



Symposium Programme: 'From Modern Crisis to Permacrisis and Polycrisis: Epistemological Perspectives and Interventions'

University College Dublin, Humanities Institute, 22-24 May 2025



Image Credit: Abstract 2025 collage and oil on paper 25 x 25 cm. (c) Judy Carroll Deeley

Day 1: Thursday 22 May; Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)

2:30-3:00: Anne Fuchs (UCD) & Marek Tamm (Tallinn): Opening Remarks

3:00-4:00 — Roundtable: Living with Permacrisis and Polycrisis with panellists:
Aleida Assmann (English Studies, Konstanz); John Barry (Green Economy, Queens University Belfast); Kieran Keohane (Sociology, University College Cork); Ailbhe Smyth (former academic, feminist, and LGBTQ activist)

Chairs: Anne Fuchs & Marek Tamm

4:00-4:15 COFFEE BREAK

4:15-5:45 — Panel 1: Democracy & Polycrisis. Chair: Kieran Keohane

Dirk Oschmann (Leipzig), 'The Question of Belonging in Germany'

Ana Ivasiuc (UCD), 'Polycrisis: Keywords of the far-right, towards an anthropology of polycrisis'

Denise Polaczuk (Salzburg), 'Crisis narratives and apocalypticism between legitimization and compensation strategies in right-wing extremism'

6:15: DINNER at the Schoolhouse



Day 2: Friday 23 May in UCD Humanities Institute (room H204/top floor)

Coffee from 9am in the Humanities Institute (outside H204)

9:15-10:45 — Panel 2: Epistemologies & Philosophical Approaches. Chair: John Barry

Kieran Keohane (Cork), 'Patterns within the Polycrisis: "Schismogenesis" and "Contagious" Mimesis"'

Donncha Kavanagh (UCD), 'Times in crisis: Temporal frames, epochs and purviews'

Rubén Flores (UCD), 'Illuminating our path amidst crisis claims: *phos* and the challenge of implication' [flash talk]

10:45-11:30 — Panel 3: Literature & Narratology I. Chair: Anne Fuchs

Bianca Cataldi (Galway), 'Narrating Crisis: Igiaba Scego and the Legacy of Italian Colonialism in Somalia' [flash talk; remote]

Megan Kuster (UCD), 'Narrating mining and crisis in contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit writing' [flash talk]

11:30-12:00 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204) (chairs move out)

12:00-12:15 EXHIBITION LAUNCH: The 'HeART of Gaza'

Formal launch of the 'HeART of Gaza,' an exhibition of children's art,
by Dr Sarah Comyn (UCD)

12:15-12:45 — Panel 4: Activism and Humanitarian Responses to Crisis. Chair: Megan Kuster

Ailbhe Smyth (former academic, feminist, and LGBTQ activist), 'Perma / Poly Crisis and Violence Against Women: "Every Day is Crisis Day"' [flash talk]

Féile Butler (architect), 'The "HeART of Gaza" exhibition of children's art: A collaborative project' [flash talk]

*To allow participants to move around and view the exhibition during this panel, there will be limited seating in the room

12:45-1:45 LUNCH (outside H204) (chairs move in)



1:45-3:15 — Panel 5: Praxis: Creativity, Activism & Curation I. Chair: Ana Ivasiuc

Monika Bakke (Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań), 'The Urban Noise Crisis: Multispecies Strategies for Liveable Urban Soundscapes'

Marek Wasilewski (Magdalena Abakanowicz/Municipal Gallery Arsenau, Poznań), 'Can art save the world? - Aesthetics of migrant polycrisis'

Sarah Comyn & Kate Fama (UCD), 'Crafting against Crises' [flash talk + craft]

3:15-3:30 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

3:30-4:30 — Panel 6: Literature, Liveable Futures, and Narratives of Life. Chair:

Jeanne Riou

Mary Cosgrove (TCD), 'Relational Poetics as Response to Perma- and Polycrisis'

Gillian Pye (UCD), 'Happiness within permacrisis?' [flash talk]

Caitríona Ní Dhúill (Salzburg), 'Thinking, unplugged: Cognitive autonomy as resistance / resilience / resource in polycrisis contexts' [flash talk]

4.30-4:45 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

4:45-5:45 — Panel 7: Praxis: Creativity, Activism & Curation II. Chair: Anne Fuchs

Mary Gallagher (UCD), 'From globalism to planetarity, from postcolonialism to decoloniality: a UCD Journey'

Caroline Levine (Cornell), 'Collective Continuance: Forms for the Future' [remote]

6:00 – WINE RECEPTION with canapés in UCD Club

Day 3: Saturday 24 May in UCD HI (room H204/top floor)

Coffee from 9.45am in the Humanities Institute (outside H204)

10:00-11:45 — Panel 8a: Imagining Futures in the Age of Permactrisis. Chair: Marek Tamm

Aleida Assmann (Konstanz), 'Changing Concepts of the Future'

Anne Fuchs (UCD), 'Against "End Times Fascism:" Liveable Futures and Aesthetic Precariousness in the Anthropocene'

<5 minute comfort break>

John Barry (Queens), 'Fluxed Futures or "Barbarism if we're lucky:" Radical Hope and the Responsibility of Intellectuals'

Jeanne Riou (UCD), 'Permactrisis, Epochal Threshold and the Problem of Time'



**11:45-11:55 Welcome to conference participants from Prof. Regina Uí Chollatáin
(College Principal, College of Arts and Humanities)**

11:55-12:10 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

12:10-1:40 — Panel 9: Extinction, Pessimism, & Hope. Chair: Mary Gallagher

Alexander Kondakov (UCD), 'Queer Dystopia: Constructive Predictions of the End of the World' [flash talk]

Quân Nguyen (UCD), 'Pessimism as a Response to Interlocking Crises'

Charlotte Wrigley (Stavanger), 'From permafrost to eternally frozen: temperature and temporality in the climate crisis'

1:40-2:00 LUNCH (outside H204)

2.30 - Optional Event: either a self-guided Dublin literary walking tour or a quick dip in the sea at the Forty Foot in Dún Laoghaire, depending on weather and people's preferences

Thank you to our funders. We are grateful to the UCD Strategic and Major Initiative Scheme for supporting this symposium.