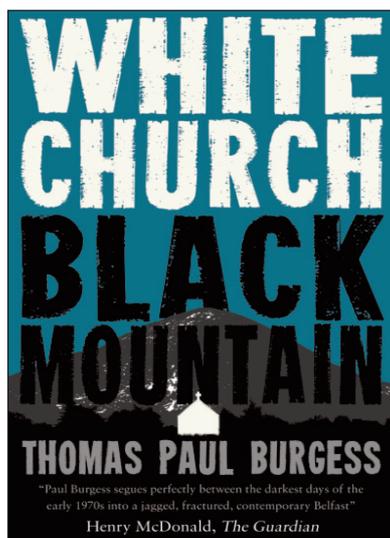




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“Segues perfectly between the darkest days of the early 1970s into a jagged, fractured, contemporary Belfast” Henry McDonald, *The Guardian*

White Church, Black Mountain explores the legacy of conflict in Northern Ireland

Thomas Paul Burgess’ new political thriller *White Church, Black Mountain* explores a society’s hunger for redemptive catharsis. Set in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the fragile Peace Process is still haunted by the crimes of the past. “This novel is at the forefront of an emerging ‘post-conflict’ canon,” explains Burgess. “It explores the legacy of conflict and how it impacts on those who seek to build a future in its aftermath.”

At the beginning of the novel, Detective Inspector **Dan Watson** of the Historical Enquiries Team enters an interview room for a routine consultation, where he is astonished by the recognition of an eerily familiar face. **Eban Barnard**, younger brother of his late partner and mentor Detective Superintendent Alex, who was brutally assassinated by the Provisional IRA some 20 years earlier, is demanding an audience. What Dan learns defies credulity and threatens to open up a Pandora’s Box of secrets that will unhinge the lives of all those involved and even endanger the Peace Process itself..

Burgess draws from incidents arising from his personal experiences as a community relations worker, offering a fictitious account of actual events. *White Church, Black Mountain* can be read in conjunction with Burgess’ latest academic work, *The Contested Identities of Ulster Protestants* (Palgrave Macmillan), information about which is on the next page.

“Paul Burgess adds another string to his already impressive bow” – Glenn Patterson, Novelist

“An outstanding debut” – Barry McIlheney, CEO, Professional Publishers Association

“The voice of *White Church, Black Mountain* is authentic and the story gripping and haunting.

Even more striking is the book’s humanity...” – Ruth Dudley Edwards, Historian, Novelist & Journalist

“*White Church, Black Mountain* just sucks you in. Excellent stuff.” – Colin Bateman, Novelist

DR. THOMAS PAUL BURGESS holds degrees from the University of Ulster, Cork and Oxford and has been published widely in the areas of cultural identity and community. He is a songwriter with his critically acclaimed band, Ruefrefx. He has worked as a commentator for a number of national newspaper publications and broadcasters and is currently a senior lecturer at University College, Cork, Ireland.



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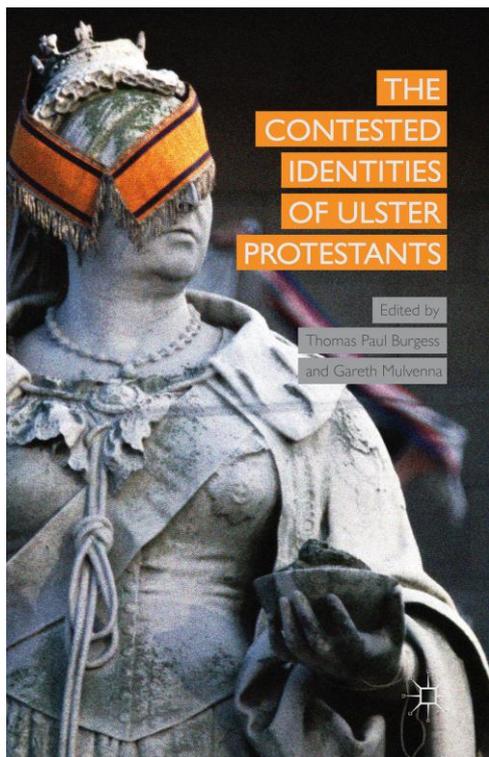


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THE
CONTESTED
IDENTITIES
OF ULSTER
PROTESTANTS

Edited by
Thomas Paul Burgess
and Gareth Mulvenna

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Dr Paul Burgess is from Belfast's Shankill Road and holds degrees from the Universities of Ulster, Cork and Oxford, UK. The main emphasis of his academic research includes education, cultural identity and community work and he has published widely in these and other areas. As a songwriter / performer with his band, Ruefrefx, his compositions are critically acclaimed for their political commentary on the Northern Irish conflict, with particular reference to the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist communities. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at University College Cork, Ireland.

Dr Gareth Mulvenna is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at Queen's University Belfast. He has written on Belfast's Protestant working class for Irish Studies Review and is currently writing a book about Ulster's loyalist 'Tartan' gangs of the early 1970s entitled *From Young Citizens to Volunteers* (Liverpool, 2016).

The Contested Identities of Ulster Protestants

Edited By Thomas Paul Burgess and Gareth Mulvenna

'Confident societies tend not to obsess about identity. But Northern Ireland does. The identity which is most debated at present is that of northern Protestants. *Contested Identities* is a timely and thought-provoking series of essays exploring the various manifestations of that identity. As such it will immeasurably assist our understanding of a community which often feels misunderstood and marginalised.'

– Professor Marianne Elliott, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, UK

'The Ulster Protestant identity is complex and often misunderstood. This work offers an insight into many aspects of a culture which is diverse and unpredictable. Much will surprise. An important book, which will enlighten many who have a narrow view of the 'Ulster Prod'.'
– Ken Reid, Political Editor, Ulster Television, UK

About the book

'Flags', 'Emblems' and 'The Past'; three seemingly insurmountable challenges which continue to hinder the peace process in Northern Ireland. For many, the responsibility for the impasse that scuppered the Haass talks and brought violent protests to the streets of Belfast appears to rest with the perceived intransigence of the Protestant, Unionist and Loyalist communities to embrace change. That this community is itself riven with internal rancour and discord should come as no surprise. Issues of social class, denominational alignment, political aspiration and national identity have historically divided what outsiders have often mistakenly viewed as a collective cultural, religious and socio-political entity.

This study explores the statement by Henry McDonald that this is '...the least fashionable community in Western Europe'. A diverse group of contributors including prominent politicians, academics, journalists and artists investigate the reasons informing public perceptions attaching to the Protestant, Unionist and Loyalist communities in Ulster.

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