



New Perspectives on Irish Cultures: Celebrating a Diverse Field

5–6 September 2024, University of Limerick



Irish Humanities Alliance

Image: The Seafront at Bray, Co. Wicklow. Artist: Erskine Nicol
National Gallery Ireland [Creative Commons](#)

Conference

This conference is supported by the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA); the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences staff research support funding scheme University of Limerick; and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. The conference aims to foreground the diversity of approaches and perspectives that currently inform the study of Irish cultures, past, present, and future. It further aims to bring together scholars working across a wide range of disciplines to generate new perspectives on how Irish cultures are being studied, how Irish cultures are being framed and deployed, and on the multiplicity and diversity of Irish cultures.

Programme

Thursday 5th September

10am – 11am – conference registration (Appellate Court, UL Glucksman Library)

11am – 11.30am – conference opening

Speakers: Dr Sandra Joyce, Dean AHSS, Dr Nessa Cronin, Chair, IHA.

11.30 – Keynote 1

Oein DeBhairduin, Traveller Culture collector and Curator, National Museum of Ireland.

‘Minceiri and the Museum: Connection, Challenge and Change’

Oein joined the NMI in March 2022 having previously worked with the HSE and was supervisor and manager of St Olivers Training and Education Centre in Cloverhill, Clondalkin for nine years. He was the first Minceiri/ Irish Traveller to work in the Oireachtas, engaging in educational inclusion and cultural rights policy matters. His focus within NMI is developing a Traveller specific collection, as directed, supported and identified by the indigenous, ethnic, minority community. He is a published author of Minceir/ Traveller Folklore, and a long-standing member of many Traveller organisations such as a past vice Chair of the Irish Traveller Movement, Council member of Miniceir Whidden and originating member of Tome Tori, the Gammon-Cant (Shelta) speaking group.

Chair: Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam, UL.

12.30 – 1.30 – Lunch (provided)

1.30 – 2.50 – Panel 1 (new perspectives on Irish cultures)

1.30 – 1.50: Dr Victoria Durrer (School of Art History & Cultural Policy, University College Dublin), and Professor Aoife McGrath (School of Arts, English, and Languages, Queen's University Belfast).

'Moving Maps: combining dance and cultural policy research to generate alternative cartographies of rural border regions on the island of Ireland'.

1.50 – 2.10: Dr Mark Sweetnam (School of English, Trinity College Dublin).

'Is there an Irish hymn?: Cultural palimpsest from Tate and Brady to the Gettys'.

2.10 – 2.30: Dr Marc Scully (Department of Psychology, Mary Immaculate College).

“‘Am I culturally appropriating Irish citizenship?’ – negotiations and understandings of Irish culture among post-Brexit applicants for Irish passports’.

2.30 – 2.50: Q&A

2.50 – 3.20 – Coffee break (provided)

3.20 – 4.40 – Panel 2 (New directions in scholarship on gender)

3.20 – 3.35: Jessica Doran (Ulster University)

'Holy hells and magic spells: the impact of religion and witchcraft on Irish Young Adult literature'.

3.35 – 3.50: Lauren Cassidy (University College Dublin)

“‘I do what I want with my pronouns’’: Denise Chaila, bio-mythography, and rap star simulacra'.

3.50 – 4.05 Regina Sexton (University College Cork)

“‘The girl who does the baking’’: overcoming misconceptions, creating identity, and building resilience in Irish food studies'.

4.05 – 4.20 Dr George Evans (School of History, Classics, and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh).

'Imperial Irishmen? Imperial culture and Irishness in the British Officer Corps, 1900–1945'.

4.20 – 4.40 – Q&A

Poster session – available throughout the day (for online and in-person attendees)

End of day 1 (Range of dinner options available on campus, in Castletroy, and in Limerick city).

Friday 6th September

10am – Keynote 2

Dr Aileen Dillane, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick.

'Always Coming Home': Speculative Ethnographies, Deep Ecologies, and Musical Affordances'

Dr. Aileen Dillane is Associate Professor of Music at the Irish World Academy, UL, where she is Course Director of the MA in Ethnomusicology. Aileen also co-directs the Centre for the Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture, a priority research centre at UL that has an associated book series *Popular Musics Matter: Social, Cultural and Political Interventions* (Rowman & Littlefield). Aileen's research interests include local/global Irish musics; musical migrations and diasporas; protest musics; European popular culture; urban soundscapes and critical citizenship; and music festivals. Aileen has co-edited seven books and two special journal editions, published forty-six articles and books chapters, and is currently working on a monograph. Following on from the 2019–2022 HERA-funded *FestiVersities* project on music festivals, public spaces and cultural diversity, Aileen is combining her interests in applied ethnomusicology, sustainable and intentional musicking, and writing modalities in her keynote for this conference.

Chair: Dr Sophie Cooper, QUB.

11.15 – 11.45 – Coffee break (provided)

11.45 – 12.45 – Panel 3 (Collaborations and Connections)

11.45 – 12.00: Tiernan Gaffney (National Museum of Ireland: Country Life)
'Ireland's Ears: Documenting the role of music in everyday life in the National Folklife Collection'

12.00 – 12.15: Iwona Alexandra Kwiek (Cultural manager and anthropologist).
'Cross cultural examination of traditions of Ireland and Poland'

12.15 – 12.30: Katie Blackwood (Dublin City Council)
'A reflection on working as a Historian-in-Residence with Dublin City Council'

12.30 – 12.45: Q&A

12.45 – 1pm – walk across the UL campus to the Pavilion for lunch.

1 – 2pm – buffet lunch in the Pavilion (provided).

2.00 – 3.00 Screening of ‘Making Dust’

A film by Fiona Hallinan (LUCA School of Art, KU Leuven) and Dr Ellen Rowley (University College Dublin), followed by a Q&A.
Theatre 1, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance.

Making Dust is an essay film, a portrait of the demolition of Ireland's second largest Catholic Church, the Church of the Annunciation in Finglas West, Dublin.

Understanding this moment as a 'rupture', the film maps an essay by architectural historian Ellen Rowley on to documentation of the building's dismantling. Featuring oral interviews recorded at the site of the demolition and in a nearby hairdressers, the film invites viewers to pause and reflect on this ending alongside the community of the building. The film invites its audience to think about the life cycles of buildings and materials, how we mourn, what is sacred, how we gather, what we value and issues of sustainability in architecture.

More information available through this [link](#).

3.00 – 3.15 – walk back to the UL Glucksman Library

3.15 – 4.30 – panel 4 (Methodologies and Approaches)

3.15 – 3.30: Dr Alan Graham (University College Dublin).

‘*Ciúnas, bóthar, cailín, bainne*’: the *cúpla focal* and the new revival’.

3.30 – 3.50: Professor Helen Phelan (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick), Professor Ailish Hannigan (Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick), and Dr. Fran Garry (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick).

‘The Arts, Data Literacy and Diversity: an interdisciplinary exploration of singing and data storytelling with a culturally diverse community in Limerick’.

3.50 – 4.05: Moufida Benmoussa (Department of Sociology, University of Limerick)

‘Print media framings of Syrian migration to Ireland in the *Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent*’.

4.05 – 4.20: Dr. Niamh O’Brien

‘Music, sound and story – recording and performing the sonic environment’.

4.20 – 4.40 Q&A

4.40 – 5.00 – comfort break

5.00 – 5.30pm – Closing roundtable

With reflections on the conference and on the future directions for Irish Studies with UL early career panel.

Roundtable panellists:

Hira Fatima (School of Law, University of Limerick)

Dr Mark Ryan (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, University of Limerick)

Clíodhna Condon (School of English, Irish, and Communication, University of Limerick).

Poster session - available throughout the day (for online and in-person attendees)

5.30pm conference close

Registration

This hybrid conference is free to attend, booking is essential, and participation will be available in-person and via MS Teams. Please register your attendance before **Tuesday 27th August** through this link at **Microsoft Forms**

Poster session details

Dr Ciara Henderson (School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin), Dr Georgina Laraghy (School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin), and Professor Joan Lalor (School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin).

‘The Spaces Between Us: Perinatal Death, Burial and Bereavement in 19th and 20th century Ireland).

Tara Mozafari (Tehran University)

‘Investigating the Influence of Contemporary Irish Women Writers on the Global Literary Landscape’.

Dr Scott Spencer (Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California),
‘Digital Humanities as a Means to Engage Irish Traditional Music Collections’.

Dr Patricia Gibson (Institute of Art, Design + Technology, Dún Laoghaire),
‘Exploring Algorithmic Cultures in Irish Education: A Posthuman Perspective’.

Dr Kevin Stevenson (Faculty of Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick),

'Musical Setting Creation for a Yeats Poem: An Autoethnographic, Irish-Canadian Experience'.

Sofia Alferez Mendia,
'Exploring Gendered Shame in *This Is Not About You: A Menmoir* (2023) by Rosemary MacCabe.'

Niamh MacGloin,
'Radical, non-conformist and controversial women in 20th century London.'

Nidhi Piplani Kapur (South East Technological University – SETU),
'Celebrating Diversity at Home: Embedding a Culture of 'Internationalisation at Home (IaH)' in Irish Higher Education Institutions'.

Rachel Fehily (University College Dublin),
'A Creative Based Cultural Production'.

Iria Seijas-Pérez, Universidade de Vigo),
'New Perspectives on Irish Young Adult Literature: Representing Sapphic Adolescent Girls'.

David Ryan (MA in Public History and Cultural Heritage, University of Limerick),
'Public Interactions with Oral History Collections in Irish Museum Settings'.

Steering committee:

Dr Niamh NicGhabhann (UL); Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam (UL); Dr Sophie Cooper (QUB) & Prof Sonja Tiernan (IHA).

