



Centre for
Cross Border Studies

23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday 29th & Friday 30th September 2022
Crowne Plaza Dundalk

@CCBSCrossBorder
#CCBSconf



COMMITMENT, RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

New challenges and approaches
to cross-border cooperation,
mobility and relations.

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Programme

Thursday

- 8.00am** **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
- 9.00am** **WELCOME**
Peter Osborne, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 9.05am** **HEADLINE SPONSOR'S WELCOME**
Brian McGrath, CEO, Foyle Port
- 9.10am** **KEYNOTE**
Bernadette McAliskey, CEO, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme
Introduced by *Peter Osborne*
Q&A moderated by *Annmarie O'Kane*, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 10.00am** **PANEL: COOPERATION**
Generously supported by Institute of Public Health
CHAIR: **Emer O'Gorman**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies
Dr Lisa Claire Whitten, Queen's University Belfast
Ivan Cooper, The Wheel
Dr Anthony Soares, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 10.50am** **CONFERENCE KEYNOTE**
Micheál Martin TD, Taoiseach
Introduced by *Peter Osborne*
Q&A moderated by *Tara Farrell*, Longford Women's Link
- 11.30am** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 12.00pm** **PANEL: MOBILITY**
Generously supported by InterTradeIreland
CHAIR: **Philip McDonagh**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies
Dr Sheila Flanagan, Dundalk Institute of Technology
Prof Anne Looney, Dublin City University
Sam Lowe, Flint Global
Owen Reidy, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
- 1.00pm** **LUNCH**

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- 2.30pm** **PANEL: RELATIONS**
CHAIR: **Sir David Sterling**, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies
Sorcha Eastwood MLA, Alliance Party
Lauren Kerr, Ulster Unionist Party
Jack O'Connor, EESC EU-UK Follow Up Committee
Des Clifford, Office of the First Minister of Wales
- 3.30pm** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 4.00pm** **KEYNOTE**
Paul Johnston, British Ambassador to Ireland
Introduced by *Peter Osborne*
Q&A moderated by *Prof John Doyle*, Board Member, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 4.50pm** **CLOSING REMARKS**
Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 6.00pm** **RECEPTION AND LAUNCH OF CCBS JOURNAL**
Drinks Reception and Official Launch of the 17th Edition of the Journal for Cross Border Studies in Ireland
- 7.00pm** **DINNER AND GUEST SPEAKER**
Generously supported by Queen's University Belfast and Dublin City University
Brian Rowan, Journalist and Author
Introduced by *Sir David Sterling*

Friday

- 9.00am** **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
Generously supported by The Irish Association
- 9.45am** **TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**
Focused on practical issues affecting cross-border and all-island organisations
Conor Creaney, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
Madeleine Delaney, Charities Regulator
Annmarie O'Kane, Border People
Dr Anthony Soares, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 11.45am** **POLICY RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**
- 12.15pm** **CLOSING REMARKS**
Dr Anthony Soares, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies



North West Ireland's Marine Gateway



FOYLE PORT



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Conference Speakers



Peter Osborne

Peter has been involved in political engagement, policy, participation, dispute resolution and reconciliation for over 25 years. He leads Rubicon undertaking a number and range of audits, strategies, mediations and planning. Peter is chair of the regional board of Remembering Srebrenica and a member of its UK Board; he chairs the

ARK Advisory Board, a joint social policy initiative by Northern Ireland's two universities (QUB and UU), and is a non-executive director of the Integrated Education Fund. Peter is currently a board member of the International Fund for Ireland.

Peter was an elected representative for 12 years during which time he was a delegate to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and to the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement process. He was a director of Extern and Extern Ireland and was a Northern Ireland board member of the BIG Lottery Fund. Peter founded the social enterprise, Landmark East; was a director of the Building Change Trust; led the founding of the Open Government Network; chaired the Community Relations Council; and chaired the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland.



Bernadette McAliskey

Bernadette has a long history of Human Rights activism. She is currently Chief Executive of South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP), a rights-based community organisation providing direct support services in advice, development of self-advocacy, community work, social enterprise and strategic engagement.

STEP established a successful community development centre in The Junction which provides support across all communities and beliefs in Mid Ulster, prioritising the most disadvantaged. Her day-to-day practice and commitment has always been in the small places of neighbourhood and home, while engaging in public debates at the highest level on social policy and economics, equipped with the evidence-base of that practice. She has been a strong advocate of immigration as a net gain for Ireland pluralist society and strong diverse and democratic economy.



Annmarie O'Kane

As Information Manager for the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Annmarie manages the **Border People project** (www.borderpeople.info) which provides online cross-border information for people living in Ireland and Northern Ireland, especially those living in the border region. The project also fosters cooperation, and

knowledge sharing between citizens advice and information providing organisations in both jurisdictions.



Emer O'Gorman

Emer O'Gorman has been working in the local government sector since 1994. Emer joined Fingal County Council as Director of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Cultural Development in 2018. Prior to that Emer spent three years as a Director in Louth County Council with Corporate Services, HR, Environment and Cross

Border Affairs as part of her brief, working in South Dublin County Council before that for 20 years. In her 26 years of local government experience Emer has delivered in the areas of Environment, Housing, Community and Enterprise, Economic Development, Corporate Services, HR, Procurement and Shared Services.

Key achievements delivered include working on the development of Grange Castle Business Park and attracting key clients to locate there. The delivery of a regional solution for local government on the achievement of the state's climate change targets.

Currently Emer is focused on the delivery of the Socio-Economic Strategy for Balbriggan, the development of a new business park in the County and the advancement of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor in partnership with the 8 local authorities along the corridor and the University of Ulster and Dublin City University.



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. Anthony is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



Dr Lisa Claire Whitten

Dr Lisa Claire Whitten is a Research Fellow on the ESRC-funded project 'Governance for 'a place between': the Multi-Levelled Dynamics of Implementing the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland' based at Queen's University Belfast.

She completed her doctoral dissertation last year on the constitutional implications of Brexit for Northern Ireland. Prior to studying for her PhD, Lisa Claire held a variety of posts in the political and public sector including working for the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels and for a Member of the UK Parliament in Westminster.



Ivan Cooper

Ivan is Director of Public Policy with The Wheel and works to progress supportive public policy for the community and voluntary sector on issues such as charity regulation, funding the work of the sector, enabling active-citizenship, and achieving best governance standards.

Ivan also works to raise awareness of the crucial role and significance of the work of this often invisible sector.

Ivan spends a lot of time engaging with the 2,000 members of The Wheel to identify the issues they face and to work with them to agree the changes needed with the relevant authorities and regulators. There is a lot of media interest in the work of charities and Ivan works with the media when required to put forward The Wheel's perspective on issues in the news.

Ivan represents The Wheel on a range of fora, national and international, and acts as one of The Wheel's lead trainers in the areas of governance, strategic leadership and demonstrating impact. He works regularly with boards of community and voluntary groups about their governance and trustee responsibilities. Ivan is a big believer in lifelong learning and has an MBA from Smurfit Business School, a Diploma in Development Studies, and a primary degree in psychology and philosophy from UCD.



Micheál Martin TD, Taoiseach

Micheál Martin has been Fianna Fáil TD for Cork South-Central since 1989, Leader of the Party since 2011 and has held office of Taoiseach since June 2020. The Taoiseach will deliver a keynote speech focused on the Government's commitment to work with all communities on the island to

build consensus around a shared future, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.



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 lectured in Political Science in the University of Limerick and Management Development at Dublin City University.

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Philip McDonagh

Philip McDonagh was Chief Economist at PricewaterhouseCoopers Northern Ireland for nearly 25 years before working independently as an economist for the next decade. Between 2009-2015, he was Commissioner of the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland and has also acted as Chair for the NI

Statistics Advisory Committee and as Treasurer for Volunteer Now. He has been a member of the CCBS board for the past five years.



Dr Sheila Flanagan

Sheila is currently Vice President and Registrar Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Institute and is responsible for the leadership and coordination of the Institute's academic policy and quality assurance through the Institute's Academic Council. Sheila works directly with

academic and functional leadership in promoting the quality, relevance and development of the Institute's portfolio of programmes and is secretary of the Academic Council.

She has worked in higher education with a diverse range of institutions delivering across various areas including advancing modularisation, developing strategies for retention, promoting international best practice, responding to industry needs in a meaningful manner and interfacing with external agencies.

Developed and served as programme manager for the MBS in Travel and Tourism Management at the Smurfit Business School, UCD before joining Dublin Institute of Technology where she served in a number of roles including Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management and Head of Academic Policy and Planning.

Sheila serves on the executive board of the Travel and Tourism Research Association and is currently Chair of TTRA Marketing Outlook Forum, a premier global tourism forecasting conference held annually in Washington. She has contributed to TTRA both within Europe and internationally for more than two decades and has served as president and chair of TTRA at both levels. Her work with TTRA aims to bring a sustainable business approach to the operation of the organisation and to ensure that the European chapter is well represented at board at international. The Marketing Outlook Forum event has contributed significantly to the ongoing sustainability of TTRA and continues to grow and thrive.

She has an international profile in sustainable tourism having developed the European recognized *ACHIEV Model for Sustainable Tourism Planning* - an exemplar of Best Practice using indicators

for sustainable tourism planning. She has served as a Member of the Executive and Council of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation.



Prof Anne Looney

Anne Looney is the Executive Dean of Dublin City University's Institute of Education, Ireland's largest faculty of education. She also leads DCU's engagement with the Further Education and Training Sector. From 2001 until 2016 she was the CEO of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the agency responsible for

curriculum and assessment for early years, primary and post-primary education in Ireland. She also held the position of Interim CEO at the Higher Education Authority until March 2017.

Her current research interests include assessment policy and practice, curriculum, teacher identity and professional standards for teachers and teaching. She has also published on religious, moral and civic education, and education policy. She chaired the task force on gender-based violence in higher education institutions in Ireland. She has conducted reviews for the OECD on school quality and assessment systems.

She is a member of the boards of Early Childhood Ireland, and the Ark Cultural Centre for Children and the President of the International Professional Development Association. In 2020 she became the first woman to be appointed to the management committee of the GAA.



Sam Lowe

Sam heads the trade and market access practice at Flint Global. In addition, he is a senior visiting research fellow at The Policy Institute, Kings College London, and writes the weekly Substack trade newsletter, Most Favoured Nation. He has published extensively on trade issues relating to Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Sam was previously a member of the UK government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group (2019-2020) and has held positions as a senior advisor to the Blakeney Group, a senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform, and the Brexit and trade lead for the environmental charity, Friends of the Earth. Sam regularly appears in the broadcast and print media, including the BBC, The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Times, The Telegraph, Politico, The i, and Sky News.



Owen Reidy

Owen Reidy is the Assistant General Secretary of the ICTU with particular responsibility for Northern Ireland. Prior to taking up this position in November 2016, he was a Divisional Organiser in SIPTU with national responsibility for transport, energy, aviation and construction, serving on SIPTU's senior management team.

During this time, he led a number of successful industrial disputes including in the Luas, Dublin Bus and Irish Rail. Since becoming AGS with ICTU he has been working on a range of issues with the ICTU 25 NI unions representing 200,000 members including Brexit, workers' rights, the promotion of collective bargaining and social dialogue.



Sir David Sterling

David spent his career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service working in a variety of roles before being promoted Head of the NICS in June 2017.

In that role he faced the challenge of delivering public services in the absence of ministers, preparing for Brexit, facilitating the resumption of

devolved government in early January 2020 and dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

He retired from the NICS in August 2020 and is currently the Chair of the Chief Executives' Forum in Northern Ireland and a board member of a number of charities: Ulster Wildlife, the Cancer Fund for Children, the Centre for Cross Border Studies and Women in Business NI.



Desmond Clifford

Desmond Clifford is currently the Director of the Office of the First Minister. His responsibilities include the Office of the First Minister, Cabinet Division and Cabinet Office. Des was previously Director General for Brexit, Head of the Welsh Government's EU Office in Brussels, Principal Private Secretary for the First Minister and Head of News.



Sorcha Eastwood MLA

Sorcha was elected to the NI Assembly in May 2022 to represent the Lagan Valley constituency and is the Party's Brexit Spox.

Prior to that, she was elected to Lisburn Castlereagh City Council in 2019 and had been the Alliance Party's Brexit Adviser since 2017, playing a key role in

shaping the Party's Brexit policy and position. She has also co-written a number of articles on Brexit with the Party's Deputy Leader, Dr Stephen Farry MP, for the Financial Times, The Times, the UK in a Changing Europe and many more.

More recently, she has given evidence to the House of Lords Protocol Committee and the Oireachtas Committee on the Good Friday Agreement as well as representing the Party at High Level meetings with the EU and UK and Irish Governments. She also has a keen interest in supporting more women and young people into politics as well as addressing wider inequalities in our society and is passionate about Apprenticeships and different pathways to training and employment.

Before entering politics, Sorcha came from a business and management background, specialising in HR and Employment related matters in both the public and private sector, having worked in senior roles and in a wide range of sectors from retail to manufacturing to health.



Lauren Kerr

Lauren has worked in the Ulster Unionist Party policy unit since 2011. She focuses on the policy areas of governance, Brexit/NI Protocol, and human rights. She has been part of the UUP negotiating team in talks processes including Haass/O'Sullivan, Stormont House and New Decade, New Approach. Most recently she

contested the East Belfast constituency in the 2022 Assembly election.



Jack O'Connor

Along with Patricia McKeown, (Unison), Jack is of the two Workers Side members of the Irish Delegation on the European Economic and Social Committee, (EESC). Currently a Vice-President of the Workers Group and Chairperson of the EESC EU-UK Follow Up Committee.

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Jack has previously been President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, General President of Siptu, which is the largest Trade Union on the Island and which organises in both jurisdictions. He was a Member of the Executive of the European Trade Union Confederation, and Chairperson of the Labour Party.



Paul Johnston

Paul Johnston is the British Ambassador to Ireland. He began his career at the Ministry of Defence before moving to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office working in various roles focused on the Balkans. He became Head of the Security Policy Department in 2002, before serving with the UK Mission to the UN, returning to the FCO as Director of International Security in 2008.

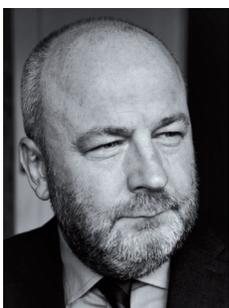
In 2011, he became British Ambassador to Sweden, serving for four years. He moved to Brussels firstly as Deputy Permanent Representative, UK Permanent Representation to NATO before becoming UK Ambassador to the EU for Political and Security Affairs. He was appointed British Ambassador to Ireland in September 2020.



Prof John Doyle

John Doyle is Vice President of Research at Dublin City University. He was previously Director of the Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction and Executive Dean of DCU Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Faculty hosts approximately 25% of DCU students, and a range of internationally linked research projects within its seven academic schools and five research centres. John was previously, Head of the School of Law and Government and before that founding co-Director of the Centre for International Studies in Dublin City University. His research interests include comparative nationalist and ethnic conflict; Northern Ireland, conflict in South Asia and Irish foreign policy. He is Editor of Irish Studies in International Affairs.



Brian Rowan

Brian Rowan is a former BBC correspondent and security editor in Belfast. Since the late 1980s, he has reported on all the major developments on Northern Ireland's journey from war to peace; the ceasefires, political agreements,

prisoner releases, police reform, demilitarisation, the ending of the armed campaign and the numerous efforts to build a legacy process.

Four times he has been a category winner in the Northern Ireland Press and Broadcast awards, including twice as Specialist Journalist of the Year.

He left the BBC in 2005, the year the IRA ended its armed campaign. He still comments and writes regularly on the issue of legacy, and his analysis is often sought on the troubled politics of peace. Rowan's latest book - 'Living with Ghosts' - is out now.



Conor Creaney

Conor is Casework Manager at the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. He manages the team which handles charity registration, legal consents (e.g. amending charity governing documents or approving transactions), charity mergers and closures, and guidance to trustees and the public.

Conor works closely with the Charity Commissioners and assist them in their decision-making. Conor is a graduate of Law and have worked in various legal and governance roles across social housing, community advice and public transport.



Madeleine Delaney

Madeleine joined the Charities Regulator in March 2021 as Director of Legal Affairs & Registration. She has responsibility for the Registration function, the Charity Services function and for the provision of legal advice and assistance across the organisation. Madeleine is a practicing solicitor and worked for a number of years in private

practice before joining the public sector. She worked with the Pensions Authority in a legal and compliance role, and more recently she was Head of Legal at the Office of the Ombudsman, (including the Office of the Information Commissioner, and the Standards in Public Office Commission). Madeleine holds an LLB and LLM, postgraduate diplomas in Regulatory Management and in Public Management and has a Masters in Leadership and Strategy.

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