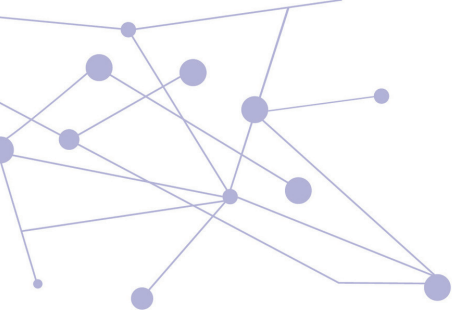
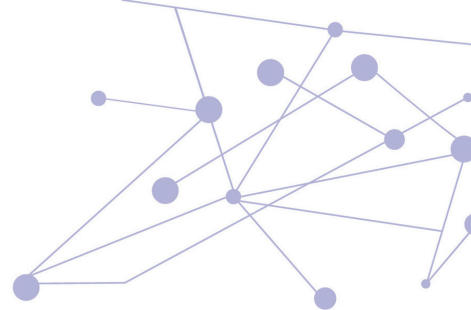


Future Humanities Institute

Celebration of Trailblazing Seed-Funded Projects



UCCFUTURES
Future Humanities



Future Humanities Institute Institiúid na nDaonnachtaí Feasta

Welcome from Dr Yvon Bonenfant, Director, Future Humanities



At the Future Humanities Institute, we are engaged with urgent and pressing questions that activate and reveal the human condition, and that stimulate the human imagination. Our dynamic, adventurous and interdisciplinary thematic clusters weave the warp and weft against which our scholars and artists generate their exciting insights. Our vanguard Radical Humanities Laboratory – a critical space with boundary-expanding and cross-cutting themes, bringing the humanities to a range of other fields – is also key to leading the way to reimagined futures. The arts' and humanities' capacity to involve people, and our ability to bring together seemingly disparate threads of thought, analysis, creation and action in order to propose and communicate innovative solutions, are critical components of what research needs to do, for society – and with society – now.

These pilot projects are an investment in how transdisciplinary adventure can open doors to the research imagination. We invite you to delve into their outcomes today. Welcome.

Programme:

- Welcome from Prof. John Cryan, Vice President for Research and Innovation
- Welcome from Dr James Kapaló, Vice Head of College - Research, CACSSS
- Introduction to event by Yvon Bonenfant, PhD, Director of the Future Humanities Institute
- Presentations by:
 - Prof. Laura Rascaroli
 - Dr Hannah Silvester and Dr Céire Broderick
 - Dr James Cuffe (& Team)
 - Prof. Jools Gilson (& Team)
 - And an update from the Radical Humanities Lab
- Invitation to Wine and Canapés
- Exploration of interaction stations in Granary Main Space and Granary Studio (up spiral staircase)

Essaying Democracy in Europe

Prof. Laura Rascaroli & colleagues*



***Prof. Deane Williams, Dr Lourdes Monterrubio Ibáñez, Prof. Stefano Baschiera, Dr Stefano Odorico, Dr Des O'Rawe, Dr Tatsuma Padoan, Dr Julia Vassilieva, Dr Brenda Hollweg**

The Great Wall (Tadhg O'Sullivan, 2015). Courtesy of the filmmaker. Photo: Santi Palacios.

Essaying Democracy in Europe is an exploration of what it claims is the renewed importance of the essay for democracy. The essay form, which refuses thought's reduction to what Theodor Adorno referred to as instrumental rationality, can be a mode of anti-systematic resistance, and as such is increasingly relevant in this age of momentous societal and environmental challenges.

While characteristically an oblique and occasional activity, essayistic production has been expanding exponentially since the digital revolution and adapting to new media, emerging as a diffuse but pervasive alternative space of deliberation. Over the past twenty years, it has become a crucial form of audio-visual expression, from film to installation, from the Internet to Virtual Reality. This project argues that the essay, with its heretical attitude towards generic rules, its protean quality, its historically positioned subject, and its dialogical structure and mode of address, holds a formidable democratic potential as a tool for both a subjective and collective critical engagement with complexity, and for the expression of alternative points of view via the media.

The project studies audio-visual essayistic expressions in film, video, online, and immersive/interactive environments as these engage with crucial societal challenges and support non-instrumental rationality and democratic deliberation.

Outcomes include a series of networking and project development meetings were held, in person and online, with scholars of the essay film from Ireland, Northern Ireland, the UK, France, and Australia. A scoping exercise was developed by a postdoctoral researcher, mapping research funding opportunities for an international collaborative research project.

An outline project was developed by the PI and a postdoctoral researcher, in consultation with international scholars. Plans were made towards applications to two research funding opportunities in Australia (ARC) and in UK (AHRC) in 2024.

Trans/Actions: Translation as Activism
Dr Hannah Silvester, Dr Céire Broderick and
Elizabeth Rosales Martínez



Trans/Actions: Translation as Activism is a community-driven project considering the intersections of activism (acts of solidarity) and translation, understood in their broadest sense, from a theoretical and practical perspective. We work with translators, creative practitioners, academics, public service and healthcare professionals, and community groups in Ireland, to explore ways in which we can combine translation and activism to serve members of marginalised communities.

Our inaugural event brought stakeholders together to consider challenges being faced by members of the communities and the ways in which a Trans/Actions community of practice could provide support. **Notable challenges highlighted by the community during this discussion included** underpayment and job insecurity for translation professionals, burnout, and lack of access to funding. These are represented in the graphic artwork displayed at the showcase and on the project website.

Now that the community of practice has been constituted, and goals identified, we will move forward by putting certain activities, events and supports in place, while continuing to grow the community. We have established a resources hub and mailing list to support members of the community of practice, and in the longer-term plan to facilitate training in trauma-informed interpreting and run awareness-raising campaigns around the challenges identified.

Outcomes include the hosting of an inaugural workshop with key stakeholders in translation and activism in Ireland, the constitution of a community of practice, and relationship building with a view to a New Foundations grant application in 2024. Furthermore, our website www.translationactivism.org houses the graphic harvesting from discussions at our hybrid workshop.



Conversing the Void: The Humanities and the Conversation Engine Dr James Cuffe and colleagues*

*Dr. James O'Sullivan, Prof. Luigina Ciolfi, Prof. Jason Wiens, Dr. Fiona Murphy, Dr. Kevin Power, Prof. Ana Daniel, Prof. Eglé Butkevičienė, Dr. Dana Silvina Trif, Prof. Benjamin Buchwitz, Dr. Paul Clogher, Dr. Tom Børsen, Lucy McSweeney, Molly McGrath, Peter Walsh, German Vazquez

Conversing the Void takes an open stance in examining a participatory relationship with such language processors through 3 inquiries and then further explores this relationship in terms of normative tradition and speculative futures. The aim is to develop a growing cross-disciplinary international network that can outline how such platforms might evolve and how humans might collectively engage with such platforms in the future. Through this deeper understanding, our research network will contribute, through the Future Humanities Institute at UCC, to better informed responses on the upcoming technological, social and cultural challenges, both locally and globally, as different LLMs further integrate with society.

This collaborative project will integrate a multitude of interdisciplinary perspectives. The network will initially be formed inviting collaborative research following these questions:

- 1) how will the increased accessibility of Large Language Models impact future academic pedagogy?
- 2) how do Large Language Models affect public discourse?
- 3) what does the emerging social ecology for these language models look like?

Outcomes include

- A) Three position papers were written by different grouping of team members crossing disciplines and geographies on each of the initial research questions to be published in Computers & Culture
 - B) HERA Crisis Application submitted under the acronym “TechnoCrisis”
 - C) Development of Transnational Networks - as a result of the seed funding, the CyberSocial Research Team developed links and partnerships with colleagues across 9 countries and 13 universities, see team details below.
3. This project was led by the Director of the CyberSocial Research Lab Dr. James Cuffe.

Tempestries:

Textiles, Tactility & the Climate Emergency

Prof. Jools Gilson & colleagues*



*Dr Brendan O'Flynn, Benjamin Burns, Dr Liudmila Khokhlova, Dr Veronica Santorum

Tempestries is a Transdisciplinary Artistic Research project. This nuanced collaborative co-creation with Cloonshannagh Bog in Co. Roscommon is designed to produce a dance theatre production, a gallery installation and public engagement activities. Tempestries listens deeply as a way to make playful and plural speculative dancing histories grounded in natural, archaeological and data analytic science. Both performance and installation strands of Tempestries are haunted by lively textiles which whisper to you when you breathe into them, or respond to touch with tumbles of story, sound and light or sing as you move. Such enchanted textiles animated by movement implicate dance artists and audience / visitors into story through literal and metaphoric connection to the Irish peatland bog.

The FHI Seed Funding was used to develop our collaboration with the Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) Group at the Tyndall National Institute to develop prototype textiles with integrated technologies. This research is also funded by an SFI (Insight - Centre for Data Analytics) Award [ICEEED]. This research has a collaborative focus on Benjamin Burns' field recordings / sound compositions from Cloonshannagh Bog, combined with the data analytic expertise at the WSN Tyndall (Brendan O'Flynn / Liudmila Khokhlova) as well as with Veronica Santorum's textiles and Jools Gilson's choreographic / writing practice.

Outputs include development of prototype technologies embedded in textiles that can extrapolate stories and atmospheres as they relate to Irish wetlands and climate change. Field Trip to Cloonshannagh Bog, Co. Roscommon May 2023. 3 week R&D with professional dance artists & sharing of work at Dance Cork Firkin Crane – Jul / Aug 2023 (Funded by an Arts Council Dance Bursary). SFI (Insight) Seed Funding awarded June 2023 - €20K / ICEEED – Insightful Movement for Climate Change Education: Engaging & Empowering Through Dance. Funding applications submitted for Arts Council / Cork City Council & plans to apply for SFI Discover Award in 2024.

Radical Humanities Laboratory

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RADICAL FUTURES

*The Inaugural Conference of the
Radical Humanities Laboratory*
8 - 9 May 2024

Call for Papers, Panels & Performances

Keynote Speakers

Whitney Battle-Baptiste | Beryl Pong

Plenary Panelists

Gargi Bhattacharyya | Mairead Enright | Eva Haifa Giraud

"What forms of thought and practice can meet the challenges of our present moment?"

Radical Futures: The Inaugural Conference of the Radical Humanities Laboratory invites scholars, scientists, artists, activists, archivists, and policy shapers, to engage in conversations about the roots of our present crises – ecological, political and social, and provides a space to explore how our collective futures might be better understood, transformed and lived as new potentials and trajectories emerge in response to these crises.



About the Radical Humanities Laboratory

Saotharlann na nDaonnachtaí Fréamhaí

Ours is an epoch of violence and apparent breakdown, with long term sources. But it is also an era of unexpected conjunctures and new possibilities. Statues have fallen and new movements have shaken the foundations of contemporary politics, economics and society. Technological change and transformations disorient all stable reference points. Science and the Arts are no longer two cultures, but intertwined fields that take strange, new and hybrid forms.

What forms of thought and action can meet such a moment?

To be radical is to grasp things by the root. The Radical Humanities Laboratory at University College Cork opens a space for post- and anti- disciplinary practices across the university's four colleges. It puts critical and experimental work from the Humanities at the heart of fundamental research addressing the causes and consequences of the present: on how it can be understood, changed, or lived differently, as new trajectories emerge. It builds on a sense of place; the clear view from a periphery within a periphery; the possibilities of an island.

We welcome scholars, scientists, artists, archivists, activists and disrupters in Cork, Ireland, and beyond, to engage with us in conversation about the roots of our present crises, and the alternate futures that might yet grow from them.

Future Humanities Institute

O' Rahilly Building 2.20

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For research support
please contact
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more information please
see here:
www.ucc.ie/en/cacsss/research/weeklypisurgery/



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