‘Conflict by other means’: Language in the Northern Irish Victims’ Rights Movement

Victims’ rights movements emerged during the Northern Irish peace process in the mid-late 1990’s. These groups have become particularly vocal as the British and Northern Irish governments float ideas for dealing with the past years of conflict. Candler Hallman conducted 1.5 years of ethnographic research with a unionist victims’ group based in Northern Ireland to document the linguistic devices used by activists in their attempt to gain political and social recognition.

This talk will focus on temporal and perspective transpositions in the victims’ rights movement. What interactional work to these transpositions achieve? What is their relationship to more direct forms of confrontation? And how might they reflect the political and moral position of the speakers?