

# **Irish Humanities Alliance Annual Report 2022 & 2023 Combined**

December 2023

Irish Humanities Alliance



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## About the Irish Humanities Alliance

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) is a joint initiative of humanities researchers within higher education and research institutions across the island of Ireland.

The IHA provides a platform for all-island humanities collaboration and consultation which has enabled the diverse range of humanities disciplines across the island to speak with a single voice.

The IHA aims to produce an annual report, detailing the main activities of the alliance. This report covers 2022 and 2023 combined.

## Core Objectives

- Protect, promote and develop humanities scholarship across the island of Ireland.
- Promote humanities collaborations between institutions and disciplines.
- Ensure parity of esteem between humanities disciplines.
- Promote secure and adequate funding of humanities research in Ireland.
- Promote the centrality of the humanities in addressing pressing societal challenges.
- Support excellence at all stages of academic career development in the humanities.
- Advocate for research and education strategies attuned to a multi-cultural & multi-lingual society.

## **Membership Background**

The IHA is an alliance of higher education and research institutions who have invested significantly in the IHA since its establishment in 2013. Current membership comprises: Dublin City University; Maynooth University; Queen's University Belfast; Royal Irish Academy; Technological University Dublin; Trinity College Dublin; Ulster University; University College Cork; University College Dublin; University of Galway; and University of Limerick.

## **Structure**

A membership agreement is in place with Member Institutions to contribute to the implementation of the Irish Humanities Alliance work programme in accordance with the aims of the Irish Humanities Alliance and responsibilities of the IHA Member Institution and IHA Individual Members.

- a) IHA Member Institutions propose IHA Individual Members as institutional Humanities representatives, to sit on the IHA Board.
- b) IHA Individual Members attend the Irish Humanities Alliance Board meetings, contribute to the Work Programme, regularly inform their Member Institutions regarding the work of the Irish Humanities Alliance, and promote the work of the Irish Humanities Alliance within their institutions with academic staff, students and administration.
- c) The IHA Board nominate a new Vice Chair each year, and the Vice Chair then becomes the IHA Chair in the following year. Each IHA Member Institution is entitled to one vote per institution for both the nomination and voting.

## MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY



### UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



### MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



### ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY



### TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



### TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DUBLIN



### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK



### QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



### UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



### ULSTER UNIVERSITY



## DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### IHA Arts & Humanities Research & Innovation Showcase

Held on **27 November 2023** at the Royal Irish Academy.

In anticipation of the establishment of the new funding agency, Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland, the IHA held a showcase at the Royal Irish Academy to celebrate the public impacts of Arts & Humanities funded research.



Back row - left to right: Ms Nora Rahill; Prof Pat Palmer; Dr Patricia Kennon & Prof Sonja Tiernan.

Front row: Dr Nessa Cronin; Dr Peter Crooks; Prof Marie-Louise Coolahan; Dr Philip Cohen; Ms Ruth Hegarty & Prof Philip Nolan (CEO Designate of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland.)

The lively showcase was chaired by Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan (IHA Chair)

Funded research projects showcased:

**Making MACMORRIS (Mapping Actors & Contexts: Modelling Research in Renaissance Ireland in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century)** by Prof. Pat Palmer, Professor of Renaissance English, Maynooth University. [MACMORRIS \(maynoothuniversity.ie\)](https://maynoothuniversity.ie)

**Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland** by Dr Peter Crooks, Academic Director, Associate Professor in Medieval History, Trinity College, Dublin. [Home - Virtual Treasury](#)

**Exploring COVID-19 Impacts on the Irish and Scottish Children's and Young Adult Literature Sectors and Possibilities for Sharing and Enhancing Practice** by Dr Patricia Kennon, Associate Professor in children's literature & culture, Maynooth University.

**Grangegorman Histories: A Public History Project** by Dr Philip Cohen, Chair Grangegorman Histories; Ms Ruth Hegarty, Member Grangegorman Histories & Royal Irish Academy; & Ms Nora Rahill, Member Grangegorman Histories & Grangegorman Development Agency. [Grangegorman Histories | Royal Irish Academy \(ria.ie\)](#)

The after-showcase discussion was led by Dr Nessa Cronin (IHA Vice-Chair).

## Decarbonizing Research Methods Workshop

Livestream on **25 November 2022**.

The workshop was held to provide ideas about the means, possibilities, and challenges of decarbonizing our research processes. The ideas generated at the workshop are meant to aid designing future research projects and/or funding applications.



Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha (left) & Ashley Cahillane, organisers Decarbonizing Research Methods

Speakers: Dr Patrick Bresnihan (MU) lecturer Department of Geography, working in interdisciplinary fields of political ecology, science & technology studies & environmental humanities; Sara Lynch (QUB) Head of Sustainability in the Estates Directorate; Tanya O'Brien (UG) PhD Researcher, Mechanobiology and Medical Device Research Group, and My Green Lab Ambassador.

Outcomes of the [workshop](#) included a [blog post](#) for the Irish Humanities Alliance website, written by Ashley Cahillane, then PhD student in English (UG).

# Can a crisis of climate change be solved without the arts and humanities?

Held online on **17 October 2022**.

**Event co-organised by the Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH), the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance (SAHA) and the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA)**



An international webinar exploring the provocative question, ‘Can a crisis of climate change be solved without the arts and humanities? Reflecting on how arts and humanities guide reflection, dialogue and action for climate change mitigation’.

Speakers examined: what role do lessons of the past have in helping us find better ways of addressing the crisis? What roles do narratives widely circulating in the present have in facilitating global action? What imaginative solutions can be found through creative expressions to lead to a better future for the next generations? Perspectives from Scotland, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand were brought together to reflect on the contribution of these human-centred disciplines to addressing the ecological challenges we face, to interrogate our relationship with the planet and its resources and to seek new solutions for a better future.

Participants included: Dr Jamie Gillen, University of Auckland & DASSH; Prof. Robert Greenberg, University of Auckland & DASSH; Prof. Catherine O’Leary, University of St Andrews & SAHA; Prof. Caitríona Ní Dhúill, UCC; Prof. Murray Pittock, University of Glasgow & SAHA; Prof. Claire Squires, University of Stirling, SGSAH & SAHA; and Dr Timothy Stott, TCD.

## Scottish–Irish Cultural Diplomacy and Relations

Held online on **11 October 2022**.

This half-day event, co-organised by the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance (SAHA), the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA), explored the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the first Joint Bilateral Review of the Irish and Scottish Governments. This event focused particularly on several themes of the review: the Community and Diaspora, Culture and Academic and Research Links.

### Scottish-Irish cultural diplomacy and relations

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER | 14:00-17:30 BST | ONLINE



The event brought together academics, cultural representatives, policymakers and diplomatic representatives with perspectives on culture, diaspora, and cultural diplomacy/relations. It reflected on past, present and possible future ways of working together as exemplified by jointly funded, Scottish Irish research projects.

Speakers included:

Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Scottish Government; Jane McCulloch, Consul General of Ireland in Edinburgh; Prof. Murray Pittock, University of Glasgow, Co-Chair SAHA; Prof. Chris Williams, UCC, IHA Chair (2021-22); Prof. Michael Russell, President, Scottish National Party; Prof. Michael Keating, Aberdeen University and General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Prof. Sarah Prescott, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Gerardine Meaney, UCD; Prof. Katherine Forsyth, University of Glasgow; Prof. David Stifter, MU; Prof. William Lamb, University of Edinburgh; Dr Brian Ó Raghallaigh, UCD; Prof. Mary Modeen, University of Dundee; and Dr Ciara Healy Musson, South East Technological University (SETU) Carlow.

## Streets Ahead: Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces

### IHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

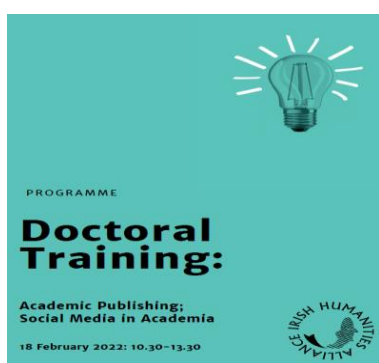


The Irish Humanities Alliance in  
collaboration with TU Dublin and The  
LAB, presented Streets Ahead: Post-  
Pandemic Civic Spaces  
09 Sep 2022 / 10 Sep 2022

This conference took place in hybrid form on **9 & 10 September 2022** at TU Dublin, Grangegorman Campus, and The LAB, Foley Street, presenting current research from the fields of design, visual and material culture, public history, cultural history, architecture, urban planning, sonic studies, public art and heritage studies, to provide a critical lens through which to focus this newly enhanced attention.

Keynote Speakers included: Ali Grehan, Dublin City Council; Duane Jethro, University of Cape Town; Eleanor Herring, Glasgow School of Art; Christoph Lindner, University College London; Ellen Rowley, UCD; and Katria Tomko, Institute for Historical Justice.

### Doctoral Training: Academic Publishing & Social Media Training Day



IHA online doctoral training day on  
Academic Publishing & Social Media  
in Academia  
18 Feb 2022

Panel One: Academic Publishing consisted of presentations by Prof. Rebecca Braun, UG, co-editor *German Life & Letters*; Brendan George, Palgrave Macmillan; Sarah Lewis, University of Wales Press, Head of Commissioning; and Dr Clodagh Tait, Mary Immaculate College, co-editor *Irish Historical Studies*.

Panel Two: Social Media in Academia consisted of presentations by Dr Leanne McCormick, UU; Dr Tanya Lokot, DCU; Dr Dónal Mulligan, DCU; and Dr Fíona Gallagher DCU.

## **STATEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS**

The Irish Humanities Alliance regularly release public statements and responses to national and international events, affirming our values.

### **IHA Statement, 18 July 2023**

#### **IHA Statement**

**In response to the UK Government  
Department for Education's Press  
Release "Crackdown on rip-off  
university degrees"**

July 2023

### **IHA Position Paper, 18 April 2023**

#### **Research and Innovation Bill 2023**

**Irish Humanities Alliance  
Position Paper, April 2023**

### **IHA Statement on Impact 2030, 12 Aug 2022**

#### **IHA Statement:**

**'Impact 2030:  
Ireland's New Research and  
Innovation Strategy'**

## **IHA paper Research Funding for mid-career researchers, 10 June 2022**

Produced by Working Group on this theme. Chair: Dr Jennifer Redmond (MU)  
Members: Prof Ivar McGrath (UCD); Dr Allen White (UCC); Dr Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh (UCC); Prof. Brendan Dooley (UCC); Dr Kevin O’Sullivan (UG); Dr Patrick Walsh (TCD); Dr Niamh Ann Kelly (TUD); Dr Ann Marcus Quinn (UL) and Dr Mel Farrell (IHA).

# **Research Funding for mid-career researchers in the arts and humanities in Ireland**

*Irish Humanities Alliance paper, June 2022*

## **IHA, Statement of Solidarity with Ukraine, 1 March 2022**

# **Irish Humanities Alliance:**

## **Statement of Solidarity with Ukraine**

*1 March 2022*

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

**Blog Posts:** The Alliance's blog series is a collection of Humanities perspectives and comment pieces on news, current affairs, and publications. The blog covers a wide range of Humanities subject areas, and we encourage contributions from Humanities researchers and those interested in the Humanities.

During 2022 & 2023, ten blogs were published on the IHA website and shared on social media:

### **'Hunger in Modern Ireland' by Dr Ian Miller**



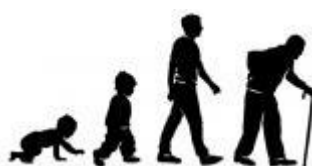
### **'Accessibility and School Websites' by Dr Ann Marcus-Quinn**



### **'Reading the Michael Collins Diaries' by Dr Anne Dolan**



### **'Integrating arts and humanities into scholarship on ageing' by Prof. Des O'Neill**



**‘The Road to Europe: The 1972 Referendum on EU Membership’ by Prof. Michael J. Geary**



**‘Lessons learned from the past: medicine in period drama’ by Dr Katherine Byrne**



**‘Threshold Times: From the “No Longer” to the “Not Yet”’ by Dr Nessa Cronin**



**‘Putin’s Ukrainian Chimera’ by Dr John Paul Newman**



**'Climate Change: Perspectives from the Arts and Humanities' by Dr Nessa Cronin**



**The Humanities and Me** is a series of short reflective pieces by invited artists, writers, curators, academics, journalists, politicians, and well-known personalities about what the Humanities means to each of them personally. Subjects range from their daily lived experience of the Humanities, to what it means to them intellectually. Articles published by the IHA in 2022 & 2023:

Daniel Mulhall



Catriona Crowe



Clodagh Finn



Colin Murphy



Susan McKay



Sinéad McCoolle



## Impact Case Studies

The IHA's 'Impact Case Studies' section is a collection documenting the wider social, economic, and cultural impact of humanities research carried out by our member institutions. These case studies cover a diverse range of projects demonstrating how deep and wide-ranging the impact of humanities research can be.

The most recent Impact Case Study was published in August 2023, outlining '[The Price of Performance: A Question of Economic Sustainability for Independent Theatre Production in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, 2000-2020](#)', a funded research project (IRC Laureate 2023-2025) led by Principal Investigator Dr Miriam Haughton & Postdoctoral researcher, Dr Patricia O'Beirne, based in the University of Galway.



Image design by Conor McClure for Kabosh production 'Quartered: a Belfast Love Story'.

The Price of Performance (TPOP) provides the first transnational, interdisciplinary, qualitative, and quantitative analysis of the economics of independent theatre production between 2000-2020 informed by the economic, geographic, artistic, and socio-cultural conditions of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Through this research, TPOP asks if and how economic sustainability arises for independent theatre production, despite the varying challenges the sector confronts.

# ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS & POLICYMAKERS

## New Research and Innovation Funding Agency

### Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

**Overview:** On 6 April 2023, Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, Simon Harris, welcomed Government agreement for the Heads of Bill providing for the establishment of a new Research and Innovation funding agency amalgamating the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland.

**Position paper:** The IHA welcomed the formation of the new agency and published a [position paper](#) on 18 April that engages with the first published version of the legislation. Our position paper was submitted to the Joint Committee Education and Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and was noted in the Report on Pre Legislative Scrutiny of the Research and Innovation Bill, [2023 33/ES/15 July 2023](#).

**Media:** On 2 May 2023, the IHA executive, Dr Maxim Fomin (Chair IHA 2022-23); Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan (Vice-Chair IHA 2022-23); and Prof. Sonja Tiernan (Co-Ordinator IHA), participated in a delegation to Minister Harris's office to submit a letter calling for 'greater consultation of the research community around the new legislation, a balance between science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and arts, humanities and social sciences (AHSS),' reported in [The Irish Times](#).

**Working Group:** An IHA Research and Innovation WG was formed in June 2023.

**Meetings with policymakers:** Profs Coolahan (IHA Chair 2023-24) and Tiernan met with **Dr Deirdre Lillis**, Assistant Secretary (Research and Innovation), Department of Further and Higher Education, on 18 July 2023 to discuss the timeframe for the establishment of the new funding agency and the consultation process.

Profs Coolahan and Tiernan met with **Prof. Philip Nolan** (CEO Designate of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland) on 2 November 2023 to represent the views of alliance members.

## European Alliance for Social Sciences & Humanities (EASSH)



The IHA is a founding and committed [member](#) of EASSH. The EASSH General Assembly 2023 took place on 7 & 8 December 2023 in Brussels.

IHA Vice-Chair, Dr Nessa Cronin, attended the meeting in person to represent the interests of the IHA. There were presentations from senior representatives of the EASSH Governing Board and other members of the Alliance. The event was coordinated and led by Dr Gabi Lombardo (Director EASSH) and Prof. Silvana Colella (President EASSH.)

Dr Cronin prepared a report on the event to be given to the IHA board at the January 2024 meeting.

## Scottish Arts & Humanities Alliance (SAHA)



A [podcast collaboration](#) aired in October 2023 in celebration of Halloween, Oíche Shamhna.

Dr Nessa Cronin (IHA Vice Chair) & Prof. Sonja Tiernan (IHA Co-Ordinator) spoke with Federica Simone (SAHA Policy & Communications Officer) about the Irish origins of Halloween.

This featured as part of the SAHA Global Conversations series and was shared widely on social media.



### Ireland's inaugural National Open Research Festival

A workshop 'Scholarly Authorship and Open Access' was presented by the Publish OA project team and organised in collaboration with the Irish Humanities Alliance, as part of the National Open Research Forum held at the Royal Irish Academy between **2-3 November 2023**.

The overall aim of the workshop was to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a national diamond OA (open access) publishing platform for Ireland. Authors, specifically scholarly authors, are important stakeholders in open access and this workshop aimed to provide researchers, in particular those from the Arts and Humanities, with the space to discuss and comment on open access from an author's perspective.



Colm O'Reardon (Secretary General of the Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science) & Dr Daniel Bangert (National Open Research Coordinator) opened the event.

## **INTERNAL GOVERNANCE**

### **IHA Board Meetings:**

The IHA Board has four meetings every academic year. In the wake of Covid 19 restrictions, the board aims to meet in person at least twice per year. In-person meetings are hosted by a member institution, which may showcase its research facilities to board members on meeting day. There are, on occasion, extraordinary meetings outside the four annual meeting dates.

### **Board Meetings held in 2022 & 2023:**

20 October 2023 - Online  
23 June 2023 - TU Dublin, Grangegorman Campus  
19 May 2023 – Online  
7 October 2022 – Online  
10 June 2022 – Online  
8 April 2022 – Online  
21 January 2022 – Online

### **IHA Executive Members, December 2023:**

Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan (UG, Chair)  
Dr Nessa Cronin (UG, Vice-Chair)  
Prof. Sonja Tiernan (IHA, Co-Ordinator)

### **IHA Executive Members, December 2022:**

Dr Maxim Fomin (UU, Chair)  
Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan (UG, Vice-Chair)  
Dr Mel Farrell (IHA, Director)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

### **New Membership Announcement**

The IHA are delighted to announce that South East Technological University will join the IHA in January 2024. SETU has a substantial Arts and Humanities presence led by Dr Suzanne Denieffe on the Waterford Campus; Dr Eileen Doyle Walsh on the Carlow Campus; and Ms Karen Hennessy on the Wexford Campus. Humanities at SETU comprises Departments of Arts; Social Care & Early Childhood; Humanities; Culinary Tourism and Hospitality; and Law & Criminal Justice.

We welcome our SETU colleagues and look forward to working with them over the coming years as we champion humanities research and scholarship in Ireland and Northern Ireland.



## **KEY PRIORITIES for 2024**

### **Membership Expansion**

In the last decade there has been a progressive change in the landscape of universities in Ireland as well as the development of humanities subjects in Higher and Further Education Institutions. To further strengthen our alliance and to ensure full representation of humanities across our island, we are seeking to broaden our membership base as we progress.

### **New Research Funding Agency**

A priority for the IHA during 2023-24 is to ensure that the new funding agency, Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland, will recognise parity of esteem between disciplines; provide support for research excellence at all stages of academic career development in the humanities; and secure adequate funding of humanities research.

The IHA has taken part in the initial consultation on the purpose, vision, and priorities for the new agency, which will inform its establishment. A more comprehensive consultation process is planned in the first half of 2024 to develop a strategy and corporate plan for the agency. The IHA will remain a central voice throughout the consultation process.

### **All-island collaboration**

The IHA remains committed to the concept of an all-island research centre underpinned by the principles of cross-border research dialogue, mutual understanding and cultural diversity.

### **Open Access**

A defined target in the [IHA Strategy plan 2020-2030](#) is to advocate for an Open Access policy that protects the diverse expressions and quality of arts and humanities scholarship. The IHA has played an intrinsic role in this area, including crafting a [Position Paper on Open Access](#), referenced in Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF) [Landscape Report](#). We propose to offer further workshops and training in this area in collaboration with TCD and the RIA through the Open Access project, Publish OA.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### IHA Annual Conference 2024

An annual call to member institutions is made to run a conference, under the auspices of the IHA.

Successful applicants nominate individuals to join an IHA Steering Committee to take responsibility for organising the conference.



The 2024 conference will be hosted at the University of Limerick in 2024, led by Dr Niamh Nic Ghabhann (UL, IHA Chair 2020-21), in collaboration with Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam (UL) and Dr Sophie Cooper (QUB), with the working title 'New perspectives on Irish cultures: mapping a diverse field.'

### Environmental Humanities Event

The IHA Environmental Humanities Working Group plan to host a public symposium in Spring 2024 at the Royal Irish Academy.

### Training and Development

In line with our commitment in the IHA strategy document to support 'excellence at all stages of academic career development in the humanities' we will look to host further training and information sessions.

### Publication

A book publication stemming from the IHA annual conference 'EXCITING NEWS!' in 2021 is in final stages of publication. *EXCITING NEWS! Event, Narration and Impact from Past to Present,* edited by B. Dooley and A.S. Wilkinson is due out in print on 1 March 2024.

### Board Meetings 2024:

19 January 2024 – Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin.

12 April 2024 – Online.

21 June 2024 – University of Galway.

**Further information**

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities

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