

# Women's History Association of Ireland (WHAI) Annual Conference 2014

*Cumann na mBan 100: 1914-2014*



April 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin

Conveners

Dr Mary McAuliffe, UCD/WHAI

Dr Conor Reidy, UL/WHAI

Dr Leeann Lane, MDI(DCU)/WHAI

Gerri O'Neill, MDI(DCU)/WHAI

*This conference was held with the generous assistance of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, UCD Women's Studies, and Dept of Irish Studies, Mater Dei Institute of Education (DCU)*

*Cumann na mBan 100 Conference Organising Committee: Dr Mary McAuliffe, Dr Conor Reidy, Dr Leeann Lane, Gerri O'Neill*

# **Cumann na mBan 100 – 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> April Collins Barracks.**

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**11-12am. Tea/Coffee and Registration**

**11.30 Welcome and Conference Opening by Minister Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Palatine Room**

**12-1.30pm - Parallel Sessions**

**Panel 1:Palatine Room: Chair: Dr Mary McAuliffe**

**Images of Cumann na mBan**

Liz Gillis, Kilmainham Jail Museum

*'Love and Loss in the Irish Revolution'*

Kirste McCool, University of Brighton

*The images of de Markievicz*

Claire Gibbons, Trinity College Dublin

*Women, National Identity and the paintings of Paul Henry*

**Panel 2:A/V Room; Chair: Dr Ida Milne**

**Women's 'work' 1912-1920**

Dr So Young Park, Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota, USA

*The Political and Humanitarian Work of Dora Shorter, 1915-1918*

Gerri O'Neill, Mater Dei Institute of Education (DCU)

*"Stop the blasted forming fours, get out of Cumann na mBan and do some work" - (Michael Collins to Moira Kennedy O'Byrne, 1919.)*

Pamela McKane, York University, Toronto, Ontario

*"No idle sightseers": The Ulster Women's Unionist Council and the Ulster Crisis (1912-1914)*

**1.30-2.00 Break**

**2.00-3.00 - Keynote speaker 1**

**Chair: Dr Mary McAuliffe, Palatine Room**

**Dr Joost Augusteijn**

*'The role of women in shaping IRA tactics, 1913-1998. The case of the hunger strike'*

**3.00-4.45 Parallel Sessions~**

**Panel I: Palatine Room: Chair – Dr Sarahanne Buckley**

**Female activism – continuity and change**

Dieter Reinisch, University of Vienna, Austria

*The Forgotten Cumann na mBan: Irish Republican Women during the Northern Irish Troubles*

Siobhan Delaney, University College Cork

*Republican women TDs 1921-1932"*

Dr Gearóid Ó Faoleán, University of Limerick

*Unbroken continuity? Cumann na mBan and female IRA volunteers during the 'Troubles'*

Eamonn T. Gardiner, NUI, Galway  
*The Other Auxiliaries: Lady Police Searchers and the Anglo-Irish War*

**Panel 2:A/V Room: Chair Dr Sandra McAvoy**

***Femininity, activism and ‘speaking the truth’ – portrayals of activist women***

Holly Dunbar, University of Southampton

*'The Irishwoman: Maid, Wife and Mother': Constructions of Irish femininity in the mainstream nationalist press.*

Claire McGrath Guerin, UCC

*“Speaking truths”? The role of women in publicity during the Irish Civil War.*

Dr Christi McCallum, University of Southern Indiana

*'The Daughters Who Served Her in Danger': Women, Family, and Revolutionary Activism in Ireland, 1912-1923*

Dr Clare Gorman, National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

*'You'd do far more work with a knife an' fork than ever you'll do with a shovel': The Portrayal of Gender within Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock*

4.45-5.00- *Break - teas and coffees*

**5.00-6.00-Keynote speaker 2**

***Chair; Dr Conor Reid, Palatine Room***

***Dr Margaret Ward***

*"Unmanageable Revolutionaries revisited: the early years of Cumann na mBan"*

6-7.30 –Conference official opening, Book launch and wine reception

Dr Mary McAuliffe, President of the WHAI, will launch Senia Paseta's *Irish Nationalist Women; 1900-1918* (Cambridge University Press)

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.00 a.m. -9.30 a.m. Registration**

**9.30-11.00 a.m. Parallel Sessions**

**Panel I: Chair Dr Sarahanne Buckley; Palatine Room**

***Mining for memories of Cumann na mBan***

Dr Kevin McNamara, Fellow of the Institute of Irish Studies, Liverpool University

*Cumman na mBan in the Diaspora – the Liverpool Experience*

Tomás Mac Conmara, University of Limerick

*'They men would talk amongst themselves, she was a secondary influence' - The position of Cumann na mBan in the Social Memory of the Anglo-Irish War of Independence in Clare*

Dr Hélène O'Keefe, Independent Scholar

*'Mining the Layers of Memory': An examination of the oral history of female participation in the 1916 Rising*

**Panel 2: Chair Dr Jennifer Redmond; A/V Room**

***Writing female Biography – does membership matter?***

Dr Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, Harvard University

*Was Dr. Kathleen Lynn a member of Cumann na mBan and does it matter?*

Helen Litton, MA, Independent Scholar

*Kathleen Clarke*

Maeve Casserly, Trinity College Dublin

*'Bridging the Divide' – Rosie Hackett*

Anthony J. Jordan, Independent Scholar

*Maud Sheehan-Griffin*

**11.00-12.00 Keynote speaker 3**

**Chair: Dr Conor Reidy, Palatine Room**

**Dr Marie Coleman**

*Cumann na mBan and the Military Service Pensions Collection'.*

**12.00pm. 1.00 p.m. Lunch and WHAI AGM in the Palatine Room**

**1.00pm. – 2.30 p.m. Parallel Sessions**

**Panel I: Chair: Dr Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh, Palatine Room**

***Women's revolutionary narratives, 1912-18***

Professor Senia Paseta, St. Hugh's College, University of Oxford

*Cumann na mBan, Nationalism and Feminism in Ireland, 1912-14.*

Professor Lucy McDiarmid, Montclair State University

*The Daly, O'Hanrahan, and Ryan Sisters and the Kilmainham Farewell*

Fionnuala Walsh, Trinity College Dublin

*"A mischievous manifesto": Cumann na mBan, identity formation and the Great War*

**Panel 2: Chair Gerri O'Neill, A/V Room**

***Cumann na mBan and local histories.***

Ailbhe Rogers, The National University of Ireland, Maynooth,

*Cumann na mBan in Co. Louth, 1914-23*

Helen Litton, MA, Independent Scholar

*Cumann na mBan, Limerick*

Siobhan Keane Hopcraft, Digital Arts & Humanities, University College Cork.

*"A few good women: the achievements of some West Cork women in 1919"*

**3.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. Parallel Sessions**

**Panel 1: Dr Jennifer Redmond, A/V Room**

***(non)Politics and death – Gender and the Irish Revolution***

Professor Eunan O'Halpin, Trinity College Dublin

*'Gender and death in the Irish Revolution, 1916-1921'.*

Dr Riona Nic Congáil, St Patricks, Drumcondra (DCU)

*The Politics of Being Non-Political: Agnes O'Farrelly and the Establishment of Cumann na mBan*

Dr Ida Milne, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra

*The 1918-19 influenza pandemic, women revolutionaries and the 'German Plot': a disease adapts itself to the revolutionary cause?*

**Panel 2: Chair: Dr Conor Reidy, Palatine Room**

***The Archives and Cumann na mBan***

*Cecile Gordon – Military Archives*

*Niall Bergin – Kilmainham Jail Museum*

*Sandra Heise - NMI, Collins Barracks*

*Dr Kelly Fitzgerald – UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics*

**4.30 p.m. -5.00 p.m. Break – teas and coffees**

5.00pm-6.00 pm

**Keynote speaker: Chair Dr Mary McAuliffe, Palatine Room**

**Dr John Borgonovo**

*Gender, Political Mobilisation, and the Cork Cumann na mBan*

**6-7.30pm History Ireland Hedge school and Conference Close, Palatine Room**

*Facilitator. Tommy Graham, History Ireland.*

**Dr Joost Augusteijn, Dr John Borgonovo, Dr Senia Paseta, Dr Leeann Lane**

## **Biographies of the Keynote Speakers**

**Dr Joost Augusteijn** is a lecturer at Leiden University. He has previously held posts at the University of Amsterdam, Trinity College, Dublin and Queens University Belfast, and has taught at the College of William and Mary. He is the author of *From Public Defiance to Guerrilla Warfare: The Experience of Ordinary Volunteers in the Irish War of Independence 1916–1921* (1996), and *Patrick Pearse: The Making of a Revolutionary* (2010), as well as the editor of several volumes on Irish history and beyond.

**Dr John Borgonovo** is a historian in the School of History, University College Cork. He has written extensively on the Irish Revolution. He edited *Florence and Josephine O'Donoghues' War of Independence* (Irish Academic Press, 1996), which told the story of the War of Independence intelligence agent Josephine Brown. His latest book, *The Dynamics of War and Revolution, Cork City 1916-1918* (Cork University Press, 2013), studies the transformation of nationalist politics in Cork city and devotes chapters to gender issues and Cumann na mBan.

**Dr Marie Coleman** is a Lecturer in the School of History and Anthropology and a Senior Fellow in the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's University Belfast. Her current research project looks at the experience of Irish revolutionary veterans after independence and she has published a number of articles on the award of military service pensions to former revolutionaries. Her most recent publication is a text book on the Irish revolution - *'The Irish Revolution, 1916-1923'* (Routledge, 2014) - and her other books include *'County Longford and the Irish Revolution, 1910-1923'* and *'The Irish Sweep: A history of the Irish Hospitals Sweepstake, 1930-1987'*.

**Dr Margaret Ward** was, from 2005 until 2013, Director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency, a regional organization for women, based in Belfast with a mission to 'advance women's equality and participation in society by working to transform political, economic, social and cultural conditions.' She has also worked as an academic at Bath Spa University and the University of the West of England and was research fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University of Belfast. Her publications include *Unmanageable Revolutionaries: Women and Irish nationalism*, published in 1983, the first major study of Irish nationalist women; biographies of Maud Gonne and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and (with Louise Ryan) edited studies of *Irish Women and nationalism* and *Irish Women and the Vote*.