

Society for the Study of Nineteenth-century Ireland Conference
18th-19th June 2026
Maynooth University
Intimacies in Nineteenth-century Ireland

Thursday 18th June

9am Registration

9.30am-10.45am Keynote 1

Prof Marc Mulholland (University of Oxford) '*Comhar, meitheal, and neighbouring: The 'emotional economy' of the Irish Peasantry*'.

10.45am-11.15pm Tea and Coffee Break

11.15am-12.45pm

Religious Intimacies	Material intimacies	Intimacy and the courts
<p>Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman (UL) "Safe Confinement, long delayed": infertility and intercession in nineteenth-century Irish Catholic spaces.'</p> <p>Dr. sc. Vedran Obućina, (Centre for Interreligious Dialogue (Croatia)) 'The Intimacy of Prayer: Private Devotional Practices in Post-Famine Ireland.'</p> <p>Dr Aidan Mullett (Independent) Title TBC</p>	<p>Jessica White (UCC) 'Economies of Intimacy in Maria Edgeworth's Juvenile Fiction.'</p> <p>Zoe Zavrotny (UCD) 'Affective Narrative: J. Sheridan Le Fanu, Affect, and Narrative Practice.'</p> <p>Dr Ciarán McCabe (MIC) 'Charitable visiting and intimate encounters in nineteenth-century Ireland.'</p>	<p>Irene McGoldrick, (Annaghdown Heritage Society) 'Love Laughs at Locksmith.'</p> <p>Dr Patrick Maume (Dictionary of Irish Biography) 'Lunacy and the lady lawyer: Mary Anne Anthony intrudes on the masculine legal theatre of late Victorian Ireland.'</p> <p>Dr Brian Griffin (Maynooth University), 'Love, Litigation, Lies and Laughter: Breach of Promise Cases as Entertainment in the Long Nineteenth Century.'</p>

12.45pm-2pm Lunch

2pm-3.30pm

Marital Intimacies	Institutional Intimacies	Colonial Intimacies
<p>Rebeca Vital Ramos (Radboud University) 'Happy Ever After? Marriage, Gender, and Political Allegory in <i>The Wild Irish Girl</i>.'</p> <p>Dr Jonathan Wright (Maynooth University) 'Slavery, love and death in the Green Atlantic: the life and letters of Mary Cumming.'</p> <p>Dr Charlie Jorge, (Universitat de les Illes Balears (UIB)) 'A Marriage with the Devil: Ireland's Satanic Union in Charles Maturin's <i>Melmoth the Wanderer</i> (1820).'</p>	<p>Dr Judy Bolger (Carlow College) 'The workhouse as a site of intimacy? Pregnancy and pauper relationships in the Tullamore workhouse, 1880s.'</p> <p>Dr Shelby Zimmerman (Ithaca College London Centre), 'Families, Death, and the Irish Workhouse, 1872-1913.'</p> <p>Dr Geraldine Curtin (University of Galway) "Dear father I am breaking my heart here": Petitions to the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of child prisoners.'</p>	<p>Dr Richard Jorge (University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)) 'Colonialism and the Intimacy of Public Spaces: The Pub as an Anticolonial Element in J.C. Mangan's "An Adventure in the Shades" (1833).'</p> <p>Dr Z.I. Mahmud (Independent) 'Measured Ground, Measured Fear: Colonial Administration and the Discipline of Rural Childhood.'</p> <p>Dr Rory Corbett (Maynooth University) 'Representing Blacksound: R.M. Levey's "The Banjo Quadrilles" and the Banjo in Nineteenth-Century Irish Print Media.'</p>

3.30pm-4pm Tea and Coffee Break

4pm-5.45pm

Roundtable on <i>Race, Violence, and Form: Reframing Nineteenth-Century Ireland</i>	Domestic intimacies
<p>Dr Renée Fox (UC Santa Cruz) 'Jane Wilde, Translation, and the Politics of International Intimacy'</p> <p>Dr Alisha R. Walters (Penn State University, Abington College), 'Formations of White Supremacy in the Colonial Caribbean: Irish Racial Ambivalence.'</p>	<p>Prof Elaine Farrell (QUB) "A great deal of dirt": secrets in nineteenth-century Ireland.'</p> <p>Prof Lucy McDiarmid (Montclair State University) 'Domestic Intimacies in Lady Gregory's <i>Visions and Beliefs in the West of Ireland</i>.'</p>

Dr Mary L. Mullen, (Villanova University)
'Home Demolitions: Ireland and Palestine'

Prof Amy E. Martin (Mount Holyoke College)
'Internationalism in Late Nineteenth-Century
Irish Prison Writings.'

Prof Simon Joyce (William and Mary College),
'Trinity Wilde.'

Dr Rachel Newell (Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland)

"She would never leave this place":
gender and the meaning of home in
forcible possession cases, Ulster, 1890s
- 1910s.'

Dr Maeve O'Riordan (UCC)
Letters, intimacies and death: Jane
White's loss and Elizabeth Leigh's death
in letters.

5:45pm-6:30pm Wine reception to celebrate the launch of *Race, Violence, and
Form: Reframing Nineteenth-Century Ireland* [co-sponsored by Villanova
University English Department]

7pm-9pm

Conference dinner, Donatello's Restaurant, Maynooth

Friday 19th June

9.30am-10.45am Keynote 2

Dr Leanne Calvert (UL), 'Edible Intimacies: Reconstructing intimate histories
through food in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Ireland.'

10.45am-11.15am Tea and Coffee Break

11.15am-12.45pm

Romantic Intimacies	Unromantic intimacies
Rachel Parsons (UL), 'Embodied intimacy and its uses in nineteenth- century Ireland.'	Dr Kyle Hughes (UU) 'Sir Schomberg Kerr McDonnell (1861-1915): Intimacy and Friendship in High Society.'
Sara Álvarez Díaz (University of Oviedo) 'Ahead of its time: The Sons of Erin or Modern Sentiments as a Play on Challenging Gender Roles, Class Conflict and Love.'	Dr Shannon Devlin (University of Galway) 'These love affairs are too hard for me': siblings as sources of intimacy in Irish singlehood.'
Dr Clodagh Tait (MIC), 'More like one that tuck love powders, than a reasonable being': passion and poison in nineteenth-century Ireland.'	Konrad Zaręba (University of Warsaw), 'Becoming Oscar Wilde: Queer Intimacy, Hellenism, and Irish Identity.'

12.45pm-2pm Lunch

1.15pm SSNCI AGM, including presentation from Alison Grundle (Liverpool) re Irish Studies Network

2pm-3.30pm

Cultural Intimacies	Intimacies and crises
<p>Dr Ian D’Alton (TCD) ‘Clouding the goldfish bowl? – Somerville and Ross meld the private intimacies and public lives of the Anglo-Irish.’</p> <p>Dr Helen Williams (Northumbria University) ‘Bookish Intimacies: The Illustrations of the Book of Kells by Margaret McNair Stokes and Helen Campbell D’Olier.’</p> <p>Dr Declan O’Keeffe (Clongowes Wood College) ‘The Young Writers’ Saint Women writers in the <i>Irish Monthly</i>, (1873-1898).’</p>	<p>Prof Margu�rite Corporaal, (Radboud University) ‘Community in a Time of Cholera: Intimacy and the 1832 Pandemic in Irish Writings.’</p> <p>Dr Chris Cusack (Radboud University) ‘Famine and the Contingent Intimacies of Deathcare.’</p> <p>Davide Lamparelli (University of Edinburgh) ‘Reconstructing the Intimate Experience of Famine Relief and Solidarity in Ireland and the Scottish Highlands: A History of Emotions Approach.’</p>

3.45pm-5pm Keynote 3

Prof Fionnuala Dillane (UCD), ‘The Emotional Press: Intimate Politics of the Page in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals and Newspapers’