

Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Irish Association Joint Webinar

North-South Cooperation on the Island of Ireland: Challenges Past & Future

2.00pm, Thursday 3rd December

2:00pm Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr Stephen Douds, President, Irish Association

2:05pm Keynote

Professor Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, Ulster University

2.35pm Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

Ms Michele Shirlow, Chief Executive, FoodNI

Mr Ken Nelson, Chairman, InterTradeIreland & CEO, LEDCOM

Professor Mary C Murphy, Department of Government & Politics, University College Cork

Professor Feargal Cochrane, Conflict Analysis Research Centre, University of Kent

3:35pm Report Launch

Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

3.45pm Concluding Remarks

Mr Stephen Douds, President, Irish Association

Speakers



Mr Stephen Douds

Stephen Douds is President of the Irish Association which was founded in the late 1930s and has been working constantly since then “to make reason and good will take the place of passion and prejudice in Ireland, North and South.” That core aim is reflected in the Association’s established reputation and the many seminars and conferences which have been addressed by politicians and civic leaders of all persuasions from both jurisdictions on the island.

A former BBC senior producer, today he works as an independent television producer and consultant producing output for channels across Britain and Ireland. He has a particular interest in the arts and broader cultural policy and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Lyric Theatre. He is the author/editor of *The Belfast Blitz: The People’s Story*, Blackstaff 2011; *Re-imagining Belfast: A Manifesto for the Arts*; *Stepping Stones, The Arts in Ulster 1971 – 2001*, Blackstaff 2001.

Professor Duncan Morrow

Professor Duncan Morrow is a Lecturer in politics where he has published widely in the fields of conflict resolution, Northern Ireland politics and the relationship between religion and politics. He is currently the Director of Community Engagement at Ulster University developing relationships with groups and organisations across the community. His research interests include Conflict and Religion, Ethnic Conflict, Northern Ireland Politics and the work of Rene Girard.



Duncan’s recent publications include *Reconciliation and After in Northern Ireland: The Search for a Political Order in an Ethnically Divided Society* (in *Ethnic Conflict and Nationalism* (2017:1)), ‘Violence Unveiled’ (in Kirwan M and Hidden, S. ed *Mimesis and Atonement*, Bloomsbury 2017), and *Public Attitudes to Peace Walls in Northern Ireland* (with J. Byrne and C. Gormley-Heenan (2016)). For ten years, Duncan was Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council where he championed the concept of a shared future and peace-building by developing the Council’s role in policy, in research and active learning, in organisations and work on key issues such as interfaces, parading and regeneration and in work with victims and survivors of conflict. Between 2012 and 2015 he was Chair of the Scottish Government’s Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism and in 2016 chaired the Scottish Government’s Advisory Group on Tackling Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion.



Dr Anthony Soares

Dr Anthony Soares is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. His role includes leading in the development and advocacy of policies at regional, national and European levels that support sustainable cross-border and transnational cooperation. This has increasingly meant coordinating CCBS’s responses to the UK’s referendum on EU membership and its aftermath publishing Briefing Papers and reports, submitting evidence to parliamentary committees in both Westminster and Dublin, and consulting with a range of political representatives and organisations on the island of Ireland, Great Britain and in Europe.

Ms Michele Shirlow

Michele is the Chief Executive of FoodNI, a membership organisation dedicated to enhancing the reputation of Northern Ireland's food and drink, representing over 450 member companies (including 200 Taste of Ulster Restaurants) and acting as a strategic driver to support the industry to achieve greatness. Michele was central to delivery in 2016 of the first ever Year of



Food and Drink, which increased positive visitor attitudes towards Northern Ireland food and drink by 23% and resulted in Northern Ireland winning the International Travel and Tourism Awards – Best Food Destination 2018/19. She is now spearheading the Taste the Greatness strategy to establish Northern Ireland as a leading food region in the UK by 2021.



Mr Ken Nelson

Ken Nelson has extensive involvement in economic development, business start-up and growth as chief executive of Local Economic Development Company (LEDCOM) Ltd. Ken has many years' experience working as a business advisor, mentor and trainer with entrepreneurs, start-up companies, small businesses and social enterprises. He has wide ranging experience in designing and delivering support initiatives for economic development, business incubation, managed workspace development, social entrepreneurship and small business growth.

Ken was one of the founding directors and former Chairman of Enterprise Northern Ireland, the association of NI's local enterprise centres. In 2010 he was the sole Northern Ireland recipient of the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion. He has a BA in Business Studies, MBA and MSc in Human Resource Management as well as being a Chartered Manager (CMgr) and Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI). He is also a member of the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College. In April 2012, he was appointed to the Board of Invest Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Minister for the Economy. He was re-appointed to the Board of Invest NI in April 2015. In December 2016, he was appointed as Chairman of InterTradeIreland by the North South Ministerial Council and in 2018 was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Professor Mary C. Murphy

Dr Mary C. Murphy holds a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and is a lecturer in politics with the Department of Government and Politics, University College Cork. Mary specialises in the study of the EU and Northern Ireland politics. Her monograph *Europe and Northern Ireland's Future: Negotiating Brexit's Unique Case* was published in April 2018. This follows Mary's 2014 work *Northern Ireland and the European Union: The Dynamics of a Changing Relationship*. Mary was also co-editor of a special issue of *Administration* in 2014 - 'Reflections on Forty Years of Irish Membership of the EU' - with John O'Brennan (NUIM). In 2015, Mary was awarded a Fulbright-Schuman Fellowship and was based at George Mason University, Virginia.



She is the Online Resources Editor for the leading EU politics textbook *Politics in the EU*. Mary also contributes regularly to national and international conferences and media. She is currently the President of the Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies (IACES). She teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate level at UCC and her teaching responsibilities include the delivery of a number of modules on EU Politics,

Northern Ireland politics and conflict studies. Mary is also Director of the online MComm Government and Public Policy programme.



Professor Feargal Cochrane

Professor Feargal Cochrane is an Emeritus Professor of International Conflict Analysis in the School of Politics and International Relations. He joined the University of Kent in September 2012. He was previously Director of the Richardson Institute, a peace and conflict studies research centre at Lancaster University (2005-2012). Before this he was a Lecturer (1998-2004) & Senior Lecturer (2004-2012) in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University. Professor Cochrane has also held academic posts at the Centre for the Study of Conflict, University of Ulster (1996-1998) and at Queen's University Belfast (1994- 1995). Professor Cochrane has published widely in the area of political violence and conflict transformation in leading international journals and with prestigious academic publishing houses. Professor Cochrane is regularly consulted by the media on issues relating to peace and conflict including BBC Radio and Channel 4 News, Time Magazine, Christian Science Monitor and others.

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