

Public Lecture

Dilemmas with Double Minorities: Irish speakers, monolingual English speakers and Gaeltacht language policy

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In a series of consultations and commissioned reports from the 2001 Gaeltacht Commission to the publication of the national 20 year strategy for Irish in December 2010, culminating in Acht na Gaeltachta (2012), the state has been re-assessing its policy positions in relation to Irish language practices and the role of Gaeltacht communities themselves in the regeneration and revitalisation of Irish. Using extensive survey data from small Gaeltacht regions in Donegal, Kerry and Cork, this presentation will discuss the complex issue of empowering local Irish language planning activities in Gaeltacht regions where there is a substantial population of monolingual English speakers.

Tadhg Ó hlfearnáin is a Senior Lecturer in Irish at the University of Limerick where his research is primarily in sociolinguistics and language policy, focussing on Irish and other minoritised languages. He is co-editor with Máire Ní Neachtain of An tSochtheangeolaíocht: Feidhm agus Tuairisc (Cois Life, 2012), a multi-author volume which sets Irish within the international discipline of sociolinguistics, and is a member of the executive committee of IRAAL.

Date: 5 December 2012

Time: 7.30 pm

Location: Room 0.01, School of Education, UCD

(Roebuck Offices, Belfield Campus, UCD)

This event is being organised by IRAAL in association with the School of Education, UCD

