



UCD Humanities Institute  
Insitíúid don Léann Daonna UCD



## 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

**09:15 – 10:30** | **Keynote Lecture 1 (In-Person)**

**Speaker:** Raúl Matta (Centre de Recherche Institut Lyfe)

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

**Chair:** [TBD]

**10:30 – 10:45** | Morning Coffee Break

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

**Chair:** [TBD]

- 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 – 13:00** | **Panel 2: Food and Refugee Identity**

**Chair:** [TBD]

- Noha Atef (University of Galway) – *Food, Emotion, and Belonging in Gaza's Displacement Camps: Cooking on Instagram During the War*
- Mortada Haidar (Justus Liebig University) – *The Making of Meals and Memories in Joseph Geha's Kitchen Arabic*
- 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*

**13:00 – 14:15** | Lunch

**14:15 – 15:30** | **Panel 3: Transnational Food Encounters I**

**Chair:** [TBD]

- Esther Gazzola Borges (Universidade de São Paulo) – *Food, Empathy and Affection in Hani & Ishu’s Guide to Fake Dating*
- Eoin McGloin (Atlantic Technological University) – *Considering the Dynamics of Exile and Hunger in Roberto Bolaño’s Los Detectives Salvajes*
- Aleksandra Naróg (Jagiellonian University) – *Witold Gombrowicz: Exploring Food Discourse Across Polish and Argentine Contexts*

**15:30 – 15:45** | Afternoon Coffee Break

**15:45 – 16:45** | **Panel 4: Transnational Food Encounters II**

**Chair:** [TBD]

- Mary Gallagher and Maika Nguyen (University College Dublin – hybrid) – *Eating White in the Post/Colony: Food and Race in 'French Indochina' and Vietnam*
- Nandini Thiagarajan (Acadia University) – *On Culinary Disidentification*

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## **DAY 2 – Friday, 5 September 2025**

**09:00 – 09:15** | Welcome

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

**Chair:** [TBD]

- 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:** [TBD]

- 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 – 13:00 | Lunch**

**13:00 – 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:** [TBD]

**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 | 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*

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