

Whither Brexit: The View from British and Irish Teacher Unions

Monday, July 22; 12:30-1:30 PM; Brown Bag; MR 215

DISCUSSANTS

JOHN MACGAGHANN, General Secretary, Teacher's Union of Ireland (TUI), Ireland

John MacGabhann has been the General Secretary of the Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI) since 2011. A native of Clonmel, County Tipperary, Mr. MacGabhann studied at University College Dublin, before teaching English and Irish at Tallaght Community School. He has held a number of TUI elected offices while teaching, including school representative, branch officer and area representative. He later held the positions of Honorary Secretary and Vice President and served as President of TUI from 2000 to 2002. TUI represents over 15,000 members in Irish second level schools, colleges of further education and Institutes of Technology.

MARY BOUSTED, Joint General Secretary, National Education Union (NEU), UK

Dr. Mary Bousted is joint General Secretary of the National Education Union (NEU). The NEU, with 460,000 members, is a leader in the debate on key educational issues, for example, assessment and curriculum changes, school accountability, and school structures. Dr. Bousted contributes regular articles for newspapers and education journals, and appears frequently on national media. She sits on the executive committee of the Trades Union Congress (TUC). She previously worked in higher education at York University, Edge Hill University, and Kingston University where she was Head of the School of Education. Prior to this she was a Head of English, and English teacher in comprehensive schools in North London.

LEO CASEY, Executive Director, Albert Shanker Institute, USA

Dr. Leo Casey is the executive director of the Albert Shanker Institute, a think tank established by the American Federation of Teachers which focuses on issues of public education, unionism and democracy promotion. He previously served as vice president from academic high schools for the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). After a stint in political organizing, Dr. Casey began his teaching career at Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn, where he taught for 15 years. For 10 years in a row, his classes—composed of students of color, who were largely immigrant and female—won the New York City championship of the national We The People civics competition, winning the New York State championship four times and placing fourth in the nation twice. Casey won many additional awards for his teaching and was named national Social Studies Teacher of the Year for the American Teacher Awards in 1992.

PATRICK ROACH, Deputy General Secretary, National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), UK

Dr. Patrick Roach is Deputy General Secretary at the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), representing teachers, head-teachers, and principals. The NASUWT has over 300,000 members throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and other overseas territories who are employed in primary and secondary schools, special schools and colleges educating children and young people between the ages of 3 and 19 years. The NASUWT's members are employed in public community schools, academies, free schools and in the independent sector. Dr. Roach has over 20 years' experience at a national level of education policy, advocacy and negotiations within the union. He currently holds an Open Seat on the Executive Board of Education International, and previously served as E.I. Vice President (European Region). Dr. Roach was formerly a teacher of politics, sociology and communication studies, and a researcher and lecturer in social policy and equalities in higher education.