

Cork Histories

A UCC School of History Public Conference



University College Cork | Friday, 11 September–Saturday, 12 September 2026 | Free Admission

Day 1: Friday, 11 September | Main Quad, UCC

Welcome and Keynote Address | WW6, West Wing

15:00–15:10	Welcome Dr Donal Ó Drisceoil, School of History, UCC
15:10–16:00	<i>From Finbarr to Beauford: mapping early Cork</i> Howard B. Clarke, Professor Emeritus, UCD
16:00–16:30	Break

Panel 1: Island and City | WW6, West Wing

16:30–17:00	<i>Blúirí Oileánda – Island Pieces: the history of Cape Clear through objects</i> Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil
17:00–17:30	<i>Designed for Life: thoughts on 20th-century architecture and design in Cork city</i> Tom Spalding
17:30–18:00	Break

Opening Reception and Keynote | Aula Maxima, UCC

18:00–18:10	Opening Address Dr Damian Bracken, Head of the School of History, UCC
18:10–18:55	The Roger Herlihy Memorial Lecture: <i>On the Writing of Cork's History</i> David Dickson, Professor Emeritus, TCD

Day 2: Saturday, 12 September | Western Gateway Building UCC

9.30–10.55 | Panel 2 (WGB G.05)

Old World Colony

The Franciscans in Cork in the 13th Century
Natasha Dukelow

The Earl and the City: Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork and the Cork civic community, 1600–1641 | David Edwards

The Siege of Cork, 1690 | Jason Byrne

10:55–11:25 | Break

11:25–12:50 | Panel 4 (WGB G.05)

Co-Operatives & the Dairy Economy

The First Decades of Cork's Creameries | Peter Foynes

The Evolution of the Dairy Industry in West Cork
Philip O'Regan

Lombardstown Co-Operative Dairy Society
Donie O'Sullivan

12:50–13:50 | Lunch

9.30–10.55 | Panel 3 (WGB 1.07)

Perspectives on 19th-Century Cork

Labour, Status and Class in 19th-Century Cork
Maura Cronin

Skibbereen: the cradle of Fenianism | William Casey

A Funeral in Letters: the Countess of Bantry mourns her daughter, 1880 | Maeve O'Riordan

11:25–12:50 | Panel 5 (WGB 1.07)

Radicalism, Readers & Revues

Citizen Philosopher: William Thompson (1778–1833) of Cork reassessed | Fintan Lane

More than a Theatre: politics, religion & civic leadership in the making of the Cork Athenaeum, 1800–1875 | Pat Duggan

Books and Booksellers in Cork from the 17th Century onwards | Margaret Lantry

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13.50–15.15 | Panel 6 (WGB G.05)

Rebel Cork? War and Revolution

Militant Republicans in University College Cork, 1918–1921
Emma Hurley

Railways and Revolution in Cork | Larry Jordan

Douglas Street in War and Revolution | Gerry White

15:15–15:45 | Break

15.45 – 17.15 | Panel 8 (WGB G.05)

Cork and the Wider World

Cork and Empire | John Ware

North Cork & the Robinson Expeditions to Canada, 1823 and 1825 | Bill Power

From Beara to Butte | Ted O’Sullivan

17:15 | Conference Closes

13.50–15.15 | Panel 7 (WGB 1.07)

Religion and Society

Connie Dodgers and Lenten Observance in 1950s Cork
Regina Sexton

Bishop Daniel Cohalan & Revolutionary Cork
Thérèse O’Connell

From Bessborough to Tuam: Mother and Baby institutions in 20th-century Ireland | Sarah-Anne Buckley

15.45 – 17.15 | Panel 9 (WGB 1.07)

‘Where we sported and played’

The Royal Cork Yacht Club: three centuries of sailing
Alicia St. Leger

The Evolution of Rugby in Cork c. 1875–1925
Liam O’Callaghan

Gaelic Games in Cork City: from the golden era of the 1970s to the present day | Diarmuid O’Donovan



Cork City, 1883
[National Library of Ireland on The Commons]