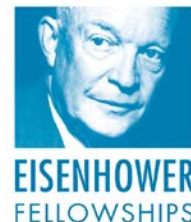


2019

EISENHOWER FELLOWS



Island of Ireland



Nicola Brady | NORTHERN IRELAND

General Secretary • Irish Council of Churches (ICC) and Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM)

As chief administrator for a national organization of member churches, Nicola Brady engages Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Catholic and Independent denominations in the work of peace-building and reconciliation. She is the first woman and first Catholic appointed to this role. Among her accomplishments, she has increased the community engagement profile of the Council of Churches, with a focus on social justice issues. On fellowship she will research best practices in faith-based leadership for reconciliation, motivated by the challenges arising from Brexit.



Seamus Coffey | IRELAND

Chairperson • Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC)

Seamus Coffey is an economist in University College Cork, the second largest university in Ireland. He specializes in Irish taxation including corporation tax and links with national accounting aggregates. He is Chairperson of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC). The IFAC is an independent governmental institution that provides assessments of government budgetary forecasts and fiscal policy objectives, and compliance with national and EU fiscal rules. Appointed by the Irish Minister of Finance in 2016, Coffey reviewed Ireland's Corporation Tax Code. His report included 18 major recommendations including significant changes to Ireland's transfer pricing rules and the taxation of intangible assets. In 2017, he was included by the *International Tax Review* in their Global Top 50 of the most significant influences in taxation. Coffey maintains a popular blog called Economic Incentives which focuses on Irish economic data. On fellowship Coffey wants to assess best practice for institutions that enable interaction between academic economists and policy formation, and to further explore the economic relationship between Ireland and the United States particularly in relation to the activities of U.S. multinational enterprises.

Leaders bettering the world around them.



Thomas Conefrey | IRELAND

Manager, Structural Macroeconomic Modelling and Analysis, Irish Economic Analysis (IEA) Division • Central Bank of Ireland (CBI)

Thomas Conefrey is an economist in the Economic Analysis Division of Ireland's Central Bank. He has published analytical work on key issues affecting the Irish economy including Brexit and other macroeconomic risks, the Irish labor market, fiscal policy and housing. Conefrey previously worked as chief economist at the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, an independent statutory body that provides an assessment of the government's economic and budgetary forecasts. On fellowship Conefrey plans to pursue a project on the performance of Northern Ireland as a regional economy in the context of Brexit, the characteristics of successful economic regeneration programs and the challenges and opportunities for the agriculture sector in Ireland.



Eimear Cotter | IRELAND

Director, Office of Environmental Sustainability • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland

A top administrator in Ireland's environmental regulator, Eimear Cotter is charged with protecting Ireland's environmental ecosystem from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution. Specifically, she leads the EPA's Office of Environmental Sustainability, which is concerned with licensing, greenhouse gas and waste inventories, carbon emissions trading and the circular economy. Among her accomplishments is an initiative to improve the EPA's activities in the circular economy including managing plastics and handling of waste in the construction and demolition sector, which is a key environmental concern in Ireland. On fellowship Cotter wants to gain insight into the intersection of behavioral science and policy in the U.S., with an emphasis on climate change action, resource efficiency and waste prevention.



Joseph Curtin | IRELAND

Senior Fellow • Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA)

As a senior fellow at Ireland's leading think tank on international and European affairs, Joe Curtin is an expert on climate change and reducing carbon footprints. He was one of the first to call for a national retrofit program as a means to reduce emissions and create jobs. His research also has underlined the importance of global climate policy for Ireland's agricultural sector. On fellowship Curtin wants to explore with key thinkers, writers, academics and influencers on how to set carbon pricing at a level that significantly reduces emissions and to look at prospects for transatlantic climate diplomacy.

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Katy Hayward | NORTHERN IRELAND

Reader in Sociology • School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

A tenured lecturer at Queen's University Belfast, Katy Hayward is also a Fellow of the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. She is widely recognized as the leading academic expert on the topic of Brexit and its impact on the Irish border and peace process. She has given advice and evidence to policymakers in the United Kingdom, Ireland and EU on these topics, as well as presenting to diverse public audiences, private companies and charities. Hayward is the author of 200 publications, including *Brexit at the Border: views from local communities in the Irish central border region* (2018) and *Dynamics of Political Change on the island of Ireland* (2017) and is also a sought-after commentator on national and international media. On fellowship Hayward wants to visit the U.S. - Canada border to assess the role of increasingly sophisticated technology in the movement of goods between the two countries.



Sonja Hyland | IRELAND

Ambassador of Ireland to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, the African Union and IGAD • Embassy of Ireland

A career diplomat currently posted in Addis Ababa, Sonja Hyland is Ireland's ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, the African Union and IGAD (the eight-country African trade bloc). Informed by her experience in the island of Ireland, she provided support to the Government of Colombia during peace accord negotiations with the FARC rebels while she was posted in Mexico. Ireland ultimately opened a resident embassy in Colombia in 2017 based on the strength of that initiative. On fellowship Hyland will look at the impact of demographic change in the U.S. on current and future patterns of political representation and power, and gain insight into the future trajectory of Irish-American political influence on Ireland and Northern Ireland.



Daithí Mac Síthigh | NORTHERN IRELAND

Professor of Law and Innovation • School of Law, Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

Daithí Mac Síthigh is a professor of law at Queen's University Belfast. He specializes in the legal and ethical issues around data and emerging technologies. He has developed and led new programs on technology law and media law at universities in the UK, and given advice to governments and public hearings on these topics. On fellowship Mac Síthigh wants to conduct research on law and technology. He will focus on smart cities, open data, and the sharing economy, all of which are of particular interest in Belfast and other cities on the island of Ireland at this time. He will ask three main questions: What can the law do to promote innovation? Does digital-led change risk leaving some people behind? How can we ensure data security and privacy while allowing for openness and transparency?

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Ronan MacNioclais | IRELAND

Partner • PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Ireland

Ronan MacNioclais is an accountant providing a range of tax services on private-equity and real-estate transactions. He is head of tax for mergers and acquisitions and also energy and utilities for PwC Ireland. The PwC Ireland partners elected MacNioclais to serve on the company's governance board in 2011. He has been head of Human Resources for the Tax Department since 2015. In this role MacNioclais has revamped the company's training, recruitment and bonus-compensation systems. On fellowship MacNioclais wants to converse with buyers of professional management services. He is considering whether Ireland's service skills and experience are ample enough to lead large-scale global projects.



Brendan Quail | NORTHERN IRELAND

Regional Project Manager - Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium (VSRC) • Bryson Intercultural

As a regional manager for a Northern Ireland-based charity, Brendan Quail promotes racial and ethnic integration with an emphasis on supporting Syrian refugees. He coordinates the Vulnerable Syrian Refugee Consortium, a partnership of seven community and voluntary organizations which assist refugees resettled under the UK Government's Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. Quail has developed a donation project in cooperation with athletic clubs, shoe retailers, and businesses which has given away hundreds of pairs of shoes and clothing to asylum seekers and refugees. Previously, he served as a teacher in Swaziland, an international volunteer coordinator in India, an advocate for the homeless and an outreach services coordinator for people who are deaf or hard of hearing in Belfast. On fellowship Quail wants to visit refugee resettlement agencies and advocates in the United States to learn about their strategies for integration and improving service delivery.

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Christine Robinson | NORTHERN IRELAND

Head of Strategy, Policy and Partnerships • Belfast City Council

Christine Robinson oversees strategy, policy and partnerships for Belfast City Council, which serves more than one million people in the greater area around Northern Ireland's capital city. She currently leads efforts on embedding community planning throughout the council area and is working with partners to deliver long-term outcomes for the City. She is currently developing an inclusive growth strategy for Belfast. In her role as Special Adviser to a Minister within the Northern Ireland Executive, Robinson was instrumental in upgrading skills-training and apprenticeship programs across Northern Ireland. Working with Queen's University in Belfast she is developing a data-driven, geo-spatial mapping tool to support evidenced based policy and investment decision to address spatial inequalities. She is a board member of Belfast Healthy Cities, which implements World Health Organization priorities in Belfast. On fellowship Robinson wants to study how American cities address inequalities and deliver improved social and economic outcomes by working in partnership across public, private and community sectors.



Stephen Rusk | NORTHERN IRELAND

Private Secretary to the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service • The Executive Office, Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS)

As principal adviser to the head of Northern Ireland's Civil Service, an organization with 23,000 staff, serving 1.7 million inhabitants, Stephen Rusk engineers creative solutions to complex political and social problems. In a region with a troubled past, he has participated in panels on securing better criminal justice outcomes in terrorism cases and on disbanding paramilitary groups. On fellowship Rusk wants to draw on the insights of U.S. experts to develop a new online publication to open Northern Ireland's civil service to greater collaboration, enabling public servants and members of civil society to have conversations that are separate and apart from political debate.

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Katie Taylor | NORTHERN IRELAND

Deputy Director, Community Safety Division (CSD) • Department of Justice, Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS)

As a justice department official in Northern Ireland leading the Community Safety Division, Katie Taylor is responsible for community safety and public protection issues; working to reduce crime and the harm and vulnerability caused by crime, including removal of justice-owned interface structures. In her previous role as the Strategic Delivery Manager for the Cross-Executive Tackling Paramilitarism Program, she introduced a series of initiatives, including a public awareness campaign with advertisements that read, “Paramilitaries don’t protect you, they control you,” and supported roll-out of a play and panel discussion on paramilitary activity to reach youth audiences. Issues relating to crime and community safety in her current and previous roles contribute towards transitioning society away from paramilitarism and coercive control, towards a culture of lawfulness. On fellowship Taylor wants to examine problem solving and restorative initiatives aimed at early intervention and diversion away from offending behaviors, including consideration of the root cause of such behaviors. She also hopes to look at gang culture in the United States to learn about innovative approaches to minimizing tensions in communities emerging from conflict, and movement away from coercive control, towards a culture of lawfulness through improved community and policing relations.



Neil Ward | IRELAND

Head of Corporate Affairs (Principal Officer) • Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service (INIS), Department of Justice and Equality

As a senior manager in Ireland’s immigration service, Neil Ward is responsible for reform, strategic communications, data, finance and human resources in an organization that annually processes more than 250,000 applications for visas, residency permits, citizenship and asylum. Prior to joining the civil service, he was chief of staff of the Irish Labour Party where he created a program to rejuvenate the party by ensuring financial sustainability, and promoting and mentoring young candidates. From 2011-2016, he served as chief policy and political adviser to two successive Cabinet Ministers for Education and Skills. He is a former Director of Dublin Pride, which organizes the city’s annual LGBT pride parade. On fellowship Ward wants to develop a plan to drive innovation in Ireland’s immigration system, informed by the user experiences of immigration system customers and staff.

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