

ACIS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Migration, Labor, and
Inclusion in the American
Experiment

A Comparative
Exploration of Past
and Present



May 27-31, 2026



ACIS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
FOR IRISH STUDIES
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
DENVER, CO
2026

Migration, Labor, and Inclusion in the American Experiment:
A Comparative Exploration of Past and Present

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
MAY 27-31, 2026

Hosted by:



University of Colorado
Denver



American Conference for Irish Studies

An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánach do Léann na hÉireann

What is ACIS?

The American Conference for Irish Studies is a multidisciplinary international scholarly organization. Founded in 1960, it is the oldest and largest academic organization dedicated to the study of Ireland and the Irish. Each spring the ACIS holds a national conference. Regional meetings are held every autumn in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and Western regions; the Southern regional takes place in the winter. Both national and regional meetings include plenary speakers, academic sessions in all fields of Irish Studies, poetry and fiction readings, films, and performances of Irish music and plays.

The conference this year focuses attention on Migration, Labor, and Inclusion in the American Experiment: A Comparative Exploration of Past and Present. When a massive strike of silver miners in Leadville, Colorado exploded in May of 1880, Michael Mooney - the Dublin-born leader of the union - declared “We may not have the whole American flag, but we have earned a corner of it.” Irish immigrants to North America faced desperate circumstances. Entry into the American mainstream meant overcoming myriad obstacles and involved reshaping themselves culturally, socially, and politically as they navigated toward acceptance. This conference seeks to examine how this process worked and the choices and adjustments that migrants made to their identities and practices, along with the strategies and tactics that they used to build social and community strength in the streets, their workplaces, the arts, and the public sphere. Today, migrants from other parts of the world navigate a similar terrain. Panel discussions include comparative perspectives to migrant communities today from other parts of the world, asking what we can learn from the past during this time of exclusion, from scholars across all stages of their careers, including graduate and undergraduate students, independent scholars, and artists.



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Keynote Speakers

Michael Patrick MacDonald



Michael Patrick MacDonald is the author of the New York Times Bestseller, *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*, and the acclaimed *Easter Rising: A Memoir of Roots and Rebellion*. He has won the American Book Award, a New England Literary Lights Award, and an Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America. Both of his books are frequent selections for campus reads.

After losing four siblings and seeing his generation decimated by poverty, crime, addiction, and incarceration, MacDonald became a leading Boston organizer, helping to launch many anti-violence initiatives, including gun-buyback programs and support networks for survivors. He continues to work with survivor families, educators, and organizers, using his trauma-informed, transformative storytelling curriculum, *The Rest of the Story*.

In 2019, he received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to teach at Queen's University, Belfast. He is Professor of the Practice in Northeastern University's Honors Program, teaching writing and social justice issues, and at Harvard Summer School, where he teaches the role of personal narrative in restorative and transformative justice. He is currently writing his third book of narrative nonfiction.

Molly Sturdevant



Molly Sturdevant was an associate professor of early modern philosophy for ten years before pivoting to a career in editing and writing. Her sense of place and economic realities are at the core of her prose and poetry, which have appeared in *After Hours Press*, *Orion Magazine*, *The Dark Mountain Project*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *About Place Journal*, and many other places. Nominated for a Best of the Net and a Pushcart, she is recognized as a Western Federation of Miners Union Scholar, and has served as a reader for *Pithead ChaMichpel Magazine* and *The Maine Review*.

Her debut novel, *The Sleepers*, brings to life the true story of a 19th-century labor strike, researched in union archives (Regal House Publishing, September 2026). Her work has been supported by residences at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest and Elsewhere Studios. She grew up in Colorado, lives in the Midwest, and is working on a second novel.

Sean McKernan



Sean McKernan is an accomplished and internationally renowned photographer who has documented the social, cultural, and political life of Belfast over the past 45 years. In 1983, he co-founded the award-winning Belfast Exposed Community Photography Project, which he directed until 2001. His distinctive style of work that resonates with the communities he portrays has been extensively exhibited throughout Europe, America, and Australia, and is housed in many private collections both at home and abroad.

As a highly respected social photographer, his work provides a powerful visual account of Belfast's turbulent history and its fragile journey towards peace. His extensive collection of images explores the challenges and resilience of a divided society, capturing moments that reveal both conflict and hope. Now working as a freelance photographer with his Shoot Belfast Project, he continues to deliver socially engaging photography projects throughout Ireland. In 2024, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to photography at a special event in Belfast City Hall.

Performances By:

Dublin Gulch

Las Juntas: An Comar



Dublin Gulch was founded many decades ago in Butte, Montana, giving musical voice to the long history of Butte's Irish American community. Their music touches on the story of copper mining and transatlantic ethnic identity.

Las Juntas: An Comar is an interdisciplinary collaborative production five years in the making and born out of a series of artistic exchanges on the banks of the Rio Grande, on the US-Mexico border, and River Foyle, in the North of Ireland. Drawing together varied artistic practices - music, soundscape, theater, narration, photography, illustration, performance art, installation and dance - Las Juntas: An Comar weaves the threads of historical and contemporary connectivity between Irish and Mexican communities at home and in their diasporas, embodying and animating the possibilities of transnational solidarity in bridging the fracturing landscape of late-stage capitalism.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 27

Opening Reception: Molly Brown House | 6:00-8:00 PM

Join us for refreshments and view the *Unearthed: Voices of Leadville's Shanty Irish* exhibit at the historic Molly Brown House museum in Denver! The shuttle will pick people up from the conference hotel at 5:30, and will return participants to the hotel following the event.

Need rides throughout the conference? Use CO-OP, Colorado's ride share offering fair fares for riders and better pay for drivers!

Thursday, May 28

All sessions will be held in the Student Commons Building, 1201 Larimer St, Denver, CO 80204

Session I | 8:30–10:00 AM

Contemporary Irish Literature | SC2600

Moderator: Jason Buchanan, The City University of New York - Hostos

Aran Ward Sell, Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame – *Streams of Damaged Consciousness in the Post-Crash Irish Novel*

Thomas Shea, University of Connecticut – *Patrick McGinley's Two Bogmails*

Vivian Lynch, St. John's University, Emerita – *"No talk of fairies or spirit children in our town...": Garrett Carr's The Boy from the Sea*

Kersti Powell, St. Joseph's University - *"Sickened with shame": 'Eastern' Europe in Sally Rooney's Intermezzo*

Poetry & Poetic Form | SC2500A

Moderator: Sarah Townsend, University of New Mexico

Joseph Heininger, Dominican University – *"Some Watcher of the Skies": Seamus Heaney Climbs Aloft, Watches Planes Over Dublin, and Sees the Floating Earth in Four New Poems*

Megan Sprague, Pacifica Graduate Institute – *Too Loud for Whiteness: Keening and the Refusal of Emotional Discipline*

Maryam Tadayon, University of New Mexico – *Small Things, Shared Burdens: Feminist Memory, Migrant Ethics, and the Work of Community from Ireland to Iran*

The Given Note: Openness and Ethical Imagination in Seamus Heaney **SC2504**

Moderator: Yifan Zhang, Baylor University

Richard Rankin Russell, Baylor University – *Seamus Heaney and the Music of Inspiration*

Yifan Zhang, Baylor University – *Seamus Heaney's Corporal Empathy: Embodied Sensation as Ethical Agency in 'Cow in Calf,' 'Mother,' and 'Punishment'*

Patrick Alvis, Baylor University – *From Virgil to Dante: The Changing Poetic in Seamus Heaney's Field Work and Station Island*

Labor, Regulation, and Social History | SC1500

Moderator: Kenneth Shonk, Wisconsin-La Crosse

Eamon McCarthy, Independent Researcher – *Tuberculosis and the Respiratory Health of Irish Miners in Butte in 1914*

David Brundage, University of California, Santa Cruz, Emeritus – *Children at Work: Perspectives from the History of the Irish in America*

Ely Janis, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts – *A Tale of Two Patricks: Patrick Collins, Patrick Ford, and Coming of Age in Irish America*

Michael de Nie, University of West Georgia – *The American Comic Press and Parnellism*

Break | 10:00–10:15 AM

Session II | 10:15–11:45 AM

Women and Irish Literature | SC1500

Moderator: Molly Ferguson, Ball State University

Molly Ferguson, Ball State University – *Reclaiming the Folkloric Hag through Contemporary Irish Women's Writing*

Quinn Fisher, Boston College – *Big House Bodies: Animality in Molly Keane and Jennifer Johnston*

Theodore Lehre, Boston College – *Chickens, Incubators, and Family Allegories in The Land of Spices*

Zoe Van Cauwenberg, Boston College – *Recovering Women's Antiquarianism: Louisa Catherine Beaufort*

Ireland, Colonialism, and Global Connections | SC2500A

Moderator: Aidan Beatty, Carnegie Mellon

Muiris MacGiollabhuí, Purdue University – *The Exiled United Irishmen, Labor, and Slaveholding in British Jamaica*

Paloma Carroll-Ryan, Boston College – *Placemaking, Symbolic Violence and Northern Ireland's Community Relations Commission*

Scott Spencer, University of Southern California–*Performing Irish Ethnicity in America: The NYPD Bagpipe Band and Public Memorials*

Magdalene Laundries and Women in Irish Literature | SC2504

Moderator: Kersti Powell, St. Joseph's University

Gavin Keulks, Western Oregon University – *Home (Dis)rule: Magdalene Laundries, Mother & Baby Homes, and Ghost Estates*

Ann Rea, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown – *A Rough Class of Justice: Retribution and the Mother and Baby Homes in Benjamin Black's Quirke Fiction*

Isabel Hunt, University of Mexico – *The Kaleidoscopic Structure of Patricia Burke Brogan's Stained Glass at Samhain*

Jessica Oyler, Boston College – *O'Brien's Other Country Girl: A Post-Dobbs Analysis of Down by the River*

Lunch on your own | 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

Graduate Student Lunch Mixer | 12:00–1:00 PM | SC2500A

Sponsored by Boston College Irish Studies

Plenary | 1:15 PM–2:30 PM | SC2600

Welcome from the University of Colorado Denver Provost Karen Marrongelle

Sean McKernan, Photographer–*Belfast - Conflict to Peace: A Personal Photographic Journey, 1982-present*

Break | 2:30–2:45 PM

Session III | 2:45–4:15 PM

Roundtable: Dean Browne, After Party | SC2504

Moderator: Julie Morrissy, University of Limerick

Kelly Sullivan, New York University

Eric Falci, University of California - Berkeley

Renée Fox, University of California - Santa Cruz

Education, Museums, and Teaching the Troubles | SC1500

Moderator: Ann Rea, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown

Caleb Richardson, University of New Mexico – *Reacting to the Troubles*

Annette Beauchamp, University of Minnesota Twin Cities – *Dissonance in the Gallery: Encountering Marginalized Voices at the Museum*

Melissa DeLury, George Mason University – *Teaching the Troubles: An Ongoing Critical Ethnographic Study in Belfast Schools*

Rachael Healy, Stanford University – *Growing Up in 'Peace': Violence, Care, and Girlhood in a West Belfast Neighbourhood*

Irish and American Historical Memory | SC2500A

Moderator: Tim McMahon, Marquette

Felix Larkin, Historian – *How We Remember JFK: The Irish Perspective on an Irish-American President*

Mark Ortiz, University of Colorado Denver – *The Puzzlement of the St. Patrick's Battalion*

Hubert van Tuyll, Augusta University, Emeritus – *EXCLUSION: Woodrow Wilson and the Irish*

Break | 4:15–4:30 PM

Session IV | 4:30–6:00 PM

Vampires and Irish Cinema | SC1500

Moderator: Kelly Sullivan, New York University

Margot Backus, University of Houston – *Irishness and Settler Colonial Whiteness in Nast and Coogler's Sinners*

Jason Buchanan, The City University of New York – *Stakeholder Capitalism: Irish Vampires in Film*

Jacob Martin, Loyola Marymount University – *Our Boys and Boys Town: Irish Cinema's Undoing of the Classic Hollywood Irish Priest*

Michael Robinson, Claremont Graduate University – *Riffing on Stoker's Dracula: How Ryan Coogler Made Sinners Inclusive and Horrific*

The Word on the Wind: A Showcase of New Books by ACIS Poets | SC2600

Moderator: Nathalie Anderson, Swarthmore College

Jeff Holdridge, Director & Editor, Wake Forest University Press – *The Bonds of Nest and Urn*

Ed Madden, University of South Carolina – *I Asked Him What He Needed*

Kelly Sullivan, New York University – *Toledo Blade*

Daniel Tobin, Emerson College – *Dusk, Empire: New and Selected Poems*

20th-Century Irish Nationalism in America | SC2504

Moderator: Hollis Harris, Northern Illinois

Andrew Wilson, Loyola University Chicago – *Chicago's Irish Nationalists and the 1980–81 Hunger Strikes*

Lachlan Whalen, Purdue University Fort Wayne – *Joe Doherty's Exile, Prison Writing, and Extradition Battles*

Niamh Reilly, University of Galway – *Representing the 'national cause' and imagining 'Irish America': Tom Kettle's Tour of the United States, 1906–1907*

Irish Nationalism & Political History | SC2500A

Moderator: Aidan Beatty, Carnegie Mellon University

Tim O'Neil, Central Michigan University – *The Economic Relations Committee and the Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1921*

Caoimhín De Barra, Gonzaga University – *"Nothing can transmute a Celt into a Saxon": Race and the Irish War of Independence*

Bruce Kelley, Researcher – *William Gladstone, "The Truest Friend Ireland Ever Had...?"*

Mike Rast, Louisiana Scholars' College, Northwestern State University – *Explaining pre-First World War national socialism and its application to Ireland, 1880s-1920s*

Break | 6:00–6:15 PM

Evening Sessions | 6:15-7:30 PM

Open-Eyed, Full-Throated: A Poetry Reading by ACIS Poets | SC2600

Nathalie Anderson, Swarthmore College Emerita

Renny Golden, Northeastern Illinois University Emerita

Thomas McGuire, United States Air Force Academy

Joseph Lennon, Villanova University

Ann Neelon, Murray State University Emerita

Adrian Rice, Appalachian State University

Drucilla Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis Emerita

Eamonn Wall, University of Missouri at St Louis Emeritus

Lawrence Welsh, El Paso Community College, Emeritus

America 250: A View from Irish Studies | SC2500A/2504

Moderator: Cólín Parsons, Georgetown University

John Borgonovo, University College Cork

Anelise Shrout, Bates College

Sarah L. Townsend, University of New Mexico

Timothy McMahon, Marquette University

Darragh Gannon, Georgetown University

Language, Labor and Peaceful Resistance: Compelling and personal stories from the West of Ireland | SC1500

Joe Greaney, a bilingual storyteller and Social Historian from County Mayo. His family has a deep, personal connection to the most important movement in Irish History, i.e. the defeat, by peaceful means, of the 'Landlord' system inflicted for 500 years on the peasant, tenant classes. Joe introduces us to the people involved, how the poor were mobilized, and the all-important role of the Church in his small village in the 1870s and 80s.

Book Launch at the Celtic on Market | Downstairs

Molly Ferguson, *Banshees, Hags, and Changelings: Feminist Folklore Transformations In Irish Writing* (Syracuse UP)

Marion Quirici, *Fitness for Freedom: Disability, Degeneration, and Modern Irish Writing* (Syracuse UP)

Evening Event

The Celtic on Market | Downstairs| 8:00 PM

Irish folk musicians

(The Celtic has a great dinner selection)

Friday, May 29

Session V | 8:30–10:00 AM

Irish Labor and the American West | SC1500

Moderator: David Brundage, UC Santa Cruz

Eilish Brennan, University of Colorado Denver – *Fallen Women: Irish Sex Workers in Leadville, Colorado*

Kira Boatright, University of Colorado Denver – *Rocky Mountain Molly Maguires: Colorado's Connection to Irish Labor Radicalism in the Pennsylvania Coalfields*

Megan Milburn-McAlister, Mary Immaculate College – *A Surplus of Women: The West Coast Answer to the East Coast 'Bridget'*

Peggy Pollard, San Jose State University – *Blood at the Ferry Building: Irish Influence in San Francisco's 1934 Labor Strike*

Irish American Identity / Irish Americans Supporting Movements in Ireland | SC2600

Moderator: Muiris MacGiollabhuí, Purdue University

Erin Barr, SUNY Buffalo State University – *American Methods, Irish Goals: The Fenians Constitutions and American Irish Nationalism*

John Borgonovo, University College Cork – *The American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic and the American West, 1920–1921*

Darragh Gannon, Georgetown University – *Navigating New York–Ireland: Revolutionary Ireland’s ‘Global City’*

Timothy White, Xavier University – *Soft Power in the American Heartland: Irish-American Communities in St. Louis and Cincinnati*

Irish-American Culture | SC2500A

Moderator: Sinéad Moynihan, University of Exeter

Jim Byrne, Wheaton College, Norton – *The Nature of Nostalgia: Frank O’Connor’s “Ireland” and the Pastoral Trope of Irish-American Travel Writing*

Anelise Shrouf, Bates College – *Suffering from Emigration: Irish Inmates in Early Nineteenth-Century Bellevue*

James Walsh, University of Colorado Denver – *The Rocky Mountain Irish Roots Collective: Building a Vibrant Irish Studies Network in the Mountain West*

Roundtable: Seamus Heaney, The Poems of Seamus Heaney | SC2504

Moderator: Nathalie Anderson, Swarthmore College

John Waters, New York University

Richard Rankin Russell, Baylor University

Yifan Zhang, Baylor University

Joseph Heininger, Dominican University

Break | 10:00–10:15 AM

Session VI | 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

Family History and the Irish Diaspora | SC2500A

Moderator: Eilish Brennan, University of Colorado Denver

Sheila Shannon, University of Colorado Denver, Emerita – *Resistance to the Hegemony of English in the Life of an Irish American*

Sharon Newton, Boston University – *Two Generations in Leadville: A Family History*

Ruth Sando, Researcher – *Leadville and the Second Wave of the Irish Diaspora*

Helen Hayes Sweeney, Queen’s University Belfast – *The Emigration of Mick McGee: A Story in Three Scenes*

Irish Literary Modernism & Canonical Writers | SC2504

Moderator: Kaitlynn McShea-Jones, Ball State University

A.R. Mashilker, Towson University – *Reading Wilde & Joyce through Jakob Böhme*

Sinead Moynihan, University of Exeter – *“A Long-Ignored Cast of Characters”: Editor, Agent and Mid-Century Irish Writing*

Performing the Pub: Politics, Adaptation, and Migration | SC1500

Moderator: Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico

Bradley Kadel, Fayetteville State University – *‘Never Meddle with the Whiskey!’: Conceptions of Sociability, Drinking, and the Pub*

Charlotte Headrick, Oregon State University, Emerita – *There’s Whiskey in the Jar: Considering Irish Pub Dramas*

Matthew Spangler, San José State University – *‘Do You Write Original Plays Too?’: Adaptation of Non-Dramatic Texts for the Stage*

Roundtable: Is Ryan Coogler’s Sinners an Irish Film? | SC2600

Moderator: Matthew Reznicek, University of Minnesota

Molly Ferguson, Ball State University

Jason Matthew Buchanan, The City University of New York-Hostos

Mindi McMan, The College of New Jersey

Chanté Mouton Kinyon, University of Notre Dame

Lunch on your own | 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

Executive Lunch | 12:00–1:00 PM | SC1401

Plenary | 1:15 PM–2:15 PM | SC2600

James Walsh and Students—*Leadville’s Irish Pauper Memorial: A New Lens into the Rocky Mountain Irish Immigrant Story*

Leadville Excursion | 2:30–10:30 PM

Buses will depart at 2:30 pm and will return to campus approximately 10:00 pm.

Evergreen Cemetery—Leadville Irish Miner's Memorial | 4:30-6:00

Historic Annunciation Catholic Church | 6:15-6:45

Reception & Dinner at the historic Delaware Hotel | 7:00-8:30

Saturday, May 30

Session VII | 8:30-10:00 AM

Poetry Roundtable: Irish American Poetry, Migration, and the Art of Belonging | SC2500A

Moderator: Judyth Hill

Judyth Hill, Poet

Carol Guerrero-Murphy, Poet – *Hearing My Father's Voice*

Diasporic Activism in Focus: Religion, Nationalism, and Modern Media | SC1500

Moderator: Felix Larkin, Independent Scholar

Hollis Harris, Northern Illinois University – *The Dynamite Dilemma*

Timothy McMahon, Marquette University – *Conflicting Legacies in the Irish World: Insights from the Irish Jesuit Mission to Australia*

Matthew O'Brien, Franciscan University of Steubenville – *Fulton Sheen's Ecumenical Irishness*

Publishing in Irish and British Studies: A general discussion and listening session | SC2504

David Gardiner, St. Thomas University & New Hibernia Review
Susannah Ottaway, Carleton College & The Journal of British Studies
Kenneth Shonk, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse & The Journal of British Studies
Nicholas Wolf, New York University & Éire-Ireland

Art, Visual Culture, and Creative Practice | SC2600

Moderator: Elizabeth Fredericks, Hillsdale College
Kate Huber, Tilburg University – *Arts-Based Methods at the Intersection of Migration and Environment*
Jeryn Mayer, Houston City College – *Exporting more than Bushmills: Belfast's Street Artists Bring the Tradition of Painted Walls to the World*
Julie Morrissy, Mary Immaculate College – *Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk: Transdisciplinarity and Research-Creation in PATHOS*
Judith Stapleton, University of Notre Dame – *Dublin 1892: A Painter's Diary*

Break | 10:00–10:15 AM

Session VIII | 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Illuminating the Irish of Early Denver | SC1500

Moderator: James Walsh, University of Colorado Denver
James Walsh, University of Colorado Denver
Jose Cano Hinojos, University of Colorado Denver
Harriet Falconcetti, University of Colorado Denver
Jon Gutierrez, University of Colorado Denver
Daisuke Harada, University of Colorado Denver
Duncan Mills, University of Colorado Denver
Sebastian Rivera, University of Colorado Denver
Mark McQuaid, University of Colorado Denver

Migration, Diaspora & Transnational Identity | SC2504

Moderator: Amanda Crabb, Curry College

Cóilín Parsons, Georgetown University – *Out of Place: Irish Migrants in African Fiction*

Sally Barr Ebest, University of Missouri, St. Louis, Emerita – *Parallel Lives? Scots-Irish Protestant Women Migrants*

Lindsey McClure, Southern Methodist University – *Dirtbags and Bags of Dirt: Home Soil and The Migrant Experience*

Noah Randolph, University of Memphis – *Traveling Masculinities: American and Irish Wayfarers*

Ireland and the Wider World | SC2500A

Moderator: Brian O'Halloran, Independent Scholar

Kenneth Shonk, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse – *The Gift of a Baby Elephant: Ireland and Tanzania's National Development, 1975–1979*

Brian O'Halloran, Independent Scholar – *Reconnecting Place and People: The Moycullen DNA Project and the Irish Diaspora*

Damjana Mraović-O'Hare, Carson-Newman University – *The Power of Law in the Time of War*

Bassem Hassan, University of Colorado Denver – *A structural explanation for the success and failure of peace processes: a comparative study between Northern Ireland and Palestine*

ACIS Business Lunch & Awards Ceremony | 12:00–1:30 PM

Plenary | 1:30 PM–2:30 PM | SC2600

Molly Sturdevant and Michael Patrick MacDonald, Authors–*Irish American Literature of Working Class Resistance*

Break | 2:30–2:45 PM

Session IX | 2:45–4:15 PM

Migration, Collection, and Performance: Interrogating the Musical Construction of Irishness | SC1500

Moderator: Kate Huber, Tilburg University

Felix Morgenstern, University of Limerick – *From Ethnic-National to Sonic Irishness: When Irish Traditional Music Migrates to Germany*

Emma Webb, Florida State University – *Beyond Black and White: Blackface, Orientalism, and Irish American Whiteness in Kelly and Leon's Minstrels*

Tadhg Ó Meachair, Indiana University Bloomington – *Festivity and Futurity at the Irish Festival Afterparty Session*

Niamh O'Brien, Munster Technological University – *Fieldwork and Folk Machinery: Recording in the Field, Re-Imagining Performance*

The Irish Connection: Self-Determination Movements Across South Asia | SC2500A

Moderator: Margot Backus, University of Houston

Basim Mahmood, University of Colorado Denver

Naseer Wani, Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front member

Masrat Zahra, Photojournalist

Ather Zia, University of Northern Colorado

Irish Drama and Performance | SC2600

Moderator: Charlotte Headrick, Oregon State University

Shelby Jones, Boston College – *Wet Drowning, Dry Burial: The Drowned Body in Riders to the Sea and The Beacon*

Kaitlynn McShea-Jones, Ball State University – *Pen Names and Masks: Gendered Labor of Irish Women Playwrights*

Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico Honors College – *Waiting for Godot on Broadway*

Rachel Tuttle, Boston College – *Hyacinth Halvey and The Playboy of the Western World: Fabricated Heroes for Irish Nationalism?*

Religion, Identity, and Irish Society | SC2504

Moderator: Kira Boatright, University of Colorado, Denver

Kevin Coogan, Manhattan University – *“Living in the Present... Living in the Past”:
Irish Identity in Jamie O’Neill and Jarlath Gregory*

Kayla Frawley, University of Colorado Denver – *Invisible Hands, Withheld Aid: From
the Irish Famine to the Erosion of America’s Social Safety Net - a Historical Comparison*

Amanda Crabb, Curry College – *Are migration patterns between the US and Ireland
changing?*

Break | 4:15–4:30 PM

Evening Events

Faculty Teaching Irish Studies Without Institutional Support: Strategies and Ideas for
Survival and Growth | SC1401 | 4:30-5:30

Participants can get dinner before or after the performance at Su Teatro

Su Teatro Performance: *Dublin Gulch Band* 6:00-6:45, *Las Juntas: An Comar* |
7:00-8:30

*Shuttle will pick people up from the conference hotel at between 5:15-6:00, and will
return participants to the hotel following the event*

Location:

Su Teatro Theater

721 Santa Fe Dr, Denver, CO 80204

Las Juntas: An Comar is an interdisciplinary collaborative production five years in the making and born out of a series of artistic exchanges on the banks of the Rio Grande, on the US-Mexico border, and the River Foyle, in the North of Ireland. Drawing together varied artistic practices—music, soundscape, theater, narration, photography, illustration, performance art, installation, and dance— *Las Juntas: An Comar* weaves the threads of historical and contemporary connectivity between Irish and Mexican communities at home and in their diasporas, embodying and animating the possibilities of transnational solidarity in bridging the fracturing landscape of late-stage capitalism.

The Celtic on Market | Downstairs| 9:00 PM

Dublin Gulch Band

(The Celtic has a great dinner selection)

Sunday, May 31

Session X | 8:30-10:00 AM

Media, Print Culture, and Propaganda | SC1500

Moderator: Matthew Reznicek, University of Minnesota

Debra Reddin van Tuyl, Augusta University, Emerita – *Association by Newspaper: Uses of the Press by Early 19th-Century Irish American Emigrants*

Emily Mark-FitzGerald, University College Dublin – *Surveillance and Shadows: Picturing Irish Agitation in the Nineteenth Century*

Peter Gray, Queen's University Belfast – *Robert Seymour's Irish Caricatures, 1830–1836*

The American Experiment: Writers' Views | SC2600

Moderator: David Gardiner, St Thomas University

Damjana Mraović-O'Hare, Carson-Newman University

Daniel Tobin, Emerson College

Eamonn Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Emeritus

Religion, Relics, and Belief | SC2504

Moderator: Peter Gray, Queen's University Belfast

Claire Balmas, University of Colorado Denver – *Connections Between Early Irish Immigrants, Enslaved Peoples, and Voodoo*

Aidan Beatty, Carnegie Mellon University – *“Devotional Capitalism, or How the Catholics Became Protestants”*

Collin Bonnell, Concordia University – *Catholic Survival in Early Modern Ireland*

Kathryn Downing, Western Michigan University – *The Role of Relics: Medieval and Modern Influence of Saint Brigid's Relics*

Literature & Transnational Imagination | SC2500A

Moderator: Chanté Mouton Kinyon, University of Notre Dame

Michael Williamson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania – *The Work of Colonialism Reimagined in James White's Irish Outer Space Novels and New World Fantasies*

Elizabeth Fredericks, Hillsdale College – *The Parasites of Place in Sue Rainsford's Follow Me to Ground and Sarah Maria Griffin's “Eat the Ones You Love”*

Break | 10:00–10:15 AM

Regional Meetings | 10:15-11:00 AM

ACIS South | SC 1401

ACIS West | SC 1500

ACIS Midwest | SC 2500

ACIS Mid-Atlantic | SC 2504

ACIS New England | SC 2000

Break | 11:00–11:15 AM

Session XI | 11:15 AM–12:45 PM

Institutions, Knowledge & Modern Ireland | SC2500A

Moderator: Aidan Beatty, Carnegie Mellon University

Jay Roszman, University College Cork – *Queen’s College Cork and Indian Imperial Service: The Case of Jeremiah Moriarty, 1853-1864*

Rosie Peterson, University of Bristol – *Marginality and Engagement with Archaeology in Nineteenth-Century Ireland*

Rowan Bianchi, Boston College – *Searching for Gender in Irish Agrarian Violence*

Gender, Feminism, and Women Writers | SC1500

Moderator: Sarah Townsend, University of New Mexico

Mark Quigley, University of Oregon – *A Broader House: Radical Feminism and Anti-Colonialism in the Work of Rosamond Jacob*

Cate Peebles, University of Pittsburgh – *“From which arises your voice”: Women’s Labor, Diasporic Memory, and Archival Counter-History in Vona Groarke’s Hereafter*

Matthew Reznicek, University of Minnesota Medical School – *“The Labor of Care: Disruptive Politics of Care in the Nineteenth-Century Irish Novel”*

Tess Koetting, Boston College – *Old Texts, New Clothes: Carmen Maria Machado’s Paratextual Innovation in Carmilla*

Roundtable: Moya Cannon, Bunting’s Honey | SC2504

Moderator: Ann Neelon, Murray State University Emerita

Elizabeth Fredericks, Hillsdale College

Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Appalachian State University

Ed Madden, University of South Carolina

Ann Neelon, Murray State University, Emerita





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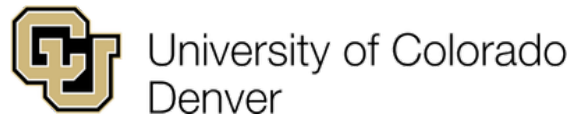
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Migration, Labor, and Inclusion in the American Experiment:
A Comparative Exploration of Past and Present

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