

# **Centre for Cross Border Studies**

**Annual Report  
2019**

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## **Our Vision**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies will build further upon its reputation as an authoritative advocate for cross-border cooperation and a valued source of research, information and support for collaboration across borders on the island of Ireland, Europe and beyond.

## **Our Mission**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies empowers citizens and builds capacity and capability for cooperation across sectors and jurisdictional boundaries on the island of Ireland and further afield. This mission is achieved through research, expertise, partnership and experience in a wide range of cross-border practices and concerns.

## **Our Values**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies:

- Is committed to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships between people and governments;
- Is dedicated to contributing to social cohesion, economic development and environmental sustainability through cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland and beyond;
- Is independent and takes no position on the constitutional question;
- Supports the protection of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and advocates the core values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, peace-building and social justice; and
- Acts in recognition of the fundamental importance of non-partisanship, the pursuit of excellence, openness and transparency, and the value of local experience

**The Centre for Cross Border Studies is an independent  
company limited by guarantee founded in 1999**

**Our founding partners are:**

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**and**

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## Introduction

**2019 marked the twentieth year of the Centre for Cross Border Studies' existence as an organisation created in the wake of the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement to advocate for and support cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland and beyond. It has been a year of change, with the retirement of our Director, Ruth Taillon, an inspirational leader and strong advocate for cross-border cooperation as a vital instrument in the ongoing peace and reconciliation process. The Centre will also sorely miss Michael Curran who sadly passed away this year, and who had given us so much as a member of our Board.**

Given the importance of this year in the Centre's journey, it was important to devote some of our energies to reflecting on how far this island, and these islands, had come over the last twenty years in terms of their relations and their willingness to cooperate. This was all the more important as 1999 was not only the year the Centre for Cross Border Studies came into being, but also when the institutions and bodies set out in Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement became realities.

As well as looking back it was important to try and find a path through all the enormous and continuing uncertainties provoked by the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, and to try and identify the underlying challenges – and opportunities – that will face us all over the next two decades and that can only be fully addressed or captured through cooperation across borders. Of course, as 2019 draws to an end, we continue to await the return of a functioning Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, which means that, among many other consequences, the North South Ministerial Council has not met since November 2016.

A key moment to enact this reflection was the Centre's annual conference, which became a special Twentieth Anniversary Conference. Held in Dundalk on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, the importance of the event was underlined by its opening session, which brought together not only the heads of the Civil Service of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Martin Fraser and David Sterling, but also the head of the UK Civil Service, Sir Mark Sedwill. They began the discussions on how relations within and between these islands had been developing, and how they might develop in the coming years, themes that were further explored in the panels and keynote addresses that followed, and with Fintan O'Toole offering his unique perspective at the conference dinner.



**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference: (L to R), Martin Fraser, Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach, Dr Anthony Soares, CCBS Acting Director, Dr Helen Johnston, Chair of the CCBS Board, Sir Mark Sedwill, Head of the UK Civil**

**Service, David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service**

2019 also saw two of the Centre's projects coming to an end, and the beginning of new ones. The completed projects were the "Bringing the Agreement Home: In all its parts" project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund, and the "Towards a New Common Chapter" project, which in its final stages also received funding from the Reconciliation Fund, as well as Northern Ireland's Community Relations Council, but was supported throughout its lifetime by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.



**Towards a New Common Chapter evaluation seminar**

Beginning this year, and again funded by the Reconciliation Fund, is further work by the Centre's flagship Border People project to ensure citizens crossing the border to work, study or retire have access to up-to-date and clear information, taking into account any changes to cross-border mobility brought about by Brexit. The "Collaborating for Common Success" project, supported by the Reconciliation Fund, also began in 2019, looking at how Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement will operate as the UK begins to

develop UK-wide policies in areas such as international trade and immigration. All of these projects, in their different ways, reflect the Centre's efforts to understand and make practical contributions to maintaining positive relations within and between these islands, whatever the circumstances that may lie ahead.

As well as working on its own projects, the Centre continued to work with its European partners in the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN). In March the Centre organised the first forum event of the Network's TEIN4Citizens project, which took place in Belfast under the theme "What does it mean to be an EU citizen? Human Rights, Civic Rights, Entitlements and Obligations". At the end of 2019, after a successful bid by the University of Strasbourg to host a Jean Monnet Network, the Centre for Cross Border Studies, TEIN and other partners kicked off the FRONTEM project, which will offer a critical assessment of the model of a Europe without borders.

The Centre's membership of TEIN will continue to be a key platform for learning about cross-border practices and concerns from other border regions in Europe, and for sharing with others the experiences of supporting and engaging in cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland. In 2019 one of the practical examples of this was the annual Centre for Cross Border Studies Policy Seminar in Brussels. This year's edition took place ahead of TEIN's inaugural annual conference at the University of Maastricht's Brussels campus, and explored the question of "Assessing Impact Across Borders". The seminar

included a presentation by the Centre's Acting Director, Anthony Soares, on assessing the impact of policies and regulations on North-South cooperation, as well as presentations by Ramona Velea of the Gorizia International Institute of Sociology, and Martin Unfried of the Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM).

While the Centre continued its efforts to take the learning from North-South cooperation and its role in the ongoing process of peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland to elsewhere in Europe, it also shared that learning with those coming to the island of Ireland with an interest in the future of North-South and East-West relations. As well as the Centre's offices in Armagh being visited by diplomats from a number of European countries and from further afield, another of our policy seminars in 2019, held in the offices of the North South Ministerial Council, was organised to inform a German delegation about North-South cooperation under Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, and how Brexit may affect it and how communities relate to one another.

Naturally, the potential challenges posed by the UK's withdrawal from the EU to relations within and between these islands continued to dominate much of the Centre's work, including its policy seminars. This was again the case in July, when representatives from 15 organisations from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland took part in a policy seminar, organised in collaboration with Cooperation Ireland,

which considered how Brexit may impact on their collaborative efforts. However, it also looked at what common challenges may lie ahead for the island of Ireland in the next two decades.

One of the common challenges facing all of us on this island – and these islands – is climate change, and how we can – or indeed must – engage in cross-border environmental cooperation. This issue was not only addressed by environmental organisations at one of our policy seminars, it was also explored in one of the Centre's 2019 Briefing Papers: "The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and (post-Brexit) cross-border environmental cooperation".

Brexit remained a constant thread in our Briefing Papers, as our "Brexit and the UK-Ireland Border" series came to end in January with a paper on the impact of Brexit on devolution in Northern Ireland, while the Autumn saw the Centre publishing a paper on the UK Government's proposals for an amended Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in the Withdrawal Agreement.



Doing the "unglamorous" policy work...

Similarly, the Centre's responses to a number of parliamentary inquiries were related to the potential impacts of Brexit, with January, for example, seeing the publication of its written submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the implications of the Withdrawal Agreement and the backstop for Northern Ireland. However, the Centre also managed to respond to other issues being considered by legislators and policy-makers, including the Houses of the Oireachtas' Working Group on Parliamentary Privilege and Citizens' Rights, and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, as well as the equivalent strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.

The Centre's Border People project continued its work in support of cross-border mobility through the provision of information, training and policy analysis. As has been the case since 2016, the project has had to consider how Brexit may impact on the lives of those who cross the border to work, study, live or retire, and to continue to provide accurate and up-to-date information to citizens and those providing advice services.

We are proud to have continued in 2019 to provide secretariat services to two unique and enormously valuable all-island networks: Universities Ireland, and the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS). Both networks continued to be involved in and support a significant range of activities with cross-border and North-South dimensions.



CCBS founding Director, Andy Pollak, at the SCoTENS 2019 annual conference launching the SCoTENS annual report

Among the many ways in which the two networks encouraged North-South collaboration and the building of relations and knowledge, was in their support for cross-border research projects (through SCoTENS' provision of seed-funding) and for students to take up postgraduate studies in the other jurisdiction (through Universities Ireland's provision of North-South Postgraduate Scholarships and History Bursaries).



The Universities Ireland 2019 History Conference

These are just some of the highlights from what has been another busy year in the life of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. 2019, as our twentieth year, has seen us continue in our resolve to promote and support cooperation as a means of building and maintaining relations within and between these islands. Our core focus remains ensuring the cooperation envisioned under Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement is continually put into practice for the benefit of citizens on the island of Ireland. However, as was the case in 2019, and conscious that this island does not exist in a vacuum, we will also continue in our efforts to share the experience of cross-border cooperation here to others further afield, and to build and maintain relations on an East-West basis, in line with Strand 3 of the 1998 Agreement.

As the Centre ends its twentieth year and prepares for the next step in its journey to support cross-border cooperation as an essential element to the ongoing peace and reconciliation process, we wish to recognise and thank the Irish Government's Department of Education and Skills for their longstanding commitment to our work.

## Targets

The Centre for Cross Border Studies' Workplan for 2019, which was agreed with our core funders, the Department of Education and Skills, set out targets to be achieved across a range of activities. All of those targets were achieved and, in some cases, exceeded. These are listed below.

**TARGET: 1 Annual Conference (75 participants)**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 1 Annual Conference (150 participants)**

19 Sept: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference – “The Good Friday/Belfast Agreement; reflecting on a 20-year journey of cross-border cooperation and plotting the path to a successful future”

**TARGET: 4 seminars (total 160 participants)**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 seminars for public representatives and officials on cross-border policy and practice, including cross-border mobility issues**

17 Apr: *Border People, Brexit and Citizens' Mobility* (Tallaght)

3 July: *Preparing for the changing landscape to relations within and between these islands* (Dundalk)

18 Sept: *The development of North-South and Cross-Border Cooperation* (North South Ministerial Council, Armagh)

10 Oct: *Assessing Impact Across Borders* (Brussels)

**TARGET: 1 report on postgraduate student flows**

**TARGET ACHIEVED:** Review of paper on Republic of Ireland-domiciled postgraduate students enrolled in Northern Ireland HEIs submitted to the Department of Education and Skills

**TARGET: 3 submissions to government and EU public policy consultations**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 6 written submissions to public policy consultations**

Jan: *Submission to the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region*

Jan: *Submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry: Implications of the EU Withdrawal agreement and the backstop for Northern Ireland*

Apr: *Submission to the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region*

July: *Response to Prosperity UK Alternative Arrangements Commission Consultation on Interim Report*

Sept: *Submission to the House of Lords EU Internal Market Sub-Committee's inquiry on Discontinuing seasonal changes of time*

Sept: *Submission to the Working Group on Parliamentary Privilege and Citizens' Rights*

**TARGET: 1 Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: Special edition of Journal published**

**TARGET: 1 research project completed**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 3 projects completed**

- *Towards a New Common Chapter – Stages 4 and 5*
- *Bringing the Agreement Home: In all its parts*
- *Survey on cross-border labour mobility*

**TARGET: 4 Briefing Papers published**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 Briefing Papers published**

Jan: *The Impact of Brexit on Devolution in Northern Ireland*

June: *The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and (post-Brexit) cross-border environmental cooperation*

Oct: *The UK Government's proposals for an amended Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland*

Dec: *The need for regulatory cross-border territorial impact assessment: Challenges at the Ireland-Northern Ireland border*

**TARGET: 1 research project ongoing**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: Collaborating for Common Success**

**TARGET: 2 applications for research project funding submitted**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 6 applications submitted**

Proposed project	Funder/ Contracting authority	Outcome
Preparing for Brexit Scoping Study (Border People)	Department for Communities	Successful
Collaborating for Common Success	DFAT Reconciliation Fund	Partially Successful
Survey on cross-border labour mobility	EURES Cross Border Partnership	Successful
Borders and European Integration: which models for Europe	ERASMUS+	Successful (University of Strasbourg lead partner)
The Island(s) Platform	Ireland Funds	Unsuccessful
EU Borders Analysis	Scottish Government	Unsuccessful

**TARGET: 1 Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 2019 Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture delivered by Angela McGowan, Director of CBI Northern Ireland**

**TARGET: 12 monthly Border-Zine electronic newsletters**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 4 Border People Advisory Group meetings**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Participation in relevant conferences and seminars**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: Participation by CCBS staff in 29 conferences and seminars**

**TARGET: Journal/Press articles (numbers determined by other bodies)**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 1 journal article published**

An article entitled "Reflections on the Current Practical and Political Context and Logistics for Cross-Border Partnerships", by Acting Director, Anthony Soares, was published in the *Irish Journal of Arts Management and Cultural Policy*

**TARGET: Press and media interviews (numbers determined by other bodies)**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

In 2019 Acting Director, Anthony Soares, was interviewed on more than 20 occasions by local, national and international press and media outlets.

**TARGET: CCBS website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Border People website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profiles maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Ongoing participation as Chair of the Northern Ireland Department for the Economy Higher Education Strategy Cross-Border Team**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Continued membership of the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN)**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Continued membership of the European Citizen Access Service (ECAS)**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 4 quarterly progress reports to CCBS Board**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Reports to funders as required**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 1 Annual Report**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

## Annual Conference

The Centre for Cross Border Studies marked its twentieth anniversary with a special celebratory conference at the Crowne Plaza Dundalk on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. Under the title “The Good Friday/Belfast Agreement: Reflecting on a 20-year journey of cross-border cooperation and plotting the path to a successful future”, the conference sought to explore the extent to which the 1998 Agreement has fostered growth and improved relations within and between these islands.

After a business and networking breakfast generously sponsored by Slándáil, the conference began with the Chair of the Board of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Dr Helen Johnston, welcoming an audience of over 150 delegates.



**Dr Helen Johnston, Chair of the CCBS Board**

She used the opportunity to express the Centre’s gratitude for the continued support of the Irish Government, and particularly the Department of Education and Skills for its provision of core funding, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Reconciliation Fund, which has supported a number of the Centre’s projects.

In his opening remarks, the Centre’s Acting Director, Dr Anthony Soares, reflected on the origins of the Centre, from its creation in 1999 to promote, support and advocate for improved cross-border and North-South cooperation in line with Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, to its current work, which includes the Centre’s flagship project, Border People. He also acknowledged that none of this would have been possible without the longstanding support of the Irish Government.



**CCBS Acting Director, Dr Anthony Soares**

Dr Soares stated that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a time to reflect upon the successes and disappointments of twenty years of cross-border cooperation, and urged the audience to look ahead to the next twenty years of cross-border cooperation, as although we are in uncertain and changing times, a permanent feature of life on these islands is our geographic location.

Marking the importance of the event, the opening panel session brought together the Heads of the Civil Service of the UK, Ireland and Northern Ireland to discuss the evolution of institutional relations within and between these islands.



**Opening panel at CCBS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference**

The Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, David Sterling, began the session

by highlighting the importance of the Centre’s previous and ongoing work – in particular its Border People project – and the wider significance of North/South relations. He went on to warn of the threat that Brexit poses to North/South relations and of the dangers that a No-Deal Brexit may bring to the island of Ireland.

Martin Fraser, the Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach, reflected upon the successes of North/South cooperation and how the institutional and other relationships that have been built over the past twenty years can help navigate the Brexit process and the years ahead. He ended his remarks by lamenting the continued absence of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, which had placed undue pressure on David Sterling and his colleagues in the Northern Ireland Civil Service. Completing the first keynote session, Sir Mark Sedwill – Cabinet Secretary, Head of the UK Civil Service and National Security Adviser – stressed the importance of re-establishing the Northern Ireland institutions and reinforced earlier remarks made by Dr Soares of not just needing to plan for the immediate future, but to look further ahead to secure and protect the relationships between and within these islands over the next twenty years.



**Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary**

The next panel of the day focused on British/Irish Cooperation and was moderated by Dr Katy Hayward, of Queen’s

University Belfast and member of the CCBS Board. Sarah Tiffin, the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Dublin, began by describing how the East-West relationships between these islands are built upon a complex and often difficult shared history, and with relationships as much about the heart as the head. Ms Tiffin, who has twice been seconded to the Irish government and as such has a unique perspective on British/Irish relations, described them as an iceberg with the visible tip being the institutions like Stormont, but with so much more going on beneath the surface. Dr Etain Tannam (Trinity College Dublin), made the point that Brexit has highlighted that British-Irish relations may not be as embedded as had been previously thought, and that the formalisation of this cooperation through the institutions is essential in order to maintain and grow cooperation. Matthew O’Toole, former Brexit spokesman at No. 10 Downing Street, revealed that Northern Ireland did not feature prominently in the United Kingdom’s strategic thinking in the run-up to the 2016 referendum, and how this contrasted strongly with the European Union’s prioritisation of Northern Ireland. This European focus, according to Mr O’Toole, has resulted in Northern Ireland’s prominence in the Brexit negotiations.



**(L to R) Katy Hayward, Sarah Tiffin, Etain Tannam, Matthew O’Toole**

The first keynote speaker of the conference was Professor Duncan Morrow of Ulster University, who focused on the evolution of North-South relations. Looking back to the

creation of the border in 1921, Prof Morrow outlined the different circumstances under which it has existed, the different ways in which the border is viewed and understood as well as the 'necessary or unnecessary violence', depending on an individual's viewpoint, which has taken place since its creation. He emphasised the importance of the role of the Good Friday Agreement in the future of Northern Ireland and how the document is a means to achieve 'Reconciliation, Tolerance and Mutual Trust through Equality, Partnership and Mutual Respect.' He finished by suggesting that any change in the sovereignty of Northern Ireland will merely mean a change of administration and will fail to address underlying problems that will continue to exist, such as the lack of a middle ground in Northern Ireland's politics.



**Professor Duncan Morrow**

The panel that followed Prof Morrow's keynote was moderated by Andy Pollak, the founding Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, and featured Professor Kathy Hall and Dr Mary C. Murphy, both of University College Cork, as well as Michael D'Arcy, of the Ibec/CBI Northern Ireland Joint Business Council. In his opening remarks Andy highlighted the European Union's work in establishing cross-border cooperation networks and how improved North/South relations have helped the peace process. He also stressed the importance of PEACE and INTERREG

funding and how the UK's decision in June 2016 to leave the EU threatens all the progress that has been made.

Dr Mary C. Murphy reinforced Duncan Morrow's earlier comments on 'Reconciliation, Tolerance and Mutual Trust through Equality, Partnership and Mutual Respect, as she emphasised the importance of the North South Ministerial Council in achieving this end. She stated that the NSMC has played a key role in normalising and depoliticising cross-border relations on the island of Ireland and how, post-Brexit, there is an opportunity for the NSMC to play a greater role with an expanded remit and an increase in resources.



**(L to R) Andy Pollak, Mary C Murphy, Kathy Hall, Michael D'Arcy**

Professor Kathy Hall introduced the conference to the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS) of which she is Co-Chair. Professor Hall described how SCoTENS is a network of 24 colleges of education, university education departments, teaching councils, curriculum councils, education trade unions and education centres on the island of Ireland with a responsibility for and interest in teacher education. She went on to explain that SCoTENS receives annual funding from Ireland's Department of Education and Skills. In terms of support from Northern Ireland, SCoTENS received funding from the Department of Education and the Department of for Employment and Learning (now the Department for the

Economy), who each provided £12,500. This matched funding continued until the 2017/18 financial year when both Northern departments unilaterally withdrew funding, reducing SCoTENS' overall income by 25 per cent, and severely limiting the extent of the network's activity. Attempts are underway to appeal the Northern Ireland departments' decision. Michael D'Arcy focused on the economic relationships between the two jurisdictions and stated how Brexit had shone a light on the economic connections between the North and South of the island of Ireland. He stressed the need for an All Island Investment Strategy.



**Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan**

The final keynote speaker of CCBS's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference was Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan, of Ulster University, whose speech evaluated whether the 1998 Good Friday Agreement had been a success or failure. She opened her keynote by stating that the Agreement had different levels of success for different people, depending on how they had been affected by the conflict in Northern Ireland. In political terms, Prof Gormley-Heenan argued that after the GFA the political parties had taken to "Power Snaring & Power Splitting" rather than the hoped-for power-sharing, and that good relations and reconciliation had not been mainstreamed. She also stated that devolution in Northern Ireland was a vehicle to be used to reach a destination, but it had broken down. She expressed the view that Brexit has again

drawn attention to the border, but while there had been extensive discussion around the physical border and its technicalities, there has been no focus on the border which exists in peoples' minds. Brexit has also disturbed the way in which we view ourselves and enabled the binary choice of British or Irish in Northern Ireland to come to the fore again.



**(L to R) Steven McCaffery, Susan McKay, Peter Sheridan, Sarah Creighton**

Steven McCaffery, of the Social Change Initiative, chaired the final panel, which featured the journalist Susan McKay, Peter Sheridan of Cooperation Ireland, and the independent commentator Sarah Creighton. In opening the panel discussion, Steven reflected upon his own experience of Stormont and echoed Cathy Gormley-Heenan's earlier words that Stormont was meant to be used as a vehicle for reconciliation, but that reconciliation was never a priority for those in the Assembly or the British or Irish governments.

Susan McKay explained that younger generations do not have to accept the current malfunctioning peace process, and that while older generations may see the current situation as an improvement, those with no personal experience of the troubles are demanding more. Susan stressed that it cannot be assumed that people want the Assembly back as it was, and while the principles of the GFA are good, they have not been realised.

Peter Sheridan focused on the importance of a good economy in a peaceful society. Peter explained that economic development is about openness and it is

therefore vital that we learn how to build a partnership with the 'other side'. A thriving economy is essential for peacebuilding and a peaceful society is essential to a thriving economy. Peter finished by saying that Brexit will have profound and far-reaching consequences for the island of Ireland.

Sarah Creighton began by highlighting the upcoming centenary of the existence of Northern Ireland and how it, like the Backstop, will divide Northern Ireland. Sarah went on to state that while politicians have only recently focused their attention back on the GFA, Civic Society and community groups in Northern Ireland have always been working in progressing the elements of the Agreement. Sarah referred back to Prof Duncan Morrow's earlier keynote and agreed that politicians have been cherry picking certain parts of the Agreement as a way of justifying their position in the Brexit negotiations. On a more hopeful note, Sarah finished by highlighting the growing numbers of people identifying as neither Unionist or Nationalist, and that this may translate to more issues-based politics in Northern Ireland.

The evening session of the Centre for Cross Border Studies began with a Drinks Reception, generously sponsored by Queen's University Belfast and Dublin City University, and the launch of a special edition of the *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* by Dr Christopher Gibson, the first Chair of the CCBS Board. Guests were entertained by an excellent string trio from the Cross Border Orchestra: Caroline, Emma and Richie, who were representing the 100 young musicians of the Cross Border Orchestra along with their Chief Executive, Sharon Treacy-Dunne.



**Dr Christopher Gibson**

In launching the special edition of the Journal, Dr Christopher Gibson stressed the importance of continuing the excellent work that has been carried out in cross-border cooperation over the last twenty years.



**Members of the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland**

The Conference Dinner was the final part of the day with dinner speaker, Fintan O'Toole, of *The Irish Times*, who was introduced by Prof John Doyle, of Dublin City University. In his speech Fintan O'Toole noted that although the Irish Border measures only 500km, the more you get to know about it the bigger it gets, and as the Brexit negotiations have progressed it has become huge. However, there have been thirty years of politically effective cooperation between the UK and Irish governments and this will have to be re-established again because, as mentioned by Dr Soares in his opening remarks, geographically Britain and Ireland will remain close. Fintan finished by stating the Belfast Agreement brought Northern

Ireland out of a dark time and it continues to give a direction in which to move forward through the current troubles.



**Fintan O'Toole**

*The Centre for Cross Border Studies would like once more to express its gratitude to the Department of Education and Skills for its core funding, part of which helped this conference become a reality, and to funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund for the "Collaborating for Common Success" project, which also contributed some support to this event.*

*If you would like to hear recordings of all the presentations made at the conference, you can access them at*

*<http://crossborder.ie/2019-annual-conference-programme/>*



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



*The Centre also thanks Slándáil, Dublin City University, and Queen's University Belfast for sponsoring elements of the conference.*



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## Research

**At the heart of everything the Centre for Cross Border Studies does is research. If we didn't undertake the "unglamorous" and continual task of researching and analysing policy and legislation developed by the central Governments in London and Dublin, the devolved administrations in Belfast (when functioning), Cardiff and Edinburgh, as well as in Brussels, and how they affect cooperation and mobility across borders, we wouldn't be able to properly fulfil the mission we were set up in 1999 to pursue.**

Without research, we wouldn't be able to provide the vital practical information and advice for those crossing the Irish border to live, work, study or retire – information and advice that is increasingly being sought after in the context of Brexit, particularly from our flagship Border People project.



The results of our research and analysis aren't just disseminated through our reports, Briefing Papers and Policy Seminars; they also inform our engagements on the island of Ireland, Great Britain and Europe with political representatives and policy-makers, public bodies, business organisations, civil society organisations and communities, as we use pursue our task of supporting and strengthening relations within and between these islands through improved cross-border cooperation.

Thus, 2019 saw us conclude two action research projects: the "Towards a New Common Chapter" project, and the "Bringing the Agreement Home: in all its parts" project. While the latter had begun in 2018, preparatory research for the former began in late 2014, with engagement with community groups on the island of Ireland beginning in early 2015

with a view to establish a grass-roots vision for cross-border cooperation.

Having worked intensively with a range of community organisations on the island of Ireland, enabling cross-border discussions and critical engagement with North-South policies, institutions and cooperation, and developed and agreed a draft "New Common Chapter for Cooperation Within and Between these Islands", 2019 saw representatives from these organisations taking their New Common Chapter to Great Britain.



**Representatives from Rural Community Network, Longford Women's Link and Women'sTEC engaging with counterparts from Wales in Cardiff**



**The busy agenda of discussions in Cardiff**

After workshops February and early March in Glasgow, Cardiff and Liverpool to not only gather the views of representatives from Scottish, Welsh and English

community organisations about the New Common Charter, but also to learn about Scotland’s Community Empowerment Act, Wales’s Well-being of Future Generations Act, and devolution to cities and regions in England, representatives of community groups from across these islands gathered in Belfast at the end of March to assess whether there could be agreement on a vision for grass-roots community cooperation within and between these islands.



CCBS Acting Director, Anthony Soares, at the Evaluation Seminar of the “Towards a New Common Charter” project

With consensus reached on what would become the New Common *Charter* for Cooperation Within and Between these Islands, the final stage of the project saw representatives of the community groups responsible for developing the shared vision for cooperation taking it to political representatives and policy-makers across these islands. This engagement process included appearing before an Oireachtas Committee in Dublin, speaking at a plenary session of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly, presenting to MSPs and Scottish

Government officials in Edinburgh, and going to the House of Commons.

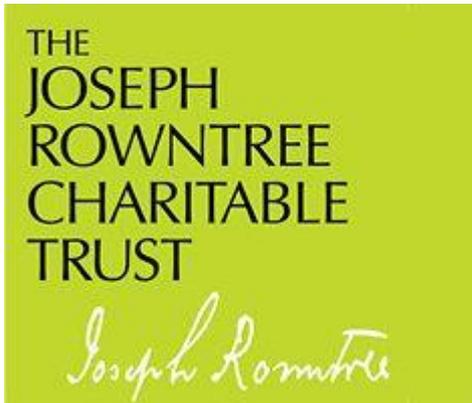


(Above) Tom Brake MP discussing the New Common Charter, and (Below) with Ian Paisley Jnr MP



The long process that led to the New Common Charter for Cooperation Within

and Between these Islands was supported throughout by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, whose encouragement was invaluable in achieving a shared vision for cooperation between community groups and organisations across these islands.



We are also grateful for additional funding from the Community Relations Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund, without which it would not have been possible to bring together a diversity of community organisations from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland to meet with their counterparts from Great Britain, and work towards the New Common Charter.



The Centre for Cross Border Studies will continue to work with other organisations to, as it declares in its conclusion, “call on political representatives across these islands to support and facilitate the achievement of this New Common Charter’s objectives, ensuring that community organisations are encouraged

and given the means to cooperate within and between these islands”.

More information on the New Common Charter is available at <http://crossborder.ie/towards-a-new-common-chapter/> and we welcome further support for what it seeks to achieve.



(L to R) Tara Farrell of Longford Women’s Link, Anthony Soares of CCBS, and Eilidh Dickson of Engender

Also concluded in 2019 was the “Bringing the Agreement Home: In all its parts” project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Reconciliation Fund. The original rationale for this project came from an increasing awareness that there was a lack of understanding of the Good Friday Agreement in all its dimensions following regular interactions with Westminster parliamentary committees, a range of organisations based in Great Britain, and grass-roots community groups on the island of Ireland.



This awareness came as the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement was about to celebrate its twentieth year, and as it formed a core issue in the ongoing negotiations between the UK Government and the European Commission over the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Indeed, the directives that would guide the European Commission's approach to the negotiations stated that "Nothing in the [Withdrawal] Agreement should undermine the objectives and commitments set out in the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts and its related implementing agreements".

The Centre's work, particularly since the UK's referendum on EU membership, had shown that, for in many ways understandable reasons, general perceptions of the 1998 Agreement saw it principally as a solution to a Northern Ireland problem, divorced from its other dimensions. Whereas there may have been a level of awareness of the cross-border or all-island dimension of the GFA, this was not necessarily translated into knowledge of the institutions and areas of cooperation under Strand 2. Moreover, there it appeared that there was even less understanding of how the GFA links the island of Ireland and Great Britain under Strand 3. Brexit had brought this situation into focus, with the challenges it poses being seen as potentially affecting the GFA in general terms, but without necessarily seeing how it may do so in terms of all of its interrelated parts.

Therefore, the "Bringing the Agreement Home: in all its parts" project aimed to provide an accessible analytical review of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements (i.e. St Andrews; Stormont House; Fresh Start), as well as a series of workshops and an "All-Island Conversation" to inform and engage community organisations on the island of Ireland about the provisions of the

agreements and the institutions and bodies they created. In particular, the workshops, which took place in a number of locations across the island of Ireland (including Belfast, Dublin, Derry and Monaghan), highlighted the current operation of North-South and East-West relations, and how they support socio-economic relations within and between these islands.



**"All-Island Conversation" event in Dundalk**

The discussions that took place as part of this project revealed not only gaps in knowledge of the 1998 Agreement and how subsequent agreements may have affected the operation of certain institutions, but more importantly a significant sense from community groups that civic participation was not readily accepted by political representatives, with the disappearance of the Northern Ireland Civic Forum, as well as the failure to establish an all-island consultative forum seen as proof of this.

The continued absence of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland was another significant issue for the participating groups in this project, although the workshops also revealed that few people were aware of how the Good Friday Agreement had envisaged an all-island charter of rights. Above all, there was both a feeling of frustration that political representatives in Northern Ireland appeared to have forgotten or were deliberately ignoring the "Declaration of Support" in the 1998

Agreement, as well as the hope that parties could recommit themselves to that declaration, seen as embodying the spirit of the Good Friday Agreement.



While these two projects came to an end in 2019, two further projects began. Again funded by the Reconciliation Fund, further work commenced by the Centre's flagship Border People project to ensure citizens crossing the border to work, study or retire have access to up-to-date and clear information, taking into account any changes to cross-border mobility brought about by Brexit. Also beginning in 2019, and due to be completed in July 2020, the

“Collaborating for Common Success” project, supported by the Reconciliation Fund, is looking at how Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement will operate as the UK begins to develop UK-wide policies in areas such as international trade and immigration.

2019 was certainly another intensive year for the Centre as it continued to further its mission to be a trusted source of information and research on issues related to cross-border cooperation. This will continue in 2020!



## Policy Seminars

**One of the Centre's recognised strengths is its provision of platforms for North-South and cross-sectoral dialogue. Our Policy Seminars are a manifestation of this, and they always aim to bring the latest research, current thinking, and significant players related to cooperation or to areas where cross-border cooperation could be beneficial to a range of audiences that include senior policy and decision-makers. Inevitably, the potential impacts of Brexit on North-South and East-West cooperation and relations dominated discussions in the four policy seminars that the Centre organised in 2019.**

### **Border People, Brexit and Citizens' Mobility**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, Tallaght, Dublin

The CCBS Border People project hosted a seminar that was tailored to suit the needs of citizens information services in the south Dublin region. The session focussed on the practical implications of Brexit, including social security coordination and the diverging rights of citizens on the island of Ireland. The event was attended by over 80 members of staff from South Dublin Citizen's Information Service.

### **Preparing for the changing landscape to relations within and between these islands**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Dundalk

The Centre for Cross Border Studies and Co-operation Ireland brought together a small number of key organisations to participate in a Chatham House rule policy seminar to assess how civil society in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland sees relations within and between these islands developing over the next twenty years. While this discussion reflected on past developments in North-South relations, it primarily focused on what the invited participants saw as the future context for those relations and what should be done to sustain them.

### **The development of North-South and Cross-Border Cooperation**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, (North South Ministerial Council, Armagh)

### **Assessing Impact Across Borders**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Brussels

Centre for Cross Border Studies' annual Brussels Policy Seminar focused on the assessment of the impact of legislation, regulations and policies in cross-border territories. CCBS Acting Director, Dr Anthony Soares, discussed the urgent need for regulatory impact assessment at the Ireland-Northern Ireland border in the light of the UK's impending departure from the European Union, this policy seminar also provided an invaluable opportunity for policy-makers and practitioners to learn from the experiences and cross-border impact assessment methodology developed and applied by Maastricht University, presented by Martin Unfried of the Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM). Ramona Velea of the Gorizia International Institute of Sociology presented the Italian-Slovenian border as a case-study to shed light on the involvement of stakeholders in cross-border regions in impact assessment processes.

## Contributing to Public Policy and Practice

### Submissions to Public Policy & Practice

Jan: ***Submission to the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region***

This response has been prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as a contribution to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly's public consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.

Jan: ***Submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry: Implications of the EU Withdrawal agreement and the backstop for Northern Ireland***

This response has been prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as a contribution to the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Implications of the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the backstop for Northern Ireland.

Apr: ***Submission to the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region***

This response has been prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as a contribution to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's public consultation on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.

July: ***Response to Prosperity UK Alternative Arrangements Commission Consultation on Interim Report***

CCBS has responded to the consultation on the Interim Report published by the Prosperity UK Alternative Arrangements Commission on the 24th June 2019. The Interim Report is part of a process that Prosperity UK describes as one that "can help break the Brexit impasse and enable all parties to agree a way forward that ensures an orderly and timely Brexit, protects peace on the island of Ireland, allows politicians across Europe to move on to other pressing challenges, not least restoring business confidence". CCBS's response to the report focuses on the Interim Report's analysis of the potential consequences of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and on cross-border and North-South cooperation, and the extent to which the alternative arrangements it sets out are compatible with that Agreement.

Sept: ***Submission to the House of Lords EU Internal Market Sub-Committee's inquiry on Discontinuing seasonal changes of time***

This response has been prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as a contribution to the House of Lords EU Internal Market Sub-Committee's inquiry on discontinuing seasonal changes of time, and what such a proposal may entail in the context of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Sept: ***Submission to the Working Group on Parliamentary Privilege and Citizens' Rights***

This response has been prepared by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as a contribution to the Houses of the Oireachtas' Working Group on Parliamentary Privilege and Citizens' Rights, as it reviews the Houses' procedures in the light of recent judgements by the Supreme Court.

## Annual Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture

The 4th Annual Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture was held on the 8th July in Dublin City University. This year's lecture "NI's economic future – Building the economic and political relationships across the two islands" was given by Angela McGowan, Director of CBI NI.

Ms McGowan began her lecture by stating that no economy has overcome what the Northern Ireland economy in the past 20 years and that Brexit now provides another challenge for it. She went on to stress the need the business community has for a clear timetable to the process. Angela then went on to say that the Northern Ireland Business Sector has an important role to play in maintaining and developing North South relations. The lecture went on to focus on the huge influence which Skills and Education has to play in developing the Northern Economy and that it is one of the best ways to combat income inequality.



The lecture finished with a presentation to Lady Moira Quigley and to Angela McGowan by Anthony Soares, Acting Director CCBS.



## Briefing Papers

**Jan:** [The Impact of Brexit on Devolution in Northern Ireland](#)

This is the fifth and final paper from our Briefing Paper Series on Brexit and the UK-Ireland Border. It considers the questions that the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union raises for devolution in Northern Ireland. Such questions are fundamental for the future of regional and UK governance as a whole. Moreover, devolution in Northern Ireland (in its relationship with the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement) also structures relations across the UK Ireland border and between the islands of Ireland and Great Britain. It is in this sense that CCBS addresses devolution as one of a number of 'border regimes' on the island of Ireland.

**June:** [The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and \(post-Brexit\) cross-border environmental cooperation](#)

This Briefing Paper, which forms part of the Centre for Cross Border Studies' ongoing work into the potential consequences of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union for North-South and cross-border cooperation, has been prompted by the April 2019 publication of an important report commissioned by the Environmental Pillar in conjunction with Northern Ireland Environment Link. Authored by Alison Hough, "Brexit, the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement and the Environment: Issues arising and possible solutions" focuses on a framework that has not only provided the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) with one of its core policy pillars since its foundation, but has also been central to CCBS's approach to Brexit. This Briefing Paper, therefore, is intended as a statement of support for the report commissioned by the Environmental Pillar and Northern Ireland Environment Link, highlighting areas of commonality between what it sets out and CCBS's own concerns.

**Oct:** [The UK Government's proposals for an amended Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland](#)

The Centre for Cross Border Studies has published a Briefing Paper setting out its assessment of the UK Government's latest proposals to amend the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, and the extent to which they are compatible with the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and avoid the creation of new borders within or between these islands as the UK withdraws from the EU.

**Dec:** [The need for regulatory cross-border territorial impact assessment: Challenges at the Ireland-Northern Ireland border](#)

The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to highlight the urgent need for policy-makers, decision-makers and legislators to assess the impact of a proposed policy, regulation, strategy or law, for example, on their jurisdiction's borders, and to assess how their implementation has affected the socio-economic conditions of citizens in a border region.<sup>1</sup> To undertake such an exercise is not necessarily a means of restricting or impeding the development of a

particular policy, strategy or piece of legislation by focusing solely on its potentially negative impacts on a border region, but can instead become an instrument to maximise its benefits by identifying opportunities to make positive cross-border connections with policies, strategies or legislation in the neighbouring jurisdiction. At a more basic level, assessing impact from this perspective will provide evidence as to whether a proposed policy or piece of legislation facilitates or inhibits the ability of those within a border region or within the wider jurisdiction to engage in cross-border or inter-jurisdictional cooperation. It is an essential element of evidence based policy-making.

## Border People

Throughout 2019 the Border People project continued to provide online information for citizens who cross the border regularly; to work, live to study. The project also continued to provide direct support to advisors in mainstream advice and information providing organisation based in both jurisdictions.

### **TARGET ACHIEVED: Border People website hosted, updated and maintained**

The Border People website and social media accounts were regularly updated and monitored during 2019. A steady increase in website traffic and social media interactions was noted. For example in 2019 142,529 visitors visited the website 161,693 times and viewed 245,017 pages of cross-border information.

### **TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 Border People Advisory Group meetings**

During 2019 the Border People Advisor group meet quarterly, kindly hosted and chaired by the North South Ministerial Council, Joint Secretariat in Armagh.

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### **TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 Brexit information workshops for Citizens Advisors**

The Border People project completed four Brexit related workshops for citizens' advisors in springtime 2019. Each workshop explored the potential implications of Brexit and the changing needs of citizens and the advice sectors in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

- 1 March: Armagh
- 6 March: Newry
- 7 March: Enniskillen
- 21 March: Strabane

### **TARGET ACHIEVED: 2 Cross-border seminars**

Two high level Brexit themed seminars took place in 2019, organised for policymakers, decision makers and service deliverers. The events aimed to create a space for debate and discussion about policy and practical implications of Brexit, particularly on citizens and organisations that provide services to citizens e.g. advice sectors, social welfare offices.

The first seminar took place on 16th April 2019 and focussed on the implications of Brexit for citizens. This seminar was tailored for South Dublin Citizens Information Service. The event was attended by 83 information advisors, policy staff and advocates. The morning seminar covered a wide range of cross-border and Brexit related issues.

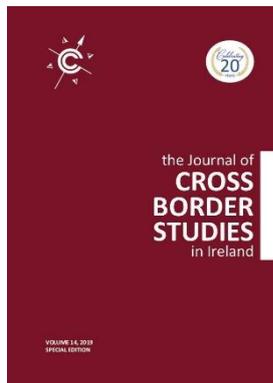
The second seminar took place on 3rd July 2019 and involved a cross-border multi-sectoral policy discussion on the future of cross-border cooperation in these changing times. The seminar focussed on how cross-border organisations and projects should plan for the future and how our cross-border collaborations could be affected by Brexit. The session was attended by 19 representatives from a broad range of cross-border sectors and organisations. The group indicated support for a follow up event.

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 Brexit Podcasts**

Due to misinformation about Brexit and its implications for citizens in Ireland and Northern Ireland circulating on social media, in news headlines and from political organisations, and as a result citizens and organisations can find it challenging to locate credible, impartial information. To help dispel misinformation, explain the jargon and the negotiation process etc. four podcasts were prepared and recorded by the Border People project. They were shared online and also uploaded to YouTube and Facebook.

The podcasts explained the timeline and process of the UK leaving the EU, the impact of Brexit on citizens' rights, the Withdrawal Agreement and Brexit's impact on the Good Friday Agreement. It was hoped that 200 viewings would be logged however this number doubled to 402 viewings.

## Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland



This special edition of the Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland was conceived as a means to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, and to remind ourselves of the passionate insights into cross-border and North-South cooperation contributors to the Journal have generously shared over the years. The Journal – now in its 14th edition, and preceded by six editions of a Yearbook – has always striven to be a platform for the dissemination of critical thinking, learning, and imagining, and to contribute to the often challenging venture to promote and strengthen cross-border cooperation as part of the ongoing peace and reconciliation process on the island of Ireland.

Going somewhat against the grain, however, this special edition of the Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland focuses essentially on the island of Ireland. Nevertheless, although the articles and interviews reproduced in this special edition speak of the local, the context of the island of Ireland is always inextricably a result of the web (often contested) of internal and external relations, not least due to the interlocking nature of a Belfast/Good Friday Agreement whose co-guarantors saw it as the expression of their common desire to “develop still further the unique relationship between their peoples and the close cooperation between their countries as friendly neighbours and as partners in the European Union”.

What we have in this special edition, then, are a number of key assessments of the progress of the close cooperation envisioned in the Good Friday Agreement, originally published in the Journal between 2006 and 2013. Crucially, each of the articles or interviews reproduced here is followed by a reflection on the original piece by its authors or, where this was not possible (in the case of the interviews with Martin McGuinness and Sir George Quigley), by someone closely familiar with the original subject. Unsurprisingly, the reflections are written a time of enormous doubt as to how the close cooperation at the heart of the 1998 Agreement will continue in light of the United Kingdom’s imminent departure from the European Union. But whereas these reflections are imbued with uncertainty as to the future, that sentiment is also frequently present in the original articles, along with an often felt sense of frustration.

However, while it may be easy to interpret such frustration and doubt as purely negative feelings of despair, they should instead be read as arising from the knowledge of the successes borne of cross-border and North-South cooperation (many instances of which are referenced by the authors), and of the enormous potential yet to be exploited, but which may be under threat due to what seems to be an increasingly unfavourable political environment.

[Journal Available Online!!](#)

## Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network

The Centre for Cross Border Studies has been an active partner in the Transfrontier Euro Institute Network since its founding in 2010. TEIN now brings together 15 partners from 9 border regions in Europe. Its partners are universities, research institutes and training centres which are dedicated to the practical business of cross-border cooperation in Europe, all with deep knowledge of their borders' specificities. 2019 saw the commencement of a new TEIN project bringing together partners from five other European border regions with support from the Europe for Citizens programme – Engaging civil society in border regions for the future of Europe. The project comprised five seminars addressing topics related to the future European political agenda; encouraging citizens to debate their ideas, fears and suggestions for the future of Europe.

### What does it mean to be an EU citizen? Human Rights, Civic Rights, Entitlements and Obligations

#### March 11th, NICVA Belfast

What does it mean to be an EU citizen? Human Rights, Civic Rights, Entitlements and Obligations	
Monday 11 March - 9.30am - 4.30pm	
NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB	
9.45am	Welcome & Introduction Ruth Tallon, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies
9.55am	Conference Opening
10.00am	Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
10.00am	European Perspectives on EU citizenship Frédérique Berrod, Professor of Public Law, University of Strasbourg
10.20am	Hynek Böhm, Technical University of Liberec
10.40am	Irish Perspectives on EU citizenship Eilis Barry, CEO, FLAC
11.00am	REFRESHMENTS
11.20am	Daniel Holder, Deputy Director, CAJ
11.40am	Case Study Emma De Souza, Rights & Justice Collective NI
12.00pm	SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
1.00pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Projects using European Instruments and law locally Selin Brady, Participation & Practice of Rights Anonmarie O'Kane, Border People Claire McCann, Human Rights Consortium
2.40pm	How Human Rights have shaped European values and peacebuilding in Ireland and other European conflict regions Duncan Morrow, Ulster University
3.10pm	EU Peace-Funded Human Rights Projects Michael Culbert, Colste – Building Positive Relations Zsófia Miklósov, Migrants Rights Centre Ireland – Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries Marjam Bader, Politics Plus- The Next Chapter
3.40pm	SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
4.30pm	CLOSE

The Centre for Cross Border Studies as a partner in the Transfrontier Euro Institute Network (TEIN) hosted the first forum in Belfast on Monday 11 March, at which 78 participants from both parts of this island, Austria, France, Germany and the Czech Republic discussed “What does it mean to be an EU citizen?” The focus of this event was on “Human Rights, Civic Rights, Entitlements and Obligations”.

The conference was opened by Mr Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The morning session, European Perspectives on EU Citizenship was addressed by Professor Frédérique Berrod, who is Professor of Public Law at the University of Strasbourg’s Institute of Political Studies and Dr. Hynek Böhm is Assistant Professor at the Technical University Liberec in the

Czech Republic. This was followed by Irish Perspectives on EU Citizenship, delivered by Eilis Barry, CEO of the Dublin-based Free Legal Advice Centres and Daniel Holder, Deputy Director of Belfast-based Committee for the Administration of Justice. Emma de Souza, spoke eloquently about her ongoing four-year legal battle with the British Home Office for recognition of her rights enshrined in the GFA as an Irish citizen born in the North.

The afternoon session heard from a number of local projects using European human rights and equality provisions on behalf of citizens and others funded through the EU Peace Programme to promote human rights and equality. Dr Duncan Morrow was our final keynote speaker on “How Human Human Rights have shaped European values and peacebuilding in Ireland and other European conflict regions”.



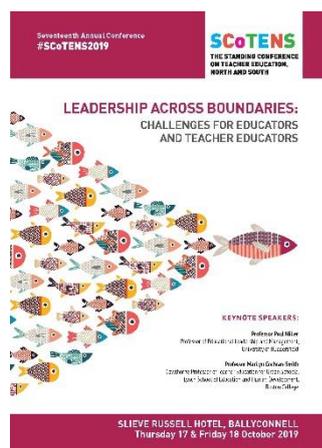
## Secretariats

The Centre for Cross Border Studies provides secretariat services for cross-border networks, currently SCoTENS and Universities Ireland.

## Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South

### SCoTENS Annual Conference

#### Leadership Across Boundaries: Challenges for Educators and Teacher Educators



The 17th annual SCoTENS conference was held on 17-18 October 2019 in the beautiful surroundings of the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, County Cavan. This year's theme was "Leadership Across Boundaries: Challenges for Educators and Teacher Educators", a theme which resonated with delegates given the pressures and challenges resulting from the widening diversity of student needs, increasing accountability, performance management, reducing budgets and a prescriptive policy context.

Almost 100 delegates attended from all over the island of Ireland, and were welcomed by Dr Noel Purdy (Stranmillis University College – northern co-chair) and by Mr Ian McKenna, International Cooperation Section, Department of Education and Skills (funding department) who commended the outstanding work of SCoTENS.

There were two outstanding keynote addresses by Prof Marilyn Cochran-Smith, Cawthorne Professor of Teacher Education for Urban Schools, Boston College and Prof Paul Miller, Head of the School of Education and Professor of Educational Leadership and Social Justice, University of Greenwich.

This year for the first time there were also research presentations following a 'call for papers'. This attracted a wide range of insightful presentations by researchers from north and south of the border, leading to stimulating questions and discussions. The conference also featured the third annual doctoral roundtable where ten doctoral students were given an opportunity to present their ongoing research work and receive informal feedback from their peers and SCoTENS committee members.

On Thursday evening Prof Cochran-Smith launched a newly published book on 'Teacher Preparation in Northern Ireland: History, Policy and Future Directions' authored by Dr Sean Farren (UU), Prof Linda Clarke (UU) and Dr Teresa O'Doherty (Marino Institute of Education). This was followed by the presentation of this year's John Coolahan Award by Prof Miller to Lorraine Harbison (DCU) and Shauna McGill (UU) for their seed funded report on 'Universal Design for Learning as a Context for Embedding technology in Primary School Mathematics'. At the close of the conference dinner, Mr Andy Pollak, founding Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, launched the 2018 SCoTENS Annual Report.

The final session of the conference was a Panel Discussion chaired by Dr Conor Galvin featuring both keynote speakers as well as invited guests: Sam Gallaher (Chief Executive of the GTCNI), Dr Margaret O'Donovan (UCC), Lady Rosemary Salisbury (Freelance Educational and Commercial Training Consultant) and Dr Joe Moynihan (UCC). In his closing remarks, Dr Noel Purdy (northern co-chair) paid tribute to outgoing southern co-chair Prof Kathy Hall (UCC) and thanked her for her dedication, professionalism and commitment during her

three years in office. He announced that the incoming southern co-chair would be Dr Maria Campbell, St Angela's College, Sligo.

### **Seed Funding**

Each year, SCoTENS provides Seed Funding to support a number of collaborative research projects and professional activities in teacher education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This year, the seed-funding committee allocated £20,000 of funding to be shared amongst five cross-border projects:

- **CCaBB – Contested Childhoods across Borders and Boundaries: A North-South Comparative Study**
- **DPIF – Documenting early year-career primary and post-primary principals' identity formation**
- **ITRB – The Importance of Teachers' Religions or Beliefs in Appointments and Promotions in Schools**
- **OL – Outdoor Learning – an inclusive pedagogy for an integrated connected curriculum?**
- **VRiTE – Virtual Reality in Initial Teacher Education – a model for Professional Development**

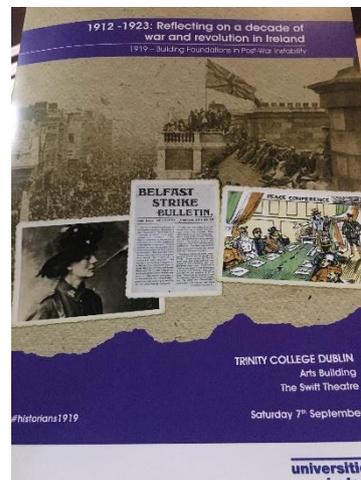
## Universities Ireland

### Universities Ireland Annual Conference

#### Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923: Building Foundations in Post-War Instability

This conference was organised by Universities Ireland, the network of university presidents and vice-chancellors from Ireland and Northern Ireland founded in 2003. Universities Ireland runs North-South scholarship schemes (including one for PhD students working in the 1912-1923 period); links Irish universities with their counterparts in Britain and Africa; supports persecuted scholars from countries where freedom of expression and inquiry is under threat; and undertakes a number of other initiatives to bring Irish and Northern Irish universities closer together. It is managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

The Universities Ireland Historians Group was started in 2011. This conference is the eighth in a series of annual conferences that will continue until 2023, and is part of a multi-annual programme of activities led by the Universities Ireland Historians Group to reflect on the 1912-1923 period in Irish history. The aim is that this will be a scholarly and sustained initiative, and thus a unique contribution to reflection on a decade of history-changing events by the island's intellectual leaders, the 10 universities (and, in particular, their Departments of History). The programme included research scholarships for young historians; lobbying British and Irish museums and archives to enhance access to key historical materials from the period; collaborative history teaching initiatives, and joint conferences and seminars.



Following on from last year's 'Propoganda and Mobilisation' conference, the focus of this year's session is the post-war general election of December 1918. This was one of the most important events in Ireland's modern history. Constitutional nationalism was swept away by the reborn republicanism of Sinn Féin in three of Ireland's four provinces. It was not, however, an unvarnished triumph for the more radical Irish nationalism forged by Easter 1916 and the conscription crisis of 1918. The unionist position in North-East Ulster was further entrenched and the outlines of a future partitioned island became apparent from the electoral map.

While the revolutionary outcomes of the election have dominated historical analysis, it was also the most democratic election seen in Ireland up to that point. For the first time all men could vote, as could most women over 30 years of age. The electorate swelled from 800,000 to two million voters, providing a unique opportunity for radical political change.

The aim of this conference is to explore both the high politics of the moment and its wider social context. Why did Sinn Féin triumph? How did the enfranchisement of women shape the election and the status of women in society? How did unionists and Britain respond to the republican challenge? How was the election shaped by local and global concerns during a period of rapid revolutionary change?

### **North/South Postgraduate Scholarships and History Bursary**

Applications for the 2019/2020 awards closed on 3 May 2018. There are four scholarships of €15,000 available for the academic year 2019-2020. Four scholarships of €15,000 were awarded:

#### **The winners of the 2019 North/South Postgraduate Scholarships are:**

- **Rebekah Crossan**, Derry is completing an MPhil in Modern Irish History in TCD
- **Alexander Cupples**, Loughbrickland is completing a MA in the Beginnings of Irish Christianity in UCC
- **Siobhan Kelly**, Dublin is completing a MA in Arts Management in QUB
- **Clare Lyons**, Dublin is completing an MFA in Photography in UU
- **Peter Bothwell**, Carrickfergus is completing an MSc in Comparative Social Change in TCD and UCD

There were six applications received for the 2019 History Bursary. Two scholarships of €13,000 were awarded as follows:

- **Benjamin Ragan, Olympia, USA**  
Benjamin will complete his PhD in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. The title of his research is Supernaturalism in the Remembrance and Folklore of the Irish Revolution.
- **Catherine Rooney, Newry**  
Catherine will complete her PhD in University College Cork. The title of her research is 'The Gatekeeper: A Biography of Liam Tobin'.

## CCBS Online

**TARGET: CCBS website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: CCBS website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET: Border People website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: Border People website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET: Facebook and Twitter profiles maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: Facebook and Twitter profiles maintained**

**TARGET: 12 monthly Border-Zine electronic newsletters**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 12 Border-Zine electronic newsletters**

## Members of the CCBS Board

**Dr Helen Johnston** (Chair), Senior Social Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council, Dublin

**Colin Stutt**, Colin Stutt Consulting

**Tony Kennedy OBE**, Director, John Hewitt Society

**Michael Curran**, Business Development Manager, Hanley Energy Ltd

**Dr Katy Hayward**, Senior Lecturer, School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast

**Trevor Holmes**, Vice President, External and Strategic Affairs, Dublin City University

**Philip McDonagh OBE**, Independent Economist, Chair of the NI Statistics Advisory Committee and Charity Commissioner for Northern Ireland

**Rev Earl Storey**, Founder, Topstorey Communications

**Dr Walt Kilroy**, Associate Director, Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction and Assistant Professor, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University

**Dr Teresa O'Doherty**, President of Marino Institute of Education, Dublin

**Mr J Garry**, John Garry is Professor of Political Behaviour at Queen's University Belfast

**One vacancy**