

Radical Humanities: Problems, Methods, Approaches

Friday 24 April 2006, 10am-3:30pm

Dora Allman Room, HUB, University College Cork

10:00 – 11:30

Panel 1

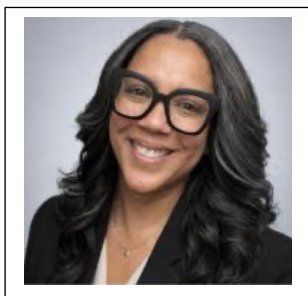
Identifying and Refining Problems that Matter

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Máiréad Enright, Adrian Favell, Anne Fuchs, James Kapaló, Caitríona Ní Dhúill

Chair: Des Fitzgerald



Des Fitzgerald (chair) is Co-Director of the Radical Humanities Laboratory at UCC. His research interests are broadly in the historical sociology of the brain and mind sciences. His most recent books are *The City of Today is a Dying Thing* (Faber & Faber, 2025) and *The Urban Brain* (with Nikolas Rose. Princeton, 2023).



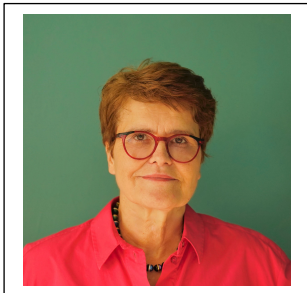
Whitney Battle-Baptiste, is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst. A native of the Bronx, New York, Dr. Battle-Baptiste is an activist-scholar who sees the classroom and campus as a space to engage contemporary issues with a sensibility of the past. Her academic training is in Black study, history and historical archaeology. Her research critically engages the interconnectedness of race, gender, class, and sexuality through an archaeological lens.



Máiréad Enright is a feminist legal scholar working on issues including reproductive justice, law reform and grassroots organising, illegality in social movements, responses to historical injustice and the law on obstetric violence. Máiréad often works with and advises groups campaigning around reproductive rights and historical gender-based violence, especially in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and occasionally collaborates with artists interested in these issues. Previous work in this area was funded by a Leverhulme Fellowship. She is currently part of the team behind the Wellcome Discovery Award “Between Deception and Dissent: Regulating Unproven, Disproven and Misleading Health-Related Claims”.



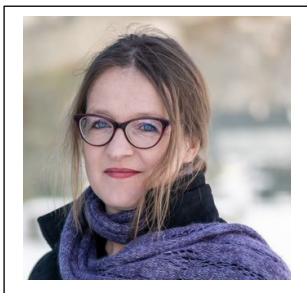
Adrian Favell is Professor of Social and Political Theory at University College Cork. He was the founding director of the Radical Humanities Lab (2022-25), and directs the ERC AdG MIGMOBS - The Orders of Borders of Global Inequality: Migration and Mobilities in Late Capitalism (2024-28).



Anne Fuchs is Full Professor of Modern German Literature and Culture and Director of the Humanities Institute at University College Dublin. She has published widely on German cultural memory; time and temporality; modernist and contemporary literature. Currently Anne is PI of the interdisciplinary project 'From Modern Crisis to Permacrisis' in collaboration with the universities of Tallinn, Adam Mickiewicz Poznań; The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Arsenal Municipal Gallery, Poznań; The Museum of Literature Ireland and NGO Fighting Words, Dublin. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. In 2025 she received the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Humanities.



James A. Kapaló is Professor in the Study of Religions at University College Cork. Working at the intersection on anthropology, history and folklore, his work addresses the impact of modernity and the state on ethnic and religious minorities in East Central Europe. From 2016 to 2021, he was Principal Investigator of the European Research Council Project Hidden Galleries (project 677355) which explored through ethnographic and participatory research the significance of religious visual and material cultural patrimony in the archives of the secret police in Hungary, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine.



Caitríona Ní Dhúill is professor of modern German literature at the University of Salzburg. She works on the relationship between literature and ecological consciousness; her publications in this area include the co-edited volumes *Precarious Life and Determined Letters* (2025) and *Anthropocene Austria* (2022). She was co-founder of the [Centre for Culture and Ecology](#) at Durham University in 2018 and of the [Eco-Humanities Research Group](#) at UCC in 2021. She currently co-directs the interuniversity consortium [Arts & Knowledges](#), Salzburg. Forthcoming publications on Rilke, Kafka, Sebald, Bernhard, re-read in the light of polycrisis.

11:45 – 13:00 Panel 2

Envisioning Innovative, Interdisciplinary Methods

Linda Connolly, Eugene Costello, Pamila Gupta, Dónal Hassett, Clíona O’Carroll

Chair: Sarah Bezan



Sarah Bezan (chair) is a member of the Radical Humanities Laboratory and of the School of English & Digital Humanities. She is Lecturer in Literature and the Environment, is an interdisciplinary researcher focusing on de-extinction/species revival, necro-ecologies, and speculative future natures. Her first monograph in progress, *Dead Darwin: Necro-Ecologies in Neo-Victorian Culture*, is under advance contract with Manchester University Press. UCC Research Affiliations: Eco-Humanities Research Group



Linda Connolly is Professor of Sociology and Director, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute. She was the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Visiting Scholar during the Lent Term 2022. Her research interests include feminism, gender, family, conflict related violence, wars, migration, and Irish studies. She is the author of several recent publications including on the gender-based violence women experienced in the Irish Revolution (1919-23), the subject of her new, forthcoming book, and led the Irish Research Council funded 'Women and the Irish Revolution' project. She has published a number of books, including *The Irish Women’s Movement: From Revolution to Devolution* (London and New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003), *The Irish Family* (London: Routledge, 2014), and *Women and the Irish Revolution: Feminism, Activism, Violence* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2020).



Eugene Costello is Professor in the School of History and Radical Humanities Laboratory at UCC. He has published widely in environmental history and landscape archaeology, including the award-winning monograph, *Transhumance and the Making of Ireland’s Uplands*. He is interested in the history of capitalism and resource exploitation, with a particular focus on the relationship between farming practices and environmental change. In December 2025 he was awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant for a major new project called *DeepCattle*. This aims to uncover the origins of commercial beef and dairy production in pre-industrial Europe, and expose its fallout over time for rural societies and environments.



Pamila Gupta is Research Professor at the University of the Free State ((South Africa) affiliated with the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (CGAS). Trained in anthropology and history, she has published widely in the fields of Indian Ocean visual cultures (Mozambique and Zanzibar); islands, heritage and design (Goa, Mozambique); and landscape, environmental and planetary studies (South Africa). Recent publications include: *Heritage and Design: Ten Portraits from Goa (India)* (Cambridge UP, 2022); *Planetary Hinterlands: Abandonment, Extraction and Care* (Co-edited with Sarah Nuttall, Esther Peeren, and Hanneke Stuit, Palgrave, 2023); *Regional Drift: Remapping Africa's Southern Oceans* (Co-edited with Caio Araujo, Routledge, 2024).



Dónal Hassett is Professor of History at Maynooth University. He is a specialist in colonial history. His research focuses on two interrelated fields of study: history of the French Empire and the legacies of conflict in the colonial world. He has published widely on these topics and his first monograph, *Mobilizing Memory: The Great War and the Language of Politics in Colonial Algeria, 1918-1939*, appeared in August 2019. Dónal is the Principal Investigator on the ERC Starting Grant Project COLVET- Ex-Soldiers of Empire: Colonial Veterancy in the Interwar World (2024-2028). This trans-imperial project compares the definition of veterancy, the treatment of veterans, and their political activism across the French, British, Italian and American colonial empires in the interwar period. You can access the project website here: <https://colvet.eu/>



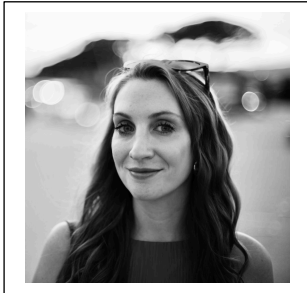
Clíona O'Carroll lectures in Folklore and Ethnology/Béaloideas in UCC. She is Research Director (since 2010) with the Cork Folklore Project, a community-based centre for oral testimony that has collected and archived more than 900 ethnographic interviews exploring the everyday and the extraordinary in Cork's past and present since its inception in 1996. Clíona has co-ordinated collection projects, radio productions, exhibitions and online digital memory-mapping projects with the CFP. As a co-chair of the SIEF Working Group on Archives, she is active in the development and promotion of archives of tradition. Most recently, she has led projects foregrounding oral testimony in the stimulation of public conversations on health, infectious disease and sustainability.

14:00 - 15:30 Panel 3

Creative and Imaginative Solutions

Dina Zoe Belluigi, Sarah-Anne Buckley, Luna Dolezal, Kate Falconer, Maggie O'Neill, & Silvia Ross

Chair: Sarah Kerr



Dr Sarah Kerr (chair) is a lecturer in archaeology and a member of the Radical Humanities Laboratory, University College Cork, Ireland. She is a buildings archaeologist and heritage specialist whose work spans Western Europe. She is interested in how buildings were the products of social norms and expectations and how, in return, they were agents that shaped everyday life. She is currently leading two projects: the first asks if we really understand what a castle is and its role in past and present identity making; the second, explores the connection between ruination aesthetics and Ireland's housing crisis.



Dina Zoe Belluigi's research considers intellectuals' negotiation of the critical function of universities in contexts undergoing transition from conflict and oppression; and related problematics within conditions for the enactment of authorship, authority, flourishing and freedom. With contrariness about reproducing static concepts in a changing world, she works with collaborators invested in addressing ahistoric consciousness, and open to methodologies recognising darkness, unknowing and counter-visibility. She is Professor of Authorship, Representation and Transformation in Academia at Queen's University Belfast, and Visiting Professor to the School of Women's Studies (Jadavpur University) and to the Chair for the Critical Study of Higher Education Transformation (Nelson Mandela University).



Sarah-Anne Buckley is Associate Professor in History at the University of Galway and Vice-Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in CASSCS. With Dr John Cunningham she is Co-PI of the *Tuam Oral History Project*, and co-author of the award-winning *Old Ireland in Colour Series* with Professor John Breslin. Vice-President Elect of the *Society for the History of Childhood and Youth*, her current COALESCE-funded project with Dr Attracta Brennan (2026-2028), *Mapping Galway's Institutional Past through Connection and Co-Creation with Survivors and those Affected*, centres on the development of interactive digital mapping tools and participatory platforms that enable communities to actively shape how their histories are represented.



Luna Dolezal is Professor of Philosophy and Medical Humanities at the University of Exeter. She is PI of the Shame & Medicine Project (funded by the Wellcome Trust) and co-Director of The Shame Lab. Luna's research is primarily in feminist phenomenology, philosophy of medicine and medical humanities. She has just finished writing a book called *Structural Shame: Reflections on the Phenomenology of Oppression*.



Kate Falconer is a Lecturer at UCC, where I am cross-posted with the School of Law and Radical Humanities Laboratory. My research interests lie in the law of the dead and bodily disposal, and private law's interactions with death, particularly through a critical and socio-legal lens. I am currently working on a project looking at changing body disposal trends in Ireland, and the changes needed to make the Irish funeral industry environmentally and socially sustainable.



Maggie O'Neill is Professor of Sociology & Criminology, Director of the Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st century and Collective Social Futures. Her long research career demonstrates expertise in critical, cultural and feminist theory, biographical, creative & mobile methods and socially engaged, policy relevant research in the fields of sex work, migration/borders, gender, crime and justice. Committed to supporting early career and PhD students she is Vice President of the ESA and editor of *The European Sociologist*, fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, a fellow of the Royal Society for Arts and an elected member of the Royal Irish Academy. Her latest co-authored book is *Walking as Critical Pedagogy* she is PI on *EuroBorderWalks* and Co-PI on *DSIS* and the Wellcome Trust institutional grant *ERICA*.



Silvia Ross is Professor in Italian at University College Cork and former Head of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (2022-2025). Her research concentrates on the representation of space in modern and contemporary literature, the subject of her monographs *Tuscan Spaces: Literary Constructions of Place* (U of Toronto P, 2010) and *Subverted Sites: Textual Representations of Conflict in Tuscany* (U of Toronto P, forthcoming 2026). Her research areas also include Italian women writers, travel writing, ecocriticism and ecofeminism, and questions of conflict, identity and alterity and the text.