

Humanities for the Anthropocene

7 May 2021

Irish Humanities Alliance



Announcing: 'Humanities for the Anthropocene'

The College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, UCC and the Irish Humanities Alliance (Environmental Humanities Working Group) are delighted to announce, '**Humanities for the Anthropocene**'. This one-day research snapshot and networking event will be hosted, virtually, on 7 May 2021. The organisers would also like to invite those who are in a position to travel to a follow up 'in-person event' in UCC (subject to Government of Ireland Covid-19 guidelines and regulations as they apply in June 2021).

Humanities for the Anthropocene will bring together scholars from across Ireland working in environmental humanities and ecocriticism. The rapidly destabilising ecological context demands new ways of conceiving humanities research. The paradigm of the hypermobile global researcher might be usefully queried and supplemented by an intensified focus on local, regional and national networks and initiatives. To this end, UCC's College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences is teaming up with the Environmental Humanities Working Group of the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) to host a one-day research snapshot and networking event at UCC on 7 May 2021.

The aim of the event is to strengthen connections between researchers across the arts and humanities disciplines at all HEIs on the island of Ireland whose research is concerned with the human and cultural dimensions of climate change, environmental destruction, biodiversity loss, and the wider issues associated with the Anthropocene. Conceived as a fluid dialogue day structured by brief 'research snapshot' presentations, the event will enable the sharing of new critical perspectives and methodologies, the incubation of new research partnerships, the development of effective outreach, engagement and activism strategies, and the initiation of discussions on implications for pedagogy. **Humanities for the Anthropocene** will also provide an opportunity for individual researchers and existing centres / groupings in Ireland, such as the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities, to forge closer links, while also exploring connections to international networks, centres and initiatives such as the Rachel Carson Centre Munich; Centre for Culture and Ecology, Durham; Research Centre for Environmental Humanities, Bath Spa, and others.

The **Humanities for the Anthropocene** initiative sees itself as part of the wider global effort to

- a) bring the critical and creative energies of humanities research to bear on the pressing contemporary concerns of climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological degradation;
- b) explore the extent to which environmental / climate crisis is also a crisis of values, ideologies, and symbolic systems; and
- c) foster new and daring rethinks of the 'local/global' nexus.

Expressions of interest, together with a brief bio (100 words) and a short statement (150 words) outlining your research as relevant to the event theme, are invited by **Friday 15 January 2021**.

Contact: Prof. Cairíona Ní Dhúill (German, UCC), Dr Seán Hewitt (English, TCD), Dr Tim Stott (History of Art, TCD)

Further information

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities

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