

IHSA at Carlow College, 2023

Presenters' Biographies and Abstracts

1. **Anna Attwood**, Trinity College, Dublin

Anna is currently a PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin where she is researching the role and the remit of the Irish Record Commission (1810–1830). A medievalist at heart, Anna studied at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada for her Masters, which focussed on urbanisation and the environment during the Great European Famine (1315–1322). Anna is a member of the Beyond 2022, Ireland's Virtual Treasury project and is also the editor of *Archive Fever*.

Paper Title: 'Old Records, New Uses: The Irish Record Commission 1810-1830'

Paper Abstract: In the 19th century, archives—and, in particular, medieval records—played an important role in the ideological justification of Empire. Such records also provided a strategic route to frame cultural identities. The archives of Ireland represent an intriguing case. In particular, different Irish antiquarians used the same historical materials to develop diverse narratives on the relationship between Ireland and England, including touching on themes such as 'sister kingdoms,' 'domination,' and 'civilisation.' One interesting case study that evidences a cluster of competing narratives can be seen in the Irish Record Commission (1810–1830). Rather than being a monolith, as it is often thought of, the IRC comprised of a diverse group of men with very different opinions on the role of records and record-keeping in the creation of historical narratives. This paper examines the ideological backgrounds of some of the members of the IRC and firmly situates them in the political, social, and religious context of the early 19th century. This paper will also discuss which documents were particularly interesting to the IRC and how they used these documents to justify certain ideologies, which reflect the evolution of imperialism in Ireland.

2. **Luca Bertolani Azeredo**, Scuola Superiore Meridionale (Napoli, Italy)

Luca Bertolani Azeredo is a PhD Student in Global History and Governance at the Scuola Superiore Meridionale. He got his MA in Historical Sciences at the University of Padua and his BA in History at the University of Bologna. He is currently a Visiting Student at Queen's University Belfast, and his research focuses on the development and interaction of Irish paramilitary bodies in the early XX Century to connect the constitutional and labour struggles, with a common and shared culture of political violence, and overcoming the brutalization theory that point at the Great War as a watershed.

Paper Title: 'Manly physique, attractive uniforms, and drill manoeuvres. Kids and boys playing with war. Two cases of study in pre-war Ireland'

Paper Abstract: Early XX century Europe saw the establishment of paramilitary bodies as a reaction to what were considered modern social problems such as strikes, individualism, and the loss of physical culture. In Great Britain, Robert Baden-Powell decided to establish a body of scouts. His idea – in reaction to the imperial and military crisis of the Boer War – was to raise and drill a new stronger generation of citizens, loyal imperial soldiers for the forthcoming European war. In reaction and in extension to this body, Ireland witnessed the establishment of two young paramilitary bodies: the nationalist Na Fianna Eireann, and the conservative Young Citizen Volunteers. Na Fianna were founded in 1909 in Dublin as a counterreaction to the imperial Boy Scouts to shape the revolutionary generation, rise up, and establish a free Ireland. They managed to expand beyond Dublin, enlisting some thousands of members. The Young Citizen Volunteers were formed in 1912 in Belfast to continue Baden-Powell's ideals with the older boys, giving them a sense of discipline and municipal nationalism. They failed to expand and were later incorporated into the Ulster

Volunteer Force. This paper will analyse and compare the two movements, considering which role religion, social status, and different backgrounds had in shaping the young Irish generations. It will also be considered their establishment, the propaganda and culture production, the members' social backgrounds, the relationship with the later adult paramilitary bodies, and their participation in the Irish Revolution and in the Great War.

3. **Veronica Barry**, Maynooth University

Veronica Barry is a PhD student and Graduate Teaching Assistant with the History Department at Maynooth University. Her doctoral research, which has received support from the Irish Research Council, the German Historical Institute, the Women's History Association of Ireland and the John and Pat Hume Doctoral Scholarship Scheme, investigates the Nazis' attempt to propagate National-Socialism to women in target neutral states in their bid to win support abroad.

Paper Title: 'Gendering civilian atrocities: women, victimisation and Nazi propaganda'

Paper Abstract: Civilian victimisation has long been a wartime strategy. As a military campaign, its strategic value resides in its potential to avoid a protracted war, inflicting significant blows to the enemy's ability to sustain fighting whilst minimising one's own human casualties and financial losses. In propaganda terms, it invokes a powerful response from the home fronts on both sides of the warring parties. The widespread dissemination of atrocity propaganda during the Great War elucidated the powerful influence of civilian victimisation in consolidating the bifurcated image engrained in 'war cultures', that of the 'civilised' ally and 'demonic' foe.

This paper will examine the lurid representation of women in Nazi propaganda attempts to convince neutrals of alleged British barbarity and German victimhood, thereby, seeking to claim justification, if not invoking support or at least sympathy, for their war. During the Great War, reports of German rape and exploitation of French and Belgian women entrenched the depiction of the German "Hun" in Allied states. When war broke out again in Europe in September 1939 following the German invasion of Poland, the Nazis were conscious that the legacies of the Great War lingered, and fears of German brutality festered as Nazi power in Europe increased in the immediate war years. This paper will examine women's place in the Nazis' ill-conceived propaganda campaign that sought to convince neutral states that they were fighting a defensive war and that it was, instead, Britain who posed a threat to European civilisation. It will also explore the response of neutral states to Nazi claims of female victimisation at the hands of their adversaries, analysing whether the campaign invoked sympathy or incited contempt from neutral onlookers for Nazi foreign policy.

4. **Mathieu Belledent**, Technological University, Dublin

Mathieu Belledent is a food educator in Oberstown Children's Detention Campus. He has an MA in Gastronomy and Food Studies from Technological University Dublin and over two decades of practical experience within the food industry as a professional chef. As a French native he has a keen interest in the food history from the southern regions of France; in particular, traditional Provençal cuisine. In September 2023, he is due to commence his PhD. project titled: Exploring the influence of Provençal Cuisine on French Haute Cuisine, based on a structured reading of Escoffier's *Le Guide Culinaire* (1903)

Paper Title: 'Les Trois Frères Provençaux; a Provençal Revolution That Helped Shape France's Culinary Landscape at the Turn of the 19th Century'

Paper Abstract: With the emergence of the restaurant in 1765, France moved from aristocratic civility to bourgeois habitus. This was a real social and political upheaval that was institutionalised during the French Revolution. In 1782 Antoine Beauvilliers opened Le Beauvilliers in the Palais-Royal district. This very luxurious restaurant quickly became a huge success because it offered its customers - mainly aristocrats - the chance to eat as if they were in Versailles. Le Beauvilliers is considered the first French gastronomic restaurant.

Louis Philippe II d'Orléans, who came into possession of The Palais-Royal in 1780, was liberal-minded and supported the Revolution. As a result, the Palais-Royal became a gathering place for political dissidents. However, in spite of this, the Palais-Royal remained the most brilliant attraction of Parisian life and, above all, the birthplace of French gastronomy. On the eve of the French Revolution, the most luxurious restaurants in the capital could be found in the Palais-Royal district.

While the restaurants of the Palais-Royal such as Café de Chartres or Restaurant Very served a classic French cuisine, Les Trois Frères Provençaux introduced Provençal cuisine to the Parisian upper-classes. Les Trois Frères Provençaux was the very first restaurant in Paris to embody regional cuisine, and at the same time also represented the best of French cookery. This paper explores the evolution of Les Trois Frères Provençaux at a key turning point in the history of France, leading to the introduction of Provençal cuisine nationally and internationally.

5. **Judy Bolger**, Trinity College, Dublin/Carlow College, St Patrick's

Judy Bolger is a PhD researcher in the department of Modern Irish History at Trinity College, Dublin. Her PhD examines the social discourse surrounding impoverished mothers and women's experiences of maternity and motherhood in Irish workhouses during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. This project is funded by the Trinity College, Dublin 1252 Postgraduate Research Scholarship. She has published works on mothers and the workhouse in Salvador Ryan (ed.), *Birth and the Irish: a Miscellany* (2021) and in *Historical Studies*, vol. 19 (2019). Her research on maternal death and the workhouse is forthcoming in an edited collection under contract with Liverpool University Press. She received a first-class M.Phil. degree in Modern Irish History from Trinity College, Dublin (2017) in which her thesis research examined the social history of Irish breastfeeding during the nineteenth century. She also holds a first-class Honours B.A. degree in English and History from Carlow College, St Patrick's where her under-graduate thesis researched reproductive insanity. She's currently employed as the Writing Development Tutor at Carlow College, St Patrick's and serves as the Book Review Editor for the Women's History Association of Ireland (WHAI).

Paper Title: "if she is allowed to go out free of that child I am afraid she will be in again next year": the official discourse and social construction of motherhood and poverty at the turn of the twentieth-century'

Paper Abstract: While the construction of idealised motherhood during the twentieth century has received historical analysis through the framework of class and gender, the nineteenth century has not received as much attention. Yet, the twentieth-century social landscape did not emerge in a vacuum; in fact, the preceding decades' policies and discourse helped to inform the emergence of twentieth-century practices. Recent histories have highlighted that the Irish poor law, established in the 1830s and amended frequently throughout the century, was 'complex', 'multifaceted' and 'marked by class and gender prejudices.' By the turn of the century, growing debates surrounding the efficiency of the poor law resulted in a Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland (1906). Within this extensive three-volume report, workhouse board of guardians, medical superintendents and reform commissioners were interviewed on the mechanisms of their contemporary system of

relief and questioned as to exactly how the system should be reformed. Throughout these minutes of evidence, various examples of unmarried mothers, and their reliance upon the workhouse appear frequently and were used by workhouse officials to highlight the inadequacies of the relief system. Therefore, a careful examination of this report highlights the way in which those who administered the system of relief interpreted the ‘deserving’ and ‘underserving’ recipients of such relief. Consequently, this paper will examine the role of the late nineteenth-century workhouse within the official discourse of public policy making to demonstrate the impact these workhouse officials’ perspectives had upon the wider social construction of Irish motherhood at the turn of the twentieth century.

6. **Oliver Brennan**, Trinity College, Dublin

Oliver Brennan is a native of Templemore, Co Tipperary. He graduated from St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, in 1996 with a B.Ed. and also holds the degrees of MA (DCU; 1999) and M.Ed. (UCD; 2002). He has published research papers in *Oideas*, the journal of the Department of Education; *Panorama*, the journal of the European Schools; *The Tipperary Historical Journal*; *InTouch*; *Feasta*; and *Comhar*. He is Assistant Principal and INTO Staff Representative at Our Lady’s Boys’ National School, Ballinteer, Dublin. He is currently studying for a PhD in the History Department of Trinity College, Dublin.

Paper Title: ‘Isaac Butt and Irish National Education 1852-1879’

Paper Abstract: This paper considers the rich contribution of Home Rule leader Isaac Butt (1813-1879) to the development and reform of national education in Ireland in the second half of the nineteenth century. It examines Butt’s speeches and writings on Irish primary education from the beginning of his parliamentary career in 1852 until his death in 1879, and evaluates his sincerely held opposition to mixed education and advocacy of denominational education in the broader context of mid-Victorian Church-State and Anglo-Irish relations. It considers his many written and parliamentary contributions to the question of Irish primary education in all its varied aspects.

7. **Jennifer Carey**, Trinity College, Dublin

Jennifer Carey is a final year History and Geography undergraduate student in Trinity College Dublin. She has a special interest in twentieth century Irish social history. Within that, she focuses predominantly on media history and women’s history. Her current research for her dissertation combines these two avenues and questions what radio sources can tell us about life for Irish women in mid-twentieth century Ireland with a special focus on the programme ‘Between Ourselves’. Jennifer has written and edited in English and Irish for a number of college publications including *The University Times* and Irish language publication *Tuathal*.

Paper Title: ‘What can literary journalism tell historians about ordinary life and the threat of violence in the Irish revolutionary period (1919-22)?’

Paper Abstract: ‘In short, what is the life of the person rather than of the nation?’ This is a quote from instructions given by Herbert Swope, editor of the *New York World* in 1922, to literary journalist Clare Sheridan before she embarked on her fact-finding trip to comment on conflict in Europe. Her first stop was Ireland. Swathes of international journalists visited Ireland during the revolutionary period (1919-1922) to cover politics for readers at home. Foreign literary journalism in this context, however, is significantly understudied. This paper outlines the significance and caveats of literary journalism and identifies three different literary journalist accounts from visitors to Ireland during the revolutionary period. The primary works examined are by married couple Joice Nankivell and Sydney Loch, Wilfrid Ewart and Clare Sheridan. This research examines their portrayal of daily life and guerrilla

violence and finds that according to these accounts, the threat of violence was never far away from ordinary lives. It has been argued that Irish historiography focuses too much on violence in the revolutionary period because violence was not ubiquitous across the country or as statistically bad in comparison to other countries. This paper does not disagree with these arguments but instead proposes the need to look at the *threat* of violence in everyday life during the revolutionary period. This paper demonstrates that literary journalism should provide insights into the psychological experience of this threat and the individual emotional strain of keeping up daily life amidst an omnipresent threat of violence.

8. **Shane Coleman Macken**, St Cross College, the University of Oxford

Shane Coleman Macken is a Master of Studies student at the University of Oxford, having previously completed an undergraduate degree in History and English Literature in Trinity College Dublin. Throughout his studies, he has developed an interest in understanding Irish national identities through cultural and popular memory and how this is shaped by public history. This was part of his focus at undergraduate, exploring imperial symbolism in Ireland. Currently, he is researching performances of Irish material identity at international exhibitions in the twentieth century for his master's thesis. Previously, he was a Laidlaw Scholar in Trinity, researching textual queer identities.

Paper Title: 'Becoming Irish National Heroes in India: Examining the Narratives and Selfhood of the Connaught Rangers Mutineers'

Paper Abstract: In the years since the Connaught Rangers July 1920 Indian Mutiny, many have argued for the mutiny's historical relevance to the Irish Revolution and its remembrance. Early scholarship on the mutiny features evocative and stirring representations of martyrdom and a teleological relationship to the 1916 Easter Rising. The motives and catalysts of this mutiny against the British Armed Forces have been hotly debated, and a satisfactory conclusion may never be reached. My paper seeks to ask how members of the British Army ascended to the status of nationalist heroes. Scholars like T.G. Fraser have argued that the Mutiny did little to impact the War of Independence at home. However, through analysing the varying narratives propagated by individual Rangers themselves in sources such as the Bureau of Military History and newspaper columns, I shall examine how the evident tensions convey individual attempts to write the Rangers into the history of the War of Independence. This offers an important commentary on attempts to control the popular narrative by a fractioned regiment. By interrogating further events such as the martyrdom of Private James Daly, disparities of regimental memory and the disillusionment behind the Connaught Rangers (Pensions) Act, my paper can help trace how a colonial force in faraway lands attained an important nationalist and anticolonial legacy. As such, my paper will comment on key figures within the Rangers securing their role as republican martyrs and carving out a space for their commemoration within the canon of the struggle for Irish independence.

9. **Kate Collins**, St Catherine's College, Cambridge

Kate Collins is a current Modern British History MPhil student at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. She completed her undergraduate degree in History and Political Science at Trinity College Dublin in 2021, during which time she spent a year studying abroad at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Her research interests include commemoration, public memory, and modern Ireland, with her masters' thesis combining all of these to examine the changing of street names in Dublin in the first half of the twentieth century.

Paper Title: 'The 'Flanders Poppy' as a Contested Commemorative Symbol in Interwar and Modern-Day Ireland'

Paper Abstract: Commemoration and memory have recently become buzzwords in the contemporary political and historical discourse in Ireland in the context of the 'Decade of Centenaries' programme. Perhaps one of the most controversial commemorative symbols in the independent Irish state has been the so-called 'Flanders poppy', introduced in 1921. During the interwar period, the poppy was sold by the British Legion as an emblem of remembrance for those who died during the First World War, but for many in the newly founded Irish Free State, it instead signalled one's support for British oppression and imperialism in Ireland. This division over the poppy's meaning frequently spilled over into actual conflict each year on Armistice Day, also known as 'Poppy Day', with poppy-wearers being met with cries of 'No poppies will be worn in this city!' and violent efforts to remove the alleged symbol of British imperialism from their lapels. My research paper draws on a range of newspaper sources from the 1920s and 1930s Free State to analyse the nature and tenor of the debate over the poppy; it argues that the poppy controversy was essentially the debate over the Irish relationship with Britain and Empire writ small, demonstrating the political nature of commemoration in the newly formed Irish state. It concludes with a brief comparison between tensions over the poppy a hundred years ago, and the situation surrounding its use in Ireland today.

10. **Adrienne Corless**, South East Technological University

Adrienne Corless is a first year PhD research in the School of Health Sciences at SETU Waterford researching a thesis titled 'Midwifery in Ireland 1914-1923: Politics and Professionalism in an era of Conflict'. She recently graduated from Maynooth University with a Masters in Irish History, focusing on the case ledgers of a rural midwife from Bree, Co. Wexford. Current research explores the question of conflict amid the overall political circumstances of this decade in Ireland; the political stances of midwives themselves; and the question of midwifery moving into a professional status under the 1918 Midwives (Ireland) Act.

Paper Title: 'Maternity care in Clonroche Dispensary District, County Wexford, 1912-1922'

Paper Abstract: Throughout the transition to state-led regulation of midwifery with the introduction of the Midwives (Ireland) Act 1918, maternity care in Ireland was based in women's homes, with mothers-to-be tapping into a network of local birth support and care. This involved either trained or traditional midwives, and/or extended families of women supporting other women. In Clonroche, a Dispensary District of Enniscorthy Poor Law Union, there were about 130 births per year. Roughly 60 were attended by trained midwives, one of whom, Margaret Cowman, was sponsored by the United Irishwomen organisation (now known as the ICA; the Irish Countrywomen's Association) until she became employed by the Dispensary system in 1919. Her case ledgers are in private ownership and access was provided for research on strict condition that identities be protected.

This study formed the basis of a History Masters at Maynooth University and now informs Health Sciences PhD research at SETU Waterford. Nurse Cowman's ledgers record labours, outcomes and the kind of maternity care received. 420 labours were attended in the decade 1912 to 1922, with exemplary outcomes compared to the maternal and infant mortality rates of this period. Two of three maternal deaths in this decade were due to the 1918 Spanish Flu, and anomalies in the statistics for prematurity, stillbirth and incidences of twin births in 1920 may be due to fertility impacts of the same event. Nurse Cowman attended pregnant women across a range of socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, providing a service that was valued for its local basis as well as its skill.

11. **Julie Crowley**, South East Technological University

Julie Crowley is a PhD student at South East Technological University (SETU), under the supervision of John Wells (SETU Waterford campus), Brian Jackson (SETU Carlow campus), and Elaine Callinan (Carlow College). Her PhD is titled *Caregiving in Conflict: The Irish Experience (A history and analysis of the contributions made by Irish nurses and caregivers to casualty care in 20th century conflicts)*. This project aims to uncover, explore, and examine the Irish contribution to combatant care and post-combat recovery throughout twentieth century conflicts in Ireland and overseas. Julie also holds master's degrees from University College Cork and University College Dublin.

Paper Title: 'Casualty Care during the Great War: An Irish Perspective'

Paper Abstract: The Great War had a long-lasting impact on Irish society, including military doctors, nurses, and the veterans whom they treated. The purpose of this poster presentation is to examine the role of Irish medics who were involved in casualty care during the Great War, drawing on primary and secondary sources related to the Royal Army Medical Corps, Voluntary Aid Detachments, and Irish war hospitals.

This poster is based on research carried out for a PhD about the experiences of Irish doctors, nurses, and caregivers who were involved in casualty care during twentieth-century wars and conflicts. Irish people enlisted in various capacities during the Great War, encouraged by organisations such as the Irish Medical War Committee and the Joint Voluntary Aid Detachment Committee for Ireland.

The development of artillery and weaponry during the Great War led to unprecedented casualties, and surgical techniques were developed to repair the damage. Casualties on the Western Front were taken to regimental aid posts and transferred by field ambulance to casualty clearing stations, where reconstructive surgeries for injured veterans took place. Some patients had to be transferred to war hospitals. Ireland's military hospitals were forced to expand due to the influx of injured and mentally ill veterans. Shell shock was poorly understood during the war, and experimental medical treatments took place in British and Irish war hospitals.

12. **Anna Devlin**, Trinity College, Dublin

'Imagining Ireland's self-governed economic future, 1893-1923' is the working title of Anna's History PhD research, due for completion in 2024. She has an MPhil in Modern Irish History and B.A. in History both from T.C.D. Previously, she worked as a film/TV producer and prior to that in strategic management consultancy and business development. Anna holds a B.A. B.A.I. in Mechanical Engineering from Trinity College Dublin and an M.B.A. from University College Dublin.

Paper Title: 'When the Government publishes seditious¹ Irish economic data and nationalist public discourse prior to self-government, 1891-1921'

Paper Abstract: The collection of statistics, a feature of British state policy in Ireland intensified in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The aim of this modernising form of government was to allow the state to shape, guide or affect the personal actions of the population, thereby increasing its non-physical methods of control and entrenching its position. However, the growing availability of such economic data and statistics empowered Irish people with a means of assessing and critiquing government, in particular those who contested the legitimacy of the state in Ireland. This paper examines the availability of Irish economic data and its use in public debate by nationalists in the decades prior to the

¹ Arthur Griffith, *When the Government publishes seditious* (Dublin, 1916).

achievement of self-government. The key economic data generated during the period from government bodies and parliamentary reports on a diverse range of social, economic and development issues is initially surveyed. The use of a selection of data sets by leading nationalist economic commentators and opinion is then analysed. Following this, a synthesis of the key economic messages and ideas which resulted will be advanced and the implications discussed.

13. **John Doran**, Trinity College, Dublin

John Doran is a 21 years old undergraduate student at Trinity College Dublin in the final year of a Single Honours History degree. He is particularly interested in environmental history, studying the relationships between humans and the environment. He grew up near the Hill of Tara and went there regularly. He saw first-hand the protests over the construction of the motorway, as well as the mounds of earth and irregularities in the landscape still visible that were left by the British Israelite excavations over 100 years ago. He hopes to pursue any opportunities to engage in historical research, particularly anything relating to Irish environmental history.

Paper Title: 'Irish Environmental Activism and the Hill of Tara: A Comparative Approach'

Paper Abstract: The history of Irish environmental activism has been little studied and given the occurrence of environmental protests and the often increasingly militant attitude of environmental activists, it is useful to examine the origins of this movement in Ireland. In early medieval Ireland, the Hill of Tara in county Meath functioned as the ceremonial seat of the High King of Ireland, even though the claims of many 'Kings of Tara' to rule all of Ireland were largely tenuous. Irish nationalism in more recent times also saw Tara as a significant site given its royal heritage prior to English rule. The 1798 Rebellion saw the British rout a force of United Irishmen at the hill, and in 1843 Daniel O'Connell held one of his 'monster meetings' there. However, this proposed research paper examines the protests that occurred at the Hill of Tara between 1899 and 1902, and the protests that occurred just over 100 years later between roughly 2003 and 2008. The first set of protests opposed the excavation of Tara by the British Israelites searching for the Ark of the Covenant at Tara, which they believed to have been established by a lost tribe of Israel from the whom the British people were descended. The second set of protests opposed the construction of the M3 Motorway near Tara that sought to alleviate traffic congestion caused by commuters from nearby Navan travelling to Dublin. While the protestors in 1900 (which included the likes of W.B. Yeats and Arthur Griffith), made exhortations to Irish cultural nationalism the 21st century protestors claimed that this site of historic significance was being disturbed unnecessarily. While the forces these protestors saw as 'disturbing' Tara had greatly differing intentions, both appealed to the significance of this place and the surrounding environment for Irish heritage and history. By comparing these two events, this paper will look at protestors' stated motivations and beliefs and how they characterised themselves, the language used by protestors used to describe their 'struggle', and their characterisation of what they were working against (using newspaper media from the time covering the protests), this paper examines how the protests from the turn of the twentieth century at Tara shared similarities with later Irish environmental activism.

14. **Helen Doyle**, Maynooth University

Helen Doyle is from Bagenalstown, Co Carlow. She completed a BA (Hons) Humanities with DCU in 2017 and a Masters in History with the Open University in 2019. Her Master's thesis examined women in the Carlow District Lunatic Asylum. She is at present in the second year of her PhD with the History Department in Maynooth University. Her supervisor is Dr

Dympna McLoughlin and the title of her thesis is 'The Implication of the Dangerous Lunatic (Ireland) Act 1838 on committal numbers to Irish District Lunatic Asylums.'

Paper Title: 'The Criminal Lunatic (Ireland) Act 1838 and the Inquiry into the Case of Bridget McCreedy'

Paper Abstract: In 1950s Ireland, with a population of just under three million, over 21,000 people were confined in district lunatic asylums across the country. This resulted in Ireland, at that time, having the highest number, per capita, in the world incarcerated in asylums. I believe this shocking statistic is directly linked to legislation passed in 1838, namely the Criminal Lunatic (Ireland) Act, more commonly known as the 'Dangerous' Lunatic Act. This legislation not only resulted in excessively high committal rates, but also in the association of mental illness with 'danger', 'crime', and 'threat to society' possibly resulting in the stigma around mental illness that exists into the present day.

My research aims to discover who the key players were in committals under this legislation, and why it became the most common route of entry to all asylums in Ireland but not elsewhere. The methodology that will be used in this study will be mixed methods. I will be undertaking in-depth analysis of the archival collection of the Richmond Asylum, Dublin together with extensive research of Parliamentary Papers, and newspaper collections. In this paper I will give a brief overview of the foundation of the Irish district asylum system and then discuss the Criminal Lunatic (Ireland) Act and its flawed terms and conditions. I will use the case study of a woman called Bridget McCreedy, who was committed to Clonmel District Lunatic asylum in 1865 as a 'dangerous' lunatic, to show how this legislation impacted on real people and their families.

15. **Cathal Dunne**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Cathal Dunne is a undergraduate student at Carlow College, St Patrick's.

Paper Title: 'Exploration of Antarctica by explorer Ernest Shackleton'

Paper Abstract: My paper is based around the three main voyages of Ernest Shackleton and the differences in between each of these voyages looking into the different factors and elements that would occur on each main voyage across to the Arctic. As this is my dissertation research I would like to give key highlights features from all the voyages but for this paper I would like to focus on the first two voyages that would be the most significant but also would be the learning experience of Shackleton learning the difficulties with the ice and for myself I found the main voyages of Shackleton the most interesting.

16. **Regina Dunne**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Regina Dunne is an MA student on the Carlow College Regional Irish history programme. She has been historian in residence in County Laois for two terms and published *Opening a Window on the Past: A reflection on the Lives of Gertrude Lucy Franks and Helen Maybury Roe* in 2021. Her current research focuses on the social history and women's stories of life in early twentieth century County Laois and its surrounding borders.

Paper Title: 'The Changing Face of Kevin Christopher O'Higgins: Rebel *Sinn Féin* to Conservative *Cumann na nGaedhal*'

Paper Abstract: Referred to as the Irish Mussolini, or the strong-arm of the Irish Free State, Kevin O'Higgins has a reputation of a man who was an imperialist and signed the death warrant of his best man. One of the youngest members of Dáil Éireann, Kevin O'Higgins is often remembered only for his actions as a politician after the foundation of the

Free State. This paper will examine the early life of O'Higgins as a Sinn Féin candidate in the 1918 election and his role in the early days of the War of Independence. Furthermore, this paper will reflect on O'Higgins's role as a founding member of the Irish Free State, his role as Minister for Home Affairs of a newly formed state, and the impact the Civil War had on his decisions in this position. Finally, this paper will reflect on assassination of O'Higgins in July 1927, despite his work at the Imperial Conference 1926 being admired by the Republican IRA. O'Higgins death was not in vain however, as it resulted in the 'future evolution of constitutional democracy in Ireland'.

17. **Patricia Farrell**, University of Galway

Patricia Farrell is a 73 year old woman who first came to Ireland in 1972. After three careers over her working life: bookselling, adult education and the healthfood trade, retirement has meant that she has been able to pursue her lifetime interest in History. Since graduation from NUI Galway in 2020, she has been pursuing a funded PhD investigating the motivation and experiences of European immigrants to Ireland before Maastricht and Nice opened the borders. Two months ago, she had a short piece accepted by RTE's Brainstorm. This compared the Irish response to Hungarian refugees in 1956 to current events.

Paper Title: 'Post-war immigration into Ireland from Europe: the immigrant experience'

Paper Abstract: How did it feel to come to Ireland in the post-war period particularly if one did not speak English? What were the factors that aided or hindered integration into the new culture? Was this experience improved or disimproved, perhaps, by not being the person who made the initial choice? While much has been written about the experiences of more recent immigrants and particular groups, such as the Hungarian refugees in 1956, there is very little as yet about the everyday circumstances of the increasing number of Europeans who made their home in Ireland when it was still challenging to do so. This paper explores the cultural interface between a selection of these individuals and the society they encountered. By analysing oral history interviews and ego documents this work examines the factors that enabled integration into the community and the cultural assumptions that could be a barrier to such integration.

18. **Mick Farrell**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Mick has been working full-time in outdoor education for close on 25 years, where his day job sees him journeying through the country's varied landscape by foot, paddle, or sail. Leading groups of all ages and abilities, these journeys nearly always entail some form of navigation, but also include discussions on various topics such as culture, heritage, geography, and ecology. The attending groups vary from transition year classes on a two-day Gaisce adventure journey, to a group of teachers upskilling in order to deliver orienteering sessions to their own students, to a group of trainee track and trail guides with a view to gaining employment leading their own groups in the great outdoors.

Paper Title: 'The use of mapping in Irish Regional History'

Paper Abstract: Mapping plays a key role in all these activities, and having to provide accurate up-to-date maps on a daily basis has led to the development of a skill set that sees me not only reading and analysing the map in-hand, but also viewing and comparing historical maps in preparation for leading these groups. In addition to this is the manipulation of preprepared digital map files for use by attendees, and in certain circumstances the compilation and drawing of maps from scratch, using lidar data, aerial photography and on-site visits.

Currently a participant on the Irish Regional History MA programme in Carlow College, I've been asked to deliver a skills session on mapping. The planned skills session will include the viewing and comparison of historical maps, with notes on the information that can be taken from them, but also some points on the issues associated with the information portrayed. Following this we will look at some of the online resources for viewing and editing maps, but also some ways of possibly displaying your own findings. Advice and suggestions will be provided on some of the websites, software, and apps that are out there, but as with all skills, time spent on practice is essential, though I hope to make the prospect of this practice more appealing.

Shannon Freegrove, University College Cork

Shannon Freegrove is a first year PhD student in University College Cork. Her research focuses on everyday Irish masculinity in the mid-twentieth century. She earned my undergraduate degree in Carlow College in 2016. After some time away from academics, she completed her master's degree in 2020 at University College Dublin, funded by the Margaret McCurtain Scholarship for Women's History. In 2022, she began her PhD research in UCC, under the supervision of Professor Lindsey Earner-Byrne. Funded by the Irish Research Council, this project aims to offer a thorough mapping of the socio-cultural dynamics of Irish masculinity between c. 1930s and 1950s.

Paper Title: 'The Irish Military Service Pensions Collection: The Interaction of Masculinity, Nationalism and Welfare'

Paper Abstract: The Military Service Pensions Collection is an extensive database of pension applications from veterans of the Irish revolutionary period (1916-1923), detailing their activities and subsequent claims for compensation. This paper examines this unique collection, with a particular focus on the presence and function of masculine tropes within the disability applications. Examining how Irish men negotiated the complex relationship between masculinity, nationalism and welfare allows us to explore the construction of the masculine self once the soldier citizen model is no longer a viable masculine identity. The revolutionary generation consisted largely of young men, who otherwise would have been starting careers, pursuing studies, and developing interpersonal relationships within marriages and familial environments. According to the Irish government, the disruption to their life cycle caused by their participation in the fighting deserved compensation. The Military Service Pension Collections offers fascinating insights into the experience of the men who applied for this compensation. In particular, the letters contained in these files, most often written from the applicants themselves, offer interesting social clues as to the emotions experienced by these men, as they sometimes begged, sometimes demanded, for a payment they felt entitled to by way of their contribution in bringing this new independent state into existence.

19. **Amélie Gaillat**, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Amélie Gaillat is in the 2nd year of a PhD in History at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick with a thesis is entitled *Comparing centralised and regional policing: maintaining order in times of political agitation in France, England and Ireland (1880-1925)* and this research has received an IRC Postgraduate Scholarships for the two-remaining year of study. Amélie has previously presented a paper entitled '1882, *l'Année terrible?* Comparing centralized policing systems: the reactions to the Phoenix Park Murders in Ireland and the anarchists attack of the *Assomoir* in France' at the University of Limerick AHSS Annual Postgraduate Research Conference.

Paper Title: ‘From *Mouchards* to Informants: evolution of information gathering practices by the police administration in France, England and Ireland in the 1880s’

The 1880s can be considered as a period marked with political violence in France, Ireland and England. Indeed, nationalists, anarchists and nihilists were particularly active at the time and threatened the established order. Voices in favour of self-government were growing in strength in Ireland. Agrarian outrages intensified in the island while bombs were placed directly on English soil. Similarly, anarchists employed the methods of ‘propaganda of the deed’ attempting to overthrow the new French Republic. In order to prevent acts of political violence, it became crucial for governments in Ireland, England and France to gather information.

This led the three administrations in developing a variety of practices: police officers attending political meetings, individuals placed under systematic surveillance and informants hired to infiltrate groups of militants. Institutions were created within the police administration to centralise and process the information gathered in Paris, Dublin and London. Originally criticised by the public opinion and the police administration itself, those methods became part of a political policing system established in France, England and Ireland at the end of the 19th century. Thus, the aim of this paper is to compare the evolution of information gathering practices employed to counter political agitations at the time. First, I will study the administration in charge of political policing in France, Ireland and England at the beginning of the 1880s. Then, I will analyse the information gathering practices established and how they became systematised. Eventually, I will reflect on the professionalization and legitimisation of those practices.

20. Elliot Gallogly, Trinity College, Dublin

Elliot Gallogly completed his Bachelor’s Degree in History, English and Creative Writing in University of Galway, and is now pursuing a Masters in International History in Trinity College Dublin. His aim as a historian is to study histories of marginalised peoples and draw attention to such events, so stories of those gone are not forgotten.

Paper Title: ‘Separation of Woman from Witch: The Inherent Misogyny of the Witch Trials of Early Modern Europe’

Paper Abstract: The witch trials of Early Modern Europe marked a dark period of ignorance and fear, spearheaded by the Christian churches of the era. While women were the primary targets of the witch trials, discussion of gender bias was not popular until the 1970s. Debates have since sprouted in historical circles, questioning whether these witch trials were anti-women or simply anti-witch. Some view the trials as anti-witch rather than anti-women because, prior to these trials, magic was not regarded as gender specific. This paper will argue that debates for the latter argument misunderstand the fundamental misogynistic nature of this persecution and the powers that executed them. While witch trials were primarily perpetuated by Christian churches, notorious for their strong patriarchal and misogynistic traditions, this essay will examine how the inquisition was gendered by the inherent misogyny ingrained in the preconditions for the trials and society.

Thus, the essay will discuss the inherent misogyny, and therefore gendering, of witchcraft and the persecution of witches to determine why a separation of ‘woman’ and ‘witch’ during Early Modern European witch hunts was impossible. This paper will examine the underlying factors and definitions of witchcraft, female witnesses and participants within trials, and the outlying Icelandic witch trials. In doing so, both primary and secondary sources will be used to prove that there was an ingrained level of systematic societal misogyny that is impossible to remove when studying the reasons behind the witch trials.

21. **Angela Hanratty**, Technological University, Dublin

Angela Hanratty is a PhD student at TU Dublin. She is researching the history and preservation of Jewish food culture in Ireland since 1881. She holds a B.A (Hons) in English and Modern History from Queen's University Belfast, a Higher Diploma in Education from Maynooth University, and an MA in Literature from The Open University. Having developed a keen interest in food history, she completed an MA in Gastronomy and Food Studies with TU Dublin in 2021 and was awarded Graduate of the Year for academic excellence. Angela's recent research includes a paper for the 2022 Dublin Gastronomy Symposium entitled *Shaping the "small things of common experience": Migration and Adaptation in Ashkenazi Food Practices from Alsace to America*, and an article for RTE Brainstorm: *How Brexit has caused kosher food issues for Ireland's Jewish community*.

Paper Title: 'Conserving a Kosher Tradition: The History and Preservation of Jewish Food Practices in Ireland since 1881'

Paper Abstract: This paper will examine the impact that Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol has had on the food traditions of the Jewish population of Ireland. The Protocol poses particular challenges for the preservation of food traditions in a community with a history "full of praying and eating" (Maurice Cohen).

The paper will begin with an examination of the historical food practices of the Jewish population in Ireland. Part of this exploration will focus on the diminishing numbers of Jews on the island, and the increased reliance on imports from British cities, specifically Manchester. This reliance came as a result of a move away from home cooking towards convenience foods in the latter years of the 20th century. A brief history of the opposing political views in Northern Ireland will be necessary to clarify why the protocol was deemed necessary. Key members of the Jewish community in Ireland will be interviewed, while various media reports will be examined, including comments from former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis, and from former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the negative impact the protocol has had on the Jewish community in Northern Ireland. This research will not only make an important contribution to the social history of the Jewish community in Ireland, but will also add to the growing body of work on food history and practices on the island. The study of the Jewish experience will offer an original and alternative interpretation of the traditions around food that exist in Ireland, and highlight the challenges that come with attempts to preserve these rituals.

22. **Stephen Heffernan**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Stephen Heffernan is a graduate of University College Dublin (BA History and German) and the University of Galway (*Máistir Gairmiúil san Oideachas*). He is working towards an MA in Irish Regional History at Carlow College and teaches History at *Gaelcholáiste Phort Láirge*.

Paper Title: "'I am still getting a bit of a tormenting from the Guards': Protestant lives in the early years of the Irish Free State in South Tipperary and Waterford, 1923-40'

Paper Abstract: While not exposed to as much outright hostility as they had been in the 1919-23 period, some members of the Church of Ireland community in the diocese of Lismore remained embroiled in disputes with their neighbours over rights of way, the cutting of trees and land ownership for some time after the Civil War. Others found themselves in the courts for petty theft or for writing poison-pen letters to their neighbours. Using a mixture of contemporary newspaper reports and applications for compensation made to the Irish Grants Committee, this paper aims to shed light on some of these

experiences, following on from those outlined by Gemma Clark in her monograph *Everyday Violence in the Irish Civil War*. Special attention will be given to the lives of three farming families – the Kennedys of Lemybrien, the Hunts of Brunswick and the Sutcliffes of Clogheen.

23. **Cormac Keenan**, Dublin City University

Cormac Keenan's doctoral research project is titled 'An examination of the post-revolutionary lives of the dependants of the Irish Revolution and Civil War, 1923-80'. His research will provide new insight into how dependants encountered a partitioned Ireland after revolution and civil war and widen our understanding of the personal and familial cost of the conflict and its legacy. He began his doctoral research at DCU in September 2022 and was awarded the Universities Ireland History Bursary for this project. Cormac is a graduate of the University of Glasgow (BA in Spanish and History) and Dublin City University (MA in History).

Paper Title: 'The Society of St Vincent de Paul, the clergy, and their reports on the circumstances of Northern Irish dependants of the Irish Revolution and Civil War, 1924-38'

Paper Abstract: In the decades after Independence, the Army Pensions Board (APB) used the Gardai and the Dublin Metropolitan Police to provide 'circumstance' reports when corroborating evidence for Military Service Pension (MSP) claims from dependants of the Irish Revolution and Civil War in the Irish Free State (IFS). In Northern Ireland, however, jurisdictional limitations forced the APB to rely on local clergy and religious bodies such as the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) for dependant 'circumstance' reports. This paper considers 103 dependant 'circumstance' reports written in Northern Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s, therefore situating it within the growing research conducted on the Military Service Pension Collection. It will mark an important contribution to our understanding of the MSP application process in Northern Ireland and the post-revolutionary lives of northern dependants in a historiography dominated by combatant and veteran narratives.

This paper argues that religious ideologies, social and parochial relationships between the clergy and the northern MSP claimants, and the relative independence of the religious bodies in contrast to the police in the IFS, resulted in different 'circumstance' reports emerging from Northern Ireland. This paper will discuss the wide variance in tone and detail of the reports within Northern Ireland; narratives on charity and 'deserving' cases; the personal relationships and shared trauma from the revolutionary period between the clergy and claimants that emerge in the reports; and will map and explore county trends where SVDP and clergy reports were most prominent.

24. **John Kelly**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

John Kelly is a MA student in Irish Regional History at Carlow College St Patricks. He is the current editor of *Carloviana*, the journal of the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society. John has presented papers on early-modern and restoration Ireland to Tudor Stuart Ireland Conferences; as well as papers to local history societies. His current research interests relate to early-modern Ireland and nineteenth century crime.

Paper Title: 'The Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland, a valuable but underused historical source'

Paper Abstract: Edited and founded by P.D. Vigors, *The Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland* is a gift to posterity provided by a group of Irish late nineteenth and early twentieth century antiquarians. Vigors, and his co-

authors and contributors - Rev. Ffrench of Clonegal and Lord Walter Fitzgerald of Kilkea Castle - set out to collect, record and protect the inscriptions and monumental artefacts associated with death in Ireland.

Once only accessible through libraries or by those lucky enough to possess copies, the journals early volumes are now freely available to anyone with internet access. Despite its title, the content of the journal has a much wider scope than its title suggests. In addition to its object to provide 'a record of existing tombs and monuments of interest, with their inscriptions....', the Journal also contains a surprising level of biographical and historic information, detailed illustrations, family pedigrees, drawings, photographs and local history. The forthright views and commentary of Vigors pepper early volumes and can provide entertaining reading as Vigors takes swipes at counties which failed to provide material, the state of church plate and the destruction of monuments - to name but a few. While the journal was produced from 1888 to 1934, when it petered out due to lack of contributors; This talk will cover the early editions of the journal covering Volumes 1 to 9, which were published between 1888 and 1916 and will explore the value of these journals to twenty-first century historians and researchers.

25. **Conor Knowles**, Trinity College, Dublin

Conor Knowles completed a Joint Honours BA in History and Greek and Roman Civilisation from NUI Maynooth in 2021, with an undergraduate thesis on the historiography of George Orwell's account of the Barcelona May Days in 1937. He then completed an M.Phil. in International History, in Trinity College Dublin in 2022. His thesis focused on the international implications and context of the 1919 Limerick Soviet. His current work for the achievement of a PhD, also at TCD, is centred around the internationalisation of Irish Communism in relation to the Communist International during the interwar years.

Paper Title: 'Working Class Heroes? Big Jim Larkin and James Connolly in Cultural Memory: Myths and Reality'

Paper Abstract: This paper will seek to examine the mythologisation of Ireland's most influential Labour leaders, the trade unionist and communist, Jim Larkin and socialist republican, James Connolly, within working-class literature, culture and art from the mid-20th century to the present. This work will examine the depictions of both men in works of fiction and how the popular interpretations of the ideals of these men were instrumental for the development of a class consciousness and pride within Irish labour. Exploring literary works such as James Plunkett's classic 1969 novel, *Strumpet City* as well as the work of Sean O'Casey, this article will take a broad approach to cultural depictions, not limiting itself to the written word, but also looking at commemorations, music and film to seek out the impact of these two men.

Not limited to working class experience and as a counterbalance to the analysis of cultural (mis)memory, the second half of this paper will seek to understand and explore the ramifications of dislocating the politics of Connolly and Larkin which allowed these radical socialists to fit into the pantheon of Irish republican nationalism. This will be exemplified principally in the form of commemorations by the Irish state of pivotal movements in these men's lives, most notably, the 2013 State Commemoration of the 1913 Dublin Lockout and the 2016 State Commemoration of the 1916 Rising. A particular focus will be shown towards the ways in which Jim Larkin and James Connolly are remembered and celebrated by Irish Governments.

26. **Charienne Layson**, University College Dublin

Charienne Layson is currently a final-year student at University College Dublin, studying for a BA in History and Politics. She is passionate about historical research, with a particular

interest in Asian political history. She has various experiences in this field as has taken numerous modules concerning Asian history and politics. Charienne is also embarking on an academic dissertation on the topic of Chinese foreign policy for her final year at UCD. Furthermore, she has an excellent academic track record and has previously won an award for academic excellence in history in secondary school.

Paper Title: 'Shame and Memory: Society and the aftermath of Japan's Comfort Women in South Korea, The Philippines, and China'

Paper Abstract: This research paper examines and compares the differences in the memory of Japan's 'comfort women' during World War II in the Philippines, China, and South Korea. This paper will attempt to explain why comfort women in the Philippines have mostly been forgotten whereas, in South Korea and China, the memory of comfort women is significantly more present, with the government actively seeking to remember and honour the victims, using factors such as cultural differences, religion, and historical censorship. This paper will also examine the role of the media, the government, and education in either preserving or neglecting the memory of Japan's comfort women and the effects of Japan's denial of these crimes on the memory of comfort women in these respective countries. This paper will use primary sources such as testimonials from girls and women who were forced to be comfort women during WWII and secondary sources such as prior academic research and government reports.

27. **Dr Elaine Mahon**, Technology University, Dublin

Dr Elaine Mahon is the Assistant Director of the [National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies](#) and lectures in culinary arts, food pedagogy, gastronomy and food studies at the [School of Culinary Arts and Food Technology](#) at TU Dublin. She is on the organising committee of the [Dublin Gastronomy Symposium](#) and is a trustee of the [Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery](#). Elaine's PhD focused on diplomatic dining, diplomatic protocol and state entertainment by Irish ministers for External Affairs between 1922 and 1963. Her current research focuses on Irish food history, French gastronomy, diplomacy and material culture. She is working on a monograph entitled 'The Minister requests the pleasure: Irish diplomatic dining, 1922-1963' due for publication early next year.

Paper Title: 'From Felons to Respectable Ministers of the Crown': Establishing Rituals in Irish Diplomatic Dining, Dublin Castle 1934'

Paper Abstract: On 31 March 1934, a change in Irish diplomatic protocol was announced in *The Irish Times*² newspaper that, for the first time since Ireland had gained independence in 1921, a ministerial envoy to the Irish Free State had presented their credentials to the President of the Executive Council Éamon de Valera. The ceremony took place at Dublin Castle following which a state banquet was held in honour of the new arrival. While this might not seem particularly innovating, it marked a significant change in procedure for the Irish government. Under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, the Irish Free State had become a dominion of the British Commonwealth. Up to the time of the Irish government request in 1934, credentials had therefore been presented to the Governor General, the representative of the British monarch in Ireland, at the Vice Regal Lodge in the Phoenix Park where a small reception was generally held afterwards. The change in the procedure was part of a strategy by de Valera to curtail the powers and visibility of what he considered to be proof of the continued presence of the British in Ireland.

² The Irish Times, 'Mr. McDowell's Reception - Statement on Change in Procedure - Why Governor-General was Absent.' 31 March 1934, p.7.

Once the change in the presentation of credentials was granted, de Valera quickly made a series of further changes to the procedure. He moved the ceremony to Dublin Castle and began to host a state banquet in honour of each new minister to formally welcome them to their post. When an envoy left to take up a post elsewhere, he would host a banquet in their honour to mark their departure. These banquets established a new ritual within Irish diplomatic dining which when examined in the context of Morgenthau's theory of prestige³ or Nye's aim of soft power – changing behaviour through perception, symbolism and culture,⁴ demonstrate how the Irish government used the ritual of diplomatic dining to confer varying levels of prestige on its guests by means of the menus served, the food offered, the order of precedence and seating arrangements. This presentation will explore the style and form of these dining events along with the intrinsic symbols of sovereign identity used by de Valera and his government to further demonstrate independence and will show how even in its infancy Irish state dining was in line with that of other nations and reflected international, and in particular French standards of the time.

28. **Mark Mahony**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Mark Mahony is a third-year English and History student at Carlow College, Mark is the undergraduate chairperson for the conference. He originates from the neighbouring county of Kilkenny. His main research topic is the Irish influence in the golden age of Hollywood, by examining such people as William Taylor Desmond a Carlow-born man who became one of silent era Hollywood's greatest directors.

Paper Title: 'Irish Influence on the early Hollywood industry: Irish helping to lay the foundation of Hollywood'

Paper Abstract: This paper shall examine the influence that Irish emigrants and workers had on California, specifically the industry that would become known as the Hollywood. The film industry within the US is one of (if not) the wealthiest industries within the country. Within school we learn that Irish workers built up New York, Boston, American railroads and similarly in England. But we never are taught the impact the Irish had on Hollywood, both Irish and Irish Americans trying to achieve the American dream. By Examining these people, this paper aims to give a thoughtful insight to the early Hollywood industry and by Examining William Desmond Taylor, Charlie Chaplin, and Marilyn Monroe.

The sources that will be used within the work shall include Journal articles, academic standard biographies, and other historical texts. The essay shall close out with asking what the current influence the Ireland and Irish people have in Hollywood and if Ireland has in itself gained recognition worldwide for her contribution to the industry.

29. **Peter Marrey**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Peter Marrey is a 4th year honours Arts & Humanities student studying at St. Patricks College, Carlow. His dissertation is on the service life of the HMS Warspite, the Royal Navy's most decorated warship, which served in both world wars from 1915 through to 1945.

Paper Title: 'The life of the HMS Warspite 03'

Paper Abstract: The ship saw conflict in most naval theatres in both wars, spanning from the North Atlantic in the battles of Jutland and Narvik, to the Mediterranean and even as far as the Indian ocean and the pacific, being docked in American ports during the pearl harbour

³ Morgenthau, H. J. (1960). *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 6th ed. Boston, Mass.: McGrawHill

⁴ Nye, J. S. (2004). *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. New York, N. Y., Public Affairs.

attacks. The reason why I chose this specific ship is how one can look at the Warspite as the defining example as to how battleships developed throughout both world wars. The design of the ship was revolutionary, being the first capital ship to run solely on oil and possessing gun significantly more powerful than any other warship at the time. The Warspite was also perhaps the most augmented battleship in the royal navy excluding those which were turned into aircraft carriers, and saw its hull and superstructure radically changed during the inter-war periods to better tackle the growing threat of submarines and aircraft. The ship would also become a sort of trend setter when it comes to naval records, being the first battleship to sink a submarine in the 2nd world war, through to hitting the longest-range gunnery hit on a moving target while she herself was moving. The Warspite's extensive list of battle honours and engagements allows me to delve deeper into how battleships performed against the ever-evolving world of naval warfare.

30. **Martin McMahon**, University College Dublin

Martin McMahon is an MA student in Irish History at University College Dublin. Having originally graduated in 1986 with a degree in Chemical Engineering from UCD and an MBA from Dublin City University (1992), Martin's focus has now switched from engineering to the humanities and specifically, the Early Modern Period and how contemporary society can identify clear and direct consequences from decisions of this period. His current field of interest is the Imperialisation and Colonialisation of Urban Landscapes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Paper Title: 'Oxmantown: The Birth of a Barracks'

Paper Abstract: Eighteenth century Ireland's landscape was dominated by an architecture of power, empire and conquest. Core to this architecture was the construction of a network of army residential barracks, which started in the 1690s and became a dominant part of our urban landscape. This association with conquest has created a national reluctance in acknowledging the role of this aspect of Ireland's heritage. While The Royal Barracks (now Collins Barracks) was central to the English administration's strategy in Ireland, its significance within the context of empire was equally critical. The Royal Barracks occupied a position of power for over three hundred years, standing as a sentinel over the Liffey, silently observing and dominating the traditional routes into the city, up to and past Dublin Castle, the traditional seat of the English establishment in Ireland.

This paper will examine the initial financial, political and societal pressures that resulted in the construction of the Royal Barracks from the return of the Duke of Ormond after the Restoration, up to its occupation in 1707. The scope of this paper will cover the role of both the Parliament and the Dublin City Assembly as well as the parallel transformation of the Oxmantown area. The consequence of these developments was the establishment of what was to become the most prestigious, impressive and long-lasting barracks within the British Empire, ultimately housing a military that was core to the creation of empire.

31. **Máire McCafferty**, University College Dublin

Máire McCafferty is a PhD student in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore, in University College Dublin. She is part of the European Research Council-funded project 'Youth Engagement in European Language Preservation, 1900-2020,' which focuses predominantly on the Irish, Welsh and Catalan languages. Máire's PhD research explores the historical significance of the Irish Language Summer College, the role of youth and the creation of Irish national culture.

Paper Title: 'Gaelicising the National Schools in the Irish Free State: The Significance of the Irish Language Summer Colleges in 1920's Ireland'

Paper Abstract: Compulsory Irish in the education system of modern Ireland has its roots firmly in the early years of the Irish Free State, although the role played by the Irish Language Summer College has been overlooked by historians and educationalists alike. At the beginning of 1922, the new Ministry of Education announced that the Irish language would be a compulsory subject in all national schools from St. Patrick's Day that year henceforth, as part of its plan to revive the Irish language through the education system. The Ministry relied heavily on the existence of the Irish Language Summer College network to achieve this, and from 1922-1928 inclusive, national school teachers were sent to government-funded summer courses at Irish Colleges.

First founded in 1904 by members of the Gaelic League, the Irish Summer Colleges quickly become an organised body providing education, methodological training and teaching certification in the Irish language, completely independent of the British-controlled education system in Ireland. Official certification in Irish was provided to thousands of teachers through the Irish Colleges pre-1922, at a time when the language was either completely excluded or poorly taught in the state teacher-training colleges. During the 1920's, the Colleges played an astounding role in the educational affairs of the new state: a conservative estimate places the numbers who attended funded courses at the Colleges between 1922-1928 at over 60,000.⁵

This paper will provide an analysis of the historical significance of the Irish Language Summer College in pre-independent and newly-partitioned Ireland, and will explore the extent to which the existence of this independent educational institution allowed the Irish Free State to place Irish at the core of its new national education system during the 1920's.

32. **Eimhin McGann**, University College Dublin

Eimhin is a final year student of History and Politics in UCD. Having a deep interest and keen aptitude for both, he understands how important politics is, but also that politics, and people involved in it, absolutely must have a thorough education in history, which provides us with so many lessons to learn from and mistakes to avoid.

Paper Title: 'How did the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) affect the international balance of power?'

Paper Abstract: Though they brought down Tsarist Russia, their successful move to Great Power status brought with it paranoia and counter-moves from the other Great Powers, namely Germany and the U.S. The massive costs incurred, plus the nationalist zeal instilled by the elite to fight the war, would leave Japan in perhaps a more precarious state than she was before she was a Great Power. A pyrrhic victory.

33. **Tom McGrath**, Maynooth University

Tom McGrath is an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of History at Maynooth University. His thesis, entitled 'An examination of the Irish in South Africa, c.1921-61', seeks to further our understanding of the Irish-South African community, by examining how the development of Ireland, Northern Ireland and South Africa impacted upon the relatively small Irish population on the southern tip of Africa.

Paper Title: 'The 1903 Leinster Riot in Pretoria'

⁵ Based on the yearly reports of Aireacht an Oideachais/An Roinn Oideachais 1923-30.

Paper Abstract: In March 1903, Pretoria was rocked by news of unrest coming from the city's Artillery Barracks where the Leinster Regiment was stationed. It was not long before information began to spread throughout the Transvaal, outlining how members of the regiment had rebelled against their superiors, seized rifles and ammunition, barricaded themselves into a part of the facility and ultimately opened fire on their fellow soldiers. Four men were seriously wounded during the tumult with one (Private G.A. Carey) dying soon after. The riot became a major news story in South Africa with the fate of the men responsible being closely followed. Once the dust had settled, ten men were put on trial with five of these (all Irishmen) being sentenced to death for their role in killing Carey. Yet, none of the soldiers were executed and, in time, they were released one-by-one and sent back to Ireland.

The Leinster Riot of 1903 has yet to be examined by historians of Ireland or South Africa, leaving its significance still to be explicated. This paper will seek to explain the genesis of the episode, the figures involved and the larger currents at play that allowed the five Leinster rioters to not only escape capital punishment, but also capture public opinion in both South Africa and Ireland.

34. **Tony McGrath**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Tony McGrath is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He has been recording items on display in the public realm for 10 years – Roadside Death Memorials; Grottos; Postboxes; Republican War Memorials . In 2019, his article on Roadside Memorials was published in Béascna, the U.C.C. Journal of Folklore & Ethnology. In February 2022 he presented at an online QUB conference on the IHS tiles that are buildings in Galway, Ennis, Limerick and Cork and their connection to the 1932 Eucharistic Congress. In June last year, he presented at the Civil War Conference held at UCC on the subject of Civil War Memorials.

Paper Title: 'Roadside Memorials – An Ongoing History'

Paper Abstract: The use of the wayside as a place of commemoration has changed and continues to change. Ogam stones were believed to be both grave markers and boundary markers; the dead as sentries to protect the community. As graveyards developed, those not permitted to be buried within were consigned to the wayside including suicides, shepherds and gypsies. The roadside also contained many funeral halts. The memorials and halts have been lost in many locations to road improvements. This loss has been replaced by new roadside memorials.

I have been recording and photographing these memorials for 10 years – over 600 recorded and plotted, which have raised many queries, and unfinished research avenues/rabbit holes:

- Numbers are more for recent dates but not a modern phenomenon as some are over 100 years old
- Beginning to classify the accidents, many multiple vehicle fatalities are recorded on one memorial, but some are on opposite sides of road, and some do not name all deceased
- Those of motorcyclist fatalities often use motorbike imagery
- Some have been removed
- An analysis of a 60 mile section of road one Christmas indicated that many were recently adorned with wreaths signifying ongoing remembrance and visits

Many counties have introduced a permit scheme – controls and regulation now in place for what was for centuries unregulated.

This study is ongoing so any presentation will raise the queries and the avenues of analysis but not all answers and information is final for now.

35. **Luke Murphy**, Dundalk Institute of Technology Luke Murphy

Luke Murphy completed a BA in History and Irish Folklore in 2017 (UCD) and was awarded the Máire MacNeill scholarship upon commencing an MA in Folklore and Ethnology at UCD, graduating in 2018. His dissertation explored the evictions that took place in Bodyke, County Clare, in the late nineteenth century through the lens of folk history and oral tradition. In 2019 Luke began his current PhD research at DKIT, funded by the HEA Landscape and Technological University Transformation Funds. His research interests include landed estates, cartography, Irish social and local history, the history of land and landscape, oral history and tradition.

Paper Title: ‘Cartography and the Landed Estates of North County Louth’

Paper Abstract: In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, landownership in Ireland was consolidated in a network of estates and families that dominated the island. Landlords and their agents were responsible for the development of industry and agriculture on their estates, the improvement and ordering of lands, and consequently, the situation of their tenants and how they lived and worked on the land. From the early eighteenth century, privatised estate mapping was at the forefront of Irish cartographic output. Estate maps became practical tools at the hands of those managing and owning estates, capturing and tangibly contributing to the many changes taking place on the landscape. Maps and surveys were both a visual aid for, and a product of, estate management. They were commissioned for land sale, purchase, improvement, boundary disputes and ornamental purposes, among other things.

Across the country, maps and surveys survive in estate archives ranging from those of the ‘great’ landowners to the smaller estates of gentlemen farmers and large leaseholders. Numerous topics such as settlement, economy, religion, agriculture, labour and trade are captured in these maps. However, they have not yet been fully employed as a tool for historical inquiry. Landed estate history and estate cartography are in many ways intertwined, but the latter has not been given adequate attention by historians of landed estates. This paper will discuss the role of estate cartography in eighteenth and nineteenth century estate management, focussing on the region of north County Louth and three of its estates.

36. **Emer O’Brien**, University College Dublin

Emer O’Brien is a second year PhD student at UCD researching Irish nationalism and languages of race. She graduated from UCC with a First-Class Honours degree in 2019. She completed her MPhil degree in TCD in 2020; her final thesis focused on imperialism and the League of Nations, attempting to decode white supremacist inheritances of a moment in history which claimed the potential to be liberatory. Her interest include the interconnection of internationalism and imperialism, and Ireland’s place within this as a colonised country that retained access to whiteness in a global context. Emer’s current PhD project involves looking at whiteness as a global construct emerging at the beginning of the twentieth century, parsing how European forms of nationalism interacted with transatlantic race-consciousness to create a specifically Irish form of nationalism that interacted with a white-supremacist global hierarchy. Emer has presented previously in June of 2022 at ‘Commemorations: Then, Now, & to Come’: An Irish Studies Conference of the Decade of Centenaries’ at Ulster University.

Paper Title: ‘White Men's Wars: Ireland, settler colonialism and the Boer War’

Paper Abstract: Irish nationalism in fin-de-siècle international discourses of race and social Darwinism has huge potential for understanding how the cultural space of the pre-Revolutionary period informed the construction of Irish national identity in later years. This paper proposes to take the Irish fascination with the Boer War as a case study for examining

the way Irish nationalism incorporated these anxieties about race into its propaganda. Situating Irish nationalism in a greater global movement and using Irish journalism of time, particularly that of the United Irishman, shows a conscious need to claim 'whiteness' as outlined as between the settler identity of the diaspora and a European identity closer to the continent. As a nation tied to the genesis of colonialism and imperialism across the Atlantic world, and also tied to the birth of whiteness as a social reality in settler colonies, Ireland complicates offers a key to understanding settler colonialism, Whiteness and European nationalism. By building on and critiquing the work of Dónal McCracken and Bruce Nelson, and incorporating work from Theodore Allen and Charles W. Mills, this paper will examine how the construction of an Irish identity through the advanced nationalism of figures like Arthur Griffith, Padraig Pearse, and John MacBride was firmly embedded in a racial hierarchy visible in the rhetoric around the Boer war. Ostensible anti-imperial solidarity with the Boers was an example of the how Irish nationalist writers constructed Ireland's self-image as part of a European and white world.

37. **Margaret O'Sullivan**, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Margaret O'Sullivan is a third year Phd researcher and departmental assistant in the History Department, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Returning to education in 2012, she holds a Certificate in History of the Family and Genealogical Methods (2013), a Certificate in Local History (2014) and a Masters in Local History (2020) all awarded by University of Limerick. Margaret has had articles published in local history journals, given talks to various interested groups on her research and on how to research your family tree. Margaret is an active member of local history societies in her locality.

Paper Title: 'William Rochfort and the Irish landed estate agency business, 1872-1930'

Paper Abstract: Land agents, once an integral part of the management of Irish landed estates, have been largely overlooked in studies of landed estates and, for the most part, they dwell, forgotten, among the archives of the estates on which they had been employed. Were they 'devils one and all', 'ruthless exterminators and heartless tyrants' who left a legacy which 'stinks in the nostrils', out to get all that they could or was their role 'greatly misunderstood' and did they leave a more positive legacy? For many their negative legacy is the one that prevails to this day. Such is the dearth of publications on land agents that Reilly argues, rightly, that a 'comprehensive scholarly study of the [Irish] land agent has yet to appear'. My research proposes to address the lacuna by examining the career of William Rochfort, a member of a well-connected minor ascendancy family from county Carlow, who established his own landed estate agency business in the prosperous days of the 1870s, who had to negotiate his way through the turbulent and often dangerous days of the Land Wars and reinvent himself in the post landed estate era of the early twentieth century.

38. **Henry Teesdale**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Henry Teesdale is a mature student from Co Kilkenny, currently in his fourth and final year of a BA (Hons) English & History degree in Carlow College, Carlow. Henry's historical interests vary, but his prime interests are early twentieth century European and Irish history. Outside of my studies, Henry is passionate about sport, particularly Horse Racing and Cricket. He also enjoy watching Spaghetti Westerns, the music of Neil Young, and can often be found wetting a line on the River Nore.

Paper Title: 'The Recrudescence of a Myth: Blood Libel in Central & Eastern Europe, 1880 – 1914'

Paper Abstract: Blood libel, also commonly referred to as ritual murder, was a Middle Ages myth levelled at Jews by Christians, with the accusation being that Jews killed Christian children to obtain their blood for Jewish religious rites. The paper I propose to present will examine the revival of the blood libel myth in central and eastern Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It will begin by examining the rise of the blood libel phenomenon in the Middle Ages, showing how it was one of the key anti-Judaic tropes of that time, and how it led to murder, forced conversion to Christianity, as well as forced exile. The paper will then examine how and why such a myth was revived after centuries of near dormancy, and how it was used by European antisemites and the Catholic church to malign Jews in the period after Jewish Emancipation. The presentation will then examine two of the key blood libel trials that took place during the period, highlighting the damage such a myth did to European Jews.

39. **Lily Toomey**, Trinity College, Dublin

Lily Toomey is a PhD student at the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities working on the project ‘peat mining as an unwritten chapter in the fossil fuel age’, funded by the Provost PhD Project Award. Her research is focused on the modernising Irish state in the twentieth century and the industrialisation of a native energy source, peat. She is also a research assistant on the interdisciplinary DAFM, and EPA funded RePeat project which is using historical surveys to quantify past and inform future land use change on Irish peatlands. Lily completed a BA in History and Political Science from Trinity College Dublin in 2019.

Paper Title: ‘Working Peatlands – Community and Nature in Ireland’s Industrial Bogs’

Paper Abstract: Peatlands in Ireland have long been contested landscapes. Considering present-day debates about climate-change mitigation and the changing value of peatlands from fuel sources to carbon sinks, this paper will explore the origins of the competing ideas about peatlands. As part of a larger PhD project that is examining the development of industrial peat-mining in Ireland in the twentieth century, this paper will examine the legacies of community building and identity formation for workers at the sites of peat extraction in Ireland’s midlands.

Prior to their industrialisation, bogs were already sites of community making in rural Ireland through the practice of the meitheal which saw families and communities support each other in the seasonal work of saving the turf. This paper will explore the ways that this practice was reimagined in Bord na Móna bogs through the legislative and publicity efforts of political and institutional actors. It will further explore how the material conditions of peatlands as the sites of work influenced the culture and identity of the workers and how the mechanisation of this work overtime manifested new ideas about the environments in which these people were employed. Finally, it will show how the transition from temporary to permanent settlement in peatland areas embedded the mostly migrant labourers within existing communities and in the development of new communities. This paper will use oral interviews and the material culture of the early Bord na Móna camps to show how people thought about their lives, their work, and their environments.

40. **Jack Traynor**, Trinity College, Dublin

Jack Traynor is an IRC-funded PhD candidate at the Department of History in Trinity College Dublin. He completed his MA in History at Queen’s University Belfast in 2022 and his BA in History at Trinity College Dublin 2021. He is the author of a forthcoming book, *General Eoin O’Duffy: Ireland’s Prospective Dictator* (being published by McFarland and Co.)

Paper Title: ‘Eoin O’Duffy in the context of the Nazi/Fascist International Rivalry, 1934-1944’

Pape Abstract: This paper intends to shed light on two incidents which illustrate the role of Eoin O’Duffy on the international stage during his post-Fine Gael political career. The first relates to O’Duffy’s alleged attendance at extreme-right international conferences in December 1934. Whilst previous historiography has claimed O’Duffy attended a Nazi-sponsored conference in Zurich in December 1934, this paper reveals this often-repeated claim is incorrect. Significantly, he attended a (well-documented) conference in Montreux, Switzerland in December 1934 hosted by Fascist Italy. This paper contextualizes the international rivalry between Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy prior to their reproachment following Italy’s international isolation in the aftermath of the Abyssinian invasion, and details their respective attempts to promote their own versions of extreme-right ideology. The paper argues that O’Duffy firmly fell within the pro-Italian orbit, which precluded support for Nazi Germany. The second incident to be examined was an alleged offer made by O’Duffy in 1943 of a ‘Green Division’ to fight in the Second World War on the Eastern Front for the Nazis, a claim regularly repeated in existing historiography. This paper scrutinizes this claim and concludes that that ‘Green Division’ was a hoax.

41. **Sandrine Tromeur**, Maynooth University

Sandrine Tromeur graduated with a MA in Heritage Management in 2013 at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (France). She worked for four years in the Heritage industry in France and from 2017 in Ireland. Sandrine became increasingly interested in the history of Franco-Irish relations and migrations. After the identification of an original research project, she was awarded a John & Pat Hume scholarship to undertake her doctoral studies in September 2021 in the Department of History at Maynooth University. Sandrine is currently in her second year, and her research is funded by the Irish Research Council since September 2022.

Paper Title: ‘The emergence of an Irish community in La Rochelle during the seventeenth century (1630s-1690)’

Paper Abstract: Irish migration to France during the early-modern period is generally associated with the departure of the “Wild Geese” after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. However, scholarship of the past thirty years has demonstrated that mass migration from Ireland to Spain, France and England started much earlier, in the aftermath of the battle of Kinsale in 1602 and continued in the decades that followed in small and intermittent waves. The first evidence of an Irish presence in La Rochelle, a prosperous French port city, dates back to the late 1630s. A small and very cohesive group of catholic merchants settled in this thriving international trade centre, which was dominated by a local protestant elite. This original study of the Irish in La Rochelle is extremely significant as it challenges the traditional perception of Irish migration to Europe during the early-modern period as a political and religious ‘exile’. Based on the analysis of parish registers and notarial deeds, this paper first outlines the periodisation of the settlement, consolidation, and emergence of an Irish community in La Rochelle before 1690. The second part examines the demographic profile and occupations of the Irish migrants.

42. **Fiona Slevin**, University College Dublin

Fiona is a PhD candidate in UCD’s School of History. Her thesis focuses on the commercial dynamics of a small, rural town in post-Famine Ireland (1850-1875), and in particular on the money flows between households, enterprise and government. Prior to her studies, Fiona had a 35 year career in business as a tech entrepreneur and change management consultant. She is a non-executive director on a number of commercial and not-for-profit entities. She

has published a number of histories of south Leitrim in the nineteenth century as well as a history of the Upper Leeson Street area, Dublin.

Paper Title: ‘Thriving in post-Famine Ireland: consumerism in a small rural town, 1850–75’

Paper Abstract: Small, rural towns in post-Famine Ireland (1850-1875) have hardly been examined by historians, despite their crucial role in the economic and social development of the Irish countryside. There is even less research on commerce and consumerism in such towns in the period. Yet, there is general agreement amongst scholars that shops proliferated in post-Famine Ireland, and a new culture of shopping and consumer identity developed, especially amongst a growing middle class. Using Mohill, County Leitrim as a microstudy, this paper examines post-Famine recovery by analysing consumerism in Mohill between 1846 and 1870. According to Slater’s *Directory*, Mohill in 1856 was a ‘thriving’ town with ‘several good shops’. This paper addresses two questions: what constituted a ‘thriving’ rural town in post-Famine Ireland?, and to what degree did ‘thriving’ apply to all occupations, classes and genders?

As well as analysing enterprise growth in Mohill between 1846 and 1870, I quantify the level of conspicuous consumption in Mohill in the period through comprehensive analysis of an account book for a single drapery shop in Mohill in 1873-74. I also analyse the role of shop credit, and examine how this facilitated consumerism and post-Famine recovery. I argue that small rural Irish towns recovered quickly from the Famine, and that improved living standards extended to the middle and poorer classes, while women across classes had agency and discretionary spending power. I argue that shop credit was key to growth and consumerism, and that shopkeepers played a key role in facilitating post-Famine recovery in rural Ireland.

43. **Caitlín Smith**, Ulster University

Caitlín Smith is a second year PhD researcher in the History department at Ulster University. Her research is focused on maternal and infant welfare in Belfast during the twentieth century, maternal and infant mortality rates, and the experiences of both married and unmarried mothers between 1900 and 1974. She has previously completed work on women of ‘questionable morality’ using workhouses in Ireland; infant mortality rates in Belfast during the First World War; and has contributed to the podcast ‘Epidemic Belfast’, discussing midwifery and the medicalisation of pregnancy and childbirth in the first half of the twentieth century.

Paper Title: “On the grounds of public health we have not done enough’: government intervention into maternal welfare in Belfast’

Paper Abstract: Following the partitioning of the island of Ireland in 1921, Northern Ireland was the only part of the UK with a devolved government in place. The new Northern Irish government was in charge of political, social and economic issues, including public health. This paper will consider what action was taken by the Northern Irish executive during the 1930s and 1940s to improve maternal welfare. It will discuss the legislation that was put in place to help mothers, as well as considering the funding made available to improve welfare and mortality rates. This paper will consider whether this new State did enough to protect women and whether religious and political issues dominated at the expense of female health. It will look at how women in Belfast fared compared with other women in cities in Britain and Ireland and how living in a religiously and political divided city impacted on women. Drawing on a variety of sources including government and local authority records this paper will place maternal health in the wider context of devolved government and the establishment and growth of a new state.

44. **Miriam Sticht**, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Miriam Sticht grew up in Bayreuth, Germany where she obtained her Leaving Certificate in 2018. She then moved to Edinburgh, Scotland where she worked one year as an Au-Pair and additionally to my cultural activities, undertook a Scottish history short course at the University of Edinburgh. Miriam enrolled in Carlow College as an English and History Student in 2019, where she will graduate this May. Throughout the last four years, she has worked as a nurse's assistance, and has completed internships in cultural management, archiving, and public history in museums. Her research interests are Early Modern History, the History of Medicine, and the History and Politics of the 20th Century.

Paper Title: 'The significance of Renaissance anatomists' studies of female sexuality and reproductive autonomy'

Paper Abstract: The proposed research paper is titled 'The significance of Renaissance anatomists' studies of female sexuality and reproductive anatomy'. In this context 'significance' means to which extent they employed newer methods of research, such as standardised dissections, and came to new and controversial conclusions, but also to which extent they relied on established patterns of scholarship. The degree of their significance is also measured by a short analysis of the relative influence of their research. To make this comparison, the first part of the paper outlines prevailing perceptions in the Middle Ages and highlights the initial changes in the Renaissance. The second part then examines the research methods, results, and hypotheses, in the form of exemplary case studies of a specifically interesting anatomist in relation to female sexuality and reproductive anatomy, namely Leonardo DaVinci. In highlighting similarities and differences, I wish to prove that while certain developments in the Renaissance facilitated medical advancement, some of the old scholarship remained. Ultimately, the advantage of the Renaissance was not a sudden change of all research methods, but the emancipation of methods and knowledge from previous strict restrains, that allowed a more honest and open scholarship.

IHSA at Carlow College, 2023

Keynotes and Chairs' Biographies and Abstracts

Professor Linda Connolly, Maynooth University

Professor Linda Connolly is Professor of Sociology and Director, of the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute. She was the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Visiting Scholar during the Lent Term 2022. Her research interests include feminism, gender, historiography, family, conflict related violence, war, migration, and Irish studies. Since 2016, she has authored several academic publications on the gender-based and sexual violence women experienced in the Irish Revolution (1919-23), and in the public domain including in the *Irish Times*. She led the Irish Research Council funded 'Women and the Irish Revolution' project. She has published a number of books, *The Irish Women's Movement: From Revolution to Devolution* (London and New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003), *Documenting Irish Feminisms: the Second Wave* (with Tina O'Toole, republished in 2020, Galway: Arlen Press), *Social Movements and Ireland* (with Niamh Hourigan, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2006), *The Irish Family* (London: Routledge, 2014), and *Women and the Irish Revolution: Feminism, Activism, Violence* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2020). Linda was also academic consultant on the documentary *Cogar na mhná* and contributed her research.

Dr Brian Gurrin, Trinity College, Dublin

Dr Brian Gurrin, ADAPT Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin, is the census specialist on the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland project. He has written extensively on census taking in Ireland, and is particularly interested in the demographics of Ireland's regions in the pre-Famine period. His joint authored (with Kerby Miller and Liam Kennedy) volume, *The Irish religious censuses of the 1760s*, was published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 2022. His joint authored (with Liam Kennedy, Donald MacRaild and Lewis Darwen) volume, *The Death Census of Black '47: eyewitness accounts of Ireland's Great Famine*, was published in early 2023. He is currently researching the census of Ireland of 1815-15, Ireland's first statutory census.

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley, University of Galway/IHSA Chair

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley lectures in History at the University of Galway. She is named author/editor of ten books, twenty peer-reviewed articles/chapters and 100 other publications including the *Old Ireland in Colour* series which have sold over 125,000 copies. She is Co-PI of Tuam Oral History Project and her work and projects have been cited over 200 times in the media, including the *New York Times* and *CNN*. She has been the Chair of the Irish History Student's Association since 2014.

Dr Ian D'Alton, Trinity College, Dublin

Dr Ian d'Alton, FRHistS, wrote *Protestant society and politics in Cork, 1812-1844* (1980) and was co-editor, with Dr Ida Milne, of *Protestant and Irish: the minority's search for place in independent Ireland* (2019). He has been an honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool; and a Senior Research Associate, Peterhouse and a Visiting Fellow at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He is currently co-writing *Wicklow in the Irish revolution 1912-23*.

Dr Mel Farrell, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Dr Mel Farrell has research expertise in the Irish Revolution, 1912-22, the Irish Free State 1922-37, and decolonisation in southern Africa. He is the author of one monograph, *Party*

Politics in a New Democracy: The Irish Free State, 1922-37 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), three book chapters and five peer-reviewed journal articles (published in *Parliamentary History*, *Éire-Ireland* and *New Hibernia Review*). He has taught history in DCU, Maynooth University and UCD, and is currently serving as a Lecturer in Irish History at Carlow College.

Ciara Henderson, Trinity College, Dublin

Ciara Henderson is a doctoral researcher in the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research, School of Nursing & Midwifery Trinity College Dublin. Her research project, *The Spaces Between Us*, is an interdisciplinary project that explores family experiences of baby and pregnancy loss and their ways of remembering from 1900 – 2000 using qualitative research methods. This project is funded by the Trinity College 1252 Postgraduate Research Scholarship. A social scientist, Ciara's work focuses on the social and cultural dimensions of mourning and the social responses to infant death, dying, burial and bereavement across time. Ciara has a multidisciplinary background graduating with a BA in Journalism (2000), MSc in Marketing (2004) and more recently a first-class honours MSc in Social Science (2014) from University College Dublin, where her thesis examined conceptualisations of infant death.

Dr Thomas Mc Grath, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Dr Thomas Mc Grath is a historian, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar of Carlow College. He is the senior academic officer of the College. A graduate of UCD he holds two doctorates, and is the author of a three volume study of Bishop James Doyle of Kildare and Leighlin (JKL) which won the Irish Historical Research Prize of the NUI. He is an editor of three volumes in the County: History and Society series: Tipperary, Kildare, and Carlow. He has taught at UCD, Maynooth and TCD. Research and teaching interests are in International and European history, the long history of Antisemitism and the Holocaust. He is from The Park, Ballingarry, in South Tipperary.

Dr Ida Milne, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Dr Ida Milne is a social historian of health, specialising in health in the revolutionary decade, and of Irish Protestant identity. She lectures in history at Carlow College and is a visiting research fellow at TCD History.

Dr Margaret Murphy, Carlow College, St Patrick's

Dr Margaret Murphy completed her BA and PhD in Trinity College Dublin. She then became a post-doctoral researcher in the University of London working on a project which reconstructed London's food supply in the medieval period. When she returned to Ireland, she took up a post with the Discovery Programme's Medieval Rural Settlement project and in 2010 published a book on the *Medieval Dublin Region* which was co-authored with archaeologist Michael Potterton. She has been working in Carlow College, St Patricks since 2009 and recently was involved in the design of a new MA programme in Irish Regional History. She currently hold the post of Assistant Registrar in CC and is still actively publishing in the field of social and economic history of Medieval Ireland. Her chapter on 'The Economy' was included in the medieval volume of the *New Cambridge History of Ireland*.

Dr Dónal Ó Catháin, IHSA

Dónal Ó Catháin is from Cork originally. He has a BA in German and Irish from the University of Galway, an MA in Modern Irish from UCC and a PhD in Modern Irish from the

University of Galway. He wrote a thesis entitled ‘Gearaltaigh Dheasmhumhan mar Phátrúin agus mar Údair i Réimse Léann agus Litríocht na Gaeilge’ [‘The FitzGerald’s of Desmond as Patrons and Authors in the Field of Irish Learning and Literature’]. Since 2016, he has been working as a translator in the European Parliament in Luxembourg. An article of his, entitled ‘Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh - ‘Ard-Ollamh Ereann le Dán’ [‘Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh - ‘Ireland’s Arch-Professor of Poetry’] was published in the Duhallow Historical Journal, *Dúchas*, in 2022.

Dr Sarah Otten, Carlow College, St Patrick’s

Dr Sarah Otten is Programme Director for the Arts & Humanities programmes at Carlow College. She is also a lecturer in moral and political philosophy with a particular interest in applied ethics.