

23 -26 September 2007

La Trobe University Melbourne (Bundoora)

15th
Irish Australian
Conference

***Ireland, Australia and Europe:
Colonies, Federations and Unions***



Professor Bronwen Walter
(Anglia Ruskin University, UK)

Keynote Speakers



Professor Brigid Laffan
(University College Dublin)



Dr Rebecca Pelan
(University College Dublin)

Sponsors

The Conference is organized with the support of:

- Cultural Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Ireland
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- Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand
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- Gerry Higgins Chair of Irish Studies, University of Melbourne
- GALE Cengage Learning



Conference Convenor: Dr Jennifer Ridden

VENUE: John Scott Meeting House, Bundoora Campus, La Trobe University

For enquiries please contact (03) 9479 3479 or irish_conf@latrobe.edu.au

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/history/irish_conference07.html

15th Irish Australian Conference

This conference is interdisciplinary and includes papers from Literature, History, Politics, Music, Art and Genealogy/Family History. They address some of the following themes:

- The common or disparate experiences, politically, culturally, socially, of Australia, New Zealand and Ireland within the structure of the British empire
- The issues related to bringing distinct cultures and polities together in larger units, and changing historical perspectives on those processes
- Literary and other cultural manifestations of the tensions associated with merging national identities and institutions
- The historical background and contemporary experience of Ireland in relation to Europe generally and to the European Union in particular

Keynote Speakers

Professor Bronwen Walter



Bronwen Walter is a leading researcher of the Irish in Britain and the diaspora. She is Professor of Irish Diaspora Studies at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK and has published extensively on issues of race, ethnicity, gender and migration in relation to Irish migrants and their descendants. Her book *Outsiders Inside: whiteness, place and Irish women* (Routledge, 2001) takes a comparative approach to Irish women's positioning and experiences in Britain and the USA. She has played a major role in policy research related to the Irish diaspora and was co-author (with Mary J. Hickman) of the Commission for Racial Equality report *Discrimination and the Irish in Britain* (1997). In 2002 she directed an international team which produced the academic study to inform the Irish Government Task Force on Policy regarding Emigrants (2002): 'Irish emigrants and Irish communities abroad: a study of existing sources of information and analysis' (including Australia and New Zealand). Her most recent research and publications are on the second-generation Irish in Britain and she is currently developing a research programme which explores multi-generational Irish identities, comparing positionings and experiences within the imperial 'core' of Britain and selected 'white settler' destinations, including Newfoundland and New Zealand.

Professor Brigid Laffan

Brigid Laffan, one of the foremost scholars in European Union studies, is visiting Australia between 23 September and 10 October as the guest of the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Professor Paul Johnson. She is Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics in the School of Politics and International Relations and Principal of the College of Human Sciences at University College, Dublin. She is the founder and chair of the Ireland for Europe Group, an elected member of the Royal Irish Academy, and member of the International Advisory Panel of NORFACE (a partnership of 7 European Research Councils). Her research interests include governance in the EU; constitution building in the EU; finances and the EU; Ireland and European integration. Select publications include: *Integration and co-operation in Europe* (Routledge, 1992); "The politics of identity and political order in Europe", *Journal of Common Market Studies* (1996); *The finances of the European Union* (Macmillan, 1996); *Constitution-building in the European Union* (contributing editor; Institute of European Affairs, 1996).



Dr Rebecca Pelan



Rebecca Pelan is a senior lecturer in the School of English, Drama & Film Studies at University College Dublin. Prior to joining UCD, Rebecca Pelan was Director/senior lecturer in Women's Studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has lived in Australia for many years, where she lectured in English at The University of Queensland. Rebecca is a member of the Editorial Board of *Hecate* (Australia), and of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Australian Journal of Irish Studies*. She is also on the Board of the Women, Gender, Culture and Social Change Research Centre, (School of English, Media Studies and Art History, The University of Queensland). In Ireland, Rebecca is General Editor of *Irish Feminist Review*. Her research interests include Irish women's writing, Edna O'Brien's fiction, feminist/literary theory, and Women's Studies. Recent publications include: *Two Irelands: Literary Feminisms North and South*. Irish Studies Series (New York: Syracuse University Press, 2005).