



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as part of the  
Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012 - 2023



**Irish Labour History Society**

## ILHS 2nd International Conference

14th - 17th September 2023

### Thursday 14th September

Registration: 12.00 to 14.15, Liberty Hall

#### **LIBERTY HALL THEATRE.**

**14.30** Introduction and welcome to Conference by  
Shay Cody, President ILHS

**14.40-15.25** Marcel van der Linden, International  
Institute for Social History Amsterdam.

‘Labour, class and labour history since 1980’

**Chair:** Jack McGinley, (ILHS /TCD)

**15.30-17.15** Decade of Centenaries presentation on  
1923

**15.30-15.45** ‘Setting the scene, the Irish delegation to  
the ILO.’ Francis Devine, Honorary President ILHS/  
Member of the Decades of Centenaries Committee.

**15.50-17.15** ‘The admission of the new state into The  
League of Nations and membership of The Interna-  
tional Labour Organisation’. Patricia O’Donovan and  
Gerry Finnegan. **Chair:** Mary E Daly (UCD)

#### **17.15-17.30 Tea/Coffee break**

**17.35 –18.55** Labour Historiography – Irish labour  
history. ‘Two sides of the same coin? Connolly &  
Walker reassessed’ Mike Meham

‘Expanding Labour: The Irish New Wave & the New  
Global Labour History’ Christopher J V Loughlin  
‘Soviets & Workers Councils in Ireland & Europe,  
1917-23: A Comparative Study’. Olivier Coquelin

**Chair:** Francis Devine

**18.55 -19.25** ‘Towards a labour history of the Great  
Famine’ John Cunningham. **Chair:** Kevin Murphy

#### **19.30 Launch of ILHS 50th Anniversary Essays**

##### ***Labour History in Irish History***

Edited by; John Cunningham, Galway University,  
Francis Devine (SIPTU College) & Sonja Tiernan  
(Royal Irish Academy), published by Umiskin Press  
in association with the ILHS.

**Bean an Ti:** Catriona Crowe. Hon. President ILHS.

**20.15** Followed by reception in Cois Life Bar &  
Connolly Room, Liberty Hall.

Registration continues 8.15 to 8.55, Liberty Hall

### Friday 15th September

#### **LIBERTY HALL THEATRE.**

**9.00 - 9.30** ‘To the Linen Slaves of Belfast’: The  
Plight and flight of the Millies, 1800-1997’ Rebecca  
Waterson (UU). **Chair:** Donal O’Drisceoil

#### **TCD LONG ROOM HUB**

**9.00** Welcome: Professor John Horne TCD.  
‘Comparative European Histories’

**9.10-10.00** 1970 Trade Unionism in Italy & France.  
Anna Frisone & Luca Bertolani Azaredo

**Chair:** John Horne.

#### **FORSA HEAD OFFICE, NERNEY’S COURT.**

**9.00-9.45** ‘UNITE History Project’ Jim Mowatt  
**Chair:** Francis Devine

**9.50** Transfer to **Liberty Hall** for Plenary Sessions  
from 10.15 to 13.00 & 13.50 to 15.0

**10.15 - 11.00** ‘Gender, Class & Labour History  
Since 1980’ Sarah-Anne Buckley, GU,

**Chair:** Moira Leydon, ILHS Vice President/  
Assistant General Secretary ASTI

**11.05-11.50** Labour Biography; ‘Christy Ferguson’  
Charles Callan. - ‘From Textiles to human rights,  
reflections on women and trade unions in Northern  
Ireland’ Margaret Ward

**Chair:** Mags O’Brien (ILHS/SIPTU)

#### **LIBERTY HALL**

##### **11.15-13.00 ‘Oral History**

**11.55 -12.55** ‘Labour in the Newspaper Industry’;  
Ida Milne. - Dockers & their Work Practices; Joe  
Mooney. - ‘The Guinness Park Royal Brewery, Lon-  
don’. Tim Strangleman

**Chair:** Mary Muldowney, ILHS/DCC

##### **13.00 -13.45 Lunch in Liberty Hall**

#### **LIBERTY HALL**

**13.50-14.55** ‘Industrial relations, bargaining, wages  
& labour law’. - ‘Americanisation & the reshaping of  
Ireland’s Organised labour Movement’ Peter Murray.  
- ‘Political Change, Ideology & Influences in Atti-  
tudes to State Ownership of Business in Ireland.’  
Tom Turner

**Chair:** Mags O’Brien (SIPTU/ILHS)

**15.00-16.00** TU's History Public & Private 'Craft Unions'; Luke Dineen - 'Civil & Public Service Unions' Martin Maguire - 'The Irish Women Workers Union An Activist's Perspective' Therese Caherty. **Chair:** Pat Bolger (ILHS/Forsa)

**16.15** Film Session 1 – 'Jim Connell & the Red Flag', Courtesy of: Jim O'Brien, Meath Council of Trade Unions. Introduction by Francis Devine.

### **FORSA NERNEY'S COURT**

**15.15- 16.15** 'Michael Davitt' Carla King.  
'The UIL & Labour Unions' John O'Donovan  
**Chair:** Donal O'Drisceoil

**16.20-17.10** 'Planning a new education model for the Island of Ireland' Frank Connolly (SIPTU) & Lexie White (UTU). **Chair:** John Boyle INTO.

### **TCD LONG ROOM HUB**

**15.15-16.25** 'Gender History, Class, and Sexual Orientation'. 'Queer histories of those involved in the 1916-1923 revolutionary period'. Brian Crowley. 'He comes from a most respectable family: Class and policing homosex in Northern Ireland in the 1940s & 1950s.' Charles Lynch  
**Chair:** Michael Cronin, Maynooth University.

**16.30-17.00** Session on Irish Language – Sceim na gCeardchumann, Des Geraghty.  
**Chair:** Micheal Mac Donncha (ILHS/DCC)

**17.10-17.24** Proceed to Liberty Hall Theatre to be seated. N.B. Delegates to be seated by 17.25

**No admission to theatre after 17.25 as per protocol**

**Strictly admission to ticket holders only.**

**17.30-19.00** Evening Session (Includes invitees from IAIR)

**47th Countess Markievicz Memorial Lecture** in conjunction with the Irish Association of Industrial Relations (IAIR) 'Awaiting formal confirmation of our guest speaker' 'After Hobsbawm (1980) - Globalisation, Europe, and the Irish Working Class'  
**Chair/Moderator:** Michelle O'Sullivan, President IAIR .

*When this session ends all attendees will wait for 5 minutes in the theatre until the Patron's party has exited the Auditorium, again as per protocol.*

**Civic Reception confirmed**-venue to be advised viz numbers attending conference.

## **Saturday 16th September**

### **FORSA NERNEY'S COURT 9.15 TO 18.00**

**9.15** Film Session 2 – 'A Breed Apart' Gerry Gregg – film on the Slieve Ardagh miners featuring Paddy Bergin Introduction: Francis Devine (ILHS-MUI)

**9.45-10.45** Voices of Experience - 'The Health Workers Dispute, Northern Ireland, 2019.' Anne Speed, UNISON - 'Limerick Soviet: History in the Present' Mike McNamara, Limerick Trades Council' - 'A contrasting experience in organising and representing trade union members in Dublin and Kildare' Norman Croke 'SIPTU & Kildare Council of Trade Unions' **Chair:** Francis Devine (ILHS-MUI)

**10.50-11.30** – Socialism, Nationalism & Labour History. 'Whither the Workers' Republic?' Brian Hanley. **Chair:** Noel Ward (ILHS-INTO)

**11.35-12.15** Trades Councils Republic of Ireland Betty Tyrrell Collard Dublin CTU; Kieron Connolly Bray TC; Luke Dineen Cork TC; & Michael Wall Wexford T.C.; **Chair:** Pat Bolger (Forsa)

**12.20-13.10** Irish Public Policy - 'The Marriage Bar in the Civil Service 1893-1973' Laura Bambrick. 'Public Policy & Minimum Wage Regulation' Michelle O'Sullivan. **Chair:** Rachel Ryan (SIPTU)

### **13.15-13.55 Lunch**

**14.00-14.55** Workers in Literature - 'Inventing the Myth: the protestant working class in Literature' Connall Parr - 'Scottish support for the Irish Citizens Army' Steve Coyle  
**Chair:** Jack Mc Ginley. (ILHS/TCD)

**14.50-16.00** - The Peace Process, Good Friday Agreement & Brexit Trade Negotiations. 'Patricia McKee-own (Unison) and Joe Cunningham (SIPTU)'  
**Chair:** Bill McCamley. (ILHS-SIPTU)

**16.05 -17.05** Irish Labour in the Diaspora – 'The Kirkintollock Bothy Fire 1937 & Irish Seasonal Migrant work' Michael Halpenny. - The Connolly Association. Patrick Smylie,  
**Chair:** Donal O'Drisceoil

**17.10 -17.45** Film Session 3 'The Race to the Bottom' shirt industry in Derry & Bangladesh. Niall Kearney A Life. Speaker David Joyce (ICTU)

## TCD Long Room Hub

**14.05-14.45** 'Young & Migrant Workers' Yvonne O'Callaghan, ICTU Global Solidarity Committee. 'Migrant Labour in Ireland' a lived experience' Shintija Sheerin (SIPTU)

**Chair:** Fiona Dunne (ILHS/Forsa)

**14.50-16.00** Trades Councils Northern Ireland: Jim Quinn, Fermanagh Trades Council; Paddy Mackel, Belfast Trades Council; Dooley Harte (Craigavon Trades Council.

**Chair:** Gerry Murphy (DGS ICTU)

**16.05-16.35** Race, Ethnicity, Religion - 'The Irish labour movement & the Catholic Church' Gerard Madden. **Chair:** Gillian O'Brien

**16.45-17.30** Reviewing Social Partnership  
Phillip O'Connor & Jack O'Connor  
**Chair:** Jack Mc Ginley (ILHS/TCD)

**17.35** Close of Long Room Hub Sessions and vote of thanks to Long Room Hub.

## Sunday 17th September

### LIBERTY HALL

**10.00** Film 'Jer O'Leary - the Bard of Drumcondra' Introduction by Francis Devine

**10.30 -11.15** 'Social Europe and its Future' Sean Byers, Trademark. **Chair:** Owen Reidy

**11.20-12.00** 'Class & Class Structure, Globalisation & Austerity,' Esther Lynch ETUC  
**Chair:** Kevin Murphy (ILHS/KCC)

**12.00-13.00** Marxism & the Future of Socialism. 'Back to the Future-Class and its Distinction in 20th Century Intellectual Thinking' Bernd Buehlbaeher: Eugene McCartan retired GS of CPI; Helena Sheehan DCU. **Chair:** Oisín O Drisceoil

### Light Lunch 13.00 to 13.30

**13.30-14.30** Social Dialogue Discussion, Kevin Callinan (ICTU) & Danny McCoy (IBEC)  
**Chair:** Tom Geraghty (Labour Court)

**14.30 -16.00** Labour History in 21st Century Panel: Emmet O'Connor; Tish Gibbons; Henry Patterson; Mike Mecham. **Chair:** Shay Cody (ILHS)

**16.15-16.30** Conference formal closing and vote of thanks Owen Reidy, Gen Sec ICTU/Trustee ILHS.