

Research and Innovation Overview 2024

Department of History

In 2023, the Department of History celebrated 70 years of excellence in teaching, research, and publication. The academic year 2022-23 saw the department grow to include 17 full-time academic staff, 5 contract staff (including Military History), and 1 postdoctoral fellow. The department was home to 28 registered PhD students, 1 MLitt, and 37 taught MA students. Notably, 5 PhD and 1 MLitt students graduated, along with 33 MA students. The appointment of Professor Dejan Djokic has made the department a leading centre for Balkan and wider European studies, further enhancing its prestige in European History. New appointments, including Professor Roisin Higgins and Dr Ciaran Reilly, have solidified the department's reputation in Irish social history.

Head of Department: Professor Terence Dooley



Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department continues to produce high-quality research across multiple areas, with key focus areas including:

- **European History:** The appointment of Professor Djokic has bolstered research in this area, particularly with the publication of his book *A Concise History of Serbia*.
- **Irish Social and Political History:** With a focus on themes such as migration, gender, country houses and landed estates, the Troubles, local history, and sport, the department is recognised as a leading centre for Irish historical studies.
- **Military History:** The department's longstanding collaboration with the Defence Forces and military history research remains strong, with key publications in military history journals.



Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the Department of History produced numerous publications, including:

Publications

- Professor Terence Dooley's book *Burning the Big House: The Story of the Irish Country House in a Time of Revolution* (Yale University Press) was released in paperback to widespread acclaim and inspired a six-part series on RTÉ.
- Professor Dejan Djokic's book *A Concise History of Serbia* (Cambridge University Press) was launched to international acclaim at the Belgrade Book Fair.

Awards and Grants

- Department members secured over €410,000 in research grants. Notable awards include:
 - Jennifer Redmond (COST award of €150,000).
 - Raul Cârstocea (ERC Starter Grant of €54,520).
 - Terence Dooley (IRC postgraduate award of €92,000).



Collaborations and Partnerships

The department continues to develop strong collaborations, both nationally and internationally:

- **Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies:** In collaboration with the Defence Forces, the department successfully delivered the MA LMDS and HDip LMDS programmes, further solidifying its long-standing relationship with the military.
- **Historic Irish Houses and Estates:** The department's Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE) organised its 21st annual Historic Houses Conference in collaboration with the Office of Public Works (OPW), supported by a €25,000 grant.



Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The department's research has made significant contributions to public history and societal engagement:

- **Public Engagement:** The department collaborated with RTÉ to produce the six-part Nationwide series inspired by *Burning the Big House*. This series attracted record audiences, with over 600,000 viewers per episode.
- Professor Filipe Ribeiro de Menezes' project, *Ireland through foreign eyes: diplomatic coverage of Irish Life, 1927-1945*, secured financial and logistical support from the Stackallan fund, the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and the Department for Foreign Affairs.
- **Heritage and Archives:** Dr Ciaran Reilly secured funding for the digitisation of local archives through Kildare County Council's Heritage Office, enhancing public access to important historical records.



Future Directions

The department will continue to focus on its core strengths in Irish and European history, military history, and social history. Future research projects will further develop collaborations with international institutions, and plans are in place to expand the department's engaged research and public outreach activities.

The Department of History at Maynooth University remains a leading centre for historical research, both nationally and internationally. Through its strong publications, successful research grants, and commitment to public engagement, the department continues to shape the study of history and foster connections between academia and society.