

Opening Speaker



Dr. Richard M. O'Meara presently serves as the Director of the Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University and as a Professor of law and Global Security Issues. He is a retired Army General Officer and trial attorney and received his PhD in Global Affairs from Rutgers University and his JD from Fordham University. His research interest include the application of ethics to the used of military technologies, the intersection of ethnicity and violence in conflict zones, security and foreign policy issues in Sub-Saharan Africa and the North Pacific, and Conflict Resolution. He has travelled widely in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America working with stake holders to create dialogue and solutions regarding the cessation of conflict. His recent work includes *Going Home For Apples and Other Short Stories* (Amazon); *Governing Military Technologies in the 21st Century, Ethics and Operations*(Palgrave/Macmillan); chapters in *Robot Ethics, The Ethics and Social Implications of Robotics* (MIT Press) ; *Routledge Handbook of Ethics and War, Just War Theory in the twenty-first century*(Routledge); and articles *JUS POST BELLUM: Reflections on the Right Way to End a War, Journal on Terrorism and Security Analysis* (Syracuse University) and *International Governance of Autonomous Military Robots, Columbia Science and Technology Law Review* (Columbia University School of Law).

Keynote Speaker



Máirtín Ó Muilleoir is a Sinn Féin Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland for South Belfast, publisher, entrepreneur and civic leader. An advocate for the new and resurgent Belfast, he has launched a series of initiatives designed to showcase the very best of the city including the the Belfast International Homecoming which promotes links between Belfast and the global Irish Diaspora. He is Chairman of the Belfast Media Group publishing company which includes the New York weekly, The Irish Echo among its titles. Since leading the acquisition of the Irish Echo in 2007, he has prioritized links of mutual benefit between Ireland and the US, with a special focus on the peace process. In 2016, he supported an investor group which took over the Irish American news website IrishCentral.com. An Irish speaker, he believes strongly in the promotion of culture as the bedrock of successful and diverse communities. He first entered Belfast City Hall in 1987 at the age of 27, subsequently leading a series of court challenges to assure equal treatment for nationalists in the city. He was ejected from his first meeting of Belfast City Council by the police after ten minutes. Throughout his tenure in City Hall, he was banned from the mayoral offices, prohibited from serving on Council committees and struck off invite lists for civic events. A journalist and author, his books in Irish and English include a history of Belfast City Hall 'Belfast's Dome of Delight' (which is prefaced by the Lagnston Hughes poem 'I, Too') and the novellain Gaeilge 'Ceap Cuddles'. He left City Hall in 1997 to concentrate on business and community endeavours but returned in 2011 as the first ever Sinn Féin councillor for the Balmoral area of South Belfast. He served as Lord Mayor of a much-changed Belfast from June 2013-June 2014 and during his term appointed ten chaplains including representative of the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist faiths as well as ministers from the four main Christian churches. Occupying offices from which he was once banned, he initiated a series of efforts to build bridges to political opponents, meeting the British Queen Elizabeth and bringing into his parlour a portrait of Orange marchers. He also pioneered transatlantic links, signing a sister city agreement with the Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh and welcomed President Obama to Belfast. Among his awards in 2014 were the PRIDE Festival Award for Best Political Contribution to the LGBT Community and the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America JFK Medal, presented in St Louis, Missouri. He was returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly in May 2016 and appointed to the post of Finance Minister — the first-ever Irish republican politician to hold the post — where he pioneered a raft of new initiatives including per cent for art, a social value act and a rethink of property and domestic tax policies. The collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive in January 2017 triggered a fresh election in March 2017 at which he was again returned for South Belfast. In May 2017, he was the proud recipient of an honorary doctorate from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. He is married to Helen O'Hare and they have four children