

10th International Insular Art Conference Cork and Dublin, 2 - 5 July 2025

Routeways and Reflections

Programme

Thanks to our sponsors: *National Monuments Service, National Museum of Ireland, Future Humanities Institute, University College Cork*

Wednesday 2 July - National Museum of Ireland: Archaeology, Kildare Street, Dublin

12.30pm Light reception in the museum

1.30pm Delegates one-hour tour of 'Words on the Wave: Ireland and St. Gallen in early medieval Europe' exhibition with Matthew Seaver, Maeve Sikora, and Diarmuid Ó Riain.

3.00pm Coach leaves from Nassau Street, Dublin, travelling to UCC/Crows Nest accommodation.

Thursday 3 July – University College Cork, Main campus, Cork, Boole 2

8.30am Registration

9.00am Opening of Conference: Griffin Murray

Session 1 Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen

Chair: Maeve Sikora

9.10 Cornel Dora - 'Men incomparably learned in both secular and sacred writings' - Irish Influence in the Monastery of St Gall from the 7th to the 10th century.

9.30 Matthew Seaver – Words on the Wave, Exhibiting Irish related manuscripts from the Abbey of St. Gall at the National Museum of Ireland.

9.50 Pádraig Ó Macháin & Anna Hoffmann - Material and decorative features of Cod. Sang. 904.

10.10 John Gillis – Judging a book by its cover: the binding of St. Gallen Stiftsbibliothek Cod. Sang. 904.

10.30 Paul Mullarkey – The Lough Kinale book-shrine: construction, destruction and reconstruction.

10.50 Questions

11.05 Break Tea/Coffee

Session 2 Sculpture and Stone in Scotland

Chair: Heather Pulliam

11.30 Michael King – Reflections of texts on Pictish stone sculpture.

11.50 Jane Geddes – Roots and routes: from Roman models to Pictish art.

12.10 Martin Goldberg – Riders in Pictish and early medieval Irish iconography.

12.30 Adrian Maldonado – The Lithification of Iona: archaeological insights into the cult of St. Columba.

12.50 Questions

1.05 Light Lunch

Session 3 Reflecting on Insular Metalwork

Chair: Conor Newman

1.45 Susan Youngs – Pins and the donkey.

2.05 Maeve Sikora – Irish hanging-bowl finds: some reflections.

2.25 Carol Neuman de Vegvar – Myth Congeniality: persistent fictions in drinking-horn studies.

2.45 Ashley Rickman – Illuminating the material: An enlightened re-examination of ‘apotropaic’ bird-of-prey ornamentation on Anglo-Saxon weaponry and armour.

3.05 Questions

3.20 Break

Session 4 Carved Stone Monuments in Ireland and Beyond

Chair: Jean Farrelly

3.40 Tomás Ó Carragáin, Kate Colbert & Diarmuid Ó Riain - The Digital Atlas of Early Irish Carved Stone: overview and initial results.

4.00 Diarmuid Ó Riain & Tomás Ó Carragáin - Clonmacnoise as a royal cemetery in the early medieval period: the archaeological and historical evidence.

4.20 Nora White – EMISoS: Early Medieval Irish Scripts on Stone.

4.40 Nancy Edwards – The Pillar of Eliseg: reflections on power, purpose and royal patronage.

5.00 Questions

Friday 4 July – University College Cork, Main campus, Cork, Boole 2

Session 5 Metalwork in Ireland and the Continent: Mobility and Reflection

Chair: Susan Youngs

9.00 Conor Newman, Anna Gannon, Elisa Grassi, Cormac Bourke, Eleonora Destefanis & Ragnháll O Floinn⁺ – A newly-discovered Insular reliquary from Brallo di Pregola (Province of Pavia).

9.20 Niamh Whitfield – The Decoration on the Londesborough brooch.

- 9.40 Sue Brunning – Routeways of the Ballycotton Cross.
10.00 Jennifer Gleeson – Through a lens of amber and glass: technical mastery in Insular metalwork.
10.20 Griffin Murray – Iconographical reflections: the Lismore crosier and the Cloyne cross.
10.40 Questions

10.55 Break Tea/Coffee

Session 6 Insular Texts and Visual Culture

Chair: John Gillis

- 11.20 Bernard Meehan – Cancel screens, Italy, Croatia and the Book of Durrow.
11.40 Barbet-Massin Dominique – The church consecration scheme in the manuscript Angers 477: from the tabernacle to the heavenly Jerusalem.
12.00 Thomas Keyes & Donncha MacGabhann - How long did it take to make the Book of Kells?
12.20 Carol Farr – When Insular visual culture got material: a case study of O.M. Dalton.
12.40 Questions

12.55 Light Lunch

Session 7 Sculpted Imagery in the Isles

Chair: Rachel Moss

- 1.40 Heather Pulliam – Reflections on the Ruthwell Cross: Eco-iconography and the Virgin Mary.
2.00 Teresa Porciani – Religious imagery in northern Mercia: the stone crosses at Eyam and Bakewell, Derbyshire (c. 800–900).
2.20 Silvia Frattini – Centaurs, warriors and hunters: images of the secular world between Ireland and Scotland.
2.40 Colleen Thomas – Insular hermit images: connecting Egypt and Ireland.
3.00 Questions

3.15 Break

Session 8 Reception and Reflections Through Time

Chair: Martin Goldberg

- 3.35 Russell Ó Ríagáin - Insular military, missionary and scholarly uses of three iconographic alternatives to the cross at the crossroads of Late Antiquity.
3.55 Anna Dolan – The Testament of Stone: The long lives of the Irish High Crosses.
4.15 Jonathan Wooding – The Book of Kells Mosaics of the Melocco Brothers of Sydney (1911-1959).
4.35 Mark A. Hall – The Picts in Perth Museum: Assembling and Displaying a Collection.
4.55 Questions

5.10 Closing Remarks and Next Conference: Tomás Ó Carragáin

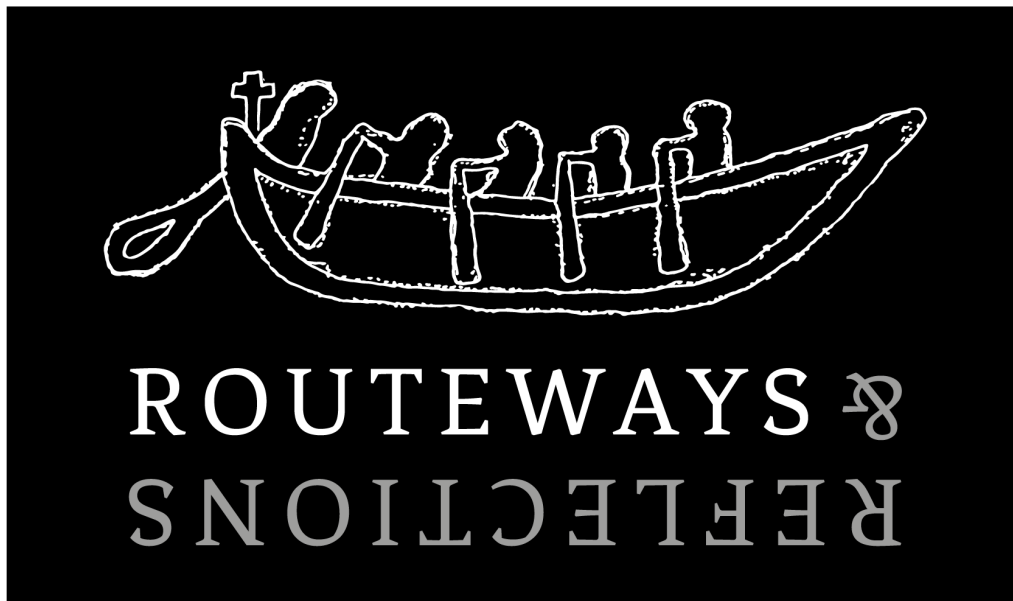
6.45 Short tour of ogham stones at UCC with Nora White. Meet under the arch of the Main Quadrangle.

7.00 Conference Dinner: Aula Maxima, Main Quadrangle, UCC

Saturday 5 July – Stone sculpture in County Tipperary

9.00am Bus leaving Gaol Cross, Western Road, and will return by approx. 6pm.

Fieldtrip leaders: Tomás Ó Carragáin and Griffin Murray. Sites will include: Toureen Peakaun, St. Berihert's Kyle, and the high crosses at Ahenny and Kilkieran.



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2nd-5th JULY 2025