

ROBERT J. SAVAGE
Boston College
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Degrees

Ph.D. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.
Master of Arts, University College, Dublin, Ireland.
Bachelor of Arts, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Academic Positions

Professor of the Practice of History, Boston College, May 2015 to the present.
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of History, Boston College, 2003 to 2015.
Interim Director, Boston College Irish Studies Program May 2020 to May 2022.
Director, Boston College Department of History Core Program, 2017-2020.
Co-Director, Boston College Irish Studies Program, 2003 to 2010.
Associate Director, Boston College Irish Studies Program, 1995-2003.
Faculty Affiliate, Clough Center for the Study of Democracy, Boston College, 2025-2026.
Visiting Professor, Venice International University, fall semester 2024.
Visiting Professor, Trinity Visiting Academic Programme, Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Institute, Trinity College, Dublin, spring semester 2018.
Visiting Research Professor, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen's University, Belfast, June 2017 to June 2018.
Visiting Professor in Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast, May 2014.
Moore Institute Fellow, University of Galway, May 2013.
Long Room Fellow, Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Institute, Trinity College Dublin, fall semester 2012.
Leverhulme Visiting Professor, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, spring semester 2007.
Irish-American Cultural Institute Visiting Fellow, University of Galway, Ireland, spring semester 2004.

Publications

Books:

Northern Ireland, the BBC and Censorship in Thatcher's Britain, 1979-1990
(Oxford University Press, 2022).
<https://bcbookmarks.com/2022/06/28/censorship-in-thatchers-britain/>
The BBC's Irish Troubles, television, conflict and Northern Ireland
(Manchester University Press, 2015, paperback edition published 2017).
<https://bcbookmarks.com/2015/10/21/review-the-bbcs-irish-troubles/>

Seán Lemass a biography (University College Dublin Press, 2014).

<https://library.bc.edu/facpub/2015/06/savage-sean/>

A Loss of Innocence? Television and Irish Society, 1960-1972

(Manchester University Press, 2010, paperback edition published 2016).

<https://bcbookmarks.com/2011/04/08/donnelly-prize/>

Ireland in the New Century: Politics, Culture and Identity, editor and contributing author

(Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2003).

Sean Lemass (Historical Association of Ireland, Dublin, 1999).

<https://dlib.bc.edu/islandora/object/bc-ir:106846>

Irish Television: The Political and Social Origins (Cork University Press, 1996).

Articles & Book Chapters:

'Irish Keywords: The Troubles' Special edition of the journal, *New Literary History*.

(forthcoming 2025).

'Religion and Broadcasting in the Two Irelands' in *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Modern Ireland*, Gladys Ganiel and Andrew Holmes eds. (Oxford University Press, 2024).

'Infrastructures: Radio and Television' in *Technology in Irish Literature and Culture*, Margaret Kelleher and James O'Sullivan eds. (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

'Rediscovering Poverty: Moneylending in the Republic of Ireland in the 1960s' (with Sean O'Connell and Carole Holohan) *Irish Historical Studies* (November 2021).

'Broadcasting on the Island of Ireland, 1916-2016', *The Cambridge History of Modern Ireland*, vol. 4, Thomas Bartlett editor (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Co-editor and contributing author (with Christopher Morash, Trinity College, Dublin) two-volume edition of *Éire/Ireland*, an interdisciplinary journal of Irish Studies, (Spring and Summer 2015, vol. 50 nos. 1 & 2).

'Film, Broadcast Media and Modern Ireland' *Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish History*, Alvin Jackson editor (Oxford University Press, 2014, paperback edition 2017).

'Capturing Change and Creating Controversy in 1960s Ireland' *Associação Brasileira de Estudos Irlandeses* (The Journal of Irish Studies in Brazil, 2013).

'Sean Lemass and the Advent of Irish Television' in *The Age of Seán Lemass: Ireland 1945-1973* edited by Brian Girvin and Gary Murphy (University College Dublin Press, 2005).

'Constructing/deconstructing the Image of Sean Lemass' Ireland, in *Ireland in the New Century: Politics, Culture and Identity* edited by Robert J Savage (Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2003).

Miscellaneous Publications:

'The Backlash Against Thatcher's Broadcast Ban' *The Irish Times*, April 14, 2022.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-backlash-against-thatcher-s-broadcast-ban-on-sinn-fein-1.4850127>

'The BBC and the Hunger Strikes', *The Irish Times*, July 6, 2016.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-bbc-and-the-hunger-strikes-1.2706913>

Interview with journalist and broadcaster John Bowman published in *Éire/Ireland*, co-edited by Robert J Savage and C. Morash, (spring/summer 2015, vol. 50 nos. 1 & 2).

“A Stranger among Us” Edward Roth and the Establishment of Irish Television’, in *History Ireland* (Dublin, 2010).

“The soil of Ireland for the people of Ireland” The Politics of Irish Land’ in *Éire/Land* (Chestnut Hill, 2003).

‘Ireland: The Tear and the Smile’ in *Nationalisms: Visions and Revisions* edited by Luke Dodd, (Arts Council of Ireland, 1999)

‘Strongholds and Relics, Images of “The Troubles”’ in *Re/Dressing Cathleen: Contemporary Works from Irish Women Artists*. (Chestnut Hill, 1997).

Research awards, external:

Matching grant of \$5,000 from the Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Institute, Trinity College, Dublin for a public symposium: ‘Censorship, Media and Conflict: The Case of Northern Ireland’, December, 2022.

Visiting Professorship, Trinity Visiting Academic Programme, Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute, Trinity College, Dublin, spring semester 2018. (funded)

Visiting Research Professorship, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, Queen’s University, Belfast, June 2017 to June 2018. (funded)

Visiting Professorship in Irish Studies, Queen’s University, Belfast, May 2014. (funded)

Moore Institute Fellow, National University of Ireland, Galway, May 2013. (funded)

Long Room Hub Fellowship, Trinity College Dublin, fall semester 2012. (funded)

Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, spring semester 2007. (funded)

Irish-American Cultural Institute Visiting Fellowship, National University of Ireland, Galway spring semester 2004. (funded)

Department of Education and Science Ireland, Program Grant (\$75,000) as Director and Principal Investigator, *Ireland: Politics, Culture and Identity*, John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C. May 2000

Research/teaching awards, internal:

Institute for the Liberal Arts, summer 2024 graduate student fellowship (\$4,000).

Institute for the Liberal Arts, summer 2023 graduate student fellowship (\$4,000).

University Faculty Fellowships 2023, 2018, 2012, 2007, 2004.

Institute for the Liberal Arts, 2022, grant for symposium at Trinity College, Dublin (\$2,500).

Office of Global Engagement, 2022, grant for symposium at Trinity College, Dublin (\$1,500).

Institute for the Liberal Arts, 2020, 2021 grant for Irish Studies Webinar Series.

Research Expense Grants 2018, 2016, 2011, 2010 (\$2,000 each).

Institute of Liberal Arts, 2018 (\$10,000) for interdisciplinary course design.

Institute of Liberal Arts, 2016 (\$10,000) for interdisciplinary course design.

Research Incentive Grant 2012, (\$15,000).

Book Awards

The BBC's Irish Troubles, Television, Conflict and Northern Ireland short-listed for the 2018 Ewart-Biggs Literary Award.

<https://bcbookmarks.com/2018/03/14/savages-book-on-the-shortlist/>

A Loss of Innocence? Television and Irish Society, 1960-1972

Winner of the 2010 James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Best Book in History and Social Sciences from the American Conference for Irish Studies.

<https://bcbookmarks.com/2011/04/08/donnelly-prize/>

Select scholarly papers

Invited lectures:

'Violence, Informers and the IRA in 1970's England', Modern Irish History Seminar, University of Edinburgh, April 2025

'Kenneth Lennon, the Special Branch and the arrival of "the Troubles" in England', Irish Studies Seminar, Queen's University Belfast, April 2025.

'The Death of an Informer, London, 1974' Irish History Seminar, Herford College, Oxford, February, 2025.

Ireland's "Troubles" come to London, 1974', Visiting Faculty Seminar, Venice International University, December 2024.

'Irish Keywords: The Troubles' University College Cork, November 2024, for the special edition of the journal, *New Literary History*.

'The Northern Ireland Troubles: Reading Frederick Douglas', Mass Humanities, April 2024.

'Sean Lemass and Public Policy', Irish Civil Service Symposium, Dublin March, 2024.

'Lemass and the Irish Revolution', Irish Civil Service Symposium, Dublin March, 2024.

'Reporting Conflict in Thatcher's Britain', Luton Irish Forum, Luton, UK, November, 2023.

'Censorship, Media and Conflict: The Case of Northern Ireland', Public Symposium, Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Institute, Trinity College, Dublin, December, 15 2022.

https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/media/news/articles/2022-23/2022-12-19_Censorship-NI.php

'Censorship and Protest' International Conference, Broadcasting Margins: The BBC Centennial from Afar, University of Haifa, Israel, September 20, 2022.

'Northern Ireland and the Troubles', BBC at 100 Symposium, Center for Research in Communication and Culture, Loughborough University, UK, September 15, 2022.

'Northern Ireland, Censorship and the BBC World Service', Queen's University Irish Studies Seminar, April, 2022.

'The Media and Bloody Sunday, Reports in Context', Symposium Marking the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Moore Institute, National University of Ireland Galway, January 2022.

'The Centenary of Partition and the Establishment of Northern Ireland' BBC Northern Ireland/Queen's University Belfast, September 2021: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/talks-100/>
'A Farther Shore' American and the Irish Revolution', Irish Embassy, Washington DC, January 2021.

'A return to the Troubles?, Brexit and the threat to the Irish peace process' University of Michigan, November 2019.

'The Border, Brexit and the politics of nationalism in contemporary Britain.' The British-American Business Council of New England, May 2019.

'The Media and 1969' opening conference keynote, 1969 and the Outbreak of the Northern Ireland Troubles, Queens University, Belfast June 2019.

'Brexit and the Irish Border', Brandeis University, March 2019

'Irish Media History', Fellow in Focus, Trinity College, Dublin, March 2018.

'Broadcasting Bias? Sedition, Censorship and the Broadcast Media in 20th Century Ireland', Queen's University, Belfast November 2017.

'A Box of Troubles? Northern Ireland, censorship and the broadcast media'. School of History and Classics, University of Edinburgh, March 2017.

'Bloody Sunday and BBC self-censorship' Irish Studies Seminar, National University of Ireland, Galway, March 2016.

"Terrible things were done" Seán Lemass, violence and the Irish Revolution', University College Cork, November 2016.

'Ireland Then and Now' Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Boston MA.

Respondent to former Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. September 27, 2016.

"The old antagonisms have no place in the Ireland of tomorrow', Sean Lemass, and the violence of the Irish Revolution', Bi-Annual Conference of Irish Historians in Britain, University of Liverpool, July, 2016

'The 1916 Easter Rising' Westfield State University, March 2016.

'The BBC and the Politics of Censorship 1979-1988', Irish Studies Seminar, National University of Ireland Galway, March 2015.

'Margret Thatcher and the BBC's Irish Troubles' Annual Irish Studies International Lecture, Queen's University Belfast, May 15, 2014.

'The Oxygen of Publicity?' Margaret Thatcher and the BBC, St Mary's University College, London, May 8, 2014.

"' The controller should be consulted" The BBC in Northern Ireland 1959-1976. Queen's University Belfast, June 20, 2013.

'Media and the Citizen', Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin, March 2013.

'The Troubles' the BBC and the politics of censorship' More Institute, Huston Film School, National University of Ireland, Galway, March 2013.

'Lies, Betrayal and the Death of an Informer, London 1974' University College, Cork, December 6, 2012.

'The BBC's Irish Troubles' Long Room Lecture, Trinity College, Dublin, November, 2012.

'The Death of an Informer, London 1974' University of Galway, November 15, 2012.

'Are the Irish Different? Media and Modern Ireland' International Workshop in Irish Studies and the Social Sciences, School of Sociology, University College Dublin, September 2012.

'Capturing Change and Creating Controversy in 1960s Ireland' Symposium of Irish Studies in South America, Natal Brazil, August 2012. (presentation postponed but published)

'Battling the Bishop: Innovation in 1960s Irish Television' St. Mary's University College, London, November 2011

'Irish Media Culture' Notre Dame Seminar, Dublin, Ireland June 2010.

'Writing the Legacy of Sean Lemass' Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin, November 2009.

'America, Ireland and the Contemporary Media', Entwined Histories: Ireland, France and America, History Ireland Lecture, Byrne-Perry Summer School, Wexford, Ireland, July 2009.

'Finding a Voice? The Irish Language and Telefís Éireann 1960-1972', Ireland-Wales Conference University of Aberystwyth, UK April 2009.

'"Reel" Ireland? Screening Contemporary Irish Film', Brandeis University Comparative Diaspora Symposium, March 2009.

'Writing Irish Media History' International Association of Television and Film Archivists, (FIAT) Lisbon, Portugal in October 2007.

'"Dublin, A City in Fear?" The Representation of Urban Poverty in 1969 Ireland', Leverhulme Lecture, New British Social History Seminar, Warwick University, May 2007.

'Cultural shift and the Catholic Church: Radharc, and social documentary in 1960s Ireland' Leverhulme Lecture, University of Edinburgh, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, May 2007.

'Loan-sharks, ham-fisted hyperbole and testing the limits of 'public service' broadcasting in 1960's Ireland', Leverhulme Lecture, Seminar in Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway April 2007

'Ireland and the limits of public service broadcasting: The 1969 Seven Days Tribunal.' Leverhulme Lecture, Institute of English Studies, University of London, March 2007.

'Elizabeth Bowen's Ireland? Film, controversy and depicting 'real Ireland' in the 1960s'. Leverhulme Lecture, University of Liverpool March 2007.

'"Over paid, over publicized and unsuitable for the job at hand" Edward Roth and the advent of Irish Television.' Leverhulme Lecture, Hertford College, University of Oxford, February 2007.

'American influence in the development of Irish Television', Scotland's Transatlantic Relations Seminar, University of Edinburgh, January 2007.

'The Role of Graduate Students in Irish Studies' International Irish Forum, European University, Florence Italy, October 2005.

'Documenting the Ireland of Sean Lemass', National University of Ireland, Galway, Public Lecture Series, March 2004.

'Perceptions of Ireland in the Mid-Twentieth Century', A Lost Decade? Emigration, Culture and Society in 1950's Ireland, University College Cork, February 2001.

'Ireland and the Politics of Representation: CBS and the "The Tear and the Smile"', Brown University, Department of History Seminar, March 1999.

Conference presentations/seminars:

'1968, Protest, Politics and Culture in a Global Context', Boston College, Life Long Learning Lecture, November 2024.

'Northern Ireland, Censorship and the BBC World Service', Decentering the Irish World, Contemporary and New Directions of Global Irish Studies, British University of Egypt, Cairo, May 2022.

'The Violence of the Irish Revolution', Boston College, Life Long Learning Coffee and Conversation, March 2021.

'America and the Origins of the Campaign for Civil Rights in Northern Ireland', Voices of 68 Seminar, O'Neill Library, Boston College, February 2019.

'Rethinking the Archive: Research and Teaching in the Humanities', Irish Studies Symposium, Boston College, April 2019.

Irish Studies Seminar, 'Writing the broadcast history of Northern Ireland', Queen's University Belfast, November 2017.

Chair: 'Legacy', Symposium, Rethinking the 1981 Long Kesh/Maze Hunger Strike' Notre Dame Global Gateway, London June 2016.

'Censorship, the BBC and the Irish "troubles"', New England Historical Association, Middlebury, Vermont, April 2016.

'Edward Roth's Tenure as RTE's Director General, 1960-1963.' Media Research Conference. Dublin City University, June 2005.

"A Stranger among Us': The Advent of Irish Television", American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, April 2005.

'Edward Roth, America and the Development of Irish Television' Seminar in Contemporary History, Trinity College Dublin, May 2004.

'Irish Republicanism: Theory and Practice', American Historical Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, January 2002.

"Irish-America and the Depiction of 'Modern' Ireland" American Historical Association Annual Conference, Boston, January 2001.

'Sean Lemass and the Representation of the 'New Ireland'. International Conference, Ireland: Politics, Culture and Identity, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C. May 2000.

'The Cultural and Political Documentation of Ireland 1959-1962', Information, Media and Power Through the Ages, The Biennial International Conference of Historians in Ireland, University College, Cork, May 1999.

'Irish Language Film in Contemporary Ireland', Split/Screen Conference, Harvard University Film Archive, April 1999.

Professional service

External Examiner, College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, appointed by the Senate of the National University of Ireland, (2025-2027).

Research Ireland, Internal Review Board, Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, 2025.

Research Ireland, Internal Review Board, Postgraduate Scholarship Programme, 2025.

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, External Review Board, Post-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme, 2017-2024.

Associate of the University of Ulster's Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN) program, 2021 to present.

Editorial Board, *The Historian*, Journal of the Phi Alpha Theta, International Honor Society in History, 2003-2024.

British Academy, Independent Accessor for Fellow of the Academy, 2023.

PhD External Examiner, School of History, Politics and Anthropology, Queen's University, Belfast, June, 2023.

Promotion Review Committee, (to full professor) Trinity College Dublin 2022.

Promotion Review Committee (to full professor) Queen's University, Belfast, 2021.

British Academy, Independent Accessor for Fellow of the Academy, 2019.

PhD External Examiner, School of History and Classics, University of Edinburgh, 2019.

External Examiner/Outside Reader, Clark University Master's Thesis, 2019.

Tenure Review, Department of History, University of New Mexico, 2018.

Trinity College Dublin, Visiting Research Fellowship Program, Review Board, 2016.

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, external board member Horizons Research Program, 2015.

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Post Graduate Research Assessment Board, 2001- 2003; reappointed 2006-2009, 2013-2014.

Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Post-Graduate adjudicator 1998-2001, 2010-2012.

Assessment Committee, National University of Ireland, Post-Graduate Research Fellowship in History, 2010.

Carnegie Trust, Project Assessment Committee, 2011.

Editorial Board, *Film and Film Culture*, the Irish Journal of International Film Studies, 2007-2009.

Co-Editor, Irish Literary Supplement, 1996-2006

Chair, External Review of the Department of History and Art History, University College Cork, February 2010.

Co-chair, External Review Committee, St. Mary's University, Halifax Nova Scotia, 2008.

Program review for the Academic Council of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 2009.

Institute of International Education, Fulbright National Graduate Screening Committee, 2004 - 2006.

Selection Committee, University of Galway, Visiting Professor in Irish Studies, 2005.

Irish Research Fund Adjudicator Irish American Cultural Institute, 2002.

National Executive, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2001-2003.

Director and Principal Investigator, *Ireland: Politics, Culture and Identity* (Conference Principal Investigator and Director for the Department of Education and Science, (Ireland) as part of an international project, *Island: Arts from Ireland*, May 2000.

Manuscript reviews: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Basic Books, Liverpool University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Yale University Press and Manchester University Press.

Peer reviews (journals): Journal of American Ethnic History, Irish Historical Studies, The Historian, Media History, Journal of Social History, The Journal of Woman's History, Terrorism and Political Violence, Historical Research, (Institute of Historical Research).

Book reviews: Journal of British Studies, Irish Historical Studies, Media History, Journal of Social History, Irish Literary Supplement.

Boston College Service (University)

Boston College Ireland, Board Member, appointed by the Provost, 2019-present.
University Classroom Committee, 2016 to present.
University Fellowship Committee, 2008 to 2023.
Interim Director, Irish Studies Program 2020-2022.
Chair, search committee for the University's Sullivan Family Professor in Irish Studies, 2021.
University Core Renewal Committee 2018-2021.
Difference, Justice and the Common Good, Core Renewal Committee (subcommittee) 2019- 2021.
Convener, Irish Studies, Irish History Seminar Series, 2017 to 2022.
University Non-Tenure Faculty Grievance Committee, 2013 to 2016.
Co-Director, Irish Studies Program, 2003-2010.
Associate Director Irish Studies Program, 1995-2003.
Founder and curator, Boston College Irish Film Series, 1998-2010.
Co-curator of *Literary Lives, Portraits from the Crawford Art Gallery and Abbey Theatre*, McMullen Museum of Art Boston College, 2010.
Founding editor, *Irish Studies*, newsletter of the Irish Studies program, 1998-2010.
As Associate Director of Irish Studies worked with the Office of International Programs to establish formal exchange programs with Trinity College, Dublin; the University of Galway; Maynooth University and Queens University, Belfast.

Boston College History Department Service

Director Core Program, Department of History, 2017 to 2020.
Core Committee, 2015 to 2020.
Undergraduate Engagement Committee, 2014 to 2017.
Faculty Advisor, undergraduate study abroad 2010 to 2017.

Teaching

Spring 2025

HIST5276 Senior History Seminar, 1968 in a Global Context (12 students)
HIST7531 Graduate Seminar, Nations, Formation and Fragmentation (5 students)
HIST4962 Senior Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2024

Venice International University
Film and the Narrative of Empire (18 students)
Remembering 1968: Between Memory and History (18 students)

Spring 2024

HIST1002 Europe and the World II (219 students)
HIST4281 Film, Media and modern Ireland (25 students)
HIST4922 Independent Research (1 graduate student)

Spring 2023

University Faculty Fellowship

Fall 2022

HIST5510.01 Making History Public (10 students)

HIST4281.01 Film, Media and Modern Ireland (20 students)

HIST710110 Independent Study (2 graduate students)

Spring 2022

HIST 496227 Honors Thesis (Scholar of the College)

HIST 492209 Advanced Independent Research

FALL 2021

HIST 4282.01 Northern Ireland Troubles through Film and Media (25 students)

HIST 4283.01 A Dis-United Kingdom? (26 students)

Spring 2021

HIST 496227 Honors Thesis (Scholar of the College)

HIST 492209 Advanced Independent Research

Fall 2020

HIST 4961.01 Honor's Seminar (7 students).

HIST 7101.31 Reading and Research (1 graduate student).

Spring 2020

HIST 4281.01 Film, Media and Modern Ireland (31 students).

HIST 7101.31 Reading and Research.

Fall 2019

HIST 4961.01 Honor's Seminar (10 students).

Spring 2019

HIST 1012.01 Atlantic Worlds II (250 students).

HIST 710131 Reading and Research, (3 graduate students).

Fall 2018

HIST 4961.01 Honor's Seminar (12 students).

HIST 4840.01 1968, Revolutions, Then and Now (30 students).

HIST 7101.31 Reading and Research (3 students)

Spring 2018

University Faculty Fellowship, in residence, Trinity College, Dublin

Fall 2017

HIST 4961.02 Honors Thesis Seminar (13 students)

Spring 2017

HIST 1020.01 Democracy Rights and Empire II (300 students)

HIST 4281.01 Film, Media and Modern Ireland (31 students)

HIST 4922.10 Scholar of the College (1 student)

Fall 2016

HIST 1019.01 Democracy, Rights and Empire I (297 students)

HIST 4283.01 Disunited Kingdom (26 students)

HIST4921.19 Advanced Independent Research (1 student)

Spring 2016

HIST 4281.01 Film, Media and Modern Ireland (30 students)
 HIST 5501.01 Seminar: Making History Public, Propaganda and War, (13 students)
 HIST 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2016

HS 4824.01 'The Troubles', a History of Northern Ireland (25 students)
 HS 4824.01 Making Memory: History, Story and Image (new interdisciplinary seminar with Philosophy and Fine Arts (23 students)

Spring 2015

HS 032.01 Europe and the Modern World II (234 students)
 HS 41901 Film, Media and Modern Ireland (25 students)
 HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2014

HS 4283.01 History of Northern Ireland (25 students)
 HS 4283.01 Disunited Kingdom (21 students)

Spring 2014

HS 032.01 Europe and the Modern World II (307 students)
 HS 431.01 19th Century Ireland Union to Rebellion (18 students)
 HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2013

HS 434.01 Northern Ireland 1912-to the present (23 students)
 HS 693.02 Honors Seminar (10 students)

Spring 2013

HS 036.01 Europe and the Modern World II (215 students)
 HS 410.01 Disunited Kingdom (24 students)
 HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2012

University Faculty Fellowship, in residence, Trinity College, Dublin

Spring 2012

HS 032.01 Europe and the Atlantic World II (140 students)
 HS 438.01 Ireland Since the Famine (41 students)
 HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2011

HS 410.01 Disunited Kingdom (28 students)
 HS 419.01 Media and Modern Ireland (28 students)

Spring 2011

HS 02401.01 Eurasia and the World (69 students)
 HS 026.01 Discussion (16 students)
 HS 431.01 Twentieth Century Ireland (22 students)
 HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2010

HS 410.01 Disunited Kingdom (34 students)
 HS 434.01 19th Century Ireland Union to Rebellion (34 students)

Spring 2010

HS 436.01 Twentieth Century Ireland (31 students)

HS 843.01 Graduate Colloquium: Modern Irish History (8 students)

Fall 2009

HS 434.01 A History of Northern Ireland (39 students)

Spring 2009

HS 378.01 Ireland through Film and Fiction (36 students)

HS 438.01 Ireland Since the Famine (33 students)

HS 4962.28 Honors Thesis (1 student)

Fall 2008

HS 434.01 A History of Northern Ireland (35 students)

Spring 2008

HS 438.01 Ireland Since the Famine (35 students)

HS 843.01 Graduate Colloquium Modern Irish History (9 students)

Fall 2007

HS 434.01 History of Northern Ireland (33 students)

Spring 2007

University Faculty Fellowship, Leverhulme Fellow in residence, University of Edinburgh

Fall 2006

HS 434.01 A History of Northern Ireland (33 students)

Spring 2006

Graduate Colloquium Modern Irish History (8 students)

HS 438.01 Ireland Since the Famine (32 students)

HS 693.02 History Honors Seminar (10 students)

Fall 2005

HS 434.01 19th Century Ireland Union to Rebellion (27 students)

HS 434.01 History of Northern Ireland (31 students)

Spring 2005

HS 438.01 Ireland Since the Famine (30 students)

HS 843.01 Graduate Colloquium: Modern Irish History (8 students)

Fall 2004

HS 434.01 19th Century Ireland Union to Rebellion (28 students)

HS 434.01 History of Northern Ireland (33 students)

Spring 2004

University Faculty Fellowship, Irish-American Cultural Institute Fellow in residence, University of Galway

Spring 2003

HS 434.01 History of Northern Ireland

HS 699.01 Éire/Land: Political, Visual and Literary Perspectives, (cross registered with English, Fine Arts, 35 students).

Fall 2003

HS 378.01 The Troubles through film and fiction, (33 students).

PhD supervision

2025	Supervisor and Chair, PhD Candidate Tiffany Thompson, Department of History, Boston College.
2023	Supervisor and Chair, PhD candidate Rachael Young, Department of History, Boston College. Awarded PhD, July 2023
2019	Internal reader/examiner, Joanna Kelly, Department of History, Boston College, <i>Evangelical Television and the Politicizing of the Evangelical Message, 1950-1994</i> .
2017	External reader/examiner, Christy Murphy, Department of History, Brandeis University, <i>Pan-Celticism in Turn of the Century Europe 1880-1914</i> .
2012	External reader/examiner, Emily Bloom, Department of English, University of Texas, Austin, <i>Air-Borne Bards: Anglo-Irish Writers and the BBC, 1931-1968</i> .
2011	Internal examiner/reader, Megan Myers, Department of History, Boston College, <i>Moving Terrorists from the Streets to a Diamond-Shaped Table: The internationalization of the Northern Ireland Conflict, 1969-99</i> .
2011	Internal PhD Oral Comprehensive Exam Committee, Eric Foss and Ian Delehanty.
2007	Supervisor and Chair, Deidre Bryan PhD, Department of History, Boston College, <i>Maria Martin's Irish Medical Missionaries of Mary, West Africa, 1921-1933</i> .
2009	External examiner/reader, Katherine Lamontagne, PhD Boston University Department of History.
2005	External examiner/reader Mairead Pratschke, McMaster University, Ontario, <i>The Transformation of Ireland in Gael Linn's Amharc Éireann film series, 1956-64</i> .

Honors Thesis supervised

2024/2025	Liam White, <i>The Politics of Terror in 1960s Britain</i> .
2021/2022	Erin Sheedy, Scholar of the College, <i>Motherhood and the Gaelic Revival 1993-1916</i> .
2016/2017	Luke Heineman, Scholar of the College, <i>Drawing a line in the Sand: The British Folly in the Middle East & its Everlasting Chaos</i> .
2015/2016	Hannah Forsyth: <i>The Place of women in the development of Irish Nationalism</i> .
2014/2015	Aashana Dhruva: <i>Church and State in contemporary Ireland: The Case of Savita Halappanavar</i> .
2013/2014	Kellan Etter: <i>The Old Firm: A Historical Analysis of Sectarian Conflict in Glasgow through Soccer</i>
2012/2013	Christopher Fitzpatrick, <i>An unknown ally: Irish Neutrality during WW II and a consolidated model analysis of Anglo-Irish relations</i> (with International Studies)

- 2011/2012 Patrick Keating: *'The Laughter of Comely Maidens': An Examination of Gender Discrimination within Irish Juries, 1922-1975.*
- 2010/2011 Erin Garrity, *Irish Cultural Nationalism on Stage, The Abbey Theatre in the 1920s.*
- 2008/2009 Matthew Hunt, *The Origins of Republican Sinn Féin.*
- 2005/2006 Caitlin Gill, *America and Economic Development in 20th Century Ireland*
- 2003/2004 Theresa Imeidiata, *The state, educational policy and the Irish Traveler Community.*

Media

Interviews with print media:

The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Irish Times, The Times (London), The Boston Globe, The Harvard Review and Boston Herald.

Interviews with broadcast media: National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*; Ireland's national radio and television service (RTÉ) programs including *Morning Ireland* and *From the Archive*; British Broadcasting Corporation's *The World* and interviews with Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Boston television stations including WBZ and New England Cable News.

Historical consultant for Irish National Broadcaster, RTÉ documentaries including 'Power on the Box (2016), 'Battle Station' (2012) and for National Geographic (2010).

Review excerpts:

Northern Ireland, the BBC and Censorship in Thatcher's Britain (2022).

(This book) offers invaluable insights into the broadcast media's role in Northern Ireland during the 'Troubles'. Continuing his earlier efforts to revitalize this significant, yet neglected, aspect of the everyday difficulties faced by journalists reporting the conflict. This book is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the 'Troubles'. Roseanna Doughty, *Twentieth Century British History*.

Through a close analysis of BBC and British government archives Savage, whose previously published books on the origins of Irish television and on the BBC during the Troubles, are based on similarly wide-ranging archival research, shows how Thatcher's government repeatedly pressured to corporation. Niall Ó Dochartaigh, *The Irish Times*.

Robert Savage's well researched volume ... details how the Thatcher government sought to control the narrative of the Northern Ireland Troubles through manipulation of the British media through censorship. His latest volume skillfully draws upon a wide range of sources that have become publicly available since his earlier work published in 2015. *The BBC's Irish Troubles, television, conflict and Northern Ireland* (2015). Francis Costello, *The Irish News* (Belfast).

His meticulous reading of archival material ...makes this a very valuable work. Savage is

absolutely, exhaustive in his attempts to understand the events. Indeed, he never shies away from taking on controversial subjects, and his detailed and reliable authorship ensures that this book has made a very substantial contribution to the literature. Phil Ramsey, *Estudios Irlandeses, Journal of the Spanish Association of Irish Studies*.

Northern Ireland, the BBC and Censorship in Thatcher's Britain examines the broadcast media coverage of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'. This important work (explores) the conflict and the way the broadcast media presented it to national and international audiences. Mohamed Chamekh, *Journal of Radio and Audio Media*.

The BBC's Irish Troubles, Television, Conflict and Northern Ireland, (2015).

(The BBC's Irish Troubles is) absorbing history... a great deal is new and the book's major virtue is in bringing it all together to paint a complete picture of the problems faced by the BBC in trying to fulfill its brief to be a window on the world for its audience. Roy Greenslade, *The Guardian*.

Robert Savage's penetrating and exhaustively researched study of the tense relationship between the BBC, locally and nationally, and the civil and military authorities in Northern Ireland between ...draws on a rich variety of sources: on BBC records; national archives; published memoirs and interviews with some of the main protagonists. He writes perceptively, too, of the difficulties faced by news media in establishing and commenting on the truth in a divided society riven by conflict. Maurice Hayes, *Belfast Telegraph*.

Robert Savage's meticulously researched book shows that during the late 1970s and early 1980s senior BBC executives in both London and Belfast were fighting a running battle with successive British governments – Labour and Conservative – to maintain the corporation's independence in the face of perilous assaults from a range of establishment figures led by Conservative and Unionist MPs. ... Savage's thesis in this excellent book is that throughout the 1970s and 1980s the BBC's reporters, editors and senior managers worked to provide intelligent and timely news and current affairs programming about the Northern Ireland crisis. Andy Pollack, *Dublin Review of Books*.

What does emerge very clearly from Savage's history is that the people responsible for directing Britain's counter-insurgency had a direct channel of influence that could be used to apply pressure on the BBC which simply wasn't available to the nationalist population in Northern Ireland (or to the unionist population for that matter, but they could at least be satisfied that the two main goals of British security policy – to defeat the IRA and preserve the Union – were in line with their own wishes). Daniel Finn, *London Review of Books*.

Savage provides us with an absorbing account of the challenges which the BBC, as a public service broadcaster, had to navigate in the midst of three decades of seemingly intractable conflict. ... the book allows us to view aspects of the conflict through a new

and highly distinctive lens. The result is a fascinating tale, well told. Shaun McDaid, *Irish Studies Review*.

(The BBC's Irish Troubles) is full to the gunwales with gold-plated archival material, mostly unpublished until now. The author has also teased out and combined a number of narratives and timelines in a way that effortlessly clarifies some of the most complex events, and the twists and turns of public policy in relation to the BBC, during what was probably the most tumultuous period in that organization's history. John Horgan, *Irish Times*.

As Savage shows in this provocative book, censorship had a long history at BBC Northern Ireland, ranging from attempts at government coercion to the outright formal censorship imposed by Thatcher, as well as subtler forms of self-censorship. The story Savage narrates in this book is a fascinating one, and with great relevance for the broader political and cultural history of contemporary Britain and Ireland. Aidan Beatty, *New Hibernia Review*.

A series of seismic events threatened the BBC's ability to remain impartial during the Troubles. A new book reveals. The threat of censorship constantly hung over the broadcaster during the conflict in Northern Ireland, whether state-enforced or self-imposed, primarily over its coverage of the IRA. Pavel Barter. *The Times (London)*.

Rob Savage's study of the battle to control the hearts and minds of the public during the Troubles is groundbreaking, underscoring throughout how contention between British ministers, civil servants, broadcasting authorities and journalists, as well as the military and police over approaches to media coverage was in many ways itself part of the conflict. Savage has produced a book that is relevant beyond the history of the Troubles. It is a work of value in understanding the thin line between a broadcaster in a democracy operating as a mouthpiece for the government and an honest disseminator of information in the public interest. Francis Costello, *Irish News (Belfast)*.

This illuminating survey shows that BBC Northern Ireland largely ignored the ills besetting the North in the years before the outbreak of violence. Its programme-makers largely avoided issues such as discrimination and partition, until it proved impossible to do so. Politicians wanted to keep the cameras well away from the deprivation and overcrowding in the cities; they did not want investigations into, or discussion of, discrimination. As this admirable new book demonstrates, broadcasters and the government of the day often have different concerns and interests, especially in times of conflict, or when the ruling politicians are ideologically averse to publicly-funded enterprises. Peter Hegarty, *The Irish Catholic*.

Relying on primary source material, Professor Savage's *The BBC's 'Irish Troubles'* is an accomplished work of historical scholarship that contributes enormously to literature of Northern Ireland. On another level, it is a cautionary tale about the complicated dynamic

between government and a free press in democratic societies. Michael Quinlan, *Irish America*.

In August 1969, rioting broke out in Derry. The unrest soon spread to Belfast. The British army was called in. Northern Ireland was on the cusp of 'the Troubles', a conflict that would last 30 years and leave more than 3,000 people dead. That the Northern Irish branch of the BBC downplayed the scale of the violence in its early days – and avoided interrogating the root causes of the unrest – is laid bare in Robert Savage's excellent recent monograph *The BBC's Irish Troubles: Television, Conflict and Northern Ireland*. Peter Geoghegan, *Open Democracy*.

Robert J Savage's recent volume ... is by far the best account of how broadcasting was caught in this conflict between defending its public service remit of independence while wrestling with expectations of social order and condemning terrorism.... What is obvious from Savage's meticulous, clear, penetrating and convincing study is how important TV was for all actors seeking to influence narratives and representations about the Northern Ireland conflict.... Savage, in his definitive study, is surely right that attempts to control the organization were a reflection of government efforts to silence controversial voices and representations in what was as much a propaganda war as it was a civil and political one. Graham Spenser, *Critical Studies in Television, International Journal of Television Studies*.

This book is a welcome addition to the literature dealing with the turbulent history of Northern Ireland. For more than 20 years, Robert Savage has been immersed in issues surrounding public service television broadcasting in the Republic of Ireland. His publications *Irish Television: The Political and Social Origins* (1996) and *A Loss of Innocence? Television and Irish Society 1960 – 1972* (2010) are now fundamental reading for any student of Irish broadcasting history. A hallmark of the author's work is his extensive use of written archives. Now with a focus north of the border, his latest contribution *The BBC's Irish Troubles: Television, Conflict and Northern Ireland*, follows a similar pattern. Gareth Ivory, *Irish Political Studies*.

Robert Savage has written a richly detailed history of the BBC's Irish Troubles. (His) indispensable book explains how internal and external filters often failed to prevent uncomfortable facts from appearing on television screens. Niall Meehan, *History Ireland*.

The history Savage presents in *The BBC's "Irish Troubles"* is revealing, particularly with regard to the early years of the Troubles, which receive the most textured and nuanced treatment. He is largely effective in presenting both a broad description of the political upheavals that occurred and an account of the role of BBC television in these upheavals... The lessons to be drawn from the history Savage presents are not limited to Northern Ireland. His account is relevant to all who seek to understand the relationship between broadcasters, journalists, and the nation states that host them, and the challenges the news media will likely face if a state's mandate to rule unravels in the face of mass

dissent or insurrection. Lyell Davies, *Journal of British History*.

With this fine book Robert J. Savage completes a trilogy that collectively defines an impressive strand of historical research in Irish media studies. His work stretches over the past twenty years and with this book he secures his reputation as one of the most respected commentators on television and Ireland. With this book the worldwide scholarly community will recognize the qualities and judiciousness that are the hallmarks of his work. Lance Pettitt, *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*.

A Loss of Innocence, Television and Irish Society 1960-1972, (2010)

Through the meticulous use of historical archives, careful engagement with secondary sources, and interviews with key leading figures, Savage demonstrates how television was an active agent and key medium in shaping the modernization of Ireland. ... Savage's history tells the tale of television pioneers invested in holding institutions accountable while simultaneously bypassing traditional intermediaries, including the Church and local and national press. The book is particularly impressive in its scope that traces the effects of the same medium in the very different, but connected contexts of both northern and southern states as well as in its interdisciplinary appeal. *Donnelly Prize Citation, American Conference of Irish Studies*.

Robert Savage's new book – his second about Irish television ... benefits from a considerable amount of original research that throws important new light on the objectives of, and the pressures created by, a number of powerful social actors who sought to influence, and in some cases control, many aspects of the new medium... It is a complex narrative, but one whose complexities have been deftly handled. Its combinations of breadth and depth contributes to its many analytical subtleties. ... a landmark book. John Horgan, *Irish Historical Studies*.

Savage structures his account of the first decade of Irish television as a series of struggles between authoritarian elites, and broadcasters who challenged that authority, sometime in the name of journalistic freedom, sometimes simply to keep their advertisers on board and the station afloat. As such, *Loss of Innocence?* is an anatomy of power in 1960s Ireland, and the ways in which it was eroded as much by market forces as by ideological struggles. Savage is clear about what he does, and he does it well. ...we have the work of a meticulous political historian, following up his excellent 1996 book (*Irish Television: The Political and Social Origins*, which dealt with the previous decade) with a volume that is impressively exhaustive in its archival research, and scrupulous in its conclusions. Christopher Morash, *Irish University Review*.

A book that has richly explored the struggle of station executives to provide Ireland, at relatively low cost, a range of programmes that compete in practice with what is transmitted on far better resourced channels across the Irish Sea. For those who wish to

explore aspects of RTÉ's history, Robert Savage's latest volume and his earlier Irish television: a political and social history (1996) provide a mine of useful information. Colum Kenny, *Irish Economic and Social History*.

The scholarliness of the book is manifest not only in the extensive literature to which Savage refers, but also in the interviews he conducted and the range of archives through which he trawled... Not only is Savage's book detailed, scholarly and a highly valuable contribution, but he has woven it together to make it eminently readable. Iarfhlaith Watson, *Irish Studies Review*.

Television came to the Irish Republic later than in most western countries, not going on air until New Year's Eve 1961. But, as Robert J. Savage argues, this was a significant time in Irish history, when the political, religious and cultural elites of a deeply conservative country were about to confront the radical forces which were sweeping the western world, notably the questioning of authority, the campaigns for civil rights and the sexual revolution. His aim is to show how, by engaging with these currents, 'television helped to undermine the conservative consensus which dominated Ireland into the 1960s. Co-director of the Irish Studies Program at Boston College, Massachusetts, Savage has written widely on the subject before, including *Irish Television: The Political and Social Origins* (1996), to which the current volume is in effect a sequel. Savage offers much useful history, lucidly delivered. Peter Waymark, *Journal of British Cinema and Television*.

Sean Lemass, a biography (2014).

The author has written a much-praised monograph on television and Irish society... One of strengths of the book, apart from Savage's sure-footed survey of the academic literature and the main historiographical issues, are the gems from his own archival research which leads him to astringent judgements of the Irish state which was seeking to incorporate the Unionists. Overall this is an excellent introduction to a pivotal figure in modern Irish history. Henry Patterson, *Irish Historical Studies*.

Evidence is provided to support the central theme that Lemass learned that compromise was an essential political attribute in each of these fields. The book argues that... even small details were deemed of potential benefit, as when Lemass ordered that the Irish civil service substitute the term 'Northern Ireland' for the previously used 'six counties.' ... such detailed considerations of the terminology used in negotiation is still crucial to success in this area. Bill Sweeney, *History Ireland*.