



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Brexit, Ireland and the Politics of Victimhood

School of
Culture and Communication

Faculty of Arts

Public Lecture

2020 Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowship Lecture

Mr Fintan O'Toole, columnist and Leonard L. Milberg '53
Visiting Lecturer in Irish Letters, Princeton University

Brexit is altering the "totality of relationships" on the British-Irish archipelago, perhaps in fundamental ways.

In this lecture, Fintan O'Toole argues that Brexit espouses not just a nationalist narrative of England's past, but a bizarrely borrowed version of Irish history. At the same time as Ireland has been struggling to transcend a nationalism based on grievance and victimhood, a new English nationalism has emerged that nurtures an (arguably less justified) sense of oppression, shame and of resistance against a supposed colonial master.

This lecture is organised by the Gerry Higgins Chair in Irish Studies, School of Culture and Communication, Faculty of Arts.

Fintan O'Toole is a columnist with The Irish Times and Leonard L. Milberg visiting lecturer in Irish Letters at Princeton University. He is the winner of both the Orwell Prize and the European Press Prize for his work on Brexit. He is currently working on the official biography of Seamus Heaney.

Born in Dublin in 1958, he has been drama critic of In Dublin magazine, The Sunday Tribune, the New York Daily News, and The Irish Times and Literary Adviser to the Abbey Theatre. He edited Magill magazine and since 1988, has been a columnist with the Irish Times. He contributes regularly to the New York Review of Books and The Guardian.

His most recent book is *Heroic Failure: Brexit and The Politics of Pain* (published in the US as *The Politics of Pain*).

Other books include *Judging Shaw* (2017); *A History of Ireland in 100 Objects* (2013); *Enough is Enough* (2010); *Ship of Fools* (2009); *The Irish Times Book of the 1916 Rising* (2006); *White Savage: William Johnson and the Invention of America* (2005); *After the Ball* (2003); *Shakespeare is Hard but so is Life* (2002); *The Irish Times Book of the Century* (1999); *A Traitor's Kiss: The Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan* (1997); *The Lie of the Land: Selected Essays* (1997); *The Ex-Isle of Erin* (1996); *Black Hole, Green Card* (1994); *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch* (1995); *A Mass for Jesse James* (1990); and *The Politics of Magic: The Work and Times of Tom Murphy* (1987).



Event Details

Date:
Wednesday 11 March 2020

Time:
6.45pm-8.00pm

Venue:
Kathleen Fitzpatrick Theatre
Arts West Building (148b)
University of Melbourne
Parkville Vic 3010

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Bookings:
Bookings are essential for this free public lecture. Register at <http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/fotoole>