

GOVERNMENT TIMES

The newsletter for Department of Government students and staff



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BSc Government Students win Leadership Awards



Congratulations to **Peter Kiernan McCarthy** and **Aisling O'Hagan** (BSc Government graduating class of 2013) who won prestigious UCC Student Leadership awards (see full story on page 4).

Editorial Page



GOOD LUCK FOR THE 2013/2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

Welcome to the first issue of *Government Times* for the 2013/2014 academic year. An especially warm mention is issued to the new First Year students. We hope your years with us will be happy, stimulating, fulfilling and rewarding.

As well as the academic side of things, there is a tremendous social aspect to the university and we encourage all of our students to get actively involved in clubs and societies, starting of course with the Government and Politics Society and the Europa Society.

Communication between students and the departmental staff is of primary importance so please come and see us if you have any issues to discuss. The Department of Government has an open-door policy and we will always make time for our students. Continuing the communication theme it is imperative that all BSc Government students join the Department's internal e-mail system (SGPP-list) to receive important information and announcements. All details are below.

Enjoy the academic year!

Aodh Quinlivan

Director BSc Government

Co-editor of *Government Times*

Lisa-Marie Sheehy

Auditor Government and Politics Society

Co-editor of *Government Times*

Sign up TODAY to the Department of Government student mailing list

It is compulsory for all BSc Government students to join the Department of Government internal e-mail list. It is very easy to do so – just click on the link below, hit 'Join' and follow the steps.

<http://lists.ucc.ie/archives/sgpp-l.html>





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COVER STORY

Student Leadership Awards for Peter and Aisling of BSc Government class of 2013

At a glittering awards ceremony as part of the 2013 Student's Union Annual Dinner, Peter Kiernan McCarthy and Aisling O'Hagan were presented with Student Leadership awards.

Peter received his award for his work as

- a peer supporter,
- a class rep
- a member of student community support

He was also recognised for his role as chairman of 'Please Talk UCC', helping to promote positive mental health.

Aisling received her award for her work as a peer support and her role as Entertainments Officer of the Student's Union during Rag Week which saw €42,000 raised for the Irish Guide dogs, Barretstown and Cork Penny Dinners.



Department of Government Lecturer Publishes Report on First-Time TDs



Above: *Government Chief Whip Paul Kehoe TD, Dr Mary C Murphy, Dept of Government and Ceann Comhairle, Sean Barrett TD.*

First-time TDs report feeling overwhelmed frustrated and beleaguered by life in the Dáil according to a UCC report by Dr Mary C. Murphy. Although most of the 76 new TDs professed anonymously in the UCC study to ‘loving their job’, they were confronted with practical problems in the Dáil itself and perceived a lack of influence.

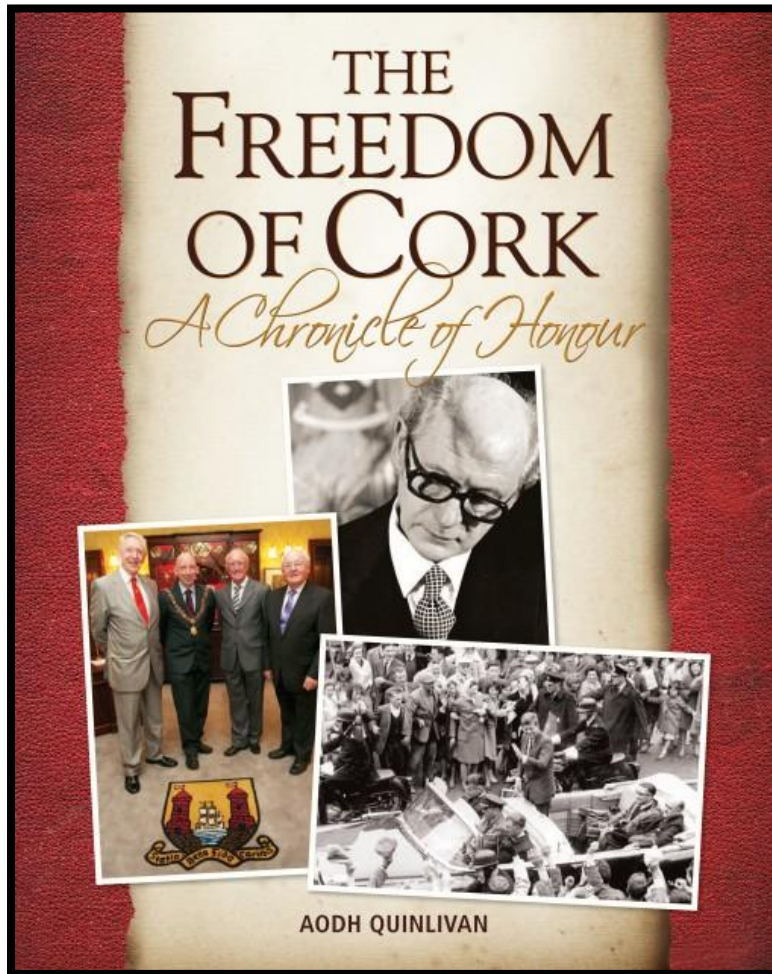
The report calls for a more sophisticated induction process focused explicitly on developing TDs’ knowledge, skills and abilities.

Frustration among new TDs is palpable, and many are troubled by the nature of the institution, according to the report. One new Fine Gael TD recalled how he once spoke to the empty Dáil chamber, another bemoaned the quality of debate and others queried the value of Question Time.

The report found that TDs were faced with a deluge of information on their arrival in the Dáil, on top of immediate constituency demands and a “stressful” media environment.

In spite of these difficulties, 84% of respondents of the 2011 survey aspired to make politics a long term career and 82% wished to become a minister.

Latest Book from Aodh Quinlivan



Dr Aodh Quinlivan's fifth book, *The Freedom of Cork: A Chronicle of Honour* has been completed and will be published by The Collins Press at the end of October.

The book traces the tradition of awarding the Freedom of Cork City and it marks the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy receiving the honour in Cork City Hall.

The book also profiles other famous recipients such as Jonathan Swift, Charles Stewart Parnell, William Gladstone, Éamon de Valera, George Mitchell, John Hume, Sonia O'Sullivan, 'Tip' O'Neill, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese.

Pádraig Mac Consaidín (BSc Government IV) was research assistant on the book and his contribution was invaluable.

The Freedom of Cork will be in book-shops from the end of October and the formal book launch is taking place in Cork City Hall on Thursday 21 November. If you are interested in attending, contact Aodh at a.quinlivan@ucc.ie.

CROKE PARK SUMMIT

Dr Aodh Quinlivan was an invited speaker at the second Public Sector Finance and Efficiency Summit in Croke Park on Wednesday 18 September.

The summit was opened by Brendan Howlin TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and featured papers on many aspects of the Irish public sector.

Aodh's paper assessed the role of local government within the Irish public sector and he critically appraised the **Putting People First** policy paper.



FROM TAIPEI WITH LOVE

Hi, my name is **Helen Russell** and I am a third year mature BSc Government student. In second year I chose to study two optional Asian modules, GV2224 (Asia in Comparative Perspective) and GV2225 (International Relations of Asia). As a result of undertaking these modules, I developed an interest in Asian affairs. I was then informed about the “Huayu Enrichment Scholarship” at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) and encouraged to apply for it by the Department of Government staff. Also, I had an introduction to Chinese affairs as a result of studying International Politics GV2220. Both I and a fellow student Don were awarded the scholarship, and spent the summer of 2013 in Taipei, Taiwan studying Chinese.



Above: Helen Russell and Don O'Neill (now BSc Government III)
who spent the summer in Taipei studying Chinese.

Taipei is overflowing with diverse attractions including Buddhist and Taoist temples. The temples serve as popular tourist attractions and are an amazing sight to see. Taiwanese culture is a collective one; people treat others with respect regardless of their personal feelings in order to maintain a sense of harmony. It is customary therefore to act with decorum at all times and not do anything which causes embarrassment to oneself or others. The people are genuinely kind and friendly to foreigners, and almost daily, local people would approach and offer their assistance to us, which showed their readiness to recognise and help a foreigner in need of assistance despite the language barrier.

During my stay, I met many interesting people. I witnessed an impressive public demonstration against the government, organised by an online group with no political affiliation in which 250,000 people demonstrated over the death of a soldier. I spoke with many participants and took some photos in addition to this. As a result, I was given the opportunity to co-write a piece with **Dr Julie Yu-Wen Chen** which was published in the China Policy Institute Blog (see reference at end of article).

Negative aspects exist in every society, and Taiwan is no different. In general terms, Asian society places emphasis on the mass as opposed to the individual as is predominant in Western society. This has numerous benefits and works well in most instances. However, in areas such as social services for vulnerable and disabled people, Taiwan has room for improvement. Also, in contrast to Ireland, Taiwan boasts full employment, but low pay and long working hours at very low pay rates are prevalent, and this has contributed to the migration of a skilled intellectual and technical labour force to more favourable economic areas such as Singapore and Hong Kong.



Above: Helen tries out her language skills on a local.

Prior to this visit, I had the impression that Asia in general (Taiwan in particular) was a faraway, ‘strange’, industrial and manufacturing hub and little else. I learned that my impression of Asia was at the very least exceptionally inaccurate and absurd in many respects full of prejudices and half-truths. The CK210 Government programme trains one for more effective thinking. I now have a greatly expanded vision of the world and am being trained to think independently, incisively and critically.

*Julie Yu-Wen Chen and Helen Russell – ,On Recent Mass Protest in Taiwan’, *China Policy Institute Blog*, August 13, 2013, <http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/chinapolicyinstitute/2013/08/13/on-recent-mass-protest-in-taiwan/>

Helen and I studied several classes dealing with the domestic and international politics of Asia. While we both had an interest in international politics and relations, we didn't have much previous exposure to Asian politics. The classes we had were not only brilliantly taught but gave us a real in-depth knowledge of Asia and how Asian countries interacted with each other and the rest of the world.

As Asia is now so important to the world economy, we both felt these classes would be beneficial but what we learnt was far more than we had expected. We got a taste for the culture, attitudes and opinions of the governments of Asia and the people who live there.

Our classes were fun, engaging and very informative. When we heard of the summer course to learn Chinese in Taiwan, we knew we wanted to go. With the vital support of our Asian lecturer, Julie, and the Department of Government, we managed to secure a course at the prestigious Taiwanese university, the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), complete with a study grant!

Not only did we study Chinese in Taiwan but we also explored the country and experienced the culture and society of Taiwan. This was an experience only the BSc Government course could give us.

~From Don Anthony O'Neill

FIONA BUCKLEY TAKES PART IN UCC DEBATE ON FUTURE OF SEANAD



Last Thursday night in UCC, **Fiona Buckley** of the Department of Government, took part in a public debate and information session on the proposal to abolish Seanad Éireann. Fiona provided the political context with Professor John A. Murphy and Dr Maria Cahill offering the historical and constitutional contexts respectively.

The subsequent debate was chaired by broadcaster George Hook and featured Minister Simon Coveney and Dr Eoin O'Malley (both proposing abolition). Opposition to the proposal came from Senator Katherine Zappone and Dr Conor O'Mahony.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTED AT EGPA 2013



The prestigious annual conference of the European Group of Public Administration was held in Edinburgh from 11-13 September and the Department of Government was represented by **Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan** and **Dr Aodh Quinlivan**. Emmanuelle's paper was entitled 'The Troika in Ireland: an institutional analysis of financial regulatory change' while Aodh pondered the question (in the context of local government reform proposals), 'Are we really putting people first?'

- Emmanuelle and Aodh would both like to acknowledge the support of the College of Business and Law which enabled them to participate in the conference.

SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENT IN NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY FOR BSc GOVERNMENT STUDENTS



Above: *Bsc Government students Pádraig Mac Consaidín, Aoife Wilson and Lisa Keohane with An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan, New York.*

Three UCC students completed their work placement in the New York State Assembly in Albany, New York, this summer.

Lisa Keohane, Pádraig Mac Consaidín and Aoife Wilson are students of UCC's BSc Government degree programme. As part of their third year studies, they undertook work placement in New York which provided them with an opportunity to participate in US state government and observe the legislative process first-hand.

The three students were assigned to the offices of individual Assembly Members where work duties included responding to constituent mail, conducting research, engaging in statistical analysis, reporting on committee meetings and meeting with lobby groups. Each of the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and recommends the work placement to other students.

WHY DO NATIONS FAIL?

A fascinating workshop entitled **Why Nations Fail? Political and Economic Institutions in the Financial Crisis** took place last Friday in UCC. The event was organised by Dr Theresa Reidy (Department of Government) and Dr John Considine (School of Economics).

The workshop featured distinguished speakers as follows: -

- ‘Why Nations Fail and Mancur Olson’
Dr David Duffy, University of Ulster
- ‘The Financial Crisis in Spain’
Prof Mercedes Alda, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid
- ‘Hold Back the Success on Irish Economic Growth’
Dr Graham Brownlow, Queen’s University Belfast
- ‘Political Institutions and Fiscal Largesse in Ireland, the case for reform’
Dr Jane Suiter, Dublin City University

The Workshop was funded by the College of Business and Law Visiting Speaker Scheme.



Above: Dr Theresa Reidy who co-organised the successful workshop with Dr John Considine of UCC’s School of Economics.

BSc Government and PhD (Government) Graduate Lecturing in Nottingham



Well done to **Dr Natasha Underhill** on her appointment as a lecturer in International Relations in Nottingham Trent University. Natasha graduated with a BSc Government in 2005 and completed her PhD, under the supervision of Dr Andrew Cottey, in 2012. Congratulations Natasha, we are delighted by your success.

Government Lecturer Urges Support for Simon Week



Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan, a lecturer in the Department of Government and a member of the board of Cork Simon, is calling on staff and students alike to support SIMON WEEK which runs from **Monday 30 September to Sunday 6 October**. SIMON WEEK is the national homelessness awareness week and a host of exciting events have been organised by Cork Simon (see <http://www.corksimon.ie/content/simon-week-2013>).

Cork SIMON WEEK will officially be launched by writer and poet, Theo Dorgan, at 5:30pm on Monday 30 September in Perry Street Mark Café*. The launch will also see the opening of an exhibition of unique black and white photographs by Cork Simon residents, entitled 'Out of the Picture?'

*Perry Street is the side street beside Larry Tompkins' bar on Lavitt's Quay.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR JULIE CONNELLY

Well done to **Dr Julie Connelly** who passed her PhD Viva examination with flying colours last week. Julie's thesis examines the ways in which new public management ideas impact upon the administrative culture of street-level bureaucrats and professionals working within Irish social policy. Julie's work was highly praised by her examiners, **Professor Tony Boivard** (Professor of Public Management and Policy, University of Birmingham) and **Dr Mairead Considine** (Lecturer in Social Policy, School of Applied Social Studies, UCC) who encouraged her to consider publishing it as a book.

Julie, who will be teaching in the Department of Government for the 2013/2014 academic year, was co-supervised by Dr Aodh Quinlivan and Dr Emmanuelle Schön-Quinlivan.

WHO WILL DELIVER THE PHILIP MONAHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE THIS YEAR?

We hope to reveal the answer to this question shortly but, since our last issue, the 14th lecture in the series was delivered by the Rt. Hon. John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons.



Above from left to right: President of UCC, Dr Michael Murphy, with John Bercow MP and Dr Aodh Quinlivan, organiser of the annual Monahan lecture series.

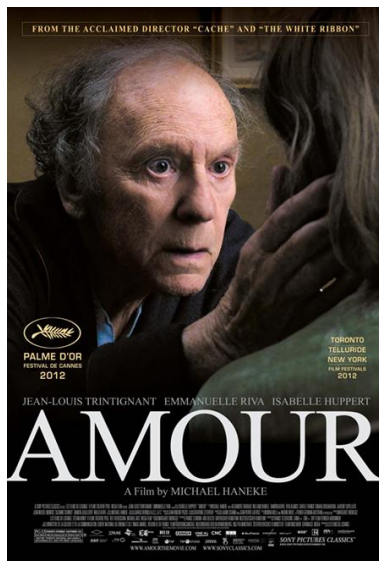
ATTEND THE EGMs OF THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SOCIETY AND THE EUROPA SOCIETY



EGM on 26 September at 7:00pm in WW5



EGM on 1 October at 6:00pm in ORB145



In line with the above, please note that the first event of the Europa Society for the new academic year will take place on Wednesday 25 September with a screening of the film **Amour** at 7:00pm in ORB 123. Critically acclaimed, **Amour** has won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, the Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival and Best Film at the European Film Awards.



- @BScGovUCC is the Twitter account for the BSc Government programme
- @PolSocUCC is the Twitter account for the Government and Politics Society
- @ucceuropa is the Twitter account for the UCC Europa Society
- @diplomacy_ucc is the Twitter account of the MBS International Public Policy and Diplomacy