



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012 - 2023



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

# VISIONS OF LABOUR AND CLASS IN IRELAND & EUROPE, 2023

**Irish Labour History Society  
2nd International Conference**

**Dublin, Ireland**

**14th - 17th September 2023**

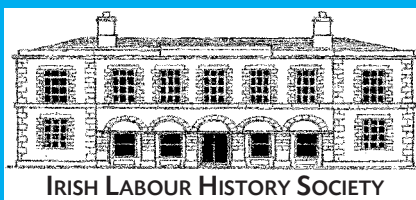
## Venues

**Liberty Hall, Theatre**

**Fórsa, Trade Union Head Office,**

**Trinity College, Long Room Hub**

[www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com](http://www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com)



## Venues



Liberty Hall, Eden Quay



Fórsa, Head Office, Nerney's Court



Trinity College, College Green

## PLENARY SESSIONS IN ORDER

### Venue Liberty Hall Theatre

#### Thursday 14th September 14.40-15.25



Marcel van der Linden  
'Labour, class and labour history since 1980'



Francis Devine, Patricia O'Donovan, Gerry Finnegan  
'The admission of the new state into The League of Nations and membership of The International Labour Organisation'

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#### Friday 15th September 10.15-11.00



'Gender, Class & Labour History Since 1980'  
Sarah-Anne Buckley



11.05 – 11.50 'Whither the Workers Republic?',  
Brian Hanley



11.55 – 12.55 'Oral History Panel'  
Ida Milne, Joe Mooney and Tim Strangleman



13.50 – 14.55 Peter Murray & Tom Turner  
'Industrial relations, bargaining wages,  
& labour law'



15.50 – 17.00 'The Peace Process,  
Good Friday Agreement & Brexit',  
Joe Cunningham and Patricia Mc Keown



17.30 – 18.45 47th Countess Markievicz Lecture

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#### Sunday 17th September



13.30 – 14.00 'Social Dialogue Discussion'



**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023**  
**THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**

*Registration: 12.00 to 14.15, Liberty Hall*

**Liberty Hall Theatre**

- 14.30** Introduction and welcome to Conference  
by Shay Cody, President ILHS
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- 14.40 – 15.25** *'Labour, class and labour history since 1980'*  
Marcel van der Linden, International Institute for  
Social History Amsterdam.  
**Chair:** Jack McGinley, (ILHS /TCD)
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- 15.30 – 17.15** **Decade of Centenaries presentation on 1923**
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- 15.30 – 15.45** *'Setting the scene, the Irish delegation to the ILO.'*  
Francis Devine, Honorary President ILHS/ Member of the  
Decades of Centenaries Committee.
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- 15.50 – 17.15** *'The admission of the new state into The League of Nations  
and membership of The International Labour Organisation'.*  
Patricia O'Donovan and Gerry Finnegan.  
**Chair:** Mary E Daly (UCD)
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- 17.15 – 17.30** **Tea/Coffee break**
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- 17.35 – 18.55** Labour Historiography – Irish labour history. *'Two sides of the  
same coin? Connolly & Walker reassessed'* Mike Mecham  
*'Expanding Labour: The Irish New Wave & the New Global  
Labour History'* Christopher J V Loughlin  
*'Soviets & Workers Councils in Ireland & Europe, 1917-23:  
A Comparative Study'*. Olivier Coquelin  
**Chair:** Francis Devine
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- 18.55 -19.25** *'Towards a labour history of the Great Famine'*  
John Cunningham.  
**Chair:** Kevin Murphy
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- 19.30** Launch of ILHS 50th Anniversary Essays  
*Labour History in Irish History*  
Edited by; John Cunningham, Univ. of Galway, Francis  
Devine (SIPTU College) & Sonja Tiernan (Royal Irish Academy),  
published by Umiskin Press in association with the ILHS.  
**Bean an Ti:** Catriona Crowe. Hon. President ILHS.
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- 20.15** Followed by reception in Cois Life Bar &  
Room, Liberty Hall.

**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023**  
**FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**

**Liberty Hall Theatre**

*Registration continues from 8.15am, Liberty Hall*

**9.00 – 9.30**      *'To the Linen Slaves of Belfast': The Plight and Fight of the Millies, 1800-1997* Rebecca Watterson (UU).  
**Chair:** Donal O'Drisceoil

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**TCD Long Room Hub**

**9.00**      Welcome: Professor John Horne TCD.  
*'Comparative European Histories'*

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**9.10 – 10.00**      Anna Frisone & Luca Bertolani Azaredo  
*'Italian Labour & Unions in the 70's - a decade of troubles'*  
**Chair:** John Horne.

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**Forsa Head Office, Nerney's Court**

**9.00 – 9.45**      *'UNITE History Project'* Jim Mowatt  
**Chair:** Francis Devine

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**9.50**      **Transfer to Liberty Hall for Plenary Sessions from 10.15 to 13.00 & 13.50 to 15.00**

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**Liberty Hall Theatre**

**10.15 – 11.00**      *'Gender, Class & Labour History Since 1980'*  
Sarah-Anne Buckley, Univ. of Galway  
**Chair:** Moira Leydon, ILHS Vice President/  
Assistant General Secretary ASTI

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**11.05 – 11.50**      *Socialism, Nationalism & Labour History.*  
*'Whither the Workers' Republic?'* Brian Hanley.  
**Chair:** Noel Ward (ILHS-INTO)

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**11.55 – 12.55**      *'Oral History'* 'Labour in the Newspaper Industry'; Ida Milne.  
Dockers & their Work Practices; Joe Mooney.  
'The Guinness Park Royal Brewery, London'. Tim Strangleman  
**Chair:** Alex Klemm (Unite)

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**13.00 – 13.45**      **Lunch in Liberty Hall**

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**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023**  
**FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**

**Liberty Hall Theatre**

- 13.50 – 14.55** *'Industrial relations, bargaining, wages & labour law'*.  
*'Americanisation & the reshaping of Ireland's Organised labour Movement'* Peter Murray.  
*'Political Change, Ideology & Influences in Attitudes to State Ownership of Business in Ireland'*. Tom Turner  
**Chair:** Mags O'Brien (SIPTU/ILHS)
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- 15.00 – 15.45** TU's History Public & Private.  
*'Civil & Public Service Unions'* Martin Maguire.  
*'The Irish Women Workers Union An Activist's Perspective'* Therese Caherty.  
**Chair:** Pat Bolger (ILHS/Forsa)
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- 15.50 – 17.00** *The Peace Process, Good Friday Agreement & Brexit Trade Negotiations.* 'Patricia McKeown (Unison) and Joe Cunningham (SIPTU)'  
**Chair:** Bill McCamley. (ILHS/SIPTU)
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**Forsa Nerney's Court**

- 15.15 – 16.15** *'Michael Davitt'* Carla King.  
*'The UIL & Labour Unions'* John O'Donovan  
**Chair:** Donal O'Drisceoil
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- 16.20 – 17.10** 'Planning a new education model for the Island of Ireland'  
Frank Connolly (SIPTU) & Lexie Scott (UTU).  
**Chair:** John Boyle INTO.
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**TCD Long Room Hub**

- 15.15 – 16.25** *'Gender History, Class, and Sexual Orientation'*. *'Queer histories of those involved in the 1916-1923 revolutionary period'*. Brian Crowley.  
*'He comes from a most respectable family: Class and policing homosex in Northern Ireland in the 1940s & 1950s.'* Charles Lynch  
**Chair:** Michael Cronin, Maynooth University.
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- 16.30 – 17.00** *Session on Irish Language – Sceim na gCeardchumann,*  
Des Geraghty.  
**Chair:** Micheal Mac Donncha (ILHS/DCC)
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**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023  
FRIDAY 15TH & SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**

**17.10** Proceed to Liberty Hall Theatre to be seated.  
Delegates to be seated by 17.25.  
No admission to theatre after 17.25 as per protocol  
Strictly admission to ticket holders only.

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**17.30-19.00** Evening Session (Includes invitees from IAIR)  
47th Countess Markievicz Memorial Lecture in conjunction  
with the Irish Association of Industrial Relations (IAIR) ‘  
*After Hobsbawm (1980) - Globalisation, Europe,  
and the Irish Working Class*’  
**Moderator and Chair:** Michelle O’Sullivan, President IAIR .

**SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**

**Forsa Nerney’s Court 9.15 to 18.00**

**9.15** Film Session 1 – ‘A Breed Apart’ Gerry Gregg – film on the  
Slieve Ardagh miners featuring Paddy Bergin.  
**Introduction:** Francis Devine (ILHS/MUI)

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**9.45-10.45** Voices of Experience - ‘*The Health Workers Dispute,  
Northern Ireland, 2019.*’ Anne Speed, UNISON.  
‘*Limerick Soviet: History in the Present*’  
Mike McNamara, Limerick Trades Council’.  
‘*A contrasting experience in organising and representing trade  
union members in Dublin and Kildare*’ Norman Croke ‘SIPTU &  
Kildare Council of Trade Unions’  
**Chair:** Francis Devine (ILHS/MUI)

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**10.50 - 11.30** Film Session 2 – ‘*Jim Connell & the Red Flag*’,  
Courtesy of: Jim O’Brien, Meath Council of Trade Unions.  
**Introduction:** Francis Devine (ILHS/MUI)

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**11.35-12.15** Trades Councils Republic of Ireland Betty Tyrrell Collard  
Dublin CTU; Kieron Connolly Bray TC;  
& Michael Wall Wexford T.C.;  
**Chair:** Pat Bolger (Forsa)

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**12.20-13.10** Film Session 3 ‘*Jer O’Leary - the Bard of Drumcondra*’  
**Introduction:** Francis Devine (ILHS/MUI)

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**13.15-13.55** Lunch

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**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023**  
**SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**

- 14.00-14.45** Workers in Literature - *'Inventing the Myth: the protestant working class in Literature'* Conall Parr.  
*'Scottish support for the Irish Citizens Army'* Steve Coyle  
**Chair:** Jack Mc Ginley. (ILHS/TCD)
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- 14.50-16.00** Irish Public Policy - *'The Marriage Bar in the Civil Service 1893-1973'* Laura Bambrick.  
*'Public Policy & Minimum Wage Regulation'* Michelle O'Sullivan.  
**Chair:** Rachel Ryan (SIPTU)
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- 16.05 -17.05** Irish Labour in the Diaspora – *'The Kirkintollock Bothy Fire 1937 & Irish Seasonal Migrant work'* Michael Halpenny.  
*The Connolly Association.* Patrick Smylie.  
**Chair:** Donal O'Drisceoil
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- 17.10 -17.45** Film Session 4 *'The Race to the Bottom'* shirt industry in Derry & Bangladesh. Niall Kearney A Life.  
**Speaker:** David Joyce (ICTU)
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**TCD Long Room Hub**

- 14.30-16.00** Trades Councils Northern Ireland:  
*'Remembering Rural Radicals'* Jim Quinn, Fermanagh Trades Council;  
*'Betty Sinclair'* Brian Campfield, Belfast Trades Council;  
*'Jim Haughey - Lion of Lurgan'* Dooley Harte Craigavon Trades Council.  
**Chair:** Gerry Murphy (DGS ICTU)
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- 16.05-16.35** Race, Ethnicity, Religion - *'The Irish labour movement & the Catholic Church'* Gerard Madden.  
**Chair:** Mags O'Brien
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- 16.45 - 17.30** Reviewing Social Partnership, Phillip O'Connor & Jack O'Connor  
**Chair:** Jack Mc Ginley (ILHS/TCD)
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- 17.35** Close of Long Room Hub Sessions and vote of thanks to Long Room Hub.

**Saturday Night Social Session**  
**Teachers Club, Parnell Square**  
**19.30 till late – Song and Craic**

*International Hedge School*  
**Celebrating 100 years of the Teachers Club.**  
**Memories of the Dublin Housing Action Committee**

**Hosts: Seamus Dooley (NUJ) & Mags O'Brien (ILHS/SIPTU)**

**ILHS 2nd International Conference 14th - 17th September 2023**  
**SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

**Liberty Hall**

**10.00 – 10.30**      *'Social Europe and its Future'* Sean Byers, Trademark.  
**Chair:** Owen Reidy

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**10.35 – 11.20**      Labour Biography; *'Christy Ferguson'* Charles Callan.  
**Chair:** Mags O'Brien (ILHS/SIPTU)

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**11.25 – 12.05**      'Class & Class Structure, Globalisation & Austerity,'  
Esther Lynch ETUC  
**Chair:** Kevin Murphy (ILHS/KCC)

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**12.10 – 13.15**      *Marxism & the Future of Socialism. 'Back to the Future-Class  
and its Distinction in 20th Century Intellectual Thinking'*  
Bernd Buehlbaecher, Univ. of Wupperthal. Eugene McCartan  
retired GS of CPI; Helena Sheehan DCU.  
**Chair:** Oisín O Drisceoil

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**13.15 to – 13.45**      **Light Lunch**

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**13.50 – 14.50**      Social Dialogue Discussion,  
Kevin Callinan (ICTU) & Danny McCoy (IBEC)  
**Chair:** Tom Geraghty (Labour Court)

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**14.55 – 16.00**      Labour History in 21st Century  
Panel: Emmet O'Connor; Tish Gibbons; Mike Mecham.  
**Chair:** Shay Cody (ILHS)

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**16.05 – 16.20**      Conference formal closing and vote of thanks  
Owen Reidy, Gen Sec ICTU/Trustee ILHS.



**FORSA Head Office,  
Nerney's Court**

**Liberty Hall Theatre  
Eden Quay**

**Trinity College Dublin  
Long Room Hub**

