

Cork Histories

A UCC School of History Public Conference



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

Speakers' Biographies

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley is Associate Professor in History at the University of Galway. Her work examines historically marginalised groups in modern Ireland. She is co-principal investigator of the 'Tuam Oral History Project' and the Research Ireland-funded project, 'Mapping Galway's Institutional Past'.

Jason Byrne spent over ten years volunteering at Camden Fort Meagher, where researching Cork Harbour's coastal fortifications developed his interest in history. He has a Diploma in Local and Regional Studies from UCC and is currently completing an MA dissertation focused on the 1690 Siege of Cork. He is a member of the Templebreedy Graveyard Project.

William Casey is an active member of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society and the Skibbereen & District Historical Society. He completed an MA in Local History at UCC in 2016 and is the author of *'The Cradle of Fenianism': Skibbereen and the Early Fenian Movement, 1850-67* (2018).

Prof. Howard B. Clarke is a Professor Emeritus, School of History and Archives, UCD. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and co-author of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas fascicle for Cork.

Dr Maura Cronin is a retired Senior Lecturer in History at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Her research focuses on popular politicisation and protest in nineteenth-century Ireland and on oral history. She is working currently on news-spreading in pre-Famine Ireland.

Prof. David Dickson retired as Professor of Modern History at TCD in 2017 and is a member of the Royal Irish Academy. He has published extensively on the social, economic and cultural history of Ireland, including the classic *Old World Colony: Cork and south Munster, 1630-1830* (2005).

Pat Duggan spent his career in IT before completing a Diploma in Local and Regional Studies and an MA in Local History at UCC. He is currently writing a book on Cork's old Opera House, due for publication later this year.

Dr Natasha Dukelow is a medieval historian specialising in preaching and the mendicant orders, with a particular focus on the Franciscans. She has

been involved in community oral history since 2025 through her volunteer work with the Mealagh Valley Heritage Keepers, an oral history group based in West Cork.

Dr Dave Edwards is a Senior Lecturer in History at UCC. His principal area of research inquiry is power and society in Ireland, from the Gaelic resurgence of the fourteenth century to the Wars of Religion in the seventeenth century.

Peter Foynes has a long-term research interest in the Cork dairy industry and was director of the Cork Butter Museum from 2001 to 2025.

Emma Hurley is an MA student in History at UCC. She completed her BA in History and German in 2026 and her final-year research dissertation - 'Where Finbarr Fought: republican militant students at University College Cork, 1918-21' - was awarded the John B. O'Brien Annual Prize in History

Larry Jordan is a former teacher and principal at Christian Brothers College, Cork. He has a lifelong interest in the history of Irish railways and is currently completing a Master's dissertation at UCC on the role of the railways in the Cork region during the War of Independence.

Dr Fintan Lane is an author and historian, specialising in the history of nineteenth-century Ireland. He is currently writing a biography of the Cork-born political philosopher William Thompson (1778-1833).

Dr Margaret Lantry is University Curator in Heritage Services, Buildings & Estates, at UCC. She is currently researching fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Cork city wills and is planning a book based on her thesis on the evolution of the public library system in Cork city over the long nineteenth century.

Dr Liam O'Callaghan studied history at UCC and is an Associate Professor at Liverpool Hope University. His most recent book, *Blood and Thunder: Rugby and Irish Life*, was published by Penguin in 2024.

Dr Thérèse O'Connell completed her PhD on Bishop Daniel Cohalan in 2024. She currently works in the Accommodation and Community Life Office in UCC.

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Diarmuid O'Donovan is an independent researcher. He has written on many aspects of Cork GAA and has also worked on several documentaries as a researcher and contributor, including *Christy Ring: Man and Ball*, *Hell for Leather* and *An Fhuil agus an Bindealán*.

Diarmuid Ó Drisceoil is a writer, historian, storyteller and occasional broadcaster. He is the author or co-author of several books on aspects of Cork's history. His most recent publication is *Blúirí Oileánda/Island Pieces* (2026).

Philip O'Regan is a former deputy editor and digital editor of the *Southern Star* newspaper. He holds an MA in Local History from UCC and has written on a broad range of topics, most notably the Famine in the Skibbereen area and the history of the dairy and creamery industry in West Cork.

Dr Maeve O'Riordan is lecturer in women's and cultural history at UCC. She has written extensively on Irish women's history. Her book *Women of the Irish Country House* (Liverpool University Press, 2018) is now out in paperback.

Donie O'Sullivan is a retired forester and founding member and chairperson of the Kilshannig Heritage Society. He has published numerous articles on its website kilshannig.heritagecork.org and is the author of *Lombardstown Co-Operative Dairy Society: A Complete History, 1890 – 1966* (2021).

Ted O'Sullivan is a native of Bere Island and the author of four local history books, including *Bere Island: A Short History* (1992) and *Bere Island Internment Camp, 1921* (2022). He spent more than thirty years as a maths teacher before switching to teach in the Centre for Co-operative Studies in UCC.

Bill Power has worked as a journalist, researcher and historian for over forty years. He has an MA in history from UCC and has written sixteen books on a variety of historical topics. His next book is titled *Shroudless, Coffinless Graves: North-East Cork during the Great Famine*.

Regina Sexton is a lecturer and programme manager of the MA in Food Studies and Irish Foodways at UCC. She is an award-winning food writer, broadcaster and

cook and is currently working as a researcher and co-ordinator on the Horizon-funded project RELISH (Reframing European Gastronomy Legacy Through Innovation, Sustainability and Heritage).

Dr Tom Spalding is a lecturer in design, media and social history at the Munster Technological University. He is the author of several books on the relationship between the built environment and people. His monograph *Designed for Life* was published by Cork University Press in 2025.

Dr Alicia St Leger is a history graduate of UCC and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. She works as a freelance historian based in Cork and is involved in publications, museums and exhibition projects all over Ireland.

John Ware is a part-time lecturer in History at UCC and the author of the *Dirty Shirt* series of historical novels.

Gerry White is a military historian, the Ireland Trustee of the Western Front Association, and a former member of the Irish Defence Forces.