

Title:

'How has Brexit Changed European Culture?'

Abstract:

The United Kingdom's referendum on withdrawing its membership of the European Union was an unprecedented moment in the history of the Community. Not only was the economy base of the single market and customs union adversely affected, the rationale for European integration itself was brought into question. The process of disengagement has left significant scarring for the United Kingdom, and those who have been charged with picking up the pieces of this disintegration have struggled to formulate a convergence architecture that unpicks the damage done. What has become very evident is that the Brexit schism has affected the conventional idea of what Europe is and has to offer its people. The culture of integration has been exposed to political conflagration and the hard fought for identity of post-war Europe has been left highly vulnerable. This talk will look at some of the implications of this disruption and its impact on the future of European integration.

Biography:

Gerard McCann is Professor of International Studies and Principal Lecturer at St Mary's University College, a college of Queen's University Belfast. He is also Head of International Programmes. His Phd is in economics and social science, and he holds masters degrees in both education and philosophy. He has been lecturing in subjects pertinent to European integration since 1995 and specialises in international development. Recent books include the co-edited *Global Education in Ireland* (2025), *COVID-19, the Global South and the Pandemic's Development Impact* (2022), and *International Human Rights, Social Policy and Global Development* (2020). He has been a visiting professor to the European University of Rome and the Irish College Rome.

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