

Census 1926

Capturing a Social & Cultural Moment

A UCC School of History Public Symposium | Aula Maxima, UCC | Monday, 25 May 2026

9:00–9:30 Registration

9:30–9:55: Welcome and Opening Addresses

- Professor John O’Halloran, President, UCC
- Professor Stephen Graham, Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences, UCC
- Dr Hiram Morgan, Head of the School of History, UCC

09:55–11:05: Session 1: People, Context & Process

Chair: Prof. Stephen Graham

Prof. Eunan O’Halpin (TCD): *The 1926 censuses and public policy in Ireland*

Dr Brian Hughes (MIC): *Enumerators: An Garda Síochána and the 1926 census*

Prof. Enda Delaney (University of Edinburgh): *Population, emigration and the 1926 census*

Prof. Alice Reid (University of Cambridge): *‘Thank Goodness No’: fertility questions in the census*

Prof. Oonagh Walsh (Glasgow Caledonian University): *‘Sticks and Stones’: what the removal of derogatory terminology reveals about Irish society*

Moderated Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A

11:05–11:25 | Coffee Break

11:25–12:35: Session 2: Culture & Society

Chair: Prof. Des Fitzgerald

Dr Donal Ó Drisceoil (UCC): *Ireland 1926: ‘race suicide’ and ‘evil literature’*

Dr Sorcha de Brún (UL): *Daonáireamh 1926: The Irish language in the 1926 returns*

Dr Aoife Granville (UCC): *Gainfully employed: music makers in the 1926 census*

Dr Sindy Joyce (UL): *Traces of Traveller/Mincéir names in the 1901/1911/1926 censuses*

Nicola Morris (Accredited Genealogists Ireland): *A genealogist’s guide to Census 1926*

Moderated Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A

12:35–13:20 | Lunch

Lunchtime drop-in genealogy clinic hosted by Accredited Genealogists Ireland in WW5



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13:20–14:30: **Session 3: Place**

Chair: Dr H el ene O'Keeffe

Niall Bergin (Kilmainham Gaol Museum /OPW): *Kilmainham Gaol in the twentieth-century censuses*

Dr Adrian Grant (Ulster University): *The six-county blind spot? What we know and what we'll never know about Northern Ireland in the 1920s*

Dr Rachel Murphy (UL): *From infants to adults: a life course analysis of children born in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick at the turn of the twentieth century*

Dr Denis Linehan (UCC): *Urban Ireland and the 1926 census*

Ciara Hayes (Central Statistics Office): *The CSO Historical Statistics Recovery (HSR) Programme: Digitising the 1926 Census Tables*

Moderated Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A

14:30–14:45 | **Short Break**

14:45–15:45: **Session 4: Communities of Practice Roundtable**

Chair: Prof. Ciara Breathnach

Zo e Reid, *National Archives, Ireland*

Brian McGee, *Cork City and County Archives*

Stephen Scarth, *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland*

Richard Elliott, *Director of Census and Population Statistics, NI Statistics & Research Agency*

Eileen Murphy, *Central Statistics Office*

Moderated Panel Discussion & Audience Q&A

15:45–15:55 | **Eileen Murphy, Central Statistics Office: Ireland's 2027 census**

15:50–16:00 | **Closing Remarks**

