

BREXIT SYMPOSIUM - Short Speaker Biographies

Paul Gillespie

Dr Paul Gillespie is a columnist and leader writer for The Irish Times and an adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the School of Politics and International Relations in University College Dublin. He is a long-standing member of the Dublin-based think tank, the Institute for International & European Affairs and has co-authored a number of IIEA publications on Brexit. He has been a member of the Institute's UK Group project on Political Union.

Paul has published widely on British-Irish relations, European integration issues, Irish foreign policy and Europe-Asia relations.

Ray Bassett

Dr Ray Bassett is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

He joined the Irish Diplomatic Service, serving in Belfast, London, Canberra, Copenhagen and Ottawa. Bassett was part of the Irish Government Talks Team during the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement negotiations and went on to serve as Irish Joint Secretary to the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference in Belfast, 2001-2005.

He subsequently headed up the Irish Consular Service and the Irish Abroad Unit, which deals with relations with the Irish Diaspora. He spent his last six years in the Diplomatic Service as Irish Ambassador to Canada, Jamaica and the Bahamas. Since his retirement in October 2016, he has become a columnist with the Sunday Business Post. Ray is also Senior Fellow on EU matters at the British-based Think Tank, Policy Exchange and author of AFTER BREXIT, WILL IRELAND BE NEXT TO EXIT?

Kerry Curran

Kerry is Policy Research Manager at InterTradeIreland, the Cross-Border Trade and Business Development Body. Her current research focus is on the implications of Brexit on the all-island economy and more broadly on methods to enhance cross border co-operation in trade and business development.

Prior to joining InterTradeIreland Kerry worked for Queen's University Belfast, The Environment Agency (UK) and Renewable UK where she gained more than 10 years' experience delivering policy research across the public and private sectors across the UK and Ireland.

Kerry has a MBA from Ulster University and is currently a Board Member for Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and a Committee Member for the Association of Research Managers and Administrators.