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

Cumann na mBan 100: 1914-2014

April 4th/5th
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 – 4th / 5th April Collins Barracks.

Friday 4th 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 I: 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 Reinsch, 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 Faoléán, 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 Reidy, 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 5th 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
*Cumann 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’Keeffe, 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
Maevé 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
Dr Ríona 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 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.