

Speakers



Allen Packwood BA, MPhil (Cantab), is a Fellow of Churchill College at the University of Cambridge, the Director of the Churchill Archives Centre, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He was awarded an OBE for services to archives and scholarship in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours. His book, *How Churchill Waged War*, was published by Pen & Sword in 2018 and he has recently edited the Cambridge University Press Companion to Winston Churchill and co-edited *Letters for the Ages: The Private and Personal Letters of Sir Winston Churchill*. His latest book is *Churchill's D-Day*, co-authored with General Lord Dannatt and published for the eightieth anniversary of Operation Overlord in June 2024. The Churchill Archives Centre is located in the grounds of Churchill College, and is home to the papers of Sir Winston Churchill, Baroness Thatcher, Sir John Major and almost seven hundred of their contemporaries: politicians, diplomats, civil servants, military leaders and scientists of the modern era. It is still collecting. Allen likes to joke that it is the equivalent of four American Presidential Libraries! He is responsible for the overall management of the team and collections.

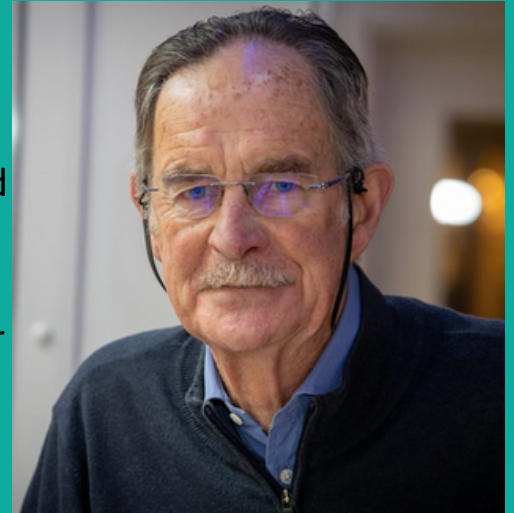
Alvin Jackson is Richard Lodge Professor of History at the University of Edinburgh. He has written extensively on modern Irish and British history, including (most recently) *Ireland 1798-1998: war, peace and beyond* (third edition: 2025) and *United Kingdoms: multinational union states in Europe and beyond* (2023); he has edited the *Oxford handbook of modern Irish history* (paperback edition: 2017). He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the British Academy; he holds an honorary doctorate from University College Dublin.





Eugenio Biagini is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History in the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College Cambridge. He is a specialist in the history of liberalism and democracy, focusing on modern Britain, Ireland and Italy. He is the co-editor (with Mary E. Daly) of *The Cambridge Social History of Ireland* (Cambridge, 2017) general editor of the *Cultural History of Democracy* (6 volumes, London, 2021). His *The Minority Mind: Jews and Protestants in Catholic Ireland, 1912-1968* - a study of the 'minority' question and the making of a pluralist democracy - will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2026.

Dick Spring, Former Labour Party leader, as a statesman he was as closely involved in the negotiations which led to the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985. He served as Tánaiste from 1982 to 1987, 1992 to November 1994, and December 1994 to 1997, Leader of the Labour Party from 1982 to 1997, Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1993 to November 1994 and December 1994 to 1997, Minister for Energy from 1983 to 1987, and Minister for the Environment from 1982 to 1983. He was a Teachta Dála (TD) for Kerry North from 1981 to 2002



After serving in the foreign Office and various Embassies, Lord Powell became Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's foreign affairs and defence adviser - including Northern Ireland- in 1983. He remained in the same post for the early part of John Major's government. Since then he has served on the boards of various international companies and as an independent cross-bench member of the House of Lords

Seán Donlon, Veteran Irish diplomat of great distinction, Seán Donlon between 1971 and 1978 held a key position on the Northern Ireland desk of the Department of Foreign Affairs, contributing to the negotiation which resulted in the Sunningdale Agreement of 1974. In the next decade he became Ambassador to the United States (and, concurrently, Mexico). Seán Donlon's commitment to Northern Ireland affairs was widely praised after he returned from America and he went on to lead the Department of Foreign Affairs as Secretary-General and Head of the Irish Diplomatic Service. He played a major role in the construction and implementation of the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985.



Michael Lillis's career has included:

Irish Department of Foreign Affairs 1966-1990

Diplomatic Adviser to the Taoiseach 1981-82.

Member of Irish negotiating team leading to Anglo-Irish Agreement 1983-85.

Irish Head of Joint Secretariat of Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council, Maryfield, Belfast, 1985-1988.

Irish Permanent Representative at UN Geneva 1988 to 1990.

Co-author with the late Professor Ronan Fanning of 'Scandal and Courage: the Lives of Eliza Lynch' (Dublin 2009).

Retired from the Irish Foreign Service in 1990 and subsequently involved with Aircraft Leasing in Latin America.

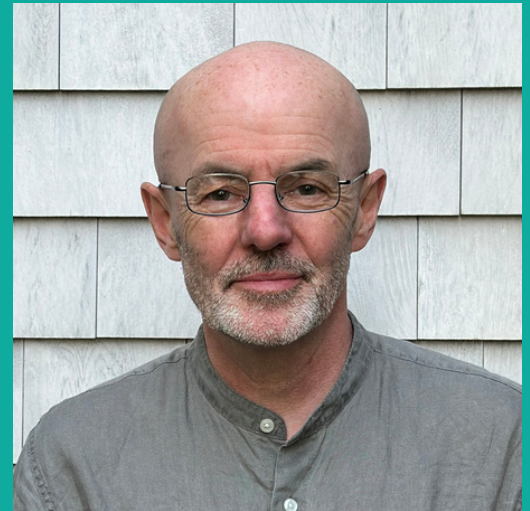
Lucy Delap is Professor of Modern British and Gender History at the University of Cambridge, Chair of the History Faculty, and a Fellow of Murray Edwards College. Her research has focused on histories of feminisms, gender, sexuality, labour, disability and religion, including *The Feminist Avant-Garde* (2007), *Knowing Their Place: Domestic Service in Twentieth Century Britain* (2011), and *Feminisms: a global history* (2020).





Simon Harris is an Irish Fine Gael politician serving as Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister for Defence since January 2025, having previously served as Taoiseach from 2024 to 2025. He has been leader of Fine Gael since 2024 and a TD for the Wicklow constituency since 2011. A Cabinet minister since 2016, he previously served as a minister of state from 2014 to 2016.

Chris Collins runs the Margaret Thatcher Foundation and is editor of its historical website www.margaretthatcher.org. He helped Lady Thatcher write her memoirs 1992-95.



Stephen Kelly is Professor of Modern Irish History and British-Irish Relations and Head of the School of Humanities at Liverpool Hope University. He is the author of several monographs, including *Gerald Boland: A life* (2024); *Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative Party and the Northern Ireland conflict, 1975-1990* (2021); 'A failed political entity': *Charles Haughey and the Northern Ireland question, 1945-1992* (2016); and *Fianna Fáil, partition and Northern Ireland, 1926-1971* (2013). Stephen's latest book, 'The Broken Emerald': *Edward Heath and the early years of the Northern Ireland Troubles, 1968-1975*, will be published next year (2026).

Professor Jennifer Todd is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, Fellow at the Geary Institute UCD, Professor (emeritus) in the School of Politics and International Relations UCD. She is on the steering committee of ARINS (analysing and researching Ireland North and South) Her research has focussed on the intersection of processes of institutional and identity change in conflict situations, with specific focus on the (Northern) Irish conflict. Her recent books include *Identity Change after Conflict: Ethnicity, Boundaries and Belonging in the Two Irelands* (2018), and the co-authored *Negotiating a Settlement in Northern Ireland* (Oxford UP, 2020). Her recent research explores how grassroots, participatory deliberation can provide channels for convergent perspectives beyond groupism. She is completing a co-authored book on the dynamics of conflict and settlement in Ireland.



John Ranelagh is a television executive and producer, and an author of many books on history and current politics, including *Thatcher's People : An Insider's Account of the Politics, the Power and the Personalities* (London, 1991) and *The Irish Republican Brotherhood 1914-1924* (Dublin, 2024). He was created a Knight First Class by King Harald V of Norway in 2013 in the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, for outstanding service in the interest of Norway.

Margaret O'Callaghan is professor of Modern Irish History and Politics at Queen's University Belfast. She has published on British high politics and the state apparatus in Ireland from the late nineteenth century to the revolution, the political position of women in independent Ireland, the genealogy of partition, the politics of commemoration, key figures in republicanism and unionism, the nationalist formation of Roger Casement, and his relation to British imperial policy, the politics of Paisley. She is currently working on Alice Stopford Green and her spheres of influence





Paul Bew, Baron Bew, of Donegore in the County of Antrim, Professor of Irish Politics at Queen's University Belfast, Bew is the author of many books including *Ireland: The Politics of Enmity, 1789-2006* (Oxford, 2007), *The Making and Unmaking of the Good Friday Agreement* (Dublin, 2007) and *Ancestral Voices in Irish Politics: Judging Dillon and Parnell* (Oxford, 2023). He played an important role in the negotiation of the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Baron Bew, of Donegore in the County of Antrim on 26 March 2007, Lord Bew was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life from 2013 to 2018

Etain Tannam, FTCD, is Associate Professor, International Peace Studies, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin. She is also Deputy Director of Trinity Long Room Hub Research Institute for the Arts and Humanities. Etain is author of *British-Irish Relations in the 21st Century* (2024, Oxford, Oxford University Press), as well as two other single-authored books and various articles in international journals. She was a member of The Constitution Unit, University College London's Working Group on Irish Unification Referendums (UCL, 2021) and is also a member of ARINS' Steering Group (a Royal-Irish Academy-Notre Dame research platform).



Sean Campbell is professor of Media, Music and Culture at ARU in Cambridge, where he is also Deputy Dean for Research and Innovation. Sean is a co-founder of the Modern Irish History Seminar at the University of Cambridge, and is the author of the award-winning book, *'Irish Blood, English Heart': Second-Generation Irish Musicians in England* (Cork University Press), which explored the role of Irish ethnicity in the lives and work of diaspora musicians such as Kevin Rowland, Shane MacGowan and The Smiths. He is currently working on a wider study of the second-generation Irish in postwar Britain.

Dr Dawn Walsh is an Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations, and Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict at University College Dublin. She is a member of the ARINS (Analysing Ireland North and South) Advisory Board and Public Opinion Research Group. The ARINS programme was established in 2020 as a partnership between the Royal Irish Academy and the University of Notre Dame's Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. Dr Walsh defended her thesis in Politics and International Relations at Dublin City University in April 2014 (external examiner Prof Brendan O'Leary). She is a graduate of Political Science from Trinity College Dublin (2007). She also has a M.Phil in International Peace Studies (Distinction) from Trinity College. Dawn was awarded a certificate in International Peacemaking from United Nations Institute for Training and Research in 2008. Her research interests also include Northern Ireland politics, the creation of inclusive institutions to manage conflict, the implementation of peace agreements, and gender and politics.



Niamh Gallagher is Associate Professor in Modern British and Irish History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St Catharine's College. She is author of the award-winning book *Ireland and the Great War: A Social and Political History* (Bloomsbury, 2019), which won the Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize in 2020, and co-editor of *The Political Thought of the Irish Revolution* (Cambridge, 2022). She is currently working on a major research project entitled *Ireland and the "ends" of the British Empire* as a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow. Niamh has appeared frequently in international media and has consulted at state-levels in both the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Mary E Daly MRIO. Emeritus Professor of Irish History, University College Dublin and for seven years, Principal of UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, she also held visiting positions at Harvard and Boston College. She was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1991 and was its President of the Royal Irish Academy in 2014, as the first woman to be appointed to the post. Awarded the RIA Gold Medal in the Humanities in 2020. She was a Commissioner of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission Of Investigation 2015-2021 and a member of the Taoiseach's Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations, a Governor of the National Gallery and a member off the Council of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.



Paul Murphy, The Lord Murphy of Torfaen, MP for Torfaen from 1987 to 2015, and served in the Cabinet from 1999 to 2005 and again from 2008 to 2009. Prior to joining the Cabinet he was Minister of State for political development in the Northern Ireland Office from 1997 to 1999 – acting as Mo Mowlam's deputy – and was largely responsible for negotiating the strand two ('North-South' or 'Island of Ireland') arrangements agreed in the Good Friday Agreement. He was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from 2002 to 2005.