

Celebrating a Century of Icelandic Sovereignty

History, culture and Irish connections

5 December 2018

2-6pm

Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street

Organized by UCD and University of Iceland

Cultural Memory and Contemporary Europe: Ireland, Iceland and the Atlantic Periphery

On 1 December 2018, Iceland celebrates the centenary of its status as a sovereign state. In the autumn of 1918 an agreement with Denmark was reached, the Union Treaty Bill, later ratified by parliament and a popular vote. Iceland and Denmark still shared a king and initially Denmark continued to handle foreign affairs. Yet as Spanish flu raged and in the coldest winter in its history, Iceland became a free and sovereign nation for the first time since 1262. On 5 December, scholars and writers from UCD Dublin and University of Iceland will commemorate this momentous event in Icelandic history in Dublin with a series of talks, including a reading by the Icelandic novelist, Sjón.

Schedule

2pm Valur Ingimundarson

Unarmed Sovereignty versus Military Rights: Enforcing the Icelandic-U.S. Defense Agreement, 1951–2018

3pm Coffee

3.30pm Sjón, introduced by Anne Enright

reading from *Moonstone*,

4pm Roundtable

Iceland and Ireland: cultural dialogues and parallel histories

John Brannigan, Fionnuala Dillane, Gunnþórunn Guðmundsdóttir, Valur Ingimundarson, Eilis Ni Dhuibhne, Sjón. Chair: Gerardine Meaney

5pm Reception