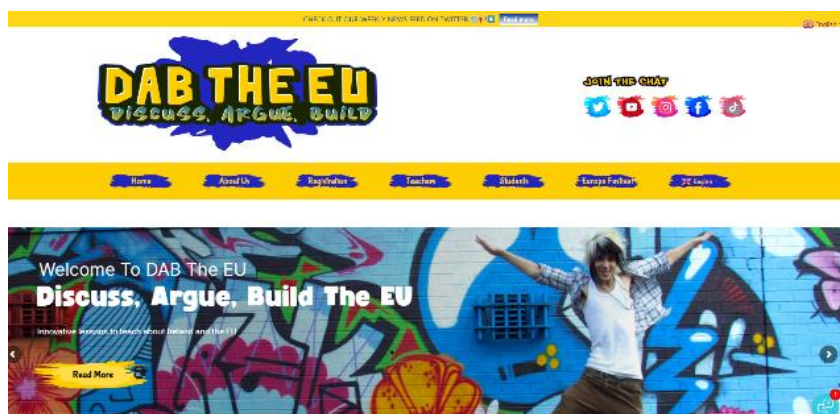
On behalf of the Hub, **Dr. Philip Murphy** convened a panel at the 2023 PSAI conference in Belfast entitled **Socio-Political and Citizenship Education: Case Studies from Primary, Post-Primary, and University Level in the Republic of Ireland.**

The panel centred on the development of socio-political attitudes among young people and related teaching practice. It applied frames of political socialisation, political education and pedagogy to explore aspects of youth political engagement. The papers explored a framework of political knowledge for active European citizenship at primary level, the significance of social capital for political engagement and identity at post-primary level, the role of efficacy and experience in teaching socio-political topics at post-primary level, an examination of instructor response to student evaluations at graduate level, and the use of pedagogical and curricular innovations for engagement at postgraduate level.

Full Panel Details Sunday 22 October	
TEACHING & LEARNING IN POLITICS SG	
7A	Socio-Political and Citizenship Education: Case Studies from Primary, Post-Primary, and University Level in the Republic of Ireland
Sunday 10:00-11:30 Europa Hotel, Copenhagen 1	
Chair: Johan Dornschneider-Elkink (UCD)	
Emannuelle Schon-Quinlivan (UCC)	Substantive Knowledge, Powerful Knowledge and Active Citizenship: An Experiment at Primary Level with European Citizenship Education
Philip Murphy (UCC)	Exploring Experience and Efficacy: A Study of Socio-Political Educators at Post-Primary Level in the Republic of Ireland
Samuel Johnston (UCD)	A Little Less Byzantine? Encouraging Practical Engagement with the EU Among Students
Gizem Arıkan & Peter Stone (TCD)	Evaluating Instructors: How Do Lecturers Respond to Student Evaluations?
7B	What is to be Done? The Role and Responsibility of the Academy in Responding to the Planetary crisis
Sunday 10:00-11:30 Europa Hotel, Copenhagen 2	
Chair: Louise Fitzgerald (DCU)	

2023 PASTAI

On 11 November 2023, the Hub was invited to present its new website, DAB the EU – Discuss, Argue, Build the EU at the annual conference of the Politics and Society Teachers’ Association of Ireland. It gathers tailor-made teaching and learning material on the EU and active European Citizenship. It provides up-to-date resources and activities to support teachers and students from 1st year to 6th year in their engagement with the European Union.



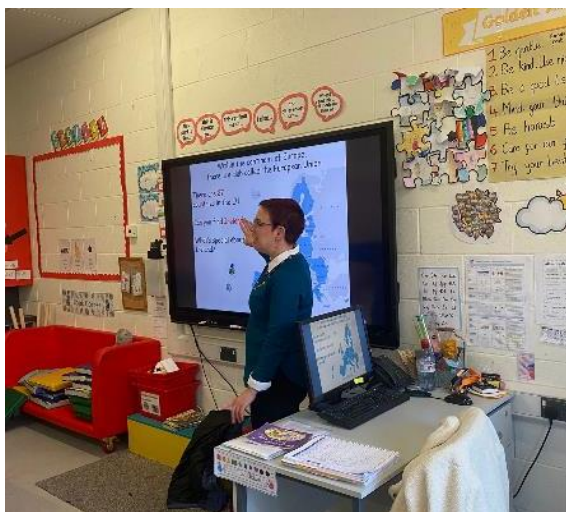
Visit to the Dáil and the European Commission representation

On 6 November 2023, the Hub organised for several BSc Government and Political Science students as well as two students from St Aloysius, Cork with their History teacher, Ms Amber Walsh, to go to visit the Dáil as well as the European Commission Representation in Ireland. It was a fantastic opportunity to discover our national Parliament as well as engage in a discussion on European issues and careers in European institutions.



Visit for BFGtoEU to St Christopher's Primary School

BFGtoEU is going on the road this year! After a great zoom visit to Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin in County Wicklow, Emmanuelle went to St Christopher's Primary school in Dublin where she delivered lessons and organised quizzes on the European Union and Ireland's role in it for all 1st, 2nd and 6th classes. Some incredibly knowledgeable children in 6th class meant that they all got a prize!



<https://www.ucc.ie/en/hub-in-active-european-citizenship/>

A Busy Semester for the Government and Politics Society in UCC

Government, politics, and current affairs are of profound importance in every industry, and therefore it is imperative that the student demographic is well informed on these topics. The Government and Politics Society is the resident politically neutral voice for University College Cork's students on campus who strive to promote political awareness and debate among the student population in an effort to enhance their knowledge on the important role which government and politics plays in all areas of society. We hold a wide variety of fun, informative, and engaging events throughout the year as a means of achieving our ultimate goal of conveying the importance of being politically aware among a demographic which are predominantly disengaged on the topic. We have been busy pursuing this endeavour throughout semester one!

UCC Votes – 'Social policy issues in Ireland'



(Pictured left to right: Dr. Conor Cashman, University College Cork; Nathan Counihan, Vice Chair, Government and Politics Society UCC, Evie Nevin, Labour Party representative; Dr. Ciaran McCarthy, Social Democrats representative; Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Fianna Fáil councillor in Bandon – Kinsale LEA)

In our first event of the year, we were joined by public representatives and UCC's own, Dr. Conor Cashman, to discuss social policy issues in Ireland such as housing, healthcare, and education in the first instalment of our 'UCC Votes' series. A deeply engaging and at times fractious debate, which had a good mix of policy perspective by an expert in the area, and manifesto ambitions by the representatives present.

'We're all Scientists here' Social event

A move away for the more serious elements of the society, we flexed our scientific muscles with the UCC Science Society in a county colours night. A great night was had by all fledgling political scientists present!

In conversation with Alastair Campbell



We were delighted to facilitate a thoroughly insightful virtual interview with Alastair Campbell, journalist, podcaster, and former head of communications to Tony Blair. Tremendously interesting discussion ranging from Northern Irish politics and its place in the Union in the aftermath of Brexit, to the success of his podcast ‘The Rest is Politics’. Members were given the opportunity to pose questions to Mr. Campbell, and we can be sure they came away from the event with an enhanced interest in global affairs and politics.

‘The Met Gala’



A very glamorous looking Government and Politics Society! - (Pictured back left to right: Luke O’ Gorman, Postgraduate rep; Sarah Collins, Vice events and accessibility officer; Abigail Murphy, Public Relations Officer; Conor Brennan, Events Officer; Olivia Lawton, Finance Officer; Centre, row 1, Left to right: Ben Campbell, 1st Year Rep BSc Government; Nathan Counihan, Vice Chairperson; Reuban Murray, Ex-Officio. Centre, row 2, left to right: Clodagh Cotter, 1st year rep BA Politics; Martha Cashell, deputy finance officer; Alice Bogue, Secretary. Front left to right: Cian Walsh, OCM; Frank Sharkey, Chairperson; Barromie Fullah, OCM, Aoife Mulhall, OCM

Our annual Government and Politics ball returned again this year in collaboration with the UCC Economics Society. A wonderful evening in the beautiful setting of Cork’s Metropole Hotel with a mix of music, dance, and as can only be expected, robust debate! We look forward to the return of our annual gala next year.

Our New BSc Quercus Scholars



Above: Last week, the new UCC Quercus scholars of 2023/2024 were celebrated at a special ceremony in the Aula Maxima. The group includes two BSc Government and Political Science first year students – Robyn Murphy and Cian Walsh.



Robyn Murphy

Robyn joined Ashton Hockey Club when she was 8 years old. At 13 she then attended St Angela's and started her school career where she made the senior team in second year. Robyn went onto captain her senior team in her final year. Robyn has played for Munster at u16, u18 and u21 levels. She went on to captain the Munster u18 team to an interpro final. In 2022 Robyn won the Munster Young Player of the Year. In 2023 Robyn was nominated for Munster Senior Player of the Year. At 16 Robyn got her first cap for Ireland against England in 2020. Robyn progressed to the u18 Irish team in 2022. She played a 5 nations series, a Scottish series and an 8 nations in Barcelona. Robyn is currently a first-year student studying Government and Political Science.



Cian Walsh

Cian is a Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar from Bandon, Co. Cork. He attended St. Brogan's College and is now in his first year of studying the BSc Government and Political Science at UCC. Throughout his active citizenship, Cian has been involved in a diverse range of advocacy areas. Cian has consistently stood up for the causes he believes in. From leading award-winning climate action projects and fostering a culture of informed consent to being a voice for students, he has had an impact on a number of areas. He has also pushed for equitable agricultural policies and has successfully brought his proposals into national debates and discussions. Beginning his active citizenship journey at the RTÉ Youth Assembly on Climate in 2019, Cian sought to lobby for sustainable agricultural practices and has developed this campaign over subsequent years to today, on a national, European, and international level. By astutely leveraging local, national, and international media, Cian has broadcasted his voice and goals to a larger audience. His involvement in organisations including the Irish Second-Level Students' Union, ECO-UNESCO, the European Youth Parliament, 'We Consent Ireland', and others have demonstrated a willingness to fight for the betterment of our world. He has also encouraged others to have their voices heard through the development of Model UN programmes. His efforts, spanning from local grassroots movements to international platforms, highlight his commitment, expertise, and vision for a sustainable and interconnected global community. Cian is now a member of UCC Green Campus and serves as an academic class representative. He hopes to effect more change in social, economic, and environmental sustainability, consent, and student rights.

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/quercus/>

Good for the Seoul: Theresa Reidy meets Ban Ki Moon

Dr. Theresa Reidy delivered a paper on the integration of deliberative and direct democratic processes and their potential use in national unification processes at a workshop of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Seoul, South Korea (2-5 November). Theresa is a member of the executive committee of IPSA and the world congress of political science will take place in Seoul in 2025. As part of the workshop and site visit, the IPSA team met with the Mayor of Seoul, **Oh Se-hoon**, the president of Seoul National University, **Ryu Hong-lim**, and former UN Secretary General, **Ban Ki Moon**.



Top Left:

Dr. Theresa Reidy with the former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon.

Top Right:

Dr. Theresa Reidy with EY Kim and Ryu Hong-lim.

Bottom Left:

Dr. Theresa Reidy with Francesca Longo (Italy, IPSA) and Ban Ki Moon.

BSc Graduate, Fiona O'Donovan, interviews Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien TD



BSc Government and Political Science graduate, Fiona O'Donovan, is a Public Affairs & Communications Executive with Cork Chamber. On Friday 17 November, she interviewed Housing Minister, Darragh O'Brien TD, as part of a Cork Chamber event in the Hayfield Manor Hotel. The Minister stressed that in the first nine of months of 2023, people were being exited from homelessness into safe and secure public accommodation at a greater rate than ever seen before. He added: 'It still remains a challenge but the main way we tackle this is to increase housing supply, particularly around social housing supply,' he said, pointing out that last year more social housing had been built since 1975. "And I advised Cork Chamber of Commerce that we would build more again this year – we will have a record breaking year in relation to social housing delivery and, indeed, affordable housing delivery.'



Joe Lynch

MBS Government 2012

On the day I handed in my research dissertation at UCC in 2012, I was lucky enough to be offered a full-time job in politics – working at Sinn Féin headquarters in Dublin. I’ve been fortunate to work in politics ever since, as a senior political adviser/parliamentary assistant in the Dáil to former President of Sinn Féin Gerry Adams and subsequently Mary Lou McDonald when she became party leader in 2017. Since 2019, I’ve served as head of the Sinn Féin Press Office and recently, I have decided to stand for election myself and I will be a candidate in the Cork City South West ward in next year’s local elections.

Party politics may not necessarily be the avenue all students of politics and political science aspire to, but it is a rewarding career option. Given the hectic nature of political life, parliamentary assistants and political advisers in the Oireachtas and in the European Parliament fulfil a vital task on behalf of frontline politicians, undertaking important background work on policy and legislation.

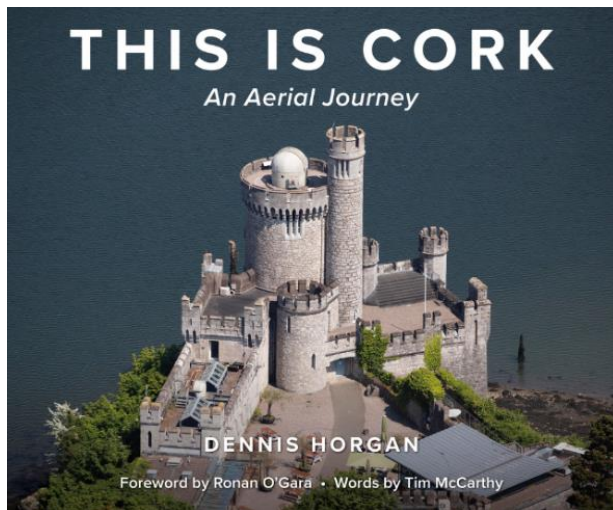
Over the years, I’ve been asked for some advice on how to pursue such a career option. Some guidance I can offer to students so inclined is: -

- i. **Being a member of a political party helps.** In my time - and I presume campus life hasn’t changed dramatically since - all the main political parties were represented in UCC, so it’s as good a place to start as any. There are, of course, plenty of independent politicians within the Irish political system, so this is not absolutely essential.
- ii. **Reach out and make contact** - because politicians and political parties tend to recruit from within their own ranks or support networks, advertising of vacancies can be limited – so it is important to reach out to politicians and political parties (particularly after election cycles) to ask what roles are available.

- iii. **Choose your work experience wisely.** Students of government will have an in-depth knowledge of politics and public administration, but garnering experience of somewhere where the practical implementation of policy, or where the ordinary citizen interacts with the political system, will give one much sought after skills.

The Department of Government and Politics at UCC is a well-regarded one with some fantastic undergraduate and postgraduate degrees on offer. No matter your course, you will be well positioned to peruse a career in the political system, if you so choose. Feel free to reach out if I can be of any assistance, or if you have any queries: josephlynch@outlook.com.

Congratulations to Tim McCarthy



Tim McCarthy (centre of picture above) graduated with a BSc Government and Public Policy in 2007 and a PhD in Government in 2011. His latest venture is the beautiful book, *This is Cork*, for which he supplied the words, complementing the stunning aerial photos of Dennis Horgan. Well done, Tim.

KEVIN'S INSPIRATIONAL STORY

Kevin Hiney graduated with a BSc Government in 2011. Since 2019 he has had a difficult time with his health but recently, bravely, he shared his story on the website of the Irish Cancer Society (link below). In sharing his story, Kevin is keen to highlight the need for everybody, but especially men, to take their health seriously. Please consider making a donation to the Irish Cancer Society.

<https://www.cancer.ie/about-us/news/kevins-story-you-cant-try-convince-yourself-its-nothing-but-the-reality-is-the-sooner-you-deal-with>



DIANDRA ALL SET FOR COP28

Diandra Ní Bhuachalla is the European Economic and Social Committee's Youth Delegate to COP28 and COP29, and a Future Generations Global Ambassador. She holds a **BSc Government (Hons)**, an **LLB**, and an **MSc International Public Policy & Diplomacy** from University College Cork. During her time in UCC, she was the first double awardee of their EmployAgility Awards, winning the Global Citizen Award in 2022, and the Employability Award in 2020. Diandra was also named a 2018 Whalen Scholar, which saw her complete a legislative internship in the New York State Assembly under Assembly-member Glick.

With 12 years of youth advocacy experience at local and national levels, Diandra served as a United Nations Youth Delegate for Ireland from 2021-2022. She attended the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the High-Level Political Forum in New York, along with the 50th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. As part of Ireland's official delegation to the UN, she represented the voices of 1.3 million young people on issues of national and foreign policy, her focus areas being gender equality, climate justice, and peace and security.

Outside of university, Diandra is an active global citizen. She currently engages with the European Sustainable Development Youth Network and is a Common Futures Conversations Fellow with Chatham House. She has previously held the roles of Director of Human Resources & Talent with the Irish Student Consulting Group, Editorial Board Member of the Cork Online Law Review, Legal Researcher with the Irish Legal Information Initiative, and Forum Fellow with the Washington Ireland Programme. Diandra also completed the 2022 joint OSCE/UNODA Scholarship for Peace & Security, the 2022 Hear My Voice Empowerment & Community Action Programme, and the 2021 SpunOut.ie Sustainable Fashion Academy. Diandra currently works with the National Youth Council of Ireland as Coordinator of the UN Youth Delegate and Climate Youth Delegate programmes respectively.



GUEST LECTURES



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

Elie Raimond, Associate Director, Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Corporate, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), London, give a guest lecture to undergraduate students on the the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and developing a career in international organisations. The students were given a personal account of the creation of a new development international organisation, the AIIB, well as its relationship with other international banks such as the EBRD. Students also discovered the how the EBRD reacted to Brexit.

Dr. Eoin Drea delivered an insightful lecture to the BSc Government and Political Science first year class, as part of the GV1207 module. Eoin is a Senior Researcher in the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies specialising in macroeconomic and social policy. He is an expert in the political economy of the European Union focusing on the future of the Eurozone, EU-UK and EU-US relations (the Anglosphere), property economics, crypto assets and the socio-economic challenges facing middle class families. He addressed some of these issues during his lecture, especially the implications of Ukraine gaining membership to the European Union.



Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies

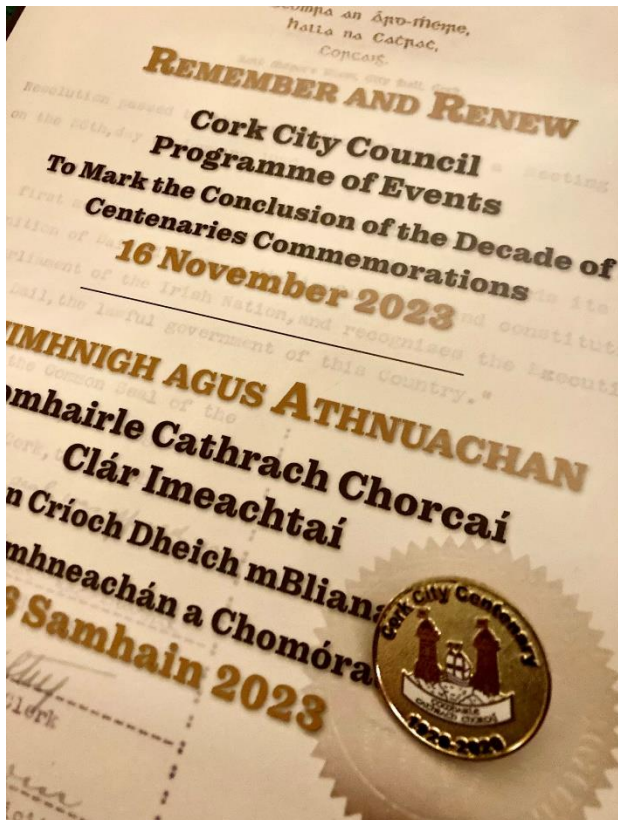
Neutrality Discussed at Ógra Fianna Fáil Conference



Above from left: Councillor John Sheehan, Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan, Billy Kelleher MEP and Shane Ryan, Ógra Fianna Fáil.

On Saturday 25 November, Dr. Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan participated in the 2023 Ógra Fianna Fáil Annual Conference. She spoke at a panel which included Ellinor Juth (Communications Officer with the European Liberal Youth) and Billy Kelleher (Member of the European Parliament). They discussed the Irish neutrality policy and whether Ireland can afford to increase its defence budget. Party leader and Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD, was the keynote speaker at the conference banquet.

DECADE OF CENTENARIES



On Thursday 16 November, Cork City Council hosted a seminar entitled ‘Remember and Renew’ to mark the conclusion of its successful Decade of Centenaries Commemoration Programme. Amongst the invited speakers were Dr. Maurice Manning, Dr. Martin Mansergh, Dr. John Borgonovo, Dr. Heather Laird, Dr. Gabriel Doherty, Anne Twomey and Dr. Aodh Quinlivan. Aodh told the gathering: -

‘Our local authorities have played a blinder during the Decade of Centenaries and I have been fortunate to benefit more than most with the publications of *Dissolved*, *Forgotten Lord Mayor*, *Vindicating Dublin* and *First Citizen* between 2017 and 2023. Today, we mark the ending of the current programme of commemoration but there are many notable events on the horizon. For example, in 2024, we have the 125th anniversary of local elections in Ireland and the centenaries of the dissolutions of Cork and Dublin Corporations.’

Issue 81 of *Government Times* will be published in mid-February 2024. If you would like to contribute to it, please e-mail Dr. Aodh Quinlivan at a.quinlivan@ucc.ie.

Until then, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe Christmas.