

**We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of  
Modern Ireland (2021)**

By  
Fintan O'Toole

Irish Cultural Center  
Book Group

Saturday, December 6, 2025

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Norton Room

Fintan O'Toole is an author, literary critic, and political columnist for the Irish Times. His columns have also appeared in the New York Times. He has written more than 20 books that range from literary criticism to contemporary history. **We Don't Know Ourselves** is a history of Ireland from O'Toole's birth in 1958 to the recent times.

- What did you learn about modern Irish history from reading this title? Did it change any perceptions or pre-conceived ideas that you had before?
- When you think of modern Ireland what images, attitudes or people come to mind?
- Does the image of modern Ireland differ between those born and/or raised there and those who have visited for a short time?
- How important were literature and the arts to Ireland's development?
- Can you think of any titles this Irish book group has read and discussed that portray the new Ireland that O'Toole discusses