

## **2013 CALL FOR PAPERS**

31st IRISH CONFERENCE OF HISTORIANS  
**UNRAVELLING VIOLENCE**  
HISTORIANS, NARRATIVES AND MEANINGS

### **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN 7-8 JUNE 2013**

‘Violence’ is and has been fundamental to human experiences from pre-history through to today. It has often been implicit and explicit in public and private relations, with political, social, cultural, sexual and medical implications and manifestations. However, what is understood as violence has changed over time as it has been legitimated in the name of sovereignty, security, health and love. This conference seeks to consider the place of violence in society and the role of historians in unravelling its meaning.

- How is violence defined over time?
- How has violence been defined in relation to understandings of the perpetrator and the victim?
- How have definitions of victims changed?
- What issues does violence raise for a society with regard to state-led commemoration and retrospective redress?
- How does the historian historicise violence and define notions of trauma, violation, pain, guilt and blame?
- What political and social meanings have they assigned to it?

When considering violence this conference hopes to explore the epistemological, actual and representational forms of violence and the intersection of all three manifestations. It will also take stock of the historical profession and its role in society when grappling with these questions.