

'Beautifully written and  
surprisingly easy to digest'

– SHANE ROSS

# WHAT IF IRELAND DEFAULTS?

Edited by BRIAN LUCEY,  
CHARLES LARKIN and  
CONSTANTIN GURDGIEV

## What if Ireland Defaults?

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“Beautifully written and surprisingly easy to digest, this book digs deep into the default debate. The insights into the consequences of default for Ireland are compulsory reading for the mandarins of Finance and the false gods of the NTMA. The detached views of such a distinguished cast of characters offer far more enlightenment than you would find at the Cabinet table.”

*Shane Ross, independent TD, author and business editor of the Sunday Independent*

“This is a significant and timely written symposium from a very broad spectrum of opinion holders on the crucial issues for Ireland in respect of the viability of the ECB–IMF bailout and the consequences of its possible failure. Whether one hopes for failure or believes in success, and regardless of whether one agrees with some or none of the contributors, the articles are a must-read for citizens of an embattled society facing difficult but inescapable choices on the future of their Republic, and they will be quoted for years to come in the ongoing debate upon which we are launched.”

*Michael McDowell, barrister and former Minister for Justice*

“Sober, balanced, comprehensive, and heavy with facts, *What if Ireland Defaults?* is necessary reading for anyone who wants to understand how the world will deal with a future of fiscal crises and moral hazard.”

*Dan Mitchell, senior economist with the Cato Institute*

“Rather than hide behind the sofa every time the word ‘default’ is mentioned, we need an intelligent discussion of what it means and doesn’t mean for economies, societies and citizens. This book brings together a wide range of perspectives and fact-based analyses on a topic that will dominate political debates for years. Read this, agree or disagree with the contributors, but let’s start acknowledging that debt is an over-riding political issue.”

*Michael Taft, research officer with UNITE*

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*edited by*

BRIAN LUCEY, CHARLES LARKIN AND CONSTANTIN GURDGIEV



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Brian – *To my wife, Mary, my support in all*

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Charles – *To my parents and Jane for their help and support*

Constantin – *To my wife, Jennifer Hord, for her infinite patience and support*

We would like to acknowledge our contributors, editors and all those who made this book possible.

Please note that all dollar amounts are in US dollars unless stated otherwise.

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## List of Acronyms

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BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CADTM	Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt
CBI	Central Bank of Iceland
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COMECON	the common trade area of the former Warsaw Pact
DCU	Dublin City University
ECB	European Central Bank
EFSF	European Financial Stability Facility
EFSM	European Financial Stability Mechanism
ESM	European Stability Mechanism
FÁS	Irish National Training and Employment Authority
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GGD	general government debt
GKOs	Russian state-issued short-term bills
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIRC	Highly Indebted Rich Countries
IBRC	Irish Bank Resolution Corporation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISK	Icelandic krona
LTV	loan to value
MAC	Municipal Assistance Corporation (New York)
MNC	multinational corporation
NAMA	National Asset Management Agency
NPRF	National Pension Reserve Fund
NTMA	National Treasury Management Agency
NYC	New York City
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
PSI	private sector involvement
S&P	Standard and Poor's
SDRM	Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism
UCD	University College Dublin

UDC Urban Development Corporation (New York)

WPPSS Washington Public Power System Supply

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## About the Contributors

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**Brian Lucey** is professor of Finance in Trinity College Dublin and a prolific author and commentator on financial and banking issues. He has worked at Trinity since 1992. Prior to that he was an economist at the Central Bank of Ireland (1987–1992), and before that an administrative officer in the Department of Health (1985–1992). He has a BA in Economics from Trinity College Dublin (1985), an MA in International Economics, Trade and Politics from University College Dublin (1988) and a PhD in Finance from Stirling University (2003).



**Charles Larkin** is a research associate and adjunct lecturer in the School of Business, Trinity College Dublin, as well as at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and at the ESC Toulouse School of Business, France. Charles is also a special adviser on economic policy matters to Senator Sean Barrett. Charles' main areas of research are political economy and public policy. He was awarded his PhD in Economics from Trinity College Dublin in 2008. He is a regular contributor to the Irish media and is co-author with Professor Colm Kearney of *The IMF and Nicaragua: Development Where People Matter*.



**Constantin Gurdgiev** is the head of research for St. Columbanus AG, a Swiss-based asset management firm, and the adjunct professor of Finance in Trinity College Dublin. He currently serves as the chair of the Ireland Russia Business Association, and holds non-executive appointments on the investment committees of GoldCore Ltd (Ireland) and Heinz Global Asset Management LLC (US). Constantin also lectures in the Smurfit Graduate Business School, University College Dublin and serves as a visiting professor of Finance in the Russian State University. In the past, Constantin served as the head of macroeconomics with the Institute for Business Value, IBM, director of research with NCB Stockbrokers Ltd, and group editor and director of *Business & Finance* Publications. Born in Moscow, Constantin was educated in the University of California, Los Angeles, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University and Trinity College, Dublin. He writes a daily blog at [trueeconomics.blogspot.com](http://trueeconomics.blogspot.com) and a number of regular columns in the international and Irish press.



**Sean Barrett** is the current senior lecturer in the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin and has enjoyed a distinguished career in academic circles along with holding high-ranking positions outside of the college, many of which have had a direct effect on transport policy and the tourism industry of Ireland. After graduating from University College Dublin in 1973, Sean went on to obtain a Masters at the highly regarded McMasters University in Canada before returning to UCD to gain his PhD in Economics. Following the completion of his studies, Sean took up the post of lecturer in the Department of Economics in Trinity College Dublin in 1977 and has gone on to enjoy a 34-year-long career in the college. Over the course of his career Sean has made a reputation for himself as one of the foremost economists in Ireland. With over eighty-five different publications, mostly on his expert topics of transport and social policy, he is one of the most published economists in Ireland. However his achievements in economics have not just been limited to academic discourse, as he has been a key figure in legislation, most notably in his role as director of Bord Fáilte in 1984, where he was instrumental in the successful deregulation of Irish airlines, and his role as a vital member of the National Economic and Social Council since 2005. He was elected to Seanad Éireann by Trinity College graduates in April 2011.



**Peter Brown** is former chief dealer and head of the treasury team in Barclays Bank. He is also the co-founder of the Irish Institute of Financial Trading. Peter is currently the main lecturer in the Irish Institute of Financial Trading, specialising in trading courses. His media profile as a financial commentator has led to him being highly sought after by media in Ireland, the UK and continental Europe. Peter gained his extensive trading knowledge working in Citi Bank, Banque National de Paris, Ulster Bank and ten years in Barclays Bank. He experienced firsthand the British pound crisis of 1990s, giving him deep insight as to how the markets will react to the current Eurozone debt crisis.



**Elaine Byrne** is an adjutant lecturer at the Department of Political Science at Trinity College Dublin, where she has taught Irish Politics and Comparative Political Reform. Elaine has acted as a consultant for the United Nations, the World Bank, Transparency International and Global Integrity. Her first book, *Political Corruption in Ireland 1922–2010: A Crooked Harp* (Manchester University Press), was published in 2012. Elaine is a regular political columnist and her by-line has featured in the *Irish Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Business Post*, *Sunday Independent*, *The Times* and *The Guardian*. She is a regular contributor to Irish and international radio and television on Irish political affairs. Elaine combines her academic and media work as a political reform campaigner. Her advocacy work can be accessed at [www.politicalreform.ie](http://www.politicalreform.ie) (co-editor) and from the deliberative democracy initiative [www.wethecitizens.ie](http://www.wethecitizens.ie) (co-founder). Her portfolio can be accessed at [www.elaine.ie](http://www.elaine.ie).





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**Karl Deeter** is a native of Los Angeles who now calls Ireland home. He has spent his career in financial services, having started in insurance and then moving to retail brokerage and accountancy. He is known for mortgage commentary on behalf of Irish Mortgage Brokers. He is also the head of client advice at accountancy firm Advisors.ie. Karl is a qualified financial advisor; he holds a Mortgage Diploma and a Certificate in Compliance, he is a part-qualified accountant, and he is also working towards a qualification in Islamic Finance. Prior to professional qualifications he studied at Dublin Institute of Technology, obtaining a Certificate and Diploma in Management.



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**Megan Greene** is the head of the Western Europe macroeconomics team at Roubini Global Economics and one of the leading voices in interpreting developments in the Eurozone crisis. At RGE, Megan conducts and coordinates macroeconomic forecasts on the Eurozone's most significant economies and responds to policy decisions (or the lack thereof) in Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Germany as well as at the EU level. She regularly appears in print and broadcast media, including the *Financial Times* and *Newsnight*. From 2007 to 2011 Megan worked as the Eurozone crisis expert at the Economist Intelligence Unit. Prior to working as an economist, Megan was an investment banking analyst at JP Morgan Chase and an advisor to the Liechtenstein royal family on eradicating money laundering from the principality's financial services industry. Megan received a BA in Political Economy from Princeton University and an MSc in European Studies from Nuffield College, Oxford University. You can read some of her analysis at [www.economistmeg.com](http://www.economistmeg.com) and follow her on Twitter (@economistmeg).



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