

Census 1926

Capturing a Social & Cultural Moment



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

Contributors' Biographies

Niall Bergin is the General Manager of Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin. He has overall responsibility for the Kilmainham Gaol and Courthouse heritage site. His role includes management of the visitor experience operation and curatorial responsibility for the Kilmainham Gaol Museum collection. He holds an MA in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester, UK.

Ciara Breathnach is Professor of Irish Gender History at University College Cork. She has published widely on Irish cultural, social and health history.

Sorcha de Brún is a lecturer, writer and translator working in modern Irish in the School of English, Irish and Communication in the University of Limerick, Ireland. She has published widely on modern Irish language prose writing and on Irish language film, is the recipient of a number of literary awards, and her short stories and poetry feature on the Séideán Sí Irish Primary Curriculum. Her monograph, *An Chruinne Fhireann: Micheál Ó Conghaile, Pádraig Ó Cíobháin, Joe Steve Ó Neachtain agus Fireannachtaí na Gaeilge* was published in November 2025 by Arlen House.

Enda Delaney is Professor of Modern History at the University of Edinburgh and the Director of Research at the Edinburgh Futures Institute. He is author or editor of nine books. His book, *Making Ireland Modern: The Transformation of Society and Culture*, was published in 2025 by Oxford University Press.

Richard Elliott, Director of Census and Population Statistics at NISRA. Richard has been with NISRA since 2002, after graduating from the University of Ulster with a degree in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing. He has worked on three censuses since then – and is now leading on the 2031 Census, its supporting data infrastructure and the ongoing production of population statistics.

Des Fitzgerald is Co-Director of the Radical Humanities Laboratory at UCC. His research aims to explore the connections between the humanities and the biological sciences. Professor Fitzgerald's most recent books are *The City of Today is a Dying Thing* (Faber & Faber, 2025) and *The Urban Brain* (Princeton University Press, 2023).

Stephen Graham is the Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences at University College Cork, and was formerly Executive Dean of Creative Arts and Media at Goldsmiths, University of London. Stephen's *Sounds of the Underground* (Michigan) was published in 2016 and *Becoming Noise Music* (Bloomsbury) in 2023. Professor Graham co-authored *Western Music in the Twentieth Century* (2022, CUP), and his *Authorship and New Music in the Twenty-First Century* is currently under contract with Cambridge.

Adrian Grant is a Lecturer in History at Ulster University. He has written on the political and social history of the fledgling Northern Ireland in the 1920s and has a particular interest in the history of public housing and urban redevelopment in the cities of the North.

Aoife Granville is a lecturer at the Department of Folklore & Ethnology at UCC. Her research and teaching focus mainly on festival & carnival, music & song as well as traditional craft & clothing. A traditional musician and singer from Dingle, she is currently editing a book on the Dingle Wren as well as completing her third solo album.

Ciara Hayes is a career statistician and lead of the Historical Statistics Recovery programme at the Central Statistics Office (CSO). She has spearheaded the transcription of high-value census tables from 1911 and 1926, alongside the development of interactive mapping tools that bring this data to life for researchers and the public alike. Through the 'Stories from the Census' series, she works to bridge the gap between complex historical tables and the human stories of how people lived in Ireland a century ago.

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Brian Hughes lectures in History at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. His most recent book is *Dublin: the Irish Revolution, 1912–1923* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2024) and he is currently working, with Dr Seán William Gannon, on a project on the lives of members of the Royal Irish Constabulary after the force was disbanded in 1922.

Sindy Joyce is an assistant professor in sociology at the University of Limerick. Her research focuses on Human Rights, racism, hate crime, ethnicity/identity, and social/political constructions of Irish Travellers. Her PhD thesis 'Mincéirs Siúladh: An ethnographic study of young Travellers' experiences of racism in an Irish city' addressed the original and important question of how anti-Traveller racism shapes young people's use of and movement through public space.

Denis Linehan is an Historical Geographer with research interests in urbanism and culture. He is based in the School of the Human Environment, University College Cork.

Brian McGee has been the City and County Archivist and head of service of the Cork City and County Archives Service since 2002. He previously worked at the National Archives and the Cork Archives Institute. He is a former member of the National Archives Advisory Council and the Heritage Council Museums and Archives Committee.

Nicola Morris has been a professional Irish genealogist for 25 years and is the director of Timeline Research Ltd. She holds a degree in History from TCD and is a member and former President of Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI). She also sits on the board of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee of the National Library of Ireland.

Eileen Murphy is Head of Digital Transformation and Administration for Census 2027 including procurement, recruitment, payments, communication and governance. She joined the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in 2015. Previously she worked in the Departments of Finance and Social Protection. She is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) and holds a Masters in Leadership and Strategy from UCD/IPA.

Rachel Murphy is an assistant professor in Irish history at the University of Limerick. A social historian, she uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to research families and communities in nineteenth and twentieth-century Ireland. Rachel is a graduate of the University of Oxford and holds a PhD in Digital Humanities (History) from University College Cork.

Donal Ó Drisceoil is a Senior Lecturer in History at UCC and an editor of the award-winning volumes, *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* and *Atlas of the Irish Civil War*. His publications range across labour history, Irish radical and revolutionary history, Cork local history, and media history. He is currently completing a history of censorship in 20th-century Ireland.

Eunan O'Halpin MRIA is Professor emeritus of Contemporary Irish History at Trinity College Dublin, where he taught from 2000 to 2020. His works include *Head of the Civil Service: a study of Sir Warren Fisher* (London, 1989), *Defending Ireland: the Irish state and its enemies since 1922* (Oxford, 1999) and (with Daithí O Corrain), *The Dead of the Irish Revolution* (London, 2020). His current research interests include fatal violence on the island of Ireland after independence, and Afghanistan's relations with the Second World War belligerents, 1937-1947.

Hélène O'Keefe is a historian of modern Irish history and research support officer at UCC, with research interests spanning Irish Revolutionary history, oral history and memory studies, with a particular focus on the cultural and social dimensions of historical commemoration. She was co-editor of the award-winning *Atlas of the Irish Civil War: New Perspectives* (2024).

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Alice Reid is Professor of Demography in the Geography Department of the University of Cambridge, and Co-Director of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. She has worked extensively with historic census data from across the United Kingdom and Ireland, with a particular interest in uncovering influences on differentials and declines in fertility and child mortality.

Zoë Reid, Keeper of Manuscripts at the National Archives, Ireland, held a senior leadership role in the preparation and online presentation of the 1926 Census. She leads Collection Care and Public Services, advancing national preservation standards and public access while contributing to major archival initiatives and public engagement programmes.

Stephen Scarth is Head of Public Services at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), a division within the Department for Communities (NI). He has been in post since 2010 and is responsible for all customer related activities at PRONI including visitor services, remote and online services, events, talks, exhibitions, education resources, and the marketing of PRONI. Stephen has over 30 years' experience working in archives and is a former Honorary Treasurer of the Archives & Records Association UK & Ireland.

Oonagh Walsh is a Professor of History in the Glasgow School for Business and Society at Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. A Galway native, she was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Nottingham Universities, and has held academic appointments at the University of Southampton (New College), Aberdeen University and University College Cork. Publications include *Ireland's Independence: 1880-1923* (2000); *Anglican Women in Dublin: philanthropy, politics and education in the early twentieth century* (2005), and *Symphysiotomy in Ireland, 1944-1984* (2014). Her research interests lie in medical history, especially mental health history, obstetrics, and epigenetic change linked to the Great Famine in Ireland.