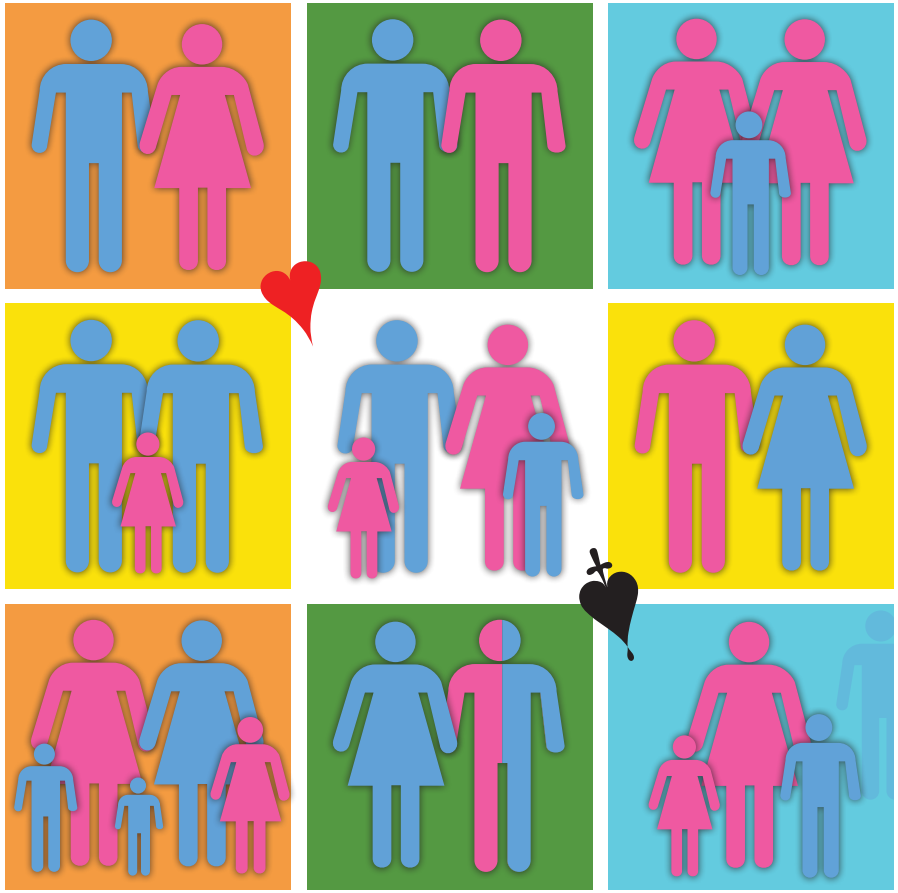
MERRIMAN
SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

Love and Marriage *Revisited*
Cumann agus Céileachas



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12-15 Lúnasa/August
Inis, Co. an Chláir/Ennis, Co. Clare
www.merriman.ie

THE MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL

'Love and Marriage' are themes that are deeply embedded in Irish culture and in 'personal life' and represent an arena frequently characterized by controversy. 2015, in particular, marks the 20th anniversary of the 1995 Divorce Referendum, which passed by a narrow majority and led to the introduction of divorce for the first time in Irish law; the passing of the Children and Family Relationships Act (2015); and a referendum legalised same sex marriage (on May 22nd 2015). The Children and Family Relationships Act (2015), running to over 100 pages with over 170 sections, deals with topics as diverse as guardianship, donor-assisted reproduction and custody and it amends existing legislation relating to civil partnership, adoption, passports, and succession.

When situated in the wider European context, intimate relationships in Ireland have experienced profound transformation and rapid social change has occurred in personal life, in recent decades. Recent data cites a significant increase in one-parent households and a high non-marital birth rate, for instance, alongside the emergence of cohabitation, divorce, same-sex families and 'reconstituted' families. At the same time, the majority of children in Ireland still live in a two-parent family based on marriage, and the divorce rate in Ireland is in reality much lower than several other European countries. Love and marriage in the 21st century are therefore characterized both by a strong degree of continuity and change in the Irish context – a complex relationship exists between tradition and modernity.

This year's Merriman Summer School will explore numerous aspects of 'love and marriage' as a prevailing theme in Irish Culture, Politics and Society over time through the lens of literature, social research, music, performance, history, poetry, politics and the law. Talks, readings, performances and debates by leading scholars, writers and artists will deal with topics as diverse as twenty years of divorce in Ireland, love and marriage in the 1916 revolutionary generation, sexual citizenship, same sex marriage, women's lives, marriage traditions and Irish writing.

Cumann Merriman extends a warm welcome to all participants in the 2015 Summer School and wishes you an enjoyable visit to Ennis.

Fearann Cumann Merriman fíorchaoin fáilte roimh chairde, idir shean agus nua, tamall a chaitheamh inár gcuideachta in Inis i gContae an Chláir don 48ú Scoil Samhraidh as a chéile.

SCOIL SAMHRAIDH MERRIMAN

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MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

Love and Marriage Revisited

Cumann agus Céileachas

12-15 LÚNASA/AUGUST · ENNIS, CO. CLARE

Éarlamh/Patron Micheál D. Ó hUigínn, Uachtarán na hÉireann
Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

Stiúrthóir/Director Merriman Summer School 2015
Dr. Linda Connolly, Director,
Institute For Social Science in the 21st Century,
University College Cork

Local arrangements in Ennis Catherine Devine, Marian O'Callaghan,
Mary O'Flaherty, Frances O'Gorman &
Mary O'Riordan

School Fee €135 (Corporate Delegates €150)
This covers attendance at all events.

Day Rates Thursday 13th €45
Friday 14th €50
Saturday 15th €45

Gala Musical Evening Friday 14th €20

Venues Registration & All Summer School events: Glór.

Eolas/Information Cumann Merriman: 086 382 0671
www.merriman.ie / eolas@merriman.ie

Glór box office 065-6843103 / www.glor.ie

Director, Merriman Summer School 2015

Dr. Linda Connolly is a Sociologist and Director of the Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21) at UCC. She has led a number of research projects and has published a range of articles and book chapters on Irish feminism, Irish Studies, Irish history, Irish family life and social movements. Her books include *The 'Irish' Family* (Routledge, 2015), *The Irish Women's Movement: From Revolution to Devolution* (Lilliput, 2003 and Palgrave, 2003), *Documenting Irish Feminisms: the Second Wave* (Woodfield, 2005) (with Tina O'Toole) and Social Movements and Ireland (Manchester University Press, 2007). She is a member of the Royal Irish Academy Social Sciences Committee and is Chair of the Irish Social Sciences Platform.

CLÁR NA SCOILE

CÉADAOIN 12 — WEDNESDAY 12

17.00 **Clárú/Registration** at Glór, Ennis
19.00 **Fáiltiú/Reception**
20.00 **Introduction to 2015 Merriman Summer School**
LINDA CONNOLLY, DIRECTOR
Oscailt na Scoile/Opening of School
CATHERINE McGUINNESS
Reflections on Love and Marriage in the Irish State in recent decades
20.30 **Lecture** **Divorce Twenty Years On: What actually happened?**
TONY FAHEY

DÉARDAOIN 13 — THURSDAY 13

10.00 **Seimineár I**
Tromluí an phósta in Cúirt an Mheán Oíche
MÁIRE NÍ ANNRACHÁIN
11.00 **Seminar I** **Love and Marriage in Irish Writing 1**
"Passionate Encounters"? Irish Literature after Independence: the Writing of Sexual Desire PATRICIA COUGHLAN
12.15 **Cúirt an Mheán Lae Poetry Reading** AILBHE NÍ GHEARBHUIGH
15.00 **Panel: Love and Marriage Revisited**
Bridesheads revisited: Love and Marriage in Rural Ireland 1850s to 1960s WILLIAM J. SMYTH
"Why not give the power to the wife? She probably cannot resist him otherwise": Women and fertility control in 20th century Ireland
SANDRA McAVOY
Representations of Single Women in Irish Culture ANNE BYRNE
17.00 **Book Launch** ***The Midnight Court: Eleven Versions of Merriman*** **(Lilliput Press, Dublin, 2015)**
AUTHOR: GREGORY A. SCHIRMER
SPEAKER: TOM DUNNE
20.00 **Plenary Panel: Love and Marriage in the Irish Revolution**
'Hens to moorcocks call': Flirtation and Courtship in 1916
LUCY McDIARMID
Love and Affection Among the Revolutionary Generation
ROY FOSTER

CLÁR NA SCOILE

AOINE 14 — FRIDAY 14

10.00 **Seimineár II**
An Grá agus an Ghruaim? Mná, Fir agus an Pósadh sa Bhéaloideas
DIARMUID Ó GIOLLÁIN

11.00 **Seminar II Love and Marriage in Irish Writing 2**
Love OR Marriage CÓNAL CREEDON

12.15 **Cúirt an Mheán Lae Poetry Reading** RITA ANN HIGGINS

15.00 **Panel: Love, Marriage and Equality**
The Family and the Irish Constitution: So Much Change, So Much Still the Same CONOR O'MAHONY
Lesbian Motherhood: Gender, Families and Sexual Citizenship
RÓISÍN RYAN-FLOOD
Reflections on Love, Marriage and Equality 20 years after the 1995 Divorce Referendum CAROL COULTER

20.00 **Musical Gala Evening and Illustrated Lecture**
'Bímís ag Ól is ag Pógadh na mBan': Love and Marriage in the musical landscape of Co. Clare" GEARÓID Ó hALLMHURÁIN
Other Performers:
GERALDINE COTTER
JOAN HANRAHAN
TIM COLLINS
ANTHONY QUIGNEY
EMER HOWLEY
ÓRLAITH NÍ BHRIAIN
THE CRUSHEEN HALF SET: STRAWBOY WEDDING DANCE

This illustrated lecture and recital will explore the themes of love and marriage as reflected in Ireland's traditional soundscape. While focusing on the lifeworlds of music makers and the manner in which they chronicle the universal themes of love and marriage, the presentation will focus especially on marriage rituals as celebrated in the traditional music, song and dance of Clare.

CLÁR NA SCOILE

SATHARN 15 — SATURDAY 15

10.00 **Seimineár III**
'Galar nách fóir luibh ná liaigh': galar an ghrá i ndánta grá na Gaeilge
SÍLE NÍ MHURCHÚ

11.00 **Seminar III Love and Marriage in Irish Writing 3**
Author interview and reading in conversation with DONAL RYAN, author of *The Spinning Heart* and *The Thing About December*
Interviewer: DOIREANN NÍ BHRIAIN

12.15 **Cúirt an Mheán Lae Poetry Reading** DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA

15.00 **Plenary Panel: Love and Marriage: Emotions, Intimacy and Identity**
'The Triumph of Love' TOM INGLIS
Love and Marriage: Looking Back and Looking Forward
LINDA CONNOLLY

17.00 **Fáiltiú/Reception in the Rowan Tree Café/Bar**
for Summer School attendees

20.00 **HISTORY IRELAND: HEDGE SCHOOL**
'Love and Marriage Since the Famine'
Chair: TOMMY GRAHAM, Editor *History Ireland*

Panel: WILLIAM J. SMYTH
SANDRA McAVOY
LINDA CONNOLLY
TOM INGLIS

Fáilte roimh chách
All welcome.

RANNPHÁIRTITHE/CONTRIBUTORS

ANNE BYRNE

Anne Byrne is a sociologist at NUI Galway with teaching and research interests spanning gender, identity, rurality, inequality, stigma, group work and community development, anthropological historiography and qualitative research methodologies with a particular interest in narrative inquiry. Her publications include: Anne Byrne, Ricca Edmondson and Tony Varley, 2001, Arensberg and Kimball and Anthropological Research in Ireland: Introduction to the Third Edition, Conrad Arensberg and Solon Kimball, Family and Community in Ireland (CLASP). She has been actively involved in both international, national and local research advisory groups dealing with social justice, community development and gender issues. She has recently served as board member with MACNAS Community Arts initiative, the Women's Health Council and acted as advisory member for the Global Project for Safe Motherhood, NUIG/ Irish Aid and for baseline research with the Galway Traveller's Movement. A recent initiative is the establishment of the NUIG Narrative Studies Group. Research awards include Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Senior Research Fellowship 2006-7 and Senior Research Fellow, Rutgers Centre for Historical Analysis, Rutgers, New Jersey, Gendered Passages in Historical Perspectives: Single Women 2003-2004 Project. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Irish Journal of Sociology, Women's Studies International Forum and Journal of Gender Studies. Anne is from Co. Clare.

LINDA CONNOLLY, MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL DIRECTOR 2015

Linda Connolly is a Sociologist and Director of the Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21) at UCC. She has led a number of research projects and has published a range of articles and book chapters on Irish feminism, Irish Studies, Irish history, Irish family life and social movements. Her books include The 'Irish' Family (Routledge, 2015), The Irish Women's Movement: From Revolution to Devolution (Lilliput, 2003 and Palgrave, 2003), Documenting Irish Feminisms: the Second Wave (Woodfield, 2005) (co-author with Tina O'Toole) and Social Movements and Ireland (Manchester University Press, 2007). She is a member of several committees including the Royal Irish Academy Social Sciences Committee and she is Chair of the Irish Social Sciences Platform.

PATRICIA COUGHLAN

Patricia Coughlan is Emerita Professor, School of English, UCC. She publishes, lectures and broadcasts nationally and internationally on Irish literature in various periods. Her publications include the edited collections Spenser and Ireland (1990), Modernism and Ireland: the Poetry of the 1930s (1995) and Irish Literature: Feminist Perspectives (2008), and frequently-cited articles and essays on a range of topics. She specializes in Irish poetry and fiction, mainly 20th-century, including Irish modernism (especially Beckett); gender, subjectivity and social change in Irish fiction (including Bowen, Kate O'Brien, Edna O'Brien, Banville); gender and diaspora consciousness in Maeve Brennan, Elizabeth Cullinan, and Alice McDermott); contemporary poetry (Kinsella, Meehan, Ní Chuilleanáin, Ní Dhomhnaill); Peig Sayers and women's autobiography; representations of femininity in canonical Irish poets (Heaney, Montague); and feminist psychoanalytic interpretations of Irish literature. She has led a State-funded UCC research project on women in Irish society and has been a Government of Ireland Senior Research Fellow, Visiting Irish Studies Professor at Concordia University, Montréal, and in 2015 a Fulbright Scholar at Fordham University, New York. She is currently completing a study of gender and selfhood in Irish literature.

CAROL COULTER

Carol Coulter graduated from Trinity College with BA (Mod) and Ph D degrees in English. She also holds a Diploma in Legal Studies and an M Phil in law.

She became a journalist and joined The Irish Times in 1986, working as a reporter, acting London Editor, acting Northern Ireland editor, deputy news editor, legal affairs editor and assistant editor. She covered the 1995 divorce campaign, and her essay on it "Hello Divorce, Goodbye Daddy: Women, Gender and the Divorce Debate" was published in Bradley and Valiulis, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland.

From 1992 to 2004 she edited the Undercurrents pamphlet series for Cork University Press. From 2006 to 2007 she took leave of absence from The Irish Times to run a pilot project on family law (private law) for the Courts Service. In October 2012 she left The Irish Times to take up a position as director of the Child Care Law Reporting Project, which is examining the public child care law system.

She has lectured extensively in the cultural, social and legal areas, both in Ireland and internationally, including in the UK, the US, France and Japan. She has published a wide range of essays and books in these areas, in peer-reviewed journals in Ireland, the US and Japan. Her publications include The Hidden Tradition: Feminism Women and Nationalism (Cork University Press, 1993) and Family Law in Ireland: As study of cases in the Circuit Court (Clarus Press 2009).

CONAL CREEDON

Conal Creedon is a short story writer, novelist, playwright, and documentary filmmaker. His stage plays include: The Trial Of Jesus (2000), produced as part of the Irish National Millennium Celebrations, Glory Be To The Father (2002), and Second City Trilogy (2005) (A trilogy of stage plays, commissioned by The European Capital of Culture). In 2008, Creedon's play, When I Was God, was produced by Plays Upstairs New York at the 1st Irish New York Theatre Festival. In 2009, his plays When I Was God and After Luke were produced by the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York to high critical acclaim.

Conal's published books include Pancho and Lefty Ride Out (1995, Collins Press - a collection of short stories), Second City Trilogy (2007, Irishtown Press - A trilogy of plays) and Passion Play (1999, Poolbeg Press - a novel). His short stories achieved recognition in the Francis MacManus Awards, Life Extra Awards and George A. Birmingham Awards and PJ O'Connor Awards. His fiction has been translated into Italian, German, and Bulgarian – with extracts published in China. He has worked as a radio presenter with RTE, a columnist with The Irish Times and has produced and directed a number of critically acclaimed documentary films including, The Burning of Cork (2005 - Paradox Pictures), Why The Guns Remained Silent In Rebel Cork (2006 – Seaview Films), If It's Spiced Beef (2007 - RTE), The Boys Of Fairhill (2007 - RTE) and Flynnie, The Man Who Walked Like Shakespeare (2008, RTE – which was nominated for the Focal International Documentary Awards London in 2009 and went on to be screened at the Irish Pavilion during World EXPO Shanghai in 2010.

TOM DUNNE

Tom Dunne is Professor Emeritus of History. He has been Dean of the Faculty of Arts, member of UCC's Governing Body, and member of the Senate of the National University of Ireland. He was co-founder and co-editor of the Irish Review, as well as Publisher at Cork University Press. He has curated a number of major exhibitions at the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork and has published widely on Irish cultural and political history in the early modern and modern periods. His book Rebellions: Memoir, Memory and 1798 (2004) won the Ewart Biggs Prize.

TONY FAHEY

Tony Fahey received his initial training in St Patrick's College, Maynooth (now National University of Ireland at Maynooth). He obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA in 1982. He was a member of the Sociology Department in St Patrick's College Maynooth from 1987 to 1992 and was at the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, from 1992 to 2007. He has been Professor of Social Policy in University College Dublin since April 2007. His wide ranging research deals with a range of issues connected to social policy in Ireland and the European Union, including family dynamics, housing, poverty and spatial aspects of disadvantage and of policy responses to disadvantage. Currently, he is coordinator of UCD's Research Programme on Children and Families and is working on a detailed analysis of family well being in Ireland. He is also a central participant in an international study on the impact of social inequalities on family patterns in European countries.

ROY FOSTER

Roy Foster was appointed as Carroll Professor of Irish History in 1991, the first incumbent of the only endowed chair of Irish history in Britain, which is attached to Hertford College, Oxford. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he was a Foundation Scholar in history, he subsequently became Professor of Modern British History at Birkbeck College, University of London, as well as holding visiting fellowships at St. Anthony's College, Oxford, and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and Princeton University. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1989, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1986, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1992, and an honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2011, and has received honorary degrees from the University of Aberdeen, The Queen's University of Belfast, Trinity College, Dublin, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, the National University of Ireland, and the University of Edinburgh as well as an Honorary Fellowship at Birkbeck College, University of London. He specialises in Irish cultural, social and political history in the modern period but has also written about Victorian political history, and is the author of the authorized two-volume biography of the poet W.B. Yeats.

His books include Charles Stewart Parnell: The Man and His Family (1976), Lord Randolph Churchill: A Political Life (1981), Modern Ireland 1600-1972 (1988), The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland (1989), The Sub Prefect Should Have Held His Tongue: Selected Essays of Hubert Butler (1990), Paddy and Mr. Punch: Connections in Irish and English History (1993), The Irish Story: Telling Tales and Making It Up in Ireland (2001), which won the 2003 Christian Gauss Award for Literary Criticism, W.B. Yeats, A Life. I: The Apprentice Mage 1865-1914 (1997) which won the 1998 James Tait Black Prize for biography, and Volume II: The Arch-Poet, 1915-1939 (2003); Conquering England: The Irish in the Victorian Metropolis (2005), co-written with Fintan Cullen, to coincide with their exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, Luck and the Irish: a brief history of change 1970-2000 (2006), a book deriving from the Wiles Lectures which he delivered at Queen's University Belfast, in 2004; Words Alone: Yeats and his inheritances (2011), derived from his Clark Lectures at the University of Cambridge; and most recently, Vivid Faces: the revolutionary generation in Ireland (2014), based on the Ford Lectures which he delivered at Oxford in 2012. He is also a well known critic, reviewer and broadcaster.

TOMMY GRAHAM ,
HISTORY IRELAND HEDGE SCHOOL

Tommy Graham is editor and founder of the bi-monthly History Ireland magazine and Historical Walking Tours of Dublin. He also lectures in Irish history and politics at Griffith College. Most recently, he initiated the History Ireland Hedge Schools, a series of round table discussions with historians and prominent personalities covering topics of historical and contemporary interest.

RITA-ANN HIGGINS

Rita Ann Higgins was born in Galway in 1955. She has published ten collections of poetry, her most recent being Ireland is Changing Mother, (Bloodaxe 2011), a memoir in prose and poetry Hurting God (Salmon 2010). She is the author of six stage plays and one screenplay. She has been awarded numerous prizes and awards, among others an honorary professorship. She is a member of Aosdána. Rita Ann Higgins's readings are legendary. Raucous, anarchic, witty and sympathetic, her poems chronicle the lives of the Irish dispossessed in ways that are both provocative and heart-warming. Her next collection Tongulish is due out in April 2016 from Bloodaxe.

TOM INGLIS

Tom Inglis was born and raised in Dublin and is Professor of Sociology at UCD. He worked for six years for the Catholic Church as a social researcher. During this time he did his Masters degree during with supervisor Don Bennett. In 1979, he and his wife Aileen went to Southern Illinois University, where he studied with Charles Lemert and Tom Burger.

When he came back to Dublin in 1984, Tom worked in UCD for three years and published Moral Monopoly. In 1987, he became Director of AONTAS, the National Association of Adult Education. He remains interested in the theory and practice of adult learning. In 1991, he rejoined the Department of Sociology in UCD. His interest in Catholic Ireland broadened to looking at sexuality and the media. In 1998, he published the 2nd edition of Moral Monopoly, as well as Lessons in Irish Sexuality. Two years later, he co-edited Religion and Politics (2000). Truth, Power and Lies (2003) was a sociological examination of what became known as the case of the Case of the Kerry Babies. His book Global Ireland: Same Difference (2008) was an examination of how globalisation has influence Irish culture over the last fifty years. In 2012, Tom went on to publish Making Love, a sociological memoir of his life with Aileen who died in 2005. In 2013, he published Love a short sociological description and analysis of what love is about.

SANDRA McAVOY

Sandra McAvoy teaches on and co-ordinates UCC's MA in Women's Studies Course and taught for many years on Adult Ed. Women's Studies courses, both outreach courses and UCC based. She is the first point of contact for Women's Studies PhD applicants.

A graduate of Trinity College Dublin (History and Political Science), she has an MA in Women's Studies and a PhD in History.

Her PhD thesis, Aspects of the State and Female Sexuality in the Irish Free State, examined how the Irish state dealt with the issues of sexual crime, prostitution, contraception, abortion and infanticide in the period 1922-1949, with a focus on the 1935 Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Research interests include: the history of sexuality - with a focus on the experiences of women in Ireland in the 20th century; the history and politics of reproductive rights issues; and women and politics.

She has been involved in a number of community and national organisations including: Cork Women's Political Association; Cork Women's Right to Choose Group; the National Women's Council of Ireland; and the Domestic Violence One Stop Shop (OSS Cork). In 2010-2011 she was involved with others in establishing the 50:50 Group, a single issue group that campaigns for special temporary measures to ensure equal political representation for women.

LUCY MCDIARMID

Lucy McDiarmid is Marie Frazee-Baldassarre Professor of English at Montclair State University; she received her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her scholarly interest in cultural politics, especially quirky, colourful, suggestive episodes, is exemplified by her recent book, Poets and the Peacock Dinner: the literary history of a meal (Oxford, 2014) and her previous book, The Irish Art of Controversy (Cornell and Lilliput, 2005); she is also the author or editor of four earlier books. The recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Lucy McDiarmid is also a former president of the American Conference for Irish Studies. In October 2015 the Royal Irish Academy will publish her book At Home in the Revolution: what women said and did in 1916.

CATHERINE McGUINNESS

Catherine McGuinness is a former judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland and former President of the Law Reform Commission. During the 1980s she represented Dublin University (Trinity College) in Seanad Eireann. At present she is a member of the Council of State and is Cathaoirleach of Údarás na hOllscoile Gaillimh (NUIG). She is also Adjunct Professor of Law in NUI Galway.

Catherine was born in Belfast and educated there and in Dublin. She was called to the bar in 1977 and to the Inner Bar in 1989. She was the first woman judge to be appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 1994. She has been a member of a number of State and public boards. She led the Kilkenny Incest Inquiry and was a leader in the movement for the constitutional rights of children. At present she is Patron of the Irish Fostercarers' Association and of the Irish Refugee Council, and Chair if the End of Life Council. She was for many years a member of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland and is Chancellor of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. She is a Trustee of the Irish School of Ecumenics.

She has honorary degrees from National University of Ireland, Dublin University (Trinity College), the University of Ulster and HETAC. Her main outside interest is choral singing and she has been a long-term member of the Culwick Choral Society.

MÁIRE NÍ ANNRACHÁIN

Máire Ní Annracháin is a Professor in the School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore at University College Dublin. She is a graduate of UCD and studied for her doctorate with Professor Seán ó Tuama in UCC, where her thesis was on the poetry of the 20th century Scottish Gaelic poet, Somhairle MhicGill-Eain (Sorley Maclean). She has a long-standing interest in Irish and Scottish Gaelic literature and much of her work is focused on the application of current streams of international literary theory to those literatures. She has been chairperson of Glór na nGael and a member of the Irish Placenames Commission, and is currently a member of the board of the Scottish Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

DOIREANN NÍ BHRIAIN

Doireann Ní Bhriain's is an independent radio producer, voice and presentation trainer and voiceover artist. Her first career was as a presenter and producer with RTÉ radio and television. She was a presenter and reporter on some of RTÉ's flagship radio and television current affairs and features programmes through the 70s and 80s, before leaving in the late 90s to work in arts event management and consultancy for a number of years. She was Irish Commissioner for the Imaginaire irlandais festival of Irish Culture in France in 1996, and ran the Millennium Festivals organisation after that. She spent several years in arts consultancy, working with arts festivals and local authorities around the country. She then returned to broadcasting as an independent radio producer and voiceover artist, while developing a new expertise in voice and presentation training, helping broadcasters and others to speak clearly and with impact. She also writes an occasional column on books and reading in the Irish Times. She is a choral singer with the Culwick Choral Society, a lover of the arts – theatre and music in particular - and a regular swimmer. She speaks fluent Irish, French and Spanish. She chairs the Strategy Committee of the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris.

AILBHE NÍ GHEARBHUIGH

Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh is an Irish poet who writes in the Irish language. Born in Tralee, County Kerry, in 1984, she graduated from NUI Galway in 2005 with a BA in Irish and French. She spent time in Bordeaux, France, before returning to Ireland to do an MA in Modern Irish, again at NUI Galway.

She went to New York in August 2007 to teach Irish with the Fulbright program in the CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies at Lehman College in the Bronx. The Arts Council of Ireland (An Chomhairle Ealaíon) awarded her an artist's bursary in 2008. She has helped to translate her own work into English.

Ní Ghearbhuigh's first collection, Péacadh, was published in 2008. It has been noted that, although its general tenor is optimistic, many of the collection's stronger pieces are marked by a disorientating sense of alienation and an awareness of the world's capricious nature.

Her doctoral dissertation, An Fhrainc Iathghlas? Tionchar na Fraince ar Athbheochan na Gaeilge, 1893-1922 (NUI, Galway), won the Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in 2014.

DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA

Doireann Ní Ghríofa is an award-winning bilingual poet, writing both in Irish and in English. Her work is regularly broadcast on RTE Radio One and her poems have previously appeared in literary journals in Ireland and internationally (in Canada, France, Mexico, USA, Scotland and England). Two of her poems are currently Pushcart Prize nominated.

Doireann has published widely in literary magazines in Ireland and abroad, such as The Irish Times, Irish Examiner, Prairie Schooner, The Stinging Fly, Southword and Feasta. In 2012, her poem Fáinleoga won the Wigtown Award for poetry written in Gaelic (Scotland). In 2013, she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by the American literary journal The Rose Red Review. She was one of the prizewinners in the emerging writer category at the Oireachtas literary awards in 2010. She has been shortlisted in many other competitions including: the Jonathan Swift Award (2012), the Venture Award (2012), and the Strokestown Poetry Prize (2014). She has received two literature bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland (2011 and 2013). Doireann Ní Ghríofa was selected for the very prestigious Ireland Chair of Poetry Bursary Award 2014. Her poetry collections include, Dordéan, do Chroí / A Hummingbird, your Heart (Smithereens Press, 2014), Dúlasair (Coiscéim, 2012), Résheoid (Coiscéim, 2011) and Clasp (Dedalus, 2015).

SÍLE NÍ MHURCHÚ

Síle Ní Mhurchú is a graduate of UCC and NUIG and is currently an O'Donovan post-doctoral scholar at the School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Her research is mainly based on Irish manuscript texts. She has an interest in Fiannaíocht (the vast body of literature and lore based around the figure of Fionn Mac Cumhaill) and was on the organizing committee of 'Fíanaigecht: the Second International Finn Cycle Conference' that took place at the University of Glasgow in August 2014. She is currently preparing for publication an edition of Agallamh Oisín agus Phádraig (The Dialogue of Oisín and Saint Patrick), an eighteenth-century compilation of lays that tell of the life and times of Fionn mac Cumhaill.

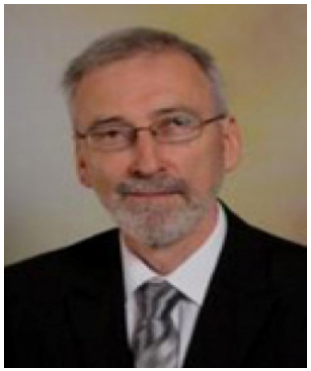
Her other main research project involves a re-examination of the dánta grádha (love poems, largely from the time of Early Modern Irish) with particular emphasis on the manuscript sources for these poems. The long term aim of this project is to create a new anthology of Irish love poetry which would make this body of work more accessible to scholars with little or no knowledge of the Irish language. She is involved in the organisation of a conference on the dánta grádha that will be held in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies in September 2016 to celebrate 100 years since the publication of the first anthology of dánta grádha by Tomás Ó Rathile.

Her seminar at the Merriman Summer School 'Galar nách fóir luibh ná liaigh: galar an ghrá i ndánta grá na Gaeilge' will look at depictions of galar an ghrá (the disease of love) in a number of poems and other texts, some previously unpublished.

GEARÓID Ó HALLMHURÁIN

Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, born in Ennis, County Clare, is a leading Irish ethnomusicologist, author, musician and historian specializing in Irish music, diaspora, cultural and memory studies. He is the inaugural holder of The Johnson Chair in Québec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, Montréal, Quebec. One of only a handful of universities offering a Major, Minor and Certificate in Irish Studies, the School of Canadian Irish Studies courses focus on Ireland's history and culture, its modern transformation in the Celtic Tiger era, and the social, cultural, economic, religious, educational and political contributions of Irish immigrants to Canada. The Johnson Chair focuses on the contributions of Quebecers of Irish origin to the social, cultural, religious and economic evolution of Québec. From 2000-2009, he was the Jefferson Smurfit Professor of Irish Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

A former member of The Kilfenora Céilí Band, Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin is a five-time All Ireland Champion musician (uilleann pipes, concertina and céili band). A fourth generation Clare concertina player, he learned from Clare concertina master Paddy Murphy. He has performed and recorded with noted Irish fiddlers Paddy Canny, Peader O'Loughlin, Martin Hayes, and Patrick Ourceau, as well as French Canadian fiddle master Pierre Schryer. His forthcoming book Flowing Tides: History and Memory in an Irish Soundscape will be published by Oxford University Press.



DIARMUID Ó GIOLLÁIN

Professor of Irish Language and Literature, Concurrent Professor of Anthropology and Fellow of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. Diarmuid Ó Giolláin's interests include popular religion in Ireland as well as folklore and popular culture in the history of ideas and of institutions.

He is the author of Locating Irish Folklore: Tradition, Modernity, Identity (2000), winner of the Katherine Briggs Folklore Prize 2000, and An Dúchas agus an Domhan (2005). He was guest editor of Ethnologie française 2011/2, a special issue Irlande: Après Arensberg et Ó Duilearga, and co-edited Léann an Dúchais: Aistí in Ómós do Ghearóid Ó Crualaoich (2012).

CONOR O'MAHONY

Conor O'Mahony is a graduate of UCC and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (PhD, 2005). He has lectured in Law at UCC since 2005, and is currently the Director of Graduate Studies in the Faculty. His research interests lie broadly in the areas of constitutional law and child law with a particular focus on constitutional interpretation, family and children's rights, educational rights and special educational needs. He is the author of Educational Rights in Irish Law (Thomson Round Hall, 2006) and has published numerous articles in such international journals as the International Journal of Constitutional Law, the Harvard Human Rights Journal, the International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family, the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, Public Law and the Child and Family Law Quarterly, as well as various Irish journals. He has delivered papers at conferences in Ireland, the UK, Germany, Italy, Turkey, the US, Canada and South Africa, and contributes regularly to analysis in the national media to legal debates.

DONAL RYAN

Donal Ryan is from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. He lives in Limerick with his wife Anne Marie and their two young children. He holds the 2015 Arts Council Writer-in-Residence Fellowship at the University of Limerick, where, with Joseph O'Connor and Giles Foden, he teaches Creative Writing.
Donal's debut novel, The Spinning Heart, was a number one bestseller in Ireland and a Boston Globe bestseller in the US. Donal won Best Newcomer and overall Book of the Year at the 2012 Irish Book Awards, the 2013 Guardian First Book Award in the UK, and the 2015 European Union Prize for Literature. The Spinning Heart was long-listed for the 2013 Man Booker Prize and the Desmond Elliott Prize, and was a finalist for the 2014 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.
Donal's second novel, The Thing About December, was also a number one bestseller. It was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the 2013 Irish Book Awards and the 2014 Kerry Group Novel of the Year, and was nominated for the 2015 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Donal's work has been translated into several languages and is on the Irish Leaving Certificate prescribed syllabus. His first short story collection, A Slanting of the Sun, will be released worldwide in September 2015.

RÓISÍN RYAN-FLOOD

Róisín Ryan-Flood is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Director of the Centre for Intimate and Sexual Citizenship (CISC) at the University of Essex. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, citizenship, kinship and migration and she has published numerous journal articles and book chapters in these areas. She also has a longstanding interest in feminist methodology. Her book Lesbian Motherhood: Gender, Families and Sexual Citizenship was published by Palgrave in 2009. She is co-editor (with Rosalind Gill) of Silence and Secrecy in the Research Process: Feminist Reflections (Routledge, 2009). She has edited several journal special issues on topics such as sexuality and social theory; visual culture; and feminist epistemology. She initially joined Essex in 2005 as Academic Fellow in 'Intimacy, Sexuality and Human Rights', a five year RCUK fellowship post that subsequently became a permanent lectureship. Her current research explores assisted reproduction, and gender and intimacy.

WILLIAM J. SMYTH

William J. Smyth lectured at Syracuse University and at San Fernando State, Los Angeles before returning to lecture at UCD. Before being appointed to UCC, he was Senior lecturer and Head of the Geography Department at Maynooth College 1973-77. His main research interests are in the social, cultural and historical geographies of Ireland as part of the wider Atlantic colonial world. He is the author of the prize-winning Map-making, Landscapes and Memory: A Geography of Colonial and Early Modern Ireland (Cork University Press, 2006) and Joint editor of Atlas of the Great Irish Famine (Cork University Press, 2012).

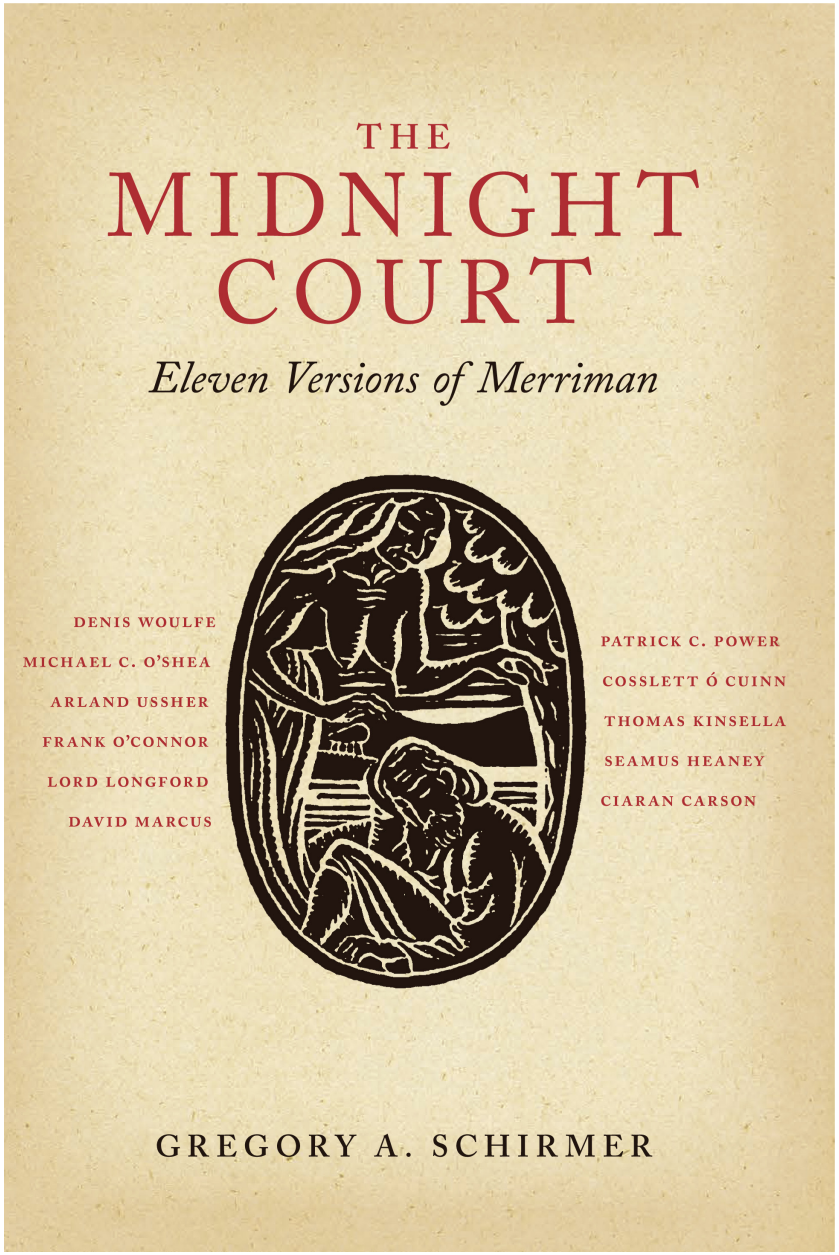
From the time of his appointment to the Chair of Geography in University College Cork in 1977, W.J. Smyth served the university as teacher, researcher, administrator, and was appointed to a number of national bodies, such as the Royal Irish Academy and Heritage Council of Ireland. He has delivered lectures and organised field courses to rural and urban communities throughout Ireland and Atlantic Europe as part of the programme in Local and Regional Studies at UCC. He has an abiding interest in the Irish language and has consistently used the evidence of Irish poetry and other documentary sources in his published work.

MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

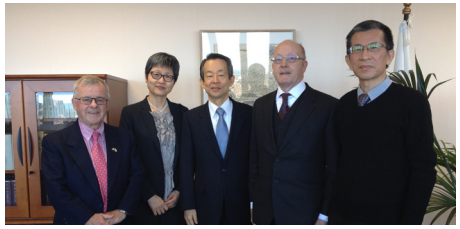
SEOLADH LEABHAIR / BOOK LAUNCH

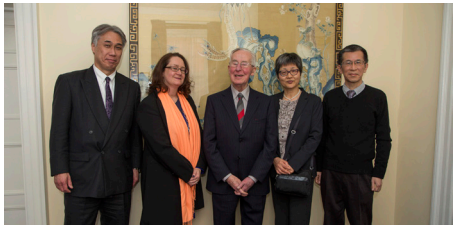
DÉARDAOIN 13, ag 17.00 — 5pm, THURSDAY 13

SPEAKER: TOM DUNNE



Ceiliúradh ar an Aistriúchán Seapáinise de *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche*
Ambasáid na Seapáine & Leabharlann Chester Beatty
Baile Átha Cliath, 3 Márta 2015
Celebration of the Japanese Translation of *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche*
Japanese Embassy & Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, 3 March 2015





Foilsíodh aistrúchán Seapáinise de *Cúirt an Mheán Oíche* mí na Samhna 2014. Is iad na húdair an Cumann Taighde ar Theanga agus Litríocht na Gaeilge, Kyoto. Bhí beirt bhall den gCumann sin (na hOllúna Kuninao Nashimoto, Ollscoil Hosei, Tóició, agus Takako Haruki, Ollscoil Ban Kobe Shoin) i láthair ar ócáidí ceiliúrtha a d'eagraigh Cumann Merriman i gcomhar le hAmbasáid na Seapáine (an tAmbasadóir Chihiro Atsumi) agus Leabharlann Chester Beatty, (an Dr. Tom P. Hardiman) ar 3 Márta 2015.

*A Japanese translation of **Cúirt an Mheán Oíche** was published in November 2014. The authors are the Kyoto Society for Research of the Irish Language and Literature. Two of its members (Professors Kuninao Nashimoto, Hosei University Tokyo and Takako Haruki, Kobe Shoin Women's University) were present at celebratory events organised by Cumann Merriman in conjunction with the Japanese Embassy (Ambassador Chihiro Atsumi) and the Chester Beatty Library (Dr. Tom P. Hardiman) on 3 March 2015*

Cumann Merriman

Éarlamh Micheál D. Ó hUigínn, Uachtarán na hÉireann
Patron Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

The aims of Cumann Merriman (The Merriman Society) since its foundation in 1967 have been to promote interest in the poet Brian Merriman, in the history and traditions of Thomond (the old North Munster sub-division which includes parts of counties Tipperary and Limerick as well as county Clare), and in addition to promote interest in every aspect of Irish culture: the Irish language, Irish history, literature and music. These aims are achieved primarily through the annual schools: the Merriman Summer School and Scoil Gheimhridh Merriman.

Cumann Merriman has been honoured to have had as its Patrons the Presidents of Ireland, Éamon de Valera, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh and Patrick J. Hillery, and the world-renowned poet and Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney. The current Patron is Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland.

MEMBERSHIP/BALLRAÍOCHT i gCUMANN MERRIMAN

We welcome new members. The annual membership subscription is *€25.00.*
Is féidir clarú mar bhall de Chumann Merriman ar tháille bhliantúil (€25.00).

COISTE CHUMANN MERRIMAN 2014/2015

Liam Ó Dochartaigh (Cathaoirleach Eatramhach)
Máire Ní Neachtain (Leas-Chathaoirleach)
Deirdre Nic Mhathúna (Rúnaí)
Catherine Devine (Cisteoir)
Mary Rose Greville, Doireann Ní Bhriain, Brian Ó Dálaigh, Marian O'Callaghan, Mary O'Flaherty
Mary O'Riordan agus Siobhán Quinn
Tacaíocht Theicniúil agus Riarthóir ar an Suíomh Idirlín
Mícheál Mac Lochlainn

SCOIL GHEIMHRIDH MERRIMAN 2016

Dáta: 29-31 Eanáir
Ionad: Coláiste Phádraig, Baile Átha Cliath
Téama: 'Sráideanna Naofa Átha Cliath'
Stiúrthóir: Dr Deirdre Nic Mhathúna

SCOIL SPEISIALTA / SPECIAL SCHOOL 2016

Dátaí: 8-10 Aibreán 2016
Ionad: An Róimh
Téama: 'Teacht don Róimh': Ireland and Rome: faith and politics

MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

Dates: 29 June – 2 July (NOTE CHANGE of DATES)
Location: Glór, Ennis
Theme: Ireland's 'Gallant Allies in Europe'

www.merriman.ie / eolas@merriman.ie

ÉARLAMH CHUMANN MERRIMAN

Cúis onóra agus mórtais do Chumann Merriman is ea gurb é Uachtarán na hÉireann, Micheál D. Ó hUigínn, cúigiú Éarlamh an Chumainn ó Eanáir 2014 i leith.

Cumann Merriman is honoured and very proud that the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, is fifth Patron of Cumann Merriman since January 2014.

BUÍOCHAS / THANKS

Cumann Merriman wishes to thank all those who have assisted in the organisation and funding of the 2015 Summer School.

Comhairle Contae an Chláir
Clare County Council

An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

glór ENNIS

HEDGE SCHOOL
History Ireland

Old Ground Hotel
Ennis. Ireland.

Rowan Tree café bar

Ennis CHAMBER
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

TEMPLE GATE HOTEL

MERRIMAN SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

School Fee €135 (Corporate Delegates €150) includes all lectures, seminars and Cúirt an Mheán Lae (daily poetry readings). Day tickets and single event tickets are also available.

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST			CÉADAOIN 12 LÚNASA
Time	**Venue**	**Event**	**€**
17.00	Glór	**Clárú/Registration**	
19.00	Glór	**Fáiltiú/Reception**	€15 (Official opening & lecture)
20.00	Glór	**Oscailt na Scoile / Opening of School** CATHERINE McGUINNESS	
20.00	Glór	**Lecture** TONY FAHEY	

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST			DÉARDAOIN 13 LÚNASA
10.00	Glór	**Seimineár 1** MÁIRE NÍ ANNRACHÁIN	€10
11.00	Glór	**Seminar 1** PATRICIA COUGHLAN	€10
12.15	Glór	**Cúirt an Mheán Lae/Poetry Reading** AILBHE NÍ GHEARBHUIGH	No charge
15.00	Glór	**Panel** WILLIAM J SMYTH, SANDRA McAVOY & ANNE BYRNE	€15
17.00	Glór	**Book Launch:** *The Midnight Court: Eleven Versions of Merriman* GREGORY A. SCHIRMER / TOM DUNNE	No charge
20.00	Glór	**Panel** LUCY McDIARMID & ROY FOSTER	€15

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST			AOINE 14 LÚNASA
10.00	Glór	**Seimineár 2** DIARMUID Ó GIOLLÁIN	€10
11.00	Glór	**Seminar 2** CÓNAL CREEDON	€10
12.15	Glór	**Cúirt an Mheán Lae/Poetry Reading** RITA ANN HIGGINS	No charge
15.00	Glór	**Panel** CONOR O'MAHONY, RÓISÍN RYAN-FLOOD & CAROL COULTER	€15
20.00	Glór	**Musical Gala Evening** GEARÓID Ó hALLMHURÁIN & FRIENDS	€20

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST			SATHARN 15 LÚNASA
10.00	Glór	**Seimineár 3** SÍLE NÍ MHURCHÚ	€10
11.00	Glór	**Seminar 3** DONAL RYAN in conversation with DOIREANN NÍ BHRIAIN	€10
12.15	Glór	**Cúirt an Mheán Lae/Poetry Reading** DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA	No charge
15.00	Glór	**Panel** TOM INGLIS & LINDA CONNOLLY	€15
17.00	The Rowan Tree	**Reception for Summer School Attendees**	
20.00	Glór	**HISTORY IRELAND Hedge School** TOMMY GRAHAM, WILLIAM J SMYTH, SANDRA McAVOY, LINDA CONNOLLY & TOM INGLIS	€15