



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 (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) – *[Title to be confirmed]*
- Nandini Thiyagarajan (Acadia University) – *On Culinary Disidentification*

DAY 2 – Friday, 5 September 2025

09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome

09:15 – 10:30 | **Keynote Lecture 2 (Remote)**

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]

10:30 – 10:45 | Morning Coffee

10:45 – 12:00 | **Panel 5: 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, 1880-1920*
- Gabrielle K. Machnik-Kekesi (University of Galway – remote) – *Cooking Up the Self in Theodora FitzGibbon's novel Flight of the Kingfisher* (1982) and 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 | **Panel 6: 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*

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 (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.