

Ruairí Mac Easmainn/Roger Casement (1864–1916): The Glocal Imperative

24–26 October 2013

Tralee, Kerry,
Ireland

a gathering of
scholars from Ireland,
United Kingdom, and
North and South America,
to examine and
interrogate Casement's
local and global legacy



Roger David Casement timeline

1864	• Roger David Casement born
1873	• Anne Jephson (mother) dies
1877	• Captain Roger Casement (father) dies. Casement raised by John Casement (Magherintemple, Ballycastle, Antrim) and educated as boarder at Ballymena diocesan school
1880	• Clerical job with Elder Dempster, a Liverpool shipping company
1895	• Appointed British Consul for Mozambique
1898	• Appointed British Consul for Angola
1901	• Appointed British Consul for Eastern part of French Congo
1903	• Commissioned by British government to investigate human rights situation in The Congo Free State
1904	• <i>The Casement Report</i> - instrumental in King Leopold of Belgium relinquishing his personal holdings in Africa • Joins Conradh na Gaeilge/Gaelic League
1905	• Appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for his Congo work • Joins Sinn Féin
1906	• Sent to Brazil—first as consul in Pará, then transferred to Santos, later promoted to consul-general in Rio de Janeiro
1910 & 1911	• Casement pays two visits to the Putumayo Indians
1911	• Details rubber company's use of stocks to punish Putumayo Indians • Knighted for his efforts on behalf of Amazonian Indians
1913	• Retires from British Consular Service
1914 (July) (late July) (August) (November)	• Travels to U.S.A. to promote and raise money for Volunteers • Finances and organizes Howth gun-running • Meets with John Devoy and Count Bernstorff, top-ranking German diplomat to propose a mutually beneficial plan in New York • Negotiates a declaration by Germany and recruits POWs
1916 (April) (21 April) (22 April) (29 June) (3 August)	• Germany offers 20,000 Mosin–Nagant 1891 rifles, 10 machine guns and accompanying ammunition • Lands at Banna Strand, Tralee Bay, County Kerry • <i>Aud Norge</i> scuttled by pre-set explosive charges • Appeal denied • Hanged by John Ellis at Pentonville Prison (London)
1917 (5 August)	• First anniversary of Casement's execution marked by a great public gathering at McKenna's Fort near Ardfert • Fort renamed Casement's Fort and Thomas Ashe delivers oration
1929	• Lengthy negotiations between the Irish and British governments for repatriation of Casement's remains begin
1934	• Proposed Hollywood movie
1953	• Casement Park, Belfast, opened
1959	• Diaries declassified at British National Archives (Kew)
1965 (February) (March)	• Baldonnell aerodrome renamed Casement Aerodrome • State funeral of Sir Roger Casement in Dublin
1966 (8 April) (4 June)	• Mrs Florence Monteith Lynch, turns sods at Banna Strand on the site of a memorial to Roger Casement and Captain Robert Monteith • James H. Mackey unveils a plaque at Tralee Train Station to commemorate the memory of Roger Casement, after whom the station is renamed
1967 (29 November)	• Construction of Roger Casement Memorial commences at Banna Strand
1968 (June) (28 July)	• Eanna McCanna designs the Roger Casement Memorial, Banna, Ardfert • Unveiling of the Casement Memorial in Banna Strand, oration by James H. Mackey
1978	• Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn, Tralee, founded
2000	• Royal Irish Academy conference "Roger Casement in Irish and World History"

The University of Notre Dame and the University of Limerick present

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24–26 October 2013

Tralee, Kerry,
Ireland

Roger Casement was, and remains, a global humanitarian and international political figure. During this three-day conference, keynote addresses and panel discussions will explore the life and times of Casement and his engagement in Irish and transnational affairs and issues.

Roger Casement to his sister, Mrs Nina Newman from Pentonville Gaol
25 July 1916:

"When I landed in Ireland that morning (about 3 am) swamped and swimming ashore on an unknown strand, I was happy for the first time for over a year. Although I knew that this fate waited on me, I was for one brief spell happy and smiling once more. I cannot tell you what I felt. The sand hills were full of skylarks rising in the dawn, the first I had heard in years—the first sound I heard through the surf was their song as I waded through the breakers and they kept rising all the time up to the old rath at Currshone where I stayed and sent the others on and all round were primroses and wild violets and the singing of the skylarks in the air and I was back in Ireland again."

—Séamus Ó Cléirigh (Ballycastle, Co. Antrim)
*Casement and the Irish Language
Culture and History*, p. 60

all events at Carleton Hotel, Tralee, unless otherwise noted

Thursday/An Déardaoin 24th October/Deireadh Fómhair

5.00 pm

premiere of photo exhibits

Kerry Library, Moyderwell, Tralee

Organized in collaboration with Kerry Library, the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, the University of Notre Dame, and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Roger Casement: Rubber, Amazonia and the Atlantic World, 1884 – 1916, and Commemorating Casement in Kerry/Ag Móradh Mhic Easmainn i gCiarraí

Welcome by Tommy O'Connor, county librarian and Mayor of Kerry, Cllr. Seamus Cosaí Mac Gearailt

Remarks by Laura Izarra (Universidade de São Paulo) and Brian Ó Conchubhair (University of Notre Dame)

Session/Seisiún I

7.30 pm

Official Opening and Reception

Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre

Introduction by Professor Robert Norton, associate vice president for academic affairs and research, Notre Dame International, University of Notre Dame

Keynote 1

John Gibney (*History Ireland*)

If the Casement guns had landed in Kerry: another version of the Easter Rising

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Fr. Tomás Looney (President, Kerry Archeological & Historical Society)

10.00 pm

Musical performance

Carlton Hotel

Michael Brunnock, performing new songs inspired by the life of Roger Casement

Friday/De hAoine 25th October/Deireadh Fómhair

8.00 am

Tour of Casement sites in North Kerry

pre-registration required

Departing outside Carlton Hotel

Ballyheigue, Banna Beach Memorial, McKenna's Fort, lunch in Katie Browne's Pub and Ballykissane Pier

Session/Seisiún II

2.00–2.45 pm

Casement: Local & Global

Michael Cronin (Boston College)

Commemorating Casement in Ballyheigue rather than Ardferit

Andrew McGrath (independent scholar)

The Crime against Europe: Roger Casement's Just War Theory

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Brian Ó Conchubhair

Session/Seisiún III

2.45–3.45 pm

Keynote 2

Angus Mitchell

The Trial of Roger Casement: Some Missing Dimensions

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Tim Horgan

3.45–4.00 pm

tea/coffee

Session/Seisiún IV

4.00–5.00 pm

Casement: Europe & World War I

Jeffrey Dudgeon (independent scholar)

Casement and the Easter Rising: Berlin, Dublin, and British Intelligence

Justin Stover (Idaho State University)

Left behind: the afterlife of Casement's Irish Brigade, 1916–1922

Matthew Erin Plowman (Grand View University)

The Transfiguration of Sir Roger Casement: Anti-Imperialist, Nationalist, and Martyr in the "German-Hindu" Conspiracy

Chair/Cathaoirleach: John Gibney

Session/Seisiún V

5.00–6.15 pm

Casement: Legacies & Controversies

Tim O'Sullivan (Athol Books)

The Case for Forgery: Old Arguments & New Developments

Matt Horton (University of California, Berkeley)

A Genealogy of Roger Casement: Protestant Irish Nationalists (1779-1916)

Michael Brunnock (independent scholar)

Casement in Song

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Michael Griffin

Session/Seisiún VI

7.30 pm

Keynote 3

Siamsa Tíre Auditorium, Tralee

Robert Schmuhi (University of Notre Dame)

Roger Casement and America

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs

Zyber Theatre group presents the premiere of *Remember Casement*

Saturday/Dé Sathairn 26th October/Deireadh Fómhair

8.30–9.00 am

tea/coffee

Session/Seisiún VII

9.00–11.00 am

Casement in Contemporary Literature

Leopoldo Bernucci (University of California, Davis)

'History and Imagination in El sueño del celta by Mario Vargas Llosa

Laura Izarra (Universidade de São Paulo)

The Battle of the Imaginary over History: Masculinity and Heroism in absentia in El sueño del celta?

Mariana Bolfarine (Universidade de São Paulo)

Reading The Knight of the Flaming Heart (1995) in Ardfert

Eoin Flannery (Oxford Brookes University)

Crocodiles and Obelisks: the literary afterlife of Roger Casement in the works of WG Sebald and Jamie McKendrick

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Brian Ó Conchubhair

Session/Seisiún VIII

11.00 am–12.00 pm

Keynote 4

Lucy McDiarmid (Montclair State University)

Casement in April 1916: Kerry Memories and Dublin Memoirs

Séamas Ó Síochán

12.00 pm

Book Launch

Irish Academic Press Book launch

The Irish Volunteers 1913–1915: Recollections and Documents, New Edition by Ruán O'Donnell & Mícheál Ó hAodha

Introduced by Tim Horgan

12.00–1.00pm

Lunch/Lón (on your own)

Session/Seisiún IX

1.00–2.00pm

Casement and the Revolutionary Generation

Tina O'Toole (University of Limerick)

Casement and the "New Woman"

Margaret O'Callaghan (Queen's University Belfast)

Alice Stopford Green: historian to the revolutionary generation?

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Nóirín Ní Laighin

2.00–2.15 pm

tea/coffee

Session/Seisiún X

2.15–3.15 pm

Keynote 5

Nollaig Mac Congáil (National University of Ireland, Galway)

Casement and the Irish Language

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Pádraig Mac Fhearghusa

(Conradh na Gaeilge)

Session/Seisiún XI

3.15–4.30 pm

Casement and Poetry

Kurt Bullock (Grand Valley State University)
A Rhetoric of Remembrance: Casement's Poetry and the Nationalist Project of Historical Reclamation

Tomás Looney (KAHS)
The Founding of Volunteers in Killarney 1913

Matt Campbell (University of York)
Irish Poetry and the Ghosts of Roger Casement

John McAuliffe (University of Manchester)
Yeats' Poetry and Casement

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Aoife Ní Chonchubhair

Session/Seisiún XII

4.30–6.00 pm

Keynote 6: Dramatic Reading of *The Dreaming of Roger Casement*

Patrick Mason (Former Artistic Director,
Abbey Theatre)

Chair/Cathaoirleach: Michael Griffin

8.00 pm

Closing Banquet / Dinnéar na Comhdhála
(pre-registration required)
**Ballyseede Castle, bus departs Carlton Hotel at
7:30 pm**

Associated Arts Events

Daily photo exhibit

21 October–9 November
Kerry Library, Tralee

*Roger Casement: Rubber, Amazonia and the Atlantic World, 1884–1916
and Casement in Kerry/Ag Móradh Mhic Easmainn i gCiarraí*

Organized in collaboration with Kerry Library, the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, the University of Notre Dame, and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Musical Performance

24 October
Carleton Hotel

Michael Brunnock
performing new songs inspired by the life of Roger Casement.

Born in Kells, Meath, Brunnock played the Irish singer-songwriter circuit in Ireland as frontman for his bands the “Little Palace” and “The Van Winkles” before moving to New York where he established his solo career over a decade ago. He has toured extensively in the States, opening for the “Frames” and “The Swell Season” on recent sold out American tours, and has appeared on TV shows such as FOX 5's *Fearless Music*.

Theatre premiere

25 October
Siamsa Tíre Auditorium, Tralee

Remember Casement!
Presented by Zyber Theatre group

Cast:

Producer/Director	Pádraig Dennehy
Roger Casement	Eoin O'Sullivan
Gertrude	Aoife Ní Chonchubhair
Local woman	Margaret Slattery
Alice Stopford Green	Rhona Johnston
Capt. Karl Spindler	George Lowe
British officials	George Lowe Thomas Frank O'Connor

CRASH

John McAuliffe

Out of the water
they recover a cap,
a petrol tin, oranges,
cake wrapped in foil
and a notebook.
At a lit-up cottage,
the Irish teacher's,
they arrest
the stranger,
his hands bleeding,
who spins them a story
about driving bank clerks
around the ring of Kerry.

In the morning
the tide uncovers
two bodies;
six months later,
a different story,
the third turns up
in the Laune:
'guests from the future'
driven from Dublin
in the old-style road-dark,
planning to divert
the Valentia transmitter
and radio the Aud,
Casement and Germany,
"Mother" is on her way.'

II
But their Briscoe,
one of two stolen cars,
lags in Killorglin,
then accelerates
toward a light
that wavers,
it turns out,
across the bay.
They teeter to a halt
at that spot on Ballykissane Pier
where a memorial's
inscribed stone
compels us,
day trippers
on a detour
from the Ring
and liking
the water's glint,
to remember

III
an armed man
stepping out into
the lapping dark,
tipping the car
off the pier
into the river.
So he alone
scrambled out
towards a local,
the Irish teacher,
home on holiday,
carrying a lamp
and shouting
'Face the light',

who carried him off
then sat on the wet gun
like a laying hen
until at long last
the police finished
the report
that drew tears
from Casement,
in irons
on the Dublin train,
and broke
the night down
so it could not
except as a monument
be put together again.

—April 1916

The University of Notre Dame provides a distinctive voice in higher education that is at once rigorously intellectual, unapologetically moral in orientation, and firmly embracing of a service ethos. Founded in 1842 by a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame is an independent, national Catholic research university located adjacent to the city of South Bend, Indiana, in a metropolitan area of more than 300,000 residents approximately 90 miles east of Chicago.

Admission to the University is highly competitive, with nearly six applicants for each freshman class position. Seventy percent of incoming freshmen were in the top 5 percent of their high school graduating classes. The University's minority student population has more than tripled in the past 20 years to some 23 percent, and women, first admitted to undergraduate studies at Notre Dame in 1972, now account for 48 percent of undergraduate and overall enrollment. Enrollment for the 2012–13 academic year was 12,126 students overall and 8,475 undergraduates.

One indicator of the quality of Notre Dame's undergraduate programs is the success of its students in postbaccalaureate studies. The medical school acceptance rate of the University's preprofessional studies graduates is nearly 80 percent, almost twice the national average, and Notre Dame ranks first among Catholic universities in the number of doctorates earned by its undergraduate alumni — a record compiled over some 80 years. The Graduate School, established in 1918, encompasses 48 master's and 26 doctoral degree programs in and among 30 University departments and institutes.

The source of the University's academic strength is its faculty, which since 1988 has seen the addition of more than 500 new members and the establishment of more than 200 endowed professorships. Notre Dame faculty members have won 49 fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities since 1999, more than for any other university in the nation.

At Notre Dame, education always has been linked to values, among them living in community and volunteering in community service. Residence hall life, shared by four of five undergraduates, is both the hallmark of the Notre Dame experience and the wellspring of the University's rich tradition. A younger tradition, the University's Center for Social Concerns, serves as a catalyst for student voluntarism. About 80 percent of Notre Dame students engage in some form of voluntary service-learning during their years at the University, and at least 10 percent devote a year or more after graduation to serving the less fortunate in the U.S. and around the world.

With 1,250 acres containing two lakes and 143 buildings, Notre Dame is well known for the beauty of its campus. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the 14-story Hesburgh Library with its 132-foot-high mural depicting Christ the Teacher, and the University's historic Main Building with its famed Golden Dome are among the most widely known university landmarks in the world.

Conference Sponsors

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Teaching Beyond the Classroom

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Irishstudies.nd.edu

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Chantelle Snyder
Dawn Uí Chonchubhair
Zyber Theatre Group

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Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society



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