

# GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter for Department of Government students and staff  
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## EMERITUS PROFESSORSHIP FOR NEIL COLLINS



Congratulations to Neil Collins whose Emeritus Professorship has been agreed by UCC's Governing Body. Our recently retired Head of Department is presently based in Kazakhstan where he is heading up the Graduate School of Public Policy at Nazarbayev University in Astana. The current Head of the Department of Government, Dr Andrew Cottey, commented, 'This is great news and we look forward to working with Neil into the future.'

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THIS IS A SPECIAL ISSUE OF **GOVERNMENT TIMES** TO MARK THE END OF THE 2013/2014  
ACADEMIC YEAR.

IT IS CO-EDITED BY **CLAIRE KELLY**, A TRANSITION YEAR STUDENT FROM SACRED HEART  
SECONDARY SCHOOL CLONAKILTY, WHO HAS SPENT THE PAST WEEK IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF GOVERNMENT ON WORK PLACEMENT.

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# Editorial Page



## GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS

In this last issue of *Government Times* for the 2013/2014 academic year it is appropriate to wish all of our students good luck for their summer exams. We hope that you will all pass with flying colours and enjoy a long, sunny summer!

This issue of *Government Times* is jam-packed with stories about the activities of the Department of Government during the past month. This includes the launch of a book by Dr Julie Yu-Wen Chen and the publication of a book by Dr Mary Murphy. In addition, the department hosted a major political science conference in April which was a great success.

Student activities also feature prominently and we are delighted to highlight the launch of the latest issue of *Government and Politics Review*. Well done to Shannon Sweeney and all of the individual authors. Our students featured prominently in the recent Students' Union elections while three current BSc Government students, one current MBS Government student and one MBS Government graduate will be contesting the upcoming local elections. Good luck to one and all.

For the first time, *Government Times* is co-edited by Claire Kelly who has spent the past week in the department on work placement; you can read her column on page 11. Claire has made a great contribution to this issue so read on and enjoy!

### Aodh Quinlivan

Director BSc Government  
Co-editor of *Government Times*



### Claire Kelly

Transition Year student from Clonakilty  
Special guest editor of *Government Times*





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# **Congratulations to the MComm Government and Public Policy Graduates of 2014**

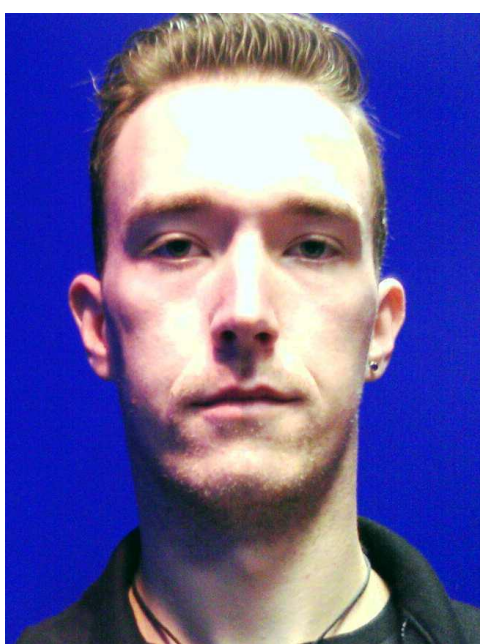


**From left to right: Mairead Foley, Katherine Thackeray, Mary O'Regan and Tim Ryan.**

For any queries on the department's successful MComm degree, contact the programme's director, Dr Mary C. Murphy – [maryc.murphy@ucc.ie](mailto:maryc.murphy@ucc.ie).

You can also get details of the programme at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/government/postgraduatestudy/mcomm/>.

# BSc Government students contest UCC Students' Union Elections

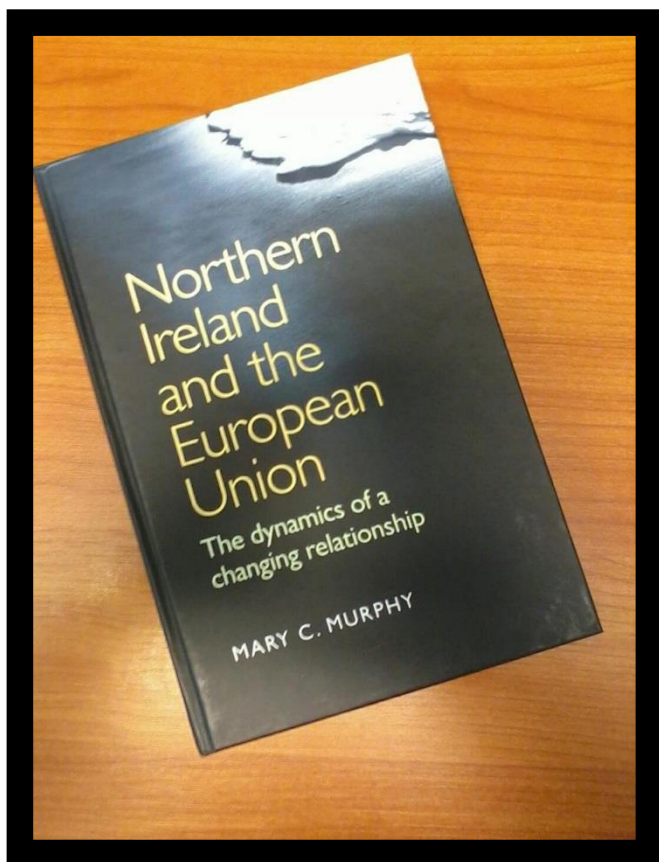
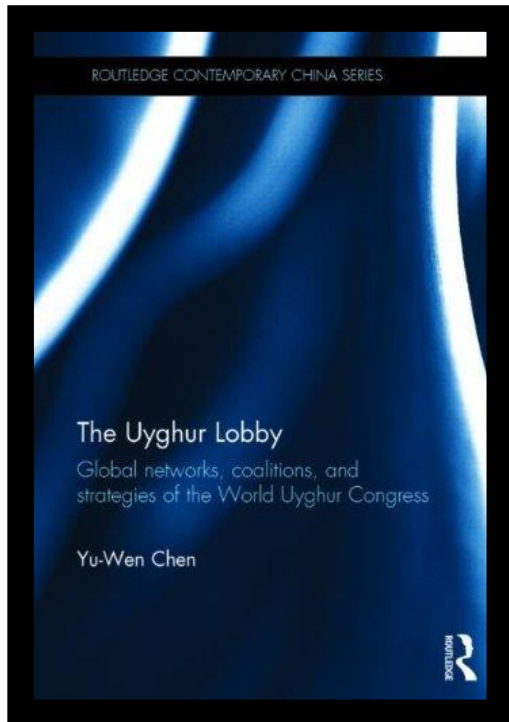


- ◆ Diarmuid 'Pooch' Collins (Bsc Government IV) put himself forward for the role of President of the UCC Students' Union. Diarmuid ran an energetic campaign and polled very well but unfortunately he was not elected.
- ◆ Robert Cassidy (BSc Government I) had more success and was elected as UCC's LGBT Rights Officer for 2014/2015. Congratulations to Rob.
- ◆ Meanwhile, Brian Conmy (BSc Government III – currently on work placement in the New York State Assembly) will be the Deputy News Editor of UCC Express for 2014/2015. Well done to him also.

As we will see later in this issue, BSc Government students are also not shy about putting themselves forward for local elections.



# One Book Launched – Another Book Published



The Department of Government's research output continues to grow impressively. On 14 March, **Dr Julie Julie Yu-Wen Chen's** book about the Uyghur Lobby was launched in the O'Rahilly Building by **Dr Andrew Cottey** (Head of Department of Government) and **Dr Leung Wing-Fai** (Department of Chinese Studies). The launch was very well attended by Department of Government students and staff.

Hot off the presses is ***Northern Ireland and the European Union: The Dynamics of a Changing Relationship*** (Manchester University Press) by **Dr Mary C. Murphy**. We will have book launch details for you at a later stage.

Congratulations to Julie and Mary.

# Latest issue of *Government and Politics Review* is launched



Thursday 3 April saw the launch of the latest issue of ***Government and Politics Review***. The journal is published online and includes articles from students across a variety of Government modules. The journal was launched by **Dr Marian McCarthy**, Director of Ionad Bairre at UCC, followed by a reception for authors, friends and family. Great praise is due to the journal's editor, **Shannon Sweeney** (BSc Government II) and also to **Dr Theresa Reidy** and **Fiona Buckley** who oversaw the publication.

The articles in the journal are: -

**Caroline Hofman (BSc Government III)** - 'What role did new media play in the Arab Uprisings and to what extent is new media a useful tool in conflict situations?'

**Mark Curley (BSc Government IV)** – 'Does Obama have an identifiable foreign policy grand strategy?'

**Papa Modou Diouf (Erasmus student from Paris)** – 'Is the collective security system a limitation to state sovereignty?'

**John Kenny and Peter Kiernan-McCarthy (BSc Government graduates)** – 'Does historical experience suggest that a hegemonic leader is necessary for a stable monetary and financial system to exist?'

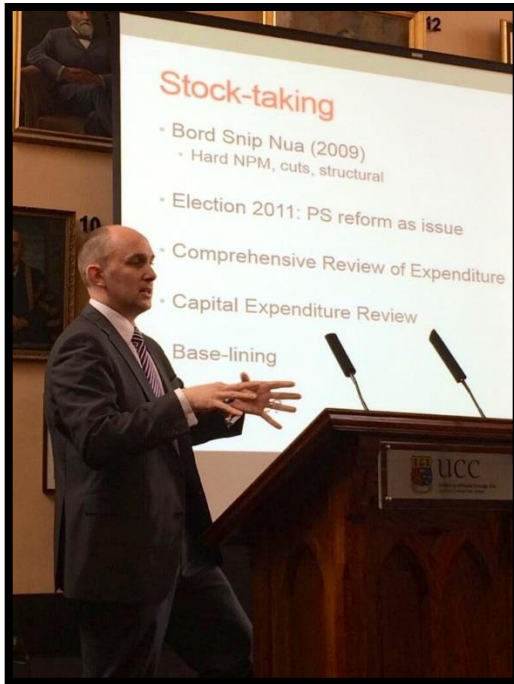
**Shane Morris (BSc Government IV)** – 'How did the Founding Fathers of the United States envisage the dangers of despotism being countered by the institutions of government they designed?'

**Padraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Government IV)** – 'What is the role of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in managing the global trading regime? To what extent has the WTO been successful in achieving trade liberalisation since its inception?'

**Jack Corbett and Shannon Sweeney (BSc Government II)** – 'Legislatures in Decline? The Parliament Decline Thesis as observed in Scandinavia.'

The launch was kindly supported by UCC President's Awards 2013-14

# Major Conference of Irish Political Scientists at UCC



**Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh and Dr Eoin O'Malley addressing the conference in the Aula Maxima**

A major conference organised by Dr Theresa Reidy and Fiona Buckley took place on Friday 4 April in the Aula Maxima under the title – **Sovereignty Regained: Has the Bailout Changed the Irish State?**

Most of the Irish political science academic community was present, with papers presented by:

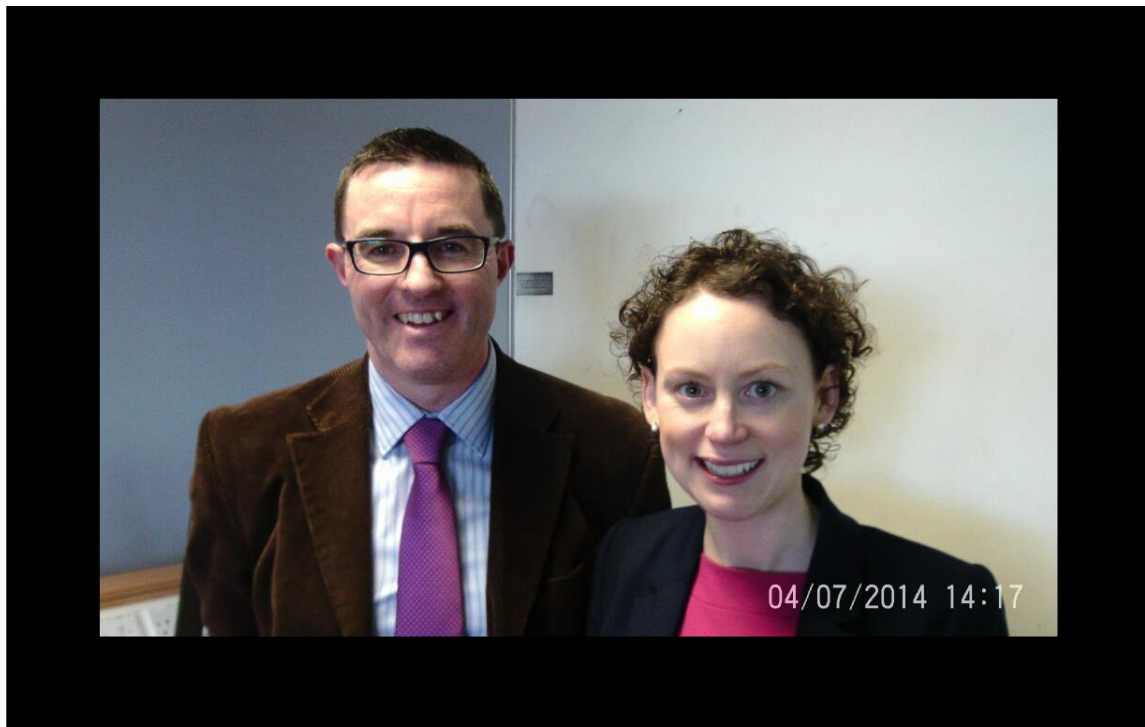
- ✚ Professor Kevin Rafter (DCU)
- ✚ Dr Theresa Reidy (UCC)
- ✚ Dr Jane Suiter (DCU)
- ✚ Professor Michael Gallagher (TCD)
- ✚ Fiona Buckley (UCC)
- ✚ Dr Adrian Kavanagh (NUIM)
- ✚ Dr Eoin O'Malley (DCU)
- ✚ Dr Bernadette Connaughton (UL)
- ✚ Dr Muiris MacCarthaigh (QUB)
- ✚ Professor Gary Murphy (DCU)
- ✚ Professor David Farrell (UCD)
- ✚ Dr Aodh Quinlivan (UCC)

There was a significant media presence at the event and the following journalists chaired panels:

- ✚ Mary Smithwick (Cork Evening Echo)
- ✚ Mary Regan (Irish Examiner)
- ✚ Fionnán Sheahan (Irish Independent)
- ✚ Alison O'Connor (Irish Examiner)



# HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MBA PUBLIC SECTOR MODULE



Dr Aodh Quinlivan with SIPTU's Marie Sherlock; Ombudsman Peter Tyndall below



The successful MBA 'Public Sector' module run by **Dr Aodh Quinlivan** ended with four excellent guest presentations:

7 March: **MARIE SHERLOCK (SIPTU)** *Innovation in the Irish Public sector-achievements to date and future challenges: Trade Union Perspective*

14 March: **PADRAIG LOVE (PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS SERVICE)** *Public Sector Reform Programme – HR Focus*

21 March: **HILARY MURPHY FAGAN (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND REFORM)** *Current Reform Initiatives*

28 March: **PETER TYNDALL (OMBUDSMAN AND INFORMATION COMMISSIONER)** *Roles: Focus on FOI Cases*

## BSc Government I students campaign on important issue



Well done to our BSc Government I students (from left to right), Sarah Molloy, Sonja Warner and Lorna Murphy for their campaigning efforts to end zero hours contracts and the exploitation of workers. To read more on this issue, take a look at the *Irish Examiner* story below.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breaking-news/business/uk-report-finds-zero-hour-contracts-earn-below-living-wage-629177.html>

## Department of Government students contesting local elections

**Introducing**  
**STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM**  
Your Sinn Féin Local Election Candidate  
A fresh voice for our Community

**Sinn Féin**

I am of the belief that we are in need of public representatives who are willing to stand up for our community and fight on our behalf against the waves of cuts and constraints imposed on us by this government. If elected as a Sinn Féin councillor, I will be that voice. I will ensure that the hard-working families in our community have a strong voice in Cork City Council. I will do so with a passion and drive that will ensure that every voice is heard.

[@SCunningham\\_SF](https://twitter.com/SCunningham_SF)  
[www.facebook.com/StephenCunninghamSF](https://www.facebook.com/StephenCunninghamSF)

To make contact with Stephen's campaign  
Tel: 087 6643775 Email: [stephencunningham@outlook.ie](mailto:stephencunningham@outlook.ie)  
[www.corksinnfein.wordpress.com](http://www.corksinnfein.wordpress.com)

**Sinn Féin stands for Irish Unity and the establishment of a new republic**

**GARRET KELLEHER**  
Fine Gael Candidate  
Local Elections 2014

Vote No.1

**FINE GAEL**

7 Oldcourt Drive, Greenfields, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.  
Email: [garretkelleher@gmail.com](mailto:garretkelleher@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 087 963 5812  
[garret2014](https://www.facebook.com/garret2014) [@garretkelleher](https://twitter.com/garretkelleher)

The Department of Government is proud to have five current/former students contesting the local elections on 23 May. We have Stephen Cunningham (1<sup>st</sup> Year BSc) and Shane O'Shea (4<sup>th</sup> Year BSc) fighting for places on Cork City Council. In addition, Lisa-Marie Sheehy (2<sup>nd</sup> Year BSc) is trying for a seat on Limerick County Council. A BSc Government graduate, Padraic Vallely, was also scheduled to run for local election in the Ballincollig-Carrigaline local electoral area but he withdrew following a well-publicised selection issue.

Interestingly we have other local candidates as well. Garret Kelleher is a 2013 graduate from our MBS Government programme (which is run by Dr Clodagh Harris) and he is seeking a place on Cork County Council. A current student on the same programme is Dan Boyle and he is contesting in Cork city.

# FROM CLAIRE TO HERE

(A special report from the Department of Government's Work Placement student)

My name is Claire Kelly, and I am currently a fourth year student from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty. It has been an honour and a privilege to have spent the week here in the Department of Government at UCC as part of my transition year work experience programme. While exploring the prospects for UCC, the BSc Government degree initially attracted my attention due to the diversity of subjects available to first year students. I had the unique opportunity in mid-March to attend some lectures to gain insight into life as a BSc Government student; these included European framework, US politics and Introduction to political science. It was clearly evident that the lecturers had a passion and drive for their subject, hence inspiring my curiosity further.

For a young person in the Irish education system, it can be difficult to decide which career path to pursue, however I found this degree incorporates a variety of many current and interesting topics, leaving a lot of open avenues for employment in both the private sector and public sector. Young people are often described as ignorant or 'lacking apathy' towards politics but the BSc government degree presents itself as an innovative, student friendly course, thus inviting a new generation of future ambassadors for government at a local and nation level. Upon further research and findings about the course, I feel that studying the BSc government degree in UCC allows for an individual to become an active citizen in political participation. A greater awareness of political science is valuable to any student, of any age, if we do not understand the importance of government, we cannot fully comprehend the actions taken by those in power and how it can affect our lives.

Another significant reason why I am interested in this degree is the practical and useful skills associated with it. Understanding how the world works is vital to becoming a responsible adult, the BSc government degree allows for the students to make informed decisions, by promoting analytical and comparative skills. Political science is essentially the study of human behaviour, so political scientists have duty to observe historically political elites institutions, and individual or group behaviour in order to identify patterns, draw generalisations, and build theories of politics. As a 17 year old second level student, this degree appeals to me due largely to the practical aspect entailed.

This degree continued to stand differentiate itself from the competition by offering a 14 week placement to 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. I feel this is an excellent component in the BSc government degree simply because students have a chance to apply theory to everyday life in an organisation. I believe this opportunity to part-take in placements gives BSc government students an advantage over competitors when seeking employment later in life. In today's competitive job market, experience is everything, and this degree recognises that.

Recently there has been a lot of discussion in the media concerning young people and their attitudes to politics; this comes mainly from the plan by the coalition to hold a referendum on reducing the voting age to 16. Whatever your own personal opinion on the matter there is no denying that young people should have a valued opinion in the political world. BSc government students are encouraged to engage and be aware of the world around them.

Lastly I would like to extend my gratitude to the department of government, for an enjoyable and worthwhile week. A special thank you to Dr Aodh Quinlivan and Dr Emmanuelle Schon-Quinlivan, who have been so accommodating with my work placement and for making this a challenging yet rewarding experience.

## Aodh Quinlivan and Minister Hogan disagree on direction of local government reforms at IMPACT conference



**Aodh Quinlivan and Minister Phil Hogan making their speeches at the Local Government 2025 conference in Dublin, organised by the IMPACT Trade Union**

On Monday 28 April in Dublin, Dr Aodh Quinlivan and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD, debated on the issue of local government reform at a conference organised by the IMPACT Trade Union. The overall aim of the conference was to assess how the local government system might look in 2025. The Minister promoted his reform efforts through his **Putting People First** strategy document (2012) and the Local Government Act 2014. Aodh took a contrary position, arguing that the local government system is being weakened through centralisation rather than being reformed.

Other speakers at the very well attended conference included the Dublin City Manager, Owen Keegan, and the Manager of Fingal County Council, Paul Reid. Dr Mark Callanan, a doctoral graduate of the Department of Government, also addressed the crowd.

Earlier this month, on 12 April, Aodh was the invited guest speaker at a special event organised in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, to mark the closing of the local town council. During his after-dinner speech, Aodh criticised the decision to abolish town councils and drew a parallel with the campaign to abolish Seanad Éireann. He remarked, 'How is it the case that local government lacks protection in Bunreacht na hÉireann? The Seanad, a marginally relevant institution, could not be abolished without reference to the people. Yet, a whole tier of local democracy and 83 directly elected councils, can be removed through legislation without reference to the people.'

On 3 April, Aodh spoke at the annual conference of Town Clerks of Ireland in Castlemartyr, county Cork. This was a sombre occasion in that it was the last ever conference of this group (the position of Town Clerk is ending with the abolition of town councils). In a wide-ranging talk, Aodh commented on the complexity of the local government arena and stressed, 'In local government, civic society is up close and personal. Local councils and councillors have to deal with a range of issues and factors that are not of their making and for which they may have no formal responsibility. These issues include migration, multi-culturalism, homelessness, social exclusion and other social problems such as drug addiction, prostitution, and petty crime.'

Aodh concluded his speech by quoting Alexis de Tocqueville – 'The most dangerous moment for a bad government is when it begins to reform.'