

Just appeared

MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

*RECLAIMING THE EUROPEAN STREET:
SPEECHES ON EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN
UNION, 2016–20*

Edited by JOACHIM FISCHER and FERGAL
LENEHAN

'This is an extraordinary book from an extraordinary person. President Michael D. Higgins is a poet and a thinker – and a political leader on top of that. The combination of these talents is a rare and exceptional ... and this book proves what inspiring fruits can spring from it.' **Hartmut Rosa, Professor of Sociology at the University of Jena, Germany, and author of *Resonance: A Sociology of Our Relationship to the World* (2019).**

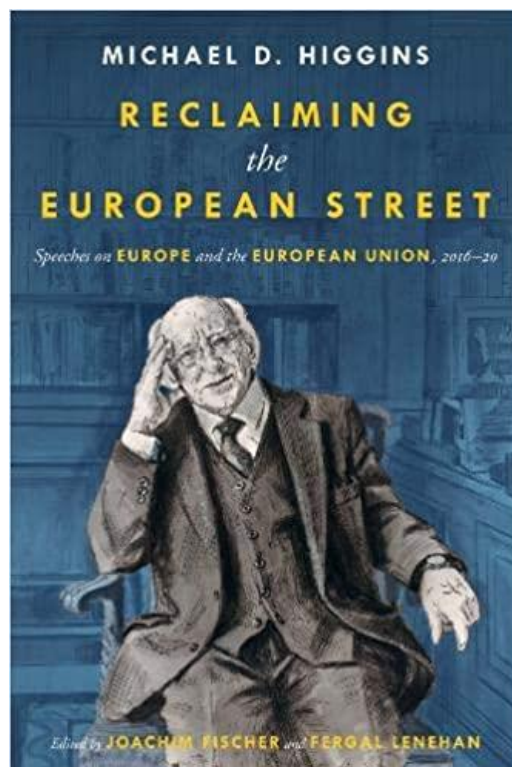
President Michael D. Higgins is one of the few public intellectuals to engage regularly with the abstract idea of an alternative European space, and to consistently reimagine it. Yet public discussions regarding Ireland's closer links with the European Union often remain purely utilitarian and economic, or take place only within academia. Here, in over twenty lively discourses, President Higgins lays out his vision for Europe.

This is the first gathering of all the President's Europe-themed speeches from 2016 to 2020. They deal with wide-ranging contemporary issues, from the 1916 Centenary celebrations to the Brexit decision of June 2016 and the Covid-19 pandemic: the latter, in particular, has shunted the European Union into a worldwide arena through its role in helping Member States cope with economic and human fallout.

As well as translations into Irish, French and German, a comprehensive introduction by the editors gives context to the speeches within wider Irish and European intellectual history. Stamped by President Higgins' inimitable intellectual rigour and empathy, these documents also express fundamental concerns on behalf of the Irish people. His generous pluralist view of history and embracing of a liberal secular society make this volume essential reading for any citizen seeking to understand the role of Ireland within the European Union.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

President Michael D. Higgins was elected the ninth President of Ireland in 2011. He was re-elected in 2018, securing the largest number of votes in Irish presidential election history. President Higgins is both an academic and a poet, as well as a public representative who has served at every level of public life in Ireland, including as a member of Dáil Éireann for twenty-five years and of Seanad Éireann



for nine. He has campaigned worldwide for human rights, inclusive citizenship and climate sustainability. His previous books include *When Ideas Matter: Speeches for an Ethical Republic* (2016), *Renewing the Republic* (2012) and *Causes of Concern* (2007) and numerous other publications.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Professor Joachim Fischer (MA Mainz, PhD TCD) holds the Jean Monnet Chair in European Cultural Studies at the University of Limerick. He has been teaching and researching in European Studies in Ireland across three decades and is Course Director of UL's undergraduate programme in European Studies, one of the longest-established such degrees in the world. He is also a board member of IACES.

Dr Fergal Lenehan (BA and MA UCD, PhD Leipzig, Habilitation Jena) is based at the University of Jena, Germany, where he is a full-time researcher at the German government funded project 'ReDICO: Researching Digital Interculturality Co-operatively'. His comparative study of intellectual discourses on Europe in Ireland, Britain and Germany, *Intellectuals and Europe* (Trier 2014), is a key contribution to this under-researched field.

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