

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021 - 2022



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

THE SENATOR
GEORGE J. MITCHELL
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE,
SECURITY AND JUSTICE





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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's a great pleasure for us to share some of the work pursued during 2021 - 2022 at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast. Building on the excellent work done since the Institute's establishment in 2016, colleagues and students have produced superb contributions across all of the Institute's fields of activity, and I am grateful to them all for this important work.

Academics have produced field-defining research on many different aspects of peace, security and justice. This has drawn on expertise from many disciplines, and has generated work of global importance. Students from different disciplines and from many different backgrounds have pursued pioneering research, particularly at graduate student level. There has been considerable contribution made - locally, nationally, internationally - in relation to societal engagement, with academic and professional services colleagues collaborating very successfully. And there have been valuable partnerships sustained and established with academic and other expert bodies.

You will see rich evidence of all of this work in what follows, and I hope that it will encourage you to become involved with the activities of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice.

Professor Richard English
Director



01 RESEARCH

EVENTS

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As a flagship for interdisciplinary research and in collaboration with internationally renowned partners and researchers, the Institute has delivered a range of events, both locally and internationally.

PEACE TREATY INITIATIVE SEMINAR

11 October 2021
Online seminar
Organiser: Professor Louise Mallinder

This Seminar was hosted in partnership with the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT), an international NGO that helps fragile and conflict-affected states achieve more inclusive negotiations and integrated and sustainable transitions out of war, crisis or authoritarianism by supporting locally-led efforts at breaking cycles of conflict or repression.

The Peace Treaty Initiative is a major project of the Institute for Integrated Transitions and is intended to help develop an international law of peace negotiation, which will fill a critical gap in the existing laws of war, which mainly regulate how to fight, and which would provide an international legal framework to incentivise warring parties to choose the pathway of negotiation to end violent conflict and prevent recurrence.

Professor Louise Mallinder commented “The seminar provided an opportunity for Mitchell Institute Fellows and doctoral researchers to provide interdisciplinary perspectives and draw lessons from the Northern Ireland peace process to inform the global consultation on this groundbreaking initiative.”

PSNI@20: HUMAN RIGHTS REFLECTIONS ON POLICING REFORM NORTH AND SOUTH

5 November 2021
In-person and online seminar
Organisers: Professor Kieran McEvoy and Dr John Topping

Police reform and oversight has been an essential pillar of the Northern Ireland peace process from the 1990s onwards. It has been 20 years since the Police Service of Northern Ireland was established following the Independent Commission for Policing in Northern Ireland (the Patten Report), along with wider policing oversight arrangements, including the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. Meanwhile, in the Republic, generational police reforms under the Commission on the Future of Policing are now entering a critical phase as legislation on the restructured oversight mechanisms is being brought forward.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) and the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) have been key players in the policing reform process for many years and have played a key role in advocating for a rights-based approach to policing within both jurisdictions.

Professor Kieran McEvoy commented ‘This event, in partnership with 2 key human rights NGOs, involved a diverse range of stakeholders including past and current police leaders from Northern Ireland and the Republic. One of the major successes of the policing transition in Northern Ireland has been the mainstreaming of human rights as the key template around which to organise effective policing. This is a crucial lesson for both settled democracies and societies moving out of conflict.’



Available to view on YouTube at go.qub.ac.uk/Mitchell-YouTube

IN CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR ANDREW HEYN



11 November 2021
Online lecture with interactive Q&A
Organiser: Professor Richard English

Professor Richard English, hosted Andrew Heyn, former UK Diplomat, for a live ‘In Conversation’ event. The discussion included reflections on Andrew’s 30 years experience as a UK Diplomat, which included serving as British Consul-General in Hong Kong (2016-20), British Ambassador to Myanmar (2009-13) and Deputy British Ambassador in Dublin (2005-09).

He experienced at first hand the democratic reforms in Myanmar from 2010 onwards and the beginnings of the Rohingya crisis. He was in Hong Kong for the 2019 protest movement and the subsequent imposition of the new National Security Law by China in 2020. He served as Deputy British Ambassador in Dublin from 2005-09 covering the St Andrews Agreement.

This event formed Andrew’s inaugural address as Honorary Professor of Practice at the Mitchell Institute.

**BLACK SPARTACUS:
THE EPIC LIFE OF TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE**
DR SUDHIR HAZAREESINGH, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



23 November 2021
Online lecture with interactive Q&A
Organiser: Professor Richard English

Toussaint Louverture was a former slave who became the charismatic leader of the seismic Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) resulting in the most successful revolt of enslaved people in modern history. In this event, Dr Hazareesingh shed light on an epic yet complex and controversial life story that cuts across slavery, racial hierarchies, imperialism, and the Enlightenment. He also discussed the impact, enduring legacy, and contemporary relevance of “the first black superhero of the modern age”.



Dr Sudhir Hazareesingh



Professor Robert Gerwarth

**THE LEVERHULME LECTURE
CIVIL WARS: A EUROPEAN HISTORY**
PROFESSOR ROBERT GERWARTH, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



1 December 2021
Online lecture with interactive Q&A
Organiser: Professor Richard English

Professor Robert Gerwarth gave four major public lectures, the ‘Leverhulme lectures on the History of Civil Wars’ as Leverhulme Visiting Professor. Two of the Leverhulme Lectures were delivered at Oxford and a further two at Edinburgh University and Queen’s University Belfast.

Professor Gerwarth shared his particular expertise on the history of war, violence, and conflict in the first half of the twentieth century. Gerwarth provoked wide-ranging discussion about the prevalence of civil violence, and how far that violence should be understood as imitative, self-contained, or part of a wider culture of European conflicts.

CONFLICT TEXTILES EXHIBITION

6 April 2022

Online seminar and exhibition

Organiser: Dr Lauren Dempster

Established in 2021, the permanent rotating exhibition of the Conflict Textiles Collection is a collaboration between Queen's University Belfast School of Law, the Human Rights Centre, the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, and Conflict Textiles.

The exhibition is based in the Queen's McClay Library.

A new rotation of four Conflict Textiles pieces was launched on Wednesday 6 April 2022. These textiles are connected by the theme of women's resistance.

Collectively, they are the testimonies of women impacted by dictatorship, disappearance, and displacement. They demonstrate the resilience of these women, the strength that comes from solidarity and collective action, and the value of textiles as a way of giving voice to those impacted by violence and repression.

*Left to right: Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles;
Christine Carrothers, QUB Library;
and Professor Richard English, Mitchell Institute.*



**THE ANNUAL FRONT LINE DEFENDERS LECTURE
POLITICIZING HUMAN RIGHTS IN PALESTINE / ISRAEL**
PROFESSOR ANAT BILETZKI, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

16 March 2022

In-person and online lecture

Organisers: Dr Merav Amir and Dr Alice Panepinto

The Annual Front Line Defenders Lecture was established in 2013 to provoke discussion and debate about the range of issues affecting human rights defenders. Anat Biletzki is a Professor of Philosophy at Quinnipiac University. She has been a visiting scholar at Cambridge University, Harvard University, and Boston University. She writes on Wittgenstein, Hobbes, analytic philosophy, political thought, digital culture, and human rights.



Professor Anat Biletzki



Professor Quassim Cassam

EXTREMISM: A POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PROFESSOR QUASSIM CASSAM, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



24 March 2022

Online lecture with interactive Q&A

Organiser: Professor Richard English

Professor Quassim Cassam offered an analysis of three varieties of political extremism: Methods extremism; Ideological extremism and Psychological extremism. Following a discussion of extremism in these three senses, and the relationship between them, Professor Cassam considered the suggestion that it is acceptable, or even desirable, to be an extremist for justice. The relationship between extremism and radicalism was explored.

Quassim Cassam is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick and an Honorary Fellow of Keble College, Oxford. He was previously Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University, Professor of Philosophy at UCL, and Reader in Philosophy at Oxford University.

TRENDS IN GLOBAL TERRORISM

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2022

30 March 2022

Online seminar

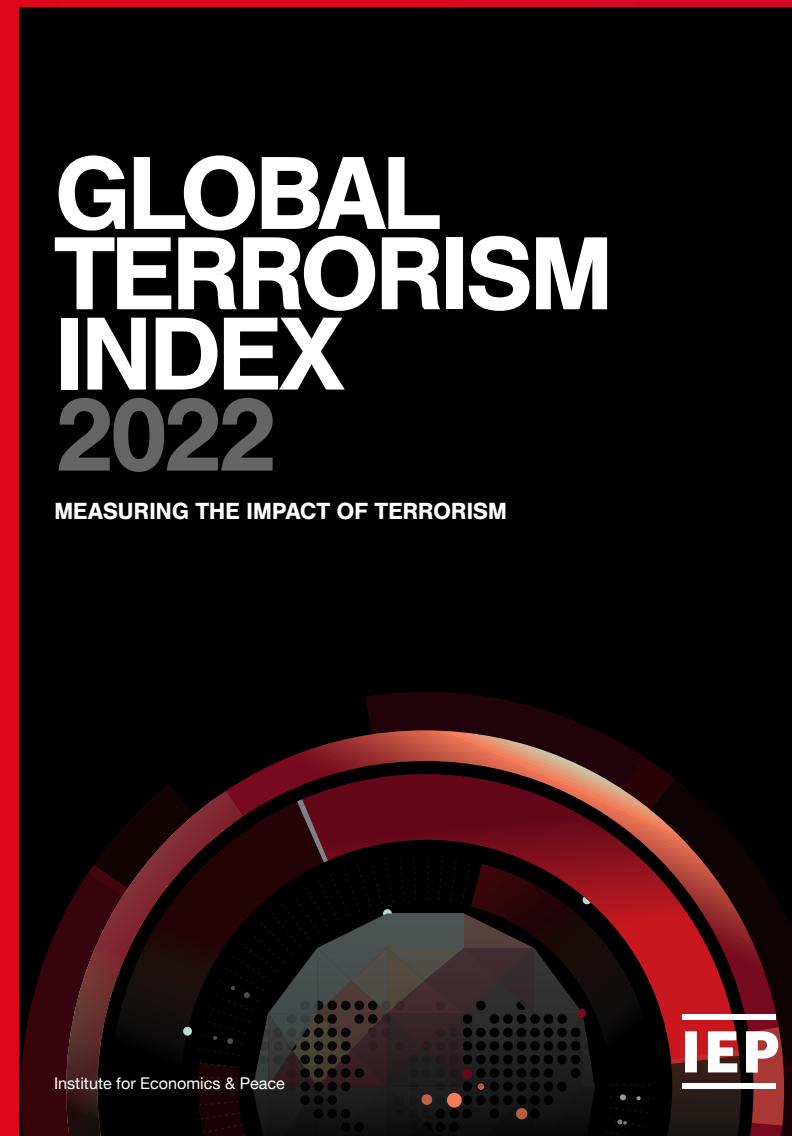
Organiser: Dr Andrew Thomson

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study analysing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population.

The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources. The GTI produces a composite score to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism. The GTI scores each country on a scale from 0 to 10; where 0 represents no impact from terrorism and 10 represents the highest measurable impact of terrorism.

Given the significant resources committed to counter terrorism by governments across the world, it is important to analyse and aggregate the available data to better understand its various properties. One of the key aims of the GTI is to examine these trends. It also aims to help inform a positive, practical debate about the future of terrorism and the required policy responses.

The event was introduced by Professor Richard English and the keynote speaker, Serge Stroobants, Director of Europe & MENA Regions at the Institute for Economics and Peace, provided a detailed overview of the GTI report and on the state of terrorism around the world. There was also additional discussion on Ukraine provided by Professor Louise Mallinder.





Left to right: Professor Tom Ginsburg, University of Chicago; Professor Louise Mallinder, Mitchell Institute and Professor Richard English, Mitchell Institute.

MOVING ON FROM CONFLICT WORKSHOP

16 May 2022
In-person and online workshop

The Mitchell Institute co-hosted a Workshop on 'Moving on from Conflict' with the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago. Mitchell Institute academics Professors Louise Mallinder and Pedro Rebello spoke about their research, with academics from the University of Chicago and the University of Connecticut acting as discussants on their talks.

Professor Richard English, who Chaired the Workshop, commented: 'It was excellent that Mitchell Institute colleagues presented their original research so compellingly at this innovative Workshop, co-hosted with one of the world's leading Universities. The discussion and debate were very illuminating, and it's great to have this ongoing partnership with the Pearson Institute at the University of Chicago.'

THE R. M. JONES LECTURE 1320, 1776 AND ALL THAT: THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE FATE OF DOCUMENTS PROFESSOR DAVID ARMITAGE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



18 May 2022
Online lecture with interactive Q&A
Organiser: Professor Richard English

This lecture examined the entangled fates of two documents, the Scots "Declaration of Arbroath" (1320) and the US Declaration of Independence (1776), at a moment between the 700th anniversary of the one and the 250th anniversary of the other.

David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University, where he teaches intellectual history and international history. He is an Honorary Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and an Honorary Professor at Queen's University Belfast.

The lecture was funded by the R. M. Jones Bequest, administered by the Development and Alumni Relations Office at Queen's University Belfast.



Professor David Armitage

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

BORDER IRELAND: FROM PARTITION TO BREXIT

PROFESSOR CATHAL MCCALL

21 October 2021

In-person Workshop

Chair: Professor Richard English

The Mitchell Institute was pleased to host this Research Workshop, focusing on Professor Cathal McCall's recent book *Border Ireland: From Partition to Brexit* (Routledge, 2021).

Attendees were asked to read the book before the session. The Workshop included questions, debate and discussions based around *Border Ireland*. Participants discussed the book and about how it related to their own research. They also discussed wider themes and possible related future research agendas.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE: FUTURE RESEARCH AGENDAS

DR RACHEL KILLEAN AND

DR LAUREN DEMPSTER

15 November 2021

In-person Workshop

Chair: Professor Louise Mallinder

This Workshop intended to facilitate interdisciplinary discussion, debate and reflection on how research in the field should evolve to address gaps and blindspots with existing transitional justice theory and practice, to respond to emerging challenges, and to deepen the field's theoretical underpinnings.

In advance of the Workshop, attendees read a number of related articles which formed the basis of discussion:

- The extent to which these publications identify the most pressing contemporary issues in the transitional justice field
- The extent to which the issues relate to their own work
- Identifying new research agendas for the transitional justice field.

RELIGION, CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING: FUTURE RESEARCH AGENDAS

DR GLADYS GANIEL, AND
DR JORAM TARUSARIRA, UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

7 March 2022

In-person Workshop

Chair: Professor Fiona Magowan

The Mitchell Institute hosted this Research Workshop focusing on recent journal articles in the field of religion and peacebuilding.

A leading article from a special issue of Religions on Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding, co-edited by Ganiel and Tarusarira (articles are published on a rolling basis), was also discussed.

Attendees read the articles in advance and the Workshop included debate and discussions based around Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding. Participants discussed the articles and how it related to their own research. They also discussed wider themes and possible related future research agendas.

Professor Fiona Magowan commented, 'This lively and engaging Workshop was an excellent opportunity to learn about the malleable nature of religious identification and the challenges this poses for political peace and reconciliation from two leading scholars of religion, conflict and peacebuilding'.

LAWYERS IN CONFLICT AND TRANSITION

PROFESSOR KIERAN MCEVOY,
PROFESSOR LOUISE MALLINDER
AND DR ANNA BRYSON

4 May 2022

In-person Workshop

Chair: Professor Richard English

Countries undergoing or recovering from conflict and authoritarianism often face profound rule of law challenges. In this Workshop, Professor Kieran McEvoy, Professor Louise Mallinder and Dr Anna Bryson, authors of a new book on the role of lawyers in conflict and transition, discussed how lawyers as 'real people' navigate these challenges:

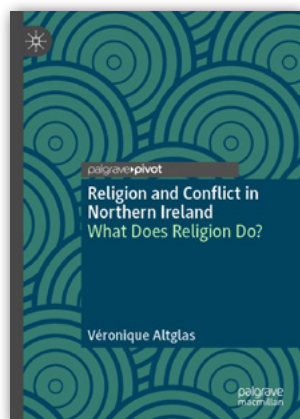
- How do they exercise resistant agency and at the same time maintain a sense of professional legitimacy?
- How do lawyers working within such settings imagine the law?
- How do they understand their ethical obligations towards their clients and the rule of law?
- What factors motivate them to use their legal practice and social capital to challenge repressive power?
- What challenges and risks do they face?
- Are there particularly gendered consequences for 'taking on' legal resistance in such contexts?

Drawing on over 130 interviews conducted during field research in Cambodia, Chile, Israel, Palestine, South Africa, and Tunisia, the book extends existing theoretical understandings of law and society and cause lawyering in particular by exploring their application (or not) in these more challenging environments.

PUBLICATIONS

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Institute Fellows and Associate Fellows have published a range of books this year which aim to enhance understanding of a range of themes, responding through analysis of current research, examination of policy and practice, and by using case studies.



Véronique Altglas,
Religion and Conflict in
Northern Ireland:
What Does Religion Do?
(Basingstoke: Palgrave,
2022)

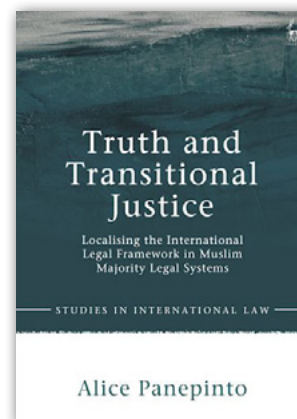
DR VÉRONIQUE ALTGLAS

Religion and Conflict in Northern Ireland: What Does Religion Do?

Northern Ireland presents a fundamental challenge for the sociology of religion – how do religious beliefs, attitudes and identities relate to practices, violence and conflict? In other words, what does religion do?

These interrogations are at the core of this book. It is the first critical and comprehensive review of the ways in which the social sciences have interpreted religion's significance in Northern Ireland. In particular, it examines the shortcomings of existing interpretations and, in turn, suggests alternative lines of thinking for more robust and compelling analyses of the role(s) religion might play in Northern Irish culture and politics.

Through, and beyond, the case of Northern Ireland, the second objective of this book is to outline a critical agenda for the social study of religion, which has theoretical and methodological underpinnings.



Alice Panepinto,
Truth and Transitional Justice:
Localising the International
Legal Framework in Muslim
Majority Legal Systems.
(London: Hart Publishing,
2022)

DR ALICE PANEPINTO

Truth and Transitional Justice: Localising the International Legal Framework in Muslim Majority Legal Systems

With a unique perspective on the encounter between transitional justice and Islamic law, this book analyses the relocation of transitional justice truth seeking from the international paradigm to the legal systems of Muslim-majority settings.

The Arab uprisings and new and old conflicts in the Middle East, North Africa and other contexts where Islam is a prominent religion have sparked an interest in localising transitional justice in the legal systems of Muslim-majority societies. Taking into consideration the inherently pluralistic socio-legal realities of these communities, this project explores the synergies and tensions between international law and Islamic law in furthering the truth-seeking component of transitional justice. As such, it responds to the pressing need to understand how the norms and discourse of shari'ah can inspire and support initiatives to uncover truth about past (and ongoing) abuse in order to ensure accountability for widespread human rights violations perpetrated during conflict and authoritarianism.



*Kieran McEvoy, Louise Mallinder and Anna Bryson,
Lawyers in Conflict and Transition.
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022)*

**PROFESSOR KIERAN MCEVOY,
PROFESSOR LOUISE MALLINDER
AND DR ANNA BRYSON**

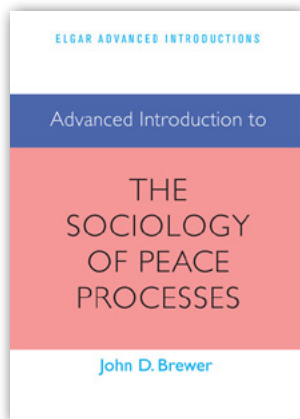
Lawyers in Conflict and Transition

Countries undergoing or recovering from conflict and authoritarianism often face profound rule of law challenges. The law on the statute books may be repressive, judicial independence may be compromised, and criminal justice agencies may be captured by powerful interests.

The authors explore the following questions:

- How do lawyers working within such settings
- imagine the law?
- How do they understand their ethical obligations towards their clients and the rule of law?
- What factors motivate them to use their legal practice and social capital to challenge repressive power?
- What challenges and risks can they face if they do so?
- And when do lawyers facilitate or acquiesce to illegality and injustice?

Drawing on over 130 interviews from Cambodia, Chile, Israel, Palestine, South Africa, and Tunisia, this book explores the extent to which theoretical understandings within law and society research on the motivations, strategies, tactics, and experiences of lawyers within democratic states apply to these more challenging environments.



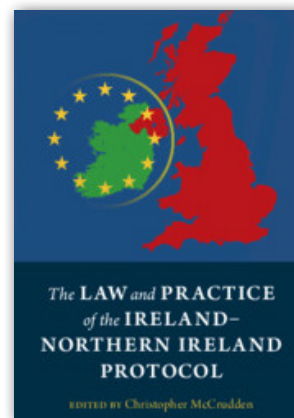
John D. Brewer, Advanced Introduction to the Sociology of Peace Processes. (London: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022)

PROFESSOR JOHN D. BREWER

Advanced Introduction to the Sociology of Peace Processes

This Advanced Introduction establishes the study of peace processes as part of the mainstream of sociology, a position consistent with the new moral re-enchantment of the social sciences. It advances a sociological view of peace that goes beyond vague notions of reconciliation, to constitute the restoration of moral sensibility, from which flows social solidarity, sociability and social justice. These concepts form the basis for a moral framework outlining what peace means sociologically.

Invigorating and timely, this will be a critical read for undergraduate and postgraduate students of peace studies, the sociology of conflict, and the sociology of war and violence. It will also appeal to higher level students and researchers in these areas.



Christopher McCrudden, The Law and Practice of the Ireland-Northern Ireland Protocol. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022)

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER MCCRUDDEN

The Law and Practice of the Ireland-Northern Ireland Protocol

The Ireland-Northern Ireland Protocol, part of the Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the European Union and the United Kingdom, is intended to address the difficult and complex impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland, North and South, and between Ireland and Great Britain.

It has become an exceptionally important, if controversial, part of the new architecture that governs the relationship between the UK and the EU more generally. It covers issues that range from trade flows to free movement, from North-South Co-operation to the protection of human rights, from customs arrangements to democratic oversight by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

This edited collection offers insights from a wide array of academic experts and practitioners in each of the various areas of legal practice that the Protocol affects, providing a comprehensive examination of the Protocol in all its legal dimensions, drawing on international law, European Union Law, and domestic constitutional and public law.



Katy Hayward,
What Do We Know and
What Should We Do About
the Irish Border?
(London: Sage, 2021)

PROFESSOR KATY HAYWARD

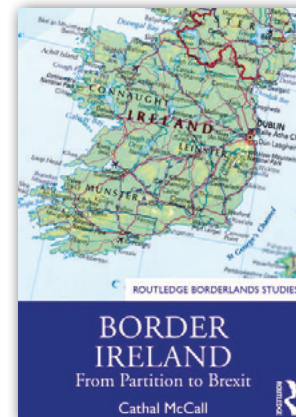
What Do We Know and What Should We Do About the Irish Border?

The Irish border is a manifestation of the relationship between Britain and Ireland. When that relationship has been tense, we have seen the worst effects at the Irish border in the form of violence, controls and barriers.

When the relationship has been good, the Irish border has become - to all intents and purposes - open, invisible and criss-crossed with connections. Throughout its short existence, the symbolism of the border has remained just as important as its practical impact.

With the UK's exit from the European Union, the challenge of managing the Irish border as a source and a symbol of British-Irish difference became an international concern. The solution found in the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement gives the Irish border a globally unique status.

A century after partition, and as we enter the post-Brexit era, this book considers what we should know and do about this highly complex and ever-contested boundary line.



Cathal McCall,
Border Ireland:
From Partition to Brexit
(London: Routledge, 2021)

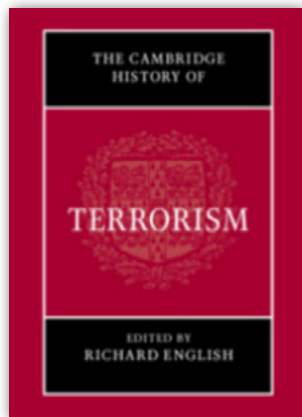
PROFESSOR CATHAL MCCALL

Border Ireland: From Partition to Brexit

When the 1998 Good Friday Agreement brought an end to decades of conflict, which was mainly focused on the existence of the Irish border, most breathed a sigh of relief. Then came Brexit. *Border Ireland: From Partition to Brexit* introduces readers to the Irish border.

It considers the process of bordering after the partition of Ireland, to the Good Friday Agreement and attendant debordering to the post-Brexit landscape. The UK's departure from the EU meant rebordering in some form. That departure also reinvigorated the push for a 'united Ireland' and borderlessness on the Island.

As well as providing a nuanced assessment that will be of interest to followers of UK/Irish relations and European studies, this book's analysis of processes of bordering/debordering/rebordering helps inform our understanding of borders more generally. Students and scholars of European studies, border studies, politics, and international relations, as well as anyone else with a general interest in the Irish border will find this book an insightful and historically-grounded aid to contemporary events.



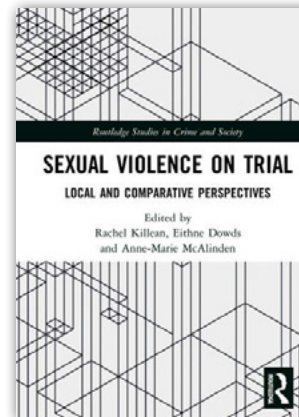
*Richard English (ed.),
The Cambridge History
of Terrorism.
(Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press, 2021)*

PROFESSOR RICHARD ENGLISH

The Cambridge History of Terrorism

The Cambridge History of Terrorism provides a comprehensive reference work on terrorism from a distinctly historical perspective, offering systematic analyses of key themes, problems and case studies from terrorism's long past.

Featuring expert scholars from across the globe, this volume examines the phenomenon of terrorism through regional case studies, largely written by local scholars, as well as through thematic essays exploring the relationship between terrorism and other historical forces. Each of the chapters - whether thematic or case-study focused - embodies new, research-based analysis which will help to inform and reshape our understanding of one of the world's most challenging problems.



*Rachel Killean, Eithne Dowds
and Anne-Marie McAlinden,
Sexual Violence on Trial:
Local and Comparative
Perspectives.
(London: Routledge 2021)*

DR RACHEL KILLEAN, DR EITHNE DOWDS AND PROFESSOR ANNE-MARIE MCALINDEN

Sexual Violence on Trial: Local and Comparative Perspectives

This book provides a contemporary critical examination of the investigation, prosecution and cultural contexts of sexual violence. It draws on Northern Ireland as a case study, while also drawing on experiences from other jurisdictions across the United Kingdom and island of Ireland.

Public and academic debates concerning the high-profile 'Belfast/Rugby Rape Trial' and the subsequent Gillen review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases have been mirrored at a global level with movements such as #MeToo and #TimesUp. This book brings together the perspectives of practitioners and academics to discuss contemporary challenges surrounding the societal and legal framing of sexual violence. It examines key aspects of the criminal justice process including the challenges of supporting victims; of responding to a range of forms of sexual violence such as rape, peer abuse, intimate partner violence and forced-to-penetrate cases; as well as alternative perspectives and future reforms.



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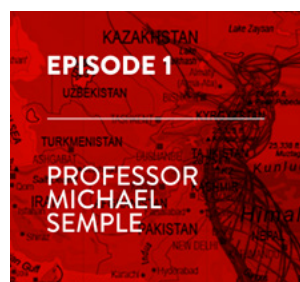
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PODCASTS

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In our series of Conversations Podcasts, Professor Richard English speaks with experts working in the areas of conflict resolution, peace-building, security and justice.



Professor Semple talks about the recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, examining the causes of the upheaval and asks what the future might hold.

Professor Semple is Practitioner Chair at the Mitchell Institute and is an acknowledged world leader on the Afghan conflict.



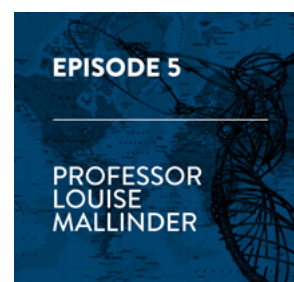
Dr McConnell discusses her new book, *The Sun is Open*; the focus of the volume of poetry and the process of writing the book.

Dr McConnell is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast and publishes literary criticism and poetry.



Professor Hayward discusses her latest book *What Do We Know and What Should We Do about the Irish Border?*

Professor Hayward is a sought-after expert on Brexit, the Irish border and the peace process, and a leading political sociologist on the island of Ireland.



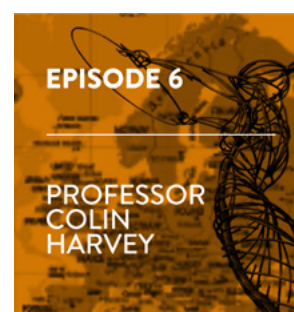
Professor Mallinder talks about the book *Amnesty, Human Rights and Political Transitions: Bridging the Peace and Justice Divide*.

Professor Mallinder's research interests relate to the fields of international human rights law, international criminal law, and law and politics in political transitions.



Professor McCall talks about his new book *Border Ireland: From Partition to Brexit* and his personal experiences of bordering and the joys of writing a book in a pandemic.

Professor McCall is an expert on European Union cross-border cooperation and conflict transformation, with a particular focus on the Irish border.



Professor Harvey discusses his research on human rights, constitutional law and what it means to be a legal academic.

Professor Harvey is a leading expert in Human Rights Law and Constitutional Law, with a particular focus on bills of rights, refugee and asylum law, as well as the relationship between constitutionalism and rights and equality.

Listen to the episodes on Spotify and iTunes



go.qub.ac.uk/Mitchell-Spotify



go.qub.ac.uk/Mitchell-iTunes



Dr Amir talks about her extensive research on security, borders and border-making and securitisation of public spaces and her focus on Israel / Palestine.

Dr Amir is a cultural and political geographer with particular interest in geographies of embodiment, critical cultural analysis and feminist and queer theory.



In this special episode, Mitchell Institute Fellows Professor Kieran McEvoy, Professor Louise Mallinder, and Dr Anna Bryson, talk about their new book, *Lawyers in Conflict and Transition*.



Dr Topping talks about his research in the areas of police reform, policing in society and restorative justice.

Dr Topping has worked on a variety of research, consultancy and advisory roles with all the major policing institutions in Northern Ireland.



Dr Lawther discusses her research in transitional justice, dealing with the past, truth recovery and victims of conflict as well as her upcoming research.

Dr Lawther is also particularly interested in the areas of ex-combatants, reparations, emotions and dark tourism.



Professor Ó Mainnín, discusses his research on language and identity in Ireland and Scotland, language and conflict.

His interests lie in the areas of linguistics (particularly onomastics); Irish and Scottish Gaelic literary texts; and Irish and Scottish identity and relations in the medieval and modern periods.



Dr Johnson talks about her research on the politics of migration and border security, particularly in the shifting international refugee regime and the politics of irregularity and irregular migration.

Dr Johnson studies how different kinds of geopolitical spaces, particularly at borders, impact and shape the political agency of migrants – and how these impacts are challenged and resisted from the ‘ground level.’

In a series of blog posts, the Mitchell Institute has been providing response and expert analysis of local and international developments and events.



*The full series of blogs is available at
go.qub.ac.uk/Mitchell-Blogs*

UKRAINE CONFLICT

Articles written between March and July 2022

Since Russia invaded Ukraine, the country has been devastated, with over 10,000 people losing their lives, 8.7 million people fleeing the country, and over 8 million people becoming internally displaced during the conflict.

The war has been internationally condemned and emergency humanitarian assistance has been provided to the people of Ukraine and refugees in its neighbouring countries. Expert analysis of the conflict has been provided by leading Queen's academics and practitioners:

- Professor Alister Miskimmon, War in Ukraine - 3 March 2022
- Professor David Connolly, Reassessing Conflict Prevention in an Increasingly Turbulent World - 15 March 2022
- Professor Louise Mallinder, The Role of Transitional Justice in Ukraine - 4 April 2022
- Professor David Connolly, The Promise and Perils of a Humanitarian Ceasefire in Ukraine - 18 July 2022

Reflecting on the war, Professor Miskimmon, former Head of School, History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, said: "Russia's attack on Ukraine, followed by President Volodymyr Zelensky's formal request to begin EU membership negotiations on 28th February 2022, places Ukraine's European future firmly in the spotlight. This requires clarity from the EU. Joining the EU is a complex and protracted process taking years, but any agreement in the midst of the war to begin negotiations would be highly symbolic."

Professor Louise Mallinder, Legacy Theme Lead at the Mitchell Institute and Professor of Law, is an expert on transitional justice and international law. Professor Mallinder said: "It is necessary even in the midst of conflict, when the future remains uncertain, to hold onto an inclusive vision of the future society. With respect to transitional justice, this can entail avoiding actions that could make that future vision harder to realise."

Professor David Connolly is Practitioner Chair in the Mitchell Institute and specialises in the role of evidence in conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery. In one of his articles on the conflict he commented: "Looking to Ukraine and beyond, this article pinpoints three main challenges to conflict prevention, and argues for fresh thinking and new approaches to prevention."

"The challenges together reveal the need to learn from past mistakes and to track how we adapt to a fast-moving global order. To start though, it is important to outline the main contours of 'conflict prevention', which contrast sharply with the turbulent dynamics of our contemporary global context."

Professor Richard English, said: "The tragic conflict in Ukraine has rightly prompted widespread condemnation. It is vital also that experts provide evidence-based analysis and assessment of its complexities. The Mitchell Institute has therefore been delighted to publish these excellent blogs by Professors Miskimmon, Mallinder and Connolly."



Image credit: Marjan Blan,
unsplash.com/@marjan-blan

The war in Ukraine is a vivid reminder of how war has changed in late modernity. While ‘new wars’, as Mary Kaldor calls them, have more enduring continuities with former conflicts than the term suggests, it is incontrovertible that war has transformed. This is highlighted so tragically in Ukraine. There is no longer a set battlefield between clearly identifiable combatants, marked off from the rest of society, innocent citizens are targets, social and domestic infrastructure gets indiscriminately bombed, and human bodies become battle sites, with degradations inflicted on women, children and the elderly. Weaponry is sophisticated and makes no distinction in whom it injures and kills, but de-technological weapons have also re-appeared in the 21st century, in the form of swords, machetes and the human bomb (whether in cars or strapped to the perpetrator).

The Ukrainian war discloses a second truth about the changing nature of warfare in late modernity. It evokes a profoundly moral response. The injuries are also moral ones; not in the sense that they offend the moral code of the perpetrator, but by provoking moral outrage in victims and those looking on as bystanders. War crimes are legal entities because they offend morality. The moral landscape of war has shifted in line with cultural changes in how we respond generally to suffering. We should not overstate this. Late modernity is full of moral contradictions. The rise of authoritarian

populism, xenophobia, and anti-migrant racism exists alongside empathy to what Luc Boltanski calls the distant stranger. Philanthropic and charitable giving is at its height whilst migrant babies drown on British seashores. Distant strangers evoke moral empathy, it seems, only so long as they remain distant. People are clearly making moral judgements about victims. We see this in the contrast between the moral response toward Ukrainian war refugees and Syrian or Afghan migrants. We open our homes to the former, but keep the latter at longer distance.

In my new book *An Advanced Introduction to the Sociology of Peace Processes*, the changing nature of warfare and its moral landscape form part of several structural and material conditions that have shaped our growing moral interest in peace. Others include the extremely violent form of global capitalism that exacerbates competition and conflict, between nation states and in internal conflicts over the control of the nation state, and the intensified economic inequalities and wealth disparities between the Global North and South, and within the Global North amongst those left behind by the social and economic policies of neo-liberalism. We have at the same time an increase in moral sensibility to suffering and harm and increased moral enervation and moral degradation of our enemies. We are both sensitive to the suffering of others and fearful of them. We show greater levels of emotional

empathy to people just like ourselves, but draw ever more rigid moral boundaries to exclude those who are different.

These material and structural conditions have had a profound effect on social science treatments of war and peace, leading to what I call the re-enchantment of the social sciences. Moral sensibility is again in vogue, both as a topic of study by social scientists and as an ethical commitment that we are encouraged to bring to our work as social scientists. Thus, we have studies now of vulnerability, risk, emotion, anger, love, compromise, suffering and the like, and give voice to social science as a public good and as having public value, permitting us to make moral judgements as social scientists; and not just about war and peace.

Significantly, the re-enchantment of the social sciences in late modernity has opened up an intellectual space for the emergence of the sociology of peace processes. Violence and war have always interested sociology more but the political economy lying behind the re-enchantment of the social sciences has given peace a chance, sociologically.

This re-enchantment should shape, however, sociology’s understanding of peace. Peace has to be more than the vague notion of reconciliation and run deeper than technical practices of

transitional justice. The sociological definition of peace developed in my book sees it as the restoration of moral sensibility. Moral sensibility involves a sense of social solidarity after conflict, a sense of social togetherness, which is embedded in the restoration of sociability, the capacity of living together in tolerance despite difference. Sensibility, solidarity and sociability are mediated, however, by social justice. Continued social injustice stymies moral sensibility and its alliterations. This requires us to rethink what peace means sociologically. It is more than the ending of violence; it requires social transformation. Conflict transformation without social transformation will not deliver peace.

The realisation of this sort of peace is not easy, and the book outlines a typology of peace processes aimed to deliver it, all of which face huge difficulties in doing so. The compromise type of peace process, delivered through a second preference negotiated settlement in which parties give up on their first preference for a mutually agreed deal, which is the most valued form, is perhaps the most difficult of all. In part it is the most difficult because it is assumed to be a simple matter for political resolution by political elites. It ignores what I call the social peace process. Statebuilding reforms the institutions of governance, while peacebuilding in the social peace process prioritises societal healing, the

restoration of broken relationships and rebuilding social trust. The problem with treating peace processes as essentially political processes is that this excludes civil society, and fails to see that the real problem is essentially a moral one.

The book discusses new concepts which the sociology of peace processes illuminates, like the sociology of compromise, post-conflict emotions that furnish us with sociologies of anger, forgiveness, mercy, hope and social trust, the sociology of everyday life peacebuilding, and the sociology of personal trauma.

Throughout these discussions, however, peace is seen as essentially a moral issue not best left to politicians, whose discourse is adversarial and inimical to moral debates. A shared future is a moral idea, not a political one. The single conclusion of the sociology of peace processes is that learning to live together after conflict should be understood as a moral duty, garnering moral sensibility toward erstwhile enemies.

*Image credit: Alexei Scutari,
unsplash.com/@scutal*



LORD DAVID TRIMBLE

PROFESSOR EMERITUS GRAHAM WALKER,
SCHOOL OF HISTORY, ANTHROPOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS
28 July 2022

To mark the passing of Lord David Trimble in July 2022, Professor Emeritus Graham Walker reflects on the enigmatic Ulster Unionist leader.

David Trimble was an unusual Ulster Unionist leader: academic, intellectual, and far-seeing. If he was willing to play to the Orange and Loyalist galleries during his journey to the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) in 1995, he then made it clear quickly that he would not be reticent in arguing the Unionist case with Nationalists and Republicans, and in making necessary compromises for the greater good of Northern Ireland as a society and its place in the UK Union. It has been well observed that there would have been no Good Friday Agreement in 1998 without him, and no prospect of the essentials of the Agreement enduring without his tenacious and courageous advocacy.

Those who chose him as UUP leader on account of what they believed was an uncompromising brand of 'traditional' Unionism, neglected to reflect on his past willingness to take political risks and to go beyond a 'dig your heels in' political posture. Trimble's political apprenticeship in Bill Craig's Vanguard movement in the 1970s is key here. Vanguard was militant and populist, and is chiefly remembered for its leader's menacing rallies and speeches. Nevertheless, it was also something of a Unionist think tank attracting young, restless, and bright activists such as Trimble and Reg (later Lord) Empey. Within its ranks were academics such as the eccentric but cerebral Kennedy Lindsay, and there was no fear of exploring radical visions



Image credit: Steve Punter,
[flickr.com/people/spunter](https://www.flickr.com/people/spunter)

of Northern Ireland's political future, including independence as a Commonwealth Dominion. Craig's long-term political preference, as vouchsafed to the Scottish political journalist and thinker Neal Ascherson, was an autonomous Northern Ireland within a properly federated UK.

In 1975 Craig confounded observers by pushing for 'voluntary coalition' with the Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), and the restoration of devolved government in a power-sharing form. This led to him being

denounced by most of his own colleagues and other Unionists, but not by Trimble. In fact, Trimble had been instrumental in planning for such a coalition by consulting academic experts such as the distinguished Professor of Politics, Bernard Crick, to fashion new structural arrangements pertaining to parliamentary committees. It is clear that constructive and innovative ideas about governance drove the young Trimble, and continued to preoccupy him as he altered career path to become a Law lecturer following the failure of Craig's initiative.

In his recollections of Trimble at Queen's University, Paul (Lord) Bew has commented on Trimble's eagerness to read and digest ideas from the Marxist left of the political spectrum, notwithstanding his essential Conservatism. Trimble was riveted, for example, by the pamphlets produced in the 1970s and 80s by the British and Irish Communist Organisation (BICO) in which a 'Two Nations' interpretation of modern Irish history underpinned a belief in the greater progressiveness – or potential for such – of the UK from a left wing standpoint. Trimble was always agnostic about schematic political doctrines – his political 'bible' was the philosopher Karl Popper's 'Poverty of Historicism'; but while the Marxist teleology of BICO did not convince, he was much influenced by the group's critique of Irish Nationalism's refusal to appreciate the ideological foundations of Unionism. In addition, he was always keen to articulate a 'Popperist' scepticism regarding Irish Nationalism's notions of destiny and the supposed inevitability of a 32 County state.

In light of this it should not have shocked so many people that Trimble engaged immediately on becoming UUP leader with those from a Nationalist and Republican tradition such as Proinsias de Rossa, the then leader of the Workers' Party in Ireland, an outfit with its roots in the 'Official' IRA. Trimble also, tellingly, sounded out journalists from a Nationalist

background such as Eoghan Harris and Malachi O'Docherty to gain an insight into Republican thinking, and encouraged fellow academics like Arthur Aughey to supply more modern and forward-looking Unionist arguments. There has been no Unionist leader, before Trimble or since, who has been so knowledgeable about the history of political thought in Ireland, and has been so adept at re-orienting Unionism to meet the challenges Nationalism presented.

Trimble achieved much for Unionism in his formidable negotiation of the terms of the 1998 Agreement. It is hardly a reflection on him that the 'spirit' of the agreement has been corrupted in so many ways since he was leading the consociational executive. From a Unionist point of view, Trimble's restricting of the scope and reach of the North-South bodies in Strand Two (he was acutely aware in this respect of the problems in the previous Sunningdale agreement), his stress on the importance of the East-West counterweight in Strand Three, and his insistence on binding these North-South and East-West bodies to the Executive and Assembly of Strand One, was remarkable.

In the end Trimble could not bring about the fundamental culture shift in Unionism more broadly which he sought: the shift from a battle-hardened fear of the Nationalist bogey to a positive vision of a reformed Union.

Too many reverted to hard-line positions in the face of symbolic changes such as policing reforms and the initial refusal of the Provisional IRA to decommission weapons, and too many were 'spooked' by a media-savvy Republican movement skilled at presenting the Agreement as a step towards their goal of Irish unity. The eclipse of the UUP, and Trimble's political career, by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) by 2005 has since left Unionism struggling to re-capture the promise which he, and those outward-looking people who gathered around him in the 1990s, represented.



In June 2022, a portrait of Professor Lord David Trimble, pictured with his wife Lady Daphne Trimble, was commissioned by Queen's University Belfast and painted by world renowned local artist and honorary graduate Colin Davidson.

COMEUPPANCE FOR THE TALIBAN-US ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

PROFESSOR MICHAEL SEMPLE

4 August 2022

The killing of Ayman Zawahiri in a successful US drone strike on his Kabul safe house showcases the inadequacies of policies pursued in Afghanistan. For both the US and the Taliban, the strike can be considered as marking the end of a chapter in their dealings with each other.

But, even with the Al Qaeda leader eliminated, the Afghan situation remains a source of misery for the thirty-five million Afghans and of instability for South-Central Asia and beyond. As the dust settles on the scene of the drone strike, all actors in the Afghan conflict face the challenge of rethinking their approach to achieving a more tenable outcome in the country.

The Afghan Taliban Movement has demonstrated remarkable consistency, resilience, and adaptability in its almost three decades long struggle to impose an authoritarian Sunni clerical regime on Afghanistan's cultural diversity. The movement's second supreme leader, Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor espoused a doctrine of translating successes of the battlefield into political power, through negotiation with the United States. The Taliban leadership had already embraced this doctrine when, in 2018, the US accelerated efforts to end its military mission in Afghanistan.

The February 2020 Taliban-US Doha Agreement was made possible by this coincidence of US

desire for the rubric of a responsible exit with the Taliban's openness to dealing with the US within their takeover strategy.

In a notable flourish of jihadi rhetoric, the current Taliban leader, Haibatollah Akhundzada, recently informed a Taliban-selected assembly of clerics and local representatives that the movement had negotiated with the US with the sole intent of securing the withdrawal of international troops, which was necessary to set the conditions for the restoration of the Taliban's Islamic Emirate. He therefore refuted any suggestion that the Taliban had reached a political accommodation with either the US or the Taliban's Afghan rivals. According to the Haibatollah rhetoric, the movement never intended to be restrained from pursuit of its vision of constructing a Hanafi-Sunni state and perpetual Manichaean struggle against the infidels.

Haibatollah's rhetoric was consistent with themes that Taliban leaders have used to mobilise supporters for the jihad since 1994. However, in the year since the Taliban retook power, there has been ample opportunity to observe the movement's statecraft and practical actions. Since August 2021, Taliban have been obsessed with the process of completing their usurping of the Afghan state. Rather than focusing on policies, the leadership has been busy with appointments of Taliban to virtually every administrative position in the country – a sort of de-Baathification in

reverse. Service to the jihad and loyalty to the movement are being rewarded with appointments to government departments, at all levels. The state appointments process has been driven by the urge to distribute status and privilege. But the movement has also been involved in raw power play, anticipating possible sources of opposition to Taliban rule, and suppressing them ruthlessly. The Taliban toolkit has involved military operations, backed up by enforced disappearances and summary executions, directed against areas or figures suspected of rebelliousness. Freedom of expression has been drastically curtailed and Taliban leaders have proclaimed that criticism of the Emirate will not be tolerated. However, in their efforts to secure control of the national territory, Taliban local exercise of power has at times been quite sophisticated. Administrators and security officials, in even the remotest parts of the country, are all drawn from the movement's cadre of fighters and clerics. But Taliban leaders try to co-opt local elites and persuade them that submission to Taliban authority is their only viable survival strategy.

In this practical exercise of power since the takeover, the Taliban have also revealed the role of ethnic hierarchy within the movement. As has been the case since the movement's foundation, ethnic Pashtun Taliban have maintained control of all power positions in the leadership. Taliban from the other three major ethnic groups, have been

tolerated in secondary leadership positions as long as they show loyalty and submit to the leadership. The Taliban's Uzbeks, Tajiks and few Hazaras are acutely aware that they have been excluded from real power but are needed to help govern the non-Pashtun areas of the north and centre of the country.

The base of the movement, fighters who endured deprivation to sustain the long military campaign against the US-backed republican government, was largely motivated by the idea of imposition of Islamic rule once victory was achieved. Unsurprisingly, the content of this Islamic rule was little elaborated during the military campaign. Some Taliban actions since the takeover have been totemic nods to Islamisation, such as the partial ban on teenage girls' schooling and the revival of a "Ministry of vice and virtue" to promote Islamic norms and values. But many Taliban fighters are frustrated at the leadership's apparent lack of interest in developing anything they would recognise as an Islamic system.

Indeed, even Haibatollah himself is now reported to have woken up to the reality that the majority of Taliban he has appointed as officials in the Islamic Emirate seem more materialistically than ideologically motivated. Reports from across the country indicate that Emirate officials have been more interested in cars, houses, and polygamy than in developing ideal Islamic rule.

This political culture of the Taliban in power formed the backdrop to the drone strike on Zawahiri and helps to define the policy-making challenge in Afghanistan. During the Doha talks process, the Taliban developed their "Political Commission" as a body of experienced diplomats tasked with presenting the movement as a responsible actor, capable of maintaining security in Afghanistan and open to compromise on domestic social and political issues. The veterans of the Political Commission have been re-badged as Foreign Minister, deputy ministers and head of a commission to draw exiled Afghans home. But they have continued to lead the movement's diplomacy, while studiously avoiding giving any substantive or time-bound commitment on moderation of policy or transition to a broad-based government. On the issue of restricting the activities of foreign militants present in Afghanistan, a key Taliban undertaking in the 2020 agreement, assurances given by the old Political Commission team have largely been divorced from reality.

Since grabbing power, the Taliban have hoped to obtain international recognition as the way to unblock access to finance, thus consolidating their control of the state. They hoped that recognition would persuade neighbouring powers to deal with their Islamic Emirate to the exclusion of any other Afghan party, because a strong regional backer is considered a *sine qua non* for the success of

any Afghan opposition movement. The Taliban calculated that international recognition would boost their domestic legitimacy, persuading Afghans that they had no alternative but to submit to the authority of the Taliban's Amir. However, the Taliban charged with pursuing recognition and cooperation short of recognition (such as the unfreezing of assets), consistently demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to make and deliver on commitments which were important for the international actors they were dealing with. The old Political Commission team failed to deliver on an inclusive political system, the reopening of girls' schools or curtailing human rights violations. They blocked proposals for central bank independence and thus threw up the opportunity to have assets unfrozen. And, vitally, they could do nothing about the increased freedom enjoyed by Islamist militants from Pakistan, Central Asia and the Middle East.

In line with their approach to negotiating the 2020 Doha Agreement, the Taliban had hoped that, by persisting in their demands and repeating their claims to be responsible and reformed, they would obtain recognition and secure their hold in power. In this sense, allowing the Al Qaeda leader to base himself in central Kabul, until the US found him, was a strategic policy blunder for the Taliban. The presence of Islamist militants is something that the regional powers, whom the Taliban have sought to charm, are as concerned about as the

US. As the US labels Zawahiri's presence a gross violation of Taliban undertakings under the Doha Agreement, Afghanistan's neighbours are bound to doubt any counter-terrorist undertakings the Taliban may give them. The Taliban's spectacular failure to honour the single most important international commitment they have made in the history of their diplomacy leaves them without a credible path towards consolidation of power via achievement of international and domestic legitimacy.

For the US, the drone strike may have been a tactical success and striking demonstration of hard power without the need for an army on the ground. But it still leaves the US in need of a viable Afghan strategy. After all, it is deeply problematic that a movement which has prioritised loyalty to fellow mujahideen of Al Qaeda, the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and multiple offshoots, over adherence to international commitments, still controls the Afghan state. Since the Taliban takeover, the US has pursued a pragmatic, cautious engagement with the Taliban de facto government. The rationale for this engagement has been that the US should adapt to the reality of Taliban power and establish whether it is possible for the US to secure its key interests through dialogue. But the topmost Taliban leaders were implicated in the sheltering of Zawahiri. Top of the list of those implicated is Interior Minister Khalifa Seraj Haqqani who remains deeply involved

in the Taliban's dealings with foreign militants. But other Taliban leaders such as Defence Minister Mawlvi Yaqoob, also share responsibility, as they have had a hands-on involvement in managing the Taliban security infrastructure, and Taliban attempts at total control the territory. The Taliban resistance to compromise on all the softer issues discussed with the US, alongside their gross recalcitrance in hosting the active foreign militants, have, regrettably, demonstrated that engagement with the Islamic Emirate is not a viable approach for the US to secure its interests.

The challenge posed by this twin Taliban and US policy failure is that Afghanistan is too big to ignore and is a source of multiple potential sources of instability. The economic collapse combined with chaotic authoritarian rule is driving a new wave of mass migration, towards Iran, Turkey and Europe. The country remains the epicentre of the global heroin trade, with potential to develop into a regional crime hub. Everyone is trying to work out the significance of natural resources and trade routes in the latest round of global strategic competition. Islamic State, Al Qaeda, the Pakistani Taliban and multiple other militant groups remain ensconced, even if they are considered as less of a strategic issue than at the height of the Global War on Terror. And, although it is not fashionable to say so, Afghanistan has become another of the fronts in the confrontation between authoritarianism

(represented by the Taliban) and free societies (represented by the Afghan political class and civil society).

The Taliban's steadfast exclusion of the vast majority of the population from governance and the failure of the Taliban's preferred consolidation strategy put the onus on the rest of the Afghan political class to present a viable alternative to the Islamic Emirate. A year after the collapse of Afghanistan's Islamic Republic, organised political opposition to the Taliban remains fragmented. The main military resistance retains a toehold in several northern provinces but is holding back from any concerted effort to retake territory until it secures adequate external support. Meanwhile, although Afghanistan should still be considered one of the main active global conflicts, since August 2021, there has been no concerted, internationally backed peace process. While the US recalibrates how it engages on Afghanistan, having drawn a blank from post-August Taliban dialogue, the key policy challenges confront non-Taliban Afghan leaders. If the Islamic Emirate cannot be trusted to manage Afghanistan, those who aspire to represent the swathes of society excluded by the Islamic Emirate, must work out how to mobilise a population in the face of Taliban ruthlessness and international indifference.



We are delighted to share the success of Institute Fellows whose academic standing and significant contribution to their various research fields has been recognised by election to prestigious national and international academies and Fellowship Awards.



Dr Gladys Ganiel

DR GLADYS GANIEL ELECTED TO ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

The Royal Irish Academy is one of Ireland's premier learned societies and cultural institutions. Membership is awarded to persons who have attained the highest distinction by their unique contributions to education and research.

Dr Gladys Ganiel has been recognised for her international reputation, the originality and quality of her work on religion and peacebuilding, and on contemporary religious practices. Her three key pioneering monographs have had a global impact on her discipline and have helped to shape wider public understanding of religion.

Speaking on her recognition, Dr Ganiel, Reader in Sociology at Queen's, said: "It is such an honour to be elected the Royal Irish Academy, with its long tradition of public engagement informed by world-class research in the humanities and sciences. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with other Academy members to promote research-led public debate across the island."



Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden

PROFESSOR ANNE-MARIE MCALINDEN AWARDED AN AHRC FELLOWSHIP

Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden has been awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship to conduct a project on 'Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical Institutional Abuse.'

The aim of the Fellowship scheme is to allow researchers to carry out high-quality research, develop capabilities as research specialists, and to undertake innovative and collaborative development activities.

Professor McAlinden has said of the award, 'I am really delighted to receive this Fellowship which will allow me the time and space to develop my work and write a monograph on historical institutional abuse. It will give me the opportunity to engage in a range of collaborations with other scholars and with policy-makers and advocacy groups across the island of Ireland.'



Professor Richard English

PROFESSOR RICHARD ENGLISH ELECTED TO THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

Founded in 1988, the Academia Europaea comprises elected academics from Council of Europe states and from other nations across the world and features eminent scholars who cover the full range of academic disciplines.

The object of Academia Europaea is the advancement and propagation of excellence in scholarship in the humanities, law, the economic, social, and political sciences, mathematics, medicine, and all branches of natural and technological sciences anywhere in the world for the public benefit and for the advancement of the education of the public of all ages. The aim of the Academy is to promote European research, advise governments and international organisations in scientific matters, and further interdisciplinary and international research.



Dr Cheryl Lawther

INSTITUTE FELLOWS WIN BRITISH ACADEMY MID-CAREER FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

The British Academy Mid-Career Fellowships support talented individual researchers to promote public understanding and engagement with subjects in the humanities and social sciences. The scheme is open to scholars with a significant track record as an excellent communicator and champion in their field and who are normally no more than 15 years from the award of their doctorate degree.

The Fellowships allow academics time to focus on a major piece of research, by taking time away from their teaching and administration commitments.

Dr Cheryl Lawther will focus on her project *Beyond Innocence and Guilt: Constructing Victimhood in Northern Ireland*. The resulting monograph will be published with the highly prestigious Clarendon Studies in Criminology Series, Oxford University Press.



Dr Anna Bryson

Dr Anna Bryson will use the Fellowship to focus on *Conflict and Civility: Memory, Identity and Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland*. In addition to completion of a monograph and other scholarly outputs, there will be dissemination and public engagement, as well as an international conference at Queen's University Belfast in October 2022.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022



**25,612
WEBSITE
VIEWS**

Visitors from 67 countries such as Germany, Spain, The United States of America, Mexico and Brazil visited the Mitchell Institute website, with over 100 views from 15 countries.



**160,150
TWITTER
IMPRESSIONS**

Our followers include academics, researchers and practitioners from a range of universities and institutes across the world, as well as members of the public with an interest in the activity of the Institute.



**5,512
YOUTUBE
VIEWS**

Recordings of Institute talks and lectures from leading academics, practitioners enable people from across the world to engage with Institute activity.





02

POSTGRADUATE
ACTIVITIES

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

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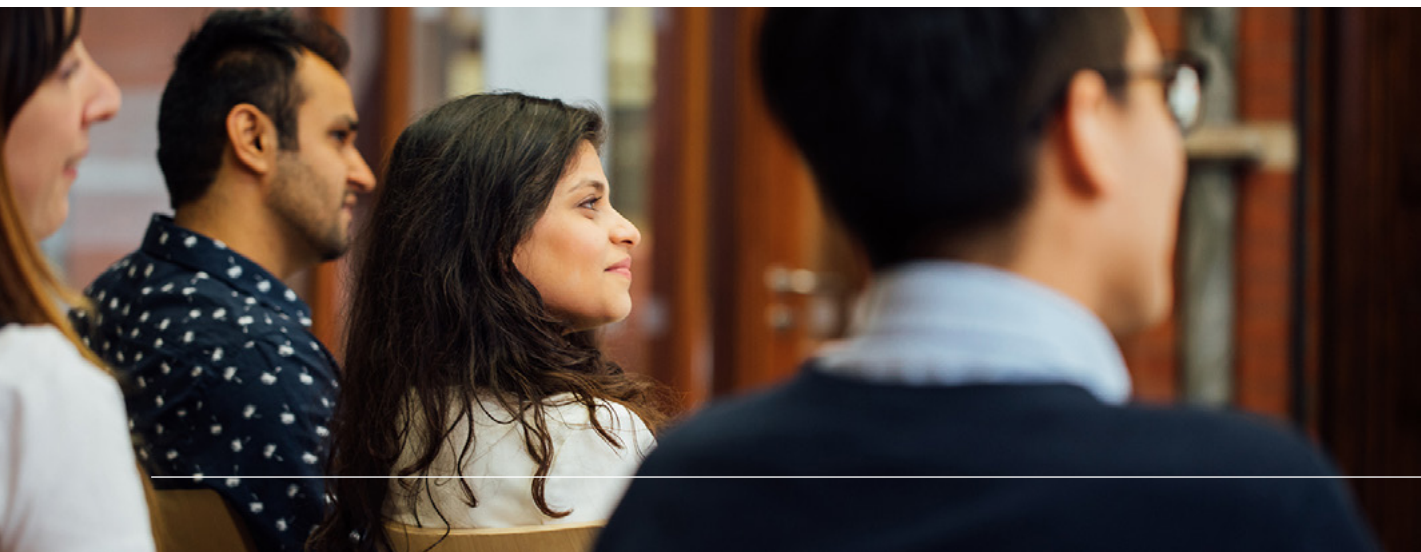
There are currently 192 Postgraduate Research Students supervised by Mitchell Institute academics. The Institute is also home to two Doctoral Training Programmes:

- The Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Cybersecurity and Society (LINCS)
- The Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Algorithmic Solutions (LINAS)

These Programmes have total funding of £2.4million, from the Leverhulme Trust and from the NI Assembly Department for the Economy for a total of 30 postgraduate research students, from 2015 to 2026. There are currently 19 students enrolled on these two programmes - a significant proportion of our student cohort.

The postgraduate students contribute significantly to the strong interdisciplinary community of the Institute. They have opportunities to get involved in the development and delivery of dedicated postgraduate activity, through formal and informal events, such as the Annual Postgraduate Research Conference and Fireside Chat Series. By doing so, they build on their transferable skills and expertise, enabling significant personal development.

Our students have access to the extensive expertise within the Institute and across Queen's University Belfast as well as through the Institute's network of national and international researchers, professionals, practitioners and communities from a diverse range of disciplines.



DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

LINCS

LEVERHULME INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORK ON CYBERSECURITY AND SOCIETY

The Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Cybersecurity and Society (LINCS) Doctoral Training Programme was established in 2015 to support Doctoral Scholars undertaking pioneering research at the interface between the social sciences and electronic engineering & computer science.

LINCS brings together The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice and the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) to develop a distinctive cohort of 15 doctoral students working across the boundaries of their disciplines, opening up new avenues of enquiry centred initially on the priority themes and specific PhD projects.

This Doctoral Training Programme has been awarded £1.05million from the Leverhulme Trust with match funding from the Department for the Economy for 30 scholarships over 60 months, from 2015 to 2023. This funding covers the tuition fees and maintenance grants (at standard UKRI rates) in addition to supporting training and development needs.

The first cohort of LINCS students commenced their studies in Autumn 2015.

Professor Cathal McCall (Programme Co-ordinator) said “As one of the original Leverhulme Doctoral Training Scheme programmes LINCS has been a pathfinder for interdisciplinary research on cybersecurity and society at Queen’s. LINCS has opened exciting, innovative and rewarding avenues of enquiry enabling researchers to develop futures-oriented collaborations and offer interdisciplinary support to its Leverhulme Doctoral Scholars.”

LINAS

LEVERHULME INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORK ON ALGORITHMIC SOLUTIONS

The Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Algorithmic Solutions (LINAS) Doctoral Training Programme was established in 2021 to develop a cohort of 15 Doctoral Scholars who can address the implications of massive-scale data processing, artificial intelligence and machine learning for both the actual operation of algorithmically driven public decision-making in wider society, and within science and engineering.

LINAS brings together legal scholars, social scientists, physical scientists, mathematicians, computer scientists and engineers to develop a distinctive cohort of doctoral students working across the boundaries of their own disciplines.

This Doctoral Training Programme will receive a total of £1.35million from the Leverhulme Trust with match funding from the Department for the Economy for 30 scholarships over 72 months, from 2021 to 2027. This funding covers the tuition fees and maintenance grants (at standard UKRI rates) in addition to supporting training and development needs.

The first cohort of 6 LINAS students commenced their studies in autumn 2021.

Professor John Morison (Programme Co-ordinator) said ‘LINAS brings together a wide range of PhD scholars and an extended supervisory team to explore the implications of massive-scale data processing, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). Our focus is on exploring the actual operation of algorithmically driven public decision-making in wider society, and within science and engineering. The 6 Doctoral Scholars enrolled in September 2021 have all successfully passed through their annual reviews and taken full part in the extensive programme of LINAS activities that bring the various postgraduate students and staff members together from across a range of disciplines within the University’.



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022

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Power, Struggle, and Terror: Understanding State and Non-State Violence in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security, and Justice hosted an Annual Postgraduate Research Conference on 22 June 2022 organised by a small committee of students affiliated with the Institute. Focused on a broad theme related to peace, security, and justice chosen by the student committee, the conference was entirely student-led.

The Annual Conference provides a platform for postgraduate students and researchers from Queen's University Belfast and beyond, to showcase their research to a wide audience and to build networks with researchers from across the world.

This year's topic was 'Power, Struggle, and Terror'. Through presentations, discussion and a virtual exhibition, major questions relating to state and non-state violence raised by the recent events in Ukraine, Kabul, and around the World, were discussed.

This conference tackled themes including:

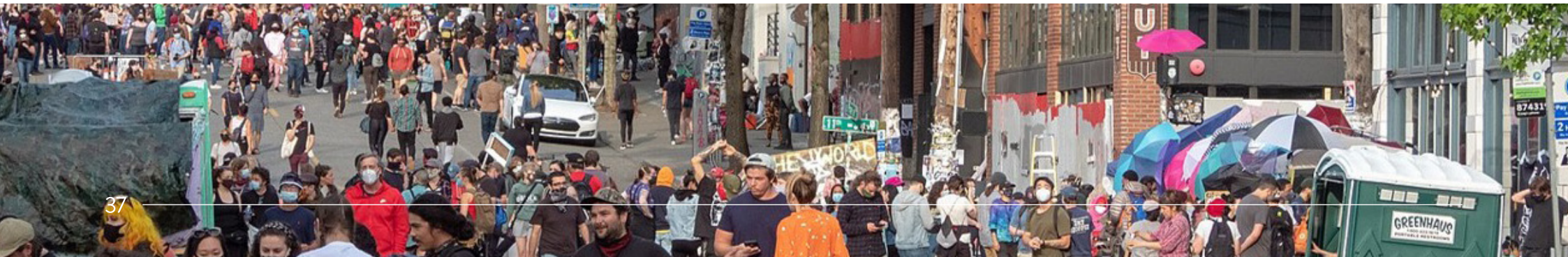
- Terrorism and State Terrorism
- State Responses to Terrorism
- Nationalism
- Political Violence
- Global Power
- Conflict Resolution

Additional financial support for this year's conference was received from the Postgraduate Led Initiative Fund, provided by The Graduate School at Queen's University Belfast.

Organising Committee

The Annual Postgraduate Research Conference is entirely student-led, organised and delivered by students affiliated with the Institute. This year's Conference Committee included:

- Darren Colbourne
- Kathryn L. Cribbin
- Daryll Galloghly
- Brendan McKee
- Rachel Thomas
- Eleanor Williams





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr Tim Wilson, University of St Andrews

Director, The Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence

Sharpening our analytical tools at the slaughter-bench of history. How should we study political violence in the 21st century?

PANEL 1

TERRORISM AND STATE RESPONSES TO TERRORISM

Chair: Kathryn L. Cribben, Queen's University Belfast

Mauro Lubrano, University of St Andrews

Choosing What (not) to Do Next: A Preliminary Theoretical Framework on Strategic Innovation in Terrorist Organisations

Travis Frain, Edge Hill University

State Responses to Terrorism: A Comparative Approach Exploring Statutory Support for Survivors of Terrorism Across Eight Different Nations

Rachael Thomas, Queen's University Belfast

'In No Mood to Compromise': Margaret Thatcher, the British Government, and the Northern Irish Hunger Strikes, 1980/1981

Jennifer Dowling, Leiden University

How the 'Internal Brakes' Limited Violent Escalation from the Provisional IRA in Post- Good Friday Northern Ireland

Brendan McKee, Queen's University Belfast

Responding to Nationalist Terrorism: Quebec and Northern Ireland

PANEL 2
CHALLENGING AND REDEFINING GLOBAL NORMS

Chair: Professor Kieran McEvoy

Sarah Edgcumbe, University of St Andrews

The Political Violence of Erasure in Times of Conflict and Peacebuilding

Mohammed Al-Ashmar, University of St Andrews

Syria and Russia: Synergistic Violent and Authoritarian Approaches to Counterinsurgency

Nada Ahmed, Ulster University

State Crimes and the Arab Spring

Mark Barrow, University of Cambridge

Syrian Citizen Journalists and Communication Technologies: Tools in Evading State Repression

Andreas Moeller, King's College London

The Situational Role of Ideology in Perpetration of Mass Atrocities





PANEL 3 **COUNTERTERRORISM IN THE 20TH-21ST CENTURIES**

Chair: Darren Colborne, Queen's University Belfast

Eleanor Williams, Queen's University Belfast

Why is Intelligence Sometimes Unethical when Countering Terrorism?

Stella Attah, Queen's University Belfast

Accountability as Strategic for Counterterrorism Efforts Against Boko-Haram in Nigeria

Michael Livesey, University of Sheffield

The Conceptual Archive: A Useful Tool for Genealogising Counterterrorism Practises?

Leah Rea, Ulster University

This House Ought not to Legislate in Such a Mood: Examining Parliamentary Scrutiny of Government-Introduced Anti-Terrorism Legislation



*The full conference programme is available at
go.qub.ac.uk/Mitchell-Conference*

LINCS / LINAS SEMINAR SERIES

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This Seminar Series is co-ordinated by LINCS Doctoral Scholar Tomás McInerney and Dr Meg Schwamb of the Astrophysics Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast.

The Seminars explored the implications of massive-scale data processing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning for both the actual operation of algorithmically driven public decision-making in wider society, and within science and engineering.

Seminars were open to the public and are were held online.

8 DECEMBER 2021

Tomás McInerney

Turtles All The Way Down: Explanations and Approximations of Explanation

19 JANUARY 2022

Dr Michelle Lochner

University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Anomaly Detection in Astronomical Data using Machine Learning

9 FEBRUARY 2022

Brian Byrne

Digital Cosmopolitanism and the Connected Migrant

Sejal Chandak

Women, Discrimination and Algorithms

9 MARCH 2022

Rohan Talbot

Medical Aid for Palestinians

Automating Occupation: Israel's Deployment of Facial Recognition Technologies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

13 APRIL 2022

Emma McAllister

Learning Analytics: Data-driven Decision Making in Education

Michael Collins

The Vigilant Image: Documentary Technologies in an Age of Global (In) Security

11 MAY 2022

Dr Jennifer Cobbe

University of Cambridge

Structuring Interdependence: Understanding Law and Technology Through Figurations

FIRESIDE CHATS

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The Fireside Chat series is a student-led initiative, developed and delivered by Mitchell Institute PhD student Allely Albert in 2019, until December 2021. A new Fireside Chat Co-ordinating Committee of Mitchell Institute PGR students was established for the Fireside Chats from February 2022.

The “Fireside Chat” is a reference to American history and politics, and also acts as a tribute to Senator George J. Mitchell. The key aims of the Fireside Chats are to provide a platform to showcase the interdisciplinary research going on across the Institute and beyond, and to enable networking for postgraduate students, researchers and practitioners at a range of career stages.

The Fireside Chats were open to the public and took place both online and in-person.

29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Karin Elliott

Invisibility Appropriation and Subversion: British Army Observation Posts at the Shankill Falls Divide, 1972

Chair: Dr Allely Albert

13 OCTOBER 2021

Dr Ronagh McQuigg

Northern Ireland's New Domestic Abuse Offence

Chair: Dr Allely Albert

27 OCTOBER 2021

Dr Sophie Doherty, Open University

Dr Benjamin Thorne, Arden University

Critical Reflections on Alketa Xhafa-Mripa's “Mendoj Per Ty” (“Thinking of You”) 2015 Installation: Just Memories for Victim-Survivors of Sexual Violence of the Kosovo War?

Chair: Dr Allely Albert

27 OCTOBER 2021

Professor Maruška Svašek

Transvision and the Politics of In/Visibility: Artistic Explorations of Suffering

Chair: Dr Allely Albert

15 DECEMBER 2021

Professor Christopher McCrudden

Religion and Law in Northern Ireland

Chair: Dr Allely Albert

9 FEBRUARY 2022

Dr William Matchett

Afghanistan 2001 - 2021: Lessons Learnt and Challenges Moving Forward

Chair: Eleanor Williams

9 MARCH 2022

Professor Emeritus Adrian Guelke

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics

Post-Conflict Management in South Africa and Northern Ireland

Chair: Rachael Thomas

23 MARCH 2022

Gabriel Maracle, Trent University, Canada

Mohawk Warriors Society: Sovereignty, Standoffs and Ceremonies

Chair: Brendan McKee

6 APRIL 2022

Dr Jess Simonds, Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Wales

Monsters, Myths, and Modern Security: The Zonation of Maritime Dangers

Chair: Daryll Galloghly

STUDENT BLOGS

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LIFE AS A FIRST YEAR PHD STUDENT ON THE LINAS DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

KARLI GIBSON, LINAS DOCTORAL SCHOLAR
30 March 2022

Upon starting my PhD as part of the Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network of Algorithmic Solutions (LINAS), my initial inductions had prepared me for the worst: I was warned by peers and academics that my doctoral study would be filled with hours of lone working in the library and, at times, it would be isolating. This is, after all, the nature of the work – whilst others may be undertaking similar research, no one will be studying the exact same subject matter as you. I was apprehensive that this would be my experience especially after two long years of a pandemic, spent mostly working from home. I was ready to meet and build new relationships with like-minded people, who were also excited to be taking their research one step further – was this not to be the case?

After the first LINAS induction, my concerns were quickly suppressed. Six of us were to begin our PhDs as a cohort based in offices within the Mitchell Institute, and all of us were to be broadly studying algorithmic decision-making and its ethical, social and legal implications. As we chatted at the reception after our induction and exchanged numbers, I was hopeful that the experience was going to be different to the one I had been worried about. It's safe to say that it has been: we were quickly organising social events

outside of work and going for drinks together as a group, but often inviting doctoral students outside of the LINAS programme or visiting scholars within the institute to come along, too. At the start of this year, we also organised a LINAS reading group that has given us a monthly opportunity to meet and chat about algorithm-related books over coffee and traybakes – although the conversation often extends well beyond our book of the month.

The benefits of the programme have not just been social, but also academic: within the cohort there is a heterogeneous range of backgrounds, including law, maths, social science, and computer science, which means that we spend a lot of time asking about and learning from each other's knowledge. We get to transcend the boundaries of our own disciplines on a daily basis. For example, I am researching where responsibility lies for algorithmic decision-making, which necessitates that I ask (or pester) my officemate and former barrister David Mark with questions about legal liability. Given that we are all situated within the Mitchell Institute, it is easy to go and knock someone's door to ask a question, or even just to have a quick chat. After acclimatising to Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns, regaining a sense of





normality in the Institute has not been taken for granted, and being able to collaborate and learn from each other in this way has ensured that the experience has been anything but isolating.

The interdisciplinary aspect of LINAS provides us with access to a wide range of academics from law, the social sciences, computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics. Our monthly Fireside Chats within the Institute routinely link us to these academics, and they have ranged from informal chats about our PhD experience so far with Dr Sandra Scott-Hayward to Professor Stephen Smartt explaining and drawing the expansion of the universe on a whiteboard. We also attend the monthly LINCS/LINAS Seminars on research relating to algorithmic decision-making, which enable us to hear from scholars outside of QUB or other PhD students that are further along in their study.

The value of this interdisciplinary programme cannot be understated, for we learn a great deal from this dedicated network of academics, our fireside chats and LINAS/LINCS seminars. These conversations encourage us to think in ways that we have not before and subsequently push our research forward.

Thanks to our social events and increasingly frequent coffee breaks, we have all been able to maintain a healthy work-life balance (so far!) – work often doesn't feel like work at all. We can track our progress, bounce ideas off one another, debate the ones we're not sure about, and share resources. However, most importantly, if one of us is stressed out then the rest of us try to help and provide respite through coffee, chocolate or a quick walk in Botanic Park!

We are all aware that we have been incredibly lucky to have this experience in starting a PhD as part of a cohort and as part of the dynamic network that LINAS and the Mitchell Institute provides.



Karli Gibson

ATLANTIC COUNCIL CYBER 9/12 STRATEGY CHALLENGE

JASON MCKILLEN, LINAS DOCTORAL SCHOLAR

27 April 2022

In April, our team of four LINAS Doctoral Scholars competed in the European edition of the international Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge competition, organised by the Atlantic Council and hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

Our QUB team for the Cyber 9/12 Challenge this year included LINAS students Jessica Barr (Maths & Physics), Marc Elliott (EEECS), David Mark (Law) and Jason McKillen (SSESW).

The Cyber 9/12 Challenge competition aims to provide students from a range of academic disciplines from universities, research institutes and militaries, with a deeper understanding of the policy challenges associated with an escalating cyber incident and potential cyber conflict. Part-interactive learning experience and part-competitive scenario exercise, it challenges teams to respond to a realistic, evolving, multinational cyber security incident.

The competition runs annually in several host locations and Queen's University Belfast has been a regular competitor at the UK edition of the event in recent years. However due to a change in rules this

year, our team competed in the European edition of the tournament, which was hosted online by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. Participants from the United States, including the US Coast Guard Academy, Africa, and 11 European states were also competing. Judges on the competition reflected this international make-up, and were drawn from academia, several European militaries and the private sector.

Our LINAS team were one of only 3 teams from the UK, competing against 31 teams from universities and institutes across the world. Competitors were presented with a fictional cyber security incident and had to analyse the threats posed to national, international, and private sector interests, develop policy responses to a fictional cybersecurity incident, consider the technical, political and legal ramifications of various policy responses, provide reports, written and oral briefings and respond to the judging panel's rigorous Q&A session.

Preparations began 5 months ago! Our team were coached by Dr Sandra Scott-Hayward (QUB, EEECS and fellow of the GCSP), for the preparation and competition phases, taking time from her annual leave to provide them with much-appreciated advice

and feedback. They also had support from the collective experience of several Cyber 9/12 alumni students who had competed in previous years.

To qualify to participate in the 9/12 Strategy Challenge, teams first had to demonstrate a capacity to meet the challenges involved in the competition, as well as having a sufficient knowledge of past cybersecurity incidents and current threats. Qualifying teams were then provided with an 'intelligence report' outlining the details of the fictional scenario. They had to produce a summary of the scenario, being careful to avoid red herrings and deliberate misinformation. The intelligence report comprised both technical and political information and teams had to draw on their background reading in order to conduct an analysis of the situation. This summary was followed by a written and oral briefing, outlining the team's proposed policy responses to the situation and the rationale behind them.

Having written and submitted their initial policy responses, the final stage of the Cyber 9/12 competition began on April 21st, during the Easter holidays. The team met early in the morning at the Mitchell Institute for cups of coffee and a

last-minute review of their notes. They were among the first to present their oral briefing and performed strongly, receiving strong praise from the judges, who included academics and senior cybercrime investigators from Europol. Following their briefing, the team answered 15 minutes of rigorous questions from the judges about their policy recommendations. After receiving feedback, the team retired for lunch and attended several workshops provided by the competition organisers.

After all teams had presented, the judges selected eight finalists who would progress to the finals and announced the winners of the four awards:

- Most Creative Policy Response
- Best Teamwork
- Best Oral Presentation
- Best Decision Document

We are delighted that our LINAS team won the Best Teamwork Award. The judges were very impressed by the teams' ability to work strongly together, to communicate and respond to questions outwith their areas of expertise. Whilst our team were not amongst the 8 finalists selected to progress to the next stage of the competition,

they greatly enjoyed being participating in the competition and to continuing the Mitchell Institute's tradition of success in the annual Cyber 9/12 competitions.

Jason McKillen said 'The team hugely enjoyed the Cyber 9/12 experience, in particular meeting the challenge posed by competing in an area in which none of us have a strong background. We loved working together and were delighted to have our efforts and commitment recognised by the Best Teamwork Award.

*From left to right:
David Mark (School of Law), Jessica Barr (School of Maths & Physics), Marc Elliott (School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) and Jason McKillen (School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work)*



REFLECTIONS ON THE LINC / LINAS SEMINAR SERIES

TOMÁS MCINERNEY, LINC DOCTORAL SCHOLAR

30 May 2022

Encompassing a diverse range of academics and students, traversing multiple disciplines, the Seminar Series fully embodied the interdisciplinarity innate to the LINC/LINAS projects. The Seminar Series is student-led and organised by Dr Meg Schwamb, Lecturer of the Astrophysics Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast, and I.

The Seminar Series was used to engage with academics established in their field, and doctoral scholars in different stages of their research. This provided a platform to explore new ideas and receive important feedback from a range of interconnected researchers. From political science to astrophysics to law, the Seminar Series thrived, helping students and academics to cultivate the ability to navigate the oftentimes intimidating nature of interdisciplinary work.

Dr Michelle Lochner presented her work on the deployment of machine learning in anomaly detection in astronomical data. Mr Rohan Talbot discussed his recent publication on the deployment of facial recognition technologies in occupied Palestine by Israeli forces. Dr Jennifer Cobbe discussed issues in data protection law, and the need for a sociological understanding in the formulation of policy responses.

There is undoubtedly a comfort to be found in interaction with interdisciplinary scholars – everyone has their blind spot, and the Seminar Series provided an amicable space to tease out differing approaches, understandings, and perspectives. There is a lot to be said for this. It is reassuring to hear leading scholars reflect on the stronger and weaker aspects of their work. This is what struck me most: how humble interdisciplinary researchers need to be. It is important to be equally aware of how much we do not know, and thus how important collaboration in this space is. The Seminar Series facilitated this discussion, providing a steppingstone for further informal discussion following the presentations.

Coming from a law background, my technical skills will never be as deft as a computer scientist's. I am committed to socio-legal research and that is where my primary interests lie. But the Seminar Series was pivotal in finding the lexicon to converse with technical and non-technical people alike. I have become more confident in this dialogue, and I believe the same to be true for the other attendees. It helps us understand more fully the values underpinning various interdisciplinary approaches. In turn, we can attempt to uphold these values more holistically in the inevitable integration of technology into society.

The Seminar Series is of great value. It will resume in the next academic year with a new cohort of doctoral scholars from different backgrounds, with more academic perspectives on algorithms and society. We hope to see you there!



Tomás McInerney



03

PARTNERSHIPS
AND
SOCIETAL
ENGAGEMENT

MITCHELL INSTITUTE CO-HOSTS INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AT YALE UNIVERSITY

'Northern Ireland and Colombia: Lessons from Peace' was co-organised with the Yale Program on Peace and Development, and the Yale International Leadership Center. It featured a wide range of speakers, addressing issues of political conflict, negotiation and implementation. Discussion ranged over the achievements, challenges, differences and possible wider patterns evident in these two important peace process cases.

Co-hosted in Yale, the event included contributions from Mitchell Institute Honorary Professors, Jonathan Powell and Rory Montgomery. Mitchell Institute Director Professor Richard English, who also spoke at the Conference, commented that:

"This excellent event reflected how much experience and understanding lies embodied in these two Peace Processes. The Mitchell Institute looks forward to further collaborations, as part of an emerging partnership with Yale over coming years."

Emerging out of this collaboration is the prospect of the Peace Partnership, an initiative offering mentoring and training to emerging peace-builders, and in which the Mitchell Institute and Yale University will again be partners.

Left to right: Jonathan Powell, Mitchell Institute and Inter Mediate; Claire Hajaj, Inter Mediate; Professor Richard English, Mitchell Institute and Emma Sky, Yale University.



DEALING WITH THE PAST

MODEL BILL TEAM RESPONSE TO UK GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON DEALING WITH THE PAST

For a number of years, Mitchell Institute Theme Lead for Rights and Social Justice, Professor Kieran McEvoy, has been leading a team of researchers and human rights activists based at Queen's University Belfast and the principal human rights NGO in Northern Ireland, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ).

This partnership has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Queen's University Belfast Business Alliance. Through this collaboration, the teams have formed the Model Bill Team, which includes Institute Theme Lead for Rights and Justice, Professor Kieran McEvoy, Institute Theme Lead for Legacy, Professor Louise Mallinder, Institute Fellow Dr Anna Bryson and colleagues Brian Gormally, Daniel Holder and Gemma McKeown from CAJ.

The purpose of the Model Bill Team is to inform key debates on dealing with the past in Northern Ireland and in particular to provide accessible legal and policy commentary to the British and Irish governments, political parties, civil society organisations, victims and survivors, former security force personnel, ex-prisoners, the

wider public, and international organisations such as the United Nations and International human rights NGOs. The team have worked together since 2014 when the UK and Irish governments together with four of the local Northern Ireland political parties agreed a series of mechanisms to finally address the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland in the Stormont House Agreement. That Agreement has never been implemented by the UK government, despite repeated promises to victims and other stakeholders to do so for seven years.

In July 2021 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland published a Command Paper (a document signalling the government's thinking) and set out new legacy proposals that would unilaterally depart from the Stormont House Agreement. These included unconditional amnesty as well as closing down all investigations and other 'judicial activities' including current and future civil actions and inquests.

In September 2021, the Model Bill Team offered their detailed analysis of these proposals on dealing with the legacy of conflict at a dedicated event, publishing their response that same month.

In May 2022, the UK government introduced the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill at Westminster. It changed the nature of the amnesty from an unconditional to a conditional immunity (albeit one where the bar is so low that it is almost impossible for an applicant not to qualify) and followed through on the proposals to close down police and police ombudsman investigations, inquests and civil actions. The Model Bill Team again published a report critiquing the Bill, concluding that the legislation is unlawful, unworkable, in breach of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement and fundamentally immoral.

In 2022 Model Bill Team members have also made submissions and given evidence on the Legacy Bill to the Westminster Northern Affairs Committee, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, the United States Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers at Strasbourg. In the ensuing debates and discussions, their work has been widely used by politicians, policy makers and civil society groups as an authoritative source on the weaknesses of this legislation. The team remains very active on this issue.

UNDERSTANDING 'NEGATIVE TRANSITIONING' IN BRITISH EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Funded by the Forces in Mind Trust, one of the largest qualitative studies in the UK to examine the experiences of veterans who make a negative transition to civilian life, was completed in spring 2022. This study was conducted over the course of 3 years by a team from the Mitchell Institute, led by Professor John D. Brewer and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Dr Stephen Herron.

The Final Report from the project - Understanding 'Negative Transitioning' in British Ex-Service Personnel - was published in March 2022.

The researchers explored three measures of negative transitioning in the 323 people they interviewed: homelessness, imprisonment, or mental ill-health. The project involved liaison with support organisations, individual support workers and direct contact with veterans and their families, from all across the United Kingdom.

The study found that overall, these individuals face the same challenges as other ex-Service personnel but lack psychological resilience and the economic means to deal with them.

While the majority of Service leavers make a successful transition to civilian life, a minority are known to struggle. The study found the

reasons for a negative transition are not limited to operational experiences whilst serving, but due to multiple factors including pre-service experiences, age of enrolment, rank, capability to make decisions, over-institutionalism in the military and the effectiveness of support services.

Researchers found that negative transitioning particularly affects low rank veterans who are more likely to join the military from difficult or disadvantaged backgrounds, with the career in the military providing an opportunity to improve their outcomes. However, the research suggests that the Armed Forces can fail to adequately prepare Service leavers, which can result in a lack of the emotional, cultural, and social skills needed to ensure that the life they 'escaped' from is not the one they return to.

The research also identified several local and regional services which support veterans who have a difficult transition, highlighting the importance of local knowledge, resources, and facilities in improving outcomes for veterans and their families.

The researchers recommend a greater focus on local support provision, whilst calling for more collaboration and cooperation between support

providers on a national and regional scale to ensure no Service leaver's needs are left unmet.

The Forces in Mind Trust was founded in November 2011 by a £35 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (now The National Lottery Community Fund). As a member of Cobseo – the Confederation of Service Charities and a permanent member of its Executive Committee, the Trust works within the military charities sector, and much more widely, to support the United Kingdom's Armed Forces Community. They fund targeted, conceptually sound, evidence generation and influencing activities that allow policymakers and service deliverers to help them achieve their goal to enable all ex-Service personnel and their families to transition into successful and fulfilled civilian lives.

COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A HISTORY OF PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY AND COERCIVE CONTROL

Since 2020, Mitchell Institute Fellow Professor Dominic Bryan and Research Fellow Dr Brendan Sturgeon have been working in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, researching and evaluating the Communities in Transition strand of the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme.

The cross-Executive Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime Programme is active across all of Northern Ireland to support people and communities who are vulnerable to paramilitary influence and harm. Commitments are delivered collaboratively by government departments, statutory agencies and partners in the voluntary and community sector.

One of the main strategic goals for the Programme is to try to break the cycle of paramilitary activity and organised crime, and to stop another generation getting drawn into this spiral. Through a range of projects and interventions, the Programme is working towards ending recruitment and turning off the tap for these criminal gangs. The Programme works with people at risk of paramilitary influence, coercion and violence. This includes young people, men, women and

the community, to fix paramilitary harm in the here and now, protect victims, address issues and provide appropriate help and support.

In October 2021, the project received an additional £145,500 funding from The Executive Office NI for Queen's University Belfast and Co-operation Ireland to work in partnership to deliver a series of Learning Events over the next two years that will look at the ways in which our community, statutory and academic sectors can best complement one another in tackling paramilitarism and criminality.

The first Roundtable Event was held in April 2022 to develop a collective sense of the type of Learning Events that would benefit and meet the needs of those currently working on tackling paramilitarism.

The event brought together policy leads, with significant experience of delivering successful interventions in this arena, and academics you have developed a varied and valuable range of relevant research projects.

Another two Roundtable Events are scheduled for autumn 2022 and will focus on the language

and framing of the Communities in Transition Programme and the findings of the Area Reports.

In May, the partners, collaborating with Ulster University, submitted written evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into the effect of paramilitaries on society in Northern Ireland.

The inquiry looks at the effectiveness of current measures aimed at tackling paramilitarism in Northern Ireland and considered how the UK Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Irish Government can most effectively work together to remove paramilitarism from society in Northern Ireland.

Area Research Reports for each of the 10 areas across Northern Ireland where the Communities in Transition Programme is active, will be published later in 2022.



04

PEOPLE

NEW APPOINTMENTS

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**HONORARY PROFESSOR
CHRISTINE BELL**
EDINBURGH LAW SCHOOL,
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Professor Bell is a world-renowned scholar with a particular expertise on the intersection between human rights law, peace-making and transitional justice. She is a prolific and multi-award winning academic, and a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



**PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF
LOUISE MILLIGAN**

Louise Milligan recently moved to the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice as a Clerical Officer.

Louise worked as an Administrator and Private Hires Co-ordinator in the Queen's Film Theatre where she worked for the past three years.



**VISITING SCHOLAR
PROFESSOR DARREN KEW**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION,
HUMAN SECURITY, AND GLOBAL
GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY,
AND DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

We welcomed Professor Darren Kew to the Institute in May, to commence his tenure for the US Friends of Queen's University Belfast Visiting Professorship, awarded by the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

During his time at the Institute, Darren focused on learning more about the role that civil society groups played in building the infrastructure for peace that helped to make the 1990s process in Northern Ireland possible.



**VISITING SCHOLAR
PROFESSOR MELANI CAMMETT**
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND
DIRECTOR OF WEATHERHEAD CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

We welcomed Professor Melani Cammett for the first time to the Institute in May. During her tenure as Visiting Scholar, Melani will be working on a new book, which focuses on local-level intergroup relations after conflict.

Her research focuses on Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon and aims to compare the nature of relations across different subnational localities. Melani will be returning to the Institute at various times throughout the coming year.

INSTITUTE PEOPLE

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LEADERSHIP

Professor Richard English

Director
Politics and International Studies

Professor Fiona Magowan

Religion, Arts and Peacebuilding Theme Lead
School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Anthropology

Professor Louise Mallinder

Legacy Theme Lead
School of Law
Law

Professor Kieran McEvoy

Rights and Social Justice Theme Lead
School of Law
Law

PRACTITIONER CHAIRS

Professor Michael Semple

Professor David Connolly

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr Zaheer Kazmi

Dr Eva Urban-Devereux

LEGACY

FELLOWS

Dr Merav Amir

School of the Natural and Built Environment
Geography

Professor Gordon Anthony

School of Law
Law

Professor Fran Brearton

School of Arts, English and Languages
English

Professor John D. Brewer

School of Sociology, Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Sociology

Professor Dominic Bryan

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Anthropology

Dr Anna Bryson

School of Law
Law

Dr Garrett Carr

School of Arts, English and Languages
English

Professor John Coakley

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Politics and International Studies

Professor Marie Coleman

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
History

Professor Brice Dickson

School of Law
Law

Professor Tony Gallagher

School of Sociology, Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Education

Professor Audrey Horning

School of the Natural and Built Environment
Archaeology

Professor Joanne Hughes

School of Sociology, Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Education

Dr Rachel Killean

School of Law
Law

Dr Cheryl Lawther

School of Law
Law

Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden

School of Law
Law

Professor Cahal McLoughlin

School of Arts, English and Languages
Film Studies

Dr Cathal McManus

School of Sociology, Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Education

Professor John Morison

School of Law
Law

Dr Joanne Murphy

Queen's Management School
Business and Management Studies

Professor John Nagle

School of Sociology, Social Sciences, Education
and Social Work
Sociology

Professor Brendan O'Leary

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Politics and International Studies

Des O'Rawe

School of Arts, English and Languages
Film Studies

Professor Maruška Svašek

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Anthropology

Dr Laura Taylor

School of Psychology
Psychology

Dr Andrew Thomson

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Politics and International Studies

Dr Jeremy Watkins

School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics
Philosophy

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS**Dr Dina Belluigi**

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