

International History Seminar Series

Fall 2018

Organizer: Molly Pucci

Reframing '68 and the Sixties



From student protests to anti-war movements, civil rights campaigns, and revolutions, 1968 was a year of global significance. It was a year not only of political protest but it marked a change in the very way politics and social activism were defined across the globe. This interdisciplinary symposium will bring leading scholars together from the fields of history, English, political science, and European Studies to discuss the significance of the year 1968 in history. It will challenge the temporal and spatial parameters that have often shaped scholarly interpretations of '68 and consider the impact of new movements, events, and actors that have traditionally been left out of the narrative of this iconic year.

Friday, 28 September 2018, 9:30 – 5:00

Reframing '68 and the Sixties Conference

All events are held in the Trinity Long Room Hub

9:30-11, People and Places: Speakers: Sinead McIneeney (St. Mary's University), Niall Ó Dochartaigh (Galway), Julian Bourg (Boston College)

11:30-1, Reactionaries and the Right: Molly Pucci (TCD), Dan Geary (TCD), Deirdre Foley (DCU)

2-3:30, Culture and Ideas: Michael Foley (Groningen), Harriet Evans (Westminster), Balazs Apor (TCD)

3:45-5, Keynote: Maud Bracke (Glasgow)

1918 and the New Europe



The Founding of the Czechoslovak Republic, 1918

The events of 1918 defined the history of modern Europe. From the wreckage of the First World War and collapse of empires nine new nation states emerged. This series will reflect on the events and legacy of 1918 from a multi-national perspective. It will re-examine the significance of 1918 as the beginning of a new European order from the perspective of the collapsing Empire and four successor states, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary, that were forged—territorially, culturally, and politically—in the peace treaties that followed.

Thursday, 18 October 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room Hub

Without any Revolution and Riots: The Quiet Collapse of the Habsburg Empire, 1918

Alexander Watson, Professor of History, Goldsmiths, University of London

The end of the First World War was a transformative moment for East-Central Europe. The historiography is dominated by the fraught peace deliberations to build a brave new world and the ethnic rivalry and ideological conflict within and between the newly forming nation-states in 1919-23. This talk focuses on the earlier, neglected instant of Habsburg imperial collapse in October 1918. It asks why, in a period usually defined by its violence and chaos, the revolutions that spread across the empire were so strangely bloodless, rapid and orderly. The talk explores the complex reasons for this swift transition of power and what it reveals about the potential for a more harmonious post-war world.

Friday, 2 November 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room Hub

From Multinational Empire to Multinational States

Pieter Judson, Professor of European History, European University Institute

At the end of 1918, as the Habsburg Empire collapsed and both brand new and existing states took over its territories, nationalists in Central Europe proclaimed the dawn of the era of the nation state. They hailed the nation state as the embodiment of a bright, democratic, and modern future, while castigating multinational empires as outdated and oppressive. The revolutions that the nationalists appropriated for their own, however, produced anger and resentment about unfulfilled promises among victors and defeated alike. And contrary to nationalists' claims, 1918 heralded a new age of multinational empire in Central Europe, one as radical, brutal, and extreme as the age of total war that had produced it.

Monday, 19 November 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room Hub
Escaping a Prison of Peoples? 100 Years after the Collapse of the Habsburg Empire
Mark Cornwall, Professor of European History, University of Southampton

This year marks the centenary of the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian empire, a monarchy whose disappearance from the European map transformed the history of the twentieth century. At a time when the UK is planning to exit from another multi-national European body, this lecture revisits the reasons why different peoples decided to exit the Habsburg empire and create their own independent states at the end of the First World War. What expectations guided the idealists who created the new Czechoslovak and Yugoslav states? Certainly, in the years that followed the hopes of many were quickly deflated as new borders and identities sprang up. It leads us to ask, in retrospect, how far this really was an anachronistic and anti-modern state, a 'prison of peoples'. Or should we follow those like the Austrian writer Stefan Zweig who viewed the Habsburg empire with great nostalgia, a cosmopolitan experiment with much to teach us?

Thursday, 29 November 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room Hub
Contested Identities: National Independence and Women's Suffrage in Poland
Dr Aneta Stępień, Centre for European Studies, Trinity College Dublin

This talk discusses the complex social and political situation in which women organizations operated in Poland under partitions and the intimate relationship that developed between the fight for the national independence and the political independence of women. In 1909, Constance Markiewicz, an Irish artist and a militant suffragette, wrote in a pamphlet "Women, Ideals and the Nation" that in Poland 'women and men work as comrades, shoulder to shoulder' for the national cause. Although presented as equal in the struggle for independence, the Polish suffragettes faced criticism and resistance of different groups of men: politicians, workers and the military. The talk focuses on the role of the nationalist and militant/militarist suffragettes in obtaining voting rights for women in 1918 and its key figure, Aleksandra Piłsudska. Drawing from her *Memoirs*, published in 1940 in London, the talk considers the potential problems in commemorating the achievements of the women's suffrage movement in Poland.

Monday, 3 December 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room Hub
From the Ashes of Empire: Competing Nationalisms and the Radicalisation of Political Space in Interwar Romania

Dr Raul Cârstocea, Lecturer, Europa-Universität Flensburg

This talk will address the idea of ‘the nation’ in Romania after 1918 and its importance for the radicalisation of interwar politics. It will briefly discuss the history of competing nationalisms in 19th century Romania, the country’s wartime experience and the post-war territorial changes that resulted in a significantly expanded and politically heterogeneous entity referred to as ‘Greater Romania.’ This territory was marked by the overlapping legacies of the three Eastern empires that collapsed at the end of the First World War (Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian). This incomplete or failed project of nationalisation and the numerous ‘questions’ it left unresolved, the talk argues, opened up the space for radical politics and led to the growing popularity of Romania’s native fascist movement – the ‘Legion of the Archangel Michael’ or ‘Iron Guard’. This talk will argue against the existence of a monolithic ‘Romanian nationalism’ and explore the fluid, intersecting, and competing nationalisms in Romania during this period.

Thursday, 21 March 2019, 18:30 – 20:00 | Trinity Long Room

Rethinking 1918: Interventions into the Future

Peter Apor, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

This talk explores the ways of imagining and planning of possible futures that emerged in the postwar period of Europe in 1918. Elites, intellectuals and large proportions of European societies believed that it was possible to anticipate the future and foresee decisive trends of socio-developments, therefore it was possible to plan for even large systematic changes. However, the multiplication of ideas about and attempts to plan the future also suggests that crucial components of prognosis about further development were shaken and the “future” of Europe itself became uncertain. This paper investigates how social groups and individuals were engaged in a broad cultural process of mastering the future in ways that encompassed aspects of the human environment and the deepest layers of individual identities.