

1912-1923

Reflecting on a decade
of War and Revolution in Ireland

THE CAUSE OF LABOUR



Keynote speakers

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress

Professor Ralph Darlington, University of Salford

Padraig Yeates, author of *'Lockout: Dublin 1913'*

Liberty Hall, Dublin 9.30-5.30 **Saturday 15 June 2013**

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PROGRAMME

Saturday 15th June
Liberty Hall, Dublin

9.30 am Registration

10.10 am Official Opening and introduction by
Dr Michael Murphy, President, University
College Cork and Chair, Universities Ireland

10.25 am Keynote address: **President of Ireland,**
Michael D. Higgins: *The Lockout of*
1913 and the Response

11.05 am Refreshments

Chair: Mr Paddy Smyth, Chief Leader Writer,
The Irish Times

11.35 am **Mr Padraig Yeates:** *1913 – Did the wrong*
side win?

Chair: Ms Therese Moriarty, Irish Labour History Society

12.05 pm **Professor Ralph Darlington**, Professor of
Employment Relations, University of Salford: *The*
Dublin Lock-Out in Context: International Labour
Unrest and the Syndicalist Challenge

12.45 pm Lunch

Chair: Mr David Begg, General Secretary, Irish Congress
of Trades Unions

2.00 pm **Ms Frances O'Grady**, General Secretary, Trades
Union Congress: *Solidarity in the age of austerity*
– lessons from 1913 in building unions for the
21st century

Chair: Mr Jack O'Connor, General President, SIPTU

2.30 pm **First Panel Session: Social conditions,**
gender and class
Dr Jacinta Prunty, NUI Maynooth: *The Dublin*
tenement as a window on the situation of the
Dublin poor in 1913
Dr Fearghal McGarry, Queen's University
Belfast: *Helena Molony: a revolutionary life*
Professor Karen Hunt, Keele University: *The*
many stories of Dora Montefiore and the
Dublin Lockout

Mr Paul Maher: *Perceptions of the police*
during the decade of revolution

Chair: Mr Shay Cody, Secretary General, IMPACT

3.30 pm **Second Panel Session: Birth of the Irish**
trade union movement
Dr Emmet O'Connor, University of Ulster:
Larkinism and the Lockout
Mr John Gray: *Belfast – Brave beginnings and a*
carnival of reaction
Dr John Cunningham, NUI Galway:
Larkin and the Lockout: Western connections
and perspectives
Dr Andy Bielenberg, University College
Cork: *William Martin Murphy and the Lockout*

Chair: Ms Catriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects,
National Archives of Ireland

4.30 pm Plenary discussion with afternoon speakers,
followed by closing remarks from **Professor**
Diarmaid Ferriter, University College Dublin.

5.30 pm End of conference

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



President Michael D. Higgins was inaugurated as the ninth President of Ireland on 11th November 2011. Born in Limerick in 1941 and raised by an aunt and uncle in County Clare, he was the first in his family to access higher education, and studied at the University College Galway, the University of Manchester, and the University of Indiana. He later worked as a sociology lecturer in National University of Ireland, Galway, and as a visiting professor in the United States. He was elected to the Dail as Labour TD for Galway West in 1981, but lost his seat in November 1982, following which he was elected to the Seanad on the National University of Ireland panel. He served twice as Mayor of Galway in 1982-83 and 1991-92. He was re-elected to the Dail in 1987 and was a TD until 2011. He was Minister for the Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht in the 1993-97 coalition governments, during which time he established Teilifís na Gaeilge, now TG4, and repealed Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. In 1992 he was the first recipient of the Seán MacBride Peace Prize from the International Peace Bureau in Helsinki, in recognition of his work for peace and justice in many parts

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of the world. President Higgins is also a writer and poet. He has published two collections of essays: *Causes for Concern - Irish Politics, Culture and Society* and *Renewing the Republic*; and four collections of poetry: *The Betrayal*; *The Season of Fire*; *An Arid Season* and *New and Selected Poems*.



Dr Michael Murphy, became the 14th President of University College Cork in 2007. A 1976 graduate of UCC's Medical School, he undertook postgraduate training at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (now Imperial College) London. Following 8 years at the University of Chicago, he returned to UCC as a Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and headed the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in 1992. He was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health in 2000. A clinical pharmacologist by training, he has published 120 original articles on prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, and has been principal investigator on several large international and clinical trials. His board memberships have included the Health Service Executive and the Health Research Board, which he chaired from 1997-2002. He is the current chair of Universities Ireland.



Mr Paddy Smyth is the Irish Times Foreign Policy Editor and Chief Leader Writer, and is responsible for the paper's 'Century' project to commemorate the 1912-1922 decade in Ireland. He is currently working on the fourth supplement of the series, on the Dublin

Lockout (for publication in September). He was previously the paper's correspondent in Brussels and Washington, and has also served as Opinion Editor and Foreign Editor.



Mr Padraig Yeates is an author and journalist. His recent historical publications include *Lockout: Dublin 1913*; *A City in Wartime: Dublin 1914-1918*, and *A City in Turmoil: Dublin 1919-1921*. He was co-author (with Tim Hastings and Brian Sheehan) of *Saving the*

Future on social partnership in Ireland (2008). He is a former editor of the *Irish People*, and industry and employment correspondent with the *Irish Times*. He is a leading member of the 1913 committee, set up to commemorate the ideals of the founders of the Irish labour movement and to work for the highest standards of democracy and social justice in modern Ireland.



Ms Thérèse Moriarty is a well-known labour historian who has written extensively on women in Irish labour history. She has been a longstanding member of the committee of the Irish Labour History Society and has contributed on many occasions to its journal *Saothar: Journal of Irish Labour History*.



Professor Ralph Darlington is Professor of Employment Relations at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester. His research is concerned with the dynamics of trade union organisation, activity and consciousness in Britain and internationally in both

contemporary and historical settings.

He is author of *The Dynamics of Workplace Unionism* (1994); *The Political Trajectory of J.T. Murphy* (1998); *Syndicalism and the Transition to Communism: An International Comparative Analysis* (2008); and *Radical Unionism* (2013); co-author of *Glorious Summer: Class Struggle in Britain, 1972*, (2001); and editor of *What's the Point of Industrial Relations? In Defence of Critical Social Science* (2009). Professor Darlington is also an editorial member of the journal *Work, Employment and Society*, and for the last 19 years has been secretary of the Manchester Industrial Relations Society, the only body of its kind in Britain, bringing together industrial relations academics, human resource managers, trade union officers, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and other practitioners in a joint forum for discussion and debate.



Mr David Begg is the General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). Prior to taking up his current position in 2001 he was CEO of Concern Worldwide, the Irish based humanitarian aid and development agency with operations in 27 developing countries and with offices in Britain and the United States. He is also a Director of Aer Lingus, and a member of the National Economic and Social Council (NES) and of the Advisory Board of Development Cooperation Ireland.



Ms Frances O'Grady, is General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in the United Kingdom. She joined the TUC as Campaigns Officer in 1994, and launched its Organising Academy

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in 1997. She headed the TUC's organisation department in 1999, reorganising local skills projects into unionlearn which now helps a quarter of a million workers into learning every year.

As Deputy General Secretary from 2003, Ms O'Grady led the organisation on industrial policy, the National Health Service and the Olympics. She has served as a member of both the Low Pay Commission and the High Pay Centre, and the Resolution Foundation's Commission on Living Standards. She was born in Oxford, has two adult children, and lives in North London.



Mr Jack O'Connor has been General President of SIPTU since 2003. He was also President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) from 2009 to 2011 and Vice President from mid-2007. He has been a member of the Executive Council of Congress since 2001. His

declared priorities are combating worker exploitation, promoting people's right to participate in collective bargaining, and asserting the economic, as well as the moral, superiority of the social democratic approach summed up by the SIPTU slogan 'Organise for fairness at work and justice in society.' He participated on the ICTU team in social partnership negotiations from 2002 to 2009 and supported the 2010 Croke Park Agreement on public service pay and reform, arguing that it provided protection for the lowest paid and most vulnerable public service workers. A native of North Dublin, Mr O'Connor was employed in the agriculture, construction and local authority sectors before becoming a full-time branch secretary of the former Federated Workers' Union of Ireland in 1980.



Dr Jacinta Prunty, is a Senior Lecturer in History at the National University of Ireland Maynooth whose research interests and publications span urban history, slum geography, the relief of the poor and the work of church charities, as well as the history of map-making in Ireland.



Dr Fearghal McGarry is a Senior Lecturer in History at the School of History and Anthropology at Queen's University Belfast. He has published widely on the history of republicanism and political violence in Ireland. His recent research has focused on

grassroots experiences of the Irish revolution. He is author

of *The Rising. Ireland: Easter 1916* (2010). His edited collection of Bureau of Military History witness statements, *Rebels: Voices from the Easter Rising* (2011), is being adapted for the stage by the Abbey Theatre. He is currently researching the relationship between the Abbey Theatre and the Easter Rising for a documentary and publication to mark the centenary of 1916.



Professor Karen Hunt is Professor of Modern British History at Keele University in England. She is a former editor of *Labour History Review* and has been active in the promotion of women's and gender history for many years, including as an executive member of the Women's

History Network (UK) and the International Federation for Research in Women's History. She has published widely on many aspects of women's politics and the gendering of politics from the 1880s to the 1930s, including *Equivocal Feminists: the Social Democratic Federation and the Woman Question 1884-1911* (1996) and *Socialist Women: Britain, 1880s to 1920s* (2002, with June Hannam). Professor Hunt has been exploring the life and politics of Dora Montefiore (1851-1933) – her woman-focused socialism, her suffragism, her communism, her internationalism, her journalism and her various travels – with the aim of weaving the many strands of Montefiore's energetic life into a single book-length study.

Mr Paul Maher is a former Curator of the Garda Museum and Secretary of the Garda Historical Society. He is editor of the *Garda Gazette* and the Garda Historical Society bi-annual publication. He is currently digitising archived police publications, including the Dublin Watch Diaries of St. John's Parish in Dublin, which date from 1724 - 1785 and which are available on-line. He was instrumental in establishing the graduate intern programme which involves the Garda Museum and Archives and the Department of Modern History at Trinity College Dublin. He is presently researching the police in Dublin in 1912 - 1923.



Mr John Gray was Librarian of the Linen Hall Library in Belfast from 1982 to 2008. He previously worked as Irish and Local Studies Librarian in the Central Library, Belfast. He also served as a Trustee of the National Library of Ireland, and as Chair of the Library and Information Services

Council (Northern Ireland). He has written and broadcast extensively on the social and cultural life of Ulster. He edited the *Linen Hall Review*, and his essay, 'Culture is for Change', appeared in *Re-imagining Belfast – A Manifesto for the Arts* (2003). He is the author of two children's books and his

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City in Revolt – James Larkin and the Belfast Dock Strike (1984/2007) has been widely acclaimed as a pioneering study of the labour movement and working class life in Edwardian Belfast.



Dr John Cunningham, is a Lecturer in History at NUI Galway. Currently joint-editor of *Saothar: Journal of Irish Labour History*, and acting convenor of the Irish Centre for the Histories of Labour and Class, he is author of a number of books. These include *Unlikely radicals: Irish*

post-primary teachers and the ASTI, 1909-2009 (2010); *'A town tormented by the sea': Galway 1790-1914* (2004); *St Jarlath's College, Tuam: 1800-2000* (1999); and *Labour in the west of Ireland: working life and struggle, 1890-1914* (1995).



Dr Emmet O'Connor, was born in Dublin. After two years as a shipping clerk in Waterford Glass, he took a BA in University College, Galway in 1977, an MA in Galway in 1979 and a PhD at St John's College, Cambridge in 1984. Since 1985 he has lectured in the School of

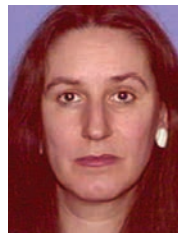
History and International Affairs in Derry's Magee College, a campus of University of Ulster. Between 1983 and 2001, he co-edited *Saothar*, and is an honorary president of the Irish Labour History Society. He has published widely on labour history, including *Syndicalism in Ireland, 1917-23* (1988); *A Labour History of Waterford* (1989), *James Larkin* (2002), *Reds and the Green: Ireland, Russia, and the Communist Internationals, 1919-43* (2004), and *A Labour History of Ireland, 1824-2000* (2011). At present he is working on an extended biography of Big Jim Larkin and *Derry Labour in the Age of Agitation, 1889-1923* (forthcoming, 2014).



Dr Andy Bielenberg was born in Dublin and grew up in Leinster. He has lived in Cork since 1992 and lectures in University College Cork's School of History, largely on economic and social history. He recently co-authored *An economic history of Ireland since independence*

(2013) and *Exodus: the emigration of Southern Irish Protestants during the War of Independence and Civil War, Past and Present* (2013). He is currently researching the War of Independence and Civil War in County Cork.

Ms Caitriona Crowe is Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland. She was Manager of the Irish Census Online Project, which placed the 1901 and 1911 censuses online free of charge. She is an editor of *Documents*



on Irish Foreign Policy and of Dublin 1911, published by the Royal Irish Academy. She is Vice-President of the Irish Labour History Society and a former President of the Women's History Association. She is Chairperson of the Irish Theatre Institute, which promotes Irish theatre. She is

Chairperson of the SAOL project, a rehabilitation initiative for women with addiction problems based in Dublin's North inner city, and also of the Inner City Renewal Group, which delivers employment and welfare rights support to the community in the North Inner City.



Professor Diarmaid Ferriter is

Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD. His books include *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000* (2004); *Judging Dev: A Reassessment of the life and legacy of Eamon de Valera* (2007) and *Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern*

Ireland (2009). His most recent book, *Ambiguous Republic: Ireland in the 1970s* was published in 2012. He is a regular broadcaster on television and radio and contributes to a number of Irish newspapers on historical matters.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

This conference is organised by **Universities Ireland**, the network of university presidents and vice-chancellors from Ireland and Northern Ireland founded in 2003. Universities Ireland runs North-South scholarship schemes (including one for PhD students working on the 1912-1923 period); links Irish universities with their counterparts in Britain and Africa; supports persecuted scholars from countries where freedom of expression and inquiry is under threat; and undertakes a number of other initiatives to bring Irish and Northern Irish universities closer together. It is managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh.

The Universities Ireland Historians Group was started in 2011. This conference is the second in a series of annual conferences that will continue until 2023 (the first one in 2012 was entitled 'Historians and Public History'), and is part of a multi-annual programme of activities led by the UI Historians Group to reflect on the 1912-1923 period in Irish history. The aim is that this will be a scholarly and sustained initiative, and thus a unique contribution to reflection on a decade of history-changing events by the island's intellectual leaders, the 10 universities (and, in particular, their Departments of History). The programme includes research scholarships for young historians; lobbying British

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and Irish museums and archives to enhance access to key historical materials from the period; collaborative history teaching initiatives, and joint conferences and seminars.

The Cause of Labour conference will focus not only on the Dublin Lockout in this centenary year but will examine the

wider role of the Irish labour movement throughout the island during the revolutionary decade. One of the central questions it will address is why a labour movement that was so vibrant at the beginning of the decade failed to realise the aspirations of its leaders and the Irish working class in general.

Universities Ireland extends its thanks to **The Irish Times** and the **1913 Committee** for co-sponsoring this conference. The fourth issue of the *Irish Times* 'Century' series of supplements on the 1912-1922 decade – on the Dublin Lockout – will be published in September.

CONTACTS

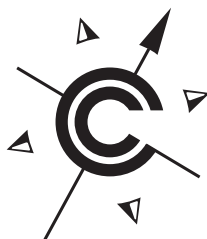
The Secretary of Universities Ireland is **Ruth Taillon**, and its Administrator is **Patricia McAllister**. They can be contacted at the **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB

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The Centre for
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