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Research

# Marking the Decade of Centenaries: Ireland 1916-2016



Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal herself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

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2016

Clár Comórtha  
Céad Blain  
Centenary  
Programme



The Decade of Centenaries offers a unique opportunity for national reflection and remembrance. This period marks a significant time in both modern Irish and European history, society and culture.

The Irish Research Council is marking the Decade of Centenaries by supporting flagship research projects related to the period 1912-1922, including 1916. The awarding of the flagship research projects began in 2015. The breadth, diversity and range of these projects are a reminder that Ireland, and being Irish, is complex and can be expressed in a myriad ways. Themes addressed include music and identity, commemoration and how we commemorate, Irish soldiers in the Great War, and women and revolution.

In addition to the traditional academic outputs of books and conferences, outputs from the projects range from a mobile walking app of key locations of the Rising in Dublin to online exhibitions and podcasts to learning materials for secondary schools to a premiere of an orchestral work in memory of Patrick Pearse. These projects echo a number of distinct but interwoven themes of *historical reflection; preserving our past; global perspectives* and *cultural expressions*.

The booklet also highlights research in this period undertaken by IRC Government of Ireland Scholars and Postdoctoral Fellows. In addition, we have included our blog series about researchers in 1916.

# Historical Reflection

## 'The 1916 Proclamation and 21st Century Irish Civil Society: Connecting and Commemorating Histories and Contemporary Values'

*Professor Gerry Kearns*

This 1916 Flagship Project funding explored the uses of The Proclamation of 1916 in civil society. The aim of this project is to provide an assessment of the relevance of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic for Irish civil society today and thus contribute to raising awareness of, and civil society connection to, the Easter Rising commemorations.

The key text produced by the revolutionaries involved in the Easter Rising was the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. This is considered one of the founding visionary statements of the Irish Republic. As we approach the centenary commemoration of this Proclamation some academics and civil society actors are making the case that it requires serious analysis and possibly even re-writing in the context of the current crisis and perceived failure of the first Irish Republic. Commentators have argued that the level of disconnect between the citizenry and the state in Ireland means that there is a requirement for a 'Second Republic'. Whilst others highlight that the unequal impact of austerity resulting in unemployment, rising poverty, emigration and generational inequalities mean that there has been a fundamental failure of the social contract of the Irish Republic between its people and its government and state. There is also an urgent need to reassess what is the function and role of community and voluntary organisations and civil society today in the context of the current crisis of the Republic. The possibility of inspiration being drawn from the 1916 Proclamation to understand and reflect on these issues is central to this project. The aims and objectives of this project are to connect

the 1916 commemorations to contemporary challenges facing the Irish Republic and civil society, and through this to engage the citizenry and civil society, particularly those working with marginalised and excluded populations, in the commemorative process and events.

The political appropriation of the Proclamation not only includes the various ways that political parties celebrate, interpret or ignore the document, and the ways that individual politicians appeal to its principles in support of various campaigns of their own. It also includes the ways that civil society groups have made use of the centenary of 1916 to use the Proclamation as a measure against which to measure and agitate for social justice. In this area, the project examined activism around health and housing.

Professor Kearns has developed a website – <http://www.1916proclamation.net/> – to report his findings and that will be added to over the course of the next year as the political campaigns and the artistic projects evolve.

*Professor Gerry Kearns (Maynooth University) was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding for the project, 'The 1916 Proclamation and 21st Century Irish Civil Society: connecting and commemorating histories and contemporary values.'*

## Revolting Women: Nationalism, Suffrage and Labour, 1912-1924

*Dr. Katherine O'Donnell and Dr. Laura McAtackney*

This 1916 Flagship Project looked at the experience of female political prisoners in Revolutionary Ireland between the years 1912-1924, focussing in particular on the prison art, graffiti and personal mementoes and on the collection of personal political papers held in University College Dublin Archives.

Female experiences of political imprisonment during the period of 1912-1924 are infrequently considered and this is surprising given the significant numbers of women imprisoned. The inclusion of papers and material culture in this project from Northern women allows a wider consideration of the complex politics and identity issues at this swiftly changing period. Bringing these sources together ensures that complexity is added to our knowledge of women's experiences that, significantly, extends beyond borders, into the prisons and bypasses the usual cut-off dates into the post-civil war aftermath. According to the project leaders, this project produces knowledge of key aspects of female political experience that are infrequently articulated and will strike a chord with the public as these women came from every county, indeed almost every parish on the island of Ireland. Their voices range across a variety of registers: defiant, uncertain, courageous, humorous and despondent, but always with a vision of how a future Ireland (where we their descendants now stand) might be a better place.

A very successful symposium was held on 16th October 2015 giving an overview of the key findings and with papers in response by invited leading historians of Irish women's history. Speakers included Padraig Yeates, Linda Connolly and Margaret Ward and topics discussed ranged from women and crime in 1916 to women and the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

The response to attend was so strong that the venue had to be changed to accommodate the demand and the hashtag #RevoltingWomen trended on Twitter. Dr. O'Donnell and Dr. McAtackney are collaborating with the Cork History Teachers' Association and they will participate in their seminar series for the academic year 2016/17.

Arising from the project funded by the IRC, Dr. O'Donnell and Dr. McAtackney were able to successfully leveraged UCD Centenaries Funding as Dr. McAtackney found a significant amount of material within UCD's own archives that had been overlooked by scholars – including notebooks belonging to Constance Markievicz. After a briefing on the team's findings, UCD Archives has committed resources to digitising collections of papers deposited by revolutionary women and making them available on-line. The strength of the project is that the website interface allows for an accessible on-going public engagement, which receives hundreds of visits on a monthly basis. Many are browsers from Ireland but a significant amount are from places associated with the Irish Diaspora such as the UK, the USA and Australia. The list of women who were imprisoned during the Civil War has generated particular interest by local historians and descendants curious about the often vague stories they have heard about their female relatives' involvement.

*Dr. Katherine O'Donnell (University College Dublin) was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding for the project, Revolting Women: Nationalism, Suffrage and Labour, 1912-1924.*

## Protestant Nationalists in Ireland, 1900-1923

*Dr. Conor Morrissey*

The principal purpose of this project is to produce an academic monograph entitled 'Protestant nationalists in Ireland, 1900-1923'. This monograph will offer the first scholarly examination of Protestant political nationalists in Ireland during this era. Using a primarily prosopographical methodology, it revises a fifty year-old historiographical consensus about the nature of nationalism among Irish Protestants. It challenges the assumption that the Protestant community was greatly resistant to nationalism, and that those Protestants who did embrace nationalism were atomised eccentrics, whose actions did not stem from any long-term tradition within that community. It places Protestant nationalism in its contemporary European context, by using secondary literature to examine analogous phenomena in continental Europe. It examines the extent to which Protestant nationalism can be viewed as part of a pan-European cultural revival, which saw numerous elites embrace nationalist demands.

This monograph seeks to determine the social, geographic, and denominational profile of Protestant nationalists, and to uncover what organisations catered for them. Statistical analysis is used to demonstrate the tendency of Protestant nationalists to advance as a group from one organisation to another, thus demonstrating the existence of a vibrant tradition of nationalism within this religious group. The narrative discusses how certain significant events, such as the Boer War, the Easter Rising, and the outbreak of the Irish War of Independence, impacted nationalists, and led eventually to a large degree of disillusion with nationalism among Protestants, particularly post-1916, when the largely-Catholic nature of the wider movement became apparent.

This project would not have been possible without the support offered by the Irish Research Council. IRC funding has enabled Dr Morrissey to travel to archives, attend lectures and conferences, and to purchase hardware and other essential materials. Not only that, but the prestige derived from being awarded this fellowship has proved invaluable for Dr Morrissey in making contacts with other academics both in Ireland and beyond.

Dr. Morrissey was a contributor to The Irish Times online video series on the 1916 Rising.

*Dr. Conor Morrissey (Trinity College Dublin) is an IRC Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2015-2016. Dr. Morrissey was also an IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholar 2011-2014 for his PhD thesis, The Dynamics of Irish Protestant Nationalism, 1885-1923.*

## Remembering Rebellion and Civil War: Contextualising the Ernie O'Malley Notebooks

*Dr. Eve Morrison*

Ernie O'Malley (1894-1957), writer and former Irish Republican Army (IRA) commander, has been described by Richard English as one of Ireland's most exciting and talented intellectuals. O'Malley's memoir, 'On another man's wound', is widely considered to be the finest IRA memoir of his generation. Over the 1930s-1950s, O'Malley conducted c.450 interviews with separatist veterans – former members of separatist nationalist military organisations (IRA, Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, Irish Citizen's Army) who participated in the Independence struggle and civil war (1916-1923). These interviews, the 'O'Malley notebooks', are consulted by historians but nonetheless remain daunting for all but the most dedicated due to issues of legibility, comprehension and lack of contextualisation. Frequently mis-quoted or referenced inaccurately, that they are consulted at all is indicative of their importance as a source. This project will contextualise and analyse the O'Malley interviews within a wider international framework of war veterans' memories generally, and produce reliable, annotated transcripts, accompanied by an introduction and explanatory notations throughout. This in-depth study makes a considerable contribution to scholarship relating to Ireland's revolutionary decade by rendering a vital but underused collection easy consultable for both academic and non-academic researchers.

Dr. Morrison was an historical advisor to 2FM 1916 series.

### Selected publications

12 May 2016, 'Class, Gender & Occupation Among the Bureau of Military History Witnesses & Ernie O'Malley Interviewees Who Were 'Out' in 1916' in *Saothar* 41 (May, 2016).

*Dr Eve Morrison (University College Dublin) was an IRC Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2013-2015. Dr. Morrison was also an IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholar 2003-2006 for her PhD thesis, Trade unions, labour militancy and militant republicanism in Ireland: 1918-23.*

## The Impact of the Great War on Women in Ireland 1914 to 1919

*Dr. Fionnuala Walsh*

The impact of the Great War on women is a significant area of scholarship within First World War studies. The legacy of the war for women's lives and role in society has been the subject of much debate. Dr. Walsh's research examines the impact of the Great War on women in Ireland during the years 1914 to 1918. During the Great War over 200,000 Irishmen voluntarily served in the British Army. At the same time thousands of Irishwomen were mobilised on the home front to support the war effort, including over 5,000 women who served with the British Red Cross and St John Ambulance Association. Over 2,000 Irishwomen also worked in munitions factories in Ireland during the war. The Great War resulted in the invasion of the political into the domestic sphere and disrupted everyday lives for civilians. The war was further brought home for Dublin civilians during the Easter Rising when they experienced bombardment and a crisis in food supply for the first time. However, although there has been a surge in studies examining Irish military involvement in the war in the last two decades, the subject of Irishwomen and the war has received relatively little attention and was described by the historian Keith Jeffery as a 'historically hidden Ireland'.

Her PhD thesis aimed to fill this gap through providing a thematic study of Irishwomen during the Great War. It investigated the extent to which the war affected women's lives in Ireland, demonstrating the socio-economic, psychological and political impact of the Great War upon Irishwomen. I conducted primary research in twenty-two archives and libraries in Ireland and the United Kingdom and examined forty-six newspapers and periodicals for the period 1914 to 1919. The project involved historical demographic and sampling methods together with textual analysis

of the contemporary press, diaries, letters and memoirs. These methods enable the project to examine the impact of the war on women's everyday life, assess popular support for the war effort and place the Irish experience in its international context.

The project had two central research questions: the extent of the war's impact of the war on women's standard of living and their everyday life and the war's legacy for women's role in society. Reflecting on the issue of the emancipatory potential of the war for women, a hotly debated issue in international scholarship, Dr. Walsh's thesis concludes that the war had an overall negative impact for women's lives in Ireland and that it had no lasting effect on perceptions of the role of women in Irish society. She however argues that, contrary to the impression given in previous scholarship of women's lives during the revolutionary period, the Great War had a defining and significant impact on the lives of Irishwomen who lived through it. The individual lives of Irishwomen in the public and private spheres were changed irrevocably by their war experience.

### Podcast

Radio interview 'Irishwomen and the First World War' Broadcast on Near FM (local Dublin radio station) in February 2013.

*Dr. Fionnuala Walsh (Trinity College Dublin) was an IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholar 2013-2015. Dr. Walsh will commence her IRC Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2016-17 in October 2016.*

# Preserving Our Past

## 'Following the Fighters?' Female, Political Imprisonment in Early-20th century Ireland

*Dr Laura McAtackney*

*Following the Fighters?* was an interdisciplinary project that focused on the locating, recording and interpretation of graffiti assemblages in the West Wing of Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin. The primary aim was to locate female experiences of imprisonment during the last period of the functional prison life – the Irish Civil War (1922-1923) – but all forms of historic graffiti were included in the recording exercise. The creation of an e-resource and publications dissecting female experiences of political imprisonment from the Easter Rising to the end of the Irish Civil War were major goals including the open access website <https://kilmainhamgaolgraffiti.com>. The aim to reinsert women back into the narratives of this period were achieved through recording and interpreting institutional graffiti, examine prison issue and prison craft artefacts and analysing extant autograph books located at Kilmainham Gaol.

The entire project was funded by the IRC; it would not have taken place without the funding and these precarious graffiti assemblages would remain unrecorded and largely unrecognised for the historic value they have. Without the IRC funding, the website would not have been created.

### Selected publications

- **McAtackney, L.** & N. Bergin. 2015. Gendered graffiti: understanding female experiences of imprisonment during the Irish Civil War *History Ireland*.
- **McAtackney, L.** & G. Devlin. 2014. Recovering Revolutionary Ireland: graffiti recording at the West Wing of Kilmainham Gaol. *Archaeology Ireland*. Summer 2014.
- **McAtackney, L.** 2015. Women's autograph books: remembering the Easter Rising through the experiences of the Irish Civil War. In J Brück & L Gosdon (eds.) *Making 1916: the material culture of the Easter Rising*. Liverpool: LUP.

*Dr. Laura McAtackney (University College Dublin) was awarded an IRC Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellow 2012-2014.*

## 1916 at Risk: Assessing and Preserving the Digital Collections at Risk for the Decade of Centenaries

*Dr. Sandra Collins*

This 1916 Flagship Project (New Foundations), 1916 at Risk, aimed to assess the scale of vulnerable digitised collections in Ireland, to provide support in digitally preserving these collections, and to create a centralised access point to support their wider dissemination. One of its central aims was to engage with heritage organisations holding material relating to the period 1912-1922. In December 2014, the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) announced a call for expressions of interest from custodians of heritage material relating to the Decade of Centenaries wishing to digitally preserve their holdings. Three collections from three different organisations were selected – the National Irish Visual Arts Library (Michael Healy Collection), Dublin City Archives (Dublin City Electoral Lists) and the Irish Capuchin Provincial Archives (The Capuchins and the Irish Revolution) – the content of which was considered to make a contribution to the national discourse on the Decade of Centenaries, and which was considered to potentially be at risk of degradation and loss. Digital archivists from the DRI worked with the collections to prepare them for deposit with the Repository and to enable long term digital preservation, as well as access and dissemination. The three collections were launched at the Digital Preservation for the Arts and Humanities conference in June 2015, and awards were presented by Dr. Eucharía Meehan, IRC Director.

The award has allowed the DRI to engage with a number of new stakeholder organisations who had not previously undertaken any digital preservation processes for their collections. In August 2015, DRI ran a Digital Preservation Workshop for all applicants to the original call, providing training on digital preservation and data and metadata curation. This training allowed other interested organisations to

prepare and deposit their data with DRI for long term preservation. Through the award and the subsequent workshop, the team worked with seven organisations who had not previously deposited content with the Repository. As well as providing training to allow participants to deposit with DRI, advice was also provided on smaller scale, in-house digital preservation practice which participants could bring back to their own organisations. The dissemination of best practice guidelines and training in digital preservation fits with DRI's core mission.

The New Foundations award provided an excellent opportunity to develop close relationships with new and existing stakeholders, and to demonstrate the efficiency, expertise, and capacity of DRI on a number of levels: digital archiving expertise, digitisation, partnership building, collaboration, and national leadership in digital preservation. These benefits clearly feed back into DRI's reputation in the community, and create additional possibilities for future collaborations and leadership. It allowed DRI staff to work with stakeholders directly, meaning that policy and theoretical workflows which the team had researched could be put into practice. The project provided a complementary perspective as while it reflected on the documentary evidence of the 1912-1922 period and its digital representations, it also looked forward to the Bi-Centenary, considering how the current commemorations could be preserved for examination in 2116.

For more information on these collections, visit: <https://repository.dri.ie/>

*Dr. Sandra Collins (Digital Repository of Ireland) was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding for the project, Assessing and Preserving Digital Collections at Risk for the Decade of Centenaries.*

## Letters of 1916: Outreach to Second Level

*Professor Susan Schreibman*

The Letters of 1916 project, one of the most successful crowdsourcing projects ever conducted in Ireland, has created a digital collection of letters written around the time of the Easter Rising. This includes letters held at institutions in Ireland and abroad alongside those in private collections.

Hundreds of letters connect thousands of lives commenting upon a myriad of topics including the Easter Rising, literature, art, the Great War, politics, business and ordinary life. Letters of 1916 adds a new perspective to the events of the period, a confidential and intimate glimpse into early 20th century life in Ireland, as well as how Ireland was viewed abroad.

On 2 March 2016, the project launched its discovery database providing unrivalled access to the hopes and dreams, frustrations and joys, of those living a century ago. Project leader Professor Susan Schreibman, who conceived the Letters of 1916 project three years ago, said 'I am really gratified that it has captured the public imagination so much. It has given people a chance to engage with the past'.

### 'Rising in Transition' year project

The 'Rising in Transition' year project was developed by the Letters of 1916, with funding from the Irish Research Council. The project provides 1916-themed lesson plans for transition year students, developed during a collaborative workshop attended by teachers, historians, archivists and digital humanities academics. The wide and varied range of skills and experience helped to develop an important and creative resource for teachers and students alike.

The varied subjects and themes based on the 1916 rising will encourage students to engage with 1916 through a variety of subjects including history, drama, literature and Irish. The lesson plans will also assist teachers to utilise these critical and nationally important primary sources and provide for constructive engagement with their students.

*Professor Susan Schreibman (Maynooth University) was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding for the project, Letters 1916: Outreach to Second Level.*

# Cultural Expressions

## Music and 1916

*Dr. Maria McHale*

Dr. McHale was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding to examine the Easter Rising through the lens of music. One of the project's aims was to secure the Irish premiere of Sir Arnold Bax's orchestral work *In Memoriam*. This is the first-known piece of classical music commemorating Pearse and 1916. The execution of Pearse had a profound impact on Bax (Bax had met Pearse) and he wrote the work in 1916. Following Bax's death, the manuscript was presented to Éamon de Valera in 1955. However, the work had never been performed in Ireland. The musicological investigation into this period and the research developed under the auspices of this project has led to the commissioning of a programme for RTÉ lyric fm's 'The Lyric Feature', on Bax, Ireland and 1916. Sir Arnold Bax (1883-1953) himself was from an affluent background but was seen a non-conformist who developed a lifelong affection for Ireland. He was also a poet who went under the name, 'Dermot O' Byrne'. He was the author of a collection of poems banned by the British Censor with the title *A Dublin Ballad and other poems* (1918). Bax learnt Irish (in Glemcolumcille and Morar in Scotland) and named his two children, Dermot and Maeve. He was a regular visitor to Ireland and he died in Cork in 1953.

The Irish premiere of Sir Arnold Bax's *In Memoriam* took place on February 19th 2016 in the National Concert Hall and was performed by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra (RTÉ NSO) and conductor Duncan Ward in the National Concert Hall on 19th February 2016 as part of the RTÉ NSO's 2015-2016 Main Season. It was also broadcast live by RTÉ lyric fm.

*Dr. Maria McHale (Dublin Institute of Technology) was awarded 1916 Flagship Project funding for the project, Music and 1916.*

# What were researchers doing in 1916?

In Ireland, our daily routine can be upset by the simplest things. Roadworks and bad weather, for example, have been known to keep us from the office and disrupt a normal working day. So imagine how difficult it would be to be productive during a time of war?

With the 100-year anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, we looked back at some of the extraordinary research achievements that were underway at that time. The fact that so many accomplished researchers continued their work during that turbulent time is an achievement in itself.

## Annie Massy: Focused in a Time of Trouble

Annie Massy is among the scholars who published important work during 1916. She was a self-taught marine biologist ornithologist, and an internationally-recognised expert on molluscs, in particular cephalopods. It is thought that Massy was educated at home. She made her first contribution to Irish zoological records at the young age of 18. From then on, she became a regular contributor to the Irish Naturalist journal.

Massy published three important papers in 1916. The first provided an account of the molluscs collected by the 1910 British Antarctica expedition, the *Terra Nova*. The second paper was on the cephalopoda of the Indian Museum, which included her identification of a new species of *sepia* (cuttlefish). Her third paper was an account of the cephalopoda collected around Ireland by the Department of Fisheries research vessel, the *Helga*.

Massy died following a short illness in 1931. She resigned from the Irish Society for the Protection of Birds just three days before her death. Despite the immense cultural and social barriers, Massy succeeded in carrying out some of her most important research during the year of 1916.

## Annie Maunder: Light at the End of the Tunnel in 1916

Annie Scott Maunder is among the scholars and researchers who were engaged in ground-breaking research in Ireland during the turbulent year of 1916. Born in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, in 1868, Maunder – an astronomer and mathematician – was an expert in sunspots and became a renowned observer and photographer of solar eclipses. In 1891, she was hired as one of the "lady computers" in the solar department of the Royal Greenwich Observatory and assistant to the man who would be her future husband, Edward Walter Maunder. There, she worked on a salary of four pounds per month, in the special department that was set up to photograph the sun.

Annie married Edward Walter Maunder in 1895. She and her husband went on many solar eclipse expeditions together and were both passionate about solar science. When they married, however, Annie was forced to resign from her post at the Royal Greenwich Observatory due to restrictions on married women working in public service. Despite this, she continued to collaborate with her husband.

The name Maunder is usually associated with the 'butterfly diagram', a depiction of the 11-year sunspot cycle which shows how the latitudes of sunspots change with each cycle. The chart was drawn up by both Annie and Walter in 1904. One of Annie's greatest achievements came in November 1916 when she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. She had first been nominated for election 24 years previously, and was appointed a Fellow a mere 10 months after the bar on female Fellows was lifted.

Annie died in 1944, almost two decades after her husband's passing. She was regarded as an expert in eclipse photography.

## John Joly: Defending Trinity College Dublin against the 1916 Rebels

As the Easter Rising commemoration approaches, we are taking a look at notable Irish researchers who were active in 1916, and the discoveries and breakthroughs that they made. A number of researchers, including Professor John Joly, played a direct part in the Rising. John Joly was born in Offaly in 1857 and later moved to Dublin, where he was raised. He subsequently studied English and Engineering at Trinity College Dublin.

In 1882, Robert Crawford, the Professor of Civil Engineering at Trinity, recognised that Joly – who had graduated from his course with many distinctions – had considerable ability and so appointed him as his assistant. In 1908, when the British Association for the Advancement of Science met in Dublin, Joly served as President of Section C: Geology. He addressed the meeting and presented his paper, "Uranium and Geology". In a summation of this work which was published the following year, he discussed the role of uranium in the generation of the Earth's internal heat.

In 1916, when the Rising broke out in Dublin city centre, Trinity College authorities became concerned that the college would be a target and organised volunteers to defend the campus. In an autobiographical essay, Joly revealed that he was among those that volunteered to defend Trinity College during the Rising. He recalled spending long hours training his rifle on a distant street with the clear instruction to shoot anyone who came within view.

During the Rising, Joly also took the risk of requisitioning a bicycle and heading towards the South Dublin suburbs to buy cigarettes for some of the men serving with him. A dangerous move at the time – as the loyalties of those that might stop the traveller were always unknown and roadblocks had been set up throughout the city. After the Rising, Joly continued his research, eventually becoming Professor of Geology at Trinity. He remained a member of staff there until the day he died in 1933.

Counted among Joly's best inventions and discoveries are the development of radiotherapy in the treatment of cancer and the invention of the 'Joly colour process', which was the first practical method for colour photography.

## Diary of 1916: Dr. Dorothy Stopford Price

The diaries and essays of people living in Ireland during 1916 give us an insight into day-to-day activities and how the Rising impacted on people's lives.

Born in Dublin in 1890, Dorothy Stopford Price was a medical student in Trinity College Dublin from 1916 to 1921. She is best known for pioneering the use of the BCG vaccine in Ireland. During 1916, Dorothy kept her own diary, which reflects her position in society as a wealthy, middle-class Protestant. Interestingly, it also details her shift in loyalties towards Sinn

Féin, following her revulsion at the execution of the Rising's leaders. Dorothy went on to provide first-aid classes to the IRA, and treatment for those wounded during the War of Independence, and later for the anti-Treaty side during the Civil War. Following the Civil War, Dorothy spent the rest of her life working in St Ultan's Hospital for Infants and in Baggot Street's Hospital.

Her most notable achievement was pioneering the use of the BCG vaccine in Ireland, which contributed to the elimination of childhood TB. She introduced the vaccine in St Ultan's Hospital, in 1937, making it the first hospital in Ireland or Britain to use the BCG.

Stopford Price was appointed as head of the national vaccination programme in 1949. However, she suffered a stroke in 1950, and later died in 1954

### Philomena Ryan: Scientist and GPO messenger

Philomena Frances Ryan graduated from University College Dublin with a B.Sc. in Chemistry during the year of the Easter Rising. However, her connection to the uprising does not end there.

During the Rising, Ryan reported to the GPO and acted as messenger. She managed to escape arrest after the surrender. Following her involvement in the Rising, Ryan went on to earn a research-based M.Sc. She was the only woman in her year and only the fifth woman scientist to have graduated from the NUI since its foundation.

In 1925, Ryan set up her own private practice at 12 Dawson Street, with her employees all women graduate chemists. She was selected as Public Analyst for 12 county councils, where she gathered and analysed data relating to public issues. She remained the only female

analyst in Ireland for years. During the War of Independence, she was also involved in military and political affairs.

Out of all the scientists and researchers who were active at the time of the Easter Rising, Philomena Ryan is one of the most notable. She further cemented her place in Irish history in 1936, when she married Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh, who was elected President of Ireland in 1945.

She died in 1983 in the hospice at Harold's Cross, Dublin and is buried with her husband Ó Ceallaigh in Glasnevin Cemetery.

### Dr. Brigid Lyons Thornton: The Republican Doctor

Brigid Lyons Thornton proved her academic flare from an early age. Although her family was poor, she won a county scholarship to study medicine at University College Galway in October 1915.

As she adjusted to her life as a medical student, Brigid began to get involved in serious Nationalist activities – aiding the escape of prisoners, handing over guns and organising a Cumann na mBan branch in Galway. She played a very active role in the Easter Rising in Dublin: due to her medical training, she was given the task of nursing the wounded at the Four Courts and in adjacent streets.

Brigid's studies and involvement with the Republican movement in Ireland give an insight into the headstrong, determined lady she was. As the battle for independence from British rule continued, her involvement with the Nationalist cause increased and she became the first female ever to be commissioned as an officer in the new Irish Army.

Along with being a Republican activist, Brigid carried out research in Switzerland and Nice on tuberculosis and is well known for pioneering the BCG vaccination during the 1950s. She went on to join the public health service in Kildare, Cork and finally Dublin, where she worked until retirement.

Following her retirement, Brigid worked as a Librarian with the Rotunda Hospital and as a Researcher in Trinity College Dublin. She died in 1987, aged 91 and was buried on the 71st anniversary of the Easter Rising in Toomore Cemetery, Foxford, County Mayo.

### Professor John Lighton Synge: a Trinity Student in 1916

A nephew of the famous playwright John Millington Synge, Professor John Lighton Synge was an Irish mathematician and physicist. He made outstanding contributions to a vast range of subjects, and particularly to Einstein's theory of relativity.

Synge entered Trinity College Dublin in 1915 and won a Foundation Scholarship in Mathematics in his first year. The Easter Rising started just days before Synge's Scholarship examinations. There is evidence, in the form of an unpublished memoir by JL Synge, that – at the behest of a friend – he reluctantly stole a rifle (presumably left behind by the British Army after one of the occupations of the college) from the rooms of a fellow student, smuggled it out of the college and handed it to the rebels.

Synge went on to lecture for many years. He was a professor at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Toronto and also spent time at Princeton, Brown and Ohio State Universities.

He returned to Ireland in 1948, accepting the position of Senior Professor in the School of Theoretical Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. He died on 30 March 1995 in Dublin.

### Ada English: A Revolutionary

Doctor, researcher, mental health advocate, feminist and republican revolutionary: it seems there were many strings to the bow of Kerry native Ada English. Born and reared in Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry, in 1875, Ada English was one of the first female psychiatrists in Ireland, and worked tirelessly to develop mental health facilities.

She oversaw the progression of occupational therapies to a high degree, in the asylum (now St Bridget's Hospital) in Ballinasloe. At a national level, she campaigned for reform of mental health legislation. Not only did English work tirelessly as a psychiatrist, she was also a staunch nationalist with strong political views and was heavily involved in Irish politics.

She was Medical Officer for the Irish Volunteers from its inception and worked at Atherry during the 1916 Rising. She was also a prominent member of Cumann na mBan. Towards the end of the War of Independence in 1920, English was arrested for possessing nationalist literature, and was sentenced to nine months in prison. She was subsequently released due to food poisoning after six months of her sentence.

In May 1921, she was elected unopposed to Dáil Éireann for the NUI constituency as a Sinn Féin representative. She spoke in the Dáil of her support for Éamon de Valera as President of the Irish Republic. In 1922, she stood again in the general election, but lost her seat, being replaced by the independent William Magennis.

She continued to oppose the Treaty and played a part in Comhairle na dTeachtaí in the 1920s. She died in 1944 in Ballinasloe and is buried in Creagh Cemetery.

What may seem like very contemporary issues today were a reality for Ada English over 100 years ago. She was a female politician and psychiatrist, advocating for mental health reform and campaigning for the political causes in which she believed.

## Bates and Pantridge – 1916 Babies

The year 1916 will carry significance in Irish history forever as it was the year of the Easter Rising.

Sir David Robert Bates and Professor Frank Pantridge have a different connection to the year, as this is the year both scientists were born. Bates was an Irish mathematician and physicist. His contributions to science include seminal works on atmospheric physics, molecular physics and the chemistry of interstellar clouds. His research was carried out in both Queens University Belfast and University College London.

In 1978, he became Sir David Robert Bates after being knighted for his services to science. Further accolades include winning the Hughes Medal, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society and being elected as a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It was Bates who founded the Department of Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics in Queens University Belfast, where he was an emeritus professor until his death in 1994.

Professor Frank Pantridge was also a notable scholar in his day. He graduated in medicine from Queens University Belfast in 1939. A consultant and cardiologist, he revolutionised emergency medicine and paramedic services with the invention of the portable defibrillator. Pantridge was known as the "Father of Emergency Medicine" and died aged 88 in 2004.

Despite being born during one of the most turbulent times in our history, both Bates and Pantridge made extraordinary progress in their respective fields.

## Professor Edward Joseph Conway and Dr. Robert (Roy) Charles Geary: 1916 Scholars

Robert Charles Geary and Edward Conway both earned their undergraduate degrees in 1916.

Dr. Robert Geary went on to become one of Ireland's greatest statisticians, founding both the Central Statistics Office and the Economic and Social Research Institute – both important organisations that continue to exist today. He had graduated from UCD in 1916 – with first-class honours in Mathematics and Mathematical Physics and continued his studies in these areas to earn an MSc in 1918. Geary died in Dublin on 8 February 1983, after a long life devoted to mathematical statistics. Further reading on Robert Geary's career can be found [here](#).

Professor Edward Conway, a Tipperary native, graduated with a BSc from University College Dublin in 1916 and went on to obtain an MSc the following year. He subsequently became one of Ireland's most distinguished scientists. His research comprised three overlapping phases:

1. 1920-1937: renal function.
2. 1937-1945: ionic balance of tissue, particularly muscle/chemical evolution of the ocean.
3. Post-1945: acid secretion by yeast and gastric mucosa.

Professor Conway became the first Professor of Biochemistry and Pharmacology at University College Dublin in 1932, a post he held until 1963. He died in 1968, aged 74.

## Professor Henry Horatio Dixon: Awarded the Boyle Medal in 1916

Professor Henry Horatio Dixon, a plant biologist and Professor at Trinity College Dublin, was among the scientists making great advances during 1916.

Professor Dixon devoted himself to botanical research, in particular with regard to plant anatomy and cytology. He published work on the anatomy of orchids, describing the structures of a previously unknown type of leaf, which shed light on the origin and development of cylindrical leaves in that group. He is also known for the theory he put forward, along with John Joly, on the cohesion-tension of water and mineral movement in plants. In addition, he was one of the first to observe the nucleolus of cells and subsequently went on to develop theories as to its function.

There are no reports of Dixon being directly involved in the 1916 Rising. However, 1916 was a momentous year for him personally, as he was awarded the Boyle Medal of the Royal Dublin Society, which is one of Ireland's most prestigious science awards – recognising scientific research of exceptional merit.

He died in 1953, age 84.

Further information of Professor Dixon is available here: <https://www.tcd.ie/Botany/tercentenary/300-years/chairs/henry-horatio-dixon.php>

# Marking the Decade of Centenaries

As we mark the Decade of Centenaries, insights into our past and our present, and new ideas and innovations for the future are all important. Ireland has a treasure trove of creative and innovative individuals who are conducting research and many of these are based in our higher education institutions. Their research is contributing to the understanding of our world and contributing to national and global progress. In 2016, the Irish Research Council is spearheading an initiative to better share the work of our researchers and develop greater public interest and knowledge of what is happening in research in Ireland.

#LoveIrishResearch will comprise a range of activities focused around three pillars:

- I. Research Talent: The people conducting the research, what motivates them, their creativity, their setbacks and triumphs.
- II. Future Frontiers: The diversity of research being conducted, the richness of ideas, innovations and discoveries, what they could potentially contribute to our country but also to global development.
- III. Past and Present: How research provides insights and has shaped (and can shape) our perception of ourselves as a country and society, and in particular our view of the past.

Further details available soon at [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)

Join us on Facebook and Twitter;

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## Flagship Projects

### Historical Reflection

Dr Andy Bielenberg, University College Cork, *Counting and identifying the Irish who died in Co Cork during the First World War; developing a new methodology for all-Ireland research*

Dr Ciara Breathnach, University of Limerick, *Incarcerated Bodies: hunger striking and internment, 1912-1923*

Dr Oona Frawley, Maynooth University, *All-Island Commemoration Network*

Professor Gerry Kearns, Maynooth University, *The 1916 Proclamation and 21st Century Irish Civil Society: connecting and commemorating histories and contemporary values*

Professor Irene Lynch-Fannon, University College Cork, *From Parliamentarian to Republican – A Lawyer's Journey*

Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry, University College Dublin, *Living with the legacy of 1916: urban governance, livelihoods and regeneration in Moore Street market*

Dr Conor Mulvagh, University College Dublin, *Universities in Revolution and State Formation*

Professor Gaia Narciso, Trinity College Dublin, *The historical roots of Politically-Motivated Rebellion: Evidence from the Irish Revolution*

Dr John O'Brien, Waterford Institute of Technology, *Commemoration – Concepts and Contexts & Commemoration: Cultivating Mutual Understanding by Addressing Contested Past\**

Dr Katherine O'Donnell, University College Dublin, *Revolt Women: Nationalism, Suffrage and Labour, 1912-'24*

Dr Deirdre Raftery, University College Dublin, *Sequestered: 'Loreto the Green' and 1916*

Dr. Jennifer Redmond, Maynooth University, *Historical Perspectives on Irish Masculinities in the Irish Revolutionary Era*

Dr Niamh Reilly, NUI Galway, *Path-breaking women of NUI Galway: 1912-1922*

### Preserving Our Past

Dr Sandra Collins, Royal Irish Academy, *Assessing and Preserving Digital Collections at Risk for the Decade of Centenaries*

Dr Amber L Cushing, University College Dublin, *EastAR Rising, Curating, designing and evaluating the effectiveness of a mobile Augmented Reality walking tour application for the Easter Rising Commemoration & Women of the EastAR Rising: Curating, designing and evaluating the effectiveness of a mobile Augmented Reality walking tour application commemorating the role women played in the 1916 Easter Rising\**

Dr Lisa Godson, National College of Art and Design, *Making Memory: the visual and material culture of commemoration in Ireland, 1900-2015*

Dr Eoin Flannery, Mary Immaculate College, *Crisis and Commemoration: Towards a critique of the closed cycle*

Professor Susan Schreibman, Maynooth University, *Letters 1916: Outreach to Second Level & Easter 1916: The Battle of Mount Street Bridge New Technologies, Collaborations and Forms of Knowledge Creation\**

Dr Liam Weeks, University College Cork, *A quantitative text analysis of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty debates*

### Global Perspectives

Dr Armida de la Garza, University College Cork, *National and International Images of Irish Independence: from Celluloid to New Media*

Dr Róisín Healy, NUI Galway, *1916 in Global Context: Connections and Comparisons*

Dr John Howard, University College Dublin, *Digitising the papers of Richard Mulcahy*

Dr Niamh Reilly, NUI Galway, *Intercultural Ireland, New Voices, Inclusive Centenaries*

### Cultural Expressions

Dr Maria McHale, Dublin Institute of Technology, *Music and 1916 & Music and 1916: North American British Music Studies Association 2016\**

Dr Maureen O'Connor, University College Cork, *Eva Gore-Booth and Constance Markievicz's Art of War in 1916: Sisters in Arms*

Catherine Wilsdon, University College Dublin, *Revival to Revolution – Thomas MacDonagh & The Irish Review.*

Further details on IRC-funded 'Marking the Decade of Centenaries' projects and on our extended programme of activities including the profiling and showcasing of research on this period are available in the dedicated Ireland 2016 section of our website. Visit [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie) and follow us on Twitter, @irishresearch.

\* These awardees received 1916 Flagship Project funding in 2015 and 2016



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Research

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished that right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the



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