



# Where now in an uncertain world? Culture. Cyber. Climate.

## *Bridging the Atlantic* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual conference

A joint initiative between

Queen's University Belfast, Georgetown University &

University College Dublin

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Council Chamber, Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast

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Registration for in-person and online participation:

<http://tinyurl/BridgingTheAtlantic>

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13:10 (08:10 EST) Council Chamber: Conference

**13:15 (08:15 EST) *Opening Welcome***

Professor Margaret Topping (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement, Queen's University Belfast) & Ted Smyth (Chair, Clinton Institute for American Studies, UCD & President, Glucksman Ireland House for Irish Studies)

**13:30 (08:30 EST) *Panel One: Where now for Cultural Memory in a troubled world?***

Laia Balcells (Georgetown), Kathleen James-Chakraborty (UCD), Olwen Purdue (QUB) & Katrin Sieg (Georgetown)

Chair: C oil n Parsons (Georgetown)

**14:30 (09:30 EST) *Panel Two: Where now for Cyber Security in an insecure world?***

M aire O'Neill (QUB), [Chris Painter](#) (GFCE Foundation Board) & [Kevin Powers](#) (Boston College)

Chair: Liam Kennedy (UCD Clinton Institute)

**15:30 Break**

**16:00 (11:00 EST) *Keynote: Where now for NI's economy in a transatlantic context?***

[Joe Kennedy III](#) (US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland)

Chair: Noyona Chundur (Consumer Council of NI)

**16:30 (11:30 EST) *Panel Three: Where now for Climate Action in a burning world?***

[Nina Hamilton](#) (North American Association for Environmental Education), Jenna Potter (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful) & Rosalind Skillen (BirdWatch Ireland)

Chair: John Barry (QUB)

**17:30 (12:30 EST) *Closing session: Where now for Bridging the Atlantic?***

US Consul General James Applegate in conversation with Jayne McCormack (BBC NI)

**17:55 (12:55 EST) Close:** Katy Hayward (QUB)

**18:00 Canada Room: Reception**

With remarks from Hilary Reilly (Joint Secretary [South], North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat) and Andrew Elliott (Director of Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington DC)

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### **Biographies of Speakers/Chairs**

#### **Opening**

**Ted Smyth** is President of the Advisory Board of Glucksman Ireland House, New York University and Chair of the Clinton Institute Advisory Board, University College Dublin. A former Irish diplomat, Ted worked on the Irish peace process and early European Union membership. He was later Chief Administrative Officer at global food company HJ Heinz, and EVP at S&P Global. Ted publishes regularly in the Irish Times and Irish Central and other journals. His chapter on “The New Ireland Forum” was published in *Brokering the Good Friday Agreement: The Untold Story* (2019).

#### **Panel One**

**Laia Balcells** is a Professor of Government at Georgetown University. Her research explores the causes and consequences of political violence and repression, warfare dynamics, nationalism, and transitional justice after conflict. Her first book, entitled *Rivalry and Revenge: the Politics of Violence during Civil War* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. She has also published over thirty articles in peer-reviewed journals. Her research has been supported by the Harry Frank Guggenheim foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, among others.

**Kathleen James-Chakraborty** is Professor of Art History at University College Dublin. She currently holds an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council. In 2021-22 she was an Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. Her books include *Architecture since 1400* (Minnesota, 2014) and *Modernism as Memory: Building Identity in the Federal Republic of Germany* (Minnesota, 2018).

**Olwen Purdue** is Professor of Social History at Queen’s University Belfast where she works on urban poverty, welfare and public health. Her latest monograph, *Poverty, Children and the Poor Law in Industrial Belfast 1880-1914*, is due in January. She also works on public history in difficult or contested contexts. She directs QUB’s Centre for Public History, sits on the Board of Directors of the Irish Museums Association and the project board for the Ulster Museum’s redevelopment and was historical advisor to Titanic Belfast and the Ulster Museum’s *Troubles and Beyond* gallery. She is a Councillor of the Royal Historical Society.

**Katrin Sieg** is Graf Goltz Professor and Director of the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. Her areas of research are German and European cultural studies, feminist and critical race studies, and European memory politics. She is the author of four books, most recently *Decolonizing German and European History at the Museum* (2021).

**Chair: Cólín Parsons** is Associate Professor of English and William and Karen Sonneborn Chair for Interdisciplinary Collaboration at Georgetown University, where he is also Director of Global Irish Studies. He is the author of *The Ordnance Survey and Modern Irish Literature* (Oxford, 2016) and has edited or co-edited *Transnationalism in Irish Literature and Culture* (Cambridge, 2024); *Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism* (Syracuse, 2019); and *Relocations: Reading Culture in South Africa* (Cape Town, 2015).

## **Panel Two**

**Máire O'Neill**, FEng, FIAE, MRIA, is Regius Professor in Electronics and Computer Engineering and Director of the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) at Queens University Belfast. She is also Director of the UK-wide Research Institute in Secure Hardware and Embedded Systems (RISE: [www.ukrise.org](http://www.ukrise.org)) and serves on the Responsible AI UK leadership team (<https://www.rai.ac.uk>). She has received numerous awards which include a Blavatnik Engineering and Physical Sciences medal, 2019, a Royal Academy of Engineering Silver Medal, 2014 and British Female Inventor of the Year 2007. She has authored two research books, 6 book chapters and 190 peer-reviewed conference and journal publications.

**Christopher Painter** has been at the vanguard of cyber issues for over 27 years, first as a federal prosecutor handling some of the most high-profile cyber cases in the U.S., then as a senior official at the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the White House National Security Council and, finally, as the world's first cyber diplomat at the U.S. Department of State. Christopher served on the Global Commission for the Stability of Cyberspace and has been involved with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise since its launch in 2015. He has received Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, the RSA Security Conference Public Policy Award and the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service.

**Kevin R. Powers**, J.D. is the Founder and Director of the M.S. in Cybersecurity Policy & Governance Program at Boston College, and an Assistant Professor of the Practice at Boston College Law School. Along with his work at BC, Kevin is a Research Affiliate and Lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he teaches "Cybersecurity Governance for the Board of Directors." He has also taught courses at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was the Deputy General Counsel to the Superintendent. Kevin, a U.S. Navy Veteran, regularly provides expert commentary regarding cybersecurity and national security concerns for national and international media.

**Chair: Liam Kennedy** is Professor of American Studies and Director of the Clinton Institute at University College Dublin. His research interests include American cultural and media studies, political communications, and Irish-US relations. Recent book publications include *Neoliberalism and American Literature* (2019), *Trump's America* (2020) and *The Routledge International Handbook of Diaspora Diplomacy* (2022). He is co-founder of America Unfiltered, a media platform focused on contemporary American politics, foreign policy and media.

## **Keynote**

**Joseph Kennedy III** currently serves as the Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs. Over four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Kennedy built an impressive legislative record around economic policy, health care, and civil rights. Today, Mr. Kennedy also serves as Managing Director at Citizens Energy, a non-profit energy company founded to help low-income families meet their basic energy needs. He is the founder of Groundwork Project, an advocacy organization dedicated to supporting local community organizing efforts in under-resourced and historically disenfranchised communities. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School and spent two years in the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.

**Chair: Noyona Chundur** is Chief Executive of the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland, responsible for championing and protecting the interests of its citizens. She leads an organisation with statutory powers in consumer affairs, energy, transport, water and sewerage, post and food accessibility, with responsibility for empowering consumers against discriminatory practices any UK market. Noyona is also Chair of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, and prior to joining the Consumer Council, spent 16 years in economic development.

## **Panel Three**

**Nina Hamilton** is Senior Manager for International Programs in the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). She leads their youth leadership initiatives and supports the Global Environmental Education Partnership's efforts to build capacity for environmental education across the globe. Before NAAEE, Nina worked on community-based conservation, land rights, gender equity, and global network coordination.

**Jenna Potter** is Environmental Leadership and Awards Programme Manager at Keep NI Beautiful and is NAAEE CEE-Change Fellow. She manages its inaugural '30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers' programme, the first of its kind in the UK. This draws on an international 30 Under 30 initiative introduced by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) to fuel, connect and upskill 30 young minds who are passionate about our climate present and future.

**Rosalind Skillen** is the Marine Policy and Advocacy Officer at BirdWatch Ireland, campaigning for healthy seas and marine life. Rosalind has represented the views of young people as a youth delegate at climate change conferences, including COP26 and COP27. She also writes a weekly column for the *Belfast Telegraph*.

**Chair: John Barry** is Professor of Green Political Economy in the Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action at Queens University Belfast. He is also co-chair of the Belfast Climate Commission, a member of the Committee on Climate Change's Economics Advisory Group on Adaptation and Resilience, and member of the Sustainable Future Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

### **In Conversation**

**James Applegate** took up his duties as U.S. Consul General in Belfast in August 2023. Prior to moving to Northern Ireland, James served as the Director for Europe and Asia Programs in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). He previously served as Political and Economic Counselor at Embassy Rangoon during the 2021 coup and its aftermath, and as the head of the DPRK Unit on the Korea Desk during a period of active negotiations. His other tours include Guangzhou, Canberra, Kabul, the State Department's Operations Center, the Foreign Service Institute's School of Leadership and Management Studies, and the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna (UNVIE).

**Jayne McCormack** is a Political Correspondent for BBC Northern Ireland, where she has worked for more than a decade. She has covered the Brexit negotiations both here and in Westminster, and in the past few years she has been based at Stormont where she reported extensively on the Covid pandemic and the latest suspension of the power-sharing institutions. In 2009 she lived in the United States for a year as part of a scheme funded by the British Council and has a keen interest in American politics and the enduring role of the US in the peace process.

### **Reception**

**Andrew Elliott** is Director/Counsellor of the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington DC. His previous diplomatic post was as Head of the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels, 2015-2019.

**Hilary Reilly** is Joint Secretary (South) of the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat in Armagh. Her previous posting was as Ireland's Ambassador to Malaysia, and she has held diplomatic positions in both Washington DC and Chicago.