Medical Humanities Research

Introduction
The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) welcomes the opportunity to provide an outline of Irish scholarship in the field of Medical Humanities research. We have compiled this document to provide an insight into the breadth and depth of Irish humanities research related to the areas of health and medicine. We do not claim this to be the definitive guide to current medical humanities research. We see it as an indication of the type of work being done in these fields and the researchers who are involved.

Researchers in the interdisciplinary fields of medical humanities draw on the strengths of a wide variety of disciplines in order to bring new perspectives to medicine and health. They explore the social, cultural, philosophical and historical dimensions of health and medicine while offering a critique of traditional practices and current healthcare priorities. Medical and health humanities research emphasises the ways in which humanities knowledge and practice can enhance health and wellbeing. Researchers in medical history and medical geography explore the social and cultural dimension of medicine; the history of disease and treatments; the effects of location & climate on health; contagion; spatial perspectives in public health; demographics and the stigmas associated with certain ailments. Medical philosophers and anthropologists explore such issues as the ethics of medicine and practice within the health sciences; memory and ageing; the experience of living with illness and the healing process. Others draw on the arts and humanities to develop alternative and complimentary therapies based on: art; dance; drama; literature; music and poetry.

The scholars listed in this document seek to provide insights into the cultural, historic and social contexts within which diverse but interrelated concerns such as: the human condition; narrative in medicine; the individual experience of illness & suffering; ethics in medicine, research & surgery and the way medicine is (or was) practiced, might be better understood. These researchers cover a wide-range of disciplines including: anthropology; arts; cultural studies; drama; geography; history; geography; languages; literature; philosophy, sociology and theology. This document also provides a guide as to researchers in the fields of nursing; medicine and human sciences who are engaged in enquiry that encompasses humanities perspectives.

This document is divided into four sections. In ‘Section A’, humanities researchers currently engaged health/medical humanities research are listed according to their institutional affiliation.
‘Section B’ provides an indicative list of researchers from such fields as nursing; medicine and the health & human sciences who are currently engaged in research that brings in a humanities perspective. Sections A and B also provide details of each researchers’ area of interest. In ‘Section C’ a more comprehensive list of publications and projects in the fields of Medical and health Humanities is provided while ‘Section D’ contains links to some helpful online articles and resources.
Section A. Humanities Researchers in the Health & Medical Humanities

Trinity College Dublin:

1. **Dr. Georgina Laragy**  
TCD, Department of History  
Research Interests: history of suicide; history of medicine and public health.

2. **Prof. Shaun McCann**  
TCD, Medical Humanities  
Research Interests: art intervention; haematology;

3. **Dr. Hillary Moss**  
TCD Medical Humanities; Director of the National Centre for Arts and Health  
Research Interests: arts and health; arts therapies; music therapy.

NUI Galway:

4. **Dr Seán Crosson**  
NUI Galway, Huston School of Film and Digital Media,  
Research Interests: nutrition & positive lifestyle changes; the place and potential of digital media in the assessment and management of osteoarthritis; improved patient outcomes; diabetes support.

5. **Prof. Kevin Leyden**  
NUI Galway, School of Political Science & Sociology,  
Research Interests: social capital; health & the impact of place; wellbeing; interest groups; health policy; sustainable communities; and issues of sustainable development.

6. **Dr. Padraig Lenihan**  
NUI Galway, Department of History,  
Research Interests: epidemic diseases in wartime armies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and how the authorities responded to a public health challenge of this scale. Dr. Lenihan has applied for Wellcome Trust funding for a project entitled ‘Armies and Epidemic Disease 1674-1762: Case Studies in Public Health’.  

7. **Mr. David Kilgannon**  
PhD student NUI Galway.
Funding body: Wellcome Trust Humanities Fund

**PhD Project title:** “‘Bringing about a new age?’ Intellectual Disability in Ireland 1947-96”

8. **Dr. Marguarita O’Donoghue**  
NUI Galway, Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway.

Dr. O’Donoghue recently completed a PhD on the role of women in death and funeral rituals in the west of Ireland. It integrated studies from nursing and medical history, palliative care and folklore studies in particular.

9. **Dr. Ian Walsh**  
NUI Galway, Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance, NUI Galway.

**Research Interests:** currently engaged in a project titled: ‘Promoting inclusive societies through the practice of theatre, technology and care’. The project will pioneer a new interdisciplinary paradigm and new methodologies for practice-based explorations of how concepts of care can be developed, interrogated and enhanced through an engagement with performance-based work and, simultaneously, investigates how performance can be re-thought and re-imagined through a dialogue with approaches to care.

10. **Dr. Miriam Haughton**  
NUI Galway, Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance, NUI

**Research Interests:** Monograph on *Staging Trauma: Bodies in Shadow* (Palgrave, 2017) relevant to the field of Medical Humanities. Dr. Haughton will give a paper on one of the case studies at an upcoming conference ‘Theatre of Contagion: Infectious Performances’ supported by The Wellcome Trust at Birkbeck in May 2017.

11. **Dr. Heike Felzmann**  
NUI Galway, Philosophy,

**Research Interests:** bio-ethics; health-care ethics; research ethics; robot ethics; ethical issues in genetic testing.

**Maynooth University:**

12. **Dr. Jacinta Prunty**  
MU, Department of History

**Research Interests:** food; poverty and hospitals.

13. **Dr. Jennifer Redmond**  
MU, Department of History

**Research Interests:** women in the medical profession; Irish immigrants in the British medical profession; pregnancy; sexual politics.
14. **Dr. Dympna McLoughlin**  
MU, Department of History  

**Research Interests:** history of medicine; sexuality; fertility; poverty and health.

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15. **Dr. David Lederer**  
MU, Department of History  

**Research Interests:** history of medicine; suicide; psychiatry; emotions

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16. **Prof. Jan Rigby**  
MU, Department of Geography  

**Research Interests:** health geography; women’s health; poverty & inequality; spatial perspectives in public health; stop-smoking services; environmental health; health and growing your own food.

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17. **Dr. Donnacha Sean Lucey**  
MU, History PhD,  

**Research Interests:** history of medicine; public health; comparative and regional health systems; health inequalities and residential/institutional welfare and care.

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18. **Dr. Ida Milne**  
MU, History  

**Research Interests:** influenza; social history of medicine; disease; childhood disease

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19. **Dr. Ronan Foley**  
MU, Geography  

**Research Interests:** health Geography; health-care planning; access to health-care; healthy blue space; therapeutic landscape and mental health.

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20. **Dr. Jamie Saris**  
MU, Anthropology  

**Research Interests:** medical anthropology; global health; mental illness; addiction; cultural and political issues around HIV treatment.

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21. **Prof. Gerry Kearns**  
MU, Department of Geography  

**Research Interests:** the intersection of medical, political and historical themes in Geography; public health; the cultural politics of AIDS; urban epidemics.
Ulster University:

22. **Prof. Adrian Moore**  
UU, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences  

**Research Interests:** health-care; spatiality & healthcare provision; socioeconomic deprivation & diabetes; GP out of hours services.

23. **Dr. Leanne McCormick**  
UU, School of English & History  

**Research Interests:** history of sexuality; history of medicine; venereal disease abortion.

24. **Dr. Catherine Byrne**  
UU, School of English & History University of Ulster  

**Research interests:** literature and medicine; disease & the body; representations of tuberculosis in Victorian culture.

Queen’s University Belfast:

25. **Prof. Peter Gray**  
QUB, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics  

**Research Interests:** the politics of poverty; welfare and public health.

26. **Dr. Paul Murphy**  
QUB, School of Arts, English and Languages  

**Research Interests:** wellbeing; how drama relates to medical humanities; arts-based interventions and applicability to medical training.

27. **Dr. Elaine Farrell**  
QUB, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics  

**Research Interests:** convict mothers; pregnancy; history of infanticide.

28. **Dr. Olwen Purdue**  
QUB, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics  

**Research Interests:** poverty; welfare; public health (particularly in an urban context)

29. **Dr. Steven Wilson**  
QUB, School of Arts, English and Languages  

**Research interests:** Medical Humanities; relationship between language & pain; medico-literary contagion; illness narrative
University College Dublin:

30. Prof. Gerardine Meaney  
UCD, School of English, Drama and Film

Research Interests: currently engaged in a collaborative project combining data analytics, cultural analytics and biopolitics to investigate themes of disease, health and migration in the British Library Digital Labs corpus. It provides in depth and extended analysis of cultural history to inform current debates. We cannot understand current conceptions of good health without understanding the long process by which medical discovery and changing practice was accepted by European Societies.

31. Dr. Lindsey Earner-Byrne  
UCD, School of History

Research Interests: welfare policy; health history; family; domestic violence; abortion; maternity services; child sexual abuse.

32. Dr. Charlotte Blease  
UCD, Philosophy of Medicine

Research Interests: public understanding of health & medicine; behavioural therapy; placebo effect; cognitive behavioural therapy; informed consent; medical humanities and medical education.

33. Dr. Fiachra Byrne  
UCD, School of History.

Research Interests: mental illness; psychiatry; conflict and health; hallucinations in conflict; history of child psychiatry and patient perspectives in twentieth-century Ireland.

34. Dr. Catherine Cox  
UCD, School of History.

Research Interests: history of mental disorder; history of medical practice; health & medical care in prisons; prisoners' health and medical ethics.

35. Dr. Anne Mac Lellan  
UCD, School of History

Research Interests: Somatic illness; infectious diseases; laboratory medicine; paediatric illness and clinical experiments. Writes an ongoing medical history column for Converse.

36. Dr Cormac O’Brien  
UCD, School of English, Drama and Film
Research Interests:

As well as drama studies, Cormac specializes in the field of Medical Humanities, exploring the biopolitics of Irish cultural responses to HIV and AIDS, predominantly in drama, fiction, cinema, and television. He has recently expanded this research into a broader study of epidemics and pandemics, with an initial focus on exploring cultural representations of and responses to syphilis and cholera, with the bulk of this work to date undertaken in the Wellcome Trust archives in London and the Syphilis Special Collections at Glasgow University. Cormac will be undertaking a Fulbright Scholarship in Spring 2019 to interrogate the hidden histories of HIV/AIDS in Irish queer diasporas in the Unities States. Cormac has published widely on masculinities and queer sexualities in Irish theatre, as well as on HIV and AIDS in Irish culture and performance, in journals such as *Journal of Medical Humanities, The Irish Review, Irish University Review*, and *Theatre Research International*. Cormac is currently guest-editing a special edition of *Journal of Medical Humanities* themed around ‘epidemics and disease in Irish writing and culture, which will be available from early 2020. Cormac's first monograph, *Masculinities and Manhood in Irish Contemporary Irish Drama: Acting the Man*, will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2019.

**Dublin Institute of Technology:**

37. **Dr. Noel Fitzpatrick**  
DIT, Dean of the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media  

Research Interests: Ageing and Memory, Neuroscience and Phenomenology of Memory, Neuro-Aesthetics

38. **Dr. Tim Stott**  
DIT, School of Creative Arts  

Research Interests: Questions of Governance and Health: Bio-Politics, Neuro-Aesthetics

39. **Dr. Mary Ann Bolger**  
DIT, Design Historian,  

Research Interests: Visual and Material Culture, Death Tourism, Urban Design – Typography and way finding

40. **Dr. Sheelagh Broderick**  
DIT, Artist Researcher,  

Research Interest: intersection between institutions and communities; Her PhD considered how the encounter of healthcare, art and academic institutions had led to an appropriation of art practice as clinical intervention.

**University of Limerick:**

41. **Prof. Pierce A. Grace**  
UL, Graduate Entry Medical School, Adjunct Professor of Surgical Science.
Research Interests: medical history; medicine & doctors in Limerick.

42. **Dr. Ciara Breathnach**  
UL, Department of History.

Research Interests: health-history; social determinants of health in nineteenth and early twentieth Irish history; infant and maternal mortality; social history of medicalisation; the social function of modern medicine in acculturating Irish immigrants in New York and Boston, 1860-1912.

**University College Cork:**

43. **Dr. Laurence Geary**  
UCC, History

Research Interests: history of medicine; philanthropy; asylums; intellectual disability and the Irish district asylums.

44. **Dr. Therese Kenna**  
UCC, Geography

Research Interests: urban social Geography; smart cities; development of public spaces for greater engagement and to improve health/well-being.

45. **Mr. Shawn Day**  
UCC, Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences

Research Interests: spatial and medical humanities; Victorian public mental hospitals.

**Dublin City University:**

46. **Dr. Padraig Murphy**  
DCU, School of Communications

Research Interests: science communication; public engagement with science & technology; biotechnology; the genetic future.

47. **Dr. William Murphy**  
DCU, School of History & Geography,

Research Interests: Prisoners, Medical Care and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000; history of sport and leisure.

48. **Dr. Alan Kearns**
DCU, Theology, Philosophy & Music,

Research Interests: healthcare ethics; the person in healthcare; bioethics; patients’ rights; ethical issues of diagnostic self-testing.

49. Dr. Almar Ennis
DCU, School of History & Geography,

Research Interests: social geography; health, housing and population perspectives on Irish Travellers.

50. Dr. Aisling de Paor
DCU, School of Law and Government,

Research Interests: health policy and law; genetics and law; genetic discrimination; bioethics; genetic privacy.

51. Dr. Declan Fahy
DCU, School of Communications,

Research Interests: public intellectuals; public understanding of health, environment and science.

52. Dr. Juliana Adelman
DCU, School of History & Geography,

Dr. Adelman has a BSc in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, an MSc in Science Communication from DCU and a PhD in History from the NUI Galway. She writes a monthly history of science column for the *Irish Times*.

Research Interests: the history of disease; the history of science; environmental history; food history; intersections between medicine and food and the relationships between humans and other organisms.

Irish Scholars in UK institutions:

53. Prof. Oonagh Walsh
Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, Glasgow Caledonian University.

Research Interests: gender & medical history; intellectual disability; medical humanities; psychiatry; the development of the asylum system in the west of Ireland; symphysiotomy in twentieth century Ireland and twentieth century obstetrics.

54. Dr. Laura Kelly
Strathclyde, History of Medicine (NUIG PhD & UCD Post-Doc),
Research Interests: Social history of medicine; gender & medicine; Contraception & reproductive health; medical education; history of the medical profession.

55. Dr. Ciara Meehan
PhD UCD, School of History.
Current: University of Hertfordshire.

Relevant research: Pregnancy and abortion politics.

Section B. Medicine; Nursing & Health Science
Research in Medical/Health Humanities:

Trinity College Dublin:

1. Prof. Joan Lalor
TCD, School of Nursing

Research Interests: complex pregnancy care; morbidity and mortality; women’s choice in childbirth and the interaction of stigma with the humanities.

2. Dr. Bridget Kane
TCD

Research Interests: health informatics; multi-disciplinary medical team work; health IT and work systems that will improve quality and safety in healthcare; human-computer interaction in healthcare.

3. Professor Brendan Kelly
TCD, Professor of Psychiatry,

Research: Professor Kelly’s research interests include the background to Irish psychiatry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; treatment for mental illness; governance within psychiatric institutions and shell-shock, 1914-18.
4. Dr. Susan Mullaney  
TCD/St. James’s Hospital/ Ophthalmologist/Medical Humanities  

Research Interests: history of science; oral medical history; history of medicine; ongoing benefits of medical humanities for students and established practitioners.

5. Prof. Desmond O’Neill  
TCD, Medicine & Medical Humanities  

Research Interests: ageing and the neurosciences, and their interaction with the humanities; arts, aesthetics and health; late life creativity; cultural gerontology; ethics; and the challenges of interdisciplinary working.

**Dublin City University:**

6. Dr. Mel Duffy  
DCU School of Nursing,  

Research Interests: sociology; sexuality studies; health inequality; gendered and gay perspectives on health; transgender issues; gay health issues

7. Dr. Dónal O’Mathuna  
DCU, Nursing & Human Sciences  

Research Interests: medical ethics; personhood; human dignity, moral reasoning and their interplay with biotechnology, especially nanotechnology and stem cell research.
Section C. Relevant Publications & Projects:

- **Dr. Juliana Adelman**
  - J. Adelman ‘Food and drink’ in *The Cambridge social history of Ireland, 1740 to the present* (Cambridge, 2016).

- **Dr. Charlotte Blease**
• **Dr. Ciara Breathnach**
  - Breathnach, C (2012) 'Medicalizing the female reproductive cycle in rural Ireland, 1926-56'. *Historical Research*.
  - Breathnach, Ciara (2014) 'Medical Officers, Bodies, Gender and Weight’, *Medical History*.
  - Breathnach, C. and Walsh O., ‘Medical Humanities: new frontier or back to the past’? in Margaret Kelleher and Jane Conroy (eds). *Restating the value of the humanities* (Dublin, 2014).

• **Dr. Catherine Byrne**
  - Byrne, Katherine (2007) *Consuming the Family Economy: Tuberculosis and Capitalism* in Dombey and Son. *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*

• **Dr. Fiachra Byrne**
  - Fiachra Byrne, 'The “report of a nightmare”: hallucinating conflict in the political and personal frontiers of Ulster during the IRA border campaign of 1920-22’, in David Durnin and Ian Miller (eds), *Medicine, health and Irish experiences of conflict, 1914–45* (Manchester 2015).

• **Dr. Catherine Cox**
  - Catherine Cox, *Negotiating Insanity in the Southeast of Ireland, 1820-1900* (Manchester, 2012).
  - Catherine Cox and Maria Luddy (eds), *Cultures of Care in Irish Medical History, 1750-1970* (Palgrave, 2010).

• **Dr Seán Crosson**
  - ‘My life My Heath Project’: The aim of this project is to develop educational and instructional resources for a community-based lifestyle intervention programme for the general population. We will develop evidence-based exercise instructional videos, educational resources, and nutritional content aimed at encouraging and sustaining positive lifestyle changes. The resources will be hosted on a bespoke website that will act as a support hub for a new diabetes community action programmes. This exciting community outreach partnership consists of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media, the School of Medicine, the HSE, and Diabetes Ireland.
  - Examining the efficacy of a digital media management strategy in osteoarthritis care: This project examines the place and potential of digital media in the assessment and management of osteoarthritis. It proposes a comparative study between existing care strategies for osteoarthritis patients and an alternative care pathway facilitated by digital media. This project will adopt an interdisciplinary methodology through collaboration between the Huston School of Film & Digital Media and the School of Medicine. Studies of telehealth/telecare show professional to professional pathways exponentially increase access to expertise as a result of the force multiplier effect from education, interaction and group learning. Additional benefits include improved patient outcomes, reduced waiting times and travel. However, there are no large studies for provider-patient programmes demonstrating improved access, care or
capacity. We believe the proposed study in this project of a programme of care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of experts in digital media and healthcare has huge potential to reduce waiting times for patients for accessing care, improve their knowledge and management, and reduce the overall cost of care and need for referrals to limited musculoskeletal resources through the employment of digital media platforms.

- PPI Ignite: Dr. Crosson will also contribute to an institutional proposal for the HRB's PPI Ignite Awards. If successful, this award will strengthen and develop Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research undertaken in NUI Galway.

**Dr Aisling de Paor**

**Dr. Lindsey Earner-Byrne**

**Dr. Elaine Farrell**
- Elaine Farrell, ‘She said she was in the family way’: pregnancy and infancy in modern Ireland (2012).

**Dr. Heike Felzmann**
- SFI Discover ‘Genetic Testing: Engaging the West of Ireland’: a public engagement project on raising people’s awareness of ethical issues with regard to different types of genetic testing (2017)
- H2020 MARIO "Managing active and healthy aging with use of caring service robots": ethical reflections on responsible robot design and their introduction to health care settings for older persons with dementia (2015-18)
- COST Action IS1303 CHIPME: "Citizen’s Health through Public Private Initiatives: Public health, Market and Ethical perspectives": a networking project around ethical, legal and social issues in relation to genetic testing and biobanking (2013-17)
- COST Action CA15208 RANCARE: "Rationing - Missed Nursing care: An international and multidimensional problem": a networking project around rationing in nursing care to which I contribute reflections on the ethical conceptualisation of rationing issues in nursing (2016-19)
- COST Action CA16116: "Wearable Robots for Augmentation, Assistance or Substitution of Human Motor Functions", a networking project on wearable robotics, to which I contribute ethical reflection on the development and use of wearable robots in care contexts (2017-2020).

- Dr. Feltzmann also has an (unfunded) interest in ethical considerations with regard to the use of data analytics for implicit inference of health characteristics from public information, especially with regard to the particular vulnerabilities that such analysis creates and the ethical challenge of applying standard ethical requirements in those novel contexts (since 2016).

**Dr. Ronan Foley**

**Dr. Miriam Haughton**
- M. Haughton will give a paper on one of the case studies at an upcoming conference ‘Theatre of Contagion: Infectious Performances’ supported by The Wellcome Trust at Birkbeck in May 2017.

**Dr. Alan Kearns**

**Prof. Gerry Kearns**
- G. Kearns, 'Zivilis and hygiaea: urban public health during the epidemiologic transition' in *The rise and fall of great cities*. (London, 1989).

**Prof. Brendan Kelly**

- **Dr. Laura Kelly**

- **Mr. David Kilgannon**
  - PhD student NUI Galway.
  - Funding body: Wellcome Trust Humanities Fund
  - PhD Project title: “‘Bringing about a new age?’ Intellectual Disability in Ireland 1947-96
  - This project examines the development of services for those with an intellectual disability in the Irish state between the failed 1947 Mental Defectives Bill and the 1996 Disability Act. It focuses in particular on the development of social welfare services, the provision of institutional accommodation and the evolving role of the voluntary sector. Research into intellectual disability in Ireland has been limited in the social sciences, and has received no substantive humanities based research. Using a combination of oral history interviews, archival research and state policy documents, this project aims to delineate the broad development of services for this specific constituency across the latter half of the twentieth century.
  - Supervisors: Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley and Dr Kevin O’Sullivan

- **Prof. Joan Lalor:**
  - Eleanor Hollywood Joan Lalor, Mary Creaner, Catherine Comiskey , The role of grandparents in the health of the child who lives in a disadvantaged area, 11th Healthcare Interdisciplinary Research Conference, Dublin, 9-11 November , 2016, Notes: [Eleanor Hollywood Joan Lalor, Mary Creaner, Catherine Comiskey ], Oral Presentation.

- **Dr. Padraig Lenihan**
- Dr. Lenihan has applied for Wellcome Trust funding for a project entitled ‘Armies and Epidemic Disease 1674-1762: Case Studies in Public Health’

**Prof. Kevin Leyden**
- **Title:** ‘Happiness and Health across the Lifespan in Five Major Cities: The Impact of Place and Government Performance’. Collaborative project with an article published under this title in *Social Science and Medicine* 162 (2016): 168-76.
- Hogan, M; Johnston, H; Broome, B; McMoreland, C; Walsh, J; Smale, B; Duggan, J; Andriessen, J; Leyden, K; Domegan, C; Mc Hugh, P; Hogan, V; Harney, O; Groarke, J; Noone, C. and Groarke, A. (2015) 'Consulting with Citizens in the Design of Wellbeing Measures and Policies'. *Social Indicators Research*, 123 (3):857-877

**Dr. Donnacha Sean Lucey**

**Dr. Anne Mac Lellan**
- Mac Lellan, Anne, ‘“Unavoidable Effects not the Causes of these Diseases”: Irish objections to the role of animalcules in causing disease’, *Converse*, vol. 39, 3, 2012.

**Prof. Shaun McCann**
- F Hegarty, C McCabe, D Roche and S McCann. Using multimedia technology to help combat the negative effects of protective isolation on patients: The Open Window Project-an engineering
challenge.
- McCabe C, Roche D, Hegarty F, McCann S. Open Window’: a randomized trial of the effect of new media art using a virtual window on quality of life in patients’ experiencing stem cell transplantation
Psycho-Oncology. 2011, doi. 1002/pon.2093.

- **Dr. Leanne McCormick**

- **Prof. Gerardine Meaney**
  Title: ‘Contagion, Biopolitics and Migration in European Cultural Memory: using large scale historical datasets to understand contemporary attitudes and improve public health outcomes’.

Research Team: Prof Gerardine Meaney (School of English, Drama and Film), Dr Derek Greene (School of Computer Science and UCD INSIGHT Centre for Data Analytics), Dr Karen Wade (SEDF), Dr Cormac O'Brien (SEDF)

Summary:
This project combines data analytics, cultural analytics and biopolitics to investigate themes of disease, health and migration in the British Library Digital Labs corpus. The corpus comprises 49,000 volumes from the British Library’s collection. The project focuses on the period 1722-1927, beginning with Defoe’s historical Journal of a Plague Year and ending in a period of unprecedented discoveries with the invention of whooping cough vaccine in 1927.

The project investigates the long term influence of cultural representations on public understanding of infectious diseases and their prevention and the role of genetics. It provides in depth and extended analysis of cultural history to inform current debates, policy and public health initiatives and illuminates the origins of historical prejudices in the public mind which construct migrants as a threat to public health and political order. We cannot understand current conceptions of good health without understanding the long process by which medical discovery and changing practice was accepted by European societies. We cannot understand or address current attitudes to migrants without understanding the narratives of belonging and exclusion which have defined European identities over many centuries. Cultural analytics can help us understand and change the stories we tell ourselves about our bodies, diseases and identities and, for example, identify the origins of ambivalence around vaccination. Biopolitics approaches can help us trace the origins of contemporary fears of being swamped by ill understood migrant groups. This project aims to understand the persistence of such attitudes.
and identify the problems they may pose for policy and therapeutic interventions to solve major social challenges in the areas of public health, disease prevention and migration.

- **Dr. Ciara Meehan**

- **Dr. Hillary Moss**

- **Dr. Susan Mullaney**

- **Dr. Marguarita O’Donoghue**
  - Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway.
  - Dr. O’Donoghue recently completed a PhD on the role of women in death and funeral rituals in the west of Ireland. It integrated studies from nursing and medical history, palliative care and folklore studies in particular:
    - PhD Title: “Fios na mBan: The role of women in death and burial customs in Erris in post-Famine Ireland: evidence from the Archives of the Irish Folklore Commission”
    - She successfully passed her viva (Sept 2016)

- **Prof. Desmond O’Neill**

**Prof. Jan Rigby**
- Tomintz, MN, Clarke, GP, Rigby, JE, Green JM (2013) 'Optimizing the location of antenatal classes'. *Midwifery,* 29 :33-4
- Tomintz M.;Clarke G.;Rigby J. (2009) 'Planning the location of stop smoking services at the local level: A geographic analysis'. *Journal of Smoking Cessation,* 4 (2):61-73
- Rigby JE, Dorling D (2007) 'Mortality in relation to sex'. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health,* 61 :159-164

**Dr. Jamie Saris**

**Dr. Ian Walsh**
**Current project:**
'Promoting Inclusive Societies through the Practice of Theatre, Technology and Care’

**Abstract:**
This interdisciplinary project integrates theatre practice, technology and care to address Societal Challenge 6 by creating new tools and methodologies to unite communities who are physically isolated from one another. The project uses ICT tools in a theatre project that works with adults with Cystic Fibrosis, who cannot share a physical space due to the risk of infection. Performance Studies and Applied Theatre Studies have argued that the processes of creating and presenting theatrical performance foster feelings of belonging (*communitas*). The relations that emerge in theatre performance can be understood as forms of affective solidarity and
mutual regard that, in turn, could be powerful counterweights to the exclusions and disregard produced by society.

This project will pioneer a new interdisciplinary paradigm and new methodologies for practice-based explorations of how concepts of care can be developed, interrogated and enhanced through an engagement with performance-based work and, simultaneously, investigates how performance can be re-thought and re-imagined through a dialogue with approaches to care.

The project will also pilot the novel use of ICT tools in theatrical performance and in the provision of care, aiming to act as a pilot project for a much broader Europe-wide investigation. Traditionally theatre must happen in a particular building, with a community of spectators and performers sharing a physical space. Advances in technology allow for the possibility that physically isolated people can now be virtually ‘present’ on stage through screen technologies. The project through practice will thus further research pertaining to performance in a mediatised culture and the ethical debates around the intersection of the corporeal and the technological. This case study offers a model of interdisciplinary research and practice that attempts to offer solutions to international challenges of creating more inclusive societies and the changing nature of interaction between humans and technologies.

• Prof. Oonagh Walsh
  - Oonagh Walsh, ‘Danger and Delight’: conceptualising the insane in nineteenth-century Ireland’ in M. Preston and M. Ó hÓgartaigh (eds.) Gender, Medicine and the State, 1750-1950 (Syracuse, 2012).
Section D. Medical Humanities:

Useful links:

- Link to Medical Humanities website: [http://mh.bmj.com/](http://mh.bmj.com/)
- Medical and Humanities Initiative, Trinity Long Room Hub: [https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/medical-humanities/](https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/medical-humanities/)
- Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, University of Ulster: [http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/chomi/category/events/](http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/chomi/category/events/)
- Times Higher Education feature on the rise of Medical Humanities: [https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/the-rise-of-the-medical-humanities/2018007.article](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/the-rise-of-the-medical-humanities/2018007.article)
- Ian Walsh, ‘Medical Humanities’: [http://www.med.qub.ac.uk/cme/sern/SERNleadsMH.pdf](http://www.med.qub.ac.uk/cme/sern/SERNleadsMH.pdf)
- International health humanities network website: [www.healthhumanities.org](http://www.healthhumanities.org)
- Boston College, ‘Medical Humanities’: [http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/medhumanities.html](http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/medhumanities.html)
Further information

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities
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