



The Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at  
University College Dublin

presents

## A Symposium on Emergent Nations: Australia and Ireland in the First World War



### Program:

Prof Keith Jeffery: "Ireland, Gallipoli and the commemoration of the Great War"

Prof David Fitzpatrick: "Irish, Australians, and Irish Australians in the Great War: some statistics"

Prof Carl Bridge: "The failure of the idea to form a lasting imperial cabinet & federation, c. 1917-21"

Prof Jeff Kildea: "Shirkers and Sinn Feiners: the Australian Irish and the First World War"

Dr Conor Mulvagh: "Commemoration in stone: Ireland, the Celtic Fringe and Australia considered"

Dr Jennifer Wellington: "Displaying the nation: WW1 exhibitions in Britain & Australia, 1917-1925"

**Friday 17 October 2014 at 10 am to 4.15 pm**  
**Room K114 Newman Building**  
**University College Dublin**

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**For catering purposes please advise by 15 October if you will be attending the symposium**

# **Emergent Nations: Australia and Ireland in the First World War – Gallipoli, Conscription and Commemoration**

## **A Symposium at University College Dublin 17 October 2014**

A common and long-held belief in Australia is that the First World War consummated the union of the Australian colonies that had occurred in 1901, leading to the true birth of the Australian nation. That view has been contested, not least by former Australian prime minister Paul Keating who in 2008 described as “utter and complete nonsense” the idea that the nation was born again at Gallipoli. Nevertheless, the First World War is widely recognized as significant in the emergence of the Australian nation.

Ireland too emerged after the war as a nation, or perhaps a nation once again, with the war playing a vital role in shaping the revolution that gave rise to the Irish state.

For both nations three shared experiences of the war were of particular significance in the nation-building process – Gallipoli, conscription and commemoration – but operating in opposite directions.

For Australia, Gallipoli is said to be the crucible of the nation, the event that forged the inhabitants of the six former colonies into citizens of an Australian nation. For Ireland, Gallipoli is said to have marked the turning point of support for the war, serving to divide the Irish people in their attitudes towards the war and the British Empire.

For Australia, conscription was a source of conflict, dividing the nation into pros and antis and splitting the governing Labor Party. In Ireland the imposition of conscription in 1918 united Irish nationalists in their determination to resist it.

For Australia, the commemoration of those who fought and died in the war began before war’s end and has continued largely unabated for almost one hundred years, contributing to the sense of Australian nationhood. For Ireland, the process of nation building resulted in commemoration having a chequered history with Ireland’s war dead long being regarded by many as remnants of a best-forgotten imperial past.

The aim of the symposium is to examine Australia’s and Ireland’s shared experiences of the First World War and to explore the different ways in which the war contributed to the emergence of these two nations.

For further information contact:

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## **Program for the Symposium:**

# **Emergent Nations: Australia and Ireland in the First World War**

17 October 2014

University College Dublin, Newman Building, Room K114

10 am: Arrival and morning tea

10.30-10.45 am: Introduction and opening remarks by Jeff Kildea, Keith Cameron Chair of Australian History at University College Dublin.

### **Session 1 (Chair: Dr Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin, Head of School of History & Archives, University College Dublin)**

10.45-11.30 am

Prof Carl Bridge (Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London): "The failure of the idea to form a lasting imperial cabinet and federation, c. 1917-21"

11.30 am -12.15 pm

Prof Keith Jeffery (Professor of British History, Queen's University Belfast): "Ireland, Gallipoli and the commemoration of the Great War"

12.15-1.00 pm

Prof David Fitzpatrick (Professor of Modern History, Trinity College Dublin): "Irish, Australians, and Irish Australians in the Great War: some statistics"

1.00-1.45 pm: Lunch

### **Session 2 (Chair: TBA)**

1.45-2.30 pm

Prof Jeff Kildea (Keith Cameron Chair, University College Dublin): "Shirkers and Sinn Feiners: the Australian Irish and the First World War"

2.30-3.15 pm

Dr Conor Mulvagh (Lecturer in Irish History, University College Dublin): "Commemoration in stone: Ireland, the Celtic Fringe and Australia considered"

3.15-4.00 pm

Dr Jennifer Wellington (Lecturer, University College Dublin): "Displaying the nation: First World War exhibitions in Britain and Australia, 1917-1925"

4.00-4.15 pm

Closing remarks

### **Notes:**

1. Papers will be about 30 minutes in length allowing about 15 minutes for discussion
2. The Symposium will start at the conclusion of the launch of the Irish Anzacs Database, which will begin in Rm K114 at 8.30 am for 9 am, finishing at about 10 am. The Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan TD will be launching the database along with the Australian Ambassador Dr Ruth Adler in a simultaneous online event held at UCD in Dublin and at the University of NSW in Sydney.