

Economic and Social History Society of Ireland

52nd Annual Conference



DCU St Patrick's Campus, Friday 5th and Saturday 6th December 2025

Registration Fee: €20 for one day or €40 for two days

Register and pay at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/economic-and-social-history-society-of-ireland-annual-conference-2025-tickets-1970331021124?aff=oddtcreator>

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE – Friday 5th December 2025

11:00 – 11:15 am – Opening Remarks

11:15 am – 12:45 pm – Panel Session 1

Panel 1A - Poverty and Poor Relief

-Mel Cousins (TCD) - Women, poverty and poor relief: Eliza Dalton in mid-nineteenth-century Dublin

-Maud Belair (Edinburgh) - Ireland through the looking glass: constructions of embodied Irishness in the nineteenth century

-Daithí Ó Corráin (DCU) - Caring for the poor: the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in early twentieth-century Dublin

Panel 1B - Print Media and the Film Industry

-Declan O'Keeffe (Clongowes Wood College) - The young writers' saint: women writers in the *Irish Monthly* (1873-1898)

-James O'Donnell (Independent) - 'I trust therefore that you will turn down the proposal': international news agency attitudes to the Irish News Agency, 1950-57

-Kieran Devenish (Galway) - The role of Irish American film connections in shaping the establishment of Ardmore Film Studios

12:45 – 2:00 pm – Lunch

2:00 – 3:50 pm – Panel Session 2

Panel 2A – Ireland in the Eighteenth Century

-Andrew Dorman (TCD) – ‘Beef and mutton is two pence ha’penny a pound’: soldiers, money, and society in eighteenth-century Ireland

-Maria Zukovs (St Andrews) - The economic impact of the French Revolution on Dublin’s wine and book trades

-Natasha Mahony (Oxford) - ‘They could take snuff and talk without tiring till doomsday’: British stereotypes of Irish character in Arthur Young’s Tour in Ireland

Panel 2B - Improving Urban and Rural Ireland

-Matthew Potter (Limerick Museum) - Donegal Town transformations, 1800-1970

-Lesley Donaldson (Independent) - New approaches to a new bridge – creating a new street: Belfast Town Council and the Improvement Acts, 1845-50

-Tiarnán Heaney (QUB) - Finding the right time and place: reviving the reputation of the Congested Districts Board, 1891-1909

-Alan de Bromhead (UCD), Ronan C. Lyons (TCD) and Johann Ohler (LSE) - Clearing the air: evidence from Ireland on housing quality and mortality

Panel 2C - Economy and Society in Independent Ireland

-Anna Devlin (TCD) - Economic planning in the early years of the Irish Free State: constraints, possibilities and impact

-Daniel Beveridge (DCU) - ‘Indemnification and reconstruction after the Irish Civil War’: the case of County Waterford, 1922-35

-Richard McElligott (DKIT) - ‘Amidst the sneers and malice of the local people’: life and afterlives in post-civil war Kerry

-Tomás Finn (Galway) - The influence of intellectuals in Ireland: Patrick Lynch and the Commonweal

3:50 - 4:20 pm - Coffee Break

4:20 – 5:20 pm – The K. H. Connell Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Professor Enda Delaney, University of Edinburgh - K. H. Connell and the Writing of Irish History

5:20 – 6:30 pm – Wine reception sponsored by the DCU School of History and Geography

DAY TWO – Saturday 6th December 2025

9:30 am – 11:00 am – Panel Session 3

Panel 3A - Women, Inheritance and Investment

- John Marshall (TCD) - Forever a footnote? Ireland within the thirteenth-century Angevin empire
- Emma Lyons (UCD) - 'Invisible heiresses': female servants' inheritance in seventeenth-century Ireland
- Adam Kane (UCD) - Intersections of interest: investments and participation of Irish nuns in the nineteenth-century financial sphere, c. 1820-1900

Panel 3B - Society and Economy in the Nineteenth Century

- Andrew McDiarmid (UCD) - The political organisation of Temperance Tontine Societies, 1838-1852
- Charles Read (Oxford) - The economic consequences of Sir Robert Peel's repeal of the Corn Laws on the Irish Famine
- Douglas Kanter (Florida Atlantic University) - Smuggling in Ireland, 1801-1914

Panel 3C - Women, Work and Motherhood

- Aviv Corrigan (UCD) - The rearing work of motherhood in Ireland: 1945-1974
- Suzanne Jobling (QUB) - 'Out-of-date Ideas and Prejudices': achieving just outcomes in employment equality cases in the 1970s and 1980s
- Declan Tuite and Leysi Rubio Arevich (DCU) - Mediating the Mother and Baby Homes: from silence through outrage to cultural shorthand

11:00 – 11:20 am – Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:30 pm – Panel Session 4

Panel 4A - Migration and Identity: The St Patrick Connection

- Patrick Wadden (DCU) - Immigrants and immigration in early medieval Ireland
- Daniel Gallen (Galway) - Queering St Pat: LGBTQ+ involvement in St Patrick's Day celebrations

Panel 4B - Sport and Social Class

- Julien Clénet (UCD) - 'All classes, high, middle and low, now take an interest in cricket': The social structure of cricket in nineteenth-century Dublin
- Conor Heffernan (UU) - 'Creatine is cheating no matter how you look at it': supplements, class, and moral panics in 1990s Ireland

Panel 4C - Security Forces and Paramilitary 'Policing' in Northern Ireland

-Laurence Marley (Galway) - Security forces' pay and working conditions in Northern Ireland in the 1970s

-Eddie Baker (UU) - Attitudes towards paramilitary 'policing' during the Northern Ireland conflict

12:30 – 1:45 pm – Lunch & ESHSI AGM

1:45 pm – 3:30 pm – Panel Session 5

Panel 5A - Reassessing Trade and the Economy in Medieval Ireland

-Hannah Evans (Liverpool) - The economic fabric of early medieval Ireland: cloth as a medium of exchange?

-Sally Finn-Kelcey (TCD) - From Leinster to Lucca: the export of cloth and mantles from late-medieval Ireland

-Tadg Farrell (TCD) - Gold, silver and wine: international commerce and mediums of exchange in late medieval Ireland

Panel 5B - Employment and Social Welfare

-Sean Lyons (Independent/TCD) - Internal migration and occupational change among men in Ireland, 1901-1911

-Olivia Frehill (NLI) - The 1911 National Insurance Act and Irish women workers

-Gabriel Koehler-Derrick (NYU Abu Dhabi) - Just a Number? Age misstatement and the old-age pension in colonial Ireland

Panel 5C - Business, Taxation and Investment

-Rachel M. Beck (UL) - Rebuilding Russell & Sons: a new methodology for Irish business history

-Robin Adams (QUB) and Frank Barry (TCD) - Selling Ireland to the Irish: patriotic purchasing before and after nationalist revolution, 1908-38

-Michael Loughman (DCU) - 'Everyone will have to pay more for almost everything': the introduction of the Turnover Tax

-Frank Barry (TCD) and Alison Hearne (SETU) - Inward direct investment and manufacturing employment in the two Irelands at EEC Accession

3:30 pm – Closing Remarks