

An Irish Spark in the European Imaginary: a debate



Invited Speakers:

Michael Cronin (DCU, Ireland)

Geert Lernout (UA, Belgium)

Moderator: Peter Flynn (KU Leuven, Campus Antwerp)

Venue: Irish College, Janseniustraat 1, 3000 Leuven

Date: 8 p.m. Monday, the 27th of April.

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- *Programme:*

- *8 - 8:15: Opening Speech by his Excellency Éamonn Mac Aodha, Irish Ambassador to Belgium*
- *8:15 - 9:15: Debate*
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- *9:15 - 9:30: Question time*

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Theme of the Debate:

In her article exploring the various meanings given by scholars to the term 'imaginary', Claudia Strauss highlights what she considers to be an important element in understanding it: “[t]his means talking, not about ‘the imaginary of a society’, but of people’s imaginaries.” (Strauss 2006:323). Strauss also points to how the term indexes “the creative, constructive aspects of imaginative creation” manifest in societies and cultures (Strauss 2006:329).

In debating the European imaginary it is the purpose, therefore, to explore how people have imagined Europe in all its complexity and to examine how some of these imaginings may have been fired by individuals and groups either hailing from or having strong connections with Ireland over the centuries.

Ref: Strauss, Claudia, 2006. *Anthropological Theory*. Vol. 6(3): 322–344. London, Thousand Oaks, CA and New Delhi: Sage Publications