



2022

Midwest American Conference for Irish Studies Regional Conference

October 6-8, 2022

Student Union University of Wisconsin-La Crosse La Crosse, Wisconsin



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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2022

American Conference for Irish Studies Midwest Regional Conference

October 6-8, 2022

Student Union | University of Wisconsin-La Crosse | La Crosse, WI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

6-8 p.m. Informal Gathering Off Campus

Turtle Stack Brewery

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

8:30–9 a.m. Conference Registration & Light Refreshments

Room 3105

9-10:30 a.m. SESSION 1

Panel 1:

Round Table: Being an Irish Studies Scholar in the Midwest:

Room 3310

Research, Teaching, and Public Engagement
—Chair: Aedín Ní Bhróithe Clements, University of Notre Dame

Presenters:

Aedín Ní Bhróithe Clements, University of Notre Dame:

"Short-term Research Grants: What I Learned from Notre Dame's Keough Naughton Library Research Award"

Keelin Burke, Newberry Library:

"Irish Studies at the Newberry Library"

Colleen English, Loyola University, Chicago:

"Newberry Irish Studies Seminar: Creating Interdisciplinary Networks of Irish Studies Scholars in the Midwest and Beyond"

Bridget English, University of Illinois at Chicago:

"Beyond the Green River: The Future of Irish Studies and Public Engagement in Chicago and Wider Midwest"

10:30–10:45 a.m. Break & Refreshments

Room 3105

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. SESSION 2

Panel 2a: Storytelling in Irish and Irish-American Music and Print

-Chair: Dustin Gann, Midland University

Presenters:

April Fallon, City Colleges of Chicago:

"The Long-Winded Lady in New York"

Michael Nicholson, Oakton Community College:

"Langstrom's Pony": The Genesis of Irish "Traditional" Music?

Chimi Woo, Prairie View A&M University:

"Border-Crossing and the Irish Question in the Irish National Tale" (Virtual)

Panel 2b: Forward—Performing Ireland at Home and Abroad

Room 3310

-Chair: Nic Barilar, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Presenters:

José Lanters, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee:

"Who Wouldn't Be a Tinker?" Donagh MacDonagh's _God's Gentry_ at the Gate Theatre (1951)

Kenneth Shonk, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse:

"A Sense of Ireland: The making of modern Ireland in Britain, 1980-1"

Mary Trotter, University of Wisconsin-Madison:

"Actors, Take Your Places! Where 19th Century Irish American Playwrights put Marginalized Bodies Onstage"

12:15–1:30 p.m. **Lunch, on your own**

1:45-3:15 p.m.

SESSION 3

Panel 3a: "The Several Meanings of 'Érlamh':

Looking Deeper into the Definition and Implications of a Word in Old Irish."

(Virtual Panel)

-Chair: Chris Cairney, Middle Georgia State University

Presenters:

Chris Cairney, Middle Georgia State University:

"Éarlamh: Deeper Implications for the Study of Irish History and Early Irish Christianity"

Séamus Dillon, South East Technological University, Waterford:

"Translating "Éarlamh" from Irish into English"

John Murphy, Middle Georgia State University:

"Ethics and Responsibility in Translating Early Irish Words and Texts"

Panel 3b: Keats, Rooney, Yeats, Joyce and Irish Literature

-Chair: Stephanie Alexander, Indiana State University

Presenters:

Kurt Bullock, Grand Valley State University:

"Narrative Picture-Making: Language, Art, and Jack Yeat's Sligo" (Virtual)

Barry Devine, Heidelberg University:

"James Joyce's Ephiphanies and the Buds of Bildung"

Colleen English, Loyola University, Chicago:

"maybe what Keats meant": Sally Rooney and Romanticism

3:15-3:30 p.m. **Break**

3:30–5:30 p.m. *McBride Lecture: A Blank Page In Existence?*

Writing Oceans and Seas into the History of Irish Migration

—Cian T. McMahon, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Reception to follow lecture in Room 3105

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE









Room 3314

Room 3310

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022

8:30-9 a.m. Conference Registration & Light Refreshments Room 3105

9–10:15 a.m. SESSION 4

Panel 4a: Roundtable: Room 3314

Folding Landscapes: Remembering Tim and Máiréad Robinson

-Chair: Eamon Wall, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Presenters:

Karen Babine, University of Tennessee Chattanooga:

"Remembering Tim and Máiréad Robinson: Writing and Research on the Robinsons"

William J. Kerwin, University of Missouri, Columbia:

"Folding Landscapes: Remembering Tim and Máiréad Robinson"

Drucilla M. Wall, University of Missouri, St. Louis:

"Remembering Tim and Máiréad Robinson: Writing and Painting"

Panel 4b: Political Culture in 20th Century Ireland

-Chair: Séan Farrell Moran, Oakland University

Presenters:

Keelin Burke, Newberry Library:

"Free State Moral Panics: Gender and Catholic Action"

Brian Ó Conchubhair, University of Notre Dame:

"The Gaelic League, the Irish Language and the Civil War: 1922-23 and beyond"

Timothy O'Neill, Central Michigan University:

"An Coinneal: The Emigrant Newsletter and Maintaining Links between Louisburgh, Co.

Mayo and its Emigrants, 1959-1987."

10:15–10:30 a.m. Break & Refreshments Room 3105

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

SESSION 5

Panel 5a: Church, State, and Global Commerce in the Irish North Atlantic Room 3310

-Chair: Kenneth Shonk, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Presenters:

Sally Ebest, University of Missouri, St. Louis:

"The Ultimate Transgression: Child Sex Abuse in the Catholic Church"

Timothy G. McMahon, Marquette University:

"'Delay will be against us': Free State Preparations for the Boundary Commission During the Civil War"

Sean Farrell, Northern Illinois University:

"'The Blackstaff Nuisance': Civic Culture and the Urban Environment in Mid-Victorian Belfast"

Nicholas Wolf, New York University:

"Irish Linen and American Cotton: The Financial Networks of the Early Nineteenth-Century Brown Brothers Company"

MIDWEST AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR IRISH STUDIES REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Room 3310

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Panel 5b: New Assessments of Recent and Contemporary Irish Writing

—Chair: Brian Ó Conchubhair, University of Notre Dame

Presenters:

Bridget English, University of Illinois at Chicago:

'Entombed in Illness': Contemporary Irish Illness Narratives and Medical Institutions

Tyler Farrell, Marquette University:

"Heavenly Country: The Last Poems of James Liddy"

Thomas Redshaw, St. Thomas University:

"Nine Notes on Thomas Kinsella's Nightwalker (1967)"

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Business Lunch

Room 3310

Room 3314

Lunch buffet will be served in Room 3105

1:45-3 p.m.

SESSION 6

Panel 6a: The Irish Experience in North America

-Chair: Sean Farrell, Northern Illinois University

Presenters:

Dustin Gann. Midland University:

"Telling Their Story: Newspaper Coverage of the Irish Community in Nebraska, 1890-1920"

J. Hollis Harris, Northern Illinois University:

"The Fair Hills of our Little Green Island": Imagined Environments in Irish America, 1893-1910"

Greg Koos, McLean County Museum of History:

"A Cargo of Irish Girls" Assisted Immigration of Domestic Servants into the Midwest" (Virtual)

Panel 6b: Pastorals and the Body in Irish Writing

-Chair: Sally Ebest, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Room 3310

Presenters:

Stephanie Alexander, Indiana State University:

"Before the Suburban Pastoral: Eavan Boland's Early Heterotopias"

Kristina Deffenbacher, Hamline University:

"Genre and the Repeal of the Eighth:

Bodily Autonomy in Irish Road Narratives, Horror, and Love Stories" (Virtual)

Joseph Heininger, Dominican University:

"'Almost breaking with a lifetime of/Taking real things for shadows':

Bernard O'Donoghue's Tropes of Touching'

3 p.m.

Adjourn

WELCOME TO LA CROSSE, WI



Rich in scenic beauty, La Crosse, Wisconsin has all the idyllic attributes of small town America, with all the amenities of a major metropolitan community. Beautifully restored, historic downtown La Crosse is Wisconsin's largest city on the Mississippi River.

La Crosse features wonderful opportunities for hiking, biking, golfing, sightseeing and historic tours. Our majestic bluffs, coulees, and numerous rivers and streams make boating, water skiing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, camping and other outdoor activities a common occurrence for residents and visitors alike.

This hub of regional government, is also the home to a diverse blend of organizations engaged in higher education, international manufacturing, world class medical care and research, agriculture and tourism. In 2020, Entrepreneur Magazine named La Crosse as "one of the top 20 small cities where business is thriving."

Peaceful, scenic, safe, historic La Crosse offers it all.

Room 3314



The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, founded in 1909, is one of 13 four-year campuses in the University of Wisconsin System. For more than 20 years in a row, UWL has remained the state's top ranked comprehensive campus in the UW System. It offers approximately 91 majors, minors and special programs for undergraduates in business, education, the sciences, the arts, health, recreation, physical education and liberal studies. Over twenty graduate programs are available. More than 10,000 students attend classes on the compact, 128-acre campus.

UWL received the 2021 Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments. The national Council on Undergraduate

Research citation recognizes campuses providing high-quality research experiences to undergraduates.

U.S. News & World Report named UWL the No. 1 regional university in the state and the No. 7 regional university in the Midwest among schools with undergraduate and master's programs for 2022. It's the 21st consecutive year UWL earned a top ranking. UWL also finished highest in the UW for Best Undergraduate Teaching.

The Wisconsin Association of International Educators awarded the UWL International Education & Engagement (IEE) Office the 2021 Hong Rost Memorial Leadership Award for Innovation in International Education Student Services. The annual award recognizes an outstanding professional or group in Wisconsin who embodies dedication and passion for international education.

UWL is No. 1 in awarding physics bachelor's degrees nationwide, according to the American Physical Society. UWL awarded an average of 35 degrees annually between 2015-17, making it No. 1 among bachelor's degree-granting institutions.

The UW MBA Consortium remains among the top 10 online master's degree programs in business administration nationally. The consortium includes UWL, along with UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh.

A national theatre blog puts the UWL Theater Arts Department center stage in Wisconsin—and one of the best in the country. OnStage Blog says UWL has the best theatre program statewide, identifying those doing "amazing things and giving their students fantastic preparation for their various industries."



RIVERSIDE PARK AND THE RIVERSIDE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GARDENS:

Riverside Park has a mile long, riverside, paved loop surrounding sculptures, a fountain, a band shell and large grassy spaces. It separates downtown La Crosse from the Mississippi River. The International Friendship Gardens are situated at the north end of the park showcasing exquisite examples of gardens from countries around the world including Ireland, Russia, France, Norway, Germany and China.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE:

The La Crosse Queen is one of the few authentic Mississippi River paddlewheel river boats still in operation in the U.S. today. She offers a variety of cruises including sightseeing cruises, dinner cruises and moonlight cruises.

MARY OF THE ANGELS CHAPEL:

Located at the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration, this "Chapel of the Angels" is one of the most beautiful in the United States. It is Romanesque in style, with Corinthian pillars and windows of Bavarian stained glass. The beauty is only enhanced by the cherished practice, known as Perpetual Adoration, of continuous prayer, day and night, of at least two people before the Blessed Sacrament. This tradition had been carried out from 1878–2020.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY GUADALUPE:

Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe (7 miles from campus) is a Catholic shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe and is known to attract pilgrims from all over the world. The 100-acre grounds include a visitors' center, a rosary walk, Stations of the Cross, a friary, and a votive chapel.







