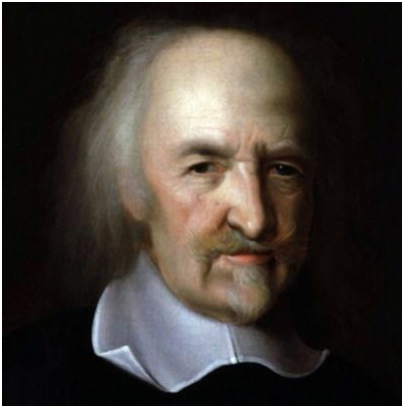




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## THOMAS HOBBS (1588-1679)

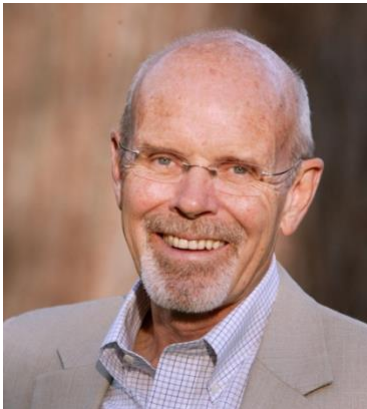
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**GRÁINNE MCKEEVER**

IN DISCUSSION WITH

**PROF. PHILIP PETITT**



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & HUMAN  
VALUES

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### FACTS...

Where was he from....

What was his field of study...

What historical issues influenced his work...

Why is his work of importance...

NAME TWO OF HOBBS' MOST FAMOUS WORKS

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Hobbes stated that, "Without a strong state to impose peace, life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short", he felt it would be a war of all against all unless there existed a strong state. What was his suggestion?

Explain your understanding of the difference between doing something voluntarily and doing something intentionally...

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Below is a chart of the opposing views of Locke and Hobbes. Looking at both, which one do you find you agree with most

In 2008 the Irish Government agreed to guarantee the banks. In 2011 the country was forced by the Troika (EC, ECB, IMF) to avail of a bailout package of €67.5 billion after banking and property sectors here collapsed. Why did this happen, was it the right thing to do, how does it affect you?

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	Locke	Hobbes
People	Reasonable – should be sovereign	Selfish – must be controlled
Purpose of Gov't	Protect natural rights	Control chaos and selfish behavior
Type of Gov't	Democracy – no divine right	Absolute monarchy – no divine right
Rights	Natural rights – life, liberty, property	Give up rights to government
View of Opposite	Hobbes = no rights	Locke = chaos

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Ireland relies heavily on FDI (foreign direct investment), how have we enticed global companies to locate here? What are the positives and negatives of this, and how does this practice relate to republican values?

Hobbes felt that if there was no state, there would just exist a State of Nature. What did he mean by this?

“Power Corrupts” is a common phrase. Do you think we have corruption in Ireland? If so share examples with your class.

According to Hobbes the power of the state should be absolute, preferably in a single pair of hands or with an elite committee, what do you think of his perspective, and why do you think he had such a strong view of the world?

