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The **2017 Seamus Deane Annual Lectures** will be on the theme of “**The Right to Have Rights**” for migrants in Ireland. Two lectures will take place: the first of these, which is presented in association with GIAF’s First Thought Talks and NUI Galway, will be given by **Dr Bryan McMahon** in the Aula Maxima of the National University of Ireland Galway on **Saturday 14th October 2017** at 7pm; **Dr Conor Kenny** will deliver the second lecture at The Playhouse Theatre in Derry on **Friday 20th October 2017** at 7pm.

Stephen Rea will introduce both events and each keynote lecture will be preceded by **Seamus Deane**’s reflections on Hannah Arendt’s concept of “the right to have rights.” **Paddy Glackin** will perform new music by the celebrated composer **Neil Martin** in Galway, and **Jessica Traynor** will read from her poetry, responding to the iniquities suffered by the vulnerable in Ireland. The renowned Donegal fiddle player **Dermot McLaughlin** will play in Derry. Each lecture is to be complemented by dialogue with a local activist – **Blessing Siphathisiwe Moyo** and **Sipho Sibanda**, respectively – and both events will close with a Q&A exchange between speakers and the floor.

Tickets will be on sale at the door, but to avoid disappointment please book online at www.giaf.ie and www.derryplayhouse.co.uk. Ticket prices are €10/€8 and £10/£8, with free admission for asylum seekers.

AULA MAXIMA, NUI GALWAY MAIN CAMPUS, SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER, 2017, at 7pm

“The Right to Have Rights: Direct Provision”



Dr Bryan McMahon, lead author of the McMahon Report on Direct Provision

After taking law degrees at University College Dublin and at Harvard Law School, Bryan McMahon joined the Department of Law in University College Cork, where he became Professor and Head of Department. He was awarded a PhD in 1972. He subsequently held a part-time Chair of Law at NUI Galway while practising as a senior partner with the Houlihan and McMahon law firm. A founding member of the Irish Association of Law Teachers, he has authored several legal textbooks and also been chair of the governing body of UCC. Having become a Judge of the Circuit Court in 1999, he was promoted to the High Court in 2007. In 2012, he was made an honorary Doctor of Laws by UCD.

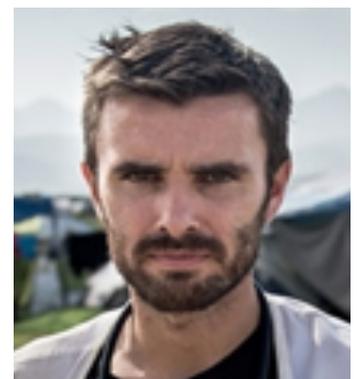
Since retiring from the bench in 2011, Dr McMahon has extended his record of civic engagement, which includes service as chair of the Irish Universities Quality Board, of the National Archives Advisory Council and of the Abbey Theatre, as well as leading advisory groups on crime and the constitutional referendum on judges’ pay. Most recently, he led a government-appointed working group to produce the McMahon Report (2015) on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers. Since that report was submitted, Dr McMahon has remained actively involved in the public discussion of progress and shortfalls in the State’s response to its recommendations.

THE PLAYHOUSE, ARTILLERY STREET, DERRY, FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER, 2017, at 7pm

“The Right to Have Rights: Migrants”

Dr Conor Kenny, field medical doctor with Médecins Sans Frontières

Dr Kenny is a London-based General Practice trainee and qualified physiotherapist. Originally from Sligo, he has worked extensively with Médecins Sans Frontières during the ongoing European migrant crisis in the Mediterranean. In this capacity, he has served on three missions. On the first of these, he was a field medical doctor in refugee camps at the Greek-Macedonian border; he subsequently worked with unaccompanied minors on the island of Lesbos. Most recently, he was the sole medical doctor on board the MV Aquarius, involved in the rescue of 4,500 people escaping into the central Mediterranean. On each of these missions, he fulfilled duties in emergency, primary, mental and public healthcare. His passion for humanitarian medicine and global health extends to an active engagement with medical journalism and refugee advocacy projects.



Along with emergency humanitarian work and clinical practice, Dr Kenny is concerned with local projects to foster healthcare entrepreneurship which lead to improvement in both healthcare and patient safety. His work in this area has been recognized by several national awards.

People once came here on holidays.

Can you imagine?

The earth's navel on view

*outside the window, grass pocked
with mud, and nothing for miles
but bad weather.*

from "The Camp"

Jessica Traynor

Dr Bryan McMahon says,

"As a Presiding Officer in Citizenship Ceremonies, I welcome the new citizens: 'You, too, are Ireland. When you make your declaration of fidelity to the State in a moment, do not forget your own country, your own people, your own traditions. Bring with you your songs, your music and your stories.' It is my pleasure then to convey a message of the generosity that is so singularly lacking in the treatment of those who languish for years in Direct Provision. The mean, narrow way in which people and their children are corralled in this system deprives them of basic dignity. We need to ensure that people who are seeking the State's protection are afforded the dignity and respect that everyone deserves."

Dr Conor Kenny says,

"When providing medical care in camps or out at sea, I am continually reminded that these people are not the abstract labels such as 'migrants' or 'refugees'. They are normal people like you and me. Just like us and our own traveling ancestors, we share similar concerns and aspirations in life. Sadly, however, forcing them in these decrepit boats negates their chance of ever fulfilling these aspirations."

About The Seamus Deane Annual Lecture Series

Field Day, the publishing and theatre company, established this annual lecture series with the aim of presenting provocative debate about Ireland and its political future. Seamus Deane gave the inaugural lecture in 2015. Bernadette Devlin McAliskey delivered last year's lecture, with The Playhouse Theatre at capacity, and received a standing ovation for her speech on human dignity, freedom and effective democracy. That lecture – "[A Terrible State of Chassis](#)" can be viewed on Youtube.

This year's lectures, expanded to a double event, will involve a range of voices and modes of expression reflecting on the status of migrants in Ireland and Europe today. The audience can expect to enjoy a serious and informative, but also personally engaging and entertaining night out. The Seamus Deane Annual Lecture Series continues his legacy with Field Day of fostering civically-minded discussion of Ireland, both in intellectual activity and through the arts.

About Seamus Deane

Seamus Deane has an international reputation in the world of literature and literary criticism. As he himself has stated, his work is not devoted to a rewriting of the Irish past but to a writing of the Irish present. Founder and editor since 1995 of the *Field Day Review*, as he had earlier been of the Field Day pamphlets in 1983-88, he has made his poetry, fiction, scholarship and criticism, particularly in latter years in the form of the essay, a meditation on the need, in a debased political system, to follow the dictum: "When in Rome, do as the Greeks do." He is Professor Emeritus at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and has a prolific backlist of publications, most notably the *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* (Derry, 1991, 2002) which remains today the definitive point of reference in Irish literary criticism. He was a shortlisted finalist for the Booker Prize in 1996 for his novel *Reading in the Dark*.



About Field Day

Field Day began in 1980 in Derry as a cultural and intellectual response to the political crisis in Northern Ireland. Playwright Brian Friel and actor Stephen Rea set out to identify and develop a new audience for theatre. Friel's critically acclaimed *Translations* was the first of many Field Day plays to show at Derry's Guildhall before travelling throughout Ireland and the world; these included world premieres of Friel's *The Communication Cord* (1982) and *Making History* (1988), Derek Mahon's *High Time* (1984), Tom Paulin's *The Riot Act* (1984), Thomas Kilroy's *Double Cross* (1986), Stewart Parker's *Pentecost* (1987), Terry Eagleton's *Saint Oscar* (1989) and Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* (1990).



From its beginnings as the Field Day Theatre Company, it developed into a publishing company. Founding members, Friel and Rea, were quickly joined by Seamus Heaney, Seamus Deane, Tom Paulin, Thomas Kilroy and David Hammond. Field Day continues to branch into new territory, such as the monthly Field Day article in *Village Magazine*, and the Field Day Podcast, which will go live before the end of 2017. Find out more at www.fieldday.ie or contact fielddayco@gmail.com. Follow us on Twitter [@FieldDayCompany](https://twitter.com/FieldDayCompany).