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Clinton Institute and CNN Academy Launch New MA Programme

UCD Clinton Institute and CNN Academy are partnering to create an innovative new Masters programme in Journalism and International Affairs that will commence in January 2022.

This is the first Masters programme in English that CNN has co-designed in collaboration with a university partner, very directly connecting the classroom to the newsroom with an innovative curriculum that is challenging and employment-orientated.

The new MA programme will feature world-class journalism and industry-led practical training combined with academic expertise in international affairs.

It will equip new generations of journalists to report on critical global issues of the day, from climate change, to human rights to 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.



Director of the Clinton Institute
Professor Liam Kennedy.

This is a timely initiative, as there is a growing need to develop our capacities to understand and respond to global challenges. In a time of acute global concern about the status of trusted expertise and truthful media this collaboration between UCD and CNN underlines a shared commitment to advancing knowledge and empowering people to make informed decisions about the worlds around and beyond them.

“At a time when CNN’s journalism is proving more vital than ever before, we are pleased to be collaborating with UCD to share knowledge, expertise and first-hand experience from across CNN to encourage and empower the next generation of journalists.” *Simon Desta, Vice President, News Operations, International Newsource at CNN*

There has been much discussion worldwide about declining trust in social, political and media institutions and the rise of populism, partisanship and polarisation - all of this further fuelled by



CNN correspondent Donnie O’Sullivan.

debates over “fake news” and disinformation that have put the value of news media centre stage in national and international affairs.

To mark the launch of the new Masters programme we hosted an online conversation on **“The Future of News Journalism,”** introduced by UCD President Andrew Deeks and featuring CNN correspondent Donnie O’Sullivan and director of the Clinton Institute Professor Liam Kennedy.

<https://www.ucdclinton.ie/homepage-banner/launch-event-cnn-academy-ma>

Students on the programme will learn approaches to storytelling, international standards and ethics in journalism, and verification techniques. Sessions led by experienced CNN producers, journalists and editors will also include breaking news, field reporting and how to cover critical global issues such as the environment, along with different narrative formats, audience engagement and digital techniques and tools.

“We are at the dawn of a new age of political communications, defined by a growing complexity of media systems and communication abundance. It can be confusing and frustrating to make sense of the world today - we need to develop new skills and challenge old assumptions to do so. That is what this new MA programme aims to do.”

*Professor Liam Kennedy,
Director of UCD Clinton Institute*

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The practical training components supported by CNN Academy will be complemented by the Clinton Institute's academic expertise to provide core modules in research skills, international conflict, cybersecurity, and political communications. The course will help students to understand the structures and dynamics that shape global issues and relations and how to report on them.

Work produced by students during the MA programme using CNN material will feature on the Clinton Institute's media platform (America Unfiltered) that provides a range of media

productions (commentary, podcasts and videocasts). The platform will be integrated with teaching and learning on the new MA, providing students with opportunities in online storytelling and news media production. There will also be opportunities for students to publish work on CNN.

The programme is designed to equip students with a foundational understanding of newsroom best practices and trends shaping the way we report the news and cover stories. On graduation they will have learned skills to create and produce multimedia journalism, to think conceptually about

newsmaking practices and about their relationship to environments of international affairs. The MA will enhance student career pathways, principally in the international news industry and also in ancillary sectors that value knowledge of international communication.

For more details on the MA in Journalism and International Affairs, please visit: <https://www.ucdclinton.ie/ma-in-journalism-and-international-affairs>

Bridging the Atlantic – Ireland and the US



On November 17, 2020, the Clinton Institute in conjunction with the Global Irish Studies Initiative and the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University, the William J. Clinton Leadership Institute at Queen's University Belfast, the Washington Ireland Program, and the Embassy of Ireland USA, hosted the second annual "**Bridging the Atlantic**" Conference.

At a time of significant political and economic upheavals there was much to consider in the relations between the two nations, including how they would develop in the wake of Brexit and of the November elections in the

US. This online symposium provided an opportunity to reflect on key dimensions of Ireland-US relations at this time.

President Bill Clinton provided remarks on "**Atlantic Relations in a New Era.**" Speakers included Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Danial Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to the US and Congressman Peter King.

Watch the full symposium here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQMpmLLLClg

Professor Diane Negra Research Update

In the just concluded academic year I published two books: a monograph on Alfred Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt* and a co-edited collection entitled *Imagining "We" in the Age of "I": Romance and Social Bonding in Contemporary Culture*. In addition, I published eight journal articles and book chapters addressing such subjects as culture and climate in television's *The Pioneer Woman*, YouTube's first-class travel videos, and the new "plutocratic postfeminism" as embodied by figures like Ivanka Trump (the latter in Liam Kennedy's *Trump's America*). I was pleased to collaborate with Anthony McIntyre on

"Ireland Inc." for the *International Handbook of Irish Studies*, with Anthony and research student Odin O'Sullivan on an analysis of representations of the "Dadbod," and with Julia Leyda for a piece on the cultural archetype of the "Karen."

Through the year I continued to serve as Chair of the Irish Fulbright Commission. In March, I took up the leadership of the Royal Irish Academy's Working Group on Culture and Heritage. Throughout the year I served on the Interacademy Partnership's Working Group on Predatory Journals and Conferences and participated in the first roll-out of our Group's

findings in June co-convening a webinar for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Shortly before concluding my five-year term as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Television and New Media* I was proud to publish a special issue of the journal devoted to Contemporary Irish Television (special issue editor Marcus Free). In February I had the opportunity to deliver a research seminar on *Shadow of a Doubt* for my alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin. In May I delivered a Royal Irish Academy Discourse "Celebrity Culture Up To And In The Pandemic."

Dr. Eugenio Lilli Research Update

In the year 2020-21 I published two new academic articles on cyber security issues. One is "President Obama and US Cyber Security Policy" in the *Journal of Cyber Policy*.

This article is a study of the key policy measures advanced by the Obama administration in the realm of cyber space which directly affected US national security in the core areas of homeland security, defence, and foreign policy. The other article is "Redefining Deterrence in Cyberspace: Private Sector Contribution to National Strategies of Cyber Deterrence" in the *Journal of Contemporary Security Policy*. This article explores the nature and the desirability of private sector

contribution to national strategies of cyber deterrence. Furthermore, I participated (virtually) in the International Studies Association's (ISA) annual conference, joining a roundtable discussing the future of US soft power in international relations, as well as presenting a paper discussing the concept of cyber deterrence and the role of the private sector in it. Looking ahead, I am currently researching two new projects. One is a critical study of the methodologies used to collect empirical evidence in cyber international relations. The other is an analysis of the concept of cyber resilience, an increasingly popular yet under-theorized concept in cyber security studies. Finally, I have successfully

applied for a grant to organize and host a small international conference or symposium exploring the impact of emerging technologies on contemporary societies."

It is important to link our research and teaching and I am glad to report that over the last year there was a marked uptick in the number of requests for supervision in the broad areas of US foreign policy and cyber international relations. This is evidence that there is a growing interest in the areas of teaching and research we have specialized in at the Clinton Institute.

Trump's America Book and Discussions

In October 2020, Edinburgh University Press published *Trump's America: Political Culture and National Identity*, edited by Professor Liam Kennedy. It is an international collection of essays, featuring contributions from leading scholars across a range of disciplines as well as political journalists. It examines the disruption to the American political system and shifting conceptions of national identity in the wake of Trump's election, illuminates the convergence of political life and entertainment in the Trump era, and the ways in which the American public sphere is being radically reconfigured by new and social media to polarise American political discourse.

Publication of the book was supported by a webinar discussion on "Trump's America", involving several contributing authors and by a roundtable discussion at the 2021 British Association for American Studies conference – <https://www.ucdclinton.ie/events/trumps-america>



America Unfiltered is a Key Resource



Mapping Biden's China Policy

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



Webinar: What next for US?

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.

During the 2020 election CI regularly covered key issues and events via commentary, podcasts and webinars including the 6th January insurrection in Washington.



American Carnival: The Aesthetic Politics of Trumpist Insurrection

For more information, see:

<https://www.ucdclinton.ie/america-unfiltered>

In 2021, CI produced a series of podcasts on Irish-American politics, titled **"The Last Hurrah"**. It featured guests from politics, news media, and diplomacy as well as academia.

See: <https://www.ucdclinton.ie/america-unfiltered>

Transatlantic Literatures

Dr. Dolores Resano completed a two-year Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellowship in late 2020 and has begun her new research project, **"Transatlantic Approaches to Contemporary Literature in the Era of Trump,"** funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship. Dr. Resano was delayed in her transfer to Dartmouth College in the United States, where she was

bound to complete two years of research before her return phase to the CI in 2022. After working remotely with Prof. Donald Pease and Prof. Liam Kennedy for the first six months of the project, Dr. Resano is now finalizing plans to move to Dartmouth in Summer 2021. The project will continue to examine 21st-century American and European fiction from a transatlantic perspective, with a special emphasis on the intersections of literature,

politics, affect and public discourse, and hopes to offer a renewed and innovative perspective on transatlantic studies and on some of the priorities identified in the EU's H2020 framework ("Europe in a changing world— inclusive, innovative and reflective societies"), thus contributing to Europe's ability to address present and future societal challenges.

Dr. Dolores Resano

NEO-CHARISMATIC EVANGELICALISM IN THE TIME OF TRUMP

Dr. S. Jonathon O'Donnell completed an Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellowship at the Clinton Institute in early 2021. Following a stint lecturing on American religion and politics in Japan following completion of their PhD, they arrived at the CI in October 2018 to commit to new in-depth research projects on the intersections of religion, politics and theory during the Trump presidency. Focusing on the project "Neo-Charismatic Evangelicalism in the Time of Trump: Demonology, Authoritarianism, and

'Post-Truth' Politics" under the guidance of Professor Liam Kennedy, their research during their time at the institute saw the completion and publication of O'Donnell's first monograph, *Passing Orders: Demonology and Sovereignty in American Spiritual Warfare* (Fordham University Press, 2021), as well as the publication of a number of high-quality research articles in the journals *Religion*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and *Political Theology*, with several other pieces in review and a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Culture and Religion* on

"Political Demonologies: Race, Gender, and Coloniality." Following the completion of the fellowship, O'Donnell has taken up a Visiting Scholar position at Queen's University Belfast, where they are continuing to work on the intersections between Christian demonology and systems of dehumanization, now with a new focus on geography and the environmental humanities.

Dr. S. Jonathon O'Donnell

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