

IRISH SOCIALIST LIVES
History Department, NUI Galway
Friday 13 February, Moore Institute

10.00 Chair: *James S. Donnelly, Jr.*
Prof. of History, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

Laurence Marley on Michael Davitt, 1846-1906
This contribution considers Davitt as labour activist and journalist, assessing the international dimension to his radicalism, and his place in Irish labour history.

Gerard Moran on Matt Harris, 1826-1890
Ballinasloe-based member of Supreme Council of IRB, tenant right advocate, Land League leader and Irish Parliamentary Party MP for East Galway, 1885-1890.

Alf MacLochlainn, on William P. Dowling, 1824-1877
Artist, confederate, and Chartist, transported to Van Dieman's Land: neglected in Ireland because he was arrested and tried in London; neglected by Chartist studies because he was 'only' the link with Irish confederates.

11.30 COFFEE

12.00 Chair: to be announced

Dáibhí Ó Cróinín on Palladius
Palladius was sent to Ireland, AD 431, by Pope Celestine I as 'first bishop of the Irish', but he disappeared from the historical record thereafter. His recently discovered writings reveal a personality deeply imbued with radically socialist ideas. These may have informed the spirit of the Early Irish Church

Christopher Maginn on Shane O'Neill, 1529-1567
Irish socialists for long viewed Ireland's Gaelic past as a high point in Irish social development. Does the life of Shane O'Neill shed any light on the matter?

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 Chair: *Laura Vickers*, doctoral research fellow at the Moore Institute

Theresa Moriarty on Mary Galway (1864-1928)
Born in Moira, Co. Down, Galway was Ireland's pioneering woman trade union organiser and champion of the Belfast linen workers.



John Moulden on Sandy Crawford (c.1870 - 1940)
'Clodhopper': Alexander Crawford, an extraordinary common-man and his role in popular (labour) radicalism in North Antrim, 1918 to 1939.

15.00 COFFEE

15.30 Chair: *Caitríona Clear*, historian, School of Humanities, NUI Galway

Barry Desmond on Molly Davidson, Eleanor Butler 'Labour Women of the 1940s and 1950s': Davidson, party secretary and senator; Butler, architect, senator (1948-52), and Countess of Wicklow.

Charles Callan on Maureen O'Carroll, 1913-1984
Tuam-born graduate of UCG, 1935; secretary, 'Lower Prices Council' and 'Women's Parliament' from 1946, first woman elected a Labour Dáil deputy, 1954-1957.

Tomás Finn on David Thornley (1935-1978)
Thornley was a practicing Catholic, a Marxist academic at Trinity College, an outstanding broadcaster, and a Labour TD. This paper considers conflicts between his Christianity, his republicanism, and his socialism.

17.00 BREAK

Nuns Island Theatre



20.00 Chair: *Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh*, staraí agus ollamh ollscoile, OÉ, Gaillimh

Emmet O'Connor on James Larkin, 1875-1947
Big Jim Larkin was Ireland's greatest labour agitator and the hero of 1913. Yet, from the 1920s, the ITGWU saw him as a wrecker. So what was he, hero or wrecker?

Niamh Puirseil on James Larkin, 1905-1969
Young Jim was the antithesis of his showman father. Reviled for his communist past, respected for his ability and intellect, he shunned power and ultimately abandoned politics for his union. Was he really Labour's lost leader?

IRISH SOCIALIST LIVES
Irish Labour History Society
Saturday 14 February, Nuns' Island Theatre

With exhibition of historic trade union banners

10.30 Chair: to be announced

Dominic Haugh on John Dowling

As an organiser for the ITGWU, Dowling was a key figure in the labour movement in Limerick City and County during the 'red flag' years, 1919-1923

Leo Keohane on Jack White

Captain Jack White DSO, British Army war hero, is principally remembered as founder of the Irish Citizen Army but his anarchism provides an interesting alternative to the conventional nationalist grand narrative.

11.30 COFFEE

12.00 Chair: to be announced

Penny Duggan on Helena Molony, 1884-1967

Feminist, cultural revivalist, trade unionist, and Abbey actor, she was a member of Cumann na mBan, served as an officer in the Irish Citizen Army in 1916, and was a long-time organiser for the Irish Women Workers' Union

Síle Chuinneagáin on Catherine Mahon

'Profile of a President': the role of its first woman president in the development of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation during the period 1907-1920.



13.00 LUNCH

14.00 Chair: to be announced

Fintan Lane on William Thompson, 1775-1833

Political philosopher, feminist, and active cooperativist of Rosscarbry Co Cork, whose writings influenced socialist thought

John Arden & Margaretta D'Arcy on E.T. Craig

Long-lived & immensely versatile Owenite socialist from Manchester, phrenologist, public health engineer, present at the Peterloo Massacre (1819); with his wife Mary he organised the Ralahine Cooperative, 1831-33

John Cunningham on Lord Wallscourt, 1797-1849

Labourers' advocate and Irish confederate, Wallscourt visited E.T. Craig in Ralahine and was inspired to apply Owenite ideas to the running of his estate at Ardfrý, Oranmore.

15.30 COFFEE

16.00 Chair: Mary Clancy, historian, NUI Galway; hon. president, Irish Labour History Society

Aindrias Ó Cathasaigh on Gilbert Lynch

Gilbert Lynch is a neglected figure, but his work spanned a remarkably wide range. An active trade unionist all his life, he fought in the Easter rising, narrowly escaped death by British forces in 1921, briefly served as Labour TD for Galway, and saw both sides of the splits that divided Irish labour.

Tony Varley on Bobby Burke

In a career that is remarkable for many reasons, the Tuam-based Burke is distinctive for attempting to build a model of rural development that would be co-operatively organised and informed by principles of Christian Socialism

Michael Brennan on Bobby Burke

Veteran trade unionist Brennan recalls his youthful campaigning with Burke in North Galway in the 1940s.



17.30 BREAK

20.00 Chair: *Paraic Breathnach*, craoltóir, aisteoir, agus riarthóir ealaíne

Des Geraghty on Luke Kelly (1940-1984)

Having grown up in Dublin's inner-city, Kelly went to work on building sites in Britain, where he embraced the folk revival and joined the left-wing Connolly Association. Returning to Ireland, he was a founder of the Dubliners in 1962, and his socialist consciousness (which remained strong) influenced the group's repertoire.

Eamon Carr on Harry Kernoff (1900-1974)

London-born, Irish modernist artist of Russian Jewish extraction. On a trip with Irish Friends of Soviet Russia, came under influence of Soviet art. His work represented Dublin working-class life, and he provided illustrations (see right) used in Irish socialist publications.



Jim Monaghan on Tom Ó Flatharta, 1889-1936

Arainn-born short story writer & socialist activist. Founder & central committee member of US Communist Party, editor of Chicago's *Voice of Labour*, helped establish Trotskyist movement due to disillusionment with Communist authoritarianism. Returning to Ireland, he joined the Republican Congress & became editor of *An t-Éireannach* newspaper.