



18th International Conference in Irish-German Studies

**Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships –
Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships**

University of Limerick, 4-5 November 2021

Organisation: Centre for Irish-German Studies, UL, in coordination with Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, Ulster University, the Centre for European Studies, UL and the Konrad-Adenauer –Stiftung UK & Ireland.

This conference will focus on three aspects:

- 1) A discussion of the initial impact and ongoing repercussions of Brexit for British-German Relations and British Studies in Germany/German Studies in the UK as well as Irish-German relations and German Studies in Ireland and Irish Studies in Germany.
- 2) With the benefit of hindsight reflecting on German unification from a cultural, political, legal and economic perspective. Focussing on reunification itself, this part will ask what lessons can be learned from the German experience? Aspects that have been of particular relevance in Germany included the question of whether accession or unification was/would have been the best course of action. Keeping in mind the vastly different situation in Ireland North and South, are there aspects that could of interest in the ‘Shared Ireland, Shared Island’ discussions?
- 3) Engagement with Europe and the European Union in Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit. This part will analyse the situation north and south of the Irish border vis-a-vis the EU and the European context of economic, legal, policy and cultural questions.

Thursday 4 November 2021

Venue: A&L Goodbody Moot Appeal Court Room, Glucksman Library, UL

2.30pm Welcome

Daniel Butler, Mayor of Limerick; Prof Kerstin Mey, UL President; H.E. Cord Meier-Klodt, German Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Matthias Barner, Director KAS UK & Ireland; Prof Gisela Holfter, UL

Part I Academia and Languages: British-German Relations and British Studies in Germany/German Studies in the UK as well as Irish-German relations and German Studies in Ireland and Irish Studies in Germany

2.45pm – 4.15pm – Session 1

Chaired by Robert Henneberg (Cultural Attaché, German Embassy Dublin)

Prof Katharina Rennhak (Wuppertal) – Irish Studies in Germany

Prof Nicola McLelland (Nottingham) – German Studies in Britain

Prof Pól O Dochartaigh (NUI Galway)/ Dr Marieke Krajenbrink (UL & Co-Chair GSAI) – German Studies in Ireland North and South

4.45pm – 6.15pm – Session 2

Chaired by Prof Joachim Fischer (UL)

Dr Paul Gillespie (Dep. Director, Institute British-Irish Studies, UCD) – British-Irish Studies

Prof Gisela Holfter (UL) – Irish-German Studies

Dr Marius Guderjan (Centre for British Studies, HU Berlin) – German-British Relations

Friday 5 November 2021

Part II Different Experiences of Coming Together, Dividing and Sharing

9am – 10am – Session 3

With the benefit of hindsight ... – Reflecting on German unification from a political and cultural perspective

Chaired by Dr. Patricia Conlan (UL)

Prof Constantin Goschler (Bochum) – Reflecting on German reunification

Prof Jürgen Pelzer (Athens/Los Angeles) – Poetry from East & West - Before and After.

Poetic reflections on the ‘Wende’ and reunification

10.30am - 11.30am – Session 4

A Shared Ireland, Shared Island? – Reflecting on challenges and opportunities of the Irish situation

Chaired by Prof Shane Kilcommins (Dean AHSS, UL)

Prof Oran Doyle (Trinity College, Dublin) – Constitutional issues

Prof James McAuley (University of Huddersfield) – The future of Northern Ireland

11.30am – 12.00pm Open Discussion

Part III Europe and the European Union in Ireland North and South after Brexit

1.15pm – 2.45pm – Session 5

Analysing the situation north and south of the Irish border vis-a-vis the EU and the European context of economic, legal, policy and cultural questions.

Chaired by Professor Edward Moxon-Browne

Prof John Coakley (QUB) – Ireland, Northern Ireland and the EU

Prof Mary Murphy (UCC) – Northern Ireland, Ireland and the EU

Prof Joachim Fischer (UL) – Irish Visions of the EU, North and South: Cultural and Educational Discourses

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Concluding Roundtable

Chaired by Professor Paul Carmichael (Ulster University)

Prof Edward Moxon-Browne (Emeritus Professor European Studies, UL)

Tony Connelly (RTE, Brussels)

Prof Katy Hayward (Queen’s University, Belfast)

Prof John O’Brennan (Maynooth University)

Prof Oran Doyle (Trinity College Dublin)