



Atlantic Anthropological Antraipeolaíochta Atlantach

Convenors: Dr. James Cuffe & Dr. Fiona Murphy

Sacred Heart University, 8th, 9th & 10th April 2022

Dingle Campus, Daingean Uí Chúis, Co. Kerry, Ireland



Our workshop offers a multi-modal exploration of anthropology in its broadest sense. Set in the beautiful environs of the Dingle peninsula, participants will engage in contemporary theory and method with research-active scholars. The workshop is open to anthropology students and those with background or interest in cognate disciplines. Enquiries to Dr. James Cuffe, jamescuffe@ucc.ie.

Mode: 1 x **plenary** (2hrs); 3 x **masterclasses** (5 hrs); 3 x **small sessions** (3.5 hrs), 2 x **field trips** (6 hrs)

Assessment: 1 x written assessment – optional, if credit needed via University College Cork

Faculty: Isabel Bennett SHU, James Cuffe UCC, Billy Mag Fhloinn SHU, Kieran Keohane UCC, Dáithí de Mórdha SHU, Fiona Murphy QUB, Kevin Power SHU

We look forward to welcoming you - go n-éirí an bóthar leat

This workshop is a collaboration between University College Cork, Queens University Belfast and Sacred Heart University and was made possible thanks to the following generous sponsors:

Dingle Campus Office at Sacred Heart University

CACSSS Graduate Studies Office and CACSSS International Office at University College Cork

The School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queens University Belfast

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**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Welcome to Sacred Heart University in Dingle.

Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut has a dedicated Irish campus in Dingle, County Kerry, since 2002. The aim of SHU in Dingle is to engage US students in a broad global understanding of a variety of disciplinary fields of study. Students experience the rich environment surrounding Dingle and discover how engagement with local people and with Irish educational institutions expands their vision of an international community.

Directors: John Roney & Grace Flannery

Day One

16:00 *Welcome Address & Introductions*

16:30 *Ritual & Ceremony*

1A: Billy Mag Fhloinn

20:00 *end day one – Dick Macks*

Day Two

09:30 *Digitising Dingle / Taming Technology*

2A: James Cuffe

Main Room, 2nd Floor

OR

Anthropology & The Environment

2B: Fiona Murphy

Fresco Room, Ground Floor

11:00 *Coffee/Tea*

11:30 *Directed Small Session A1 / A2 / A3*

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 *Covid 19, Sacrifice and Gift*

with Kieran Keohane – Chair Jms

Fresco Room, Ground Floor

15:30 *Ethnographic Excursion*

with Dáithí de Mórdha

20:00 *end day two – Nellie Freds*

Day Three

09:30 *Directed Small Session, B1 / B2 / B3*

10:30 *Coffee/Tea*

11:00 *Directed Small Session, C1 / C2 / C3*

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 *Anthropology & Storytelling*

3A: Fiona Murphy

Main Room, 2nd Floor

OR

Anthropology & The Smart City

3B: James Cuffe

Fresco Room, Ground Floor

15:30 *Archaeological Excursion*

with Isabel Bennett

19:00 *closing meal – Geaneys*

20:00 *closing ceremony – McCarthy's*

with Billy Mag Fhloinn

Day Four

Depart

Plenary

Covid 19, Sacrifice and Gift – Kieran Keohane

This essay articulates two theoretical paradigms to help us account for both the bad (violent) and good (collaborative) manifestations of the current Covid-19 pandemic crisis by drawing on theories of René Girard and Marcel Mauss. The divergent paradigms of Girard and Mauss are brought into conversation with one another by historicizing the Western privilege given to sacrificial spectacles still dominated by a romantic fascination for the sublime, and I argue for a revitalization of a general economy of the gift, one that encompasses also the logic of sacrifice as future-oriented ‘giving up’; a life-affirming expenditure-investment in inter-generational solidarity to turn around the zoophagia of late modern competitive individualism so as to ‘re-create life out of life.’

Masterclasses

1A: Old Rituals and New Needs – Billy Mag Fhlionn

This presentation explores the role of ritual and ceremony in contemporary culture, specifically focusing on Pagan Rave. This is an ongoing, performance-based project which aims to reimagine and repurpose the folk traditions and calendar customs of Ireland. It will examine the various sources of inspiration for the project, and the interface between art, academia, ceremony, tradition, and community.

2A: Digitising Dingle – James Cuffe

This talk explores the government supported initiative to digitally transform the Dingle peninsula through the roll out of IoT in agriculture, business, tourism and education. An overview presents the context and issues for consideration before delving into one case study examining the impact of the digital skills initiative in Blennerville National School outside Tralee. Problems associated with children’s use of mobiles and internet led to radical restrictions of access to mediative devices for those children. Paradoxically this school is also a national Digital School of Distinction. The case exemplifies how community and sociality can overcome negative aspects of digital social transformation and, drawing on Borgmann, re-establish the social as communal focal point in new ways.

2B: Anthropology & The Environment – Fiona Murphy

This class engages students in thinking about how anthropological work on the climate crisis through the lens of sustainability. It will consider a number of different case studies such as the mining crisis in Australia and its relationship to Indigenous communities, climate refugees and the sustainable city.

3A: Anthropology & Storytelling – Fiona Murphy

The anthropologist Michael Jackson said of anthropologists and stories that “Anthropologists are storytellers. We tell lots of different kinds of stories: other’s stories, our own stories, stories about other’s stories. We tell stories, the textures of people’s daily lives, to make theoretical arguments and embed narrative to convey storied lives in an analytical voice.” This class will consider the role of storytelling and consider the reason why it occupies such a pivotal place in anthropological research and text.

3B: Anthropology & The Smart City – James Cuffe

European society is on the cusp of radical social change due to recent innovations characterizing the 4th Industrial Revolution: augmented intelligence [AI], automation, robotisation, digitisation, internet-of-things [IoT] and intelligent algorithms are poised to drastically alter the rhythms of everyday life. Of central concern is the protection of human values within cyber-social transformations against the backdrop of private companies and policy initiatives promoting the 'Smart City'. The Smart City also signifies a type of imagining of human experience, a discourse around how to realise it and a techno-optimism that does not protect against the unforeseen consequences of new technologies. One of these consequences is the detrimental impact technology can have on human values as modes and opportunities for the full array of potential actions and expressions are altered, negated, or ignored. This talk explores the mediation of values in the smart city through an anthropological lens.

Directed Small Sessions

please choose 1 session only from each group of A, B and C

Group A

DSS-A1: The Age of Degenerate Law – Kevin Power

The Age of Degenerate Law: Are we always living at 'the end of history'? In Eihei Dogen Mystical Realist, Hee Jin Kim describes the 11th Century Buddhist scholarly notion of The Age of Degenerate Law: "reinforced by incessant earthquakes, fires, murders, epidemics, and famines... a historical consciousness developed that was based on a sense of 'apocalyptic crisis' and a conviction in the utter wretchedness and helplessness of human kind." Using the global ecological and geopolitical outlook of recent years as focal points we will discuss the relevance and applicability of this idea.

DSS-A2: The Age of Technology – James Cuffe

There is a bewildering array of approaches to technology – substantivist, pluralist, instrumentalist, design theory, postphenomenological, engineering and so on. This session takes a whirlwind tour through these theories to familiarise students with basic conceptual and ideological frameworks that underpin these approaches. Key scholars will be introduced and their importance to the social study of technology highlighted. This session will be valuable to any students where technology and the digital features in their research helping them to identify first principles for examination in ethnographic research.

DSS-A3: The Age of Conflict and Displacement – Fiona Murphy

This session will consider the issue of displacement, loss and conflict through the lens of some key anthropological work in this area. It will ask a number of key questions Together we will construct a reading of loss as it is situated in both its psychological construction as a form of mourning, melancholia, nostalgia, sadness and depression and within its social scientific frame as contested sets of relations and structures of feeling in historical, economic and socio-political processes. We will ask a number of questions such as: How can we understand the lived experience of loss in the context of displacement? What forms of agency and belonging have been engendered through the politicisation of loss? How is loss differently felt, imagined, negotiated, and engaged with in different displacement contexts and experiences? What implications does this have in both practical and theoretical terms?

Group B

DSS-B1: Anthropology and Death – Fiona Murphy

This session will ask students to read some core texts from the anthropology of death and together we will consider what anthropology has contributed to both our historical understandings of death but also new forms of death and burial, including digital death.

DSS-B2: Information and the Nature of Reality – Kevin Power

In the anthology *Information and the Nature of Reality*, author Philip Clayton lays out the development and criteria of materialism as a scientific paradigm, and then presents instances in which scientific and philosophical developments undermine materialism as a dominant worldview. In this session we will discuss and challenge the validity of non-materialist perspectives, and assess the merits and disadvantages of moving society forward on materialist terms.

DSS-B3: Mikhail Bakhtin and Anthropological Research – James Cuffe

The session introduces the towering and complex figure of Russian philosopher and literary critic Mikhail Bakhtin. The impact of Bakhtin in anthropological research has yet to be realised in the same manner as Michel Foucault, this session examines how his concepts and ideas can contribute to anthropology under an innovative ontological framework that helps overcome some theoretical and methodological issues such as cultural relativism within the anthropological canon.

Group C

DSS-C1: Relationships in Anthropology Fiona Murphy

Relationships are at the core of the anthropological encounter. This session invites students to reflect on the different ways anthropology considers different kinds of relationalities as an object of study and as a methodological way of being in the field. It will posit a number of questions about the nature of kinship and friendship in the field.

DSS-C2: Architectures of Choice – James Cuffe

This session deep dives into Albert O. Hirschman's seminal work *The Passions and The Interests* and examines it against contemporary Behavioural Economics (exemplified by recent 'nudge theory') to explore conceptualisations of the life paths we choose for ourselves. Do we really have choice at all, how does choice work, how is choice manipulated, can we overcome illusions of choice and establish criteria for where choice really might exist?

DSS-C3: Shaping the Earth to Suit Ourselves – Kevin Power

Throughout his writing Kerry born philosopher John Moriarty explores how human belief systems inform our perceptions and treatment of our planet and our fellow humans. In this session we will discuss Moriarty's identification of the cultural, religious, philosophical and behavioural factors that have shaped human society to this point with particular emphasis on ecology and social organisation.

Field Excursions

As Irish weather, particularly on the wild Atlantic coast, can be unpredictable

please bring sun-cream and shades in case of blistering sun.

Ethnographic Excursion - People & Place on the Dingle Peninsula - Dáithí de Mórdha

This excursion will bring students on a guided tour of the environs around Dingle. Dáithí will discuss the impact of the landscape on its people and of the people on the landscape.

Archaeological Excursion – Digs in Dingle - Isabel Bennett

This excursion will introduce students to the recent and current archaeological work taking place on the Dingle Peninsula with local expert Isabel.

Atlantic Anthropological Faculty

Professor Kieran Keohane

Kieran is a Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology. He teaches also in Anthropology, and in the Centre for Planning Education & Research. He is a founder member of Society, Economy & Culture research centre; the Social Pathologies of Contemporary Civilization network; and he is a member of the Deep Institutional Innovation for Sustainability & Human Development. His work is (tries to be) inter/transdisciplinary, as reflected by his publications in Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Literature, Politics, Environment, and Public Health, and presently focused on and collected within the framework of the cascading social, political, moral, and ecological crises associated with late modern civilization and the Anthropocene.

Dr. James Cuffe

James is a Lecturer in Anthropology and co-Director of the MA Anthropology programme at University College Cork. James became intrigued by the speed of technological change in China's cities during his ethnographic fieldwork in China and his research interests now focus on the impact of technology on social and cultural life. James is particularly interested in the philosophy of technology and how such theories can be enriched through ethnographic research and anthropological understanding. His most recent book is "China at a Threshold" (Routledge: 2020) explores the impact of technosocial change in a dictatorship. He is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain & Ireland and was General Editor of the *Irish Journal of Anthropology* from 2014 to 2019.

Professor Dáithí de Mórdha

Dáithí is an ethnologist and historian from Co. Kerry, Ireland. He attained a degree in History & Irish from NUI Galway in 2005, a master's degree in Ethnology from University College Cork in 2012, and a PhD in Ethnology from UCC in 2019. He is currently adjunct instructor in History & Anthropology in SHU Campus Dingle. His areas of interest includes Folk Memory, Indigenous Knowledge and Verbal Artforms, Oral & Folk History, and Visual Anthropology. He is also interested in ideas and concepts of

race, and in how to use folk memory and oral history to inform historical research and teaching. He is a former Director of the Great Blasket Heritage Centre in West Kerry, a Centre dedicated to the memory of the people of the Blasket Islands.

Dr. Kevin Power

Kevin J. Power received his PhD in Philosophy from University College Cork in 2015. He has lectured in philosophy of mind, environmental ethics, philosophy of death and dying, as well as writing and delivering a unique module entitled 'The Philosophy of Interdependence' for UCC's Adult Continuing Education programme, and teaching Bioethics at the Dingle campus of Sacred Heart University. His research interests are philosophy of mind (in particular metaphysics of self), ecology, mysticism and the Irish philosopher John Moriarty.

Professor Billy Mag Fhloinn

Billy has a Ph.D. in Folkloristics, and a B.A. in Archaeology from University College Dublin. As well as lecturing and tutoring at university level, he also works with Irish television for RTÉ or TG4, but occasionally for international productions, including the BBC, PBS or the National Geographic Channel. He is also an accomplished musician and occasionally works as a tour guide in the Dingle Peninsula. He has taught courses with Sacred Heart University in Dingle in Celtic Religion and Mythology as well as Irish Folklore and History since 2014. Billy's scholarly interests include pre-Christian religious practices and beliefs, prehistoric archaeology, and folk practices of early modern Ireland. In 2016 he published a book entitled *Blood Rite: The Feast of St. Martin in Ireland*.

Dr. Fiona Murphy

Fiona is an anthropologist with specialisms in indigenous politics and movements, refugees and mobility studies, and sustainability studies. She also has an interest in business anthropology and consumer culture theory. She has experience conducting research in Australia, Ireland, the UK, France and Turkey. The key thematics in my work include trauma, memory, reconciliation, mobility and sustainability/resilience. I have served as secretary of the Anthropological Association of Ireland (2013-2015) and book review editor for the Irish Journal of Anthropology (2011-2014). I am a member of a number of Anthropology networks and associations, including the European Association of Anthropologists and American Anthropological Association. I am currently co-ordinator with Dr. Katja Siedel of the Peace and Conflict Anthropology Network of EASA. My current work focuses on the politics of reparations in the context of the removal and institutionalisation of Aboriginal Australian children. I also work extensively on the topic of asylum seekers and refugees in Ireland, Turkey and the UK. I am co-author of *Integration in Ireland: The everyday life of African migrants* (MUP, 2012). I have written for Open Democracy, the Irish times, Books Ireland, Headstuff Ireland, The Conversation UK, RTE Brainstorm, Allegra: A Virtual Lab of Legal Anthropology Blog and for the LSE Review of Books.

Ms. Isabel Bennett

Isabel Bennett is an archaeologist and museum curator who has been living and working on the Dingle Peninsula since 1982, though is originally from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Isabel works in Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh and is also very involved in the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society (editing their journal), Dingle Peninsula Tourism, a local marketing group (of which she is currently Chairperson), an Díseart in Dingle, an educational facility on whose board she sits, as well as being a member of various archaeological groups. She has been editor of the annual *Excavations* bulletin since the late 1980s.



Accommodation
Dingle Marina Cottages

Bus Stop

Campus
Sacred Heart University is located at An Díseart Centre on Green Street

Tralee is well serviced by rail and bus from across the country.

Bus from Tralee to Dingle takes approximately 1 hour and times on Friday are as follows, book online for cheaper fares and use your student ID, please double check the times that week in case of change:

<u>Tralee (Bus Station)</u>											
<u>To Dingle</u>	06:00	08:00	09:00	11:15	12:30	14:00	16:15	18:00	19:30	22:00	

Please arrive between 13:00 and 15:00 to allow yourself time to get settled in the accommodation and orientate yourself. It is approx. 15 minute walk from accommodation to the campus.

James & Fiona will be on hand to show you where to go, give you keys and advise as necessary.

For those coming from Belfast please contact Fiona. For everyone else please contact James.

Fiona: f.murphy@gub.ac.uk

James: jamescuffe@ucc.ie