



The UCD Humanities Institute, in collaboration  
with the UCD English Graduate Society, presents

## **PHD PROJECT MANAGEMENT, THE PHD EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC EVENT ORGANISATION**

*The first in a Series of Career Development Workshops  
for Early Stage Researchers in the Humanities*

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### **DATE & TIME**

Tuesday 30 April 2013 @ 9 am-1.30 pm

### **VENUE**

Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

Web: [www.ucd.ie/humanities](http://www.ucd.ie/humanities)

A campus map is available to download here: [www.ucd.ie/maps](http://www.ucd.ie/maps)

### **DESCRIPTION**

This series of career development workshops provides early stage researchers (PhD students and postdoctoral fellows) in the humanities with practical guidance regarding the professional experience required when applying for positions in academic institutions. Delegates will be offered opportunities to meet and discuss their work with a panel of academics, postgraduate students and other professionals who will talk about their experiences of, for example, managing research projects; working with PhD students experience emotional difficulties; presenting research; publishing research and assessing materials for publication; applying for funding and assessing funding applications; conducting viva voce examinations; organising events; interviewing candidates for academic positions; and working post-PhD within, in collaboration with, and outside academia. Each workshop will begin with presentations by a panel of guest speakers, after which there will be time for questions and discussion. Each of the presenters will give short talks about their work in the area of their presentation, focusing particularly on the practicalities involved. The second half of each workshop will focus on delegates' own work, a sample of which delegates will be asked to bring with them. Guest speakers will work with delegates to address delegates' concerns and the specificities of each person's situation.

## WORKSHOP 1 KEYWORDS

PhD project management; psychological experience of the PhD; challenges of integrating PhD life with other aspects of life and identity; presenting at conferences; organising academic events

## REGISTRATION

Registration is free and is open to postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Places are limited so pre-registration is necessary. Registration operates on a 'first come, first served' basis. To register, send the following details to Dr Noreen Giffney, UCD Humanities Institute: [noreen.giffney@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.giffney@ucd.ie)

1. Delegate's name, School where registered, supervisor's name
2. PhD working title and short description of topic of thesis (c. 150 words)
3. Short biographical statement (c. 150 words), including research interests, conference/ seminar presentations, teaching experience, and publications

Telephone 01-7164685 if you have any queries.

## DELEGATES' REQUIRED PREPARATION FOR WORKSHOP 1

Delegates should bring along **ONE** of the following: 1) an accurate schedule of their typical working week, including the difficulties they experience trying to keep to the schedule; **OR** 2) a draft abstract (c. 300 words) of their current research which they are interested in presenting on at a conference; **OR** 3) an idea for a conference/ seminar series/ symposia they would like to organise.

## SCHEDULE

<b>9.00 am-10.30 am</b>	<i>PhD Project Management, Psychological Experience of the PhD, &amp; Academic Event Management</i>
	<u>9.00 am-9.30 am</u> <b>Cathal Coleman:</b> PhD Project Management
	<u>9.30 am-10.00 am</u> <b>Karoline Nicholson:</b> Psychological Experience of the PhD
	<u>10.00 am-10.30 am</u> <b>Emma Radley:</b> Academic Event Management
<b>10.30 am-11.00 am</b>	<i>Questions &amp; discussion, facilitated by Noreen Giffney</i>
<b>11.00 am-11.30 am</b>	<i>Tea &amp; coffee break</i>
<b>11.30 am-12.00 pm</b>	<i>PhD Life</i>
	<u>11.30 am-11.40 am</u> <b>David Deacon:</b> PhD Life/ Research (organising your time, research management, keeping motivated)
	<u>11.40 am-11.50 am</u> <b>Treasa de Loughry:</b> Organising Events (EGS seminars, postgraduate symposiums, reading groups, social media)
	<u>11.50 am-12.00 pm</u> <b>Ben Miller:</b> Presenting Your First Paper (tips and tricks, abstract writing, conference preparation, questions, panels, which conference to apply for)

**12.00 pm-12.30 pm** *Conference Organisation*12.00 pm-12.15 pm **Scott Hamilton**12.15 pm-12.30 pm **Feargal Whelan**

Over the past three years Scott Hamilton, Feargal Whelan and Alan Graham have successfully convened a 'Samuel Beckett and the "State" of Ireland' international conference in UCD's Humanities Institute. The proceedings of the first symposium will soon be published as a book, with several more publications to follow. They have also been successful in attracting seed funding, a photographic exhibition from *The Beckett Country* (1986) and artwork to complement their conference. Scott and Feargal will present on conference organisation, attracting keynote speakers, the challenges they faced, the importance of conference organisation, publications and funding.

**12.30 pm-1.30 pm** *Small-group discussions with delegates regarding a sample of delegates' own work, facilitated by members of the English Graduate Society*

## GUEST SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS

**Dr Cathal Coleman** holds a PhD in political theory from University College Dublin, where his research topic covered the philosophy and practice of the principle of subsidiarity. He has taught in the UCD School of Politics and International Relations, as well as at NUI Maynooth and Dublin Business School. He has a special interest in PhD project management and has conducted numerous seminars on the topic with UCD Colleges of Human Sciences, Arts, Business, and Law. He also lectures in the areas of democratic theory and institutions, subsidiarity, political corruption and the history and institutions of the European Union.

**David Deacon** holds a BA in history and English, as well as an MA in American literature from University College Dublin. David's MA thesis was supervised by Dr Nerys Williams with the title, 'The New Humanist Agenda of the Postmodern Author: A Consideration of Select Works from Cormac McCarthy, Paul Auster and Don DeLillo'. Since then David has commenced a PhD at UCD, supervised by Dr Fionnghuala Sweeney and Dr Brian O'Connor, focusing on postmodern American fiction and contributing philosophy, as well as becoming an active member of the English Graduate Society.

**Dr Noreen Giffney** coordinates postgraduate and postdoctoral researcher training in the UCD Humanities Institute. Her research focuses on psychoanalysis, theories of gender and sexuality, and film studies. She is the co-editor of *The Ashgate Research Companion to Queer Theory* (Ashgate 2009); *Queering the Non/Human* (Ashgate 2008); *The Lesbian Premodern* (Palgrave Macmillan 2011); *Theory on the Edge: Irish Studies and the Politics of Sexual Difference* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013); *Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies* (Taylor and Francis 2007); and *Clinical Encounters: Psychoanalytic Practice and Queer Theory* (under review). She is writing a book on the discourses of desire in the work of the psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion. She works as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dublin.

**Treasa de Loughry** is a second-year Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar in the UCD School of English, Drama & Film, currently based in the UCD Humanities Institute. Treasa's research focuses on a critique of cosmopolitanism and postcolonialism by investigating the formal registration of globalisation in the 'world-systemic' works of Salman Rushdie, David Mitchell and Rana Dasgupta. Her thesis is supervised by Dr John Brannigan and Dr Sharae Deckard. Treasa has been involved with the English Graduate Society since she commenced her PhD in 2011, and has experience in organising EGS seminars, their upcoming 2013 postgraduate symposium, and two successful reading groups: the 'Left Reading Group' (reading Marx's *Capital*) and the UCD Humanities Institute Theory Reading Group.

**Scott Hamilton** completed his undergraduate degree at University of California Santa Barbara in 2005, and completed his Masters in Anglo-Irish literature at UCD in 2006. He is currently a final-year PhD student in the School of English, Drama & Film in UCD under the supervision of Professor Anthony Roche. His thesis explores the works of Samuel Beckett in terms of the exilic experience by analysing and diagnosing the psychological aspects of exile and how it manifests itself within his texts. Over the past three years Scott has successfully co-organised the 'Samuel Beckett and the "State" of Ireland' conferences.

**Benjamin Miller** earned his BA in English and psychology from the University of Connecticut in 2010, an MA in American Literature from UCD in 2011, and is currently a PhD candidate at UCD's Clinton Institute for American Studies. Inspired by his own expatriate experiences, Benjamin's research examines contemporary forms of travel and socio-political dislocation as represented in American Literature. His project, entitled 'Expatriate Literature in the Age of Globalisation: Transnational Dislocation in Contemporary American Culture', aims to reassess the discourse of American expatriate literature by examining writers such as William S. Burroughs, James Baldwin, and Junot Díaz to better understand US power as empire and the writer's positioning to these imperial, global constructs. Benjamin has presented at the European Beats Studies conference, the English Graduate Society Seminar, and will be presenting at the British Association for American Studies in Exeter in April, and the International Conference on Narrative in Manchester Metropolitan University in June.

**Karoline Nicholson** is a Clinical Psychologist who has worked in the UCD Student Counselling Service since 2008. She previously worked as a Psychologist in the Health Service Executive (HSE) primarily in the area of adult mental health having had prior experience working within the areas of child and adolescent mental health and intellectual disability. Within UCD she provides counselling to students presenting with various forms of psychological distress which may be linked to difficulties with college, family, relationships or other issues. She has a special interest in working with PhD students and understands the kinds of issues PhD students may struggle with on their path to a PhD. She previously ran a peer support group for PhD students in UCD — 'What's up, Doc?' — which incorporated discussion on PhD-related topics such as isolation, work/life balance, motivation and time management.

**Dr Emma Radley** is Senior Teaching and Research Postdoctoral Fellow on the GREP programme at UCD. Her recent projects include *Viewpoints: Theoretical Perspectives on Irish Visual Texts* (with Claire Bracken, Cork University Press, forthcoming 2013); a special issue of *Television & New Media*, 'Gender, Nation and Reality TV', coedited with Diane Negra and Kirsten Pike (2013); and *Lacan Redux: Film Theory, Psychoanalysis, and Postmodernism*, a book on contemporary film theory. She has published articles and book chapters in the areas of psychoanalysis, film theory, horror cinema, popular culture, and Irish cinema and culture.

**Feargal Whelan** holds a BA and MA in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama from UCD. At present he is completing a PhD thesis on the work of Samuel Beckett at UCD. He has presented at numerous conferences in Ireland and the UK and is co-organiser and co-founder of the 'Samuel Beckett and the "State" of Ireland' conference which has been held annually at the UCD Humanities Institute since 2011. He is the current, and final, Anglo-Irish Bank scholar in Anglo-Irish literature.

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## DELEGATES

### Edith Andrees

UCD School of Cultural Policy and Art History

Supervisors: Professor Kathleen James-Chakraborty and Pat Cooke

PhD Working Title: 'Museums and Cultural Diversity: Narratives and Practices in Ireland and Germany'

This comparative research project examines how museum narratives and practices can be designed to address the cultural challenges of immigration and cultural diversity. Museums, Nation-states, Migration – how do these three contemporary phenomena relate to each other? How do museums help to build nation-states, how does migration impact on both and what can museums do to address the challenges which migration poses to nation-states? Drawing on four museum case studies from Ireland and Germany, the study examines interconnections between all three and explores ways of narrating and imagining collectivity beyond national frameworks. In addition to shedding new light on the interconnections between museums, narration and collective identity building in increasingly diverse societies, the study will propose models of good practice and will therefore benefit policy makers and practitioners in the heritage and museum sector.

### Biographical Statement:

In addition to my PhD research, I am working as a Museum Educator at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, devising and delivering educational programmes and resources for a wide range of audiences. My research interests focus on interdisciplinary approaches and include historical narration and education in museums, collective memories, narration and identity building as well as migration and its effects national identities. My educational background is in modern cultural history and

arts/heritage policy. I have completed an MA in Cultural Studies at European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/ Oder, Germany) and an MA in Cultural Policy & Arts Management at UCD. I regularly give lectures on modern Irish history as part of my work at the National Museum and have lectured introductory courses in cultural studies and research methods at European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/ Oder, Germany). At UCD, I devised and lectured two modules on Museum Studies. I am a member of the Irish and German Museum Associations.

## **Amanda Bell**

UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Supervisor: Dr Lucy Collins

PhD Working Title: 'Minority Languages, Religion and the Portrayal of the Environment as Exemplified in the Work of Kathleen Jamie'

This is a study of Scottish cultural identity and its implications for shifting identities in the British Isles, focusing on Scottish poet and essayist Kathleen Jamie. Language, religion and the portrayal of the environment are examined as component parts of national cultural identity. My intention is to analyse how all of the elements of influence in Jamie's work converge in the ecocritical arena, placing her in an international context in spite of the overt regionalism of her choice of language and cultural referents. My enquiry then moves to how the vocabulary of environmentalism supersedes vocabularies which are either locally or culturally specific, and brings poetry and nature writing onto an international arena. The research should illuminate the relationship between global and local influences in environmental writing and poetry, and raise questions about the pedagogical and political influences of the globalization of language.

### Biographical Statement:

I graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1991 with first-class honours in French and modern English. As an undergraduate I spent a year teaching in France. After completing a Dip L.I.S. at University College Dublin I worked in publishing, and since 1997 have focused on bringing up my family, while doing part-time work as a freelance editor, writer and project manager, and continuing my studies. I identified my current area of research while completing an MA in Poetry Studies at Dublin City University, for which I was awarded a first. My awards include: Dompierre Chauffepié Prize, Trinity College Dublin, 1988; and Composition Prize, Trinity College Dublin, 1988. I have given a poster presentation: 'How Irish Poetry is Used to Market Ireland', Poetry in Process Conference, Irish Centre for Poetry Studies, Dublin City University, 2011. I have edited *Maurice Craig: Photographs* (The Lilliput Press 2011). I have published 'Mulcair' in *The Stinging Fly* (Summer Issue 2012). I have given the following conference papers: 'An Inadvertent Romantic: Alice Oswald's Dart', DCU Postgraduate Conference Dublin, 2012; and 'Biocentrism in Theodore Roethke's Greenhouse Poems', ASLE UKI Conference, University of Worcester, 2012.

## Ásta Benediktsdóttir

UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Faculty of Icelandic and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Iceland

Supervisors: Dr Anne Mulhall and Dr Bergljót Kristjánsdóttir

PhD Working Title: “I’m revolted by myself”: Queerness and Shame in Selected Works by Elías Mar and Guðbergur Bergsson

The thesis discusses male same-sex desire and queerness in selected novels by two Icelandic authors, Elías Mar (1924-2001) and Guðbergur Bergsson (1932-). The novels are written on the one hand in the 1940s (Mar), and on the other in the 1980s and 1990s (Bergsson), but all represent male characters who do not live up to normative ideas of gender and sexuality and have negative feelings towards themselves. Building on recent scholarly writing on affect the characters’ negative emotions will be analysed, as well as their ways of resisting the power of normative social regulation. Finally, the work by these two authors will be compared and put in context with recent work of queer historiography.

### Biographical Statement:

I have published two articles in Icelandic peer-reviewed journals on my MA project on narrative methods in the works of Jakobína Sigurðardóttir, and given talks about various subjects at literature conferences and seminars in and outside of Iceland. I am currently based in Dublin and Reykjavik while working on my PhD project on queer Icelandic literature, which is funded by the Icelandic Research Fund for Graduate Students. My research interests are Icelandic literature, queer studies, queer historiography, gender studies, affect studies, and shame. Her publications include: „Form og stíll örðugt viðfangs.“ Fjölradda frásagnir og Lifandi vatnið - - eftir Jakobínu Sigurðardóttur.” Ritið, 12.1 (2012): 141-159; and „[M]ér fannst einsog það væri verið að skólpa af þjóðinni“. Um Dægurvísu Jakobínu Sigurðardóttur.“ Skírnir, 182 (spring 2008): 154–173. She has presented at a number of conferences: ‘The Book that Came Out of the Closet: A Small Piece of Icelandic LGBT Literary History’, Lesbian Lives Conference, University of Brighton, 2013; “The Journey over the Ocean”, a guest presentation presented in Gimli, Canada, hosted by Manitoba University, 2009; and ‘Hvis alle eller ingen kan lide det, er det udeligt. Om redaktøren Valtýr Guðmundsson og Eimreiðin’, University of Iceland, Århus University and University of Copenhagen's collaborative conference in Den Arnamagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen, 2008.

## Catherine Casey

UCD School of English, Film & Drama.

Supervisor: Dr Catherine Leeney

PhD Working Title: ‘The Masculinity of Space in David Mamet: Space, Masculinity and Power in Selected Works of David Mamet’

My research focuses on space and masculinity in American drama specifically in selected works of David Mamet. Mamet is a contemporary playwright, director and screen-play writer. Beginning in the period post World War II and ending in 2008, my research offers an

analysis and discussion of American masculinity and its link with the multiplicities of space/place. When masculinity, or American masculinity is critiqued not as a given but as a construct, the dynamics of American masculine identity and performance becomes more clear. Moreover, within the analyses of the selected works by Mamet from a spatial perspective, the multiplicity and diversity of his, mostly urban spaces become sites for negotiated and hierarchal masculine power contestation. These competing masculinities are further entangled with issues of sexuality, women and class. It is with these criteria in mind that I am undertaking this study.

#### Biographical Statement:

To date my research has dealt with a great deal of contextual material which is both useful and necessary to my study. I have acquired a wealth of knowledge about the cultural context, including historical, sociological and political ideology of the time(s) in the US. This material is being used to form the basis of my introduction, while also being integrated in my approach to analyses in the works selected. My study has also covered critical analyses of the following plays: *American Buffalo*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Oleanna*. I have already given a presentation on my research aims, and am preparing to present a paper at a forthcoming conference. I have also undertaken some modules on film studies to gain a better understanding of film analysis theories since my thesis includes Mamet's work as a screenplay writer and film director. I intend to take further modules which may be relevant to my study also, for example, American literature, and/or sociology and space.

#### **Lisa Caulfield**

UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Supervisor: Dr P.J. Matthews

#### PhD Working Title: 'Cúchulain : The Myth Responsible for the Irish Hero'

The Scholarship – A survey of the academic scholarship that revitalised the myth during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This chapter will focus upon the European academics, who took an avid interest in the discovery of Irish myth, language and folklore and examine the influence of each study upon the literary world. It will examine closely the works of Standish James O'Grady who was one of the first writers to explore the glory and masculinity of the Irish figure.

Portrait of the Cúchulain as muse for the Irish Literary Revival – This chapter will analyse the aesthetic outpouring that was inspired by Cúchulain's story and examine his effectiveness for the artists' agenda. This segment will focus upon Yeats and Lady Gregory's interpretation of the story and how the myth fit into their desires and expectations for Ireland and themselves. Was Cúchulain the right man for the reclamation of the Irish heritage they so desperately sought to create? It will research the plays and poetry of Yeats as well as closely examine Gregory's seminal and much acclaimed work, *Cúchulain of Muirthemne*.

Politics and Calculated Innovation – This chapter will examine to what extent the model of Cúchulain was used for the political embodiment specifically with Padriac Pearse and St Enda's school. It will observe how the myth served the political realm and determine



its persuasiveness within the republican movement. It will also examine aspects of the myth that penetrated the Northern hemisphere and how he was also a loyalist symbol.

**Post Modern Hero? Cúchulain Situated in World Mythology** – The final chapter of my thesis will be devoted to placing Irish myth in the context of history. It will examine the many contributing factors of what made Cúchulain a popular and scornful figure (Samuel Beckett and Flann O'Brien). With the emergence and popularity of psychoanalysis, is Cúchulain the emerging 'everyman', introspective and contemplative. I will analyse the scope of the *heroic* within global traditions and determine whether the Irish mythic hero is archetypal and seek to extrapolate a definition of Irish masculinity. This chapter will document how the image of Cúchulain morphs, visually oscillating between the masculine and the feminine interpretations of his physique. It will then examine his post-modern significance, from video games to comic books. What purpose would Cúchulain serve in 2016 one hundred years after the formation of the state, hero, antagonist, cartoon caricature?

#### Biographical Statement:

A first generation Canadian, born in Toronto, Lisa moved to Ireland in 2003. She graduated from the University of Toronto after completing an Honors BA in English and History. She also attended Ryerson University where she completed a post graduate diploma in the Business of Book Publishing. In 2004 she completed an MA in Modern Irish Literature from the National University, Maynooth. Her MA thesis focused on Lady Gregory's treatment of Irish myth and its influence upon the literary revival. Lisa worked with Professor Joe Cleary as her thesis advisor. Lisa is working on her PhD at UCD with Dr P.J. Mathews and is currently working on Yeats's treatment of the Irish 'uberman' Cuchulainn. She concentrates upon the role of the mythic hero in literature and poetry and sketches how he is portrayed in drama and art. I have been a participant in the following Irish Seminar's hosted by the University of Notre Dame, Keough Naughton Centre: Boston or Berlin? (2004); Genealogies of Culture (2005); Capitals of Culture: Paris and Dublin (2006); Irish Classics (2007); Republics and Empires (2008); Apocalypse and Utopia (2009); The Irish Revival (2010); and Irish Modernisms (2011). She has hosted and presented 'Technology and the Use of Imagination' at *Conversations on Stories* Conference in 2012.

#### **Bill Fingleton**

UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Supervisor: Professor Nick Daly

#### PhD Working Title: 'Think like a Psychopath: A Study of the Fictions of J.G. Ballard'

This thesis aims to engage with many of the less criticised works of British author, Ballard. Chapters are designed to examine specific novels utilising variant paradigms, including, but not exclusive to, psychodynamic, psychoanalytic, futurist and surrealist filters.

#### Biographical Statement:

I am still in the relatively early stages of my thesis, my own experience with teaching, publication and conference speaking is limited. I have recently completed teaching a module on Twentieth-Century Drama for second-year undergraduates at UCD. My first conference

presentation will take place on 3 May for the English Graduate Society seminar to be held in the UCD Humanities Institute.

### **Izzy Fox**

GREP, UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Supervisors: Professor Gerardine Meaney and Dr Anne Mulhall

Thesis Working Title: 'Ireland's Facebook Feminists'

My project is a trans-disciplinary study of the contemporary feminist movement in Ireland and its engagement with social media. The research will examine the Irish Feminist Network (IFN) as a case study, by applying a combination of qualitative content and discourse analysis to their Facebook page. Cyber, feminist, social-movement and media theories will provide the major theoretical framework for my thesis. My findings should ultimately produce a critical insight into the feminist discourse in Ireland today.

#### Biographical Statement:

I am a first-year doctoral candidate and my research interests include feminist digital culture, feminist activism, Internet studies, and new media. I will be presenting a paper on the coverage on social media of the 'Never Again' campaign launched in the aftermath of the death of Savita Halappanavar, at the upcoming Queer, Feminist and Social Media Praxis Workshop at the University of Sussex in May 2013.

### **Noelle Hewetson**

UCD School of English Drama & Film

Supervisor: Dr Fionnuala Dillane

PhD Working Title: 'The Hero's Journey: Unreliable and Unnatural Narrators in the Chronotopic Storyworlds of David Mitchell's Fiction'

My focus is on the work of David Mitchell the twenty-first century British author. Content and form are closely linked in Mitchell's work. My research seeks to demonstrate that Mitchell's concern is with globally and temporally dispersed characters abroad in the world rather than those embedded in a close-knit society. His work engages with fundamental human needs particularly those of belonging, power, freedom and love as they affect each of his characters. These globally and temporally dispersed narrators, both natural and unnatural are tenuously linked, often by chance encounters. Mitchell unites their stories in several ways, through the use of the composite short-story form which is suited to representing characters on the fringes of society and the recurring plot device of the hero's journey underpinned by the Bakhtinian motifs of the threshold and road chronotope.

#### Biographical Statement:

I returned to university some years ago to undertake a part-time night degree in English literature as a mature student. One thing led to another and I now find myself undertaking research for a PhD while continuing my day job as a GP. My focus is on the rhetorical aspects of narrative; particularly its ethical dimension and my principal interests are in the

chronotopic structure of the storyworld and the role of unreliable and unnatural narrators in mediating story. I have presented papers at: English Graduate Society, University College Dublin, 2011; European Narrative Network Conference, Paris, 2013; and will present at the International Conference on Narrative, Manchester in June 2013.

### **Sarah Nangle**

UCD School of English, Drama & Film and UCD School of Music

Supervisors: Dr Niamh Pattwell and Dr Frank Lawrence

PhD Working Title: 'Theorizing Music in Middle English Poetry'

This project is a PhD in medieval literature and music, exploring the permeation of musical thought into Middle English poetry through contextual analysis of musical allusions in the works of Geoffrey Chaucer and his contemporaries. Areas of interest include Middle English poetry, medieval history, and musicology. In addition to a range of the poetic works of Geoffrey Chaucer, this research examines the anonymous poems *Sir Orfeo*, *King Horn*, and 'The Chorister's Lament' (BL MS Arundel 292), and John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*. In particular, my analysis of Middle English poetry will focus on references to speculative music theory, moral discussions of music, and the role music in religious life. My approach to this body of poetry is based upon investigative methods and theoretical frameworks of historical musicology, cultural materialism, and new historicism, highlighting the significant cultural and intellectual exchange among poets and musicians in fourteenth-century England.

#### Biographical Statement:

I am a workshop leader for the second-year English Module 'Reading Medieval Literature' (ENG20410), and also provide tuition through UCD's Access Centre for 'Literary Genres' (ENG10030). I have worked as an assistant librarian at UCD's James Joyce Library for three years. I have presented my PhD research widely at conferences at TCD, QUB and NUIG, details of which are below. I will be presenting a paper on music in female ecclesiastic communities at UCD-EGS's Emerging Perspectives conference on 2-3 May. My conference presentations include: 'Obscured Authority in Chaucer's Book of the Duchess', *Chaucer Study Day*, Trinity College Dublin, 2011; 'The Soundscape of Chaucer's House of Fame', *Borderlines XVI- Site and Sound*, Queen's University Belfast, 2012; 'Harmonizing Dissonance: Music and Politics in Chaucer's Parliament of Fowls', *Imbas*, NUI Galway, 2012; and 'The Sounds of Space: Cosmic Music in the Later Middle Ages', *Borderlines XVII- Occupying Space*, Trinity College Dublin, 2013.

### **Michael Paye**

UCD School of English, Drama and Film

Supervisor: Dr Sharae Deckard

PhD Working Title: 'Coastal Fishing Communities and Socio-Ecological Crisis in World Literature'

Cod and herring have been principle commodities across the Atlantic since the 15th century (McNeill 2011). Yet literary representations of modernisation's impact and the

technologisation of the fishing industry related to the commodity trade in aquaculture remain undertheorised in literary studies. Advocating a world-systemic approach to environmental criticism, Michael Niblett argues for literary comparativism of ‘the unique political-ecological complexes surrounding the production or extraction of different resources [...] how and why might petrofiction differ from, say, sugar-fiction’ (Niblett 2012). While the recent rise of resource-based criticism has produced a number of studies of commodities such as sugar, oil, or rubber, ‘fish fiction’ has been relatively neglected. Thus, this project compares fictional representations of fishing communities across the Atlantic system, examining aesthetic registration of the socio-ecological conditions of labour, culture and environment in the fishing industry. The four selected novels are *The Silver Darlings* by Neil Gunn, *Rain on the Wind* by Walter Macken, *Sylvanus Now* by Donna Morrissey, and *The Village Curtain* by Tony Tame.

#### Biographical Statement:

My research interests include world-systems approaches to literature, postcolonial and ecomaterialist studies; theatre studies. I have presented conference papers at the 30th Annual West Indian Literary Conference, 2011; James Joyce Symposium, University College Dublin, 2012; and Caribbean-Irish Connections, 2012. The final conference paper, detailing registration of economic and environmental crises registered in *Riders to the Sea* and *The Sea at Dauphin* is most relevant to my current research.

#### **Karen Wade**

UCD School of English, Drama & Film

Supervisor: Professor Gerardine Meaney

#### PhD Title (completed and submitted):

‘Our local “sphere”’: National Identity, Gender and Community in Irish Blogging

This project examines how community and identity are constructed and performed in the ‘Irish blogosphere’, an explicitly Irish-identified online literary community. Areas of focus include the relevance of identity categories such as Irishness and gender to bloggers’ self-figurations, the construction of legitimacy and prestige within blogging communities, and issues of authenticity, performativity and fictionalisation pertaining to life-writing in a digital context.

#### Biographical Statement:

I hold a BA in English and Linguistics and an MA in Gender and Writing, from University College Dublin. My research interests include new media, digital literature, gender studies and autobiography. I have presented aspects of my work at conferences and workshops serving both the humanities and the computer sciences. These presentations include representing my collaborative group in order to present ‘Identifying Representative Textual Sources in Blog Networks’ at the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM) in Barcelona, 2011; the paper “‘What a f\*\*\*ing country’: Masculinity, Nationhood and Crisis in Irish Blogging’ at the American Conference for Irish Studies in New Orleans, 2012 (as part of a GREP panel); presenting “‘Ireland isn’t as networked as we could be’: Writing the “Irish blogosphere” into being(s)’ at the Meeting of the International Communications Association in Phoenix, 2012; and presenting on digital humanities with

the paper 'Visualisation and Data Mining in the Humanities and Social Sciences' at the ICWSM Social Media Visualisation Workshop in Dublin, 2012.

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## UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

The UCD Humanities Institute comprises a vibrant research community of postgraduate, postdoctoral and academic researchers in the interdisciplinary fields of the humanities. The Institute has over fifty members from among the academic staff in the UCD Colleges of Arts & Celtic Studies, Human Sciences and Engineering & Architecture as well as hosting visiting fellows from other universities. The Institute's research theme, 'Culture, Society and Change', provides a broad framework for members' research initiatives in the areas of 'Culture, Identity, Expression', 'Gender, Culture and Identity', 'Space and Place', 'Visual, Textual and Material Culture', 'Understanding the Past' and 'New Directions in the Humanities'.

National and international experts regularly give lectures at the Institute as part of conferences, symposia, seminar series and other academic events. These talks are archived in the Institute's podcast series which has, to date, been accessed by over 24,000 web users. The Institute has, moreover, links with scholars based in a range of international locations, through alumni, research associates and memberships of consortia (European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN), the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI), the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC), the Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (CIAS) and Universitas 21). The Institute is home to a number of research and training initiatives, including the Centre for Gender, Culture and Identities, the Graduate Research and Education Programme (GREP) in Gender, Culture and Identity, the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA) and UCD Press. Doctoral and postdoctoral residents thus have opportunities to meet and discuss their own research with established and experienced researchers from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds, members of the institute, visiting fellows and distinguished guest lecturers.

The Institute is active in researcher training, convening a series of career development workshops for early stage researchers in the humanities, as well as a theory reading discussion group and a research writing group. The Career Development Workshop Programme provides early stage researchers (PhD students and postdoctoral fellows) with practical guidance regarding the professional experience required when applying for positions in academic institutions and elsewhere. Workshop delegates are offered opportunities to meet and discuss their work with a panel of academics and other professionals who talk about their experiences of, for example, managing research projects; presenting research; publishing research and assessing materials for publication; applying for funding and assessing funding applications; conducting viva voce examinations; organising events; interviewing candidates for academic positions; and working post-PhD within, in collaboration with, and outside academia. The Theory Reading Group meets every three to four weeks to discuss one or two pieces of theory in depth, from interdisciplinary perspectives and in an informal setting. Each meeting is introduced and facilitated by the

person who chose the reading(s) for that meeting. The theoretical discourses discussed are wide-ranging and reflect the interests of group members. The Research Writing Group meets every three to four weeks to discuss a short piece of research writing (draft thesis chapter, conference paper, article, book chapter) by a member of the group. Group members read the sample in advance and discuss it in depth with the author. This process facilitates the author thinking through their ideas in a supportive and encouraging environment, guided by the members of the group.

Web: <http://www.ucd.ie/humanities>

## UCD ENGLISH GRADUATE SOCIETY

The English Graduate Society was inaugurated in the 2008-2009 academic year. The Society was founded after a number of postgraduates in the School of English, Drama and Film identified the lack of a sense of community among the School's postgraduate cohort. The Society's overall aim is to help foster a support network among the 160 or so registered School graduates. This network has been beneficial on various levels. The postgraduate experience can be rather solitary and challenging. This can be particularly acute for research-only students but may also be experienced by Masters' students who are new to UCD. From a social point of view, befriending other postgraduates creates a natural support network which has both emotional and intellectual benefits. Meeting people from within and outside your own area of research can be stimulating and insightful. Involvement in the English Graduate Society also gives postgraduates, and particularly those who become involved at an organisational level, the opportunity to acquire a wide range of transferable skills, such as communication and liaison, organisation and event management, administration, team work and innovation. Throughout the academic year the society organises information and social events, seminars, a postgraduate symposium, and annually publishes a postgraduate journal, "Emerging Perspectives".

Web: <http://www.ucd.ie/englishanddrama/graduatestudies/englishgraduatesociety/>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS SERIES

### Workshop 2: Publishing Research

**Date & Time:** June 2013 @ 9.00 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** Approaching a publisher; preparing a book proposal; monographs; publishing in journals & collections of essays; peer-reviewed & non-peer-reviewed publishing; publishing in print & online

### Workshop 3: Completing & Submitting a PhD Thesis & Taking a Viva Voce Examination

**Date & Time:** July 2013 @ 9.00 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** Completing & submitting a PhD thesis; things to keep in mind for the viva; the experience of the viva from perspective of the examiner & the candidate

### **Workshop 4: Applying for Research Funding**

**Date & Time:** September 2013 @ 9.00 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** Research funding available in Ireland & internationally; preparing a research proposal

### **Workshop 5: Careers in Academic & Non-Academic Contexts**

**Date & Time:** October 2013 @ 9.00 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** Preparing academic CVs, covering letters, personal & teaching statements; academic interviews; post-PhD career opportunities in Ireland and internationally; how a PhD is useful for a non-academic career; 'blended' careers

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### **FURTHER DETAILS**

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