

IHA Statement:

COVID-19

Rapid Response

Funding Opportunity

(COV19) 2020

Irish Humanities Alliance



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COVID-19 Pandemic Rapid Response Funding Opportunity (COV19) 2020

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) welcomes the COVID-19 Rapid Response Research and Innovation Funding Call recently announced by the Irish Research Council (IRC), the Health Research Board (HRB), Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Enterprise Ireland (EI), and IDA Ireland. This call aims to develop a coordinated Rapid Response Research and Innovation programme to help mitigate and manage the COVID-19 pandemic by unlocking the potential of Ireland-based researchers and innovators to join the global efforts.

For this call, the HRB may fund awards under any of the following headings: medical countermeasures, health service readiness, and social and policy countermeasures to COVID-19 while the IRC will fund awards under the social and policy countermeasures strand. This call remains open until **13.00 on Thursday 9 April** (check out this [link](#)).

The humanities research community has much to offer in this area. Like past pandemics, the COVID-19 crisis impacts every aspect of our daily lives, our society, our cultural norms, how we work, how we are governed and how we deal with death. Humanities scholars from across the island have worked to provide valuable perspectives and insights into the cultural, societal, economic, and health impacts of historical health crises and pandemics. Humanities scholars, from a range of disciplines, have explored past public health crisis such as the 'Spanish flu' pandemic while literary and film scholars have examined cultural representation of infectious disease. Humanities scholars who perform social network analysis are exceptional when it comes to tracking these trends. Collectively, humanities scholars have demonstrated how our work on past epidemics, and the ways in which societies and governments adapted to them, can inform our response and help us address what is happening at present in a way that is appropriate for a multi-cultural and multi-lingual society.

The IHA strongly believes that the humanities, working in tandem with other disciplines, have a major contribution to make in this area. The IHA has recently established working groups in the areas of the Medical Humanities and the Digital Humanities, reflecting key research strengths in these areas within its member institutions. The IHA would like to offer support to any consortia developing proposals to the current COVID-19 Rapid Response Research and Innovation Funding Call, particularly in relation to developing connections with relevant humanities researchers. Scholars working in the medical humanities, in media studies, applied linguistics and languages, digital communications, social policy history and analysis, technical communication and e-learning, literary studies, ethics, and community arts and creative engagement will be well placed to contribute in significant ways to the current call. Beyond this indicative list, many disciplinary areas in the humanities will have the capacity to make important contributions to our holistic response to the COVID-19 event.

In order to avail of support from the IHA in integrating humanities scholarship into a proposal in progress, or to establish relevant connections with researchers from across the full range of humanities disciplines, please contact Dr Mel Farrell, Director of the Irish Humanities Alliance at m.farrell@ria.ie.

Further information

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