



Inner Lives and Outer Realities

35th IRISH CONFERENCE OF HISTORIANS

**hosted by the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences
&
Maynooth University Department of History**

Maynooth University, 12-13 September 2025

Venues:

Middle Loftus, I Divinity & Ranehan Hall (South campus)

REGISTRATION ON EVENTBRITE

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Registration from 9.00am

Welcome 9.45am

SESSION ONE 10.00am-11.15am

Panel 1: Ideas and Intellectuals

Joel Herman (TCD) A New 'British' History of an Atlantic Archipelago? The Case of Ireland in Pocock's New Subject

Thomas Delaney (Maynooth University) 'Time and Space died yesterday': F.T. Marinetti and the Modernisation of Italy

Maria Cullen (University of Manchester) Humanitarian Action as a Performance of Cold War Identities: Examining Refugee Relief in 1980s Central America through the lens of Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of 'habitus'

Panel 2: Commerce, Credit and Community

Luca Bertolani Azeredo (Scuola Superiore Meridionale) La Dolce Vita? The Story of an Italian Ice-Cream Parlour in Enniskillen

Fiona Slevin (UCD) Personal Power and Agency in the Shopkeeper-Customer Credit Relationship in post-Famine Ireland

Richard McElligott (DKIT) "They were right, but they were wrong": Kilflynn – a Community Microcosm of Ireland's Civil War

Break (light refreshments) 11.15am-11.45am

SESSION TWO 11.45am-1.00pm

Panel 3: Activism and Afterlives

Thomas Tormey (UCD) How and Why do Activists cease their Activism?

Gregory Walls (TCD) 'You spy you. You were the Cause of getting my Brother shot this night 29 years ago': Post-conflict lives in independent Ireland.

Michelle McGoff-McCann (IAPH) The Embodied Revolution: Trauma, Identity, and Political Violence Through the Lens of John Bedell Stanford MacIlwaine

Panel 4: Experiencing Upheaval

Robert D. Marshall (ICHS) Personal Ambition and Social mores: Hugh Moore

Aidan Gilsenan (Maynooth University) ‘My farm is unoccupied and worth fighting for’: The Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants, 1891-1914

Brian Hughes (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) Experiencing the End of the Royal Irish Constabulary: Two former Policemen in the Irish Free State

Lunch 1.00pm-2.00pm

SESSION THREE 2.00pm-3.45pm

Panel 5: Inner Lives in the Long Eighteenth Century

Liam Mac Mathuna (UCD) Three Generations of the Catholic, Irish-speaking Ó Neachtain Family navigate Life in Dublin, 1700-1750: The Evidence of their Writings

Ciarán McDonnell (Independent) Family Traditions and Foreign Wars: Irish soldiers in the Age of Revolutions

Ellinor Forster (University of Innsbruck) Self-affirmation by Surveying and Balancing one’s own Position as a Way of Coping with the Challenges of the Revolutionary Era: Practices in Salzburg and Tyrol around 1800

Benjamin Casey (Maynooth University) Women in the Early Nineteenth-Century Dublin Print Selling Trade: A Case Study of Sarah and Ann Allen

Panel 6: Inner Lives and Religion

Ronan Daly (TCD) ‘Be what they think you are’: The Spiritual Diary of Brother Daniel Albinus O’Donnell, 1922-87

Alan Ford (University of Nottingham) Conformity and Subversion: St John Seymour and the Scholarly Culture of the Church of Ireland

Anna-Maria Hajba (Glucksman Library) Conversion and Conflict: The Wyndham Quin Family and the Oxford Movement in Ireland

Conor Brockbank (QUB) Travel Permits, Evacuees and the “neutrality” of the Irish person? The Lived Experiences of Irish Priests in England and Wales during the Second World War

Break (light refreshments) 3.45pm-4.15pm

SESSION FOUR 4.15pm-5.30pm

Panel 7: Diasporic Lives and Activism

Tom McGrath (Maynooth University) An Irish Revolution in Africa: R.I.C. Scott-Hayward and the Irish Republican Association of South Africa

David Murphy (University of Strathclyde) Trauma, Survival and Revolution: Inter-colonial Activism of Lamine Senghor

Lewis Defrates (Maynooth University) Competing Loyalties? US Overseas Nationals in the Revolutions of 1916-23

Break 5.30pm-5.45pm

SESSION FIVE 5.45pm-6.45pm KEYNOTE LECTURE

Professor M'hamed Oualdi
(Department of History, European University Institute)

The life and afterlife of a Slave in the Mediterranean. And what they tell us about the Ottoman Legacies in Colonial North Africa from the mid-19th century to the 1920s

Book launches 6.45pm-7.30pm

Launch of Seán Ó Hoireabhárd, *The Medieval Irish kings and the English invasion* (Liverpool University Press, 2024), winner of the Irish Historical Studies First Book Prize (2024) and Sarah Roddy, *Money and Irish Catholicism* (Cambridge University Press, 2025) by Professor Peter Gray (Queen's University Belfast, Chair of the Irish Committee for Historical Sciences).

7.30pm Conference dinner (Pugin Refectory, Maynooth campus)

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Registration from 9.00am

SESSION SIX 10.00am-11.15am

Panel 8: Inner Lives and Identities in Twentieth-Century Ireland

Tasneem Filaih (UCD) ‘The President said that we can have a Masjid [mosque] in this country’: Establishing a Space for Muslims in Ireland

Ian d’Alton (Independent) ‘We live our little lives and then die’: Norman Leslie, War, and a Not-so-Little Life

Felix M. Larkin (ICHS) C.E. Kelly, Cartoonist and Civil Servant: An Uneasy Duality

Panel 9: Women’s Lives in Revolution and War

Leeann Lane (DCU) ‘the enemy should never see us cry’: Mary MacSwiney, Trauma and the Brixton Hunger Strike 1920

Susan Byrne (TCD) Living through Turbulent Times – One woman’s Experience of War and Revolution in Ireland

Niamh Cullen (QUB) Making a Life during and after ‘the apocalypse’: Darina Laracy’s Experience of Living in Wartime Italy

Break (light refreshments) 11.15am-11.45am

SESSION SEVEN 11.45am-1.00pm

Panel 10: Parenthood and Loss

Ciara Henderson (Independent) Private Loss, Public Context: The Historical Dimensions of Stillbirth in Twentieth-Century Ireland

Clodagh Tait (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) ‘As long as God spares me, you shall not want a mother’: Other-parenting through Familial and Political Crises in Ireland, c.1640-1700

Lorraine Grimes (University of Galway) Single Mothers in Ireland and Britain: Pregnancy, Migration and Institutionalisation

Panel 11: The Creation of History through Irish-language Reclamation and Revival in the North of Ireland

Eibhlín Nic Cormaic (QUB) Feminism and the Irish language among Women Republican Prisoners

Fionnghuala Nic Roibeaird (University of Liverpool) Gaeloideachas for Critical Consciousness: The ‘Wee Irish School’ and Community Empowerment in West Belfast

Róisín Nic Liam (QUB) Youth Participation in the Irish-languages Reclamation Movement in Beál Feirste from the Long War to the Ceasefire Generations

Lunch 1.00pm-2.15pm including launch of

R.M. Eßer & S.G. Ellis (eds), *Borders, Bordering Practices and Mobility in Early Modern Europe* (The Formation of Europe - Historische Formationen Europas; Vol. 14) (Wehrhahn Verlag, 2025) by Professor Marian Lyons (Maynooth University)

and

Niamh Howlin & Felix M. Larkin (eds), *Confluences of Law and History: Irish Legal History Society Discourses, 2011-21* (Four Courts Press, 2025) by Dr Ian d’Alton

SESSION EIGHT 2.15pm-3.15pm KEYNOTE LECTURE

Professor Lindsey Earner-Byrne
(Trinity College Dublin)

***A Female Hinterland:
Gender, Power and Human Experience in Irish History***

SESSION NINE 3.15pm-4.45pm

Panel 12: Masculinity and Sexuality

Leanne Calvert (University of Limerick) ‘O! if you were a Girl how Sweetly I would embrace you’: Negotiating Same-Sex Desire and Male Intimacy in the North American Presbyterian Church, 1795-1805

Alex Jacobs (Illinois Urbana-Champaign) The “Gross Indecency” of Imperialism: How the English and Irish used Homosexuality Scandals to advance Political aims

Niall Herron (QUB) Managing Queer Desire during the Northern Ireland Conflict

Conor Heffernan (Ulster University) Protein and Performative Masculinity: High-Protein Diets and the Remaking of Irish Manhood, 1980-2000

Panel 13: Life in the Shadow of Conflict: Survival and Self-Realisation in the Middle East and Africa after the Great War

Chair: Dr Anindita Bhattacharya (Maynooth University)

Dónal Hassett (Maynooth University) Grief and the Global Greater War: Tracing the Emotional History of the First World War in French Colonial Pension Files

Tylor Brand (TCD) Bearing Witness, Bearing Pain: Retrospective Accounts and the Weight of Past Disaster in Post-World War I Lebanon

Nicola Camilleri (Maynooth University) Ascari of the Empire: War Experience and Postwar Life of Local Soldiers in Italian Colonies

Close of proceedings 4.45pm

The 35th Irish Conference of Historians is jointly hosted by the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences and Maynooth University Department of History.

The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences

The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences was founded in March 1938 to provide for the representation of Irish historical interests on the **Comité International des Sciences Historiques/International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH/ICHS)**. The Committee's purpose is to represent historians and the historical discipline in Ireland, to promote historical scholarship and public engagement with history, to advocate for the discipline, to provide a forum for discussion, to promote and disseminate research and encourage students and early career researchers. For further information see www.historians.ie

Maynooth University Department of History

The Department of History, one of the largest in Maynooth University's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has 20 academic staff, whose interests cover Irish, European, American and World topics. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to PhD level and has an excellent reputation for its scholarship, teaching, and research supervision. It currently offers four MA programmes (European History, Irish History, Military History and Strategic Studies, and Local History). It also houses two European Research Council projects. For further details see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/history>

Conference Theme: Inner Lives and Outer Realities

How does the individual experience history? How are lives lived against the backdrop of conflict and revolutions, of social transformation and religious change? Such questions raise a central issue of historical interpretation – that concerning the relationship between the exercise of individual agency and the circumscribing influence of social, political and cultural context. This relationship – or perhaps, more accurately, this *tension* – was famously captured by Karl Marx: 'men make their own history,' he observed, 'but they do not make it as they please'. Taking a lead from Emma Rothschild's 2011 study, *The inner life of empires*, a book which uses a single family to explore the revolutionary transformations – political, intellectual and imperial – of the eighteenth century, the 2025 Irish Conference of Historians seeks to interrogate this relationship through a wide variety of prisms.