

HG 22: Plenary Session 1 (opening address):
Friday 19th March 2010 - 10.00-11.00
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, N.U.I., Dublin



Diarmaid Ferriter was born in Dublin in 1972 and is one of Ireland's leading historians. He is Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD and has published extensively on twentieth century Irish history. His books include the best sellers *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000/* (2004) and *Judging Dev: A Reassessment of the life and legacy of Eamon de Valera/* (2007), winner of 3 Irish book awards in 2008. His latest book is *Occasions of Sin: Sex and Society in Modern Ireland* (2009). He is a regular broadcaster with RTE radio and television.

HG 20: Plenary Session 2 (closing address):
Saturday 20th March 2010 - 16.00-17.00
Mary Raftery, Journalist, Ireland



Toxic Secrets - Child Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church in Ireland

Mary Raftery is an award-winner television producer/director. Her acclaimed documentary series 'States of Fear' resulted in the historic 1999 apology by the Taoiseach on behalf of the Irish state to victims of child abuse. It also led to the establishment of the Ryan Commission of Inquiry. The Ryan Report was finally published in May 2009, and provoked an enormous response both nationally and internationally. 'States of Fear' won an Irish Film and Television Academy award for best documentary, together with a Special Jury Gold Award at the WorldFest in Houston, Texas; a Silver Screen Award at the US International Film and Video Festival in Chicago and a World Medal at the New York Festivals. In addition, it was judged one of Europe's top ten documentaries for 1999 by the Prix Europa in Berlin. Her book on the abuse of children in Ireland's institutions, 'Suffer the Little Children' (co-authored with Dr Eoin O'Sullivan of TCD), was published in the autumn of 1999 and became an immediate best-seller.

In 2002, Mary produced and directed the award-winning 'Cardinal Secrets', which led to the establishment of the Murphy Commission of Investigation into child sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The report of this Commission was published in November 2009, again to an enormous furore both in Ireland and internationally. Mary writes frequently for the Irish Times on a ranges of issues, continues to make documentaries for RTE television, and lectures in media studies at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.