

**- Call for Papers-
Edited Book
(Prof. Niamh O'Mahony and Dr. Claire O'Reilly)**

Societies in Transition: Ireland, Germany and Irish-German Relations in Business and Society since 1989

Summary

Both Germany and Ireland have undergone a marked and prolonged period of change since 1989. The causes behind this period of transition are, on the one hand, due to common external factors (e.g. increasing globalisation, the impact of developments in the world economy and policy/legal/monetary developments at EU level) and on the other to major country-specific, internal factors (e.g. in Germany the dissolution of the GDR and its aftermath; in Ireland the Celtic Tiger and its economic and societal impact).

This book seeks to capture the essence of this period of transition in both countries and in their relationships to each other.

Specifically, the aims of this book are: to analyse the factors that have triggered change in both of these societies since 1989; to assess the impact of such change on both societies individually; to examine the relationships between these two countries at the business and societal level; and explore how one country can learn from the experiences of the other. The work will conclude by looking at the challenges facing these two countries now and in the future.

Call for papers

Contributions are being sought in all areas of relevant scholarship to this book which is divided into three main sections and a final section for summaries and conclusions (see overleaf). The focus of the book is change and transition in all chapters.

Target Readership

This book will be of interest to business people, students and academics from the fields of business, economics, sociology, politics with a German and/or Irish orientation. It will be of particular relevance to those in the field of German and Irish studies.

Timeframe

Interested contributors should send us a typed abstract of two pages (min. 500 words) by 31 July, 2007.

Abstracts should be sent to the editors Prof. Dr. Niamh O'Mahony niamh.omahony@reutlingen-university.de or Dr. Claire O'Reilly claire.oreilly@ucc.ie

All contributors will be contacted by 17 August, 2007 as to the final selection of the editors.

A final version of contributions will be expected by 18 February, 2008. The book is expected to be published in the winter of 2008.

Section I: Ireland since 1989

General introduction: The Editors

Chapter 1: Business and Economic Change in Ireland since 1989

This chapter will begin by taking a brief stock-take of the state of the Irish economy and business environment at the end of the 1980s, and providing a short comparison with the situation today. It will then proceed to identify and outline the significant factors of an internal or external nature that transformed Ireland to the thriving economy it is today. It will attempt to analyse the impact that these factors have had on the business and economic sphere in Ireland, assess the changes that have accompanied them, and highlight challenges for the future (approx. 20-30 pages excluding references)

Chapter 2: Societal Changes in Ireland since 1989

This chapter will begin by briefly outlining some key societal facts and figures about Irish society at the end of the 1980s and compare these with the situation today. It will then proceed to identify and discuss significant factors/events that have affected Irish society over the period, reflecting also resultant changes in underlying Irish values and mores. It will ask what challenges are likely to face Irish society in the future. (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

Chapter 3: Identity Development in Ireland since 1989

This chapter will begin by briefly identifying the elements that determined/defined the concept of Irish identity at the end of the 1980s. The chapter will explore to what extent each of these components have changed and/or newer components have emerged in the intervening period. (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

General conclusion: The Editors

Section II: Germany since 1989

General introduction: The Editors

Chapter 4: Business and Economic Change in Germany since 1989

This chapter will begin by taking a brief stock-take of the state of the economies and business environments of East and West Germany at the end of the 1980s and then provide a short comparison with the situation today. It will then proceed to identify and outline the factors/events of an internal or external nature that have had a significant impact on the economy and business environment in the reunified country and assess the changes that have accompanied them. It will also identify any challenges that are likely to face the German business and economic environment in the future (approx. 20-30 pages excluding references)

Chapter 5: Societal Changes in East/West Germany since 1989

This chapter will begin by briefly discussing the state of two ideologically opposed German societies on the eve of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It will then follow with a short equivalent for the reunified country of today. Significant factors/events that have affected the reunified Germany over the period will be analysed and resultant changes in German values and mores will be assessed. It will also identify any challenges that are likely to face German society in the future (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

Chapter 6: Identity Development in Germany since 1989

This chapter will examine – following on from the changes identified in chapters 4 & 5 – the emerging questions of identity and national consciousness since 1989 in the united Germany. Emphasis will be on tracing the changing relationship to self, and to the national sense of identity asking questions pertaining to a “common identity” with the passing of time (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

General conclusion: The Editors

Section III: German-Irish relations and relationships since 1989

General introduction: The Editors

Chapter 7: German-Irish business relationships since 1989

This chapter will begin by briefly providing some key facts and figures on the German-Irish business relationship at the end of the 1980s and comparing these with the situation today. It will examine/analyse the change in the focus/nature of this relationship over the intervening time period. It will also provide an overview and evaluation of the key findings of existing research on the subject from the area of cross-cultural research as well as highlight areas for future research. (approx. 20 pages excluding references).

Chapter 8: Societal change and development: learning from the other

Both Germany and Ireland have been shaped by migration: traditionally speaking immigration played a formidable role in Germany in the last century while Ireland was characterized mainly, and until very recently, by emigration. It is not surprising then that Germany has a much longer and older discourse on intercultural communication issues relating to migration, integration, schooling and education than is the case in Ireland today. German scholars have developed a corpus of theories and approaches for different target groups and in different situations all towards the aim of creating integrative, 'inter'cultural societies. Building on the chapters on society and identity in this book, this chapter asks – at this unprecedented juncture in the development of Irish society - what can we in Ireland learn from Germany's experience of immigration? The chapter will focus less on migration policies but more on the qualitative nature of the human experience since 1989 – a year which was an incisive year for Germany and for migration research on the whole. (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

Chapter 9: German-Irish relations as portrayed in literature since 1989

German-Irish relations have not only - but especially - with Böll enjoyed something of an untainted and idyllic picture in past decades. However, a changing Ireland has meant a change in the quality of experiences of Germans in Ireland, experiences which have been documented in published writings since 1989. Focusing on writings relating something of the German experience in Ireland, this chapter will trace the development of changing perceptions in the nature of German-Irish relations since 1989. (approx. 20 pages excluding references)

General conclusion: The Editors

Section IV: Overall Conclusion and Future Challenges

Chapter 10: Conclusion and Future Challenges (The Editors)

Looking to the future: Germany, Ireland and German-Irish relations
(approx. 20 pages excluding references)

Editors

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