



# KENNEDY SUMMER SCHOOL

A FESTIVAL *of* IRISH & AMERICAN  
HISTORY, CULTURE *and* POLITICS

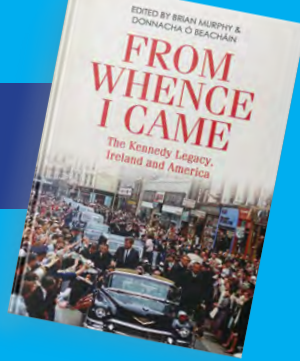


3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> *of* SEPTEMBER 2021  
NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD, IRELAND.

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[www.kennedysummerschool.ie](http://www.kennedysummerschool.ie)

# WELCOME



Dear Friends:

It is with tremendous pride, gratitude and – to be perfectly frank – relief that we now announce the 2021 Kennedy Summer School programme. All of our lives have been on hold and many of us have been directly affected by Covid-19. Our very best wishes go to those of you who have suffered from serious illness and our sincerest condolences go to those of you who have endured the loss of a loved one due to this horrific pandemic. Sadly and reluctantly, we cancelled last year's summer school. We were determined to return this September and are delighted that we have put together an excellent programme under these difficult and fluid circumstances.

We were especially keen to bring people back to New Ross – both those who are regular attendees and those who might be joining us in this wonderful town for the first time. St. Michael's Theatre is an ideal venue and it is great that we will have men, women and children, with social distancing and all other appropriate precautionary measures in place, in the seats. Some of our special guest speakers will join us in person. Others will be with us virtually. We are so thankful to them all for agreeing to share their wide-ranging expertise.

One of the best things about the Kennedy Summer School is the interactivity between our speakers and our dedicated and knowledgeable audience. The latter are not passive; they are active participants in the theatre and elsewhere in the town where the stimulating discussions continue to flow. To the extent possible and mindful that we need to prioritise everyone's safety, we hope this will be the case again.

As for the programme, here you will see the details of the sessions and speakers that will take place from Thursday, the 2nd, through Saturday, the 4th. While we are unable to host some of the events that have become annual fixtures (they will be back in 2022), we again will have a history panel, an American politics panel and an Irish politics panel. We are also very happy this year to have a session on legal journalism, which will focus on some of the high profile trials in recent years that have gripped the nation, and a session on what it's been like to cover the Trump presidency and its aftermath, featuring three Irish journalists who are making their mark as they endeavour to explain what is happening and why stateside.

The Kennedy Summer School Programme is subject to change. For up to date details and full profiles of speakers see [kennedysummerschool.ie](http://kennedysummerschool.ie)

We are very excited that RTÉ's long-time Northern Editor, Tommie Gorman, will do a public interview reflecting on his career covering momentous highs and lows and evaluating what might lie ahead. In a case of turning the tables, Tommie Gorman will be interviewed by a man who he put countless difficult questions to over the course of decades, former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

And we could think of no one better to open this year's Kennedy Summer School than Professor Luke O'Neill, who has become a household name as he has been among the most sought after and often the most prescient expert when it comes to combatting coronavirus. It is fitting that the public interview he will sit for after officially launching the summer school will be the inaugural Kennedy Summer School session bearing the name of our founder, the late Noel Whelan.

At every future summer school, there will be a session that commemorates the life and legacy of Noel Whelan. While it could come in any number of different formats, it will always focus on the issues and causes that animated his extraordinary and much too short life.

Even though this year's programme is necessarily truncated, as we like to say, there is still something for everyone. We hope that you will agree. And it is, as ever, that we are truly honoured to have you with us in New Ross. Enjoy!

The Kennedy Summer School Directors:



**Eammon Hore**  
Director



**Eileen Dunne**  
Director



**Dr Robert M. Mauro**  
Director



**Dr Brian Murphy**  
Director



**Sinead McSweeney**  
Director



**Larry Donnelly**  
Director



**William Keilthy - Chairman**



**New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive**  
Presentation of the Peggy Walsh Movie Collection  
to New Ross Library

**Thursday 2nd September | 5:30pm - 6pm**

**Venue: New Ross Library Park (Subject To Weather Conditions)**

The Kennedy Book and Research Archive is delighted to accept the Movie collection of Mrs Peggy Walsh, Hoodsgrove, Rosbercon, New Ross. Today we are privileged to have so many formats for collecting local historic and social events instantly on our smart phones. They can be viewed immediately on Facebook, Instagram, TiK Tok and many other platforms. Back in the late 1950's and 1960's collecting such footage was limited to the standard film camera or the super 8 movie camera with sometimes waiting weeks to have them developed and then only available to a few.

Fortunately Peggy Walsh now 98 years old was a keen photographer and back in the day made lots of short movies capturing the most important events of the day in New Ross including the visit of President Kennedy to the town, the last days of the New Ross Dublin Train Service, play at New Ross Golf Club and many others. It is certain that this important local collection will serve to relate the social history of the town and surrounding district. We would like to thank Ann Larkin daughter of Peggy Walsh for providing this collection to the archive.



**Peggy Walsh**



**Yvonne Smith**

**Executive Librarian  
New Ross**



**Shared Island Experience**

In association with the Department of the Taoiseach



**Chair: Bryan Dobson**

RTÉ Journalist

**Friday 3rd September | 2:30pm**

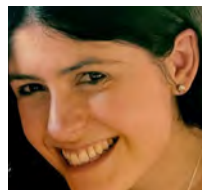
**Venue: St Michael's Theatre | Live Event**



**Minister Darragh O'Brien**

In association with the Department of the Taoiseach, the Kennedy Summer School is proud to present a Shared Island panel discussion.

The Government's Shared Island initiative, launched by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD in October 2020, aims to take up the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to benefit the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.



**Sarah Creighton**

The Government is working with the Northern Ireland Executive and the British Government to deepen cooperation and make investments for a more connected, sustainable and prosperous shared island for all.

There has been much debate in recent months about what a Shared Island means. Inclusive civic dialogue is central to the initiative. These conversations are essential to shape and build consensus around a shared future. Through this engagement, everyone can play a part to strengthen connections and trust between all communities and traditions on the island for the years ahead.



**Dr Robert M. Mauro**

Chaired by Bryan Dobson, this event will hear from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, and Alliance Party deputy Leader Stephen Farry MP. The panel will also include Sarah Creighton, writer, lawyer and commentator from Belfast, and Dr Robert M. Mauro, the Executive Director of the Irish Institute and Global Leadership Institute at Boston College.



**Stephen Farry**



**Roinn an Taoisigh**  
Department of the Taoiseach

**This is a free event but places are limited and MUST be booked in advance. To reserve a space on a first come basis, email [info@kennedysummerschool.ie](mailto:info@kennedysummerschool.ie) to receive confirmation of ticket allocation**





# Coronavirus COVID-19

## What Should I Do?

I've been to an affected region in the last 14 days and I HAVE symptoms

**OPENING NIGHT EVENT**

**Official Opening Of 2021 Kennedy Summer School**  
By Luke O'Neill Professor of biochemistry in the School of

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**Friday 3rd September | 6:00pm**  
**Venue: St Michael's Theatre | Live Event**

The Kennedy Summer School is delighted that Professor Luke O'Neill has kindly accepted our invitation to officially open the 2021 programme.

Luke O'Neill investigates inflammation – a highly complex process that is provoked in the body during infection by bacteria and viruses but also in response to trauma and injury. Inflammation restores us to health but for largely unknown reasons it can go rogue and give rise to a whole range of inflammatory diseases which remain difficult to treat.

He has worked on innate immunity, which lies at the heart of inflammation. He has uncovered new molecules and biochemical processes that are triggered by sensors of infection and tissue injury, including the Toll-like receptors and inflammasomes, and the signals they drive that stimulate inflammation, notably cytokines including interleukin-1. He is using his findings to help in the effort to develop badly-needed anti-inflammatory medicines.

He was awarded the Royal Dublin Society / Irish Times Boyle Medal for scientific excellence in 2009, the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal for Life Sciences in 2012 and the European Federation of Immunology Societies Medal in 2014. He was elected a member of EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) in 2005.



**Professor Luke O'Neill**

Continued >>>



### KENNEDY SUMMER SCHOOL The Noel Whelan Interview

## Friday 3rd September

**Venue: St Michael's Theatre | Live Event**

Launching the summer school will be the inaugural Kennedy Summer School session bearing the name of our founder, the late Noel Whelan.

At every future summer school, there will be a session that commemorates the life and legacy of Noel Whelan.

Following the opening of this year's Kennedy Summer School we will hold the inaugural Noel Whelan Interview with Professor Luke O'Neill. Virgin Media's Zara King will pose the questions.



**Zara King**

News Correspondent at Virgin Media Television



## US POLITICS PANEL: HOW POLARISED IS AMERICA?

### Friday 3rd September

7:30pm

Venue: Venue: St Michael's Theatre,  
New Ross | Live & Virtual Event



**Chair: Eileen Dunne**

RTE News

"The dominant narrative emanating from the US in recent years has been one of division. There are manifest splits along political, cultural, racial, geographic and other lines. Campaigns and elections have put the spotlight on a nation that is splintered in many ways and have led some observers from within and without to argue that America is hopelessly polarised. In this session, two prominent Irish Americans - one Republican and one Democrat - consider the consequences of political and societal polarisation, and share ideas for how their country and its increasingly diverse people can, while recognising and respecting heartfelt, legitimate differences of opinion on important issues, come together and rediscover a shared sense of purpose and ambition for the US.



**Mick Mulvaney**

Live From New Ross

Mick Mulvaney is an American politician, who has been a White House chief of staff and the director of the Office of Management and Budget. He was born into a middle-class family and graduated high school in North Carolina. He then attended Georgetown University. He later earned a Juris Doctor degree from the 'University of North Carolina. After working at a law firm for a while, he became interested in joining politics in the mid-2000s.



**Brendan Boyle**

Live From USA

Congressman Brendan F. Boyle He was elected to the Pennsylvania state legislature in 2008, becoming the first Democrat to ever represent his legislative district. Two years later his brother, Kevin, was also elected to the state legislature, making them the first brothers to serve together in the state House. In 2014, Congressman Boyle pulled off an upset win over three better-funded rivals to be elected to Congress.

# TOMMIE GORMAN NORTHERN IRELAND



## THE EDWARD M. KENNEDY INTERVIEW

Tommie Gorman in conversation with Bertie Ahern

### Friday 3rd September | 9:00pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

We are very excited that RTÉ's longtime Northern Editor, Tommie Gorman, will do a public interview reflecting on his career covering momentous highs and lows and evaluating what might lie ahead. In a case of turning the tables, Tommie Gorman will be interviewed by a man to who he put countless difficult questions over the course of decades, former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

During his 41 years with RTE, Tommie Gorman developed a reputation for telling complex stories in an accessible, sensitive way. He covered national and international events as RTE Northern Western Correspondent, during 12 Brussels-based years and as Belfast-based Northern Editor for the past two decades. His documentaries include programmes on Ireland's relationship with Britain and about his personal journey as a cancer patient.

His interview with Irish soccer international, Roy Keane, during the Saipan controversy in 2002 was one of the most-watched sports interviews in RTE history. He retired from RTE in April 2021 and currently writes for the website, The Currency. He lives with his Cork-born wife, Ceara Roche, in Sligo. Their daughter, Moya, works in Brussels and their son, Joe, is based in Boston.

Bertie Ahern was first elected Taoiseach in June 1997, he was re-elected in June 2002 and again in May 2007. He served as a member of Dáil Éireann for almost 35 years.



**Bertie Ahern**

Former Taoiseach



**Tommie Gorman**

Former RTE Correspondent



**THE KENNEDY SUMMER SCHOOL  
HISTORY SYMPOSIUM:  
PARTITION 1921-2021**

**Saturday 4th  
September 11:00am**

**Venue: St Michael's Theatre**



**Chair: Dr Mary Murphy**  
UCC Cork

This year marks both the one-hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the Government of Ireland Act and the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. These landmark events helped to divide Ireland into two separate jurisdictions and saw a land border come into effect on the island of Ireland. The 1921 partition of Ireland has had huge ramifications for social, economic and political life on the island of Ireland.

A distinguished panel of historians will assess the root causes of partition and discuss the far-reaching and enduring impact of the border in Irish politics, an issue that has again come to the forefront as part of the Brexit debate. Chaired by Professor Mary C. Murphy, the panel will consist of Professor Donnacha Ó Beacháin, Dr Cormac Moore, Professor Bill Kissane and Professor Margaret O'Callaghan.



**Dr Bill Kissane**  
London School of Economics



**Dr Cormac Moore**  
Historian in Residence



**Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD**  
Fine Gael



**Mairéad Farrell TD**  
Sinn Féin



**Prof Donnacha Ó Beacháin**  
Dublin City University



**Dr. Margaret O' Callaghan**  
Queens University, Belfast



**Neasa Hourigan TD**  
Green Party



**Jennifer Whitmore TD**  
Social Democrats



**THE IRISH POLITICS SESSION**  
Covid-19, Housing and More

**Saturday 4th September**

**2pm - 3pm**

**Venue: Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross**



**Mary Regan**  
RTÉ political reporter

RTE's Mary Regan chairs a special one-hour panel of leading Irish female politicians who will debate topical issues and take questions from the Kennedy Summer School audience.

As the political season is about to restart after the summer recess, the Kennedy Summer School has gathered together four female TDs, all of whom were first elected at the general election in February 2020.

Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD (Fine Gael) represents Dún Laoghaire. Mairéad Farrell TD (Sinn Féin) represents Galway West. Neasa Hourigan TD (Sinn Féin) represents Dublin Central. Jennifer Whitmore TD (Social Democrats) represents Wicklow.

As well as focusing on their experiences as first-time TDs in the midst of a global pandemic, the panellists will give their perspectives on the forthcoming budget, the Covid-19 crisis, Housing, Brexit and other key issues.





## COVERING THE COURTS

Covering some of the trials that have gripped the nation

**Saturday 4th September | 3:30pm**

Venue: St Michael's Theatre | Live Event



Frank Greaney



Órla O'Donnell



Vivienne Traynor



Conor Gallagher

There have been several criminal trials in the past few years that – in part, because they were so profoundly disturbing – attracted widespread attention. On this panel, we will hear from leading journalists who have covered them in print, online, on radio and on television. They will share their first-hand experiences of doing so and take an in-depth look at some of the broader issues that they brought to the fore. The panel will be moderated by the former director-general of the Law Society, Ken Murphy, who has a strong interest in how the law and legal system are portrayed in the media.

Frank Greaney is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, Órla O'Donnell has been RTE's legal affairs correspondent since 2006, Vivienne Traynor has been the Courts Reporter for RTE NEWS since 2008 & Conor Gallagher is the Irish Times' Crime Correspondent.

Ken Murphy announced his retirement with effect from March 2021 as Director General of the Law Society. Prior to his appointment to the Law Society role in 1995, he practiced in one of Ireland's largest commercial law firms, A&L Goodbody, where he became a partner in 1990.

He practiced primarily in litigation and in EU and competition law including, for four years, in the firm's Brussels office.



Chair: Ken Murphy



## REPORTING ON AMERICA IN A TIME OF TUMULT

**Saturday 4th September 5:00pm**

Venue: St Michael's Theatre  
Live Event / Streamed Event



Chair: Larry Donnelly

There aren't many words that suffice to describe the political and broader climate in the US that the Trump presidency was as much a symptom, as it was a cause, of. This panel features three outstanding Irish journalists who will tell us what it's like on the coal face. They will offer their perspectives on why Donald Trump – love him or loathe him – still enjoys the support of a vast swathe of America and on the oft-repeated mantra that the US is a polarised country. Also, as three journalists working for traditional media outlets, they will consider the rise of "new" media and its impact on political discourse and on society.



Brian O'Donovan RTE



Donie O'Sullivan CNN



Suzanne Lynch Irish Times





# SUMMER SCHOOL CLOSES

Saturday 4th September

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross

## Images from our last Kennedy Summer School

More images on: [www.kennedysummerschool.ie](http://www.kennedysummerschool.ie)





# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

## Thursday/Friday 2nd/3rd September

There will be a 30 minute break at the end of each session

Thursday 2nd September | 5:30pm – 6:00pm

Venue: New Ross Library, New Ross | Live Event

### New Ross Kennedy Book and Research Archive

Presentation of the Peggy Walsh Movie Collection to New Ross Library

Host: Yvonne Smith

Friday 3rd September | 2:30pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### Shared Island Experience

In association with the Department of the Taoiseach

Speakers: Chair: Bryan Dobson, Minister Darragh O'Brien, Stephen Farry  
Dr Robert M. Mauro, Sarah Creighton.

Friday 3rd September | 6:00pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### Official Opening Of 2021 Kennedy Summer School By Luke O'Neill Professor of biochemistry

Speaker: Professor Luke

FOLLOWED BY

### Kennedy Summer School

The Noel Whelan Interview

Professor Luke O'Neill in conversation with Zara King

Friday 3rd September | 7:30pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live & Virtual Event

### US Politics Panel: How Polarised Is America?

Speakers: Chair: Eileen Dunne, Mick Mulvaney - Live from New Ross, Brendan Boyle - Live from the US

Friday 3rd September | 9:00pm

Venue: New Ross Library, New Ross | Live Event

### The Edward M. Kennedy Interview

Tommie Gorman in conversation with Bertie Ahern

Speakers: Bertie Ahern, Tommie Gorman

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

## Saturday 4th September

There will be a 30 minute break at the end of each session

Saturday 4th September | 11:00am

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### HISTORY SYMPOSIUM: PARTITION 1921-2021

Speakers: Chair: Dr Mary Murphy, Dr Bill Kissane, Dr Cormac Moore, Prof Donnacha Ó Beacháin, Dr. Margaret O' Callaghan

Saturday 4th September | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### The Irish Politics Session

Covid-19, Housing and More

Speakers: Chair: Mary Regan, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, Mairéad Farrell TD, Neasa Hourigan TD, Jennifer Whitmore TD

Saturday 4th September | 3:30 pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event / Streamed Event

### COVERING THE COURTS

Covering some of the trials that have gripped the nation

Speakers: Chair: Ken Murphy, Frank Greaney, Órla O'Donnell, Vivienne Traynor, Conor Gallagher

Saturday 4th September | 5:00pm

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### Reporting On America In A Time Of Tumult

Speakers: Chair: Larry Donnelly, Brian O'Donovan RTE, Donie O' Sullivan CNN, Sarah Lynch Irish Times

Saturday 4th September

Venue: St Michael's Theatre, New Ross | Live Event

### SUMMER SCHOOL CLOSES



# Ticket Prices

Tickets: St. Michael's Theatre.

Box Office +353 (0)51 421255 or online at  
[www.kennedysummerschool.ie](http://www.kennedysummerschool.ie)

# TBA

## The Kennedy Summer School

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