

CALL FOR PAPERS:

LOBBYING AND INTEREST GROUPS

A one-day conference to be held at Dublin City University
on Friday 23 April 2010

The Interest Groups and Lobbying Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland is holding a one-day conference at Dublin City University on Friday 23 April 2010.

Sessions will include panels on Irish interest groups, lobbying regulation, the development of the lobbying industry in both parts of Ireland, and papers on lobbying and interest groups in other nations/political systems. Proposals are welcome for papers on any aspect on lobbying and interest groups, in any context. We are particularly interested in receiving papers from practitioners. As well as the academic panels, we will have guest speakers from politics, journalism and the lobbying profession.

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please send a 300-500 word abstract by Friday 5 March to both:

Gary Murphy gary.murphy@dcu.ie
Conor McGrath conor.p.mcgrath@gmail.com

Participants will be notified, and the full programme announced, in the middle of March.

The conference organisers are particularly interested in previously unpublished papers, as we will be seeking to identify publication opportunities for a selection of the papers. Full texts of the papers (up to 6,000 words) should be submitted to the organisers for distribution to all participants by Friday 9 April.

The conference is free for PSAI members and all students. For other attendees, there is a registration fee of €50/£35 (to cover one year membership of PSAI, including a subscription to our journal, *Irish Political Studies*).

If you will not be giving a paper at the conference, but would like to attend, please contact Conor McGrath at conor.p.mcgrath@gmail.com for a registration form. The deadline for registering is Friday 2 April.

The Interest Groups and Lobbying Specialist Group of the PSAI exists to promote academic and practitioner discourse on a developing aspect of Irish politics. It seeks to bring together all those interested in interest representation and lobbying, both generally and as it is conducted in Ireland, from a range of perspectives. Much practitioner writing is excessively uncritical; much journalistic writing on lobbying is superficial in the extreme; and much academic work is entirely theoretical offering few insights into the realities of the process. This specialist group hopes to redress all these imbalances to some extent, by encouraging dialogue between scholars and practitioners, and thereby develop a more rounded perspective on lobbying in Ireland.