

## UCD Humanities Institute Theory Reading Group 2013-2014

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

The UCD Humanities Institute Theory Reading Group meets every month for ninety minutes from October 2013 to May 2014. At each meeting the group discusses 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 group is open to postgraduate students and academics with an interest in theory. Members are welcome from across the Colleges of UCD and other universities and colleges. New members are always welcome.

**Venue:** Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin. A campus map is available to download here: [www.ucd.ie/maps](http://www.ucd.ie/maps)

**Organising Committee:** Geraldine Canavan, Catherine Casey, Eileen Lee, Robert MacDonald, Martin McKeith, Marcus Richey.

Further details and readings are available from: [ucdreadinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:ucdreadinggroup@gmail.com)

DATE & TIME	READING(S)	FACILITATOR
Monday 21 October 2013 @ 12-1.30 pm	Donald Winnicott, 'Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena' in Lesley Caldwell and Angela Joyce (eds.), <i>Reading Winnicott</i> (London and New York: Routledge 2011 [1951, 1971]), pp. 100-125.	Noreen
Monday 18 November 2013 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Martin	Martin
Monday 16 December 2013 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Ger	Geraldine
Monday 20 January 2014 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Marcus	Marcus
Monday 17 February 2014 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Catherine	Catherine
Monday 24 March 2014 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Rob	Rob
Monday 28 April 2014 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Eileen	Eileen
Monday 19 May 2014 @ 12-1.30 pm	Paper chosen by Group members	Person who chooses the reading will facilitate

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Geraldine Canavan** is in the third year of her PhD in the UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy. Her doctoral thesis is an examination of representations of Queen Victoria from the year of her widowhood in 1861 until her demise in 1901. Of particular research interest is Victoria's transition into widow's weeds and the resultant visual effect not only on her as queen but also on Victorian women in general. Victoria was queen, one of the most significant positions in the country, at a time when many women were striving for the right to be educated, to vote, to work and to be considered as equal and productive members of their society. In 2012, Geraldine presented a paper on 'Notions of Old and the Older Woman' at the IAAH Study Day (Irish Association of Art Historians).

**Catherine Casey** is a PhD student in the UCD School of English, Drama & Film. Her PhD is entitled 'The Masculinity of Space in David Mamet: Space, Masculinity and Power in Selected Works of David Mamet'. Her research focuses on space and masculinity in American drama specifically in selected works of David Mamet. To date her research has dealt with a great deal of contextual material which is both useful and necessary to her study. She has 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 her introduction, while also being integrated in her approach to analyses in the works selected. Her study has also covered critical analyses of the following plays: *American Buffalo*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Oleanna*.

**Eileen Lee** is a PhD student in the UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy. She trained in nursing and midwifery between 1983 and 1995, and completed a BA in Fine Art at NCAD in 2004 and an MA in Visual Culture in 2009. She worked with some interior decorators and architects as an artist between 2009 and 2010. She also taught art (voluntarily) to the senior citizens in Ashbourne in 2005-2008. She presented on her research in NCAD a few times. Since then, she has been researching the criticism of Irish art between 1750 and 1904. The focus of her research is the newspapers, magazines and periodicals and any literature connected with her topic from the years 1750 onwards.

**Robert MacDonald** holds a BA in Photojournalism from Swansea Metropolitan University and an MA in Public Cultural Studies from Dun Laoghaire's Institute of Art Design and Technology. His research interests include theories of dissent, new social movement theory, new media and sociology of emotions. He is currently researching his PhD in the School of Media at Dublin Institute of Technology. His research centres on Internet social networks and the use of emotions by 'new' social movements within the medium. His PhD project is currently titled 'Framing a Politics of Emotion within Irish Social Networks' and examines how social movements incorporate emotion within their online communications.

**Martin McKeith** graduated with an honours degree in Architecture from the Dublin Institute of Technology in 2003. Since that date he has worked as an architect in private practice. In 2007, he successfully completed his professional examinations and was elected a member of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI). In 2010, he returned to study and completed a Masters in Urban and Building Conservation (MUBC) in the UCD School of Architecture. He is now undertaking a PhD, also in the UCD School of Architecture, entitled 'The Nineteenth Century Roman Catholic Diocesan Campus'. The research for the topic comprises an examination of the development of Catholic Church's Diocesan Institutional Campuses – usually comprising of seminaries, Cathedrals, convents, schools and monasteries – which developed in the suburbs or periphery of each of the diocesan centres (usually where the cathedral was located), following the relaxation of the penal laws in Ireland. His research interests are eighteenth and nineteenth century architecture, ecclesiastical architecture, educational architecture, institutional architecture, sacred spaces, the history of education in Ireland the eighteenth and nineteenth century, suburbs, and the landscape – both natural and designed.

**Marcus Richey** is originally from Kansas, USA, has lived and lectured for twenty years in Sweden and relocated to Dublin in March 2013. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and his dissertation title is 'Man Down: Odysseys of Patriarchal Dissolution in Postmodern American Fiction and Film'. His authors are Paul Auster, Don DeLillo, and the Coen Brothers. The research involves texts where the central male character embarks upon a journey of self-destruction. The protagonists are driven by an often inexplicable need for self-sabotage. In various ways there is a desire to suffer, experience humiliation and powerlessness, and ultimately, unravel with no hope of reconstruction. He argues that such masochistic odysseys can be read as symbolic of a profound and desperate need among some men to undo themselves and their complex network of relationships, their status, their place in the world as men. His aim is to investigate to what extent this embrace of powerlessness and loss can participate in a feminist project to expose and deconstruct patriarchy. If these texts are read in a manner that examines a drive to self-destruct as a desperate yearning to dissolve man's gendered privilege, what issues, questions and difficulties then arise?

#### **GUEST FACILITATOR** (October 2013)

**Dr Noreen Giffney** works as a Research Fellow 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 also works as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dublin.