



# UCD Clinton Institute *for* American Studies

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## From Kissinger to Obama: Symposium at the Clinton Institute

On 27 November 2009, the "Realism & Exceptionalism in US Foreign Policy" symposium took place at the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies. Leading experts Professor Anders Stephanson (Columbia University), Dr. Mario Del Pero (University of Bologna) and Dr. David Ryan (UCC) debated the historical roots and contemporary influences of two powerful constructs in American foreign relations.

Professor Stephanson also gave the plenary talk, "American Degree Zero: On Eccentricity and Exceptionalism in U.S. Foreign Relations," while symposium participants considered how the key concepts of 'exceptionalism' and 'realism' inform how the United States has interacted with the world from the 1970s, under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to the Presidency of Barack Obama today.

The highly successful symposium was followed by a wine reception to celebrate the launch of Mario Del Pero's *Eccentric Realist: Henry Kissinger and the Making of American Foreign Policy* by Cornell University Press.



Prof. Mario del Pero (Bologna), Dr. Kaeten Mistry (Clinton Institute), and Prof. Anders Stephanson (Columbia).

## Institute Forum: Rebuilding Haiti



Prof. Liam Kennedy, Director of the Clinton Institute, speaking to Mr. Amitabh Desai, foreign policy advisor to President Clinton.

As part of its ongoing outreach agenda, the Clinton Institute co-hosted a forum on the recent crisis in Haiti, bringing together a number of international experts to debate the challenges and opportunities of re-building in the wake of calamity. The forum took place in Buswell's Hotel in Dublin on Friday the 14th of May this year.

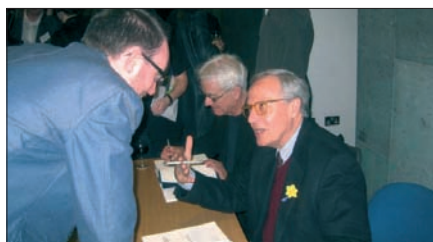
Organised in conjunction with Leprosy Mission Ireland, the panel included Amitabh Desai, foreign policy advisor to U.S. President Clinton who has been appointed envoy to Haiti by the United Nations. Mr. Desai spoke in some depth about the Clinton Foundation's determination to 'build back better,' a commitment to a reconstruction process in line with the needs of the Haitian people. After the earthquake which claimed approximately 230,000 lives on the island, it became clear that the economic, social and housing infrastructure of Haiti would require a concerted investment effort in order to not only repair the damage but to make real progress toward a functioning political system for the future.

Denis O'Brien, Chairman of the Digicel Group, spoke in his role as the world's largest single investor in Haiti. Mr. O'Brien, whose communications company lost two staff members in the earthquake, spoke about the need to coordinate aid efforts between the numerous agencies and NGOs currently active in Haiti. While he praised the high level of international commitment to helping the people of Haiti, referencing the incredible 10,000 NGO bodies working there, he stressed the need for a coherent and concerted strategy of aid implementation to avoid overlap and waste.

Dr James Reilly TD (Fine Gael) also shared his experiences. Having travelled there as a medical doctor in the aftermath of the earthquake, he was able to testify to the very great challenges faced by medical professionals in hospitals around the country. His personal account of the resilience and humour of the Haitian people he encountered enlivened and complemented the broader policy discussion.

## A New Literary History of America

Earlier this year, the UCD Clinton Institute played host to the hundreds of delegates participating in the bi-annual conference of the European Association for American Studies. Organised in conjunction with Trinity College Dublin, the conference stretched over four days at the end of March and featured guest speakers from across Europe's most prestigious universities.



Prof. Werner Sollors and Greil Marcus signing books at their launch.

As part of the conference, the Institute organised a plenary lecture by internationally renowned cultural critic and music journalist, Greil Marcus, who gave an electrifying and moving talk on Bob Dylan's "Masters of War" and the legacy of the protest song.

Greil Marcus was also joined by long-term friend of the Institute, Professor Werner Sollors of Harvard University and the Freie Universität Berlin, as they launched a new book together, the jointly edited *A New Literary History of America*. Featuring over 200 essays drawn from a pool of expert writers in a wide range of academic and creative fields, the anthology gives incisive accounts of American history and society as influenced and reflected by its literary output.

### Doctoral Students Convened Post-Globalisation Conference

Three of the Institute's current doctoral students, Julieann Galloway, Geoff O'Connor and Martin Russell, are organising a conference to be held on the 22nd of September this year. Funded by the Graduate School of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies, the conference will seek to reconsider the relationship between Ireland and the United States in the 'post-globalisation' moment. As issues surrounding Ireland's dependence on processes of globalisation press us to reassess our place in the global community, this conference will provide a forum for innovative perspectives on recent shifts in political, economic and cultural paradigms. Further details, including a call for papers, can be found on the Institute's website at [www.ucdclinton.ie](http://www.ucdclinton.ie)

### U.S. Embassy Hosts Clinton Institute Debate: President Obama's First Year

The U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Daniel M. Rooney and his wife Patricia were both in attendance at a debate organised by the Clinton Institute late last year. The invited panel, chaired by RTE's Ryan Tubridy, came together at the Embassy to assess U.S. President Barack Obama's first year in office.

The panel also included Mr. Niall Stange, who was the only Irish journalist embedded within President Obama's campaign team, Professor Scott Lucas of the University of Birmingham, who lent his expertise in U.S. foreign policy to the debate, and Margaret Ward, financial journalist with *The Irish Times* and *The Sunday Times*.



Panel members Prof. Scott Lucas, Ms. Margaret Ward, Mr. Ryan Tubridy, Ambassador Daniel M. Rooney and his wife Patricia, Mr. Niall Stange, and Prof. Liam Kennedy.

This heavily subscribed event was a follow-up to a similar evening organised by the Institute the year before, when members of the Irish and American communities in Dublin came together to discuss the outcome of the U.S. elections in late 2008.



Belfield House, home of the Clinton Institute.

### Television Cities

Interdisciplinary scholars from a large collection of universities across Europe and the United States came together for a conference on "Television Cities" in October 2009. Organised in conjunction with the UCD School of English, Drama & Film, conference plenary speakers included Dr. Anna McCarthy of the Tisch School at New York University, who discussed the role of television networking in social housing in post-war New York.



Other sessions focused on the impact of outdoor programming in Olympic-era Beijing, images of poverty in Brazilian television, the phenomenon of *The Wire*, and television as part of the broader landscape of creative industries today.

### Clinton Institute Welcomes U.S. Students through Semester Abroad Programme

This year the Institute played host to its first U.S. undergraduate students as part of the Clinton Institute Semester Abroad programme. The students, who came from Fordham University in New York, were based at the Institute through the spring semester. Participating students have the opportunity to take modules particularly tailored towards U.S.-based students who wish to gain an international perspective on their own country. The programme consists of several modules which examine America's global role and students learn to closely study the perceptions and impacts of the U.S. in another country.

# Institute Interns on the Hill: Clinton Institute Internship Programme in Washington D.C.

As part of the Masters' programmes offered by the Institute, new internship opportunities are now available to students registered in both the M.A. in American Studies and the M.A. in Media and International Conflict. Participating students are positioned in the political system in Washington D.C., as they are assigned to work in the offices of members of the United States Congress. This internship provides students with an unparalleled chance to observe and participate in the everyday running of House of Representatives in Washington.



Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Collins, flanked by (From L-to-R) students Gillian Gallanagh, Robert Upton, Jack Horgan-Jones, and Jennifer Prior.

This year's interns were current M.A. students Gillian Gallanagh, who worked with Congressman Patrick Kennedy; Jack Horgan-Jones, who worked for Congressman Peter T. King; Jennifer Prior, who worked with Congressman Joe Crowley, and Robert Upton, who worked in the offices of Congressman Elliott Engel. While in Washington, they attended senate hearings, fielded phone calls from constituents, and joined in the business of casework and research which is part of life on the Hill. Student Robert Upton commented that "the hearings were a definite highlight for me; from Henry Kissinger to John McCain,

Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, we were encouraged to go to as many briefings and hearings as we wanted and were given an enormous amount of access."

The experience has been invaluable in highlighting the intricacies of political life in the U.S. capital. Says Jennifer Prior, "We were also fortunate in that we were in D.C. during a very tumultuous period, between the Arizona ['Papers Please'] law, the foiled Times Square bomb plot and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (to name but a few). There was always something going on!" Students were also welcomed by host families who supported the students through their stay: "The nature of the programme meant that we were immediately immersed into both everyday American life and Washington political culture," commented Gillian Gallanagh.

The placement of the students in offices and host families is made possible through the support of Kevin Sullivan from the Washington Ireland Program.

## Clinton Institute Hosts E-Event for Speech by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

On the 21st of January this year, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered a major policy address on 'Internet Freedom' at the Museum of News 'Newseum' in Washington, D.C.. With the support of the American Embassy in Dublin, represented by Meghan O'Toole (Cultural Affairs Assistant) and Karyn Posner-Mullen, (Director, Office of Public Affairs), the Clinton Institute hosted an e-event which allowed attendees to participate live in the post-speech question time. Students from Trinity College Dublin were invited to join Clinton Institute students for the event, and Dr. Roja Fazaeli, Lecturer in Islamic Studies at TCD, was also present.

The Secretary's speech staked out new ground for U.S. foreign policy, underscoring the importance of preserving and promoting the fundamental values of freedom of expression and the free flow of information. These values become more pertinent and challenging, she asserted, in a world in which freedom of expression is increasingly practiced through online media.

Immediately following the speech, State Department Policy Director Anne Marie Slaughter moderated a panel discussion on internet freedom with distinguished representatives from industry, academia, and the media. Students present at the Clinton Institute event were given the opportunity to propose questions to the panel and to participate fully in the ensuing debate.

## Blogging American Studies

Early this year, the new blog associated with the Institute—'The Outpost'—came online. Maintained by two of the Institute's current Ph.D. students, the purpose of this blog is to provide an open and honest forum to discuss Irish-US Affairs outside traditional structures. It hopes to foster a greater understanding of Irish-US relations, America's role in the world and how the United States is being perceived in Ireland by both the media and public. For the latest posts, visit [www.theoutposting.com](http://www.theoutposting.com)

## Current research at the Clinton Institute

Student research at the Institute continues to diversify, as scholars take advantage of the inherent disciplinary flexibility offered by the pursuit of American Studies at doctoral level. Students currently undertaking research in pursuit of a Ph.D. at the Institute include:

**Javad Alipoor:** *The Role of Soft Power in U.S. Foreign Policy towards Iran and Iraq.*

**Juliann Galloway:** *Google Work: Globalisation and the New Corporate Environment in Ireland.*

**Fiona Hackett (IRCHSS Scholar):** *Terra Incognita: Visualising Southern California—Human Dreams and Fragilities in the Landscape.*

**Grattan Lynch:** *Border Watch: Comparative US and EU Foreign Policies and Security Measures.*

**Geoffroy O'Connor:** *Attracting Investment: American Investment in Ireland.*

**Martin Russell (IRCHSS Scholar):** *Irish-America in the Northern Ireland Peace Process: Challenging the Cultural Paradigms of Memory and Identity in U.S. Foreign Policy.*

**Barry Shanahan:** *'Telling It Like It Is': Hip-hop as Representative Tool in Extra-musical Forms.*

**Desmond Traynor (Dr. Ciaran Barry Research Scholarship holder):** *Dissent in Contemporary American Popular Music: Aesthetics Meets Politics.*

**Louise Walsh (IRCHSS & Ad Astra Scholar):** *A Comparative Analysis of the Harlem Renaissance and the Irish Literary Revival.*

**Wendy Ward:** *Writing in the Photographic Boom: Modes of Visual Encounter in American Fiction, 1968-80.*

# Photography and International Conflict: An Ongoing Thematic Research Project at the Clinton Institute



Photo credit: Paul Lowe

The Institute's commitment to research development is evident in this three-year project on Photography and International Conflict. Funded by an IRCHSS Thematic Project Research grant, the research forms the core of an interdisciplinary, transnational collaboration between scholars in the fields of visual culture and international relations, practitioners in photography and visual media, and NGO actors in fields of human rights and international conflict. It examines the roles of image producers and the functions of photographic imagery in the documentation and communication of wars, violent conflicts and human rights issues.

Prof. Liam Kennedy is the project's primary investigator, Dr. Justin Carville, from the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire, is the secondary investigator and Dr. Caitlin Patrick, also from the Clinton Institute, is the project's postdoctoral fellow.

The project website - [www.photoconflict.org](http://www.photoconflict.org) - is a key project output and aims to be a resource for photographic practitioners, visual media industry personnel, NGOs, students and educators in this broad field, and interested public members. The website contains many useful short essays, complete with bibliographies and links, on various historic and current conflicts and their representation, along with covering thematic issues relating to visual representation of conflict. Three conferences have already been organised under the auspices of the project - Imaging Human Rights, Photography & International Conflict and Conflicting Views: Visual Culture, Conflict and Northern Ireland - and the website also acts as a video archive for plenary lectures from these events.



## Upcoming Events

### Summer School

The Clinton Institute's annual Summer School will begin for its fourth highly successful year this July 11th-18th. Ph.D students and junior faculty from universities around the world will take part in workshop seminar sessions with distinguished academics. This year's seminars will be led by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (USC), Donald Pease (Dartmouth College), Amy Kaplan (UPenn), and Liam Kennedy (UCD) and Scott Lucas (Birmingham). Additional guest speakers include Werner Sollors, Peter Nicholls, Douglas Tallack, Robert Brigham and Hamilton Carroll.

### Upcoming Conferences

We will soon be issuing a call for papers for two new events to be held at the Institute in the coming academic year. First is an international conference on 'Ireland and African America', and the second a symposium on 'War Reporting'. Please check our website at [www.ucdclinton.ie](http://www.ucdclinton.ie) for updates and further information.

To sign up to our mailing list or to receive further information about the Institute, please contact:

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