

Northern Ireland: Fragile Peace in an Age of Austerity

Birkbeck College, London, 14 October 2011

The Birkbeck Centre for British Politics and Public Policy, in association with *The Political Quarterly*, is hosting this invitation-only roundtable seminar at Birkbeck College, London, on 14 October 2011. The meeting brings together leading academics, politicians and those from the policy community who work on Northern Ireland. We are taking stock of the peace process, and exploring its future in light of growing dissident and paramilitary activity and cuts in public spending as well as economic turmoil in the South. Along the way, we will discuss other facets of Northern Ireland which pertain to the peace process, notably the future of the media and state of the economy.

Each session will consist of several short papers (max 10 minutes) followed by roundtable discussion.

The Political Quarterly will be producing a special issue on Northern Ireland politics from this event, which will also be discussed at a designated panel of the Political Studies Association (PSA)'s annual conference in Belfast.

PROGRAMME

9:30 Session 1 Dissident Republican Activity in an Age of Austerity

- Jon Tonge, University of Liverpool
- Kevin Bean, University of Liverpool
- Martyn Frampton, Queen Mary, University of London

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 Session 2 Loyalist Paramilitarism in an Age of Austerity

- Pete Shirlow, Queen's University Belfast
- Graham Spencer, University of Portsmouth

1:00 LUNCH

2:30 Session 3 The Future of the Peace Process

- Henry Patterson, University of Ulster at Jordanstown
- Niall O' Dochartaigh, University of Galway
- Paul Dixon, Kingston University

4:00 COFFEE BREAK

4:30 Session 4 The Media and Politics in Northern Ireland

- Mark Devenport, Political Editor, BBC
- Eoin O'Broin, Sinn Fein (TBC)
- Greg McLaughlin, University of Ulster, "The media, the peace and 'bread and butter' politics"

5:30 FINISH