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### Dr Jérôme ann de WIEL

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Dr Jérôme aan de Wiel was born in Enkhuizen (Netherlands). He is both French and Dutch. He obtained a PhD in Caen, France in 1998. Since September 2006, he has been visiting professor at the History Department of University College, Cork (UCC) in Ireland. He has been employed full-time as a main researcher/writer for a project subsidised by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (IRCHSS). This project is entitled “The history of Ireland’s European integration, 1945-1973” and is under the supervision of Professor Dermot Keogh (UCC). It aims at filling a huge gap in modern Irish historiography, namely Ireland’s relations with continental Europe during the 20<sup>th</sup> century as, so far, Irish historians have mainly focused on the country’s relations with the United Kingdom, the United States and countries of the British Commonwealth (foreign languages being a main problem). The project seeks to analyse in depth Ireland’s relations with the founding member-states of the European Economic Community (EEC): Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These relations are analysed at three levels: political/diplomatic, economic and cultural. Research has been done in main archives in Dublin, The Hague, Brussels, Luxembourg, Paris, Nantes, Rome, Florence, Berlin, Koblenz, Sankt Augustin, London and Washington and has produced over 20,000 photocopies of documents. The project is now in its end phase and it is planned to publish one, possibly two volumes in 2010 and a third one in 2011.

Parallel to the above IRCHSS project, he has been doing research for a personal project entitled “Ireland, the Cold War and East Germany, 1945-1990”. Why East Germany in particular? Ireland’s role during the Cold War has been largely neglected by Irish historians (except for a few articles). Again, languages might have been the main problem here too. Ireland’s relations with Germany during the Second World War have been the object of several studies. In 2008, he published a book entitled *The Irish Factor, 1899-1919; Ireland’s strategic and diplomatic relations for foreign powers* in which he analysed the relations between Ireland and Germany before and during the First World War, up to the peace negotiations in Paris in 1919. Since the IRCHSS project deals with Ireland’s relations with West Germany between 1945 and 1973 that left East Germany to complete the history of Irish-German relations during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the fact that diplomatic relations between Ireland and the German Democratic Republic were officially established only in 1980, research, so far, has unearthed a rather surprising amount of material in Berlin and also in Dublin. As for the IRCHSS project, this project aims to analyse Irish-East German relations at political/diplomatic, economic, cultural and also strategic levels.