

Conference

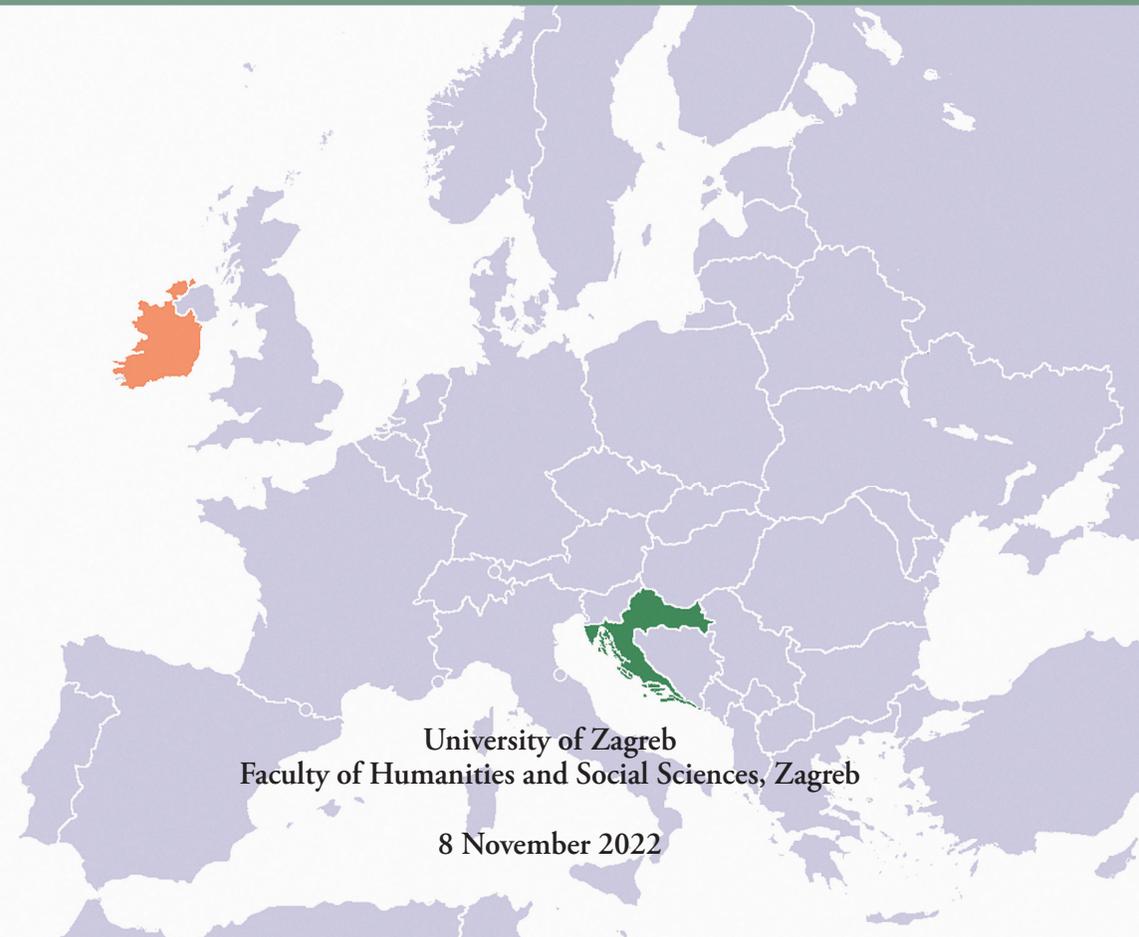
NEW RESEARCH ON IRISH AND CROATIAN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY



Sveučilište u Zagrebu
Filozofski fakultet



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb

8 November 2022

Conference

**NEW RESEARCH ON IRISH AND CROATIAN
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Zagreb, 8 November 2022

Library Conference Hall, 10.00 a.m.

University of Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Doctoral programme of Modern and Contemporary Croatian History in
European and World Context
and the
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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Zagreb



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Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb
8 November 2022

Library Conference Hall, 10.00 a.m.

PROGRAMME

10 a. m. Conference opening:

H.E. **Ruaidhri Dowling**, Ambassador to Ireland in Croatia

Domagoj Tončinić, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

10.20-10.40

Terence Dooley (University of Maynooth), *Burning the Big House: the Story of the Irish Country House in Revolution, 1920-23*

10.40-11.00

John Paul Newman (University of Maynooth), *At the Frontier of Empire and Nation: Josip Jelačić and the Military Frontier*

11.00-11.20

Iskra Iveljić (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb), *Some Parallels between Nobility in Ireland and Croatia in the Early 20th Century*

11.20-11.40 Discussion

11.40-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-12.20

Aidan O'Malley (University of Rijeka), *Irish Relics in Trsat: Hubert Butler's and Rebecca West's Reflections on Ireland and Empire in Mid-Twentieth-Century Yugoslavia*

12.20-12.40

Sunčica Nagradić Habuš (Croatian Museum Association), *Laval Nugent and the First Public Museum in Croatia*

12.40-13.00 Discussion

13.00 Lunch break

15.00-15.40 Presentation of new research projects on Irish and Croatian history

Terence Dooley, John Paul Newman, Aidan O'Malley, Siniša Malešević

15.40-16.00

Siniša Malešević (University College, Dublin), The Magnitude of Nationhood: Nationalist Ideologies in Ireland and Southeast Europe in the Early 20th Century

16.00-16.20

Mirko Bilandžić (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb), De-radicalisation of Terrorism and the post-conflict Building of Society: the Case Study of Northern Ireland

16.20-16.40

Tvrtko Jakovina (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb), Croats and Irishmen in the 20th and the 21st Century: An Outline of Historical Similarities and Differences

16.40 Discussion

17.00 Closing of the conference

ABSTRACTS

Terence Dooley

BURNING THE BIG HOUSE: THE STORY OF THE IRISH COUNTRY HOUSE IN REVOLUTION, 1920-23

A major phenomenon of the War of Independence and Civil War in Ireland was the burning of around 300 country houses, the homes of the former landed elite. This talk examines the motivations for these burnings - political, military, agrarian, ancestral grievance and so on - providing a new and fresh perspective on the Irish revolution. The talk will also explore the consequences of the destruction of country houses for their owners and wider local communities and delves into some of the murkier aspects of the period.

John Paul Newman

AT THE FRONTIER OF EMPIRE AND NATION: JOSIP JELAČIĆ AND THE MILITARY FRONTIER

My working paper offers some preliminary thoughts from my research on Josip Jelačić and his early, formative years as an imperial subject and an officer. The paper considers how Jelačić has been presented in the various historiographies and hagiographies post-1848 and asks that we go back to the sources to re-think how Jelačić's ideas about imperial/national identity and community were formed and articulated in his early years. The paper pays special attention to his periods of service in the Military Frontier during the 1830s and 1840s and argues that this experience was central to Jelačić's perspective and crucial for understanding his actions during the 1848-49 period. The paper ends by depicting the social and political transformations in the Krajina and showing how and why the complex and overlapping senses of belonging there have unravelled in the twentieth century. The result is that Jelačić and his world are often misinterpreted by contemporary commentators and observers.

Iskra Iveljić

SOME PARALLELS BETWEEN NOBILITY IN IRELAND AND CROATIA IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Comparison between the nobility in Ireland and Croatia shows many differences such as ethnic, social and partly confessional structure or estate management, to name just some. Yet, in the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century we can also identify some similarities, as a result of modernization and nationalization. These processes brought about the decay of the wealthy landed nobility and the national emancipation which in Ireland ended with the founding of the national state in contrast to Croatia, that after the fall of Austria-Hungary entered the new Yugoslav state. In the post-imperial era the position of nobility in both countries changed: it was no longer the total elite it had previously been, and it was often treated by the new regimes as social, political and national adversary.

Aidan O'Malley

IRISH RELICS IN TRSAT: HUBERT BUTLER'S AND REBECCA WEST'S REFLECTIONS ON IRELAND AND EMPIRE IN MID-TWENTIETH-CENTURY YUGOSLAVIA

The starting points for this presentation are Hubert Butler's 1947/1988 essay, 'Fiume, Sushak and the Nugents', and the sections on 'Sushak' and 'Rab' in Rebecca West's *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1941). These are accounts of visits to Rijeka, Sušak and Laval Nugent's castle in Trsat by two of the most perspicacious Anglophone observers of mid-20th-century Yugoslavia. Death, degeneration, disjunction and misrecognition are prominent motifs in both texts, and these are explicitly linked to Ireland. This paper examines the ways in which this connection speaks to the attitudes of the writers—one Protestant Irish, the other Anglo-Irish British—to Ireland and empire. While both have been considered anti-colonial writers, they view Irish nationalism in very different ways. Butler employed analogies between

Yugoslavia (and, in particular, Croatia) and Ireland to illuminate the complicated political and religious textures of post-colonial smaller states that emerged in the aftermath of the First World War. On the other hand, Ireland tends to irrupt into the narrative flow of *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, as a source of improbable and almost unimaginable acts. This paper argues that Ireland represented a state of exception for West, one that embodied the tenebrous forces that threatened the advance of the sort of modernity that had produced the Yugoslavia she cherished.

Sunčica Nagradić Habuš

LAVAL NUGENT AND THE FIRST PUBLIC MUSEUM IN CROATIA

Today somewhat forgotten, Count Laval Nugent (1777-1862) was a central figure in Croatia's development into the modern European country during the first half of the 19th century. Nugent's story is additionally interesting because this fervent advocate of Croatian nationhood was born in Ireland, was a member of the Irish nobility, as well as a field-marshal of the Austrian Army.

Nugent combined his brilliant military and political career with his personal interest in culture and Croatian history. Conducting archaeological excavations near the ancient Roman town of Minturnae and collecting objects of art across Italy and the Croatian Littoral, he assembled an impressive collection of artifacts that became the basis of the first museum in Croatia, the Museum Nugent, which the Count placed on the Trsat Fortress above Rijeka, one of his Croatian estates. From the beginning, Nugent planned for his extensive art collection to be open to the public. Over 160 years ago, the Museum Nugent achieved one of the fundamental tasks of the museum, that is the presentation of its collections. This is why Laval Nugent was more than just another typical "private collector". His artefacts became basis for several contemporary museum collections, including those of Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, the Croatian History Museum in Zagreb, and the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral in Rijeka which all received significant art objects.

Siniša Malešević

THE MAGNITUDE OF NATIONHOOD: NATIONALIST IDEOLOGIES IN IRELAND AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

This presentation compares different strategies of legitimation deployed by the nationalist movements in Ireland and Southeast Europe in the early twentieth century. In contrast to the traditional accounts that posit nations and empires as mutually exclusive projects, I show how imperial and nationalist discourses can reinforce one another. The paper zooms in on the changing dynamics of imperial and national legacies by exploring how specific social movements strategically deploy concepts such as the ‘small’ or ‘greater’ nation to facilitate different nationalist projects. By contrasting the historical experiences of Southeast Europe and Ireland I show how geopolitical and historical contexts shape the complex and contradictory relationships between imperial and the national projects.

Mirko Bilandžić

DERADICALISATION OF TERRORISM AND THE POST-CONFLICT BUILDING OF SOCIETY: THE CASE STUDY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland conflict, which in its contemporary phase started in 1969, is extremely complex. In social sciences it is categorized as Protracted Social Conflict, characterized by long-term conflicts (with elements of warfare) that have far-reaching consequences, since they involve whole societies and act as a factor of social identity and solidarity. These conflicts are neither singular events nor a series of events, but processes. At their core, in the contemporary phase, is terrorism: anti-state, pro-state or state terrorism. Northern Ireland conflict is on one hand without doubt an internal conflict between opposing parties within the boundaries of Northern Ireland. At the same time it is an ethnic, religious and civil conflict between the

communities of republicans/nationalists/Catholics and unionists/loyalists/Protestants, with state security forces of United Kingdom trying to suppress the activities of terrorist organisations. On the other hand, it is an internationalised internal conflict, one of the longest, bloodiest and most brutal ones in the contemporary Europe. It had cost the lives of 3.600 people, and the number of wounded is almost 50.000. After 30 years of brutal conflicts, in April of 1998 a peace treaty was signed: the Good Friday Agreement, that implemented anti-terrorist political strategy. Political wings of terrorist organisations gained access to legal and legitimate political processes in exchange for their abandonment of terror. In this consociational model „terrorists“ became part of the governing structure sharing the responsibility of governing Northern Ireland. Peace was thus achieved by deradicalisation of terrorists and terror, but what kind of peace is it? Have the cognitive and behavioural aspects of terrorism been deradicalised as well? What kind of role does deradicalisation play in the post-conflict, post-terrorist building of the Northern Ireland statelet and its society?

Tvrtko Jakovina

CROATS AND IRISHMEN IN THE 20TH AND THE 21ST CENTURY: AN OUTLINE OF HISTORICAL SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Ireland and Croatia have long been parts of large empires and they changed state frameworks at similar times in history. Croatia was in Austria-Hungary until 1918 and then in the new Yugoslav state, while Ireland became independent in 1922. Their difficult paths to independence occurred at different times, but they are similar or comparable. Both nations have built an identity that insists on ties to the Catholic Church and nationalism, both nations have large diasporas with significant influence over internal affairs. Members of Irish and Croatian political organisations were among the few in Europe that pursued political goals with the help of an armed struggle or terrorism. Since its founding, Ireland has embraced a foreign policy of neutrality, which is somewhat comparable to the decades-old foreign policy

orientation of Yugoslavia (of which Croatia was part) which is Non-Alignment. Eventually, both countries joined the EU: Ireland in 1973, and Croatia 40 years later, in 2013.

In my contribution I will try to demonstrate the turning points of Croatian and Irish histories in the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as when and why the divergence occurred and why the differences between the two countries are so great at the time when both are in the same political environment, with the same democratic order and with the same, at least formally, economic system.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Mirko Bilandžić

is Professor at the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University in Zagreb. His field of interest are international relations. He is heading the postgraduate studies of Crisis management at Zagreb University, and is editor of *Polemos*, international journal of interdisciplinary studies of war and peace. He is author of 10 books and over 50 articles on international and national security, terrorism, counterterrorism, theory of conflict, theory of power and others.

<https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/profil/21353>

<http://thera.ffzg.hr/ECTS/Osoba/Index/2994>

Terence Dooley

is Head of Department, Professor of History, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at Maynooth University. He has published widely on the history of Irish country houses and their estates, land and agrarian issues, and the Irish revolution. His most recent publication is the best-selling *Burning the Big House: the Story of the Irish Country House in War and Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2022).

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-study-historic-irish-houses-and-estates
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Iskra Iveljić

is Professor of Croatian 19th century History at the History Department of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University in Zagreb. Her research is focused on various aspects of modernization, on the middle-class elite and on aristocracy in northwestern Croatia in the 19th and early 20th century. Both her studies of middle class and nobility encompass political, economic and cultural aspects, gender issues and the relationship towards children and teenagers. She was the principal investigator of the international project financed by the Croatian Science Foun-

ation The Transition of Croatian Elites from the Habsburg Monarchy to the Yugoslav State.

<http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/pov/pov2/biografija.php?id=13>

<https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/profil/13678>

Tvrtko Jakovina

is the head of Chair for World History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. He is lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy in Zagreb and guest-lecturer at Istituto per l'Europa centro-orientale e balcanica, University of Bologna. He was a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics. Jakovina authored many books and articles dealing with the foreign policy of Tito's Yugoslavia and Croatian history in the 20th century.

<https://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/pov/pov2/biografija.php?id=14>

<https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/profil/16364>

Siniša Malešević

is UCD Chair of Sociology at University College, Dublin. He held many research and teaching appointments in Zagreb, Prague, Galway, Bruxelles, London and Vienna. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, Academia Europaea and an Associated Member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research interests encompass the study of war and violence, nationalism, and the comparative historical sociology. His publications have been translated into Arabic, Albanian, Chinese, Croatian, Persian/Farsi, Turkish, Portuguese, Japanese, Indonesian, French, Russian, Serbian and Spanish.

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<http://sinisa2malesevic.wordpress.com/>

<https://ucd-ie.academia.edu/SinisaMalesevic>

Aidan O'Malley

is an Associate Professor and Chair of English Literary Studies at the Department of English, University of Rijeka. He is the author of two monographs: *Field Day and the Translation of Irish Identities: Performing Contradictions*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), and *Irska književnost i kultura, 1600.–2000.: Stvaralaštvo na jeziku kolonizatora* (FFRI Press, 2021). With Eve Patten, he edited *Ireland, West to East: Irish Cultural Connections with Central and Eastern Europe* (Peter Lang, 2014), and he also edited (with Ina Gjurgjan) a special issue of the *European Journal of English Studies* (2013) on ‘Myths of Europe: East of Venice’. He has published numerous other articles and chapters on Irish literature, culture and translations.

<https://portal.uniri.hr/Portfelj/2118>

<https://www.bib.irb.hr/pregled/profil/32740>

Sunčica Nagradić Habuš

has graduated in archaeology and English language and literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. She has authored or co-authored several exhibitions and exhibition catalogues, namely “Anamnesis - Medical history in the ancient world”, “Laval Nugent - Warrior and Art Collector”, “Rromengo drom - A thousand years of the Roma migrations”, and „In Memoriam... Remembrances of Roma and non-Roma“. She is currently working as a curator in the Roma Memorial Center Uštica near Jasenovac and as a secretary of the Croatian Museum Association.

<https://rmcu.hr/djelatnici/>

John Paul Newman

is Associate Professor in Twentieth-century European History at Maynooth University. He completed his PhD at the University of Southampton (supervised by Professor Mark Cornwall) and from 2008–2011 he was an ERC Postdoctoral Research Fellow working on the project ‘Paramilitary Violence after the Great War’, to which he contributed a case study of violence in the Balkans. He is interested in the modern history of the Balkans and East-Central Europe, with a particular focus on Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Czechoslovakia. His work to date has focussed on war veterans, paramilitary violence, and on the larger legacies left by war in the region. He has been working on a large research project looking at victorious societies and cultures of war victory in twentieth century Europe, a study of the Croatian General Josip Jelačić and the intersections of national and imperial

identities in nineteenth-century Central Europe, and a book-length study of irregular warfare and paramilitary violence in the Balkans, provisionally titled 'Freedom or Death: A History of Guerilla Warfare in the Balkans'.

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/people/john-paul-newman>