As part of the conference, Professor Keith Jeffery MRIA (Member of the Royal Irish Academy), from Queen’s University, Belfast, will deliver the John Turner Memorial lecture on Wednesday 25 March. Professor Jeffery’s lecture is titled *Global Perspectives on 1916*.

**ABSTRACT**

This exploration begins with Ireland’s two most significant First World War events: the Easter Rising in Dublin and the first day of the Battle of the Somme (1 July), when the predominantly-Unionist Ulster Division went ‘over the top’ and suffered terrible casualties.

Both of these events are key components in the creation narratives of the two states which today exist in Ireland. Knowing that Irish historians of varying political persuasions will submit the events and their consequences to sometimes microscopic investigation, Professor Jeffery’s intention is to broaden out the perspective and put them in their imperial and global perspective.

It is not possible to understand local occurrences during the First World War without investigating the wider context in a war which stimulated violent conflict in every continent and affected every country on earth, belligerent and neutral alike. 1916, moreover, was a key pivotal year in the war, during which any likelihood of a compromise peace was extinguished.

By the end of 1916 the leading belligerent powers were inescapably committed to a ‘fight to the finish’. Beginning with the final evacuation from Gallipoli in January 1916, this lecture will take in both the Eastern and Western Fronts, as well as Africa, Asia, America and the war at sea, before concluding with a reflection on the murder of the ‘mad monk’ Rasputin during the last week of December.

**ABOUT PROFESSOR KEITH JEFFERY**

Jeffery joined Queen’s University in 2005 after teaching at the Ulster Polytechnic and the University of Ulster for more than 20 years. From 1988-97 he was joint-editor of Irish Historical Studies, and is currently chair of the journal’s board of directors. In 1997-98 he was a visiting fellow at the Australian National University and the Australian Defence Force Academy, University of New South Wales. Professor Jeffrey is also an accomplished author. His 2007 biography of Sir Henry Wilson was awarded the Templer Medal from the Society for Army Historical Research for the best book of the year on British Military History. Professor Jeffery is also well-known for his non-fiction book, *The Secret History of MI6*, the first official history of the British Secret Intelligence Service.
ABOUT DR JENNY MACLEOD

Macleod is a Lecturer in 20th Century History at the University of Hull. Previously, she was a research fellow at the Centre for the Study of the Two World Wars at Edinburgh, and worked at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, King’s College, London, and at the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies. In 2004 she published two books on the cultural history of the Gallipoli campaign, Reconsidering Gallipoli (Manchester University Press) and an edited volume, Gallipoli: Making History (Frank Cass). Her most recent edited volume, Defeat and Memory was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2008. She is the co-founder and treasurer of the International Society of First World War Studies, which comprises around 300 academics and postgraduates in 27 countries. She is Associate Editor of the Taylor & Francis journal, First World War Studies. Her current project is a book for Oxford University Press to be published in time for the centenary: Gallipoli which will form part of Hew Strachan’s Great Battles series.

ABOUT PROFESSOR JOY DAMOUSI

Damousi is Professor of History at the University of Melbourne. She has written numerous books, including, Living with the Aftermath: Trauma, Nostalgia and Grief in Post-war Australia (Cambridge, 2001); Freud in the Antipodes: A Cultural History of Psychoanalysis in Australia (UNSW Press, 2005) and Colonial Voices: A Cultural History of English in Australia 1840-1940 (Cambridge 2010). Her current focus is the history of sound and the two world wars.