

Power, Memory and Identity in (post)conflict societies

A Symposium

***School of Political Science & Sociology,
National University of Ireland, Galway***



DATE:

Thursday, 3rd of March, 2016

LOCATION:

School of Political Science & Sociology, NUI Galway.

***" [...] Historical allusions still do such sterling
duty in sharpening antagonisms that
sometimes it seems as if time itself has lost
the power to separate the centuries"***

K. Theodore Hoppen

Led by post-graduate research students from the Power, Conflict and Ideologies research cluster - School of Political Science and Sociology - this symposium is intended to be an opportunity for discussion across all disciplines. It aims to explore, theoretically and empirically, the relation between power, memory and identity, and the different modalities and political logics through which different forms of commemoration and articulations of political identity manifest. We will discuss the fact that the question of memory and the institution of a new order or mode of identification in (post)conflict societies has to be articulated in relation to a shared history.

Discourses of 'collective memory' are representative of the specific values, beliefs and traditions which unite political and social agents through narratives of a shared past. In the current context of commemorations of our shared and conflicted past, be it the 1916 Rising or the 1981 Hunger Strikes, it is necessary to reflect upon the complex interplay between power and memory - which are constitutive of shared identity. Such a relation can be seen all the more vividly in (post)conflict societies where 'historical allusions' have the remarkable ability to shape political struggle, yet we assert, the malleability of such shared memories - in the Irish context at least - so as to offer legitimacy and direction to hegemonic projects as they look to the future. Anderson (1983) in theorizing the nation and national identity as belonging to an 'imagined community' has captured the ways in which such a mode of identification is constantly reproduced and reimagined through the lens of traditions, history, commemorations, literature and national symbols. It is from this standpoint that this workshop proceeds.

****Those interested in presenting at the symposium are invited to submit an abstract of 250 words, which should include title, description of study, and methodology (empirical papers), accompanied with a short biography of no more than 100 words including contact details and institutional affiliation. This symposium welcomes submitted abstracts from all disciplines, centered around our theme of Power, Memory and Identity in (post)conflict societies.****

Please send proposals to the "Power, Memory, and Identity" committee (pmipcs.galway@gmail.com) by 5pm on Friday 18 December 2015.