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**HOW IRELAND VOTED: THE GENERAL ELECTION OF FEBRUARY 1987  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Members may recall that the possibility of the Association's engaging in further publishing activity was discussed at last year's Annual General Meeting. The intervention of the recent general election has made this issue more immediate, and at its last meeting the Committee accepted a proposal from three members of the Association for the publication of a volume on the election. The Committee was encouraged to proceed with this because of the favourable terms negotiated with the publisher, which mean that the Association is not required to invest any money in the project but that it is entitled to royalties. Copies of the book will be available to members at cost price.

The specific proposal is that an edited volume on the 1987 election be produced by Poolbeg Press, in association with the PSAI. The intention is to publish in October 1987 for about IEP5.95, from camera ready copy prepared by the Centre for the Study of Irish Elections at University College, Galway, effectively on the Irish Political Studies production line. Poolbeg will finance publication and pay PSAI a small royalty. The book will be edited by Michael Laver, Peter Mair and Richard Sinnott and will comprise the following chapters:

- 1. Tom Garvin: Introduction
- 2. Brian Girvin: The campaign
- 3. David Farrell: The selling of the parties; marketing and PR
- 4. Maurice Manning: The campaign trail; a view from the doorstep
- 5. Peter Mair: The party programmes
- 6. Michael Laver, Michael Marsh and Richard Sinnott: Patterns of party support; social bases and political attitudes
- 7. Michael Gallagher: The results and the electoral system
- 8. Brian Farrell: Forming the Government
- 9. John Coakley: The election in context; historical and cross national comparisons

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**THE TEACHING OF POLITICS IN IRELAND:  
(3) TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN**

The exploration of the distant origins of the study of politics at Trinity is another day's work; it suffices to indicate some traces here. In the eighteenth century "government" was regarded as a proper subject of inquiry (in conjunction with ethics) while from the middle of the nineteenth century the term "political science" was employed in the titles of several of the new honours degrees, and subsequently in the relevant "schools". By the inter-war period courses on political philosophy and, to a lesser extent, on institutions ("descriptive politics") were taught to students of History, Economics and Law, but there was no full-time appointment until 1948 when the present Professor of Political Science, Basil Chubb, came to Dublin.

At this stage politics was an element in the honours degree for both History and Economics, and the present more pronounced orientation towards the latter evolved with the general growth of the discipline itself and the peculiarities of Trinity's academic compartmentalization. A turning point

was the academic year 1959-60, when in effect marks the establishment of a separate department with a second full-time appointment and the creation of the chair of Political Science. The instigation of a faculty structure in 1969 confirmed the department's identification with the social sciences, when it was located in the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies (ESS). History was now an "external" client, with an interest almost exclusively in political philosophy. By 1979 the department had achieved its present full-time teaching complement of six, a plateau of modest elevation and in the present economic climate of apparently boundless horizons. The bulk of the students come from the ESS Faculty, with a first year of over two hundred; although the structure of more specialised and optional classes in the subsequent three years allows for small group teaching in the fourth year, the overall staff-student ratio is regrettably high (in the order of 1 to 25).

For a small department, quite a broad range of fields within the discipline is covered in both teaching and research. Irish politics, political philosophy and an element of comparative politics (political parties) are supplemented by more exotic specialisations - by Irish standards - in the form of public policy making, Soviet and communist studies and international relations. The teaching structure, following a broad comparative introductory course in the first year, expands into the more specialised areas, with two courses offered in the second year, four in the third year and six in the fourth year. It is possible to take a single honours degree in Political Science, or joint honours in combination with Economics, Sociology or Business Studies. Most of the staff are also involved in service teaching outside the ESS Faculty. The four-year honours degree pattern has the effect of stretching the department's limited resources, and is one reason for the lack of a taught masters' degree. The department does provide the teaching on political integration in the TCD/UCD joint master's course in European Studies and participates in two Business Studies graduate courses, but its other involvement in graduate work is confined to the supervision of individual research degrees. Likewise the research activities of the staff, given the range of interests covered and the absence of funding, tend to be highly personal.

If overall economic constraints seem to rule out any major expansion in the specialised teaching of the department, there is nevertheless considerable experimentation with existing staff resources. In the last year two courses have been put on with joint teaching from the politics and sociology departments, and a new multi-disciplinary undergraduate degree in European Studies, which will commence in October 1987, also involves two, and eventually more, staff members. The possibility of a joint honours degree with History - an "obvious" combination curiously neglected in Trinity - is currently under consideration. Developments in graduate teaching look more elusive, short of radical external intervention (the general trend towards three-year first degrees, if applied in Trinity, might release resources for this purpose). The extent of complementarity between the fields covered in Trinity and UCD might also appeal to "external federators"; however, the recent history of university mergers in Dublin suggests that the academic minnows will continue to survive in their separate ponds.

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