



UCD CLINTON
INSTITUTE

Annual Review 2022





Looking back on a productive year

Greetings from all at the Clinton Institute at University College Dublin.

This has been a busy and productive year as we emerged from pandemic restrictions and more fully resumed our broad array of activities across teaching, research and outreach. This annual review highlights a range of our activities.

A landmark feature of 2022 was the launch of the new MA programme in Journalism and International Affairs, with 17 students (from 11 countries) entering the programme in September. This innovative collaboration with CNN Academy is an exciting development as we enlarge and internationalise our graduate student body and promises to be a significant programme in equipping new generations of journalists to report on critical global issues of the day.

In 2022 we not only expanded our student numbers but also our staff with the arrival of Professor Scott Lucas, who brings immense experience as a teacher, researcher and journalist to the Institute. We look forward to his contributions to our programmes and to his engagement in our planning and outreach activities going forward.

2022 saw the resumption of face-to-face outreach events, engaging public as well as academic audiences. In February, Professor Diane Negra organised the *Irish Influencers Conference*, which considered how Irishness circulates in new forms and channels of financialized social influence. In May, Dr Eugenio Lilli organised *Assessing the*

Impact of Emerging Technologies on Contemporary Society and Global Affairs, the first annual conference of the BISA International Studies and Emerging Technologies Working Group.

In November, the Institute in collaboration with Queens University Belfast and Georgetown University organised the fourth *Bridging the Atlantic* symposium, hosted at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. This was the first time the event has been hosted in Ireland and it provided lively conversations about the Ireland-US relationship in the context of broader transatlantic relations.

Looking ahead to 2023 we will be seeking to further develop and align our research networks and initiatives with our graduate programmes and public outreach activities.

2023 sees the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which has great historical import for the island of Ireland. Recognising the significant role of American actors – political and civic – in the longer history of the conflict in Northern Ireland, the Institute will be organising an international conference on *The United States and the Northern Ireland Conflict: 1960s to the Present*.

So much of the work undertaken in 2022 was made possible by the administrative prowess of Catherine Carey, Manager of the Clinton Institute, to whom we all owe thanks. I would also like to thank Ted Smyth, Chair of the Institute's Advisory Board, for his unstinting and imaginative support in all our enterprises.

Professor Liam Kennedy
Director, UCD Clinton Institute

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MA in Journalism and International Affairs Class, 2022

MA in Journalism and International Affairs

In September the Clinton Institute in collaboration with CNN Academy launched the MA in Journalism and International Affairs.

This is the first English-language Masters programme CNN has co-designed in collaboration with a university partner, combining journalistic and academic excellence in an innovative curriculum that is challenging and employment-orientated.

The MA is a one-year programme that combines practical training in audio, video, digital, and social storytelling with academic expertise in international affairs.

In today's media ecosystem, journalists need to be able to produce engaging content for a savvy digital-first audience while understanding the structures and dynamics that shape global issues and relations.

The programme will equip new generations of journalists to report on critical global issues of

the day, from climate change and humanitarian disaster to human rights and terrorism. It will appeal to and reward those with a passion to not only understand the world but explain it in ways that are informative and transformative.

From the Classroom to the Newsroom

The syllabus is co-created and delivered by CNN Academy and UCD Clinton Institute, connecting the classroom to the newsroom, affording direct collaboration with the news industry and access to best practices in cross-platform journalism and news production.

CNN journalists, editors and producers participate via live interactive seminars and also provide

hands-on audio, video and digital production training at UCD Clinton Institute to equip the students with the tools they need to tangibly apply the media lessons they are learning.

Students have the option of submitting their MA thesis in the format of multiplatform journalism with guidance from CNN journalists and producers. There will also be opportunities for students to publish work on CNN.

The practical, training components supported by CNN will be complemented by the Clinton Institute's academic expertise in the field to provide modules in research skills, international journalism, new media and international conflict, cybersecurity and political communications.





CNN Academy Newsroom Simulation

In early December ten of the MA students took part in an exciting simulation event in Abu Dhabi, hosted by CNN Academy. This week-long event brought together 100 students from around the world who are currently engaged in Academy programmes. Students worked through a realistic breaking news environment to refine and utilise the skills they have obtained throughout their learning on various programmes.

Hosted at the Yas Creative Hub in Abu Dhabi, participants worked in teams to explore a fictitious scenario that allowed them to function as reporters, news writers and content producers. This included verifying sources, attending mock press conferences, conducting mock interviews, responding to email updates, deciphering documents and navigating a custom-made simulated social media platform which was updated in real time throughout the event and included evidence, bots, decoys and news to sift through. Students had to complete a field reporting task during the simulation.

Further details

For further details on the programme content and application process: www.ucdclinton.ie/ma-in-journalism-and-international-affairs

Daksh Sharma PhD Student

My research focuses on the emergence of cyberspace, cyber operations, and cyber war, and the impact these developments have on the concept of war.

In recent years, the use of cyber operations has become increasingly prevalent in conflicts around the world. These operations, which can range from disrupting an adversary's communication networks to launching cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, have the potential to cause significant damage and disruption without the need for physical engagement.

As a result, the traditional understanding of war, which involves the use of physical force to achieve political objectives, has been called into question. Some argue that the development of cyber capabilities has made war less costly and more attractive as a means of achieving political goals. Others argue that the prevalence of cyber operations has made it more difficult to determine when a state is actually at war, as cyber attacks can be carried out covertly without a declaration of war.

My research aims to explore these issues and assess whether the concept of war needs to be re-thought in the age of cyberspace. Through the analysis of case studies and the examination of existing literature on the topic,

I aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of cyber operations in modern warfare and their implications for the concept of war.

Ultimately, my research will provide valuable insights into the changing nature of conflict in the digital age and the need for a re-evaluation of the concept of war. By better understanding the impact of cyber operations on the traditional understanding of war, policy makers and military strategists can develop more effective strategies for dealing with the challenges posed by the emergence of cyberspace as a domain of conflict.



Pictured left to right:
 Prof. Ciaran Martin (University of Oxford), Dr. Edward Burke (UCD),
 Dr. Renata Dwan (Chatham House),
 Prof. Katy Hayward (Queen's University, Belfast)

Bridging the Atlantic IV

The Clinton Institute, in conjunction with Global Irish Studies and the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University, Queens University Belfast, and the Embassy of Ireland USA, organized the *Bridging the Atlantic: Ireland and the US* symposium.

This was the fourth annual symposium and the first to take place in Ireland, hosted by the Institute at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin

Bridging the Atlantic takes soundings of the Ireland-US relationship in the context of broader transatlantic relations. It aims to deepen connections and understanding between academics, analysts and policymakers on either side of the Atlantic, even as it engages them in debate on the frictions within as well as the future of transatlantic relations.

This year's programme highlights included:

A panel on **The Future of Irish America**, which focused on the nature and staying power of this imagined community. Speakers commented on Irish culture and diaspora engagement as forms of soft power and on the shifting demographics of Irish America. They also complicated common notions of what constitutes Irish America,

engaging diversity in relation to African Americans of Irish heritage, and also stretching and straining definitions to include affinity or affiliate forms of Irishness.

A panel on **Transatlantic Relations in a Time of War** in which participants remarked on what they saw as being the most significant challenges for Transatlantic Relations in security terms at the present moment. They were also asked to comment on what they would advise the Irish Government to seek to protect or to develop in order to strengthen Ireland's security in this ongoing "time of war".

The third session, titled **The EU Role in Preserving Peace and Democracy**, took the

form of a conversation between Alexander Stubb (former Prime Minister of Finland) and David O'Sullivan (former Ambassador of the European Union to the US). It took in matters of collective security currently under discussion in Europe in response to the war in Ukraine, including discussion of the important issue of neutrality.

A panel on the **Role of Global Institutions in Peace, Equality and Security** brought together three distinguished ambassadors - Melanne Vermeer (Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security), Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ambassador of Ireland to USA) and Susan Elliott (CEO, National Committee on American Foreign Policy). The work of women peace-



Ambassador Melanne Vermeer (Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security) and Áine Lawlor (RTÉ)

Continued from page 5

builders was a core component of the discussion. The ambassadors also discussed issues that Ireland led on at the UN, including their role at the Security Council..

The final session, on **The US and the Good Friday Agreement**, took the form of a conversation between Congressmen Rep Brian Fitzpatrick (R- Pennsylvania) and Rep Bill Keating (D-Massachusetts). They underlined the continuing importance of the United States' support of the Good Friday Agreement at a time of uncertainty in British and Northern Ireland politics. A commentary on this panel was the centrepiece of a report on the event in the Irish Times.

Professor Scott Lucas compered the event and Ted Smyth, Chair of the Institute's Advisory Board, provided closing remarks. Participants decamped to a reception in Iveagh House, home of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. There we were greeted by Minister of European Affairs Thomas Byrne who spoke to the importance of Ireland's commitments to transatlantic relations.

Videos of the conference panels will be available to view on the Institute's website.

Professor Diane Negra



In 2022 I was elected a Co-Chair of the Interacademy Partnership Board and completed my work as a member of the IAP's Working Group on Predatory Journals and Conferences which culminated in the publication of our report entitled "Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences."

I served as Guest Professor at Tel Aviv University, delivered keynote addresses in the universities of La Rochelle and Erlangen and a conference paper at the American Studies Association meeting in New Orleans.

I published four scholarly articles:

- "Pack Your Patience: US Air Travel Discourse," *European Journal of Cultural Studies*
- "Of Wife Guys and Family Defenders: Towards a Typology of 21st Century Celebrity Husbands," (with Anthony McIntyre) *Journal of Gender Studies*
- "Labor, Self-Care and Respite: Neoliberal Rationalities in Sleep Crisis Rhetoric," (with Suzanne Leonard) *New Formations*
- "Perceptions on the Prevalence and Impact of Predatory Journals and Conferences: A Global Survey of Researchers," (with Ana Maria Cetto, Asfawossen Asrat, Tracey Elliott, Stefan Eriksson, Bisma Fazeen and Lai Meng Looi) *Learned Publishing*

My co-edited volume *Imagining "We" in the Age of "I": Romance and Social Bonding in Contemporary Culture* won the Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association's Edited Collection of the Year Award.

In 2023 I will continue work on my monograph *In Order to Serve You Better: Affect, Authority and Antagonism in the New Cultures of Customer Service*.

I will serve as Guest Professor at New York University, give a keynote in Lexington and in my capacity as Chair of the Royal Irish Academy's Working Group on Culture and Heritage host a conference at Academy House on "Ireland and COVID-19."

Dr. Eugenio Lilli

In May I organized an international conference at the Clinton Institute, the launch event for the British International Studies Association's International Studies and Emerging Technologies (BISA ISET) working group which I created at the end of 2021 and currently chair. I also presented a paper at the conference on US-Iran cyber competition.

In June I participated in the Academic Council of the United Nations System's Annual Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. I chaired two panels: one on emerging technologies and international relations and another on communication during crises.

In June I participated in the BISA Annual Conference in Newcastle, UK. I presented a paper

on US-Iran cyber competition.

In July I was invited to speak at the US Strategic Command's Annual Symposium in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. There I discussed my work on cyber deterrence.

I was on research leave from September to December and during this period I advanced the drafting of several papers for publication. I completed the first draft of a paper on the contribution of cyber operations to Iran's military strategy of deterrence. I went through the second and third rounds of review of a paper on the sources and methods for the study of cyber operations. I also completed the final draft of a chapter on US cyber diplomacy, part of an edited volume.



In 2023 I will be organizing a second conference of the BISA ISET working group at the Clinton Institute, probably in September. I have already secured funding from UCD and BISA to cover some of the expenses. I will also be seeking to publish the two papers completed during leave and I will finalize a book proposal on US-Iran cyber relations and seek a suitable publisher.

Prof. Scott Lucas



In Summer 2022, I published (with Robert Pee) the seminal article “Reevaluating Democracy Promotion: The Reagan Administration, Allied Authoritarian States, and Regime Change” in the *Journal of Cold War Studies*. The study, with its conceptual advance in “democracy promotion” and the empirical advance in examination of US foreign policy in the 1980s, has been well-received and is being reviewed by several academic outlets.

At the start of the year, I published the introductory essay, “The Office of the Presidency in History”, in *The Presidents* (editor Iain Dale), a collection of articles by prominent diplomats, politicians, civil servants, and academics.

My public engagement expanded with the development of *EA WorldView* (www.eaworldview.com), a leading website in news and analysis of international affairs, and with my work as a political analyst for Irish and international press, radio, and TV.

Appearances in 2022 included RTÉ, Dublin NewsTalk, the BBC’s domestic and world services, Al Jazeera (English and Arabic), NBC (US), ABC (Australia), CBC (Canada), SABC (South Africa), Deutsche Welle, France 24, EuroNews, China Radio International, TRT World (Turkey), PTV World (Pakistan), multiple Indian outlets, BBC Persian, and Iran International.

Since September, my title in these appearances has been “Clinton Institute, University College Dublin”, bringing attention to the research and output of the university.

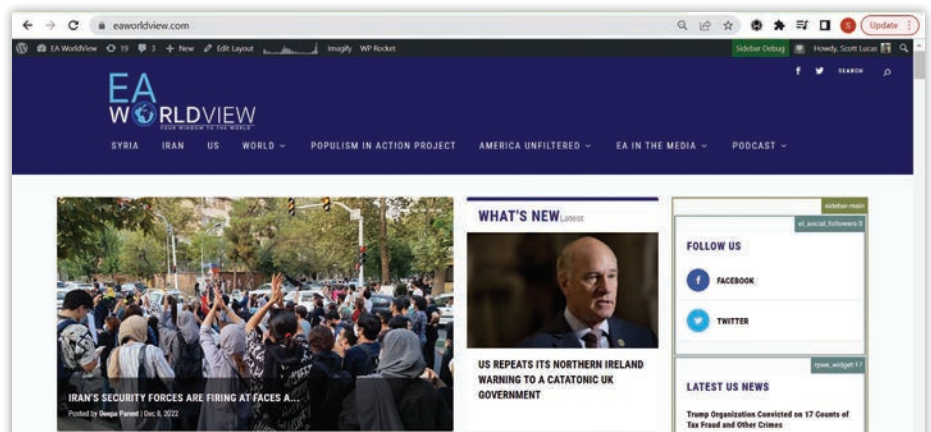
I continued my collaboration with *The Conversation*, having published 80 articles with almost 1.25 million views since 2015. Three articles published since September are badged “Clinton Institute, University College Dublin”.

With Liam Kennedy, I launched the US-Ireland portal for The Bertelsmann Foundation’s TransAtlantic Periscope (see detail elsewhere in review).

Teaching initiatives in 2022 included a new course at UCD for first-year Study Abroad students from the US, “News Media Today”. The Master’s version of the course, which I have taught in various incarnations since 2015, was redesigned this autumn, and will be linked to my second-semester initiatives in 2023 for the CNN Academy.

Teaching has been coupled with public engagement through the publication of analyses by several UCD graduates on EA WorldView. One of these graduates, Deepa Parent, has proceeded to publish with *Open Democracy*, *The Quint*, and *The Guardian*.

In 2023, I will develop a monograph *A Spectacle of Indecency* about America during the Trump era. I will work with Liam Kennedy on the hosting of an international conference on US-Irish relations. I will continue my internationally-prominent public engagement, and I will work with colleagues on the expansion of the Master’s programmes and CNN Academy.



Dr. Dolores Resano

Dr. Dolores Resano is back in Dublin after completing a two-year outgoing phase at Dartmouth College in the United States, as part of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program.

During this period Dr. Resano conducted research for the project "Transatlantic Approaches to Contemporary Literature in the Era of Trump," looking in particular at 21st-century North American and Western European literary fiction and theories of negative affect and public feelings. The stay at Dartmouth also offered the opportunity



to connect with renowned scholars Donald E. Pease and Nancy Fraser, and to attend a number of courses and high-profile academic events, among them The Futures of American Studies Institute, held every June.

During this period Dr. Resano also saw the publication of the edited collection of essays *American Literature in the Era of Trumpism* (Palgrave-Macmillan 2022), which brought together scholars from Europe and the United States to reflect on literary responses to the rise of Trumpism.

At present, Dr. Resano is working on a book project that seeks to bring together the study of 21st century literature, theories of negative affect, and the affective logics that are shaping right-wing populisms and the crisis of liberal democracies today.

She is also scheduled to teach a module on "Contemporary US Genre Fiction: Intersection, Disruption, Protest" in the Spring semester, as part of the MA in Literature & Culture.

Dr Temmuz Süreyya Gürbüz

Coming from completing a PhD during Covid-19 at the (newly rebranded) University of Galway, the start of my postdoctoral fellowship at UCD has been overly-marked by the post- prefix: post-Covid, post-Brexit, post-Trump. 2022 has been a transitional year in that regard: we saw that the term "major change" in English-speaking media generally meant how the unreliability of the UK and the US politics affected the rest of the world (hence the exhausting term "post-truth" dominating the scene).

Meanwhile this last September, my IRC-funded project on the role of visual media in the American philosopher Judith Butler's theories on gender and identity has been welcomed by the Clinton Institute for American Studies, for a number of reasons that connect its central theme to the current era of "transition." Perhaps that is to do with how Butler themselves marked their work "precisely as American" in the 1999 preface of their seminal book *Gender Trouble* (1990) due to its degree of "Americanization of French theory."



Indeed, "Americanization" continues to be a popular description when it comes to the recent shape of identity, diversity and representational politics. This politics is fundamentally related to Butler's deconstruction of identity categories (e.g. the institutional recognitions of non-binary genders), while also signalling that there is something about "Americanization" that seems to do with "appropriation." Similar to the critique of "Westernization" found in some of the non-Western authorities in the world, we see that the critique of "Americanization" can end up in the dehumanization of marginalized

identities; one of the biggest examples of this can be found in the practices of Erdoğan's government in my home country Turkey.

It is certainly an interesting time for a researcher from "the Middle East" to find themselves embarking on a theoretical study on representation in a markedly Western institution, and I'd like to take this opportunity to investigate such transnational (or should we say post-national) reformulations in Western media in my research at Clinton. Perhaps, could there lie, at the roots of the critique of "Americanized politics" of identity, the very appropriation of the colonial practice itself? This is also to suggest looking closer at who adopts the language of the marginal to be able to regulate the voice of the marginalized. It does not come as a surprise that Judith Butler's most recent phenomenological work on the effect of the pandemic, *What World Is This?* (2022), looks at the potentials of reformulating our ability to live as equals.

Check out Temmuz's recent publication on the filmmaker Sally Potter's post-9/11 film *YES* in the fall 2022 issue of *Jump Cut* for a further discussion on political cinema and post-feminist film theory.

Transatlantic Periscope

The Transatlantic Periscope is a new online platform created by the Bertelsmann Foundation to provide users with an in-depth curation of the most essential news, analysis, and data related to bilateral relationships between the United States and each of the 27 members of the European Union as well as the United Kingdom. The Clinton Institute, led by Professor Scott Lucas, curates the Ireland section of the platform and took up this role in August.

Transatlantic Periscope represents an ambitious undertaking by the Foundation, responding to common frustrations with the fragmented nature of today's media offerings on transatlantic relations, the lack of context and curation, and the inaccessibility of continuous coverage beyond some catchy headlines. The Periscope reaches far beyond a simple RSS feed or a report card for transatlantic relationships. Rather, it seeks to provide trusted and curated content, relevant context, and the tracking of trends over time. The aspiration is for the Periscope to become the go-to platform for those interested in understanding all aspects of the transatlantic relationship. The core of the Periscope will be bilateral relationships that offer an at-a-glance snapshot of the state of play, and easy access to deeper analysis and data.

The US-Ireland portal draws upon the best in reporting and analysis from Irish, American, and international media to open up critique of the political, economic, and social dynamics. The combination of policy

TRANSATLANTIC PERISCOPE

View Relationships Deep Dives Search

Negative Positive

Featured



Ireland and the United States | UCD Clinton Institute

Ireland and the US share a long and deep history based on the large numbers of people who have left this island to settle in...

papers, analyses, and articles enables the reader both to track the trends in the US-Irish relationship and to build specialist expertise in the leading issues shaping those trends.

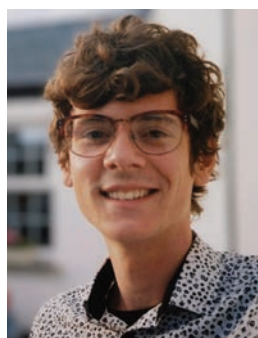
The design of the portal enables promotion of the work of the Clinton Institute and UCD through publications, conferences, and public engagement such as the *Bridging The Atlantic* initiative. This will be further developed in 2023 in cooperation with Georgetown University and other partners from the Government, academic, and NGO sectors.

Eoin O'Gaora

During the final year of my undergraduate degree at UCD, I attended classes taught by Professor Negra within the Clinton Institute, who encouraged me to develop my research interests and consider postgraduate studies at the Institute.

I initially joined the Clinton Institute as an MLitt student in September of 2021, after graduating with a BA from UCD. My research is focused upon the divide between the urban and rural spheres of Ireland in contemporary Irish media, I was supervised by Professor Negra, who provided me with invaluable supervision, advice, and resources to support my research.

Whilst working within the Clinton Institute, I also tutored in Film Studies in UCD, teaching classes at stages one and two. In February of 2022, I delivered a conference paper at the Clinton Institute's Irish Influencers Conference, addressing RTÉ reality programme *Iarnród Enda*, and delivered another paper in May, at Dundalk Institute of Technology, focusing on the popular image of former Taoiseach Enda Kenny. Further developing the ideas put forward in these conference papers, I authored a journal article, which is currently under review. As a student, studying in the Clinton Institute, I was able to meet several prominent academics from other universities, whose advice, input, and support was extremely valuable in further developing my



research. Professor Liam Kennedy graciously served as the chair of my research supervisory panel, and of my later transfer panel, supporting me throughout my studies.

In September of 2022, after a year as an MLitt student, I successfully transferred to the PhD programme

within the Clinton Institute. I continue to work as a tutor in UCD and to prepare articles and conference papers to disseminate my research. My MLitt thesis has been further developed into a PhD thesis, upon which I continue to work, under the title of *Deceptive Dualisms: Unstable Media Depictions of Rural and Urban Ireland*. Another published article, on the RTÉ crime-drama series *Kin*, is forthcoming in 2023.

Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Summer Institute

Odin O'Sullivan PhD Student, University College Dublin



The Futures of American Studies Institute, which I attended on a generous scholarship from the University College Dublin Clinton Institute of American Studies, featured an incredibly varied collection of plenary speakers whose engagement with theory and analysis has widened my own horizons and spurred me on to deepen my research.

Each plenary session provided new ways to think about and discuss American studies. Professor Sandy Alexander's work on the "indifferent or contemptuous Black gaze" as a rupture in the image, Professor Jack Halberstam's notion of "unworlding" and the wonderful roundtable discussion of Professor R.A. Judy's new book "Sentient Flesh: Thinking in Disorder, Poiesis in Black" were stand outs, although every talk was engaging and generative.

In our seminar group, led ably by Professor Donald E. Pease, each participant presented new and exciting work across many disciplines within the larger field of American studies. The discussion about that work not only provided useful insight to the presenter themselves but to all seminar participants. It would be remiss of me not to note the significant intellectual generosity of Professor Pease and the whole institute faculty. After each of us presented our work Professor Pease would provide detailed and substantial feedback as well as work to offer solutions to problems that had come up in the course of our discussions. Numerous other plenary speakers and faculty members came along to the seminars and engaged with the work of the participants.

I have come away from the Futures Institute with numerous notes, comments, suggestions, and a lengthy reading list, as well as a sense of global collegiality. It was incredibly illuminating, and truly a pleasure and a privilege to have been able to attend.

America Unfiltered

Since its launch in January 2020 America Unfiltered has developed as a key resource to support teaching, research and outreach programmes and projects. It is a multimedia platform that hosts online commentary, podcasts and videos.



The commentary and podcasts have editorial teams made up of CI faculty and graduate students. They cover issues in contemporary American politics, foreign policy, media and culture and also in Ireland-US relations and Irish America.

The production processes are linked to the Masters programmes through classroom teaching and students learn hands-on skills in digital editing and storytelling. The platform is also used to host webinars and online conferences and symposia.

For more information, see: www.ucdclinton.ie/america-unfiltered





UCD CLINTON INSTITUTE

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