



UCD Humanities Institute
Institiúid don Léann Daonna UCD

Feeding the Soul:

Transnational Narratives of Food and Belonging

4-5 September 2025

**UCD Humanities Institute
room H204**

Conference Programme



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FEEDING THE SOUL: TRANSNATIONAL NARRATIVES OF FOOD AND BELONGING

Irish Humanities Alliance 2025 Conference

UCD Humanities Institute, 4–5 September 2025

DAY 1 – Thursday, 4 September 2025

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration and Welcome

09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Remarks: Professor Anne Fuchs (UCD Humanities Institute);
Professor Brendan Dooley (Irish Humanities Alliance)

09:15 – 10:30 | Keynote Lecture 1

Speaker: Raúl Matta (Centre de Recherche Institut Lyfe)

Title: Foodscapes as affective assemblages, or why (food) stories *matter*

Chair: Bianca Cataldi

10:30 – 10:45 | Morning Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 | Panel 1: Classical and Early Modern Food Narratives

Chair: Megan Kuster

- Miguel Ângelo Andriolo Mangini (Trinity College Dublin) – *Food in Three Didactic Poems from Classical Antiquity*
- Simon Viot (Mary Immaculate College) – *Food and the Irish Capuchin Community in Early Modern France*

11:45 – 12:45 | Panel 2: Food and Refugee Identity

Chair: Mary Gallagher

- Noha Atef (University of Galway) – *Food, Emotion, and Belonging in Gaza's Displacement Camps: Cooking on Instagram During the War*

- Clodagh P. Guerin (University of Limerick) – *“We Abandoned the Oxtail, the Bun Bo Hué. You Grabbed a Loaf of Wonder Bread and a Jar of Mayonnaise”*: *Food and Refugee Identity in Ocean Vuong’s On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous*

12:45 – 14:00 | Lunch

14:00 – 15:15 | Panel 3: Transnational Food Encounters I

Chair: Anne Fuchs

- Mary Gallagher and Maika Nguyen (University College Dublin – hybrid) – *Eating White in the Post/Colony: Food and Race in 'French Indochina' and Vietnam*
- Nandini Thiyagarajan (Acadia University) – *On Culinary Disidentification*
- Oindrila Ghosh (Diamond Harbour Women's University – hybrid) – *Food Choices, Animal Rights and the Rising Vegetarian Polemics of the Late Victorian Era*

15:15 – 15:30 | Afternoon Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 | Panel 4: Transnational Food Encounters II

Chair: Bianca Cataldi

- Esther Gazzola Borges (Universidade de São Paulo) – *Food, Empathy and Affection in Hani & Ishu’s Guide to Fake Dating*
- Aleksandra Naróg (Jagiellonian University) – *Witold Gombrowicz: Exploring Food Discourse Across Polish and Argentine Contexts*

DAY 2 – Friday, 5 September 2025

09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome

09:15 – 10:30 | Panel 5: Society, Art, and Poetics of Nourishment

Chair: Mary Gallagher

- Jenny L. Herman (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) – *Culinary Performativity: Mobility, Privilege, and Navigating Transnational Belonging through Food*
- Martina Hynan (Visual Artist) – *Entangled Dandelions and the Language of Nourishment*
- Jordan Sheridan (Acadia University) – *Chronic Poetics and Dietary Belonging: Configuring Food in Poetic Chronic Illness Narratives*

10:30 – 10:45 | Morning Coffee

10:45 – 12:00 | Panel 6: Irish National and Transnational Food Identities

Chair: Anna Hickey-Moody

- Paddy Brennan (University of Liverpool) – *The Truly Gaelic Famine: National Chauvinism and Transnational Solidarity in the Depiction of Food and Hunger in Contemporary Irish Fiction*
- Isobel Connolly (Trinity College Dublin) – *Vegetarianism and the Imagining of a Free Ireland in Dublin, 1889-1920*
- Gabrielle K. Machnik-Kekesi (University of Galway – remote) – *Cooking Up the Self in Theodora FitzGibbon's Culinary Memoirs With Love (1982) and Love Lies a Loss (1985)*

12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch

12:45 – 14:00 | Guided Walk & Visit to the UCD Rosemount Centre Apple Orchard

14:00 – 15:15 | Keynote Lecture 2

Speaker: Tania Aguila-Way (University of Toronto)

Title: *"root & stomach & seed speak glottal": Tracing Stories of Plant-Mediated Diasporic-Indigenous Solidarities from the Poetic Page to the Community Garden*

Chair: Sarah Comyn

15:15 – 15:30 | Afternoon Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 | Seed Paper Activity Workshop

Facilitators: Sarah Comyn and Megan Kuster

A collaborative creative session engaging with themes of food, memory, and ecology through seed paper design and storytelling.

16:30 – 16:45 | Launch of the New IHA Website

Speaker: Sonja Tiernan

16:45 | Wine Reception

Join us for drinks, conversation, and closing reflections.

A UCD Press book stall will be available throughout both days.

Organising Committee: Dr. Bianca Rita Cataldi (University of Galway), Dr. Sarah Comyn (UCD), Dr. Megan Kuster (UCD), Prof. Anne Fuchs (UCD)

With special thanks to Prof. Sonja Tiernan (IHA/RIA) for the coordination, and to the Irish Humanities Alliance for funding this conference. Thanks to the UCD Humanities Institute for hosting the event and funding the wine reception