

UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies

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Andrew Sanders—The Clinton Institute’s John Moore Newman Fellow

Andrew Sanders arrived at the Clinton Institute in September 2011 to take up his place as the John Moore Newman Fellow. The Fellowship, established in memory of John D. J. Moore, supports a research project entitled *Diaspora, Conflict and Diplomacy: The Irish-US Model*.

Andrew came to the Clinton Institute most recently from the University of Seattle, where he had been teaching with the School of History. After completing a PhD at Queen’s University, Andrew was offered a place in Seattle where he had the chance to teach history classes to the undergraduate student body and, because of the university’s affiliation with the Seattle ballet, to groups of professional ballet dancers. “It was a quirky first postdoctoral teaching experience,” says Andrew.

Andrew’s current research has developed from his postgraduate work on the politics of republicanism, which consid-

ered the international dimension of the movement. This international element was focused in particular on American interventions since the 1970s and how American involvement mirrored the stages of the conflict in Northern Ireland.



Dr Andrew Sanders.

Based on his Ph.D. research, Andrew published *Inside the IRA: Dissident Republicans and the War for Legitimacy* with Edinburgh University Press in

2011, the paperback version of which is due for release this month. He is currently working on a study of the British Army in Northern Ireland with Ian S. Wood, also for Edinburgh UP.

His research at the Clinton Institute will develop on the American aspects of his work to date. The *Diaspora, Conflict and Diplomacy* project will consider how a number of trans-Atlantic and inter-governmental initiatives were relied upon to effect political change in Northern Ireland, as well as the role of more grassroots and community-based organisations. Andrew gives the example of the “Peace Players,” an initiative which took young people from across the political divide in Northern Ireland and gave them the opportunity to work together in basketball training camps led by experienced and high-profile US coaches. A website associated with the project will be organised and run throughout the course of the research.

The Clinton Institute would like to welcome Andrew to UCD, and we look forward to engaging with the results of his research as it unfolds over the coming years.

Institute Graduates in Civic Initiative

Dublintellectual, an independent project which is committed to the promotion of the humanities outside of the academic setting and in the public sphere, was founded by Clinton Institute PhD graduate Dr. Marisa Ronan and Paul Edwards in January 2011. Beginning with a number of events in venues throughout Dublin, it has developed to the point where it is now funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), and runs fortnightly “Conversations on Culture” in the city centre. These events allow academics, artists, and administrators to engage with the public outside of the usual spaces of conferences and symposiums, and have proven extremely popular with

an engaged and interested audience. Marisa has been joined by another Institute PhD, Dr. Madeleine Lyes, and Dublintellectual is looking forward to the development of a number of innovative projects, focused on raising awareness of the value of the humanities outside of the academy, and encouraging popular engagement with questions of public policy and civic society. More information on this exciting initiative is available the Dublintellectual website, www.dublintellectual.ie.



Colloquium Report: The United States and Northern Ireland

On the 16th and 17th September, the Clinton Institute hosted a colloquium, organised by Professor Maurice Bric of the UCD School of History and Archives, entitled “The United States and Northern Ireland: Transatlantic Perspectives on Problems and Solutions”. This conference was opened by Minister of State Lucinda Creighton, who commented on the relationship between Ireland and the United States and the importance developing an all-Ireland identity. She also highlighted Ireland’s role in the United States, citing the 220 Irish companies who employ 82,000 people there.

The colloquium consisted of four panel discussions spread across two days of interested debate and discussion. Topics were wide-ranging and often provocative, with the first day’s panel examining such issues as the clout of

the Irish-American lobby in US politics, historical and recent US interventions in the Northern Irish situation, and the particular role of the Boston Irish in the NI question, particularly in the 1990s.



Prof. Monica McWilliams (University of Ulster) and Dr Sean O' hUiginn in attendance at the “United States and Northern Ireland” colloquium.

Along with a distinguished roster of participants from academic institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, the conference was honoured by the attendance of US Ambassador Dan Rooney and his wife Patricia on Saturday morning. It was apt, then, that the first formal contribution of the day came from Dr Sean O' hUiginn, a former Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. Papers throughout the rest of the day touched upon President Clinton’s role in the NI peace process, the influence of American-based media on international perceptions of the peace process, and the internationalist tenor of US foreign policy at the time. The colloquium was told how, interestingly, lessons might be learned in the Irish context from the American experience in such seemingly disparate conflicts as Algeria and Vietnam.

Upcoming Events

March 9th–11th
“Ireland and African-America”
Conference

April 14th–15th
“Media and the Arab Spring” Conference

May 14th
“Fighting Hunger” Event

July 8th–15th
The Clinton Summer Institute

Washington Ireland Program

Barry Shanahan, graduate of the PhD program at the Clinton Institute, spent June and July of 2011 in Washington DC as part of the Management Team of the Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership (WIP). A six-month program of personal and professional development that brings outstanding Protestant and Catholic university students from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to Washington, DC for summer internships and leadership training, WIP grew from such organisations as Project Children

and The Young Leaders Program. In recent years, the Clinton Institute has sent a number of its Masters students to the US in conjunction with WIP, and it was through this established relationship that Barry got the opportunity to spend 2 months working within sight of the US Capitol.

The summer-long experience was busy, tiring, and ultimately very rewarding. Barry’s role as a project manager for WIP meant dealing first hand with a range of issues, tasks and personalities in the singular atmosphere of Washington DC, with a view to delivering a successful program to a group of 26 energetic, talented young people. Highlights of the two-month stay included opportunities to research at the Library of Congress; tour the Senate and the House of Representatives; meet and engage with practitioners in the fields of contemporary politics, lobbying and industry; and finally visit the residences of the Irish Ambassador to the US and the Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau. Barry was very kindly hosted during his stay in Washington by the Myler family of Chevy Chase, who are just one of the many host families who generously give up their homes to WIP students and management each summer, a testament to the organisation’s position in contemporary DC culture.



Washington–Ireland Program Class of 2011 with Irish Ambassador to the U.N., Anne Anderson.

Conference Report: Diaspora Strategies

On the 9th and 10th September the Clinton Institute held a two day international conference entitled “Diaspora Strategies: Encouragement, Evolution and Engagement.” Bringing together leading academics, practitioners and policy makers in the area of diaspora studies, the conference hosted an ongoing discussion on approaches to diasporas in different nations. Presentations came from across the world with participants from the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain, mainland Europe and Ireland. The conference was organised by two of our PhD students, Martin Russell and Geoffroy O’Connor, with funding support from the Graduate School of the College of Arts & Celtic Studies.

informal networks to our understanding of how diasporas engage in multiple ways both internally and externally with home and host countries alike.

Another plenary address, this time from Tim Finch—Director of Communications at IPPR, opened up discussion of important policy debates, with his contribution focused on the nature of the U.K.’s diaspora strategy. This assessment led to continued discussion on central components of said strategy including motivations and outcomes. Additionally, other papers throughout the day bridged the gap between academia and policy with discussions on the role of social media in diaspora engagement and comparative analysis of international approaches leading



L-R Nicola White (*Diaspora Matters*), Prof. Gabriel Sheffers (*Hebrew University Jerusalem*), Kingsley Aikins (*Networking Matters*), Tim Finch (*IPPR*), and Martin Russell (*Clinton Institute*).

The opening sessions set the theoretical and analytical boundaries of the coming days. Discussions involved the definition of diasporas and their place in the world, the role of the Irish abroad, diasporas in U.S. foreign relations, and the role of diasporas in security and conflict. Prof. Gabriel Sheffer of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem provided a thought-provoking discussion on the theoretical conceptualisations on diaspora studies. Prof. Sheffer argued for the increasing importance of formal and

the discussion.

Finally, Kingsley Aikins, founder of *Diaspora Matters*, drew from his years of personal experience and expertise in a persuasive and passionate address about the role that diaspora strategies can play in contemporary Ireland. His address was followed by engaged audience participation which helped to bring together many of the overriding debates of the previous two days. Perhaps the greatest indication of the depth to the event is represented by the fact that

Current PhD Research Projects at the Institute

Javad Alipoor: ‘Soft Power and US Foreign Policy towards Iran 2001–2012.’

Madhi Bahmani: ‘US Diplomacy and Iraq.’

Julieann Galloway: ‘Google Work: Globalisation and the New Corporate Environment in Ireland.’

Fiona Hackett: ‘Terra Incognita: Visualising Southern California—Human Dreams and Fragilities in the Landscape, 2008–to date.’

Adrienne Hawley: ‘Modern American Religions in Ireland: the Strategies and Effectiveness at Gaining Irish Converts.’

Brian Hurson: ‘City of Broken Angels: Fragmentation, *Noir* and the Black Dahlia Case in the Collective Memory of Los Angeles.’

Ben Miller: ‘Expatriate Encounters: A Case Study of William S. Burroughs as an American Writer Abroad.’

Geoffroy O’Connor: ‘Pursuing Investment: American Investment in Ireland.’

Martin Russell: ‘The Politics of Diaspora Memory and Identity: Irish-America and the Northern Ireland Conflict.’

Mical Russo: ‘Staging Death: Memorial Photography in America.’

Louise Walsh: ‘A Comparative Analysis of the Harlem Renaissance and the Irish Literary Revival!’

what began as an academic conference concluded with engaged discussions that will be beneficial to not only the academics in the auditorium but also to the practitioners and policymakers in attendance.

Institute Developments

A former fellow of the Institute, Dr. Caitlin Patrick, is continuing the work undertaken during her tenure at UCD, currently editing a book on the Institute’s IRCHSS-funded *Photography and International Conflict* project.

Congratulations are due to Dr. Barry Shanahan and Dr. Wendy Ward, who

graduated from the PhD program at the Institute late last year.

Finally, one of our current PhD candidates, Julie Galloway, married David Farrell in Julie’s home-state of Texas. Everyone at the Clinton Institute would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Julie and David, and wish them all the best.



PhD candidate Julie Galloway on the occasion of her marriage to Dave Farrell.

Appointment of Dr. Jack Thompson, Assistant Lecturer

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Jack Thompson, who has been appointed Assistant Lecturer at the Institute. Jack joins us having taught at a number of universities across Britain and Europe, including Cambridge, Utrecht, Gent and Swansea.

Jack received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2010, where his dissertation focused on the role of public opinion in President Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy. His current projects stem from this research; he is revising and publishing his PhD dissertation as a monograph, to be entitled *Theodore Roosevelt and the Politics of Foreign Policy*, as well as working on a biography of Arthur Vandenberg, an influential Republican Senator from Michigan in the 1930s and 1940s, to be called *Arthur Vandenberg's America: From Isolationism to the Cold War Consensus* (both to be published by Palgrave Macmillan). The latter project uses the career of Vandenberg, a figure who played a key role in crafting the Cold War consensus, as a vehicle for exploring how the evolution of American political culture during the 1930s and 1940s facilitated a shift from isolationism to internationalism. Jack has already published extensively, in the form of book chapters and journal articles discussing President Roosevelt within the context of politics and foreign policy. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, the *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal*, and *A Companion to Theodore Roosevelt*, published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Jack will be teaching courses on American foreign policy and politics, and his expertise in these areas and in transatlantic relations will certainly be of great benefit to the continued research and teaching commitments of the Institute. As with our John Moore Newman Fellow Dr. Andrew Sanders, we wish Jack all the best, and look forward to his valuable contributions to the intellectual life of the Clinton Institute.

Student Profile



Fiona Hackett began her doctoral research in the Clinton Institute in 2008 on a project entitled 'Terra Incognita: Photography, Seismology and the Imagining of Southern California,' funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The project, which is in its final year, is an interdisciplinary exploration of the representation of the fault-lined landscape of Southern California through photography. California, in particular, is a region of the world which came to be strongly defined by photography, with the camera being integral to the explorations by the U.S. Geological Surveys (USGS) who set out West in the late nineteenth century. Those links between photography and geology are further examined in this project on the connection between photography and the cultural imaginary of Southern California. Fiona explains that "through taking what I hope is an innovative and creative approach to the topic by including photographic fieldwork, it becomes possible to explore how Southern California's seismicity can be represented through a contemporary photographic practice."

Fiona's route to the Institute has been an eclectic one. Her early career background was in the field of organisational psychology. Having studied psychology in UCD and holding an MSc in Organisational Psychology from The Queen's University, Belfast, Fiona pursued a career in management consulting and organisational development. More recently, her interest in photography and visual arts saw her embarking on a photography degree, which then led to her current research interests. Since practicing as a photographer, she has exhibited in a number of group and solo exhibitions.



An image from Fiona Hackett's current research project

In reflecting on how she became interested in the subject of her research, Fiona commented, "Sometime early in 2008, my interest was drawn to the notion that, under the surface of the ground I was walking on in California, were a network of active fault lines—there are literally hundreds. The ground was shifting and moving, much more so than in most places. In the course of a year there are thousands of earthquakes in this region. Only some of this movement can be detected by us, but I became fascinated when I learned that the ground was moving at the same rate as human hair and nail growth. It was an interest stemming from the underlying (and imperceptible) geological conditions."

Her website is www.fionahackett.eu, where you can see her previous work and more examples from her doctoral project.

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