



## The Peace, Justice, and Human Rights (PJHR) Program at John Carroll University

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### From the Director's Desk

I've been reading Rebecca Solnit's *Hope in the Dark*, a book I highly recommend. Though it was first published in 2004, during the dark days of the Iraq war, it has become a classic among activists seeking to do the difficult work of social change. She writes: "Your opponents would love you to believe that it's hopeless, that you have no power, that there's no reason to act, that you can't win. Hope is a gift you don't have to surrender, a power you don't have to throw away. And though hope can be an act of defiance, defiance isn't enough reason to hope. But there are good reasons." And later: "Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency. Hope should shove you out the door, because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the

annihilation of the earth's treasures and the grinding down of the poor and marginal... To hope is to give yourself to the future - and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable." As we begin a new presidential administration, there is much fear about what will happen next. Let's avail ourselves of hope, a hope that spurs us to be the change we wish to see in the world, as we face an uncertain future. **As St. Augustine said: Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.**

This semester, we are sponsoring a number of talks, many of which deal with the astonishing peacebuilding and conflict transformation process in Northern Ireland, a country that suffered through thirty years of civil strife (1968-1998) that some call The Troubles, and others call a war. Thanks to the Gerard Manley Hopkins Chair in the English Department for funding four scholars and writers whose work sheds light on the human struggle toward a more peaceful world. These visits will be keystones in the experiences of students in a pair of linked EHE courses studying Ireland and the Troubles, taught by Dr. Dianna Taylor and me; at the end of the term, we will be heading to Ireland to talk directly with participants in the conflict and the peace. It is one of the highlights of my experiences at John Carroll, to be able to witness to the transformation of Northern Ireland, and to think of it as a model for social transformation and peacebuilding at home.

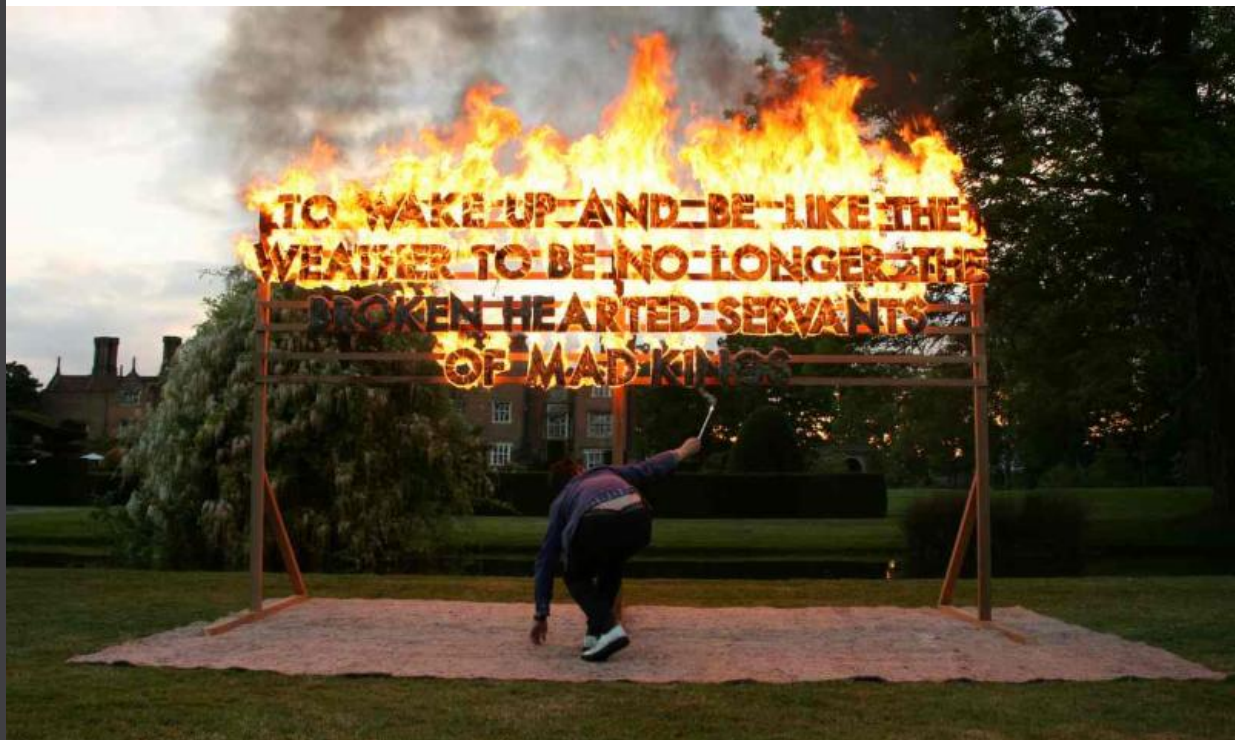
I've thought a thought about how Northern Ireland might help us deal with our own social

problems, especially around entrenched poverty, racial segregation, and oppression. So please come to these events, whether you know anything about Ireland or not; what we learn could be applied to our own society. Also, consider attending Bishop Braxton's talk on Thursday, January 19th, at 7:30 pm in Donohue Auditorium, called "The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide Revisited." Finally, a couple other opportunities to check out: [the Washington Center's summer internship program](#), and the free Social Justice Teach-In at Case Western, [coming up](#).

**Feel free to forward this email along to people who might want to read it. Also, I welcome any student, faculty, or staff-members who have projects, speakers, or issues related to PJHR that they would like to bring to John Carroll. Drop me an email ([pmetres@jcu.edu](mailto:pmetres@jcu.edu)) or come by to O'Malley 219. Let's make this campus, and our world, a place of hope. *Love. Study. Struggle.***

Philip Metres

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## PJHR Graduate Spotlight

PJHR alumna Diana Naoum (2014) spent a year teaching English in Turkey as a Fulbright Fellow. Recently, she completed a master's degree in Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice from SOAS, University of London. Her dissertation was called: "The politics of memory and its material consequences on Palestinians in post-civil war Lebanon." She has also worked at the Palestine Return Centre, and the Centre on Conflict, Rights, and Justice at SOAS.

She now sends news of her recent hire at Human Rights Watch, in the Middle East division, in Washington D.C. Congrats, Diana! We look forward to your return to John Carroll, to share more about your research and your journey!





## Mark Your Calendars!

On **January 24, 2017 at 7pm** in **Rodman A**, **Dr. Kristen Tobey** will present a talk called "**Activism as Vocation: Religious Resistance in the Nuclear Age.**" It's based on her book [Plowshares: Protest, Performance, and Identity in the Nuclear Age](#) (2016), which explores the religio-political world of radical Catholic anti-nuclear nonviolent activists. She will address what lessons the Plowshares might teach us about nonviolent action today. And congrats to Dr. Tobey on her recent hire by JCU!

Thanks to the Theology and Religious Studies Department for co-sponsoring this event!



## Mark Your Calendars! Ireland, Poetry and Peacebuilding

**Dr. Timothy White, "Theories of International Relations and Northern Ireland," February 23, 5:30, AD 258.**

Dr. White has been a leading scholar in Irish studies for over twenty-five years, whose edited collection, *Lessons of the Northern Ireland Peace Process*, came out a few years ago. He will be talking about his new edited collection of essays exploring the peace process and theories of international relations. Thanks to the Department of Political Science for spearheading his visit. Co-sponsored by PJHR.

## Sinead Morrissey talk reading, March 15, 7pm, Rodman A

Award-winning poet Sinéad Morrissey will be reading poems and talking about her memoir, tracing the life of her grandfather from the slums of Ireland to the Soviet Union. Morrissey was raised in Belfast during the Troubles by communist parents. Morrissey is the author of five books of poetry. Winner of the TS Eliot prize and nominated for a National Book Critics Circle award, Morrissey has also received the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award, the Irish Times Poetry Now Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, and first place in the 2007 UK National Poetry Competition.



## Oliver Rafferty, "Famine, Migration, and God" March 29, 7pm, Rodman A.

Dr. Oliver Rafferty, a Jesuit priest who has written or edited six books, will be talking about the Great Famine that struck Ireland in the 1840s and killed or displaced millions of Irish. His research interests include: The



history of Irish Christianity; 19th and 20th century British and Irish history especially the relationship between church and state; revolutionary violence and the development of militant Irish nationalism. At present he is working on two books: a collection of his own essays "Violence, Politics and Religion in Ireland" and a monograph "The Catholic Church in Ireland and the 1916 Rising". Thanks to the Department of Theology and Religious Studies for co-sponsoring this event.

**Paul Muldoon, talk/poetry reading. April 24, 7pm, Donohue Auditorium.**

Paul Muldoon is one of Ireland's leading contemporary poets and a legendary reader of his work. He was born in Portadown, County Armagh and raised near The Moy, in Northern Ireland. Muldoon's work is full of paradox: playful but serious, elusive but direct, innovative but traditional. The author of numerous award-winning collections of poetry, Muldoon has written libretti, rock lyrics—for Warren Zevon, *The Handsome Family*, and his own band, Rackett—and many books for children. In 2007, he was hired as poetry editor of the *New Yorker*. Since 1987 Muldoon has lived in the United States, where he is now Howard G.B. Clark Professor of the Humanities and Chair of the University Center for the Creative and Performing Arts at Princeton University. Come early for this one if you want a seat!



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