

UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies



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The United States & Northern Ireland: A Diplomatic Perspective

Continuing to develop the Institute's on-going project around the relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland, a conference examining the issue from a diplomatic perspective was held on the 17th of November. The conference sought to explore how the US-Northern Ireland relationship was interpreted by the public servants and diplomats of the US, Britain and Ireland. Represented at the conference were those who had direct access to key decision makers during the years of the peace process.

comparative experiences of British and Irish diplomats in the United States, as both Mr Jay and Dr Donlon had shared time in Washington DC during the 1970s. Providing the audience with illuminating insight into the careful process of diplomacy at a highly volatile period of international relations, the two exchanged stories of their time in Washington.

Lord Kerr, the former Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States between 1995 and 1997, spoke about the last years of the John Major

cheering for themselves." Lord Kerr was joined by Dr Kevin McNamara, the former Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Professor Andrew Wilson of Chicago's Loyola University. Professor Wilson spoke about the role of Unionists in the United States, with particular focus on the "Operation USA" tour, an initiative with the purpose of influencing the American media to better understand the Unionist perspective in Northern Ireland.

Former Irish Ambassador to the UK Dáithí O'Ceallaigh then joined former Permanent Secretary to the Northern Ireland Sir Jonathan Phillips alongside Mr Paul Quinn, a Washington-based public policy advisor, in a panel on the aftermath of the Good Friday Agreement. Sir Jonathan opened the panel with a quote from Senator George Mitchell's description of the Agreement at its inception: "An uncertain, fragile peace." He then spoke in particular on the Northern Irish dimension of the Agreement, focusing on the role of the Northern Ireland Office in the establishment of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Dáithí O'Ceallaigh introduced the Irish-in-Britain dimension, an important and often under-appreciated side of the story, although his talk drew from years of experience in Ireland, the United States and the United Kingdom. Paul Quinn spoke of his career in Irish affairs from an American perspective, detailing exactly how the relationships within the United States played an important part throughout the Northern Irish conflict and how these relationships can continue to influence the path of Northern Ireland into the new century.



L-R: Mr Paul Quinn, Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh, Sir Jonathan Power, Prof. Andrew Wilson, Mr Peter Jay, Prof. Ronan Fanning, Dr Kevin McNamara, Prof. Maurice Bric, Lord John Kerr, Dr Andrew Sanders and Mr Deaglán de Bréadún.

A panel featuring former Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States, Peter Jay, and former Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Dr Sean Donlon, opened the conference. It offered both audience and speakers an unprecedented opportunity to hear

government, and on President Bill Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland, a visit he supported. He explained, "I think it was phenomenally useful to the peace process. It demonstrated that normality was possible in Northern Ireland ... the people of Belfast were

Understanding Conservatives in the United States: Michael Graham visits the Institute



Pictured at the Institute are Dr Jack Thompson (Clinton Institute), Michael Graham, Susan Cleary (US Embassy), and Prof Liam Kennedy.

In association with the US Embassy in Dublin, the Clinton Institute hosted controversial radio presenter Michael Graham at the Institute last September. His talk gave insight into the rise of the Tea Party in the United States, as well as reflecting on the events of the 2012 Presidential election. He spoke about the motivations of Tea Party activists,

particularly the anger many felt about developments in American politics in recent history. He cited, for example, the problem of the federal deficit and recent government bailouts as evidence of the Tea Party's resentment of what they perceive to be a spendthrift government.

Now proven wrong in retrospect, Mr Graham predicted that Republican

candidate Mitt Romney would defeat President Obama in the November elections, arguing that high unemployment would stymie the President's chances of re-election. The lively open discussion after his talk was testament to his professional ease in debate, and students enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about one strain of American conservatism. Later that evening, Mr Graham spoke at a debate opposite liberal talkshow host Leslie Marshall at the US Embassy, in a discussion moderated by Sean O'Rourke of RTE News. A recording of Mr Graham's talk at the Institute is available at www.ucdclinton.ie



US radio host Michael Graham speaks to students at the Institute.

Ph.D. Student Profile: Adrienne Hawley

Adrienne Hawley began her academic career at Seattle University, where she graduated with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication. Before deciding to continue in further education, however, Adrienne decided to put her undergraduate training to use at a Seattle radio station, and "loved every minute of that experience," before also working as a volunteer with AmeriCorps and then as a fire-fighter in Washington State. She came to Ireland to complete an MA in History at UCD in 2009. Her MA studies included modules taken at the Clinton Institute, and Adrienne spent the next year in Ireland working and putting together a research plan for her doctorate.

Adrienne's PhD research constitutes an analysis of the online marketing practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and how this has facilitated

the acceptance of this religious group into mainstream American society. The nomination of Mitt Romney as the Republican

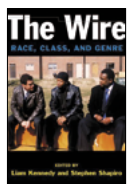


Clinton Institute Ph.D. student
Adrienne Hawley.

candidate in the U.S. presidential election in 2012 brought Mormonism worldwide media coverage and demonstrated how dramatically the status of this religious group has changed in American society over the past century. "I became specifically interested in how the Mormon Church has used the internet in creating, promoting and maintaining a certain public image globally," explains Adrienne.

As part of her Ph.D. research, Adrienne is currently involved in convening the annual conference of the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religion (ISASR). The conference, titled "Ireland, America and Transnationalism: Studying Religions in a Globalised World," will take place from 10–12 May 2013. The call for papers is currently out and Adrienne welcomes submissions from students and scholars with research interests in this area. Please see the ISASR website for more information: <http://isasr.wordpress.com>

Publications from the Institute



Professor Liam Kennedy, the Institute's director, has published his latest book, *The Wire: Race, Class, and Genre* with the University of Michigan Press.

The co-edited volume offers a range of astute critical responses to the American television phenomenon of HBO's *The Wire*, examining the grammar of race on American television and the normative codings of race across urban narratives, from documentary to entertainment media.

Dr Jack Thompson, lecturer at the Institute, has published his book on Theodore Roosevelt with Palgrave Macmillan. The book, *America's Transatlantic Turn: Theodore Roosevelt and the "Discovery" of Europe*, co-edited with Hans Krabbendam, argues that Roosevelt was instrumental in laying the foundations for modern U.S.-European relations. Featured essays include topics such as Roosevelt's formative experiences and his ideas about imperialism; bilateral relations with the key great powers, France, Germany, and Great Britain; and the role Roosevelt played in debates about World War I.



As part of his work as John Moore Newman Scholar at the Institute, Dr. Andrew Sanders has developed a website which curates the development of his research into the relationship between the United States & Northern Ireland. The website can now be found at <http://usaandni.com>

Barack Obama, Hope, Change and the American 2012 Election

Correctly predicting that President Barack Obama would win re-election, Professor Matthew Whitaker of the Centre for the Study of Race and Democracy at Arizona State University spoke at the Clinton Institute in October. Speaking to a crowd then completely wrapped up in the last weeks of the US election season, Professor Whitaker discussed the role of race in the election and the significance of America electing its first black President. He gave context to the discussion by outlining the ways in which race has

Clinton Institute Summer School 2012

The Institute's sixth Summer School took place in July at Belfield House, bringing students and academics from across the globe to participate in masterclass workshops examining key aspects of the interdisciplinary study of the United States. Faculty at the Institute this year included Professor Brian Edwards of Northwestern University, focusing on the globalisation of American Studies, Professor Donald Pease of Dartmouth College on American Studies in the Obama era, and a number of invited speakers giving keynote addresses. Professor Robert Brigham of Vassar College spoke about Human Rights and American Exceptionalism, while Dr Justin Carville of IADT lectured on Documentary Humanism and Prof. Glenn Hendler of Fordham University spoke about his Digital Humanities Project. A closing symposium allowed students from different workshop groups to present their research to one another and develop further connections.

Details of the 2013 Summer School will soon be available at www.ucdclinton.ie

M.A. in Media and International Conflict – A Student Perspective

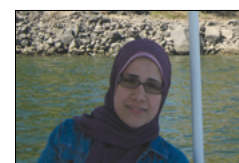
The Institute's M.A. programme in Media and International Conflict works to develop understanding of the ways in which media interact with war, conflict and security in international contexts, through an interdisciplinary study of media response to issues of human rights, public diplomacy, and propaganda. Attracting a focused and talented pool of local and international students, the programme brings together those seeking a career in international communications and those already in the profession. One student who is representative of the high standards of this year's group is Radwa Khorshid, originally from Egypt, who came to the Institute with a degree in international law from Cairo University. She has also had some considerable experience working with the Dutch foreign ministry on their public diplomacy strategy for the Arab region. Radwa joins her classmates in pursuing studies in Media and Foreign Policy, Conflict Journalism, Public Diplomacy, and Representing Conflict in the Middle East.

Radwa explains her decision to



a powerful impact on the formulation of political debate in America, arguing that it was the post-Civil War period in which the blueprint for race relations and politics was set. Professor Whitaker asserted that President Obama has been a lightning rod for the tensions of race relations in the US, demonstrat-

pursue a degree at the Clinton Institute by saying that she has always wanted to develop her academic studies in the field of media and international conflict from a western perspective. She asserts that "UCD's Clinton Institute has been an ideal place to enhance my knowledge



Clinton Institute M.A. student Radwa Khorshid.

and understanding of media, western politics and international issues."

She characterises herself as "seriously thrilled"

at the quality of education in US and Middle East-related issues available at Clinton Institute, and has enjoyed developing her understanding of both regions. Radwa, whose freelance writing has been published by the Middle East Times, Islam Online, and Alarabyia.net, is planning to pursue public diplomacy in a more practical manner after her M.A., offering her expertise to the Egyptian foreign ministry, she says, "something that I would have never thought of prior to Egypt's January 25 revolution." Whatever happens, Radwa is determined to continue with her political writing, where she knows she can always make her voice heard.

ing myriad ways in which the coding of racial representation is present in media discourse around the election and the President. Speaking to an audience eager to speculate on the current state of the election in the immediate wake of the debates – in which President Obama had encountered some difficulties – Professor Whitaker counselled for calm, referencing a historical precedent for weak presidential performances in the debates with little effect. It can be reported that the election-mad crowd was much relieved.

Institute Student Interns at the Clinton Global Initiative

Sinead O'Donovan, M.A. student at the Clinton Institute, writes about her experience at CGI:

One of my primary reasons for applying to intern at the Clinton Global Initiative was its success in combining corporate, philanthropic and governmental forces in support of so many terrific causes world-wide. CGI facilitates the building and development of its commitments by connecting members and organizations together, providing a forum within which they can work and build relations, and also by communicating the results of their work.

My position within CGI was in the girls' and women's commitment track. The primary function of this track is to try to integrate the girls' and women's lens into all aspects of CGI policy and programming. Most of my work was content based, as well as building and maintaining on-going communications with members and organizations that were affiliated

with the girls and women's track, meeting some of the most interesting and admirable people I have come across.

I spent much of my time preparing for the annual CGI meeting, a huge event, organized to convene leaders from different sectors, and from

Bill Clinton address a hugely diverse crowd featuring everyone from Mary Robinson to Will-I-am.

One of the most exceptional things about this specific internship was the level of responsibility with which each of the interns is entrusted. As an intern, you truly are a valued member of the staff, and given real and mean-



Institute student meets with President Bill Clinton during her internship at the Clinton Global Initiative.

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all over the world, to drive action. One of my largest projects was to help organize the Girls and Women Pre-Conference Strategy Session, which featured people like Melanne Verveer, Valerie Jarret and Leymah Gbowee. I was also present to watch Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, President Barack Obama, President Mohammed Morsy and, President

ingful projects and tasks. Through this internship I have gained invaluable experience and real exposure to the internal dynamics and workings of a large-scale organization, enjoyed a summer in New York, and also made some great friends. I cannot speak highly enough of this internship, and consider myself extremely lucky to have been part of it.

Diaspora Studies: The Clinton Institute Announces a New Masters Programme

As of September 2013, the Institute is proud to announce that it will be hosting a new M.A. programme in Diaspora Studies. This programme will provide a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to the study of diaspora – understood as groups of migrant origin residing in host countries but maintaining strong material and affective links with countries of origin. The programme reflects a fresh interest in diaspora within policy and academic sectors in recent years as states seek to understand the forms and functions of diasporas and leverage them to provide new opportunities for knowledge transfer, tourism, conflict resolution and many other matters.

The programme is being created against

this backdrop of evolving scholarly and policy perspectives on diaspora. It aims to create fresh understanding of the dynamics at work in the creation and maintenance of diasporic cultures and networks, and their relations with hosts and homelands. The Irish experience will be a central case study and resource throughout but the programme will also be comparative, based on the interests and resources of a large group of UCD scholars who work in this field. An accredited internship programme will provide students with first-hand experience of working in a sector/organisation strongly invested in diaspora matters. Further information about the new programme is available at www.ucdclinton.ie