

CALL FOR PAPERS

Diaspora Strategies: Encouragement, Evolution, and Engagement 9–10 September, 2011 UCD Clinton Institute of American Studies, Dublin, Ireland

Plenary Speakers:

Prof. Gabriel Sheffer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Kingsley Aikins, (Networking Matters)

Tim Finch (Institute for Public Policy Research, ippr)

Deadline for Submissions: 4 June 2011

This conference will engage with one of the most pertinent political discourses emerging in recent decades, diaspora strategies. The conference aims to examine the definitional, theoretical and practical frameworks of diaspora strategies. It will examine historical connotations of the subject matter as well as more contemporary policy implications. It will examine the role diaspora strategies play in both the domestic and foreign policy of Ireland. Furthermore, it will locate such discourses within the broader international community, drawing out comparative analysis on questions of nationalism, identity and representation.

Possible topics:

Defining Diaspora: How do we define 'diaspora'? Are there competing definitions of the term? How do they inform our understanding of different diasporas?

Diaspora Frameworks and Agency: How are diasporas structured, or indeed, are they? How do they evolve? Who or what instigates these processes?

Diaspora, Homelands and Hosts: What role does the perceived homeland play in diaspora consciousness? Does it have to be real, or can it be imagined? What is the relationship between diasporas and their homelands? Concurrently, what role does a host country play in a diaspora strategy?

Diaspora Strategies and Engagement: What is a diaspora strategy? Who should encourage diaspora strategies? What is their purpose? How can we progress to the language and practice of mutuality and reciprocity?

Diaspora Sections: Where can diasporas be strategically engaged? Historically, what had their role been in such areas as conflict resolution, philanthropy, and Foreign Direct Investment?

Diaspora Language: How central are native languages to diaspora communities? How many retain their language as a form of identity and community?

We invite single paper and panel proposals for this conference. Please send an email to diasporastrategies@gmail.com with the following information

1. Name, contact details and academic affiliation
2. Paper title
3. 200–300 word abstract
4. Brief CV or biographical statement

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