



Doctoral Training

Medical & Health Humanities:
Boundary Objects & Collaborative
Working

Opportunities in Academic
Publication & Development

Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson Street
Dublin 2

15th May: 13.30-16.30



Programme

- 13.30 Welcome and introductions:
Prof. Desmond O'Neill, Co-Chair, IHA Medical & Health Humanities Working Group
- 13.45** Panel One:
Chair, Prof. Brendan Dooley, Vice-Chair, IHA
- Panelists:
Prof Shaun O'Keeffe (UG)
Mary Cosgrove, MRIA
Dr Órla O'Donovan (UCC)
Dr Síobhra Aiken (QUB)
- 14.45 **Coffee Break**
- 15.15 Panel Two:
Prof. Desmond O'Neill, Co-Chair, IHA Medical & Health Humanities Working
- Group Panelists:
Prof. Amanda Clifford & Dr Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain (UL)
Dr Jennifer O'Mahoney (SETU)
Dr Ailise Bulfin (UCD)
Dr Jamie Saris (MU)
- 16.15 Conclusions

Contributors

Dr Siobhra Aiken is Senior Lecturer in Irish at the School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast. Her research interest include modernist Irish-language poetry; twentieth-century Irish-language literature; the Gaelic Revival in the United States; 'trauma' and emigration during the Irish Revolution (1916–23); fictionalised testimony by veterans of the Irish Revolution; comparative studies of the Irish and Spanish Civil Wars; the poetry of Máirtín Ó Direáin and Máire Mhac an tSaoi. Most recently, she is the author of *Spiritual Wounds: Trauma, Testimony and the Irish Civil War* (Irish Academic Press, 2022), which was awarded the 2023 Whitfield Prize from the Royal Historical Society and the Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books in Language and Culture 2022 by the American Conference of Irish Studies (ACIS).

Dr Ailise Bulfin is a literary and cultural scholar whose research ranges from nineteenth-century to contemporary culture, focusing on cultural representations of major social issues and their reception. She is Assistant Professor in Literature and the Medical Humanities in the School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin and PI of the European Research Council Starting Grant project 'Investigating Fictional Representations of Child Sexual Abuse in Contemporary Culture: Myths and Understanding'. The project examines how child sexual abuse is represented in fictional works, such as novels, films, and television series, and investigates how these works affect readers and viewers, including survivors of abuse.

Prof Amanda Clifford is a Professor of Physiotherapy, School of Allied Health, University of Limerick and adjunct associate professor, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Her research includes the design and evaluation of evidence-based programmes for health and wellbeing of across the lifespan and people living with neurological conditions. She has a special interest in the role of arts-based interventions for health and wellbeing, in particular the benefits of music and dance. She was Principal Investigator on the recently completed Health Research Board funded DIFA research project music and movement for health and wellbeing of older adults and was part of a community education initiative that received a commendation at the Irish Medical Times Healthcare Awards in the category of Best Patient Education Project, including a presentation of our research in the area of dance for people with Parkinson's disease. Prof Clifford has published 3 book chapters and over 90 peer reviewed articles. She previously worked clinically as a physiotherapist in the UK and is currently a member of the Health Research Institute, Aging Research Centre, University of Limerick and is actively involved in community outreach.

Mary Cosgrove, MRIA, FTCD PhD German (2002) University College Dublin; Lecturer / Reader in German, University of Edinburgh 2005-2014; Professor of German, University of Warwick 2015-2016; since 2016 Professor in German, Trinity College Dublin. Author of *Born under Auschwitz: Melancholy Traditions in Postwar German Literature* (2014); *Grotesque Ambivalence: Mourning and Melancholy in the Prose Work of Albert Drach* (2004). Co-editor *Framing Ageing: Interdisciplinary Perspectives for Humanities and Social Sciences Research* (Bloomsbury, 2024). Germanic Editor *Modern Language Review* 2016-2020; Editorial Board *German Monitor* 2010-2020; Editorial Board, *Edinburgh German Yearbook* 2005-2014. Co-chair of the Medical and Health Humanities network TCD since 2017. Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies TCD 2022-2023; Head of the Department of German TCD 2017-2021 and again since 2024.

Dr. Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain is an ethnochoreologist and Course Director of the MA Ethnochoreology and the MA Dance Studies programmes at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick. As an accomplished performer and teacher of Irish music, song and dance, she delivers workshops and seminars internationally and is a recognised expert in the Irish traditional music and dance world featuring in many broadcasts and documentaries on radio and television as cultural commentator. Her research interests include, Applied Ethnochoreology particularly in the context of Arts in Health, Irish Music and Dance studies, Music and Dance Education, Arts Practice research and Community Based Participatory Research. She is an active member of the Meitheal Knowledge for Change hub at UL

certified by UNESCO. She has published extensively in the area of Arts and Health interventions and is the invited dance specialist in many interdisciplinary collaborations.

Dr Órla O'Donovan is a senior lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies in University College Cork. She is a transdisciplinary feminist scholar working at the intersections of bioethics, social studies of science and medicine, and community and social movement studies. Much of her current research is concerned with and about university institutional reckoning with histories and legacies of colonial violence and use of the disenfranchised dead as medical teaching and research resources.

Prof Shaun O'Keefe trained in Internal and Geriatric Medicine in Galway, Dublin, Boston and Liverpool. He is Consultant Geriatrician in Galway University Hospitals. He is co-chair of the HSE National Policy revision group and HSE lead for Assisted Decision Making and consent. He has published more than 200 peer reviewed articles. His interests include how the humanities can inform (and sometimes misinform) how we think about ageing and medical ethics. Recent work has examined how artists depict their own hallucinations and write their own experience of delirium.

Dr Jennifer O'Mahoney is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Co-Director of the Crime and Justice Research Group, and Senior Researcher at INSYTE at the South East Technological University. Her research explores trauma, memory, and justice, with particular focus on institutional abuse, survivor health, and digital humanities. She leads the Waterford Memories Project, documenting Ireland's Magdalene Laundries as "sites of conscience". Her recent article in *Geographical Review* examines how space and memory shape trauma in institutional settings. She is a committee member of EU COST Action "Digital Mental Health for Young People", and Co-Investigator for UK/Ireland on Women's Online Wellbeing (WOW), a European study of digitalised violence against women. Her work contributes to transdisciplinary approaches to trauma-informed care, narrative-based approaches to care, and ethics within medical and health humanities.

Prof Desmond (Des) O'Neill is a geriatrician and scholar in both cultural gerontology and medical and health humanities. Widely published in the peer-reviewed literature in both fields, he co-chairs the IHA Medical and Health Humanities Working Group and the Medical and Health Humanities network in TCD. He is a past chair of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Gerontology Advisory Panel of the Gerontological Society of America.

Dr Jamie Saris is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Maynooth University, with a PhD from the University of Chicago and a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. A leading figure in medical and psychological anthropology, he has conducted extensive research across Ireland, North America, and Africa, publishing on topics including mental illness, structural violence, colonial legacies, and drug use. He led one of Ireland's first national opiate prevalence studies and has secured major Health Research Board funding. He has held editorial roles in key journals, co-chaired the Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium, and served as Deputy Director of National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), a multi-disciplinary research centre of excellence examining space and society. He is a founding member and sits of the Executive Committee of the Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute.



Further information
Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2
E: info@irishhumanities.com