

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

To reserve a place please email Dr. Conor Reidy, WHAI Honorary Secretary at Conor.Reidy@ul.ie stating your academic affiliation, if any.

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 – Registration

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:Ante 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 - teas and coffees ~

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 Sarah-Anne 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

Cumann na mBan; 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: Ante 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

We are delighted to announce that Minister Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Dept of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will formally open *Cumann na mBan 100* and launch Senia Paseta’s *Irish Nationalist Women: 1900-1918* (Cambridge University Press)

Saturday 5th April

9.00am – 9.30 am Registration/Tea/Coffee

9.30-11.00 am Parallel Sessions

Panel I – Chair Dr Sarah-Anne 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: Ante 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, Ante 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: Chair – Dr Jennifer Redmond, Ante 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 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 (DCU)

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*.