

WOMEN'S VOICES IN IRELAND

FROM THE DECADE
OF REVOLUTION
TO THE DECADE
OF CENTENARIES

University College Cork,
9-10 June 2017

with additional activities on 11 June
in conjunction with UCC Creative
and Cork Harbour Festival



Women's Voices in Ireland: from the decade of revolution to the decade of centenaries

Welcome to University College Cork to this interdisciplinary conference on women's voices in Ireland from the decade of revolution to the decade of centenaries.

The road to gender equality is not straight or even guaranteed. As we approach the centenary of the first Irish women casting their votes in a general election in 1918, we reach an important moment for women, and for gender equality in Ireland. 2018 might provide the opportunity to vote in a referendum on providing abortion rights in line with the recommendations of the citizens' assembly, we might also have the opportunity to update the language in the constitution which places Irish women in the home, and who knows, we might even cast a centenary vote in a general election. Will the next general election bring a gender balanced cabinet in line with international best practice?

It is hoped that this conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and achievements to date, while casting an eye to such future opportunities for change.

This conference would not be possible without the support of the Irish Research Council's New Foundations Scheme who provided funding ensuring that this can be a free event. The Farmgate Café are giving of their space and time to highlight the challenges faced by women in direct provision centres across Ireland. The conference relies on the excellent speakers from the worlds of the arts, the humanities, the social sciences and social activism, and on you the participant. Gender inequality is a complex intersectional problem and it is only with such combined thinking that we can create change – ní neart go cur le chéile.

Enjoy the weekend.

Maeve O'Riordan

Women's Studies, UCC

Want to know more about Women's Studies?

Women's Studies is committed to a multidisciplinary approach to learning and academics from over ten different departments, and beyond, teach on Women's Studies courses here at UCC. We provide a certificate, diploma and MA in Women's Studies. If you are interested in any of these courses contact Maeve (maeve.oriordan@ucc.ie) for the MA or Rola (razoneill@ucc.ie) for the cert/diploma.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Friday

CREATIVE ZONE	WEST WING 5	WEST WING 7
9.00-10.15: Registration and opening		9.30-11.30: Creative writing workshop <i>*booking essential</i>
10.15-12.00: Parallel sessions 1 & 2		
12.00-13.30: Parallel sessions 3 & 4		
13.30-14.15: Lunch break		
14.15-15.15: Roundtable panels 1 & 2		Digital activism workshop <i>*booking essential</i>
15.15-16.45: Parallel sessions 5 & 6		
16.45-17.00: Coffee break		
17.00-17.40: Plenary		

17.40 Make our way to Farmgate Café (supper served at a cost of €10). Conversation begins at 19.30

Saturday

AULA MAX	CREATIVE ZONE	WEST WING 5
9.00-9.30: Registration and light breakfast	9.15-11.45: Voice workshop <i>*booking essential</i>	
9.30-10.00: Plenary		
10.00-11.30: Parallel sessions 7 & 8		
11.30-1.00: Parallel sessions 9 & 10		12.00-1.00: Workshop <i>*booking essential</i>
1.00-1.45: Lunch break		
		1.45-2.15: Women's Studies in Ireland
2.15-15.10: Film performance		
15.10-15.25: Coffee break		
15.25-17.00: Parallel sessions 11 & 12		
17.00-17.45: Plenary		
17.45-18.15: Wine and cheese reception		
		18.15-20.00: Film screening and discussion

Sunday

Walking tour: meet at main gate of UCC

Friday 9 June

LOCATIONS: CREATIVE ZONE (BOOLE LIBRARY), WEST WING 5, WEST WING 6, WEST WING 7

9.00-9.40: Registration (Tea/Coffee)

CREATIVE ZONE

9.30-11.30: Wild Women Writing: Creative Writing Workshop (12 participants)

WEST WING 7

Magi Gibson

Do you find it hard to write the way you really want to? As if you have something to say but you can't quite find the words? This workshop aims to set your inner voice free.

Magi Gibson is an award-winning Scottish poet, writer and feminist. Her two most recent collections are Washing Hugh MacDiarmid's Socks and Wild Women of a Certain Age. 'A joy to read.' The National

9.45-10.15: Conference opening

CREATIVE ZONE

Maeve O'Riordan

Joanne O'Riordan

Joanne O'Riordan is a criminology student in UCC and is only one of seven people in the world living with a rare physical disability known as Total Amelia. This means she was born without all four limbs and even though there is no medical explanation as to why this happened, Joanne or indeed her family has never allowed it to hold her back.

10.15-12.00: Parallel sessions 1 and 2

Parallel session 1: Creative Voice

CREATIVE ZONE

Chair: Dr Melanie Marshall

Margaret Fitzgibbon: Acts of Voicing

This paper explores how contemporary art processes offer new opportunities to engage with the poetics and politics of the voice. I present artworks that engage with its unique qualities e.g. the way in which the voice exists both inside and outside the body; perpetually entwined in the subtle gestures of remembering and forgetting and the struggle for power between those with and without agency.

Margaret Fitzgibbon is an Irish artist living in Dublin. Her art practice includes installation, film, drawing, and sound. She took her primary degree in Sculpture and Printmaking at Crawford College of Art in Cork. Later she received her MFA and PhD in Sculptural Installation at The National College of Art and Design Dublin researching themes of memory and identity.

Sarah Jayne Booth, Jennifer Redmond, and Mieke Vanmechelen: Diving out of the Wreck

Three artists (Sarah Jayne Booth, Jennifer Redmond and Mieke Vanmechelen) use film, sound and speech to articulate the historic, collective and emergent voices of Irish women.

Sarah Jayne Booth: BA (2007) CIT CCAD, MA CIT CCAD (2014). Booth is a Cork based artist who works predominantly in installation, drawing and sound encompassing matters of social anthropology, gender, and human ecology.

Jennifer Redmond: BEd (Hons) TCD (1986), MA CIT CCAD (2014) Drawing, writing and performance. Investigates linguistic conventions and emergent forms of communication that expand the intelligence of human and 'other' agents.

Mieke Vanmechelen: (b.1974, Antwerp Belgium) BA TCD (1996), MA CIT CCAD (2014). Works in drawing, paint and lens based media. Her works are consistent outcomes of a searching artistic sensibility that connects with the psychoanalytical.

Carol O'Keefe: Film-making

As a documentary filmmaker I believe that connection is critical between myself, the lives on screen I reflect and the viewer. Yet this is an exquisitely delicate balance and often remains an aspiration. I am curious as to how these moments of connection occur. I will explore from my own work.

Carol O'Keefe is an independent Cork-based documentary filmmaker. She has been experimenting with the documentary genre for the last fifteen years. She works with voices that are marginalized, dismissed even silenced. Carol is interested in 'chalking it down' – a form of celluloid graffiti one could say.

Mayfield Arts (Ailbhe and Lisa): Bare Feet and Butterflies

'Since I was a kid, all I wanted to do was draw all day. I'm not into dolls. I'm not into lego. I was born to do this.' Ailbhe Barrett, artist

Ailbhe and Lisa will talk about the power and potential of art to inspire, connect people, fulfill dreams and open minds. Ailbhe describes how 'Anything is possible. You just need yourself to make art. You can even make butterflies with your bare feet.'

Ailbhe Barrett is an artist in residence at the Mayfield Arts Centre since 2009 and works as part of the Cúig team (Cúig Creativity Unlimited an Integrated Group).

Lisa Fingleton is a multimedia artist and manager of the Mayfield Arts Centre.

Parallel session 2: Women unheard

WEST WING 5

Chair:

Nura Haji: (Women in direct provision)

Brigid Carmody: (Traveller Women's Network)

Brigid Carmody is a Traveller woman and community activist. She is project co-ordinator for the Cork Traveller Women's Network – a Traveller led community development project working for Traveller rights with a particular focus on women's leadership. She is also the mother of seven children.

12.00-13.30: Parallel sessions 3 and 4

Parallel session 3: Poetry

CREATIVE ZONE

Chair: Prof. Pat Coughlan, UCC

Sheila Kelly: Voice Chair

Sheila will perform a poem and explain her experience with the 'Through the Chair Project' supported by Kerry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre.

Sheila Kelly is a Women's Studies student on the Tralee outreach programme. She is an emerging women's voice in Kerry.

Mary Noonan: The Statue Speaks

A reading of poems about our relationship with statues of women – statues of the Virgin in Ireland and Spain, female caryatids built into the masonry of Paris, the female statue carved by Pygmalion, who begged the gods to bring his statue to life – if these statues had a voice, what would they say?

Mary Noonan is a lecturer in the French department, UCC. Her first collection of poetry, The Fado House, was published by Dedalus Press in 2012. Her monograph, Echo's Voice: The Theatres of Sarraute, Duras, Cixous and Renaude (Oxford: Legenda) was published in 2014.

Kathy D'Arcy: Weighted Silence – a creative writing PhD work in progress

A performed extract from my creative writing PhD; a heteroglossic exploration of the place of women's writing in Ireland past and present.

Kathy D'Arcy is a poet and pro-choice activist currently completing a Creative Writing PhD in UCC. www.kathydarcy.com.

Magi Gibson: Backward Walk In Footsteps Going Forward – healing power of poetry for marginalised women

How women poets are using poetry to record injustice, render the invisible visible and heal wounds to create new pathways for moving forward.

Magi Gibson is an award-winning Scottish poet, writer and feminist. Her two most recent collections are Washing Hugh MacDiarmid's Socks and Wild Women of a Certain Age. 'A joy to read.' The National

Parallel session 4: Law and status

WEST WING 5

Chair: Dr Louise Crowley (UCC)

Judge Sinéad Ní Chulacháin: Women and the legal language of the Constitution

The Irish Constitution is the legal prism through which all our laws are interpreted. This paper looks at the role of women in the Constitution and how that affects their status throughout the legal system.

Sinéad is a judge of the Circuit Court since 2015 and a district judge before that. She was a family law barrister for 24 years and also chaired mental health tribunals. She is a feminist who knits and gardens when she has time.

Orlaith Mannion: Gender Equality cases – views from a decision-maker

Orlaith will give her perspective on discrimination cases where she was involved including Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington v NUIG.

Orlaith Mannion is a former adjudicator with the Workplace Relations Commission. Currently working on draft legislation to minimise the use of zero-hours contracts and precarious work.

Orla O'Connor: Women's voices reflecting on the past and shaping the future

Orla O'Connor is Director of National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI), the leading national women's membership organisation in Ireland, with over 190 member groups. Orla is a feminist, and an expert in the policies needed to progress women's equality in Ireland. Orla represents NWCI in a wide range of national and international fora. Orla is passionate about ensuring access to women's reproductive rights; about ensuring more women are in leadership positions; about ending violence against women; and increasing women's economic equality.

13.30-14.15: Lunch break

CREATIVE ZONE

Light lunch provided

14.15-15.15: Roundtable panels 1 and 2

Roundtable panel 1: Second Punishment

CREATIVE ZONE

Exploring the ways in which women who have suffered domestic, family or sexual abuse are punished and silenced by their communities for speaking out about it. This negotiation

is a 'second punishment' on women who have already suffered.

With poet and performer Felicia Olusanya, public speaker and artist Emer Smith and founder of Empowering Respectful Relating, Taryn Gleeson.

Roundtable panel 2: TENI

WEST WING 5

14.15-15.15: Digital Activism Workshop (18 participants)

WEST WING 7

Digital activism and storytelling to support, empower and transform – exploring case studies across the globe and how they could inspire your social media campaigns.

Lynne Nolan is Media & PR Officer at UCC. She has previously worked for IDA Ireland, Nintendo, Silicon Valley Global and ITP Business Dubai.

15.15-16.45: Parallel sessions 5 and 6

Parallel session 5: Creative commemoration

CREATIVE ZONE

Chair: Dr Abigail Keating (UCC)

Orla Ryan: Stormy Petrels as Human Telegraphs – the women couriers of 1916

This paper discusses the research and representational strategies of a collaborative art project Stormy Petrel/Guairdeall which looks at the forgotten history and witness statements of the women couriers of 1916.

Orla Ryan is an artist and lectures at the Wexford Campus School of Art and Design, IT Carlow. She is a member of the curatorial board of The Void in Derry. Most recently Ryan has worked collaboratively with Alanna O'Kelly and Brian Hand as Stormy Petrel/Guairdeall.<http://orlaryan.net/>

Mary Moynihan, Smashing Times: The Woman is Present – women's stories of 1916 and WWII

Smashing Times: Remembrance, embodiment and reflection on The Woman is Present – Women's Stories of 1916 and WWII, exploring intersections between performance arts, history and gender with a screening from *Tell Them Our Names* and *Women in an Equal Europe*.

Mary Moynihan is a theatre and film maker and artistic director of Smashing Times Theatre and Film Company and a theatre lecturer for the Honours BA in Drama (Performance) at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Melanie Lynch: Herstory – illuminating women of the world

The inaugural Illuminate Herstory light festival saw 16 counties celebrate 198 women by lighting up castles, museums, libraries, theatres, offices and homes. In my talk I will

share insights and discoveries from the first year and present our plans to illuminate 32 counties and the world for Nollaig na mBan 2018.

Melanie is the founder and director of Herstory, a new Irish cultural movement created to tell the life stories of historical, contemporary and mythological women. Melanie is a reformed international advertising creative, now a social entrepreneur with a passion for justice, equality and storytelling.

Parallel session 6: Reproductive rights: history and context

WEST WING 5

Chair: Kathy D'Arcy, UCC ACE and Women's Studies

Sandra McAvoy: 'Abortion – men's voices versus women's experience'

For decades public discourse on abortion was dominated by male voices, particularly male clergy and politicians. This paper highlights aspects of Irish women's private networks of knowledge and more recent interventions in the public domain.

Before she retired Dr Sandra McAvoy coordinated Women's Studies in UCC. Aspects of her research have focused on contraception and abortion and also on women's political activism.

Rebecca Smyth: Abortion and international human rights law – a comparative study of Ireland and El Salvador

This research demonstrates the ways in which Irish and Salvadoran abortion legislation results in multiple human rights violations. It also explores the ways in which human rights and the law have the potential to be reconceptualised in a way that is more representative of and responsive to women's needs and diverse lived experiences.

Rebecca Smyth is a first-year PhD student at the University of Edinburgh Law School. She holds an LLM from the same university, as well as an MPhil. in Gender and Women's Studies and a BA in European Studies from Trinity College Dublin.

Hilary Dully: Balance and Missing Women – 30 Years of the abortion debate on our TV screens

What happens to the voice of female experience when the central tenet of public discourse about abortion is 'balance'. When we publicly debate the issue in Ireland, who takes centre stage and how do they frame their arguments? Through an analysis of television current affairs debate from 1983, Hilary Dully examines how 'balance' contains and controls public discourse about abortion.

Hilary Dully is a filmmaker, working primarily in broadcast documentaries and community-based collaborative film work. Her most 'infamous' documentary 50,000 Secret Journeys (1994), which featured Irish women talking openly about having abortions, was initially withdrawn by RTE on the grounds of being 'unbalanced'. Hilary was recently awarded a practice based PhD in Digital Arts and Humanities and is currently working on several film projects.

16.45-17.00: Coffee breakCREATIVE ZONE

17.00-17.40: Women's Voices in Magazines

CREATIVE ZONE

Chair: Dr Clare O'Halloran (UCC)**Caitriona Clear: Women's Voices in Magazines**

Women's magazines were virtually the only forum Irish women had in the 1950s and 60s, and this paper looks in particular at what they can tell us about the most forgotten and marginalized women workers in discourse – secretaries, shop assistants, telephonists, hairdressers and other urban occupations.

Caitriona Clear lectures in modern history at NUI, Galway. She is a founder member of the Women's History Association of Ireland, and her latest book Women's Voices: women's magazines in Ireland in the 1950s and 60s (Bloomsbury Academic 2016) will shortly be out in paperback.

17.40: Break

Walk/taxi into the Farmgate Café where food will be served at a cost of €10 p/p teas/coffees/wine will be available to purchase.

19.30-20.30: Farmgate Café; Food, music, conversation – commensality

FARMGATE CAFÉ, ENGLISH MARKET, CORK

An evening on conversation, music and food hosted and organised in collaboration with the Farmgate Café.

Ellie Kisjombe and Michelle Darmody from Our Table in conversation with Dr Áine O'Brien

Áine O'Brien is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Counterpoints Arts, London. She created FOMACS (Forum on Migration and Communications) in 2007 developing creative arts and public projects focusing on migration, including Moving Worlds and Learning Lab.

Saturday 10 June

9.00-9.30: Registration and light breakfastAULA MAXIMA

9.15-11.45: Voice Workshop (15 participants)

CREATIVE ZONE

Bernie Crowley and Regina Cronin

9.30-10.00: Ailbhe Smyth 'Now again a strong tide of liberty is coming towards us...' Are we ready to swim with it?

AULA MAXIMA

Chair:

Ailbhe Smyth is the former founding head of Women's Studies at UCD. A long-time feminist, LGBT and socialist activist, she is convenor of the Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment.

10.00-11.30: Parallel sessions 7 and 8**Parallel session 7: Twenty-first century voice – campaigns and protest**

AULA MAXIMA

Chair: Liz Madden, UCC ACE and Cork Feminist Collective**Olwen Dawe: #WakingTheFeminists – a theatrical revolution**

Olwen's paper will contextualise the role of advocacy groups in furthering progressive gender equality policy in Ireland, with specific focus on the #WakingTheFeminists movement, which responded to the lack of female voice (or representation) on the stage of Ireland's National Theatre – the Abbey Theatre – in commemorating the 1916 Rising. Given the proclamation's promise of 'equal rights and equal opportunities' for all, the poignant irony of the #WakingTheNation programme gave rise to a movement which galvanised and engaged the theatre community and wider public both at home, and overseas.

Olwen Dawe is a Policy Analyst and Consultant, and has recently completed postgraduate study at the Whitaker Institute of Government and Management, her thesis investigates recent social justice movements (including #WakingTheFeminists) and their role in advancing public policy. Olwen is currently working with the Abbey Theatre on the creation and implementation of their diversity and gender equality strategy – she is a Board Director of the NWCI and CoisCéim Dance Theatre.

Abigail Keating: Feminist Hashtivism in an Irish Context – the case of #repealthe8th

This paper will explore #repealthe8th in the context of digital screen culture and hashtivism, domestically and globally, under the rubric of its discursive function and power.

Dr Abigail Keating is lecturer in Film and Screen Media at University College Cork. Her main research interests lie in the areas of women and media; contemporary cinemas; pop culture; and digital screen culture.

Margorie Brennan: The Rise of Hashtag Feminism – revolution or rhetoric?

Online feminism is no longer a phenomenon but embedded in our culture, with social media a prominent platform for highlighting misogyny, sexism and gender inequality. I will look at how hashtag feminism offers an opportunity to the disenfranchised to have their voices heard, while also examining the challenges facing feminist movements that are organising online.

Marjorie Brennan is a journalist who has written extensively on arts and culture for the Irish Examiner; she was formerly a parliamentary reporter in Dáil Éireann and holds a Masters degree in Digital Arts and Humanities from UCC. Her main fields of interest and research are social media, digital literacy and how technology intersects with women's lives.

Fionnuala Greene: 'We were there too' – women in the Right to Water campaign

I am a mother of three children and work part-time. I hate housework, love writing, politics and current affairs.

Parallel session 8: Misinterpreted/silenced voice

WEST WING 5

Chair: Dr John Borgonovo (School of History, UCC)

Brodie Nugent: 'Everyone keeps telling me I'm a feminist' – Mairéad Farrell in her own words

Simultaneously a target and a weapon in the ongoing discursive conflict surrounding the North of Ireland, Mairéad Farrell's own voice is often drowned out by the opposing sides. This paper aims to tell Mairéad's remarkable story through her own words, and thus to facilitate discourse about who and what this Irish woman really was.

Brodie Alyce Nugent is a PhD candidate at Flinders University, South Australia. She is currently conducting research for her doctoral dissertation, an historical biography of Volunteer Mairéad Farrell.

Leann Lane: Constructing a republican identity – Dorothy Macardle's civil war prison experience, November 1922-May 1923

This paper assesses the civil war prison experience of Dorothy Macardle author of the de Valera commissioned account of the revolutionary period, *The Irish Republic* (1937).

Using her prison diary and other writings, the paper argues that Macardle throughout her jail experience was conscious of her lack of long-reaching republican antecedents; she had not participated in 1916 and she had no familial connections to republicanism. She saw jail as means of establishing her bona-fide credentials, albeit late in the date, within republicanism.

Dr Leeann Lane is a lecturer in the School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. She is a member of the government appointed Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of Commemorations.

Anthony Barron: An Elusive Ironist – tracing the voice of Lydia Mary Foster

This paper evaluates the writings of Lydia Mary Foster by showing how her authorial procedures warrant closer attention and wider recognition than they have hitherto received.

Anthony Barron was educated at University College Cork and Trinity College Dublin. His research and teaching interests focus upon intertextual relationships between the arts and the history of ideas.

11.30-1.00: Parallel sessions 9 and 10

Parallel session 9: Women's Voices in sickness and in health

AULA MAX

Chair: Dr Eluska Fernandez

Oonagh Walsh: 'Soloists and Choirs' – women's voices in the District Asylums

Conor Heffernan: Fitness and Fun That's Not Just for Mum – the Women's League of Health and Beauty in 1930s Ireland

Brought to Ireland in the early 1930s, the Women's League of Health and Beauty quickly became one of the most popular recreational outlets for Irishwomen. This talk seeks to explore its reach, popularity and meaning for these women.

Conor is a current IRC and Universities Ireland funded student at University College Dublin. His PhD research, under the supervision of Dr Paul Rouse, concerns physical culture in Ireland from 1890 to 1939.

Sabina Brennan: Empowerment Through Entertainment

Translating complex scientific content into easy-to-understand animations that aim to entertain and empower.

Sabina Brennan (PhD) is a Research Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin. She is interested in empowerment through entertainment.

Parallel session 10: Remembering ourselves

WEST WING 5

Chair:

Anne Byrne: Learning From Our Past – Family Stories and Secret Keepers

This paper, based on the life of Cumann na mBan member, Molly Bastible, considers how we co-construct in time, ideological and personal stories from archival fragments and the spaces in between those fragments.

*Dr Anne Byrne is a sociologist working with stories of contemporary and historical women's lives as related through voice, letters, diaries, images and artefacts. She is the founder of the Narrative Inquiry Conference. Anne.Byrne@nuigalway.ie
<http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=450>
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/people/political-science-and-sociology/annebyrne/>*

Mary Marmion: The Sword and the Sandal

Introducing writer Elizabeth Boyle and protagonist Sally Glynn, a romantic young woman in rural Ireland during the War of Independence. Memoir as Fiction?

Mary Marmion MA is a graduate of Women's Studies UCD. Feminist. Independent scholar with particular interest in formation of identity in Irish State. Disability advocate.

Orla Egan: Queer Voices

This paper will seek to bring queer voices to the fore and to explore the history of the LGBT community in Cork and the role that community has played in bringing about social and political change in Irish society. It will discuss the work of the Cork LGTB Archive in attempting to preserve and share the rich history of the Cork LGBT Community. www.corklgbtarchive.com

Orla Egan is the creator and curator of the Cork LGBT Archive and author of Queer Republic of Cork http://www.onstream.ie/books/queer_republic.htm. She has a long history of involvement in LGBT and feminist activism, in community development and in the development and delivery of Women's Studies programmes. She is currently completing a PhD in Digital Arts and Humanities.

12.00-1.00: Feminist Killjoy – living with unpopular opinions (18 participants)

WEST WING 7

Limerick Feminist Network

Part discussion, part rant, fully cathartic, Feminist Killjoy will see Limerick Feminist Network members facilitate an interactive discussion where attendees are invited to share their experiences of what it's like living with sometimes unpopular feminist opinions. The purpose of this workshop is to celebrate and commiserate what it is like to live a feminist life and take up space as a woman*. (This event is trans/queer/nonbinary inclusive).

Yvonne Murphy is the founder of the Limerick Feminist Network. She is currently completing her MA dissertation on the topic of sexual consent. She has experience working in sexual and domestic violence support services and is an avid repeal the 8th campaigner. @YvieLFN

Margaret O Connor is a postgraduate student in University of Limerick studying for a Masters in Gender, Culture and Society. She works as a community development worker and counsellor with research interests in motherhood and mental health. @Magwot6

Rua O'Neill has recently graduated with a 1st Class Hons BA in Sociology and English Literature. She is an intersectional feminist, terrible pacifist, and impossible to have a conversation with because she demands evidence for everything, especially sexist and racist opinions dressed up as intellectualism.

1.00-1.45: Lunch break

AULA MAX

Light lunch provided

1.45-2.15: Women's Studies in Ireland

WEST WING 5

Chair: Michael Rowan, UCC ACE

Rola Abu Zeid O'Neill: Do we really need Women's Studies in Irish academia?

Many challenges faced this academic discipline, starting from changing its title to 'Gender Studies', not having an under-graduate degree in Women's Studies. Therefore, do we need 'Women's Studies' in Irish academia? And how can our students and postgraduates use the information and insights gained during their studies?

Rola is a political and feminist sociologist who has an interest in memory, ethnicity, conflict, Middle East, immigrant communities, women and Islam, and Islamic feminism. Adult Continuing Education (ACE), University College Cork (UCC), Ireland – Coordinator of Diploma in Women Studies, and Diploma in Development and Global Human Right Studies. PhD student, Department of Sociology, University College Cork (UCC), Ireland.

2.15-15.10: Film Reading/Performance (World Premiere)

AULA MAXIMA

Chair: Maeve O'Riordan

Oonagh Kearney and UCC MA in Women's Studies students: Did Your Granny Have A Hammer?

Did Your Granny Have A Hammer? is a film script featuring some of the women who fought in the 1916 rising. Written by award-winning Irish director Oonagh Kearney it focuses on the multiple legacies left by Dr Kathryn Lynn. The script was not made into a film, but Oonagh and the MA students of UCC's Women's Studies program will bring it to life using other means especially for this conference.

Zsuzsanna Eszes is an MA student in Women's Studies. She is a secondary schools teacher from Hungary. She has been living in Ireland for almost ten years.

Anne Haller is a MA student in the UCC Women's Studies program from Estonia with a background in law.

Helin Khan is from Portsmouth in the UK and currently studying Master's in Women's Studies here at UCC. She previously studied English Literature and Politics in Bristol.

Samar Khan is from India and doing her Masters in Women's Studies. She has been involved in cultural activities like theatre, dance, song performances and sees them to be a potential political medium to express cultural resistance.

Mary-Anne Oke is an MA student in Women's Studies with African and American family lineage.

Svenja Weiss is a postgraduate student in Women's Studies and a former graduate of 'Anglophone Studies'. Currently, she is part of the project Unveiled Horizons, which aims to document and make visible the lives of women.

15.10 Coffee Break

AULA MAX

15.25-17.00: Parallel sessions 11 and 12

Parallel session 11: How to do commemoration

AULA MAXIMA

Chair: Dr Ciara Chambers, UCC

Mary McAuliffe: Commemorating the Revolutionary Women – broadening the narrative or 'PC' gone mad!

To the surprise of many, the centenary commemorations of 1916 included much reflection on the voices, contributions and histories of the women of 1916. This paper considers the how these commemorations invigorated the public's interest in women and how they showcased the rich trove of women's histories published in the last 40 years. However, as the year advanced the centrality of women to the commemorative narrative also engendered a backlash – how and why that happened will be considered?

Mary McAuliffe is an Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at UCD. She holds a PhD from the School of History and Humanities, Trinity College, Dublin. Her latest publication were *We were there; 77 women of the Easter Rising* (co-written with Liz Gillis) and *Kerry 1916; Histories and Legacies of the Easter Rising* on which she was co-editor.

Heather Laird: Televising the Rising – women, history and commemoration

RTÉ's centenary drama, *Rebellion*, was marketed as a bottom-up, woman-centred story of the Rising that told of 'ordinary people' in 'extraordinary times'. This paper argues that *Rebellion* is underpinned by a conventional historical framework that is anything

but bottom-up and woman-centred; indeed, in keeping with commemorative practices more generally, *Rebellion* is grounded in the assumption that history is comprised of key events driven by exceptional people.

Heather Laird is a lecturer in English at University College Cork. She is a postcolonial scholar whose research interests include theories and practices of resistance, critical/radical historical frameworks, and Irish culture since the early nineteenth century.

Ailbhe McDaid: War Widowhood in Irish Literature

This paper examines literary representations of female bereavement in Irish conflicts and considers ways in which the ambiguous position of Irish war widows reflects concerns around gender, sexuality and the role of women set against a backdrop of wider cultural complexities of national identity in a changing Irish society.

Ailbhe McDaid is Busted Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool. Her book *The Poetics of Migration in Contemporary Irish Poetry* is forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan in 2017.

Parallel session 12: Women and career structures

WEST WING 5

Chair: Maeve O'Riordan

Michael Rowan: Women's role in the military – the Irish Defence Forces context

This presentation will look at how Irish women serve in and adapt to the foremost hegemonic masculine organisation of the state. How they forge careers for themselves in the Defence Forces and the challenges to those careers and why their participation numerically is limited.

Michael Rowan is a retired Army Officer who was Chief Instructor in Human Rights at the Defence Forces United Nations Training School Ireland. He completed the MA in Women's Studies at UCC in 2012, he is currently Chairman of Cork City South; Citizens Information Service.

Tanja Poppelreuter: 'This is not a Success Story' – the work of the architect Florence Fulton Hobson.

In 1911 Florence Fulton Hobson (1881-1978) was the third woman architect who was licensed by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the first professional woman architect in Ireland. The story of her career gives an account of the preconceptions about women in architecture and of the creative ways in which she addressed these.

Tanja Poppelreuter is a Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at the University of Ulster in Belfast. She specialises in architectural history and theory of the 20th century and has published in the fields of exile studies, gender studies and spatial perception.

Karen Sethuraman: Women pioneering – the church context

Many women are 'pregnant' with a calling, a vision, an idea. They are called to lead,

pastor, preach, teach, pioneer, champion, and take risks. These women are all waiting for the right time and place to give birth to their visions. My question to the church is: what are we going to do with all these 'pregnant' women?

My name is Karen Sethuraman. Church Planter/Pioneer. Celtic thinker. The founder of The Down Community, (a Celtic Community based in Northern Ireland, and The Elizabeth Programme (we advocate gender-equality in all environments, particularly the Church). I love spending time with my family, books, Indian food and good wine.

17.00-17.45: Mary Evans; The Persistence of Gender Inequality – not sensational enough for notice?

AULA MAXIMA

Chair: Dr Anne Byrne, NUIG

In this talk I wish to address those continuing, if changing, patterns of inequality between women and men. But central to this is the question of why we are so often dismissive of this continuity; have we assumed that the issue no longer exists?

Mary Evans is at present a Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics. In the past decades she has taught sociology and women's/gender studies in the UK and the USA and published a number of books on aspects of feminist theory. Her most recent book is The Persistence of Gender Inequality (Polity, 2017) and she is currently working on a study of changing meanings of the 'respectability' of women.

17.45-18.15: Wine and cheese reception

AULA MAXIMA

18.15-20.00: 'Speaking Nearby' – giving voice to women through collaborative filmmaking in Northern Ireland

We Were There Film Screening and panel discussion

WEST WING 5

Laura Aquiar, Fionna Barber, Joanna McMinn and Amanda Dunsmore

Sunday 11 June

10.15: Walking tour to the Port of Cork to see Unveiled Horizons exhibition with Prof. Jools Gilson

Unveiled Horizons is an intermedia art project about women in port cities, exhibited on the Custom House Quay. Women from Cork joins portraits of women from China, Morocco, France and Scotland.

Carl Cordonnier works as a photographer/visual artist. He creates portraits of people by engaging them closely in the artistic process. He is currently engaged in health and equal rights international projects.

Jools Gilson is Professor of Creative Practice and Head of the School of Music and Theatre at UCC. She works as a transdisciplinary artist and broadcaster, making radio, installation and performance.

11.00: Talk on Unveiled Horizons in collaboration with Cork Harbour Festival

WOMEN'S VOICES IN IRELAND

