

2010 Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies

Managing Violent Pasts: The case of Northern Ireland

Dr. Marie Breen-Smyth

June 20-27, 2010

Course Description:

This course provides a detailed account of the Northern Ireland conflict and eight attempts at achieving peace dating from the 1970s to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The course will be entirely geared to a consideration of the lessons to be drawn from the Northern Ireland experience and their relevance or lack of relevance to conflicts and peace processes in other regions. The importance of post-conflict reform, truth recovery and the management of weapons and spoilers will provide points of comparison. There will also be opportunities for participants to shape aspects of the course according to their own specific interests or preoccupations.

No previous knowledge of Northern Ireland is required, and participants will be briefed on the key events, political parties, armed actors, together with an analysis of the impact of the conflict. **Participants are expected to read some item for the reading list before each class. It is not necessary to read all the material listed, the list is merely intended to provide participants with a choice.**

- Course Outline by Day -

Monday June 21 (Day 1)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Aims of the course and course outline

- Historical background to the conflict

Recommended Reading

- Darby, J. Conflict in Northern Ireland; Background Essay (PDF provided)

Additional Reading

- Kennedy-Pipe, Caroline, 'From War to Peace in Northern Ireland.' In Cox, Michael, Guelke, Adrian and Stephen, Fiona, *A Farewell to Arms: Form 'long war' to long peace in Northern Ireland*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000.

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Parties, armed groups and other actors

Recommended Reading

- Darby, John, 'Northern Ireland: The background to the Peace Process.' CAIN website, Background to the Conflict (2003) available at <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/events/peace/darby03.htm>

Additional Reading

- Manseragh, Martin, 'The background to the Irish peace process.' In Cox, Michael, Guelke, Adrian and Stephen, Fiona, *A Farewell to Arms: Form 'long war' to long peace in Northern Ireland*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2000.

Tuesday June 22 (Day 2)

Morning class:

10:00-12: The impact of the conflict in Northern Ireland

Recommended Reading

- Smyth, M. (2003) *The Impact of Political Conflict on Children in Northern Ireland: a report on the Community Conflict Impact on Children Study* (PDF provided)

Additional Reading

- Morrissey, M. And Smyth, M. (2002) *Northern Ireland After the Good Friday Agreement: Victims, Grievance and Blame*. London: Pluto
- Fay, M.T. and Smyth, M. (2000). *Personal Accounts of Northern Ireland's Troubles: Public Chaos, Private Loss*. London: Pluto
- Fay, M.T. Morrissey, M. And Smyth, M. (1999) *Northern Ireland's Troubles: The Human Costs*. London: Pluto.

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Attempts at peacemaking in N Ireland

Recommended Reading

- Breen-Smyth, M. (2008) 'Frameworks for peace in Northern Ireland; an analysis of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.' *Strategic Analysis* Vol 32 No 6, November 2008: pp 1-23.

Wednesday June 23 (Day 3)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 The Good Friday Agreement; context and process

Recommended Reading

- Andrew Reynolds (2000) "A Constitutional Pied Piper: The Northern Irish Good Friday Agreement" *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 114, No. 4, (Winter, 1999-2000), pp. 613-637 (PDF provided)

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Reform, demilitarisation and the new institutions

Recommended Reading

- Smyth, M. (2004) "The Process of Demilitarisation and the Reversibility of the Peace Process in Northern Ireland." *Terrorism and Political Violence* Special issue on Northern Ireland, Vol 16, (3) Autumn 2004 pp. 1-23. ISSN 0954-6553

Additional Reading

- Breen-Smyth, M. (2010) 'Paramilitaries and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland' in Judith Renner & Alexander Spencer (eds) *Reconciliation after Terrorism: Strategy, Possibility or Stupidity?* Abingdon; Routledge/ Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (PDF provided)

Thursday June 24 (Day 4)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Threats to peace: weapons; spoilers; segregation; and Consociationalism

Recommended Reading

- Byrne, Sean and Carter, Neal, "Social Cubism; Six Social Forces of Ethno-territorial Politics in Northern Ireland and Quebec." *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Vol 3 No 2 Dec 1996.available at <http://www.gmu.edu/academic/pcs/bryce.htm>

Additional Reading

- Carol Gallaher and Peter Shirlow "The geography of loyalist paramilitary feuding in Belfast" *Space and Polity*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 149–169, August 2006 (PDF provided)
- James McAuley, (2004) "Fantasy Politics? Restructuring Unionism after the Good Friday Agreement" *Éire-Ireland* 39: 1 & 2 Spring/Summer 2004 (PDF provided)

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Truth recovery

- Film 1 *Facing the Truth* (60 mins)

Recommended Reading

- Hamber, Brandon, Kulle, Dorte, and Wilson, Robin. (eds) *Future Policies for the Past*. Belfast: Democratic Dialogue, 2001. (PDF provided)

Additional Reading

- Breen-Smyth, M. (2007) *Truth and justice after violent conflict: managing violent pasts*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Friday June 25 (Day 5)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Justice?

- Film 2 *Five Minutes of Heaven* (88 mins)

Recommended Reading

- Hamber, Brandon and Wilson, Robin (eds) *Recognition and reckoning: The way ahead on victims issues*. Belfast, Democratic Dialogue 2003. (PDF provided)

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Joint Panel

Saturday June 26 (Day 6)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Reconciliation in Northern Ireland & final issues

Recommended Reading

- Joanne Hughes, Caitlin Donnelly, Gillian Robinson and Lizanne Dowds “Community Relations in Northern Ireland: The Long View” (PDF provided)

Additional Reading

- Breen-Smyth, M. (2009) ‘Hierarchies of Pain and Responsibility: ‘Terrorists’, Victims, War by Other Means and Prospects for Reconciliation in Northern Ireland.’ *Tripodos* (Spain) (PDF provided)

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Evaluation / film

Recommended Reading

- Hamber, Brandon (ed) *Past Imperfect; Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland and Societies in Transition*. Derry Londonderry: INCORE, 1998. (PDF provided)

Further suggested reading

- Breen-Smyth, M. (2008) 'Lessons learned in counter-terrorism in Northern Ireland: an interview with Peter Sheridan' *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, Vol 1, No 1 pp March 2008.
- Breen-Smyth, M. (2008) 'Dealing with the past: the politics of victimhood' in Liam O'Hagan (ed.), *Stories In Conflict* Yes Publications: Derry/Londonderry, 2008.
- Smyth, M. (2005) 'Young People and Armed Violence in Northern Ireland' in Dowdney, L. *Neither War Nor Peace: International Comparisons of Children and Youth In Organised Violence*. Rio De Janeiro, COAV www.coav.org
- Smyth, M. (2003) 'Burying the Past? Victims and Community Relations in Northern Ireland Since the Cease-fires.' In Biggar, N. (ed) *Burying the Past: Making Peace and Doing Justice after Civil Conflict*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press. (new edition in 2003) (pp125-154) ISBN 0-87840-394-9
- Smyth, M. (2003) 'The Concept of Childhood and the Experience of Children in Violently Divided Societies' in Kelly, J (ed) *Childhood and Its Discontents: The First Seamus Heaney Lectures*. Dublin: Liffey. (159-198) ISBN 1-904148-24-7
- Smyth, M. (2003) 'Military Youth in South Africa, Northern Ireland and the Middle East.' *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. Summer/Fall 2003, Volume IV No 2. pp 83-90 ISSN 1526-0054 ISBN 0-9704346-7-7
- Smyth, M. (2002) 'Quantifying the Effects of the Troubles.' In Hargie, O. and Dickson, D. (eds) *Researching The Troubles: Social Science Perspectives on the Northern Ireland Conflict*. London: Mainstream. (pp15-36) ISBN 1-84018-841-3
- Smyth, M. (2000) 'The Role of Victims in the Northern Ireland Peace Process.' in Guelke A. and Cox, M. *A Farewell to Arms: From War to Peace in Northern Ireland*. Manchester University Press. (pp118-135) ISBN 0-7190-5796-5
- Smyth, M. (2000) 'Working With the Aftermath of Violent Political Division.' in Kelmsall, H. and Pritchard, J. *Good Practice in Working with Violence*. London: Jessica Kingsley (pp 195-212) ISBN 1-85302-768-5