Centre for
Cross Border Studies

22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 24th September 2021

Online

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#CCBSconf

TESTING THE HEALTH OF CONDITIONS FOR POST-BREXIT COOPERATION

The evolving social and political contexts

Programme

9.30am **WELCOME**
Dr Helen Johnston, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies

9.35am **OPENING REMARKS**
Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

9.40am **KEYNOTE**
Madeleine Alessandri, Permanent Secretary, Northern Ireland Office

10.15am **THE POLITICAL CONTEXT**
CHAIR: **Sir David Sterling,** Ex-Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Member of the Board of the Centre for Cross Border Studies
Professor Brigid Laffan, European University Institute
Nichola Mallon MLA, Northern Ireland Minister for Infrastructure
Professor Pete Shirlow, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool
Jess Sargeant, Institute for Government

11.30am **VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK**

11.45am **THE SOCIAL CONTEXT**
CHAIR: **Tara Farrell,** Chief Executive, Longford Women's Link
Brian Dougherty, North West Cultural Partnership
Dr Nicola Brady, Irish Council of Churches
Eoin O'Keeffe, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Kate Clifford, Rural Community Network

1.00pm **VIRTUAL LUNCH**

2.00pm **LAUNCH OF THE 2021 EDITION OF *JOURNAL OF CROSS BORDER STUDIES IN IRELAND***
Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

2.15pm **MEASURING THE CROSS-BORDER IMPACTS OF HEALTHY COOPERATION**
CHAIR: **Dr Anthony Soares,** Centre for Cross Border Studies
Maureen O'Reilly, Centre for Cross Border Studies
Aidan O'Kane, Cross-Border Workers Coalition
Dr Helen McAvoy, Institute for Public Health
Ann Nolan, Trinity Centre for Global Health

3.45pm **CLOSING KEYNOTE**
Paul Narain, US Consul General to Northern Ireland

4.20pm **CLOSING REMARKS**
Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies

Conference Speakers

Dr Helen Johnston

Dr Johnston is Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. In her day job, Helen is a Senior Social Policy Analyst at the Irish National Economic and Social Council (NESC). Helen previously worked at the Irish Combat Poverty Agency where she was Director for six years and Head of Research for eight years. During her time with Combat Poverty, Helen was involved in implementation of the Peace Programme, with Pobal, in the Border Counties. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the early years of her career. She has qualifications in environmental science, town and country planning, business administration and a doctorate in governance.

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.

Madeleine Alessandri

Madeleine Alessandri is the Permanent Secretary for the Northern Ireland Office. Previously she was the UK Deputy National Security Advisor and Prime Minister's Adviser on National Resilience and Security. She joined government service in 1988 and has held a wide variety of positions in the Diplomatic Service and in National Security in the UK and overseas.

Sir David Sterling

David Sterling joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) in February 1978 and served in a variety of grades and roles in the Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI) and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). He was Head of the NI Civil Service on 14 June 2017 and retired from this role on 31 August 2020. The devolved institutions were in suspension from the time of his appointment in June 2017 until the resumption of the Executive and Assembly in early January 2020. The main issues he had to deal with during his time as Head of the NICS were the challenge of delivering public services in the absence of ministers, preparing for Brexit, preparing for the resumption of devolved government and dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic. David was educated at RBAI and Ulster University and his interests are golf, cycling, walking and the environment. He is Chair of the Chief Executives' Forum and a Trustee of the Cancer Fund for Children and Ulster Wildlife. On 10 October 2020 David was awarded a Knighthood in the 2020 Birthday Honours. David is a member of the Centre for Cross Border Studies' board.

Professor Brigid Laffan

Prof. Laffan was Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and Director of the Global Governance Programme and the European Governance and Politics Programme at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence until her retirement in August 2021.

Previously, Prof. Laffan was Professor of European Politics at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) University College Dublin (UCD), and she was Vice-President of UCD and Principal of the College of Human Sciences from 2004 to 2011.

Prof. Laffan was also the founding director of the Dublin European Institute UCD from 1999 and in March 2004 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She is a member of the Board of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Fulbright Commission (until September 2013) and was the 2013 Visiting Scientist for the EXACT Marie Curie Network.

Nichola Mallon MLA

Nichola Mallon is the SDLP Minister for Infrastructure and MLA for North Belfast. Nichola is a graduate in Economic & Politics from Trinity College Dublin and has a Masters from Queens University Belfast in Comparative Ethnic Conflict. She was elected as a SDLP MLA for North Belfast in May 2016. Previously she represented the Oldpark DEA on Belfast City council for six years and was the Lord Mayor of Belfast in 2014.

Nichola is focused on transforming lives for citizens across the North. Committed to social justice, Nichola has always sought to represent the needs of all in society especially those who have been left behind. In her Ministry Nichola has set out her ambition to better connect communities, tackle regional imbalance, transform communities through place shaping and tackle the climate crisis, socio-economic inequality and protect our society from the damage of Brexit.

Professor Pete Shirlow

Professor Peter Shirlow (FaCSS) is the Director at the University of Liverpool's Institute of Irish Studies. He was formerly the Deputy Director of the Institute for Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, QUB. He is the Independent Chair of the Executive Office's Employers' Guidance on Recruiting People with Conflict-Related Convictions Working Group and a board member of the mental health charity Threshold. He is a Visiting Research Professor at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for

Global Peace, Security and Justice. He sits on the editorial boards of Irish Political Studies and International Planning Studies.

Professor Shirlow has undertaken conflict transformation work in Northern Ireland and has used that knowledge in exchanges with governments, former combatants and NGOs in the former Yugoslavia, Moldova, Bahrain and Iraq, He has also presented talks to members of the US Senate and House of Representatives and is a regular media contributor.

Jess Sergeant

Jess is a senior researcher at the Institute for Government working on devolution and Brexit, with a particular interest in Northern Ireland and the operation of the Protocol. She joined the Institute in May 2019 from the House of Lords Library. Jess previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Constitution Unit, University College London where she researched referendums.

Tara Farrell

A native of Roscommon, Tara has over 20 years' experience in the Community, Voluntary and Education sectors, working in a variety of areas including Project Management, Social Economy, Women's Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and engaging in Broadcast and Social Media. Tara is the Chairperson of AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation and a Director of Irish Rural Link and Roscommon Women's Network. She is a member of the Steering Group of The New Common Charter and is also part of the Ad-Hoc Group for North-South East-West Co-operation as well as a member of the recently formed All-island Women's Forum. Tara also lectures in Human Rights and Equality at St. Angela's College (National University of Ireland Galway) in Sligo. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law and has also lectured in Political Science in the University of Limerick and Management Development at Dublin City University.

Brian Dougherty MBE

Brian has been involved in the voluntary and community sector as a volunteer and paid worker for over 25 years working primarily in Unionist/Loyalist communities. For 10 years he was a development worker for the Tullyally and District Development Group and for 7 years, Director of St Columb's Park House Centre for Reconciliation in the city and is currently working with the North-West Cultural Partnership and Londonderry Bands Forum.

In 1998 he was appointed as the community development representative on the Northern Ireland Civic Forum and in 2001 for 5 years, he was an independent member of the inaugural Northern Ireland Policing Board. He is currently a Governor at Foyle College, Chairperson of the North-West Cricket Union and a board member of Cricket Ireland and Institute F.C. In 2003, he won the Business in the Community Sieff Award for Community Enterprise awarded by HRH Prince Charles at Highgrove estate.

In January 2007, Brian was awarded Member of Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to the community in Northern Ireland and is a 2012 fellow of the Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Brian has a Masters degree in Town Planning from the University of Manchester and is currently studying for a Phd at Ulster University looking at the Londonderry Bands Forum and their leadership role in Londonderry.

Dr Nicola Brady

Dr Nicola Brady is the General Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches and Joint Secretary of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting where she facilitates relationship-building between Christian churches on the island of Ireland and collaborative action on issues of shared concern to member churches. She has a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. Her thesis examined the response of the Catholic hierarchy to political violence in Northern Ireland (1921-1973) and the Basque Country (1936-1975). With Dr Susana Bayó Belenguer she is co-editor of Pulling Together or Pulling Apart: Perspectives on Nationhood, Identity and Belonging in Europe (Peter Lang, 2019). She is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Director of Christian Aid Ireland and the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation.

Eoin O'Keeffe

Eóin joined Glencree's Community and Political Dialogue Programme as an Assistant Programme Manager in September 2020. Prior to this, he spent six years working as the Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) in Dublin. In this role, he was responsible for a number of policy areas including: Justice and Home Affairs; Security; International Development; and, Brexit issues. While at the IIEA, Eóin wrote a series of blogs and papers on prominent issues as well as creating a programme of keynote lectures with leading speakers from around the word. Previously, Eóin worked for the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) in Warsaw and for a number of NGOs across the EU. Eóin has a Master's Degree in Peace and International Development Studies from the University of Limerick and a Master's Degree in Humanitarian Action (NOHA) from University College Dublin.

Kate Clifford

Kate holds the post of Director of RCN since April 2013, having previously worked as a Rural Enabler (Institutions) within RCN's Rural Enabler Programme working to support the development of peace and understanding within and between institutions such as the Orange Order, the GAA, Churches and others. She also worked with these institutions to address issues of sectarianism and racism.

Kate is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast, with a BSc in Agricultural Economics and Management and an MSc in Rural Development. She has a strong background in creative thinking techniques, facilitation skills, research techniques, and supporting groups in the areas of project development and implementation. Kate tutored on the QUB MSc programme in Rural Sustainable Development and the NUI Galway Community Development Practice Diploma course.

Maureen O'Reilly

Maureen is an independent economist with more than 25 years experience across a range of area including policy evaluation, economic impact assessment, cost benefit analysis, economic appraisal, strategy, briefing, research and statistical analysis. She was previously Senior Research Economist with the Economic Research Institute for Northern Ireland (ERINI). Prior to this she headed up the Policy Evaluation Unit at the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre (NIERC). She was an Associate Lecturer in Economics with the Open University from 2003 to 2009. She now heads up her own consultancy company.

Maureen acts as economist for the NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which includes briefing, policy formulation, consultation submissions along with responsibility for the Chamber's Quarterly Economic Survey (QES). She is an Economic Associate with Pro Bono Economics in London, which helps charities and social enterprises improve their impact and value. Her role involves working with volunteer economists, managing and advising on impact assessment, data advice and advocacy research on behalf of UK and locally based charities. She is an Associate with the Public Policy Advisors Network in Ireland and writes regular features on local government in Northern Ireland for the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU), a local authority membership organisation representing local government in the UK, Ireland and Australia. She is also a Board Member of Enterprise Northern Ireland which represents the interests of local enterprise agencies and lobbies on behalf of small business.

Aidan O'Kane

Aidan O'Kane is Vice President of the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce as well as a Director at Allstate Northern Ireland, a company that employs 2400 people across NI including Belfast, Derry and Strabane. Aidan is also Co-Chair of the Cross Border Workers Coalition - an alliance of individual employees who are resident in the Republic of Ireland but work in Northern Ireland and businesses who are concerned about the impact of restrictive cross border tax legislation. The group was established in March 2020 and originates from the North West (Donegal / Derry).

Aidan lives in Claudy, is married to Allison and have 4 young children, Anna, Catherine, Cormac and Cillian. When he is not leading global IT teams, Aidan enjoys spending time at his local martial arts club and is ranked 1st Dan blackbelt in Ju Jitsu within the World Ju Jitsu Federation.

Dr Helen McAvoy

Dr. Helen McAvoy graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a primary medical degree in 1997 and worked for several years in both hospital and general practice. She completed her MD in 2000 as part of the Masters in Health Promotion programme NUI Galway. She has worked on a number of government programmes relating to ageing and older people. She is now working as Director of Policy with the Institute of Public Health focusing on progressing the government's health inequality agenda in Ireland and Northern Ireland. In this role, she has contributed to a number of reports and policy papers on inequalities in maternal and child health, fuel poverty, tobacco, alcohol and inequalities in the border region.

Ann Nolan

Ann Nolan is an Assistant Professor in Global Health in Trinity College, Dublin and Director of both the MSc in Global Health and the Trinity Centre for Global Health (TCGH) in the School of Medicine. She is technical specialist in HIV and sexual health with research interests in the politics of public health, the transnational dimensions of health, and inclusion health. Ann is a former Executive Director and Chairperson of HIV Ireland Ltd and has led the development of global policy frameworks for adolescents and most-at-risk young people with UNICEF and UNAIDS.

Paul Narain

Paul Narain took up his duties as U.S. Consul General in Belfast in August 2021. He most recently served as Political & Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Sweden. Mr. Narain's previous assignments include service as Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, and, prior to that, as Deputy Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Greece. In Washington, Mr. Narain has served in the Operations Center – the Department's crisis management hub – and on the Executive Secretariat Staffs of Secretaries of State Rice and Clinton. A career member of the U.S. diplomatic service since 2002, he has also served in Azerbaijan and twice in India.

Mr. Narain has received several superior and meritorious honor awards. In 2013, he was awarded the American Foreign Service Association's Mathilda W. Sinclaire Award for outstanding foreign language study. In 2018, he received the Department-wide James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence.

SUPPORTERS OF THE CONFERENCE

An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
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CONTACTS

CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES

39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB

028 (048 from Republic of Ireland) 3751 1550

a.soares@qub.ac.uk - **Dr Anthony Soares**

m.mcclatchey@qub.ac.uk - **Mark McClatchey**

Trimprint Ltd, Armagh