

## How is information communicated?

The project website is regularly maintained and updated, with links to all participating centres, to border research institutes elsewhere and to a range of governmental and non-governmental organisations. This website publicises ongoing work and helps disseminate results.

The project will also produce of a considerable number of academic and policy-relevant working papers. The publication at least one book is also planned at the conclusion of the project.

## How can I find out more?

Please consult the project website:

**[www.mappingfrontiers.ie](http://www.mappingfrontiers.ie)**

Or contact either of the project administrators at QUB or UCD, using the details provided overleaf.

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## Links

[www.ucd.ie/ibis/](http://www.ucd.ie/ibis/)

[www.qub.ac.uk/gov/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/gov/)

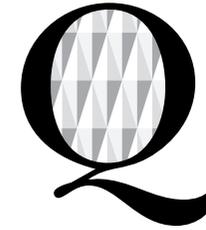
[www.qub.ac.uk/cibr/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/cibr/)

[www.qub.ac.uk/ccbs/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/ccbs/)

[www.ucd.ie/issc/](http://www.ucd.ie/issc/)

[www.borderireland.info/](http://www.borderireland.info/)

[www.democraticdialogue.org](http://www.democraticdialogue.org)



Queen's University  
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# Mapping Frontiers, Plotting Pathways

**Routes to North-South  
Co-operation in a Divided Island**



**Mapping Frontiers, Plotting Pathways**, is a major, new, collaborative and interdisciplinary research project on the impact of the Irish border, funded by the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme ("Peace II") and delivered through the Irish Higher Education Authority.

The project participants aim to:

- *specify and assess factors which help or hinder North-South cross-border contact, both formal and informal*
- *inform future policy initiatives on issues such as sustainability, cross-border partnership, the potential for reconciliation and the impact of European Integration.*

### How long will it last?

The project runs for approximately two years from early 2004, providing opportunities for a number of scholars in both universities as research assistants and co-ordinators.

### Who is involved?

The project is co-ordinated by the Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS) at UCD (Director: Prof. John Coakley) and the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research at Queen's (Director: Prof. Elizabeth Meehan).

Collaborating bodies include the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR) at Queen's (Prof. Liam O'Dowd), the Centre for Cross-Border Studies (CCBS) at Armagh (Director: Mr Andy Pollak), as well as the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Democratic Dialogue.

### What are the key objectives?

The project team will:

- *undertake a mapping of the effects of the border*
- *assess the impact of the border as barrier, bridge and source of material costs, benefits and symbolic identity for the peoples on the island*
- *analyse the extent of institutionalised cross-border activity that had survived or developed by the beginning of the 21st century*
- *explore the options for promoting positive North-South contact and co-operation calculated to undermine the ill-effects of the border, while acting to the mutual benefit of communities north and south.*

The project maintains a dedicated website and works through research workshops and study groups, some involving cross-border actors, to develop and publicise its programme. Its outputs will include appropriate policy tools and recommendations.

### How is the project structured?

To deliver the above objectives, the project is structured into three parts:

1. The Irish border in perspective (covering comparative and historical dimensions)
2. The impact of the border on Irish society, from the 1920s to the 1970s, covering the political and administrative background, interchanges and transactions

3. The cross-border institutions: a survey, mapping efforts since the 1980s, with in-depth case studies.

### What is the approach?

The principal types of activity include extensive and intensive research in Dublin and Belfast to:

- *develop comparative and historical analysis of the Irish border and its effects*
- *analyse the changing economic, social and cultural significance of the border especially in the light of the NI conflict, EC/EU membership from 1973 and more systematic attempts to resolve cross-border issues since 1998*

A mapping study, linked to CCBS, of funded cross-border projects will be undertaken. In-depth case studies and ethnographic studies will be carried out by the CIBR research team.

Study groups will be convened at CCBS Armagh, with selected participants, to address the themes of partnership, sustainability, informal versus formal contacts, and mutual understanding and reconciliation. These groups will help maintain a focus on the practical and policy dimensions of the project, with decision-makers and the general public being made aware of our work.

Research workshops will be organised in Dublin, Belfast and in the border region, to assess progress.

A major conference, based on the project, will also be held, involving activists in cross-border co-operation, policy makers, opinion formers and academic participants.

