



EirGrid Seminar

'Celtic Interconnections: Generating and Consolidating Energies'

Venue: TU Dublin, Musgraves Training Restaurant, Central Quad, City Campus, Grangegorman

Date: Friday, 26th April 2024

Programme

Time	Details
9.30-10am	Registration
10am	<p>Official Opening</p> <p>Host: Dr Eamon Maher, Director, National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies, TU Dublin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Orla McDonagh, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, TU Dublin Mr Michael Mahon, EirGrid Dr Brian A. Murphy, TU Dublin
10.15-11.15am	<p>Keynote Address by Professor Brian Norton, UCC</p> <p>Chair: Dr Dominic Dillane, TU Dublin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title: 'Interconnection and renewable energy: systems, energy storage and information'
11.15am-12.45pm	<p>Round Table – 'Generating and sustaining energ(y)(ies)'</p> <p>Chair: Dr Sarah Nolan, IADT, President of AFIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Áine Murray, President of the French-Irish Chamber and Head of Communications at Veolia Mr Pat Kelly, Department of Foreign Affairs Mr Glenn Carr, Director Commercial Business Units Iarnród Éireann / Port Authority Rosslare Europort
12.45-1.45pm	Lunch
1.45-2.30pm	<p>Keynote Address by Professor Eugene O'Brien, MIC</p> <p>Chair: Dr Eamon Maher, TU Dublin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title: '<i>Energieia</i> and <i>Actus</i>: Energy as Symbolic Capital'
2.30-4.15pm	<p>Panel and Q&A – 'Powering the Future: Ensuring Energy Sovereignty for the EU through Franco-Irish Collaboration'</p> <p>Chair: Dr Charles Larkin, University of Bath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Aine O'Mahony, Service économique de l'Ambassade de France en Irlande: 'France-Ireland Collaboration for Energy Decarbonisation and Security' Dr Shane Colclough, Energy Expertise Limited/UCD: 'Vive la recherche: Synergies between Ireland and France in the area of low-energy buildings' Dr Brian Ó Gallachóir, UCC: 'How does the Celtic Interconnector build on existing strong and deep Celtic Interconnections?' Dr Roman Le Goff Latimier, École Normale Supérieure de Rennes: 'Involving citizens in energy communities: tools and field experience'
4.15pm	Coffee
4.30-5pm	<p>Concluding Comments</p> <p>Host: Dr Elaine Mahon, Assistant Director, NCFIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor John Doran, Interim President, TU Dublin His Excellency M. Vincent Guérend, French Ambassador to Ireland

OFFICIAL OPENING

Dr Orla McDonagh joined Dublin Institute of Technology in 2016 as Head of Conservatoire. Prior to this she lectured in the Music Theory Department at Indiana University (1998-2001), was Head of Keyboard at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon (2001-2010) and RIAM Head of Faculty for Musicianship (2010-2015).



Orla is a concert pianist, pedagogue and arts administrator. An active soloist, chamber musician and contemporary music practitioner, she has released multiple CDs and is broadcast via classical music media outlets nationally and internationally. Recent research interests include performance collaborations with actors and music recording production work. A regular guest artist at Conservatoires and music festivals internationally, Orla is a founding member of the McDonagh Sisters Duo and The Wilde Trio.

Since 2011, Orla has been engaged in quality assurance work in Europe, designing standards in music performance education for the Association of European Conservatoires, reviewing music institutions/programmes and delivering peer-reviewer training for MusiQuE, the European evaluation and accreditation agency for music. In 2018 McDonagh presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on Music in Ireland. She currently serves on the boards of MusiQuE and the Dublin International Piano Competition.



Michael Mahon is Chief Infrastructure Officer with EirGrid. He joined the EirGrid group in August 2019. In his role, he is responsible for planning and consents for grid infrastructure across the island, including public consultation processes and landowner engagement. Michael previously held the position of General Manager, ESB Smart Energy Services. He has 20 years' experience with ESB with significant leadership experience in major project delivery. He is also a Chartered Engineer with Post Graduate Diplomas in both Project Management and Management.



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Brian Norton: 'Interconnection and renewable energy: systems, energy storage and information'

Abstract: Renewable energy can be both (i) transmitted from generation locations to end users without their own renewable energy at that time and (i) stored either at generation, intermediate or end use locations for later use. Electricity renewable energy supply and consumer demand can thus be matched by both interconnection and storage. This presentation will discuss factors that influence decision on the "what, where and when" of energy storage and how differing information flows are critical to an optimal system that can successfully balance sustainability, affordability and security of supply



Professor Brian Norton PhD DSc DUniv (h.c.) FIAE MRIA is Emeritus Professor of Solar Energy Applications at TU Dublin, President of the European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance and Vice-President of the European Academies Science Advisory Council. He is Secretary for Policy and International Relations at the Royal Irish Academy. Professor Norton was Head of Energy Research at Tyndall National Institute, a Research Professor at UCC, Professor of Solar Energy Applications at TU Dublin and a Principal Investigator in MaREI, the SFI centre for Energy, Marine and Climate.



He has an Honorary Doctorate from Université de Technologie de Troyes, is a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, Honorary Member of the Daylight Academy, Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers, He has received the CIBSE Napier Shaw Medal, Energy Institute's Roscoe Award, the American Association of Publishers PROSE Award for the book "Comprehensive Renewable Energy", Lifetime Achievement Award from the Solaris Conference series and "Solar Energy" Journal Best Paper Award in Photovoltaics. He is Visiting Professor at universities in France, China and USA, and has supervised sixty doctorates. His research outputs have received over 15,000 citations with an h-index of 64.

As immediate past-President of Dublin Institute of Technology, he played a major role in the creation of Technological University Dublin and in the realisation of its Dublin city-centre campus at Grangegorman. Previously, he held posts at Ulster and Cranfield Universities. Originally qualified as a Physicist, he has Doctorates in Engineering from Cranfield and Nottingham Universities.



Eugene O'Brien: 'Energeia and Actus: Energy as Symbolic Capital'

Abstract: This paper will look at the notion of energy in terms of the symbolic power of the word. It will trace its philosophical derivation from Aristotle through Martin Heidegger where it becomes associated with being in the world, and with potential and actuality. It will also note how 'energy' is a term which connects the individual life with the encompassing environment and will examine how energy as a force in culture has been imaged and represented over time. The 'clean' model of energy that we currently see in terms of electric power has strong correlations with these developments and the sense of new clean energy as having its own symbolic power in the public sphere will also be analysed



Eugene O'Brien is Professor of English Literature and Theory, and Head of the Department of English Language and Literature in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland, and is also the Director of the Mary Immaculate Institute for Irish Studies. He is the editor for the *Oxford University Press Online Bibliography* project in literary theory ([Oxford Online Bibliographies: Literary and Cultural Theory](#)), and of the *Routledge Studies in Irish Literature* series ([Routledge Studies in Irish Literature](#)). He has published a number of books on Seamus Heaney. His latest books include *Contemporary Irish Poetry and the Climate Crisis*, co-edited with Andrew J. Auge (Routledge, 2021) and *Reimagining Irish Studies for the*



Twenty-First Century, co-edited with Eamon Maher (Peter Lang, 2021). *Reading Paul Howard: The Art of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly*, was published by Routledge in 2023, and a co-edited book entitled *The Frontier of Writing: A Study of Seamus Heaney's Prose*, with Ian Hickey, will be published by Routledge in 2024, as will a special edition of *Études Irlandaises*, 'Contemporary Irish poetics (49:1)', edited with Eoin Flannery. He is currently working on a monograph entitled *Reading Michael O'Siadhail: The Gift of Tongues* (Routledge) and *A Companion to 21st Century Irish Writing*, with Anne Fogarty (Routledge).



ROUND TABLE

Aine Murray has been President of the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce (FICC) since December 2022. In her day job, Aine is Head of Marketing, Communications, Corporate Responsibility and Bid Support for Veolia in Ireland and Northern Ireland and a member of Veolia's Irish leadership team. Aine's role is to ensure that Veolia brings to life for all of its internal and external stakeholders its Purpose of Resourcing the World via Ecological Transformation. This is achieved through helping organisations to sustainably manage their energy, water and waste resources.

Aine is Vice-Chair of the Association of Business Responsibility within Business in the Community Ireland. A DCU graduate of Applied Languages, she also holds an MBA from Trinity College Dublin. Aine has worked with the FICC across a number of roles over the last thirteen years and is also Deputy Chair of its Climate Response Working Group. As President, she focuses on enabling the chamber to fulfil its mission of supporting, enabling and empowering strategic partnerships within the Franco-Irish business community in Ireland.



Pat Kelly joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as a Third Secretary in September 1990. He has served in a number of postings over his career, including at PMUN New York and as Press Secretary in Embassy Washington. He has completed two Ambassadorial assignments, as Ambassador of Ireland to Slovenia (also accredited to Bosnia-Herzegovina) from December 2014 to September 2015 and as Ambassador of Ireland to Hungary (also accredited to Kosovo and Montenegro) from September 2015 until August 2019.

At DFA headquarters, Pat has served in a variety of Director level posts including six years as Middle East Director. He has also served as UN Director, Africa Director and Director for Enlargement and the Western Balkans. He is currently Director of the GAC Policy II Unit in EU Division, responsible for coordination of Ireland's positions on the European and General Affairs Councils and also for cross-cutting issues such as EU Policy on Migration and the Future of Europe.



Glenn Carr is the Director of Commercial Businesses Units within Iarnród Éireann / Irish Rail which includes Rosslare Europort, Rail Freight and the car parts logistics distribution business Navigator. As Port Authority, Glenn has led the Rosslare Europort business to become Ireland's number one port for direct services to Europe with a sixfold increase in shipping services and a 50% growth in overall freight passing through the port over the last four years.

Glenn is overseeing the largest ever expansion and investment plans for Rail Freight and Rosslare Europort that will transform and grow these businesses further into the future.

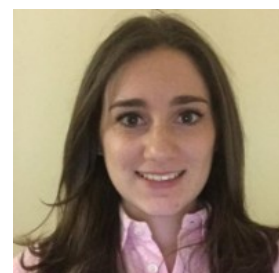
Rosslare Europort is currently undergoing a €200M investment that will be completed by 2026 with a further €200M investment planned in creating Ireland's National ORE Hub to support the Offshore Wind Energy developments planned for both the Irish & Celtic seas. Glenn is also responsible for the delivery of the National Rail Freight 2040 strategy which will see significant investment in new freight rolling stock, the creation of inland multi modal hubs and the development of the rail freight network to our key ports around Ireland.



PANEL ABSTRACTS & BIOS

Aine O'Mahony: France-Ireland Collaboration for Energy Decarbonisation and Security

Abstract: Amid escalating climate change impacts and geopolitical tensions, exemplified by Russia's aggression in Ukraine, the urgency for energy decarbonisation and security has reached unprecedented levels. France leads the charge by reducing fossil fuel dependency and investing in renewables and nuclear power, evident in its 4.8% CO₂ emissions reduction in 2023. Aligning with global commitments, France spearheads ambitious climate regulations within the EU. The France-Ireland collaboration, epitomized by the Joint Declaration of Intent on 'Energy Transition Cooperation' and the 'Ireland France Joint Plan of Action 2021-2025', bolsters EU decarbonisation efforts. Having co-chaired the AIE ministerial, both nations exhibit shared leadership on the global energy stage. Initiatives like the Celtic Interconnector further solidify their commitment to sustainable energy transitions.



Additionally, initiatives such as the Celtic Interconnector highlight the tangible steps towards enhancing energy interconnections, a crucial component of the EU's energy strategy. Serving as the first physical link between France and Ireland, it not only enhances energy security but also facilitates the attainment of EU objectives regarding interconnectivity. In summary, the collaboration between France and Ireland stands as a beacon of proactive cooperation in addressing the intertwined challenges of energy decarbonisation and security. Through concerted efforts and strategic partnerships, both nations are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the global energy landscape towards a sustainable future.



Shane Colclough: 'Vive la recherche: Synergies between Ireland and France in the area of low-energy buildings'

Abstract: This paper reflects on the synergies between Ireland and France in the area of low-energy buildings, perspectives which are united under the umbrella of the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. It provides a personal perspective on research being carried out involving collaboration between University College Dublin, Munster Technological University in Cork, Ulster University in Belfast, EPF University in Montpellier and ENTPE University of Lyon, and my own company Energy Expertise Ltd. As we embark on the full-scale deployment of low-energy buildings throughout Europe, as a research community we owe it to future generations to ensure that the low-energy buildings being constructed now will continue to perform and meet their needs throughout this century and beyond. We must understand our buildings and their occupants. This is the kernel of Post-Occupancy Evaluation.

A brief discussion on the results of some of the research highlights the real need to gather objective data to fully understand how our buildings are performing, and what their occupants think about them.

Dr Shane Colclough, a distinguished Chartered Engineer, plays a pivotal role in advancing the field of sustainable building technologies with a special focus on post-occupancy analysis in low energy buildings. His work, primarily centred around the School of Architecture Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin and the Centre for Sustainable Technologies at Ulster University, emphasizes the importance of evaluating buildings after they are inhabited to ensure they meet intended energy efficiency and comfort standards.



Dr Colclough's work on post-occupancy analysis is crucial for the iterative improvement of low-energy building designs, contributing to the broader goal of reducing dependency on fossil fuels and enhancing living conditions. His role as past Chairman of the Passive House Association of Ireland and his role as an EU Expert on Energy-Efficient Buildings underscore his commitment to promoting best practices in sustainable construction and retrofitting. Through his consultancy, Energy Expertise Limited, Dr Colclough applies his research findings to practical solutions, further bridging the gap between academic research and real-world applications



Brian Ó Gallachóir: 'How does the Celtic Interconnector build on existing, strong and deep Celtic Interconnections?'

Abstract: Ireland and France, in particular Brittany, have very strong and deep interconnections developed over centuries through our shared Celtic heritage, deep cultural and artistic linkages, our enchanting traditional music and our historically common enemy. We've seen these interconnections grow and flourish since the formation of the European Union, facilitated through student exchange programmes, increased opportunities for trade and collaborative research. The impetus to further deepen our bonds is clear in a post-Brexit world, with France now our closest EU neighbour. In addition, we are now building the Celtic Interconnector, a new piece of electricity infrastructure that provides a new form of Celtic interconnection that overlays onto these pre-existing relationships and bonds. From Ireland's perspective, it is a key enabler to us delivering on our ambitions to advance towards a climate neutral economy by helping us increase the flexibility of our power system as we increase the share of renewable electricity in our mix. It also provides significant benefits to Brittany's power system, providing additional electricity system flexibility to a system that has seen increased system alerts. A key question, in addition to the electricity and climate action benefits, is: What are the other benefits and implications of the Celtic interconnector as we overlay it onto the other multiple Celtic interconnections?

Brian Ó Gallachóir is Associate Vice-President of Sustainability at University College Cork and Director of UCC Futures Sustainability Institute, overseeing the strategic direction of research in sustainability in UCC. In addition, Brian is Director of MaREI, the €130 million SFI Research Centre for Energy Climate and Marine. Brian established energy systems modelling capacity in Ireland over the past 20 years and his research has underpinned Irish and EU energy and climate mitigation policies and energy company strategies and is the elected Chair of International Energy Agency Technology Collaboration Programme. Brian has also increased the transdisciplinary nature of climate mitigation research and this is particularly evident in the multi-stakeholder Dingle Peninsula 2030 partnership project and the EirGrid-MaREI collaborative project entitled Steps for Public Engagement with Energy Transitions in an era of Climate Crisis. He won the SFI Best International Engagement Award 2020, the SFI Engaged Research Award 2022 and the UCC Leadership Award 2022.



Brian is a member of the Ireland's Advisory Group on Social and Behavioural Research for Climate Action, the Climate Change Advisory Council Working Group on Carbon Budgets and the Climate Neutral Cork Leadership Group. Brian is an elected Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, has a B.Sc. from TU Dublin / TCD and a PhD from UCC.



Roman Le Goff Latimier, École Normale Supérieure de Rennes: Involving citizens in energy communities: tools and field experience

Abstract: Citizen involvement is a key lever for improving the penetration rate of renewable energies, through proactive management of their consumption. Firstly, this paper will draw on the experience of the ELFE project, which involves the establishment of a flexible and effective energy collective by a community of 200 volunteers in Brittany. Secondly, the added value of active consumer participation will be analysed, as well as proposals for strengthening consumers' ability to express their energy supply choices

Roman Le Goff Latimier received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Université de Paris Saclay in 2016. He is currently an Associate Professor at the École Normale Supérieure de Rennes. His research activities focus on the management of power grids with a view to integrating distributed renewable productions and flexible consumption.



CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Professor John Doran has been a member of the University Executive Team since 2022 and was appointed Interim President in March 2024. He holds a PhD in Physics and a BA (Mod) in Experimental Physics from Trinity College Dublin. Professor Doran joined the University's legacy institution, Dublin Institute of Technology, as a physics lecturer in 1996, taking on an Assistant Head of School role in 2003 and becoming Head of the School of Physics, Clinical & Optometric Sciences in 2009. During his time in school leadership, the school has grown significantly, with more than a doubling of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. He was awarded a professorship from Dublin Institute of Technology in 2017.



Professor Doran's research has focused on fundamental physics and the applications of quantum semiconductor structures and other nanomaterials, concentrating on solar energy technology in the last 20 years. He has been a member of several large European research consortia, funded through various EU Framework programmes, and was also awarded research funding through the Irish Research Council, the European Space Agency and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. He has extensive experience working with various health services in Ireland and the regulatory environment through many years of involvement with CORU, the Health & Social Care Professions Council, in various roles, including the Optical Registration Board membership.



H.E. Vincent Guérend has been French Ambassador to Ireland since September 2020. His previous posts focused on European Affairs and Asia. He spent twelve years in the EU institutions (European Commission and European External Action Service, EEAS, the latter as EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam) and then fulfilled several roles in the French diplomatic service. He was the first deputy secretary general for Franco-German cooperation in 2003-2004 following the creation of joint Franco-German cabinet meetings in 2003. He started his professional career in the French Ministry for foreign affairs in the EU Department, working on the internal market and the eurozone (1997-1999). He had special responsibility for the 2000-2006 financial framework and for the negotiation of the Nice Treaty during the French Presidency of the EU council (2000).

Ambassador Guérend is an alumnus of the ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration). He holds an MBA (Diplom-Kaufmann) from the wissenschaftliche Hochschule für Unternehmensführung Otto-Beisheim Hochschule Koblenz and is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris and of the Ecole de Management de Lyon.



CHAIRS AND ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Dominic Dillane is Head of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at TU Dublin. Dominic holds a BSc Degree in Actuarial Science from the University of Kent, Canterbury, an MSc in Statistics from University College Dublin (UCD) and a PhD in Statistics from Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Dominic was elected a Fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute in 2019 in recognition of his contribution to the development of the hospitality sector in Ireland.

Dominic is currently a member of the Council of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation and is also a Board member of the Irish Hospitality Institute. He served on the board of Fáilte Ireland from 2003 to 2013 and also held the prestigious position of President of the International Society of Travel and Tourism Educators. He also served on the Governing Body of Dublin Institute of Technology from 2005-2014 and on the board of the Grangegorman Development Agency from 2007 to 2013. He is currently General Secretary of the Industry and Commerce Association Ireland, and a member of the network of Industry and Commerce Associations throughout China.



Charles Larkin, (Discip. Schol.) B.A., Ph.D. [TCD] is Director of Research at the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath. He is also Chair of the Governing Body/Board of Trustees of Technological University Dublin and Vice President and non-executive director at Accounting Technicians Ireland. He was previously special advisor to the Chairman of the Oireachtas Committee on Health, Dr Michael Harty, TD (Ind.) and to Senator Sean Barrett (Ind.) of the Irish Senate. Dr Larkin is also an adjunct assistant professor at Trinity College Dublin, Johns Hopkins University and the Institute of Public Administration (Dublin). Dr Larkin has authored several items of Irish legislation and over 70 scholarly articles, most especially in the areas of finance, cryptocurrencies and public policy economics.



Eamon Maher is Director of the National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies, which is attached to the School of Tourism and Hospitality in TU Dublin. He is General Editor of two book series with Peter Lang, Oxford; *Reimagining Ireland* (128 books) and *Studies in Franco-Irish Relations* (23 books). Eamon has edited and co-edited 27 books, as well as publishing two monographs and one co-edited collection on the work of John McGahern entitled, *John McGahern: From the Local to the Universal* (2003) and *'The Church and its Spire': John McGahern and the Catholic Question* (2011). His current monograph deals with the French priest-writer Jean Sullivan, on whom Eamon has published widely: *The Prophetic Voice of Jean Sullivan (1913-1980) and his ongoing relevance in France and Ireland* (Peter Lang, 2025).



Elaine Mahon is Assistant Director of the National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies and a lecturer in culinary arts, gastronomy and food studies at the School of Culinary Arts and Food Technology at TU Dublin. Elaine was awarded her doctorate for her analysis of the role of the meal within international relations, and has published and spoken widely on the topic of dining, state entertainment and diplomatic protocol. She is on the organising committee of the Dublin Gastronomy Symposium and is a trustee of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery where she also coordinates the Young Chefs programme. Elaine is co-editor of the Journal of Franco-Irish Studies, and has recently edited a special edition of the journal *Food, Culture & Society*. She is currently preparing a monograph based on her PhD for Peter Lang, Oxford, entitled *The Minister requests the pleasure: Irish Diplomatic Dining, 1922-1963*.



Brian A. Murphy - PhD [NUI], PGDip (University Teaching and Learning) - is a lecturer in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at TU Dublin. Brian earned his doctorate in Modern Irish History from the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin. Brian's monograph *Forgotten Patriot: Douglas Hyde and the Foundation of the Irish Presidency* was published in 2016 by the Collins Press. He previously co-edited *Brian Lenihan: In Calm and Crisis*, the 2014 best-selling book on the public career of the former Minister for Finance. Brian's latest book, *From Whence I Came: The Kennedy Legacy, Ireland and America*, co-edited with Professor Donnacha Ó Beacháin, was published in 2021 by the Irish Academic Press. Brian is a director of the Kennedy Summer School, New Ross.



Sarah Nolan is the current President of AFIS (Association of Franco-Irish Studies) and programme chair in the Department of Humanities and Arts Management in IADT (Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire) where she lectures on Urban, American, and Contemporary Anglophone and Irish Literature. She was awarded a research fellowship at the National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies in TU Dublin, where she completed a doctoral thesis which analysed interconnections between the works of several city poets including Charles Baudelaire, Fernando Pessoa, T.S. Eliot and contemporary Irish poet Peter Sirr. A particular focus was on the role of woman or other within the city space. Sarah has published a number of chapters on these and other poets, including Paula Meehan and Doireann Ní Ghríofa, and has co-edited a collection, *Sounding the Margins* (2022), in the *Studies in Franco-Irish Relations* series.





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