

# 'REVOLUTIONARY' LAW & SOCIAL REALITIES: A CENTENARY RETROSPECTIVE



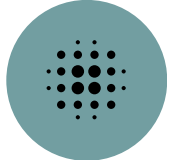
**WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2024**

19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2



**Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann  
Royal Irish Academy**

# OVERVIEW



*Supported by the Royal Irish Academy*

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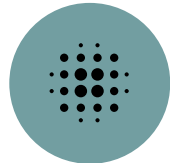
This half-day conference brings together experts in the fields of history, law, gender and post-colonial studies to explore socio-legal currents in early 20th century Ireland.

A particular focus will be the alternative legal system established under the First Dáil, known as the 'Dáil', 'Republican' or 'Sinn Féin' Courts.

Drawing on new archival research supported by the Royal Irish Academy, fresh light will be shone on the operation of these courts, the everyday concerns of those using them, and the courts' role in maintaining social order during a turbulent period.

The broader political, social and personal contexts of the period will also be surveyed, including the underexplored dimension of gender in the formation of the Irish state.

# AGENDA



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**8.45**

*Tea/coffee*

**9.30**

*Welcoming remarks - John Biggins BL*

**9.45**

*Opening address - The Hon. Mr Justice Gerard Hogan*

The Count Plunkett *habeas corpus* application and the end of the Dáil Supreme Court

**10.15**

*Dr Heather Laird - University College Cork*

Law and the Counter-State in Revolutionary Ireland: The Dáil Courts as the Legal Front of the War of Independence

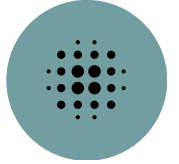
**10.45**

*Dr Barry Whelan - Law Society of Ireland*

Michael Noyk - Legal Advisor to Michael Collins during the War of Independence

**11.15**

*Tea/coffee*



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## **11.30**

*Dr Leeann Lane - Dublin City University*

The 'most conservative-minded revolutionaries that ever put through a successful revolution': gender, the revolution and the formation of the new state

## **12.00**

*John Biggins BL - University College Dublin & Maynooth University*

Life in the Dáil Courts Revisited: Gleanings from the Archives

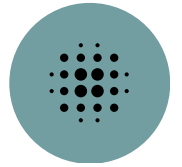
## **12.30**

*Panel Discussion*

Chair: Dr Martin Maguire, University College Dublin & Trinity College Dublin

## **13.15**

*Close/Lunch*



## THE HON. MR JUSTICE GERARD HOGAN

Mr. Justice Hogan was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 2021. He is a graduate of University College Dublin (LL.M., 198, LL.D., 1997), the University of Pennsylvania (L.L.M., 1982), the Honorable Society of King's Inns (1984) and Trinity College Dublin (Ph.D. 2011). He was a law lecturer at Trinity College Dublin from 1982 to 2007. He was a Junior Counsel at The Bar of Ireland from 1987 to 1997 and was called to the Inner Bar in 1997. He was appointed a judge of the High Court in 2010 and a judge of the Court of Appeal in 2014. He was Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union from 8th October 2018 until 7th October 2021.

## JOHN BIGGINS BL

*University College Dublin & Maynooth University*

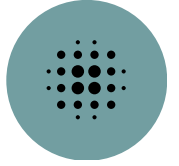
John Biggins is a practising Barrister, Researcher with the Irish State Administration Database (ISAD) at UCD College of Social Sciences & Law, and Lecturer at Maynooth University School of Law & Criminology. John's research traverses legal history, public administration and regulatory governance. John is particularly interested in the dynamics of legal transition in the early years of the Irish State. John's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Irish Political Studies*.

## DR HEATHER LAIRD

*University College Cork*

Heather Laird is Deputy Head of the School of English and Digital Humanities at University College Cork, Ireland. She is a postcolonial scholar whose research crosses disciplinary boundaries, especially between literature, history and law. Her research interests include theories and practices of resistance, particularly as they relate to land usage; links between law and literature; Irish culture since the early nineteenth century; and commemoration. She is the author of *Subversive Law in Ireland, 1879-1920* (2005) and *Commemoration* (2018), and co-editor of *Dwelling(s) in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (2023). She is a series editor of *Síreacht: Longings for Another Ireland* (Cork University Press), a collection of short topical texts that explore the potential of ideas commonly dismissed as utopian. She has considerable experience of communicating her research outside the university, in the form of public lectures, RTÉ Brainstorm articles, and interviews on television and radio.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



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## DR BARRY WHELAN

*Law Society of Ireland*

Dr Barry Whelan is a historian of 20th century Irish and European history who has taught history in Maynooth University, DCU and for Boston College.

He is the author of *Ireland's Revolutionary Diplomat: A Biography of Leopold Kerney*. Barry has written extensively in peer-reviewed journals, history magazines and encyclopaedias as well as contributing to radio podcasts. Barry works in the Law Society of Ireland promoting legal history to the general public and the professional body.

## DR LEEANN LANE

*Dublin City University*

Dr Leeann Lane is a lecturer in the School of History and Geography in Dublin City University. She is the author of *Rosamond Jacob: Third Person Singular* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2010) and *Dorothy Macardle* (2019). Her most recent article is "'Applicant is a spinster': aspects of the cosmos of the everyday life of single women" in Catriona Crowe and Anne Dolan (eds.), *A Very Hard Struggle: Lives in the Military Service Pension Collection* (Dublin, 2023). She is currently completing a biography of Mary MacSwiney. During the Decade of Commemorations, Dr Lane was a member of the government's Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of Centenaries.

## DR MARTIN MAGUIRE

*University College Dublin & Trinity College Dublin*

Dr Martin Maguire is formerly a senior lecturer in the Department of Humanities, Dundalk Institute of Technology. He is now visiting research fellow at both the Trinity College Dublin Research Centre for Contemporary Irish History and the University College Dublin Geary Institute. He has published on the civil service experience of revolution in Ireland, including *The civil service and the revolution in Ireland 1912-1938: 'Shaking the blood-stained hand of Mr Collins'* (Manchester University Press, 2013). Dr Maguire's current research focus is on civil service trade unions in independent Ireland.