

**Society for the Study of Nineteenth-century Ireland Conference**  
**18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**Maynooth University**  
**Intimacies in Nineteenth-century Ireland**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

9am Registration

9.30am-10.45am Keynote

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

Chair: Prof. Roisín Higgins

Venue: *Reghan Hall*

10.45am-11.15pm Tea and Coffee Break

Venue: *Pugin Hall*

11.15am-12.45pm

Religious Intimacies	Material intimacies	Intimacy and the courts
Chair: Dr Sarah Roddy (Maynooth)	Chair: Dr Joe Curran (Maynooth)	Chair: Dr Kyle Hughes (Ulster University)
<i>Divinity I</i>	<i>Dunboyne Hall</i>	<i>Reghan Hall</i>
Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman (UL) "Safe Confinement, long delayed": infertility and intercession in nineteenth-century Irish Catholic spaces.'	Jessica White (UCC) 'Economies of Intimacy in Maria Edgeworth's Juvenile Fiction.'	Irene McGoldrick, (Annaghdown Heritage Society) 'Love Laughs at Locksmith.'
Dr Aidan Mullett (Independent) The Faithful Companions of Jesus in Nineteenth-Century Bunclody: Education, Catholicism and Religious Reform.	Zoe Zavrotny (UCD) 'Affective Narrative: J. Sheridan Le Fanu, Affect, and Narrative Practice.'	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.'
		Dr Brian Griffin (Maynooth University), 'Love, Litigation, Lies and Laughter: Breach of Promise Cases as Entertainment in the Long Nineteenth Century.'

12.45pm-2pm Lunch  
*Venue: Pugin Hall*

2pm-3.30pm

<p>Marital Intimacies</p> <p>Chair: Dr Helen Williams (Northumbria)</p> <p><i>Divinity I</i></p>	<p>Institutional Intimacies</p> <p>Chair: Dr Ciarán Reilly (Maynooth)</p> <p><i>Reghan Hall</i></p>	<p>Colonial Intimacies</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Dónal Hassett (Maynooth)</p> <p><i>Dunboyne Hall</i></p>
<p>Rebeca Vital Ramos (Radboud University)            ‘Happy Ever After?            Marriage, Gender, and            Political Allegory in <i>The            Wild Irish Girl</i>.’</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>John Doran (Trinity College            Dublin) Plant Collection            and Informal Empire: An            Irish Botanist as an            Imperial Agent</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  
*Venue: Pugin Hall*

4pm-5.45pm

<p>Roundtable on <i>Race, Violence, and Form: Reframing Nineteenth-Century Ireland</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Renée Fox (UC Santa Cruz)</p> <p><i>Renehan Hall</i></p>	<p>Domestic intimacies</p> <p>Chair: Dr Jennifer Redmond (Maynooth)</p> <p><i>Divinity I</i></p>
<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>Dr Mary L. Mullen, (Villanova University) ‘Home Demolitions: Ireland and Palestine’</p> <p>Prof. Amy E. Martin (Mount Holyoke College) ‘Internationalism in Late Nineteenth-Century Irish Prison Writings.’</p> <p>Prof. Simon Joyce (William and Mary College), ‘Trinity Wilde.’</p>	<p>Prof. Elaine Farrell (QUB) “A great deal of dirt’: secrets in nineteenth-century Ireland.’</p> <p>Prof Lucy McDiarmid (Montclair State University) Intimacies in the Cottage: women’s emotions in fairy legends collected by Lady Gregory</p> <p>Dr Maeve O’Riordan (UCC) Letters, intimacies and death: Jane White’s loss and Elizabeth Leigh’s death in letters.</p>

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]  
*Venue: Renehan Hall*

7pm-9pm  
Conference dinner, Donatello’s Restaurant, Maynooth

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am-10.45am Keynote

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

Chair: Dr Jonathan Wright (Maynooth)

*Venue: Renehan Hall*

10.45am-11.15am Tea and Coffee Break

*Venue: Pugin Hall*

11.15am-12.45pm

Romantic Intimacies	Unromantic intimacies
Chair: Dr Maeve O'Riordan (UCC)	Chair: Dr Sarah Roddy (Maynooth)
<i>Divinity I</i>	<i>Renehan Hall</i>
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 Kyle Hughes (UU) 'Sir Schomberg Kerr McDonnell (1861-1915): Intimacy and Friendship in High Society.'
Dr Jonathan Wright (Maynooth University) 'Slavery, love and death in the Green Atlantic: the life and letters of Mary Cumming.'	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

*Venue: Pugin Hall*

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

*Venue: Renehan Hall*

2pm-3.30pm

<p>Cultural Intimacies</p> <p>Chair: Dr Matthew Potter (Limerick Museum and University of Limerick)</p> <p><i>Divinity I</i></p>	<p>Intimacies and crises</p> <p>Chair: Dr Peter Hession (UL and Glucksman Ireland House, NYU)</p> <p><i>Reghan Hall</i></p>
<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>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>

3.30-3.45pm Comfort break

3.45pm-5pm Keynote

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

Chair: Prof. Margu rite Corporaal, (Radboud University; President of the SSNCI)

*Venue: Reghan Hall*