

“Chicago: an Irish-American Metropolis?
Politics, Ethnicity, and Culture from 1830s to the Present Time”

An International and Multidisciplinary Conference
June 21-23, 2021

The conference will be entirely online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please register here to receive the Zoom link:

<https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/billets-chicago-an-irish-american-metropolis-155970751717?aff=website>

This three day conference will explore the past and present imprint of the Irish diaspora on the Windy City, including its reverberations in Hibernia.

Scientific Committee: Claire Connolly (University College Cork); Christophe Gillissen (Université de Caen Normandie); Anne Goarzin (Université Rennes 2); Fiona Kearney (University College Cork); Fiona McCann (Université de Lille); Cliona Ni Riordain (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle); Gillian O’Brien (Liverpool John Moores University); Henri Peretz (Senior Fellow at Yale University); James Chandler (University of Chicago); Arnaud Coulombel (University of Chicago Center in Paris); Thierry Dubost (Université de Caen Normandie); Paul Schor (Université de Paris)

Organizational Committee: James Chandler, (University of Chicago); Arnaud Coulombel (University of Chicago Center in Paris, acoulomb@uchicago.edu); Thierry Dubost (Université de Caen Normandie, thierry.dubost@unicaen.fr); Paul Schor (Université de Paris).

This international and multidisciplinary conference is a partnership between the universities of Chicago, Caen Normandie and Paris. This scientific event is possible thanks to the generous support of the Embassy of Ireland in France, the SOFEIR, the GIS-EIRE, the EFACIS, the University of Chicago Center in Paris, the ERIBIA at the Université de Caen Normandie, the LARCA at the Université de Paris, the Institut des Amériques, and the Centre Culturel Irlandais.

Program

Monday June 21, 2021

9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome Remarks

Keynote speech

Chair: Philippe Cauvet (Université de Poitiers)

David Brundage (University of California at Santa Cruz)
“Chicago: Second City of Irish American Nationalism?”

10:00 - 10:15 am: Q&A

10:15 - 10:30 am: Coffee Break

Session 1: Chicago and Transatlantic Irish Nationalism 10:30 - 11:50 am

Chair: James Chandler (The University of Chicago)

Frank Rynne, Cergy Paris Université:

“Virtual Republic: The First National Convention of Fenian Brotherhood, Chicago, November 1863”

Gillian O’Brien, Liverpool John Moores University:

“A Carnival of Plots’ Irish-American Republicanism in the late Nineteenth-Century”

Andrew Wilson, Loyola University Chicago:

“From the South Side to the Bogside: Chicago and the Northern Ireland Conflict”

11:30 – 11:50 am: Q&A

Lunch Break 12:00 - 2:00 pm

2:00 – 6:30 pm

Session 2: Chicago’s World Fairs and Transatlantic Irish Nationalism 2:00 - 3:40 pm

Chair: Claire Connolly (University College Cork)

Eimar O’Connor, Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig:

“Ireland and the Chicago World’s Fair: Castellated Kitsh or Crucial Controversy?”

Billy Shortall, Trinity College Dublin:

“No Thatched Cottages: The Chicago World’s Fair 1933”

Jeffrey O’Leary, Mitchell College:

“The Chicago World’s Fair 1893: The Windy City Braces for More Blarney”

Amy Mulligan, University of Notre Dame:

“Moving into Chicago’s “White City” – Race, Medieval Iconography and the Construction of Irishness at the 1893 World’s Fair”

3:20 – 3:40 pm: Q&A

3:40 – 4:00 pm: Coffee break

Session 3: Irish Chicago Politics 4:00 - 5:20 pm

Chair: Henri Peretz (Université de Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis)

Greg Koos, Executive Director Emeritus of the McLean County Museum of History:

““Whiskey Vs. Lager Beer – Bejabers”: The Irish and the Politics of Chicago’s Hinterland 1854-1860”

Ana Artiaga, Université de Toulouse-Jean Jaurès:
"The Chicago Irish and the Democratic Machine"

Sean Farrell, Northern Illinois University:
"Writing a New History of the Irish in Illinois"

5:00 – 5:20 pm: Q&A

5:20 - 5:30 pm: Coffee Break

Keynote Speech

Chair: Alexandra Slaby (Université de Caen Normandie)

Clair Wills, University of Cambridge
"Mother and Baby Homes: Adoption and the Chicago Connection"

6:15 - 6:30 pm: Q&A

Tuesday June 22, 2021

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Keynote Speech

Chair: Andrew Diamond (Sorbonne Université)

James Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
"Irish Americans in Chicago's Interethnic History: Race and Class"

9:45 - 10:00 am: Coffee Break

Session 4: Education, Work and Ethnic Identity in Irish Chicago 10:00 - 11:40 am

Chair: Paul Schor (Université de Paris)

Bradford Hunt, Loyola University Chicago:
"Irish-Americans and the 1919 Chicago Race Riot"

Sophie Cooper, University of Leicester:
"Sister, sister: Irish Female Teachers and Ethnic Identity in Chicago, 1840-1922"

Catherine Healy, Trinity College Dublin:
"The Problem of Bridget": Managing Irish Domestic Servants in Gilded Age Chicago"

Maureen Curtin, Suny-Oswego:
"How to Locate Jack Conroy on a Chicago Map: at the Corner of Labor and Church, Riding the Rails of the Illinois Writers' Project"

11:20 – 11:40 am: Q&A

Lunch Break 12:00 - 14:00 pm

2:00 - 6:30 pm

Session 5: Chicago and the Gaelic Revival 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Chair: Cliona Ni Riordain (Université de Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Máire Nic an Bhaird, Maynooth University:
"Douglas Hyde: An Irish Idol in Chicago"

Liam Mac Mathúna, University College Dublin:
"Chicago and the Mid-West Leg of Douglas Hyde's American Journey, 1906"

Cuan Ó Seireadáin, The Gaelic League - **Brian Ó Conchubhair**, University of Notre Dame:
"The Irish-Language in Chicago: Forgotten Features of Ethnic Identity?"

3:00 – 3:20 pm: Q&A

3:20 - 3:30 pm: Coffee Break

Session 6: Chicago and Irish Culture 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Chair: Fiona Kearney (University College Cork)

Charles Fanning, Southern Illinois University:

“Banish the Boushwah: Why We Ought to Read James T. Farrell”

Mary Rose O’Shea, University of Illinois at Chicago - **Conor O’Shea**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - **Michael O’Shea**, University of Toronto:

“No longer at the Crossroads: Irish Dance Halls in Chicago and Late Generation Ethnicity”

Ellen Skerrett, Independent Historian:

“Reconsidering the Catholic Culture of the Chicago Irish”

4:30 – 5:00 pm: Q&A

5:00 - 5:15 pm: Coffee Break

Keynote Speech

Chair: Wesley Hutchinson (Université de Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

Aileen Dillane, University of Limerick

“Chronotopes, Cartographies, and Musical Imaginaries:

“Celtic” Chicago at the End of the Long 20th Century”

6:00 - 6:15 pm: Q&A

Wednesday June 23, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Session 7: Questioning Traditional Representations of Irish Chicago 9:00 – 10:00 am

Chairs: Thierry Dubost (Université de Caen Normandie) and Arnaud Coulombel (University of Chicago Center in Paris)

Scott Spencer, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California:

“Chicago at the Center of the Irish Piping World: Captain Francis O’Neill and the Edison Wax Cylinder Recorder”

Amélie Dochy, Université de Toulouse - Jean Jaurès:

“Illustrating Pleasant Irish Archetypes in Paintings: Erskine Nicol’s Images of Irish Life Presented in Chicago at the End of the Nineteenth Century”

9:40 – 10:00 am: Q&A

10:00 - 10:10 am: Coffee Break

Session 8: Diasporic Circulations 10:10 - 11:30 am

Chair: Fiona McCann (Université de Lille)

Emma Moreton, University of Liverpool:

“Irish Emigrants Letters”

Patrick O'Sullivan, London Metropolitan University:

“Chicago, Theory and the Discourse of the Irish Emigrant Letter”

Henri Peretz, Université de Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis:

“Mapping the Irish Territory in Chicago during the Great Migration, 1895-1940”

11:10 – 11:30 am : Q&A

Lunch Break

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Panel Discussion 1: Globalization, Ireland and its Diaspora 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Moderators: Anne Groutel (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) - Grainne O'Keefe-Vigneron (Université de Rennes 2)

Participants:

- 1 John Bradley, EMDS, Dublin
- 2 Kevin Byrne, Consul General of Ireland to the Midwestern US
- 3 Feargal Cochrane, University of Kent

3:15 – 3:30 pm: Coffee Break

Panel Discussion 2: Chicago and Irish (American) Culture 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Moderator: Sylvie Mikowski (Université de Reims)

Participants:

- 1 Aileen Dillane, University of Limerick
- 2 Jude Blackburn, Director, Chicago Irish Film Festival
- 3 Charles Fanning, Southern Illinois University

Official launching of the online display of Capt. Francis O'Neill's dedication pages

Reading of a passage of James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan* by John Judd, actor

Bios

Ana Artiaga is a Ph.D. student at the University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès (France). Her dissertation, “Political Clientelism and the Ethnic Vote in Boston and Chicago, 1933-1983,” is a comparative study of ethnic politics and practices of clientelism (or machine politics) in two 20th-century American cities, Boston and Chicago.

James R. Barrett grew up in Chicago. He is Professor Emeritus of History and African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Scholar in Residence at the Newberry Library in Chicago. He is the author most recently of *The Irish Way: Becoming American in the Multi-Ethnic City* (Penguin Books, 2012) and *From the Bottom, Up and the Inside Out: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in Working-Class History* (Duke, 2017) and essays on relations between the Irish and the Jews and on the history of the Communist Party, USA. Much of his work has focused on relations between urban people from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. With Jenny Barrett, he is working on *Chicago: A Peoples' History*.

David Brundage is Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has published widely in the areas of U.S. immigration and working-class history and the history of the Irish diaspora, and is the author, most recently, of *Irish Nationalists in America: The Politics of Exile, 1798-1998* (Oxford University Press, 2016), which was selected by *Choice Magazine* as an “Outstanding Academic Title” of the year and described by the *Irish Times* as a major work that “challenges us to rethink the history of Irish nationalism and its far-flung supporters, and to ponder its present and future.” He is finishing up a new book, tentatively entitled *New York Against Empire: Challenging British Colonialism in a Time of War and Revolution, 1910-1927*, which investigates New York City as a “contact zone” that brought together anticolonial activists from across the globe.

Philippe Cauvet is a senior lecturer in Irish and British studies at the University of Poitiers (France). His research mainly deals with questions related to territory and national identities, in the British Isles and more particularly in Ireland. He is currently working on a book analysing the idea of national territory in Irish constitutional nationalism. Since he first discovered the beauty of Chicago when a teenager, and although he has not been back there for an extremely long time, the “city of broad-shoulders” has remained a very special place to him.

James Chandler is the Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke Distinguished Service Professor in the Departments of Cinema and Media Studies and English Language and Literature. Chandler has published widely on literature from the eighteenth century onwards on topics in Irish studies, the Romantic Movement, and more recently on cinema. His current research includes a study of the works of Maria Edgeworth—a prolific Anglo-Irish writer of adult and children's literature—and a forthcoming book, *How to Do Criticism*.

Claire Connolly is Professor of Modern English at University College Cork in Ireland. Her book *A Cultural History of the Irish Novel, 1790-1829* (Cambridge Studies in Romanticism) won the Donald J. Murphy Prize. With Marjorie Howes (Boston College), she is General Editor of *Irish Literature in Transition, 1700-2015* (Cambridge University Press, 2020); as well as editor for Volume 2 of the series, *Irish Literature in Transition, 1780-1830*. She is Project Lead for Ports, Past and Present, funded by the European Regional Development Fund via the Ireland Wales Programme.

Sophie Cooper is a teaching fellow in Irish History at the University of Leicester. Her monograph *Forging Identities in an Irish World: Melbourne and Chicago, 1840-1922* is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press. Sophie completed her PhD at the University of Edinburgh in 2017 following a M. Phil in Irish History from Trinity College Dublin and History BA(Hons) from the University of Exeter. Sophie has publications in *Social History* (August 2020) and in two edited volumes on the Irish in Australia. She is currently the book reviews editor for the *Australasian Journal of Irish Studies* and runs the Irish Diaspora Histories website. This research has been funded by the Cushwa Center at Notre Dame University, the Illinois State Historical Society, and the British American Nineteenth Century Historians Society.

Arnaud Coulombel is lecturer at the University of Chicago Center in Paris. His field of research is French historiography during the Wars of Religion in the second half of the sixteenth Century. He is the co-director

with Nicolas Lombart of the publication of Claude Fauchet's *Complete works*. At the University of Chicago Center in Paris, Arnaud Coulombel has co-organized several conferences among which *The Black Metropolis, between Past and Future. Race, Urban Planning and African-American Culture in Chicago* (November 2017) and *W. E. B. Du Bois: Scholar, Activist and Passeur between America, Europe and Africa. Foundations, Circulations and Legacies* (November 2019).

Maureen Curtin is Associate Professor of English and affiliated faculty with the Gender and Women's Studies program at SUNY Oswego. She received a Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Tulsa and a M.A. in English Literature from the College of William & Mary. Her book, *Out of Touch: Skin Tropes and Identities in Woolf, Ellison, Pynchon, and Acker*, was published by Routledge in 2003. Her current research investigates the historical clashes that gave rise to the 20th century Irish American literary canon, with particular focus on the role of Irish immigrants and their children in radical U.S. social movements as well as the eclipse of these energies and commitments among Irish American authors after 1950: Jack Conroy and Mary McCarthy constitute the literary foci of *Troubling Tides*.

Andrew J. Diamond is Professor of American History at the Sorbonne University in Paris, where he is the director of the research center Histoire et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones (HDEA). He is the author of *Chicago on the Make: Power and Inequality in a Modern City* and *Mean Streets: Chicago Youths and the Everyday Struggle for Empowerment in the Multiracial City, 1908-1969*.

Aileen Dillane is Senior Lecturer in Music at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick. She received her PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Chicago where she was a Fulbright Scholar and Century Fellow. In Fall 2017, she was the Herbert Allen & Donald R. Keough Visiting Faculty Fellow and Moore & Livingston Faculty Fellow at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame. Aileen has published widely in the area of Irish and popular music and soundscapes. She is co-editor of two book series with Rowman and Littlefield, *Popular Musics Matter* and *Discourse, Power, and Society*. Aileen is the Irish PI on a three-year, EU-funded research project, *European Music Festivals, Public Spaces and Cultural Diversity*. She is currently completing a monograph, *Irish American Musical Imaginaries*, based on over twenty years of fieldwork in Chicago and Ireland that examines migrant history, ethnic identity, cultural intimacy, and racial politics through the lens of music.

Amélie Dochy taught at the National University of Ireland (Maynooth) before sitting the French civil service exam for a tenured English teaching position ("Agrégation d'Anglais") in 2009. She then became a Research Assistant at the University of Toulouse II (France) and her PhD in Irish studies focused on the topic of "Cliché, Compassion or Commerce? The Representations of the Irish by the Scottish Painter Erskine Nicol (1850-1904)". She adopted a post-colonial approach in analysing the portrayal of the Irish through the iconography of Nicol's prolific depictions. Following this, she was awarded the prestigious Sydney Forado Prize by the "Académie des Sciences et Belles Lettres" (Toulouse) in recognition of her choice of historical approach. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Toulouse II and her research interests include visual representations of the Irish in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Thierry Dubost is a professor at the University of Caen Normandie. He is the author of *Struggle, Defeat or Rebirth: Eugene O'Neill's Vision of Humanity* (MacFarland, 1997 [2005]), and *The Plays of Thomas Kilroy* (McFarland, 2007), as well as *Eugene O'Neill and the Reinvention of Theatre Aesthetics* (McFarland, 2019). He has co-edited seven books, the latest ones being *Drama Reinvented: Theatre Adaptation in Ireland (1970 à 2007)* Peter Lang, 2012, with Alexandra Slaby. *Music and the Irish Imagination: Like a Language We Could All Understand*. Presses Universitaires de Caen, 2013, and with Anne Etienne. *Perspectives on Contemporary Irish Theatre: Populating the Stage*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2017. Translations into French: Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*, and Thomas Kilroy's, *The Secret Fall of Constance Wilde*.

Charles Fanning is Professor Emeritus of English and History from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Author and editor of a dozen books and many essays. The Irish in Chicago loom large in these publications, which include new editions of seven Farrell titles for the University of Illinois Press.

Sean Farrell is Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. A former President of the American Conference for Irish Studies, he is the author and editor of over twenty articles and books on the Irish experience, including *The Irish in Illinois* (co-authored with Mathieu W. Billings -- Carbondale, 2021) and *Rituals and Riots: Sectarian Violence and Political Culture in Modern Ulster, 1784-1886* (Lexington, 2000).

Anne Groutel is a Senior Lecturer at University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She is a member of the Center for Research on the English-Speaking world (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3). She spent seven years in Belfast before starting a career in academia in 1998. In 2003, she published a book on economic cooperation between the two Irelands since partition. She also edited a book titled *Revisiting the UK and Ireland's Relationship with the United States in the 21st Century, Beyond Sentimental Rhetoric* (2016). Her publications include a number of papers on Ireland and the process of economic globalisation. Her book, *Les deux Irlandes et la diaspora : un attachement intéressé (The Two Irelands and the Diaspora, a mutually self-serving bond, Presses universitaires de Caen, 2021)*, deals with the contribution of the diaspora to the two parts of the island's economic development. She is co-directing the research strand of the GIS EIRE (a national research project in Irish studies in France) which focuses on the Irish diaspora.

Catherine Healy is an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholar at the Department of History, Trinity College Dublin. Her PhD explores the cultural representation of Irish domestic servants in England and the United States from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. Forthcoming works include 'Visions of Respectability: Charlotte O'Brien and the Politics of Irish Emigrant Aid', a chapter in an edited collection, *Dreams of the Future in Nineteenth Century Ireland*, due for publication with Liverpool University Press in 2021.

Bradford Hunt is Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at Loyola University Chicago. Since July 2020, he has collaborated with 29 full-time faculty members to promote scholarship and teaching in history, ranging from undergraduate core curriculum to the department's PhD program in History and Public History. From 2015-20, he served as Vice President for Research and Academic Programs at The Newberry Library in Chicago, where he oversaw fellowship programs, four research centers, and programs for scholars, teachers, students, and the public. At the Newberry, he produced *Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots*, which won the 2020 National Council on Public History award for Best Public History Project. He is the co-author, with Jon B. DeVries, of *Planning Chicago* (American Planning Association Planners Press, 2013) which examines urban planning initiatives in Chicago since the 1950s. His history of the Chicago Housing Authority, entitled *Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), won the Lewis Mumford Prize from the Society of American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) for the best book in North American Planning History in 2008-09. He served as President of SACRPH in 2018-19. Since 2008, he has served on the board of the National Public Housing Museum. Prior to The Newberry, he was a vice provost and dean at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where he was also professor of social science and history. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and his B.A. from Williams College.

Wesley Hutchinson is Professor Emeritus of Irish Studies (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle). His research has focused on identity issues in the Protestant and unionist community in Northern Ireland. He is now primarily interested in cultural policy, especially as it affects indigenous minority languages both in Ireland and in Europe. His new book, *Tracing the Ulster-Scots Imagination*, published by Ulster University with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Reconciliation Fund, was published in December 2018.

Fiona Kearney is the founding Director of the Glucksman, an award-winning contemporary art museum on the campus of University College Cork that promotes the creation, understanding and enjoyment of art. In this position, she has curated numerous exhibitions of Irish and international art, with a particular emphasis on how contemporary art practice relates to research directions within academic discourse. Recent exhibitions include *Circadian Rhythms: Art and biological time*, *The Parted Veil: Commemoration in Photographic Practices*, *PRISM: the art and science of light*, and *Outposts: Global borders and national boundaries*. Kearney has published widely on contemporary art and photography, and throughout her career has received several distinguished awards including the NUI Prix d'Honneur from the French Government, a UCC President's Award for Research on Innovative Forms of Teaching and the Jerome Hynes Fellowship on the Clore Leadership Programme. She is an assessor on the Museum Standards Programme of Ireland, and a board member of the Irish Architecture Foundation, VISUAL Carlow, Cork Midsummer Festival and Cork Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Irish Museums Association, ICOM, IKT, Universeum, and AICA.

Greg Koos is the Executive Director Emeritus of the McLean County Museum of History. He served in that museum from 1977 to 2016, 2019-20. Koos has worked with a board and staff to develop and sustain a nationally accredited museum which, in non-Covid times served over 40,000 people a year. A lifelong interest in Irish culture and history, fostered by his mothers' genealogical quest to prove descent from the kings of Ireland, embeded in him a continuing interest in Irish history. His published writing includes histories of McLean County, academic articles on the material culture of American buildings, a study on the Irish hedge schoolmasters in the American Backcountry, as well as articles on museum and community relations. He is currently writing a history of McLean County in the 18th and 19th centuries, from which this paper is drawn. He lives in Bloomington, Illinois with his wife, Carol and two cats, Ernie and Miss Whillimina Von Mauseneaten.

Liam Mac Mathúna is Professor Emeritus of Irish at University College Dublin and editor of *Éigse: A Journal of Irish Studies*. His publications include *Béarla sa Ghaeilge* on Irish/English literary code-mixing; a new edition of Peadar Ua Laoghaire's novel, *Séadna; Saothrú na Gaeilge Scríofa i Suímh Uirbeacha na hÉireann, 1700–1850* on the cultivation of written Irish in urban areas (co-ed.); and *Douglas Hyde. My American Journey* (co-ed.). He is currently researching the life and work of Douglas Hyde with Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird.

Fiona McCann is a Professor of Postcolonial Literature at the Université de Lille. She has published widely on contemporary Irish, South African and Zimbabwean writing and is currently preparing a monograph on "Care, Literature, and the Capitalocene". She is the author of *A Poetics of Dissensus: Confronting Violence in Contemporary Prose Writing from the North of Ireland* (Peter Lang, 2014) and the editor of *The Carceral Network in Ireland: History, Agency and Resistance* (Palgrave, 2020).

Sylvie Mikowski is Professor of Irish and English Studies at the University of Reims-Champagne-Ardenne (France). Her main interests are the contemporary Irish novel and popular culture. Her main publications include *Le Roman irlandais Contemporain, The Book in Ireland, Memory and History in France and Ireland, Irish Women Writers, Ireland and Popular Culture, Popular Culture Today, The Circulation of Popular Culture between Ireland and the USA, Ireland: Spectres and Chimeras*. She has also published numerous book chapters and articles on various contemporary Irish writers, such as John McGahern, William Trevor, Colum McCann, Patrick McCabe, Roddy Doyle, Deirdre Madden, Sebastian Barry, Anne Enright, etc. She served as literary editor of the French journal of Irish Studies *Études irlandaises* and is currently President of the SOFEIR, the French Society of Irish Studies. A member of the board of EFACIS, she is also review editor for RISE (Review of Irish Studies in Europe).

Emma Moreton is a researcher and teacher in Applied Linguistics in the Department of English at Liverpool University. She completed her PhD in Corpus Linguistics at the University of Birmingham in 2016. Emma's publications to date use a mixed methods approach to examine the language of historical letter collections (including eighteenth century pauper letters and nineteenth century letters of migration). She is especially interested in how ego-documents can help us to understand the lives and experiences of ordinary men and women, whilst also providing new perspectives on social, cultural and economic issues of the time. Her recent publications focus, in particular, on how new technologies can be used to analyse and visualise the language and content of digitised correspondence collections, allowing users to identify topics and themes in the discourse, pragmatic functions, or letter writing networks for example (see Moreton and Culy, 2019 and De Felice and Moreton, 2019). She has worked on several JISC funded projects that explored the use of visualisation tools with corpus data and in 2014 she was Co-Investigator on an AHRC Research Networking project (*Digitising experiences of migration*), which examined issues surrounding the transcription, digitisation, annotation and interconnectivity of migrant letter collections from around the world.

Amy Mulligan (MPhil, DPhil, Oxford) is Associate Professor in Notre Dame's Department of Irish Language and Literature, and is a Faculty Fellow of Notre Dame's Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, the Medieval Institute, and Gender Studies. Her work puts medieval Irish literature and iconography into larger North Atlantic contexts, past and present. Work supported by fellowships from the NEH and Fulbright Foundation culminated in Amy's publication of two books in 2019 -- a monograph *A landscape of words: Ireland, Britain, and the poetics of space, 700-1250* (Manchester University Press, 2019), and the co-edited volume, *Moving Words: Literacies, Texts and Verbal Communities of the Nordic Middle Ages* (Brepols, 2019). For *A landscape of words*, Mulligan won the American Conference of Irish Studies' 2020 Donald Murphy Prize for a Distinguished First Book. She's written several articles thematically centered on literary

discourses exploring national and transnational identity formation, gender and corporeality, landscape and place-writing, the oral-literary spectrum, and most recently, medievalism in diasporic contexts. Mulligan has held major research fellowships at the University of Oxford, the Centre for Viking and Medieval Studies (Oslo), University of Michigan, the Institute for Research in the Humanities (Madison, Wisconsin), the Centre for Medieval Studies (Bergen) and the University of Nottingham. She is currently writing a book titled *Medieval Chicago: Irishness, Whiteness, and the Allure of the Past 1871-1934*.

Máire Nic an Bhaird is a lecturer in Irish Language and Literature in Maynooth University, Ireland. Her main area of research is the life and work of Douglas Hyde, Ireland's first President. She is currently writing a book about the life and work of Douglas Hyde with Professor Liam Mac Mathúna. She has several publications relating to her research and has also presented her research interests on national and international television and radio programmes. She co-edited *Douglas Hyde. My American Journey* (UCD Press 2019).

Clíona Ní Ríordáin is Professor of English at the Sorbonne Nouvelle where she teaches Irish literature and Translation Studies and directs ERIN, the university's research group in Irish studies. Among her recent publications are the anthology *Jeune Poésie d'Irlande—Les poètes du Munster* (Illador, 2015) with Paul Bensimon, a volume of essays, *Memoranda to MacNeice* (PUR) with Anne Goarzin. A monograph, *English Language Poets in University College Cork 1970-1980*, was published by Palgrave in March 2020. She is a member of the Centre Culturel Irlandais' Strategy Committee and presides the Fondation irlandaise's translation prize.

Gillian O'Brien is Reader in Modern Irish History at Liverpool John Moores University. She is the author of *Blood Runs Green: The Murder that Transfixed Gilded Age Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2015) and has also published work on the Anglo-Irish relations, newspaper and journalism history, the history of Dublin and the history of Primary Education in Ireland. Her BA and MA are from University College Dublin and her PhD from the University of Liverpool. Her current research project is a study of the Irish in America from the Civil War to the turn of the twentieth century. She is also working on an architectural and social history of convents in eighteenth and nineteenth century Ireland. In addition, she is interested in the history of women journalists in America and representations of the Irish in the illustrations of Thomas Nast. O'Brien's latest book *The Darkness Echoing. Exploring Ireland's Places of Famine, Death and Rebellion* has been published by Doubleday Ireland (October 2020).

Brian Ó Conchubhair is Associate Professor of Irish Language and Literature at the University of Notre Dame. He has published widely on various aspects of Irish-language literature and culture as well as the role and impact of the Irish language on American life and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries. A past president of the American Conference for Irish Studies, his current project is a biography of Flann O'Brien.

Éimear O'Connor is an art historian specialising in Irish art and its social, political, and economic contexts from 1840 to the present. Author of book, chapters, articles and reviews, O'Connor's latest book, *Art, Ireland, and the Irish Diaspora: Chicago, Dublin, New York 1893-1939: Culture, Connections, and Controversies* has just been published by Irish Academic Press, Kildare (September 2020). O'Connor has now been appointed as the Resident Director of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig and will take up her post in January 2021.

Grainne O'Keeffe-Vigneron is Senior Lecturer in Irish Studies at the Université Rennes 2, France. After completing a Ph.D on the Irish diaspora in Britain, her current research project focuses on the Irish diaspora in France. She is co-directing the research strand, "*Les diasporas irlandaises : enjeux économiques, migrations, intégration*", part of a national research project in Irish studies in France (Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique (G.I.S EIRE)) and completed a report on the Irish in France for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dublin in 2018. She has recently co-edited a volume entitled "Northern Ireland after the Good Friday Agreement: Building a Shared Future from a Troubled Past?" as part of the ReImagining Ireland series (Peter Lang, 2021).

Jeffrey O'Leary is Associate Professor of History in the Humanities Department at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut. His research investigates the display of the Irish at world's fairs and expositions since the late nineteenth century.

Cuan Ó Seireadáin is curator at Conradh na Gaeilge /The Gaelic League where he directed the 1916-2016 archival research project on the Gaelic League's role in the Irish independence movement from 1916-1922. A co-editor of *Douglas Hyde: My American Journey*, and a frequently contributor to Irish media on all aspects of the Irish language, he has lectured widely on various aspects of the Irish Language revival in Ireland and the US.

Conor O'Shea, is an Irish-American educator and scholar born and raised in Chicago. He is a licensed landscape architect and Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who works on contemporary urban trends in design, including freight geography, e-commerce, and urban wildlife. As founder of the landscape architecture practice Hinterlands and Director of the Landscape Strategies Lab at the University of Illinois, he aspires to a deep understanding of place and community through repeated on-site observation, aerial photography, 3D modeling, mapping, and a close reading of local journalism.

Mary Rose O'Shea is an Irish-American educator and scholar born and raised in Chicago. She is a secondary English teacher, labor activist, and doctoral student in Literacy, Language, and Culture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research focuses on critical literacy pedagogy, teacher beliefs and ideologies, and broader understandings of the term literacy.

Michael O'Shea is a community activist and PhD student in higher education (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) at the University of Toronto whose research focuses on the relationship between Treaty law and Indigenous access to post-secondary education. He is also a co-founder of #popscope, an international organization that connects communities to the night sky.

Patrick O'Sullivan is Visiting Professor of Irish Diaspora Studies, London Metropolitan University. He is a freelance writer and researcher, with a considerable track record in the development of projects which support diaspora scholarship. He has a special interest in the interface between academic research and community action.

Henri Peretz is a Senior Fellow at University of Yale (Urban Ethnography) and a retired Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris VIII. His research mainly investigates the use of observation and field work in the sociology of public places (see: *L'observation dans les sciences sociales*, La Découverte). His essays have appeared in *Revue Française de Sociologie*, *Symbolic Interaction*, *Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine*, *Ethnographie française*, among other venues. His current book project, *De la Plantation au Ghetto : une histoire sociale de la communauté noire de Chicago* examines the social history of the Afro-American community in Chicago.

Rowan Robertson-Smith graduated in May 2020 with a master's degree in Irish and Irish American Studies from New York University's Glucksman Ireland House. Her essay "Cycles of Suppression in Emergency Situations" was published in the 40th edition of *Garm Lu* (2018). Her work can also be found online at NYU Irish.net. She is currently working with the Camron-Stanford House Museum of Oakland, CA conducting research on elite women in 19th century San Francisco.

Frank Rynne is a Senior Lecturer in British Studies at CY Cergy Paris University and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College, Dublin. He completed his BA and Ph.D. at Trinity College, Dublin. His thesis, supervised by W.E. Vaughan was a study of grassroots organising by the Irish Republican Brotherhood during the Land War, 1879-82 in West Co. Cork. He has published multiple articles and co-edited the book *La Grande Famine en Irlande*, Atlande, 2015. He writes on subjects relating to Irish revolutionary activities, the Great Irish Famine, 19th and 20th century politics and issues of law and policing in 19th and early 20th C. Ireland, republican political thought and Irish historiography.

Paul Schor is the author of *Counting Americans: How the US Census Classified the Nation*, (Oxford University Press, 2017) and an associate professor at the Université de Paris. He focuses on modern American social history, especially issues related to immigration, discrimination, segregation and inequality.

Billy Shortall successfully completed his PhD viva voce with the Department of the History of Art, Trinity College Dublin in September 2020 and is waiting to graduate. His research is situated where art and politics overlap and it interrogates how the Irish Free State harnessed the visual arts for political purposes in the twelve years after independence. He has presented on his research in CCI, Paris and in TCD, UCD, National Gallery of Ireland and at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. He previously worked in Information Technology and has contributed numerous articles to *Artefact*, *Irish Arts Review*, *History Ireland*, *IMMA editions* and other publications.

Ellen Skerrett is a Chicago historian with a particular interest in Irish America. Together with Mary Lesch she edited and annotated Francis O'Neill's memoir, *Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago*. A former project coordinator and associate editor of the University of Illinois at Chicago's web site, "Urban Experience in Chicago: Hull-House and its Neighborhoods, 1889-1963," Skerrett also worked with Mary Lynn Bryan on volumes two and three of *The Selected Papers of Jane Addams, 1881-1900*. Her books include *Chicago: City of Neighborhoods*; *The Irish in Chicago*; *Catholicism, Chicago Style*; *At the Crossroads: Old Saint Patrick's and the Chicago Irish*; and *Born in Chicago: A History of Chicago's Jesuit University*. She is currently writing a history of Chicago's St. Ignatius College Prep.

Alexandra Slaby is an Associate Professor at the University of Caen Normandy where she teaches British, Irish and South African civilization. She is half-South African. She spent two years as a teaching assistant in Trinity College Dublin whilst researching her PhD thesis on the history of Irish cultural policy, an updated version of which was published in 2010 (Caen UP) and prefaced by Michael D. Higgins. She is a former editor of *Etudes Irlandaises* (2011-2017) and she was commissioned to write an *Histoire de l'Irlande de 1912 à nos jours* (Paris: Tallandier, 2016, 2021). She is now researching Irish Catholic presence in South Africa and writing the first biography of Owen Cardinal McCann.

Scott Spencer is an Assistant Professor of Musicology (World Music) in the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. His research explores the intersections of oral tradition and digital culture. He has published in the journals *Explorations in Media Ecology*, the *Journal of the Society for American Music*, and a variety of edited volumes. He also served as editor for *The Ballad Collectors of North America*. Spencer also runs the Sound in Sacred Spaces working group, sponsored by USC's Levan Institute for the Humanities and UCLA's Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for the Study of Hellenic Culture.

Andrew J. Wilson earned his BA in History and Politics from Manchester Metro University (1983), his MA in Irish Political Studies from Queen's University Belfast (1985), and his PhD in modern US and European history from Loyola University Chicago (1991). He has taught a range of European and US history courses at Loyola since 1991, and specializes in contemporary Irish and Irish-American history. Dr. Wilson is the author of "Irish America and the Ulster Conflict, 1968-95" (Blackstaff Press and Catholic University of America Press, 1995), as well as numerous scholarly articles on the American role in the Troubles. He is also a frequent speaker on these issues, at conferences, guest lectures, and in the media, in both the US and Ireland.

Clair Wills is King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at the University of Cambridge. She has written widely on twentieth century Irish literature and cultural history, including books on the 1916 Rising, Ireland during the Second World War, and Irish and post-colonial emigration to Britain. Her most recent work is *Lovers and Strangers: An Immigrant History of Post-War Britain* (Penguin, 2017). She is currently working on a study of social institutions in Britain and Ireland, including psychiatric hospitals and Mother and Baby Homes. She regularly reviews new fiction and poetry for the *New York Review of Books* and the *London Review of Books*.

Panelists:

John Bradley was Professor at the Irish-based ESRI and has published extensively on the island economy of Ireland, EU development policy, industrial strategy and economic modelling. He has acted as a consultant to the European Commission and the European Parliament, to many EU member state governments and has carried out research and training projects in the EU, Western Balkans and Africa. He writes a fortnightly column for The Mayo News entitled "Notes from the Western Periphery".

Kevin Byrne was appointed Consul General to the Midwestern United States in September 2020. He joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 2010 and has served in EU Division, Corporate Services, and in Ireland's Consulate in San Francisco. He also worked in the Department of the Taoiseach – Prime Minister – where he planned Ireland's successful 2013 Presidency of the European Union. Prior to taking up post in Chicago, Kevin was secretary to the Management Board of the Department and policy liaison with *Áras an Uachtaráin* – the office of the President. Before joining the foreign service, Kevin worked in the European institutions in Brussels, the think tank sector in London, and taught in France and Japan.

Feargal Cochrane is an Emeritus Professor of International Conflict Analysis in the School of Politics and International Relations. He joined the University of Kent in September 2012. Professor Cochrane's research interests centre on the dynamics of politically motivated violence and emerging peace processes within ethnically divided societies. He is particularly interested in political and cultural aspects of Diaspora communities and has conducted research on the Irish-American role in the Northern Ireland conflict. Beyond the Irish case, he is interested in how Diaspora communities intersect with peace processes and political violence within deeply divided societies and how these groups engage from the outside, with political and cultural processes taking place within their countries of origin. Feargal Cochrane is the author of *The End of Irish-America? Globalisation and the Irish Diaspora*, 2010, Irish Academic Press.

Jude Blackburn is the founder and programmer of the Chicago Irish Film Festival. The festival, founded on the mission of presenting independent Irish film, often highlights current social and political issues as well as Ireland's storied history through the work of Irish filmmakers working around the world. The festival has presented over 1500 films to date, welcomed hundreds of filmmakers, producers and actors to Chicago and established relationships with cultural institutions and film festivals throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Francis O'Neill (1848-1936), a native of Trilibane, Co. Kerry, served as Chicago's Chief of Police from 1901-1905. Throughout his career, he collected Irish traditional tunes from musicians as they passed through Chicago, transcribing and printing them in six self-published books from 1903-1922. These volumes have become staples in the Irish music world, having caught a moment in oral tradition just before commercial audio recording, and allowing entrance into the tradition by those in the Diaspora (as well as back home in Ireland). O'Neill was a key figure in the Irish Diaspora, and allied himself with various political and social movements during a singular time in Irish and Irish-American history. O'Neill had a penchant for gifting copies of his books to luminaries in Irish and American life - inscribing handwritten dedications, a florid signature, and maybe even some personal words or poetry. His dedication pages offer a window into the important figures in Irish-American life at the time, demonstrate his self-placement at the center of contemporaneous social and political movements, and contextualize the role of music as a major aspect of Irish identity in a tumultuous historical time. This display presents O'Neill dedication pages from the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin, and the Ward Irish Music Archive in Milwaukee (partners in this project), as well as examples from numerous archives and private collections around the world. www.wardirishmusicarchives.com www.itma.ie