

RADICAL FUTURES

*The Inaugural Conference of the
Radical Humanities Laboratory*

8th & 9th of May 2024

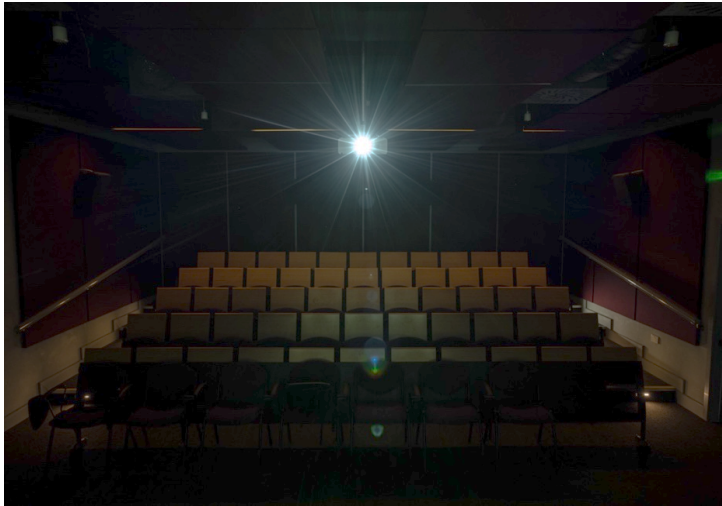
FILM TRACK: *In association w/ Film & Screen Media at UCC.*

Wednesday, May 8th - Kane Building Theater B10.B ([Directions](#) see [Conference Map](#) for Further Directions)

Film	Filmmaker(s)	Length	Showings (roughly 15 minute break between each film)	
<i>It is Always a Hard Job Keeping a Collective Together</i>	Benjamin Gerdes	43 mins	10:00	14:00

Eile {Border-Fictioning} / Lobster (11'27") & Myths for a Wetlands Imaginary (9'24")	a place of their own (Paula McCloskey and Sam Vardy)	20 mins	11:00	15:00
<i>Reminiscing Future Public Fountains</i>	Hermano Luz Rodrigues & Mariana Pereira	10 mins	11:35	15:35
<i>A Temporary Iteration</i>	Fiona Kelly	8 mins	12:00	16:00
<i>Loafers</i>	Orla Egan	55 mins	12:25	16:25

VENUE – May 8th



Theater B10.B: Large 80-seater auditorium with HD Projection System and 9.1 Cinema surround sound.

Thursday, May 9th - Shtepps in the Hub Building(see [Conference Map](#) for Further Directions)

Start Time	Film Panels and Screenings with Q & A @ Shtepps, The Hub
9:00	Chaired by Adrian Favell (Radical Humanities Laboratory)
9:05	Hermano Luz Rodrigues & Mariana Pereira, <i>Reminiscing Future Public Fountains</i> , run time: 10 min.
9:25	Fiona Kelly, <i>A Temporary Iteration</i> , run time: 8 min.
9:45	Orla Egan, <i>Loafers</i> , run time: 55 min.
11:00	Chaired by Jesse Peterson (Radical Humanities Laboratory)
11:05	Benjamin Gerdes, <i>It is Always a Hard Job Keeping a Collective Together</i> , run time: 43 min.

12:00	a place of their own (Paula McCloskey and Sam Vardy), <i>Eile {Border-Fictioning} / Lobster (11'27")</i> & <i>Myths for a Wetlands Imaginary (9'24")</i> , run time: 30 min.
15:00	NORTHERN EXPOSURE Presents: Lucy Kaye, <i>From Where We Stand</i> , run time: 60 min. Followed by Q & A with producers, Andrew Wallace and Adrian Favell

VENUE - May 9th



The Shtepps is an auditorium styled hall with a tiered seating arrangement and good audiovisual facilities.

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Sam Vardy & Paula McCloskey, *A Place of their Own*, digital, run time: 20 min.

Through a performance lecture/screening this session will explore and animate our intersectional, anti-colonial and feminist praxis in which we foreground the making of alternative imaginaries, collective story-telling and speculative

worlding. Our experimental praxis situates itself within a lineage of critical work in Ireland and internationally and uses site-specific performances, installations, films (art, fiction, documentary, archive), soundscapes, exhibition, and text/publishing.

Focusing on 3 specific geopolitical / ecological conditions (borders, wetlands and atmospheres) we work with modes of speculative fiction, western scientific knowledges, indigenous knowledges and folklore to interrogate the historical and contemporary entangled violences of colonialism and capitalism to critically question and/or enact alternative futures.

The lecture/screening will navigate the moving image, sound, performance and dialogue from three of our projects (Eile {Border-Fictioning} 2016-present; Spéirscéalta /Stories of the Air 2021-present; and Myths for a Wetlands Imaginary 2019, infusing them with critical reflection through the work of Karan Barad, John Akomfrah, Lola Olufemi, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Saidiya Hartman among others.

Orla Egan, *Loafers*, run time: 55 min.

Loafers Bar in Cork was one of Ireland's longest running gay bars; it opened in 1983 and closed suddenly in 2015. Loafers was much more than a bar – it was a crucial community space, a home for the weird and wonderful of Cork and a refuge for the Cork LGBT community. Its rooms were filled with love, laughter, dancing, political discussions and activism.

LOAFERS Documentary (2023) marks 40 years since the opening of Loafers Bar in 1983. Using a combination of interviews, archival footage, photographs, illustrations and animation it gives a glimpse into the legend and legacy of Loafers. The documentary explores what Loafers meant to the people who ran it, worked in it and frequented it, and the impact of the loss of such an important safe space for the community.

Benjamin Gerdes, *It is Always a Hard Job Keeping a Collective Together*, run time: 43 min.

From 2016 until 2019, a highly public conflict raged between the Swedish Dockworkers Union and the employer APM Terminals in the Gothenburg container port. From the workers' perspective, the dispute, which led to a national strike and lockouts in ports across Sweden, was about working conditions and opportunities for influence in the workplace.

In Gerdes's film, the dockworkers reflect on the conflict two years later, and also on how working in the harbor impacts their relationships with family and friends. In contrast to most of the media reports about the negotiations, Gerdes's film features the workers' personal stories. An underlying theme is how the specific conflict illuminates the tension between a local struggle for democracy and justice and the global system and infrastructures that encompass jobs in the harbor through multi-national corporations and flows of goods.

Hermano Luz Rodrigues & Mariana Pereira, *Reminiscing Future Public Fountains*, run time: 10 min.

The project proposal consists of three short videos created using recorded footage and 3D rendering software. These videos visualize personal memories from a speculative future in which fountains were redesigned with new technologies in public spaces. The scenes depicted in the narrative videos take into consideration contemporary theories on the ecological crisis and drive for technological progress, and the need to consider sociability, inclusion, and play in the design of public spaces.

Urban life is a key component for starting a conversation about the impacts of global environmental change and to subsequently rethink what it means to habit, to be part of the environment (and alter it), and the many relationships between human and nonhuman life. The narrative of each video focuses on the potential for interaction, culture, and

breathable outdoor spaces in a future of extreme heat. At the same time, the personal tone employed reminds viewers that the development of these technologies impacts and shapes people's upbringing and coming of age.

Fiona Kelly, *A Temporary Iteration*, run time: 8 min.

Fiona Kelly addresses themes of ecology and society. Her research into wilderness, matter, and geology considers the human exploration of landscape—understood as both a relationship with the natural world and an extractivist approach to natural resources. Kelly explores basic structures, often makeshift or otherwise transient, that represent nature in a state of flux, and builds allegories for the historical and political conditions of land use.

This work was funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and evolved through an artist residency at GannonEco, a waste repurposing plant located in a disused industrial quarry along the Esker Riada in the Irish Midlands.

www.fionakelly.co

Lucy Kaye, *From Where We Stand*, run time: 60 min.

NORTHERN EXPOSURE presents a film by Lucy Kaye. Followed by Q & A with (online) the film maker Lucy Kaye and (in person) two of the producers, Andrew Wallace and Adrian Favell

Lucy Kaye's one hour documentary and deep dive into the life and times of residents of three post-industrial towns in the North of England is at once moving, visually haunting, and (in parts) disturbingly raw.

It is part of a 4 year project run at the University of Leeds which took a sociological look at political disaffection -- and issues of austerity, deprivation, race and nation -- in the North of England after Brexit and during COVID.

<https://northernexposure.leeds.ac.uk/>

The film premiered at the Leeds International Film Festival this November.

trailer: <https://vimeo.com/830284779/e9583f5ebc?share=copy>