EUROPEANISATION AND HIBERNICISATION: 
AN INTRODUCTION

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James Joyce, the twentieth century Great of modern European literature, is often attributed with the claim that he wanted to ‘Europeanise Hibernia and Hibernicise Europe’. While his efforts at national and continental cultural change are beyond the scope of this volume, his claim highlights what we see as important and continuing themes in the evolution of contemporary societies and cultures in Europe, which here we phrase as questions. To what extent and in what ways do the processes of integration at macro-levels of society, politics, economics and culture in Europe affect European localities, regions and nations? Conversely, to what extent and in what ways do local, regional and national processes of social, political, economic and cultural integration and differentiation have an impact in the wider Europe? Our many years of working in various academic and non-academic roles in Europe and North America have led us to the simple conclusion that these are the major questions being asked at the heart of every aspect of European integration in Europe today, and the questions that motor public culture of all sorts from Iceland to the Caucuses and the Arctic to the Mediterranean, whether from a perspective of Euro-scepticism, Europhilia or Europhobia. At the very least, from our joint perspective, long moulded by our academic and scholarly endeavours in Ireland and in the United Kingdom (UK), these are the questions at the heart of the Irish love-hate relationship with Europe, which as we write are again being voiced across Ireland and beyond in regard to referenda and European treaties.

This book sets out to investigate ways in which Ireland at the beginning of the twenty-first century has been Europeanised and Europe
Hibernicised in the spheres of politics, culture and identity. As such it is also a book which seeks to query the nature and varieties of Europeanisation in Ireland, North and South, while exploring similar themes of how Irish politics, culture and identity are manifested, reproduced and received elsewhere in Europe.

Europeanisation is now a heavily debated concept in academic literature with the number of definitions straying well into double figures and ranging across the disciplines of law, political science, international relations, economics, sociology and social anthropology. In sum, they amount to an attempt to encapsulate the impact of European integration – principally but not entirely conceived as European Union (EU) integration – on the national arena, be it in terms of statehood, regionalism, regionalization, borders, constitutional law, public administration, political process, political ideology, conflict transformation, migration, society, culture, identities and citizenship, and economic, public and social policy. For Knill (2001: 1), Europeanisation is essentially about ‘how European integration affects domestic administrative practices and structures’. Contributors to Featherstone and Radaelli’s 2003 edited collection The Politics of Europeanization were also concerned with the political aspects of Europeanisation, that is, the impact of European integration on national institutions, administrations and policies. Richardson (2006) specifically concentrated on the Europeanisation of public policy. Meanwhile, contributors to Snyder’s 2000 edited volume were concerned with analysing the effects of European integration on national law, be it, for example, in the area of labour law, private law or constitutional law (2000: 3).

Others perceive the reach of Europeanisation extending beyond the legal and the political. Borneman and Fowler examined Europeanisation from the perspective of identities, seeing it as a term that refers to the reorganisation of territoriality and ‘peoplehood’ with consequences for group identification, principally nationhood (1997: 487). Spohn and Triandafyllidou (2003) were also concerned with the Europeanisation of collective identities though the focus was on the particular processes of EU enlargement and migration. For Dell’Olio (2005) Europeanisation encapsulates the tension between immigration and citizenship in light of a nascent European citizenship.

This turn to citizenship highlights ways in which culture and identity figure into some considerations of the social dimensions of Europeanisation. Shore has used the term to draw attention to the ways in which