



Centre for  
Cross Border Studies

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Armagh City Hotel 23-24 February 2017  
#CCBSconf





## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum



Welcome to the 2017 Annual Conference of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS). By the time of last year's conference, the Centre was already heavily embroiled in the debate about the implications of the (then) proposed UK exit from the European Union. Since then, both before and after the Referendum, CCBS has been engaged on an almost daily basis with other organisations on the island of Ireland, the UK and in Europe to ensure that the social, political and economic implications of 'Brexit' for the island of Ireland are understood by citizens and decision-makers. Those discussions will continue – and undoubtedly intensify – over the next two years of negotiations at least.

**Nevertheless, despite the many uncertainties that face us as a result of the UK's decision to exit the EU and other economic and political challenges confronting our small island, it is essential and urgent that we begin to chart a path forward after Article 50 is invoked; and indeed after Brexit – whatever "Brexit means".** As we face the prospect of our island being divided by an external EU border, we can expect new challenges. We are likely to see greater divergence in public policies and priorities on either side of the border where until now the trend has been towards convergence.

Those familiar with the work of the Centre will be aware that over the past few years we have given increased attention to building relationships and fostering new alliances with other cross-border cooperators in Britain, Europe and beyond. Our annual conference has become an important event for those involved in working across borders and we are pleased to be able to welcome speakers and participants from these islands and beyond our shores to Armagh.

The Centre for Cross Border Studies was established in 1999. Our founders identified a need for an independent, non-governmental organisation that could both advocate and give practical support to the realisation of the commitments for cross-border cooperation in the 1998 Agreement. Since 2009 our work has been set in the wider context also of EU Cohesion Policy: *"a broad vision, which encompasses not just the economic development of lagging regions and support for vulnerable social groups, but also environmental sustainability and respect for territorial and cultural features of different parts of the EU."* This policy context has framed and given impetus to the work of the Centre; and although Northern Ireland now faces a future outside of the EU, the Centre remains committed to the core values represented in both the Agreement and EU Cohesion policy.

We very much welcome therefore, the reaffirmation by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny last week, in his speech *"Ireland at the Heart of a Changing European Union"*, the Irish Government's continued commitment to the letter and spirit of the Agreement. It is a matter of some concern, however, that British Prime Minister Theresa May has indicated that when the Brexit negotiations have concluded, steps will be taken to withdraw also from the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) and specifically, the European Court of Human Rights. This would seem to contradict the UK Government's stated continued support for the Agreement, which includes a commitment to the "complete incorporation into Northern Ireland law" of the ECHR, "with direct access to the courts, and remedies for breach of the Convention...." The Agreement also states that rights *supplementary* to those in the ECHR, "to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland," *taken together with the ECHR* would constitute a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland. Eighteen years on, the promised Bill of Rights not been legislated. The UK Government's intention to withdraw from the ECHR would further compound this breach of the Agreement. In these uncertain times it is also concerning that the UK's membership (and therefore that of Northern Ireland) of the Council of Europe (CoE) may also be in question because at present, all CoE member states are signatories to the Convention.

As the UK Government moves closer to the decisive notification of Article 50, it is essential that we take steps to ensure that the assurances given that *leaving the EU does not mean turning away from Europe* are realised. Indeed, in these uncertain and dangerous times on a global scale, it is urgent that as citizens we not only affirm our commitment to solidarity, human and civil rights and internationalism, but also to work practically to build and maintain our relationships across borders. The Centre for Cross Border Studies will certainly continue to look outwards – to both share our experiences and expertise with and learn from our partners within, across and beyond these islands – whatever challenges the future holds.

**RUTH TAILLON**  
Director, the Centre for Cross Border Studies



## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum

### PROGRAMME

#### Thursday 23 February 2017

- 13.00 **Registration and refreshments**
- 14.00 Welcome  
**Dr Helen Johnston**, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 14.10 **Keynote address**  
**Imagining future relationships: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Prof Jon Tonge**, Department of Politics, University of Liverpool
- 14.45 **Panel**  
**Building and maintaining future relationships: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Prof Janice Morphet**, Visiting Professor, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London  
**Prof Keith Shaw**, Research and Innovation Lead Professor of Politics, Northumbria University  
**Mr Steve Aiken OBE**, Ulster Unionist Party  
**Prof Brandon Hamber**, Director, INCORE
- 15.30 **Refreshments**
- 16.00 **Address by Minister Charlie Flanagan TD**, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 16.15 **Securing the future of cooperation: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Ms Ruth Taillon**, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 16.45 **Review of day one**  
**Mr Tom Daly**, Assistant National Director, Health Service Executive and Director General, CAWT
- 17.00 **End session**
- 18.30 **Reception**
- 19.30 **Dinner**

#### Friday 24 February 2017

- 9.00 **Registration and refreshments**

- 9.30 **Securing the interests of the devolved regions in the Brexit negotiations**  
**Mr Michael Russell MSP**, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe
- 10.00 **Panel**  
**Securing the interests of the devolved regions in the Brexit negotiations**  
**Ms Claire Hanna**, Social Democratic and Labour Party  
**Ms Martina Anderson MEP**, Sinn Féin  
**Cllr Sean McPeake**, President, Northern Ireland Local Government Association  
**Dr Stephen Farry**, Alliance Party
- 11.00 **Refreshments**
- 11.30 **Panel**  
**The future challenges for education in shaping the future of relationships: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Mr Alf Desire**, Country Director, British Council (Ireland)  
**Mr Gareth Hetherington**, Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre  
**Mr Vincent Landers**, Head of EU/International Unit, Department of Education and Skills  
**Dr Noel Purdy**, Director of Research and Scholarship and Head of Education Studies, Stranmillis University College
- 12.30 **Citizens shaping the future of relationships: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Dr Anthony Soares**, Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies
- 13.00 **Lunch**
- 14.00 **Panel**  
**Citizens shaping the future of relationships: within, across and beyond these islands**  
**Ms Angela Graham**, Director, Drum Village Development Association  
**Ms Tara Farrell**, Deputy CEO, Longford Women's Link  
**Ms Linda Ervine**, Project Leader, Skainos Centre
- 14.45 **Moving forward after the Referendum**  
**Dr Duncan Morrow**, Director of Community Engagement, Ulster University
- 15.30 **Conference close**  
**Dr Helen Johnston**, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies





## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum

### CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



#### **Dr Helen Johnston**

Helen is Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. In her day job, she is a Senior Social Policy Analyst at the Irish National Economic and Social Council (NES). 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.



#### **Prof Jon Tonge**

Jon is Professor of Politics at the University of Liverpool. He has published 16 books and more than 50 articles on UK and Irish politics. His most recent work (e.g. *Political Quarterly*, 87.3 and a report for the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs committee) has

examined the implications of Brexit for Northern Ireland. Jon was Principal Investigator of the 2010 and 2015 ESRC Northern Ireland General Election surveys and he has published studies of the last five UK general elections, the most recent (2010 and 2015) with Oxford University Press. Jon co-edits the journal *Parliamentary Affairs*, published by Oxford University Press. He has directed or co-directed a wide range of ESRC and Leverhulme Trust projects examining Northern Ireland's political parties. Jon is a former Chair and President of the Political Studies Association of the UK and is currently a Vice-President. He is President of the British Politics Group of the American Political Science Association. Jon was appointed by the last Labour Prime Minister as Chair of the Youth Citizenship Commission, looking at how to better connect young people to politics.



#### **Prof Janice Morphet**

Janice is a Visiting Professor in the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London and is a CABI Built Environment expert. Janice was on the Planning Committee of the London 2012 Olympic Games. She was a Senior Adviser on local government at DCLG 2000-

2005, having been Chief Executive of Rutland CC, Director of Technical Services at Woking, and Professorial Head of the School of Planning and Landscape at Birmingham

Polytechnic. Janice has been a trustee of the RTPi and TCPA and held several roles at the RTPi including Chair of the Education and Life Long Learning Committee and the London Chapter. Janice has also been included in Planning's Power 100 list of planners. Janice has been researching infrastructure planning and delivery and state rescaling and has written for *Town and Country Planning* and *Planning*, as well as other journals. Her recent books are *Modern Local Government* (2008), *Effective Practice in Spatial Planning* (2010), *How Europe Shapes British Public Policy* (2013), *Applying leadership and management in planning: theory and practice* (2015) and *Infrastructure delivery planning: an effective practice approach* (2016). Her next book *Beyond Brexit* will be published in February 2017.



#### **Prof Keith Shaw**

Keith is Professor of Politics at Northumbria University. Since 2014, he has been heavily involved in undertaking funded research on Devolution within the UK. This includes being the lead author of two major reports, *Borderlands: can the North East and Cumbria benefit from*

*greater Scottish autonomy?* and *Developing the Framework for a Borderlands Strategy*. He was the Principal Investigator on the ESRC Seminar Series, *'Close Friends? Assessing the impact of greater Scottish autonomy on the North of England and Scotland'*. In 2016 he was awarded a grant by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to investigate *'Who runs the North East'* and is part of the ESRC award to examine policy-maker's understanding of the implications of Brexit for economic development and devolved governance on the North of England and Scotland. He has published recently on the Anglo-Scottish border in academic journals such as *Scottish Affairs*, *The Journal of Borderlands Studies* and *Local Economy*.



#### **Mr Steve Aiken OBE**

In May 2016, Steve was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly as the South Antrim representative for the Ulster Unionist Party. In this capacity, he served as the Opposition's Economy Spokesperson and latterly as the Chair of the Committee for the Economy. He has

committed his efforts to improving the economy through infrastructural investment, raising the performance of excellent but underfunded schools and universities, and removing obstacles to growth such as Air Passenger Duty and comparatively high Corporation Tax. Steve accepts the post-Brexit will of the British electorate to leave the United Kingdom and, as Chair of the recently formed Independent Council on Europe, will work closely with Northern Ireland's economic and geographic partners to ensure that this



## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum

transition occurs as seamlessly as possible. This effort reflects his long-term interest and expertise in International Relations, for which he will soon receive a doctorate from the University of Cambridge.



### **Prof Brandon Hamber**

Brandon is the John Hume and Thomas P O'Neill Chair based at the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. He was also a Mellon Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the School of Human and Community Development, and the

African Centre for Migration and Society. He remains a Visiting Professor at the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, and is a member of the Transitional Justice Institute in Ulster University.



### **Mr Charlie Flanagan TD**

A qualified solicitor who practiced law for many years, Charlie was first elected to represent Laois-Offaly in Dáil Éireann in 1987. He was Fine Gael Spokesperson on Northern Ireland from 1997-2000 and Vice-Chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary group from

1997 to 2000. He chaired, inter alia, the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Legislation and Security (1994-1997) and served as Vice-Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Women's Rights (1995-1997). He was Chairperson of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party 2011-2014 and was the Fine Gael leader on the Constitutional Convention. He has also previously served as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. He was educated in Knockbeg College, University College Dublin (BA degree in History and Politics) and the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.



### **Ms Ruth Tailon**

Ruth is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Ruth has many years' experience working with a range of public and community-based organisations in both jurisdictions. Prior to joining the Centre, Ruth was Research Coordinator for Border Action,

a partnership between Pobal and the Combat Poverty Agency, working on European funding programmes Peace and INTERREG. She was Director of the West Belfast Economic Forum and involved with the management of a number of community-based initiatives throughout the 1990s. She has also worked as an independent research and evaluation consultant, specialising in gender, equality, and peace and conflict issues. She is currently a member of the Irish Government's Oversight Group for the National

Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and an expert advisory group for a EU Commission study on obstacles to cross-border cooperation. Ruth also writes and lectures on Irish women's history, about which she has a strong personal interest.



### **Mr Tom Daly**

Tom has had a long career in the public sector in various administrative and management posts mainly with the North Western Health Board including at Regional Management Team level and now with the Health Service Executive, based in Manorhamilton. As an Assistant

National Director, he has particular responsibilities on behalf of the HSE in the area of cross-border and all-island health and social care and is a HSE representative on the Management Board of Co-Operation and Working Together (CAWT) and its current Director General, in which capacity he chairs the Management Board. He holds a Masters in the Management of Change, a Diploma in Healthcare Management and is a Member of the Institute of Consulting.



### **Mr Michael Russell MSP**

Michael is the Constituency Member of the Scottish Parliament for Argyll and Bute and Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, a post to which he was appointed by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon in August 2016. Elected for Argyll and Bute in May

2011 and re-seated in 2016, he was previously a Regional Member of the Scottish Parliament representing the South of Scotland, serving from 1999-2003 and from 2007-2011. Brought up in Troon in Ayrshire and educated at Edinburgh University, he has lived in Argyll for over 20 years. Before entering the Scottish Parliament, he worked in a variety of media sectors including television, has been a national newspaper and magazine columnist, and has written seven books, including one novel. He continues to be active culturally, and has contributed a photograph every day for over six years to the Polaroid Blipfoto website. In 1980, whilst working in the Western Isles, he founded the Celtic Film and TV Festival, which subsequently became the Celtic Media Festival, which celebrated its 37th consecutive event in 2016. From 1994 to 1999, he was Chief Executive of the Scottish National Party, having first been an SNP Candidate and Senior Office Bearer of the party in 1987. He ran Alex Salmond's successful leadership campaign in 1990. When the SNP entered Government in 2007 he became Minister for Environment, and was subsequently Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, before becoming Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in December 2009, a post he held until November 2014.



## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum



### **Ms Claire Hanna**

Claire has been MLA for South Belfast since July 2015, having previously served as a Belfast Councillor, first elected in 2011. She is the SDLP Finance Spokesperson and Deputy Chair of the Assembly Finance Committee, having previously served on the Public Accounts and Environment Committees. Until July 2015 Claire worked in the field of international development, most recently in a policy and education role with Concern Worldwide, having previously served in countries including Bangladesh, Haiti and Zambia. Born in Connemara but resident in South Belfast since early childhood, Claire is a graduate of the Open University and last year completed a Masters in Law at Queen's University Belfast. Claire is a passionate supporter of the Arts and founded the first Assembly All Party Group on the Arts and Creativity. From 2011-2015 Claire represented the SDLP on the Historic Centenaries and Diversity Committee, tackling politically sensitive issues like flags, language policy and commemorations. As a City Councillor Claire brought the motion that led to Belfast becoming the first Living Wage council in Ireland.



### **Ms Martina Anderson MEP**

Martina was elected in 2007 as an Assembly member for the Foyle constituency, representing her home city of Derry, at which point she was nominated as one of the first Sinn Féin members of the Policing Board. In 2011 she was made Junior Minister in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, working alongside her party colleague Martin McGuinness. In May 2012, she was proposed by the party's Six County Executive as replacement for Bairbre de Brun as the party's Member of the European Parliament.



### **Councillor Seán McPeake**

Sinn Féin Councillor Seán Mc Peake has been an Office Bearer of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for 10 years, previously serving as NILGA President on two occasions. Seán previously served on Magherafelt District Council and was elected onto the new Mid-Ulster District Council in May 2014. Seán represents Mid-Ulster District Council on ICBAN, NI Rural Development Programme Local Action Group (LAG) and Policing and Community Safety Partnership. A member of his party's ruling Ard Comhairle Executive and leader of the Sinn Féin Councillor grouping in the North, Seán was previous vice-chair of the Review of Public Administration's Strategic

Leadership Board and Policy Development Panels. Having a strong interest in GAA activities Seán is an officer within Erin's Own GAC Lavey.



### **Dr Stephen Farry**

Stephen is the Alliance Party Deputy Leader and Brexit Spokesperson. He has been an MLA for North Down since 2007, and served as Minister for Employment and Learning between 2011 and 2016. He has a PhD in International Relations.



### **Mr Alf Desire**

Alf is the Country Director for the British Council (Ireland). Alf previous worked as an Arts marketer; an FE Business Development and Marketing Manager; a Business Manager with Pearson Education and a Business Consultant.



### **Mr Gareth Hetherington**

Gareth has almost 20 years' experience in managing the delivery of a wide range of economic policy projects in both central and local government. These projects have included programme and policy evaluation, business cases and economic impact assessments.

Outside of work, Gareth is a non-Executive member of the Governing Body of the South Eastern Region College. Gareth is also a regular commentator on economic matters in the local press and media. Recent and current projects includes: Development of the Northern Ireland Skills Barometer (Department for Employment and Learning), Economic Impact of Air Passenger Duty (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment), Editor of the Centre's 'Economic Outlook' publication, Economic Impact of the Entertainment and Media spending in 30 Global Cities (PwC), Ulster University Belfast Campus Development: Economic significance of urban regeneration (Ulster University and Belfast City Council) and Delivery of Regional Economics module on the Ulster University Economic under-graduate degree course.



### **Mr Vincent Landers**

Vincent is Head of the EU/International Unit at the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland. His responsibilities include co-ordination of EU education policy, International Education policy and strategy, North/South education policy and the Department's preparations for Brexit in the education sector. He has broad experience





## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum

in the Irish public service, including leading the European Social Fund in Ireland, and has worked in industrial and commercial policy development. Most recently, he has led on the drafting and implementation of the International Education Strategy 2016-2020, which was published by the Irish Government in October 2016. He also represents Ireland at the EU Education Council preparations and on the EU High Level Group on Education. His responsibilities include lead on education policy co-ordination in relation to the OECD, Council of Europe and UNESCO. He is the Department of Education and Skills' representative on the Irish Government's Inter-Departmental Group on Brexit preparations.



### **Dr Noel Purdy**

Noel is Director of Research and Scholarship and Head of Education Studies at Stranmillis University College, Belfast. He is the Northern Chair of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South, a network of 37 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. His research interests are focused primarily on the policy, legislation and practice of tackling bullying in schools. A qualified teacher, Dr Purdy taught Modern Languages in two post-primary schools in Northern Ireland but has also taught in Germany and Switzerland. He is a Fellow of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He served as chair of the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum 2013-16 and President of NASEN in Northern Ireland 2014-2016.



### **Dr Anthony Soares**

Anthony is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, leading the Centre's Research and Policy team. His role includes the development and advocacy of policies at regional, national and European levels that support sustainable cross-border and

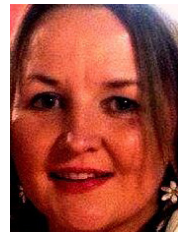
transnational cooperation. This has increasingly led to coordinating CCBS's responses to the UK's referendum on EU membership and its aftermath, publishing a series of Briefing Papers, submitting evidence to parliamentary committees in both Westminster and Dublin, and consulting with a range of political representatives and organisations.



### **Ms Angela Graham**

Angela has been involved in community development and peace building initiatives for the past 16 years both in a voluntary and professional capacity. She is a lifelong member of Drum Accordion Band in the Orange tradition and plays at cultural, religious and community events

on both sides of the border together with her fellow band members. She is a former Vice-Chair of the Ulster Scots Agency and has an abiding interest in culture and heritage. Angela is currently the Manager of Clones Family Resource Centre which has a focus on supporting children, families and individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



### **Ms Tara Farrell**

Tara is the Deputy CEO of Longford Women's Link (LWL). Tara has over 19 years' experience in the Community and Voluntary and Education sectors, working in a variety of areas including Project Management, Social Economy, Gender Equality, Conflict Resolution and

Broadcast/Social Media. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law and has also lectured in Political Science in UL and Management Development at DCU. Tara is the Honorary Secretary of AONTAS (The National Adult Learning Organisation), the Chair of Roscommon Women's Network and Director of Irish Rural Link. She is the former chair of Roscommon Community Forum and former Vice-Chair of the Roscommon Local Community Development Committee. Tara is also a tutor on An Cosán Virtual Community College's Citizenship and Social Action programme and has recently completed a Diploma in Radio Journalism with the Irish Academy.



### **Ms Linda Ervine**

Linda is the Irish Language Development Officer for East Belfast based at the Skainos Centre. Up until six years ago, when she started learning Irish as part of a cross-community project with women from the nearby nationalist Short Strand, Linda didn't know a word of the

language. Now she manages an Irish language project which provides 13 classes of various ability levels per week to over 150 language learners, as well as tin whistle, set dancing and children's Irish dancing classes and a once a month traditional music session. She has delivered talks on aspects of Irish language and culture to hundreds of groups across Northern Ireland. Her consistent message that the language belongs to everyone is slowly changing attitudes towards the language within unionist communities.



## Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum



### **Dr Duncan Morrow**

Duncan is Director of Community Engagement at Ulster University, responsible for developing the University's partnerships with groups and organisations across the community. He is also a lecturer in Politics. His professional life began as a research

officer in the Centre for the Study of Conflict looking into the role of churches and religion in conflict in Northern Ireland. In 1998, Duncan was appointed as Sentence Review Commissioner responsible for implementing the

arrangements for the early release of prisoners following the Good Friday Agreement. This has since expanded into work as a Parole Commissioner. In 2002, he was appointed as Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council where he championed the concept of a shared future and developed the Council's role in research and active learning, in policy development and work on key issues such as interfaces, parading and regeneration and in work with victims and survivors of conflict. Since his return to the University in 2011, he has also been appointed as Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Tackling Sectarianism, Scottish Government, 2012-13.

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