



DEPARTMENT OF
History

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome all our readers to the fourth History Alumni Newsletter.

Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú

Head of Department of History

There is plenty of good news to report since the last edition. One particularly exciting new project is entitled ‘Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury’. Almost one hundred years ago, in June 1922, the Public Records Office in Dublin was destroyed at the outset of the Civil War. Seven hundred years of Irish history literally went up in smoke. Since then, historians of Ireland have bemoaned the lack of source material for key periods of our past. ‘Beyond 2022, however, is exploiting major technological advances to recover the lost archives, using substitute and surviving fully searchable copies. Led by our colleague, Dr Peter Crooks, this project will potentially transform our understanding of the Irish past.

In addition to big collaborative projects, colleagues have also been successful in obtaining major funding grants from the Irish Research Council and elsewhere, while Professor Alan Kramer was admitted as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, regarded as the highest academic honour in Ireland.

On a sadder note, a dear former colleague, Professor Helga Robinson-Hammerstein passed away this year, while two giants of the department, Professor David Dickson and Professor David Fitzpatrick retired after decades



Trinity historians who contributed to the Cambridge History of Ireland at the launch in Dublin Castle. L-R: Peter Crooks, Rachel Moss, Robert Armstrong, Micheál Ó Siochrú Ciaran Brady, David Brown, David Dickson, Jane Ohlmeyer, Eunan O’Halpin, Christine Casey, Patrick Geoghegan Anne Dolan, Ciaran O’Neill. Missing from picture: Francis Ludlow, David Fitzpatrick and Katherine Simms

of invaluable service. We can, however welcome new colleagues – Professor Ruth Karras, Dr Patrick Walsh and Dr Francis Ludlow – who will ensure that the department continues to excel in both teaching and research.

We are as always very grateful for all the support the alumni offer the History Department, particularly through the Gradlink Mentoring programme. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and get an opportunity to attend some of the exciting History events to be held over the coming academic year.

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Obituaries and News

Dr Helga Robinson-Hammerstein: An Appreciation

It is with deep regret that the History department writes of the passing of Helga Robinson-Hammerstein on 26 February 2018. The funeral service for Dr Robinson-Hammerstein took place on 6 March at St Finian's church.

Helga was born in Germany on the eve of the Second World War. That terrible war claimed the lives of many members of her family. From the darkness of those years emerged Helga's passion for learning and her lifelong concern for young people. She studied at Mainz, Marburg and London, before travelling to Dublin in 1967 for a short research trip. Helga was quickly invited to join the History Department and stayed at Trinity for rather longer than originally planned. She worked in the History Department for the following four decades, teaching alongside her husband Professor Ian Robinson.

Helga's commitment to her students was without parallel. First-year students were introduced to her breadth of understanding through captivating and exhilarating lectures on Early Modern and Modern European history. She introduced students to the writings of Hannah Arendt, George Mosse, Roy Pascal and many more brilliant authors. For her Sophister Special Subject on the Reformation in Germany Helga produced a

set of translated and edited documents which made accessible a subject hitherto unavailable to linguistically-challenged undergraduates. Her efforts made her Special Subject an overwhelmingly popular choice with students.

Helga was also a pioneer of the inter-disciplinary taught Master's programme in Reformation and Enlightenment Studies. Established in the face of opposition at several levels of College, this programme was a success from the start and became a model for all subsequent taught Master's programmes in the humanities. Elected a Fellow, Helga also served as Dean of Graduate Studies. As Dean she was a marvel, brilliant in seeing the processes of examination through to completion, but also tactfully and subtly mediating between a disappointed candidate and a set of equally disappointed examiners.

Though her doctoral research concerned the Reformation in Ireland during the later sixteenth century, and especially a study of the Archbishop of Dublin, Adam Loftus, Helga was constantly aware of the broader continental implications of her work. The concluding sentence of a powerful essay which she published in 1971 became a paradigmatic statement for decades ('Ireland is the only country in Europe where the Counter Reformation succeeded against the

will of the head of state.') It is no accident that Helga sought throughout her career as a teacher and researcher to relate the apparently anomalous character of the Irish experience to the broader confessional tumult across the Continent. Among the titles Helga chose for publications were *European Universities in the Age of Reformation and Counter-Reformation* and *The Transmission of Ideas in the Lutheran Reformation*. These books and many other publications reflect Helga's scholarly interests in the revolution in education, culture and communication that took place in early modern Europe. These titles also reflect Helga's wider commitment to the ideals and values of the humanities and to the idea of a university as a community.

Helga's contributions to College life ran far deeper than her scholarship. She was a true collegiate, a deep source of support and advice, not just to students, whom above all she most treasured, but also to colleagues. In recognising of all these and other contributions to College and to our discipline, the History Department proposes to establish the Helga Robinson-Hammerstein Prize to be awarded annually to the outstanding research dissertation completed by a Senior Sophister student.

Trinity Historians contribute to the *Cambridge History of Ireland*



President Michael D Higgins with the contributors to the *Cambridge History of Ireland* at Dublin Castle in April 2018.

In April 2018 President Michel D Higgins launched the four-volume *Cambridge History of Ireland* to great acclaim at Dublin Castle. Edited by Thomas Bartlett, James Kelly, Brendan Smith and Trinity's own Professor Jane Ohlmeyer the *Cambridge History* features over one hundred experts to tell the story of fifteen centuries of Ireland's History. It brings together the latest scholarship, setting Irish history within broader Atlantic, European, imperial and global contexts. Naturally Trinity's historians are very well represented amongst the contributors to each volume.

Project

Trinity to Digitally Recreate Seven Centuries of Ireland's History Destroyed in 1922 Four Courts Fire

When Dublin's Four Courts went up in flames on June 30th, 1922 seven centuries of Ireland's historical and genealogical records stored in a magnificent six-storey Victorian repository building known as the Record Treasury were lost. In one afternoon millions of records of English government in Ireland dating back to the 13th century documenting births, marriages, deaths, taxes paid and laws enacted, as well as wills, census returns and parish and town records from across the island were destroyed seemingly forever. For generations the loss of these precious historical documents has hampered the study of Ireland's past, limiting our understanding of family, local and national history as well as Ireland's connected history with Britain and the wider world. However, new technology, historical research and careful archival practice mean that the losses are not irrecoverable.

In February 2018 historians and computer scientists at Trinity unveiled plans to bring Ireland's Public Record Office back to life by building a virtual reality model of the destroyed building and refilling its shelves with substitute and surviving fully searchable copies of the lost records identified by the team in archives and libraries around the world. The completed project will be unveiled on the centenary of the Four Courts blaze in 2022 and will allow a global audience to connect with 700 years of Ireland's past.



The remains of the Irish Public Record Office following the 1922 fire. (C/o of the Beyond2022 project)

The project, 'Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury', was launched at an event in Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute. Led by Dr Peter Crooks from the School of Histories and Humanities and Dr Seamus Lawless from the ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology, the project is being run in collaboration with the National Archives of Ireland, The National Archives (UK), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission. The project is funded by the Irish Research Council.

When complete, users of Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury will experience a fully immersive virtual tour of the digitally reconstructed Public Record Office. They will be able to identify a record, enter a virtual

reality reconstruction of the destroyed Victorian building and move through the 100,000sq feet of archive shelving to the very spot where this record was once stored to access a surviving or substitute digital copy.

The most ambitious element of the project is the identification of 'Gold Seams' of substitute records. These are series of particularly rich historical documents which were transcribed by generations of scholars, administrators, legal clerks and archivists and now held in dozens of archives and libraries around the world. Collectively these substitute sources contain millions of historical facts about Ireland and its people and have the potential to transform how we understand our past. For more details see <https://beyond2022.ie>



Badly charred documents which survived the 1922 fire being conserved at the National Archives of Ireland (C/o of the Beyond2022 project)

News

Arrivals and Departures at TCD History

The last year has seen some significant changes in the History Department with Professors David Dickson and David Fitzpatrick joining Professors Terry Barry John Horne and Ian Robinson, all of whom will be very familiar to our alumni, in the ranks of our recently retired professors. Very successful tribute events to Professors Dickson and Fitzpatrick were held in the Long Room Hub in September

2017 and May 2018 respectively. Both events, organised by colleagues and former PhD students, were very well attended and the presence of speakers from at home and abroad testified to the high regard both scholars were held in as teachers and researchers. It is hoped that they and other recently retired colleagues will continue to contribute to College and the wider historical community.



Professor David Dickson speaking at the symposium in the Long Room Hub to mark his retirement in September 2017

This academic year has seen the arrival of some new faces in the department. These include Professor Ruth Mazo Karras who has taken up the Lecky Chair in History. An expert in medieval gender history Prof. Karras has come from the University of Minnesota. Dr Patrick Walsh, a TCD graduate, meanwhile has returned to Trinity as Assistant Professor in Eighteenth-Century Irish History, while Dr Francis Ludlow has joined department's expanding environmental humanities strand as Assistant Professor in Environmental History.



Poster for the event marking forty years since the publication of Professor Fitzpatrick's ground-breaking book *Politics and Irish Life, 1913-21*. This event looked forward rather than back and featured exciting new research on the events of the revolutionary decade.

New Books by Trinity Historians

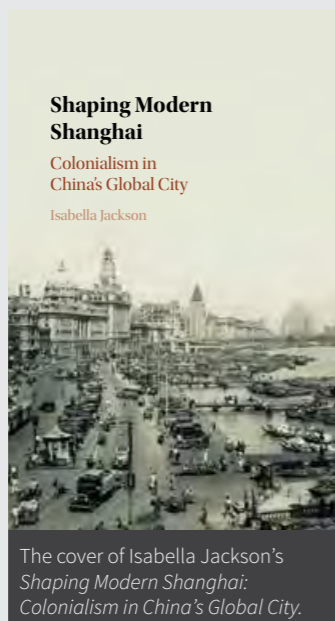
Trinity historians continue to produce new books on a wide variety of subjects pushing forward scholarly debates and expanding our knowledge of the past. New and forthcoming books by members of the department take the reader from Shanghai to Egypt, from Michael Collins

to the dance halls of 1960s Ireland and many places in between. Amongst the new titles published within the last year are Isabella Jackson's *Shaping Modern Shanghai: Colonialism in China's Global City* (Cambridge, 2017), Carole Holohan's, *Reframing Youth in 1960s Ireland* (Liverpool,

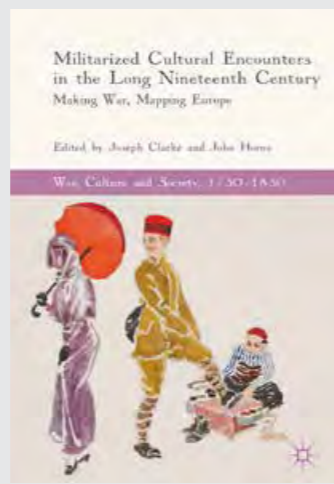
2018), Joseph Clarke and John Horne's, *Militarized Cultural Encounters in the Long Nineteenth Century Making War, Mapping Europe* (Palgrave, 2018) and Anne Dolan and William Murphy's *Michael Collins: The Man and the Revolution* (Collins Press, 2018).



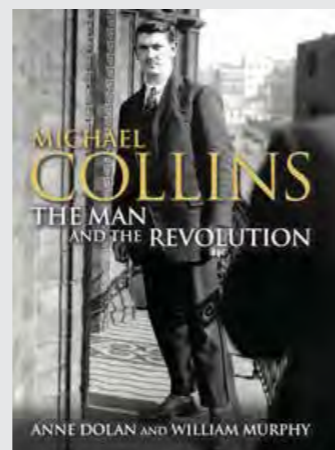
The front cover of Carole Holohan's book *Reframing Youth in 1960s Ireland* showing an unfamiliar view of Harcourt Street.



The cover of Isabella Jackson's *Shaping Modern Shanghai: Colonialism in China's Global City*.



The cover image of John Horne and Joseph Clarke's *Militarized Cultural Encounters in the Long Nineteenth Century Making War, Mapping Europe*.



The front cover of Anne Dolan and William Murphy's new book, *Michael Collins, The Man and the Revolution* (Collins Press), which was launched by journalist Fintan O'Toole in October 2018.

Awards

Climate Change, Charlemagne and China: Historians pushing the Frontiers of Knowledge

Three members of the Department, Drs Francis Ludlow, Isabella Jackson and Immo Warntjes have been awarded prestigious research funding from the Irish Research Council's Laureate scheme to pursue exciting and innovative new research projects, which promise to add much to our understanding of the past. Their research focusing as it does on Ancient Babylon, the Carolingian Empire and modern China showcases the breadth of scholarship currently being undertaken in the department, research of course which contributes to the development of exciting new teaching offerings.

Dr Ludlow's project explores the links between climatic changes (including drought, flooding and other extreme weather) and patterns of violence and conflict in the Ancient Near East. He investigates how climate change may have played a key role in the story of this formative region and era of world history. His research will focus on the Fertile Crescent kingdom of Babylonia (south-central Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq) during the final eight centuries BCE, drawing on a wealth of data from textual scholars, linguists and archaeologists to develop a new climatic reconstruction for Babylonia and examine the extent, pathways and context of links between climate change and violence and conflict.

Dr Jackson's project will focus on changing perceptions of childhood in China during the period 1919-59, which saw a decline in the centuries-old practice of poor families selling their daughters to wealthier families, to become unpaid domestic servants with no freedom of movement: slave-girls. Dr Jackson will research the hypothesis that the change in the discourse around child slavery during this period marked a shift from a concept of childhood as a category applying only to boys and the elites to a universal stage of



Lion Relief in glazed tiles, one of 120 similarly depicted animals decorating the Processional Way, running from the main entrance of Babylon (at the Ishtar Gate) into the heart of the city, dated ca. 605-562 BCE, a period during which systematic daily measurements of weather and market prices were being compiled in the city (Yale University Art Gallery; photo by F. Ludlow)

development encompassing girls and the poor. Her results will have broad implications for the understanding of the history of childhood not just in China but in other non-Western contexts.

Finally Dr Warntjes's award will allow him to systematically analyse, for the first time, the Irish contribution to the intellectual formation of Europe, on the basis of one subject, computus (calendrical science). His project will conduct a comprehensive analysis of key texts including the recently discovered *Computus Einsidlensis* showing how Irish ideas were critical to the early medieval scientific calculations.

Challenging existing accounts that privilege the role of Charlemagne in shaping modern European identity by focusing on the periphery, the project has the potential to rewrite the intellectual history of early medieval Europe, and to securely define and contextualise the achievements of the Irish 'Golden Age'.



Einsiedeln, Stiftsbibliothek, 321 (647), p. 97: Explanation of the Julian calendar, including the oldest list of numerals in the Irish language, in the first Latin textbook on the reckoning of time (originally written in Ireland c.AD 700).

Recent Events

The Irish Convention, 1917-1918: A Centenary Symposium

As part of Trinity's contribution to the Decade of Commemorations, 1913-23, members of the History Department played a central role in organising and speaking at a symposium in July 2017 to mark the centenary of the Dublin convention in 1917. Described by legendary Trinity historian, R.B. McDowell, as a 'failure, but a brilliant one' the 1917 convention, which met in College, comprised a gathering of

representative Irishmen tasked by British prime minister David Lloyd George with finding a solution to the Irish question in the aftermath of the 1916 rising. Amongst the speakers at this symposium were Eunan O'Halpin, David Dickson Anne Dolan and Patrick Geoghegan from the History Department as well as two former Taoisigh, Bertie Ahern and John Bruton.



The 1917-18 convention in full session at Regent's House, Trinity College Dublin (image c/o Whyte's Auction House)

Reframing '68 and the Sixties

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the revolutionary year of 1968, a year featuring civil rights marches in Northern Ireland, anti-war protests in America, student revolts in France and Italy, and an anti-communist uprising in Czechoslovakia. In September

Dr Carole Holohan, assistant professor of modern Irish history, organised a symposium in the TCD Long Room Hub to reinterpret the events of that momentous year within a transnational perspective. Amongst the topics discussed were the connections between Ian Paisley and American segregationists, Johnny Cash's relationship with the Nixon White House and role of women in the '68. A special showing of Peter Lennon's 1967 documentary film, *The Rocky Road to Dublin*, to a capacity audience preceded the one-day conference. The conference also featured a public panel discussion featuring international experts hosted by Professor Patrick Geoghegan (TCD History and Newstalk's *Talking History*).



The poster for the Reframing '68 and the Sixties conference

The James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture 2018

In October 2018 Professor Rosamond McKitterick (University of Cambridge) delivered the third series of Lydon lectures at Trinity. Her public lecture on 'Rome and the Invention of the Papacy in the Early Middle Ages' explored the early popes not just as pontiffs, but also as bishops and rulers of Rome.

This series of lectures, named after the late James Lydon, Lecky Professor of Medieval History at TCD, brings distinguished medieval historians to Dublin to deliver a high-profile series of lectures, which then form the basis of a book published by Cambridge University Press. The next lecture series will take place in 2020 when Professor John Watts (Corpus Christi, Oxford) will deliver the lectures.

More details can be found at www.tcd.ie/medieval-history/events/lydon-lectures/



Poster advertising the 2018 Lydon lectures on *Rome and the Invention of the Papacy in the Early Middle Ages*

Upcoming Events

Out of the Ashes Collective Memory, Cultural Loss and Recovery

This major new multi-annual lecture series which will run over the next three years explores the theme of cultural loss and recovery across the centuries, from the destruction of the Library of Alexandria in

antiquity to contemporary acts of cultural loss and destruction. Global in scope, multi-disciplinary and pan-historical this series will bring leading experts from across the world to Trinity to reflect on how societies deal with

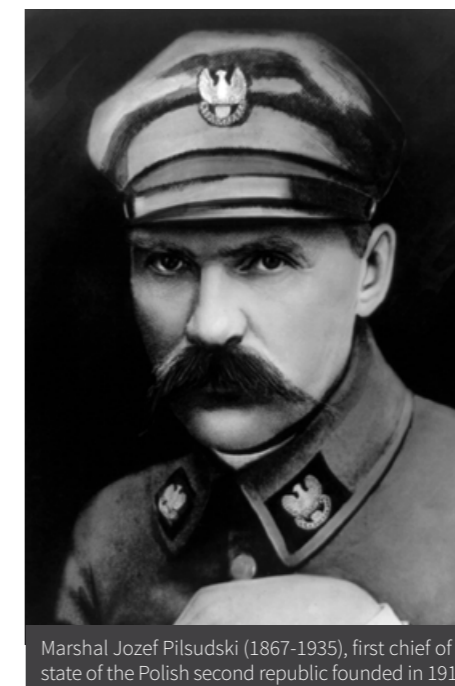
cultural trauma through reconstruction and commemoration. This series is linked to the History Department's Beyond 2022 project and is co-ordinated by Dr Peter Crooks, the principal investigator on that project.

Out of Ashes Schedule 2018-19

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|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 26 November 2018 6.30 pm | <i>The Library of Alexandria: Rebirth and Revolution</i> — Ismail Serageldin, Founding Director Emeritus, Bibliotheca Alexandrina |
| Monday 28 January 2019 6.30 pm | <i>The Tyranny of Ambient Location: Ephemeral Maps</i> — Dr Ed Parsons, Geospatial Technologist, Google |
| Tuesday 2 April 2019 6.30 pm | <i>The Collections in the Cave: Safeguarding Heritage in World War Two at the National Library of Wales</i> — Lorna Hughes, Professor of Digital Humanities, Information Studies, University of Glasgow <i>Curating the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms exhibition at the British Library</i> — Claire Breay, Head of Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts, The British Library |
| Monday 20 May 2019 6.30 pm | <i>The Labour of Forgetting: On the Politics of Disregard</i> — Ann Laura Stoler, Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies, The New School for Social Research, New York |

1918 and the New Europe

1918 was one of the most momentous years in modern European history. The end of the First World War and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian, German, Russian and Ottoman empires saw the creation of nine new nation states. This year a new lecture series organised by Drs Graeme Murdock and Molly Pucci (History), and Dr Balázs Apor (Russian and Slavonic Studies) and hosted by the TCD Long Room Hub explores the creation of a new European order in 1918. Invited speakers from across Europe will focus on the experiences and legacies of 1918 in four of these new nations, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary. As always History alumni are most welcome to attend. For more details see <https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/whats-on/details/1918-and-the-New-Europe.php>

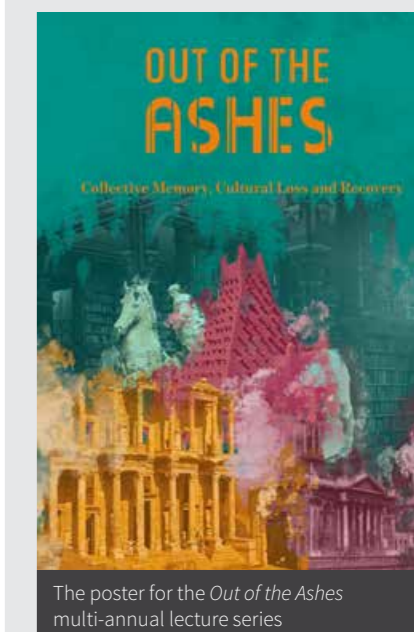


Marshal Jozef Pilsudski (1867-1935), first chief of state of the Polish second republic founded in 1918

Contemporary Irish History Seminar

The Contemporary Irish History Seminar Series has run weekly in term-time since January 2001, from 4 to 5.30pm each Wednesday in the Neill Hoey Lecture Room in the Long Room Hub. It provides a platform for the exposition and exploration of new research in recent Irish history. It is open to the public and to people with direct knowledge of matters and issues under discussion as well as to the academic and postgraduate research communities. Alumni are particularly welcome.

The programme for 2018-19 is at www.tcd.ie/history/research/seminars.php



The poster for the *Out of the Ashes* multi-annual lecture series

Remember. The power of a legacy to Trinity



When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. You're empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You're supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You're helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations.

For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Gareth Crowe.

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Trinity Alumni Online

As a Trinity graduate, we'd like to help you make the most of being part of a community of over 115,000 Trinity graduates around the world. We know how important it is for our alumni to stay connected and how valuable networking and mentoring opportunities can be for career advancement. With this in mind,

we would like to invite you to join our new platform, Trinity Alumni Online. This platform will help you to connect with fellow alumni as well as current Trinity students, allowing you to give and receive career advice. It's easy to use and a great way to stay connected to Trinity. To register go to www.trinity.aluminate.net



Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Upcoming Events

Christmas Commons
5 and 12 December 2018

Alumni & Friends Carol Service
6 December 2018

Homecoming
20 December 2018

Other Events
www.tcd.ie/alumni/events

Class Notes

Do you have any news or updates that you would like to share with your fellow alumni? Submit your news with an image, subject of study and year of graduation to alumni@tcd.ie

For more information please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/publications

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