

# IHA Statement:

## The IHA Welcomes the IRC-AHRC joint digital humanities project awards

4 August 2021

## **The Irish Humanities Alliance *welcomes the announcement of IRC-AHRC joint digital humanities project awards***

Today, the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) formally welcomes the announcement of the new research projects that have been recently announced by the Irish Research Council and the [Arts and Humanities Research Council \(AHRC\)](#), as part of a partnership which will see Ireland and the UK bringing together world-leading expertise in the field of digital humanities. As an all-island body representing the humanities research community across the island of Ireland, we especially welcome the [Minister's acknowledgement](#) that maintaining and further building a vibrant all-island higher education and research system is a key priority.

The announced awards – 11 in total – represent a welcome [investment of €6.5m](#) and are a major boost for the growing field of the digital humanities in a UK-Ireland and interdisciplinary context. They will enhance collaborative networks covering higher education institutions as well as public and cultural organisations based in Ireland (both North and South) as well as in Britain, and will drive digital humanities research forward within the UK-Irish research eco-system. Furthermore, this announcement brings together world-leading expertise in the field of digital humanities and will bring innovative approaches to community engagement, access to heritage in its historical, social, artistic, linguistic and topographical contexts, and the enhancing of mutual cultural understanding and co-operation.

As outlined in the IHA's own strategy statement for the 2020s, [By imagination we live](#), humanities disciplines make a fundamental social contribution. New and innovative interdisciplinary fields, such as the digital humanities, address the grand societal challenges of the 21st century by combining the creative potential of the arts and humanities with digital technologies. The IHA is pleased to see that many of the projects engage extensively with partners in the creative industries and cultural heritage organisations, demonstrating the huge potential for further intersectoral collaboration and innovative solutions.

The IRC and the AHRC both play a vitally important role in furthering the cause of humanities scholarship across these islands. We acknowledge the important role they have both played in developing such collaborative schemes.

### **Further information**

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities  
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland  
E. [info@irishhumanities.com](mailto:info@irishhumanities.com)