

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



IRISH  
HUMANITIES  
ALIANCE

# CONTENTS

02	<b>About</b>
03	<b>IHA year in numbers</b>
04	<b>Forewords</b>
04	Professor Brendan Dooley, Chair
05	Professor Sonja Tiernan, Coordinator
06	<b>Board members</b>
10	<b>Institutional members</b>
11	New institutional member
12	<b>Public engagement</b>
12	Irish Scottish Cultural Relations & Diplomacy
14	Annual IHA conference
15	Professional training
15	Antigone and Ireland
15	Information sessions
16	<b>Working Groups</b>
16	Environmental Humanities
16	Horizon Europe
17	Legal Humanities
17	Medical and Health Humanities
17	Research Ethics and Integrity
17	Research and Innovation
18	<b>Website and social media</b>
19	<b>Looking ahead to 2026</b>
19	IHA Annual Conference (2026)

# About the Irish Humanities Alliance

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) is a joint initiative of humanities researchers within higher education and research institutions across the island of Ireland, founded in 2013 and housed at the Royal Irish Academy.

The IHA provides a platform for all-island humanities collaboration and consultation which has enabled the diverse range of humanities disciplines across the island to speak with a single voice.

## Core Objectives

- Protect, promote and develop humanities scholarship across the island of Ireland.
- Promote humanities collaborations between institutions and disciplines.
- Ensure parity of esteem between humanities disciplines.
- Promote secure and adequate funding of humanities research in Ireland.
- Promote the centrality of the humanities in addressing pressing societal challenges, particularly through the thematic IHA Working Groups.
- Support excellence at all stages of academic career development in the humanities.
- Advocate for research and education strategies attuned to a multicultural & multilingual society.
- Promote European and further international humanities collaboration with humanities organisations and alliances.

## Governance

The IHA is run by a governing board of its institutional members. The board are responsible for general government and strategic direction of the IHA including approval of the annual work programme. The board is led by an Executive Committee comprising the IHA Chair, Vice-Chair and Coordinator. The Executive Committee address day to day operations of the IHA and meet a minimum of once per month. The IHA Coordinator is responsible for the overarching coordination of the IHA, delivery of the annual work programme and represents the IHA in all acts of ordinary business, subject to the oversight and approval of the IHA Chair.

## Financial Management

The IHA is funded from annual member subscription fees and has control over setting its own budget. As the legal body with responsibility for the IHA, the RIA has overall responsibility for the proper control, management and administration of the funds allocated to IHA. The coordinator is an employee of the RIA and ensures that all the activities of the IHA comply with RIA policies and procedures. The IHA provides an annual programme and financial report to the RIA Council, outlining its annual key objectives and agreed work programme.

## IHA year in numbers

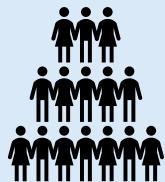


**12**

Years advocating for Arts and Humanities  
across the island of Ireland

**14**

Institutional alliance members



**8,174**

Followers across social media channels

**399**

Bookings for IHA events



**15k**

Event hits [www.irishhumanities.ie](http://www.irishhumanities.ie)  
(first 60 days)

**7**

IHA organised events

## Chair's Foreword

A chairde,

As chair of the Irish Humanities Alliance, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the annual report for 2025.

Advocacy for the humanities has never before been so crucial. As our societies undergo important transformations, with new technologies offering opportunities as well as challenges, the knowledge that comes from understanding and studying our humanity via our associated disciplines is more vital than ever. We are committed to conveying this message to audiences and stakeholders, while working to expand our networks.



As the following pages will show, this year the IHA has continued and increased efforts to encourage interdisciplinary engagement in for instance medical humanities and digital humanities, while adding the transnational dimension in research on culinary and food cultivation practices and much else.

Regarding humanities advocacy abroad and the flourishing of our studies, our continued association with other organisations such as SAHA and EASSH has allowed us to compare notes and join forces on numerous issues that affect us all.

Meanwhile we are bringing the Irish humanities perspective into important discussions taking place here at home which will help set a course for the future, in the realms of heritage conservation, higher education, and public funding, including the possibilities being opened up by the creation of Research Ireland, the newly founded funding body. And as always, we maintain our dedication to furthering the benefits of our studies for the wider public.

Many thanks to our members for their continued support, and to our collaborators and followers for a productive year!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Dooley".

Prof. Brendan Dooley

## Coordinator's Foreword

A chairde,

It is a pleasure to present the annual report for 2025, illustrating the broad range of activities, collaborations and developments organised by the Irish Humanities Alliance. 2025 marked 12 years since the foundation of the IHA and during this time the alliance has grown in membership and in purpose.

2025 was a particularly industrious year with many positive advances made. The IHA board has been restructured and comprises one nominated representative from each of our member institutions. Aligned with best governance structure, our new board composition allows for a focused concentration on strategic vision, performance and risk management.



A new IHA website, launched in September, includes more avenues for researchers to engage with IHA activities and offers a vibrant platform for arts and humanities scholars to showcase their research impact and highlight national and international collaborations.

The IHA and the Royal Irish Academy devised and agreed a new Memorandum of Understanding. This MoU, established for another five-year term, documents the relationship and responsibilities between the two entities. Significantly, the MoU demonstrates the RIA's commitment to continue hosting and supporting the IHA. The MoU was formally approved by the IHA board and agreed by the RIA Council in November.

In the last decade there has been a progressive change in the landscape of universities in Ireland. To further strengthen our alliance and to ensure full representation of arts and humanities across our island, we continue to broaden our membership base. In March, we were delighted to welcome Atlantic Technological University into our alliance. The IHA plan on further expansion into 2026 and welcome discussions with interested HEIs.

Finally, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed to the work of the IHA. Board members and Chairs past and present, working group members, conference organisers and those who committed their time and expertise to deliver talks, offer blogs and reflective articles. Such contributions helped produce the vibrant activities detailed in the following pages. The support of staff and management at the RIA is of considerable importance in the provision of administrative assistance and in hosting IHA events.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonja Tiernan".

Prof. Sonja Tiernan

## Board members

IHA Member Institutions propose one representative to sit on the IHA Board. Board members attend quarterly meetings, contribute to the IHA Work Programme, regularly inform their Member Institutions regarding the work of the IHA, and promote the work of the IHA within their institutions. The Board nominates a new Vice Chair each year, and the Vice Chair takes position as Chair the following year.

### Prof. Brendan Dooley, Chair 2025-26



Brendan Dooley (PhD Chicago 1986), Professor of Renaissance studies at University College Cork and current Chair of the IHA, works on the histories of culture and knowledge with reference to Europe and especially Italy and the Mediterranean world. Publications include *Angelica's Book and the World of Reading in Late Renaissance Italy* (Bloomsbury, 2016), *A Mattress Maker's Daughter, the Renaissance Romance of Don Giovanni de' Medici and Livia Vernazza* (Harvard, 2014), *The Social History of Skepticism* (Johns Hopkins, 1999), *The Continuing Exercise of Reason: Public Addresses by George Boole* (MIT Press, 2018), and,

as author/ editor, *The Dissemination of News and the Emergence of Contemporaneity in Early Modern Culture* (Ashgate, 2010).

### Prof. Anna Hickey-Moody, Vice Chair IHA, 2025-26



Anna Hickey-Moody, Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute and SALI Professor of Intersectional Humanities at Maynooth University. An interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersections of philosophy, gender and cultural studies, her research explores affect, aesthetics, and the politics of belonging, with a particular focus on youth, religion, disability, sex and environmental justice. Professor Hickey-Moody is the author and editor of numerous influential books, including *Faith Stories: Sustaining Difference in Troubling Times* (MUP, 2023). As

Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute at Maynooth, Professor Hickey-Moody leads cross-disciplinary initiatives that foreground the role of arts and humanities scholarship in addressing pressing global challenges.

### Dr Mark McCarthy, ATU



Dr Mark McCarthy is Senior Lecturer and Programme Chair in Heritage at Atlantic Technological University (ATU). His publications include *Ireland's 1916 Rising: Explorations of History-Making, Commemoration & Heritage in Modern Times* (Ashgate, 2012; Repr. Routledge, 2016) and an edited volume (with Bernard O'Hara) entitled *Technological Higher Education in the West of Ireland since 1972: Perspectives on the History & Memory of RTC Galway, GMIT, & ATU Galway-Mayo* (Atlantic Technological University, 2025). Mark was elected as a Fellow of

the Royal Geographical Society in 1999 and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2013. He was awarded the GMIT President's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2016 and a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy in 2023.

## Dr Ellen Howley, DCU



Dr Ellen Howley is an Assistant Professor at the School of English in DCU. Her monograph, *Oceanic Connections: The Sea in Irish and Caribbean Poetry* was published by Syracuse University Press in 2025. She was the co-PI on a Research Ireland-funded Science Week 2025 Project that took an Arts-based approach to Climate Change. Her research has appeared in *Irish Studies Review*, the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* and *Comparative Literature* and she has written for the *Irish Times*, *RTE Brainstorm*, and *The Conversation*.

## Dr Rebecca Breen, MIC



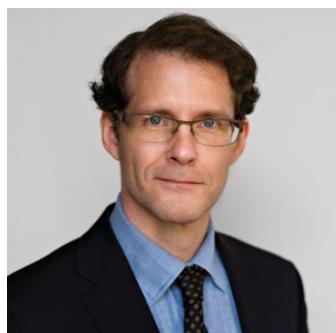
Dr Rebecca Breen is Coordinator of Doctoral Programmes, Research & Graduate School at MIC. Her research focuses on the intersections between conceptualist art practice by women artists and *testimonio* – testimonial narrative literature from twentieth-century Latin America. Prior to joining the MIC Research & Graduate School, Dr Breen held a permanent lectureship in the University of Essex's School of Philosophy & Art History and was Associate Director of Essex's Centre for Curatorial Studies. She has also taught Humanities subjects in the University of Cambridge and the University of Limerick.

## Dr Simon Egan, QUB



Dr Simon Egan is a Lecturer in Medieval Irish History at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on the history and culture of pre-modern Ireland and Scotland with a special focus on Gaelic lordship and warfare, c.1100-c.1600. Simon previously worked as an Assistant Professor in Medieval Irish and British History at Trinity College Dublin and held a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship at the University of Glasgow. He completed a PhD in History at University College Cork in 2016, having previously graduated from the same institution with a BA in History & Modern Irish in 2011.

## Prof. Daniel Carey, RIA



Daniel Carey is a graduate of McGill University, Trinity College Dublin, and Oxford University. He has published a monograph on *Locke, Shaftesbury, and Hutcheson: Contesting Diversity in the Enlightenment and Beyond* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and six edited volumes. He has published in a range of interdisciplinary journals on literature, the history of philosophy, history of science, anthropology, and travel. His teaching interests include Renaissance literature, Shakespeare, Renaissance drama, the eighteenth century, and Romanticism.

He was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2014 and was chair of the Irish Research Council (2022-24) and Chair of the IHA (2014-16). He is Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy.

## Dr Suzanne Denieffe, SETU



Dr Suzanne Denieffe is Head of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in South East Technological University. She holds a PhD from RCSI and an MSc and BSc from UCD. She is an active researcher, focusing on research to improve quality of life for vulnerable and marginalized groups, taking an interdisciplinary lens to address issues. She has led on several national research projects, and is currently chairing an EU COST Action project, CA 21123. She sits on several national committees as TUA representative and on university committees in her role as Head of Faculty, including chairing the University Art Committee.

## Dr Conor McGarrigle, TUD



Conor McGarrigle is an artist and researcher working primarily with digital media. He holds a BSc from UCD, an MFA from NCAD and a PhD from DIT. A pioneer of digital art in Ireland his research-based practice has examined the entanglements of pervasive networked devices and computational processes in everyday life working with net art, locative media, augmented reality, and machine learning. He has exhibited internationally including the Venice Biennale, the St. Etienne Biennale, Fundació Miro, SIGGRAPH, Site Santa Fe, FILE São Paulo, EVA International,

and Science Gallery Dublin and Detroit, and the Green on Red Gallery Dublin. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Routledge journal *Public Art Dialogue*.

## Prof. Patrick Geoghegan, TCD



Patrick Geoghegan is Director of Trinity Long Room Hub and a leading scholar of eighteenth and nineteenth century Ireland. His work on the Irish Act of Union and its aftermath, the rebellion of Robert Emmet, and the political and legal career of Daniel O'Connell, culminating in five monographs, has been recognised both nationally and internationally. Geoghegan's engagement in public outreach has also been a distinctive feature of his work. The presenter of the award-winning *Talking History* on Newstalk radio, he has brought the discipline of history to a wide popular audience, and its weekly podcasts are among the most

downloaded in the country. A Vice-President of the Irish Legal History Society, he has supported an interdisciplinary approach to legal and historical studies.

## Dr Conor Trainor, UCD



Dr Conor Trainor is a Classicist specialising in the material culture of the Hellenistic and Roman Mediterranean. A Belfast native, he earned his BA (Hons) and MA from (the other) Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario in Canada. Conor completed his PhD at Trinity College Dublin in 2013, producing a major study of ceramics from the ancient Greek city of Sikyon in 2015. An active field archaeologist since 2000, he has worked extensively in Greece and Canada and now focuses on the long-term urban development of ancient historical cities, particularly the site of

Knossos on Crete. Conor has taught at institutions in the UK, Canada, Ireland, and Greece. He joined UCD Classics from the University of Warwick in 2024 as an Ad Astra Fellow.

## Dr Nessa Cronin, UG



Nessa Cronin is Head of Irish Studies at the Centre for Irish Studies, University of Galway. She was Chair of the IHA (2024-25). Nessa has published widely on aspects of Irish Literature, Cultural Geography and Environmental Humanities. In September 2019 she was elected to the National Committee of Future Earth Ireland, and in December 2023 she was awarded a GATES MaCI Senior Research Fellowship and residency at the University of Grenoble-Alpes (June 2024) and St Cross College, University of Oxford (November 2024), for her work in Environmental Humanities in a European context. Nessa was awarded the College of Arts Teaching Award in 2024, and a Dean of Arts Award for Doctoral Supervision at the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies in January 2020.

## Prof. Christina Morin, UL



Christina Morin is Professor in English and Assistant Dean of Research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick. Her publications include *Irish Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion* (2023; co-edited with Jarlath Killeen), *The Gothic Novel in Ireland, c. 1760-1829* (2018), *Traveling Irishness in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2017; co-edited with Marguère Corporeal), *Irish Gothics: Genres, Forms, Modes, and Traditions* (2014; co-edited with Niall Gillespie), and *Charles Robert Maturin and the Haunting of Irish Romantic Fiction* (2011). She is the chair of the

International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures (IASIL), literature editor of the journal *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*, and founding co-editor of Bloomsbury's Global Perspectives in Irish Literary Studies series.

## Prof. Karen Fleming, UU



Karen Fleming is the Ulster Director, Northern Bridge PhD Consortium. She began lecturing part-time while continuing as a freelance artist before assuming full-time responsibilities at Belfast School of Art, underpinning professional development to teach by completing a Master of Education (1995, distinction). She was appointed professor (2008) and continues to practice, exhibit and curate. Having been external examiner of fashion, textile and craft programmes in UK and Ireland, she is motivated to develop courses that anticipate future creative careers. She currently contributes mainly to the MSc Fashion and Textiles

Retail Management, with a focus on design thinking, product development, new fashion and textile models of consumption, ethical engagement with communities and supporting our graduates to contribute to a more sustainable future.

## Institutional members

The IHA is an alliance of fourteen members including higher education and research institutions who have invested significantly in the IHA since its establishment.



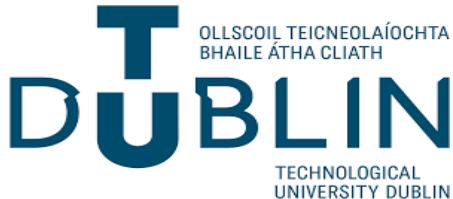
Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh  
  
Atlantic  
Technological  
University



**Maynooth  
University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann  
Royal Irish Academy



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin



**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland



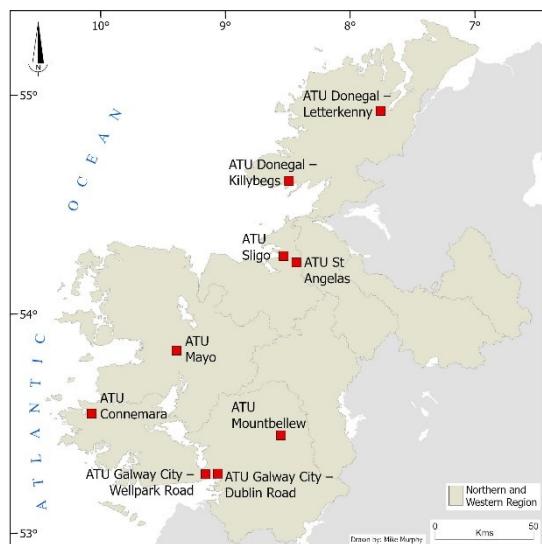
## New institutional member

In March 2025, the IHA welcomed Atlantic Technological University (ATU) into our alliance.

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) was founded on 1 April 2022, following the amalgamation of three institutes of technology – Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT); Institute of Technology, Sligo (IT Sligo); and Letterkenny Institute of Technology (Letterkenny IT). Further expansion occurred on 1 November 2023, after the incorporation into the university of St Angela's College at Cloghorevagh, County Sligo.

Today, ATU stands as one the biggest third level institutions in Ireland, with over 30,000 students and 2,500 staff in nine campuses, geographically distributed across the Northern and Western Region.

The university offers a range of courses in arts and humanities, in disciplines such as archaeology, contemporary art, design, film and documentary, heritage, history and geography, performing arts, and teacher education. Elective modules are also available in languages such as French, Gaeilge, German, and Spanish. The university's multi-campus Heritage Research Group has wide-ranging expertise in the principal forms of cultural heritage – intangible, tangible, natural, and digital.



Location of the nine ATU campuses (Source: McCarthy, 2025, Figure 3.35; Cartography: Mike Murphy)



L to R: Bernard O'Hara, former GMIT Registrar and co-editor/contributing author; Dr Orla Flynn, President, ATU; and IHA Board Member Dr Mark McCarthy, Senior Lecturer and Programme Chair in Heritage, ATU and co-editor/contributing author (Photo Credit: Mike Shaughnessy)

ATU is represented on the Irish Humanities Alliance Board by Dr Mark McCarthy, who is the co-editor (with Bernard O'Hara) and a contributing author to a number of chapters in a new book entitled *Technological Higher Education in the West of Ireland since 1972: Perspectives on the History & Memory of RTC Galway, GMIT, & ATU Galway-Mayo* (Atlantic Technological University, 2025). This 249-page hardback book was produced in partnership with the Heritage Research Group and was launched by the university's President, Dr Orla Flynn at the ATU Galway City, Dublin Road campus on 19 September 2025.

ATU's Mayo campus in Castlebar will host the 13th International George Moore Conference from 5–7 May 2026. The conference, titled 'George Moore: Landscape and Memory', will be held in association with the International George Moore Association.

## Public Engagement

The IHA provides a platform for all-island humanities collaboration and consultation. Through public events and professional training programmes the IHA advocates for research and education strategies attuned to a multilingual and multicultural society.

Throughout 2025 the IHA organised several public outreach and engagement events. Our annual programme includes the IHA conference; professional training workshops; institutional information sessions and collaborative events.



*The Peacock Theatre stage set for Legal Humanities WG public seminar, May 1, 2025*

## Irish Scottish Cultural Relations & Diplomacy

A half-day event co-organised by the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA), the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance (SAHA) and the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Held at the Royal Irish Academy on Friday 26th September.

As human-centred fields of research, the Arts and Humanities are fundamental to fostering creativity, firing the imagination, navigating a shared history, and promoting inter-cultural dialogue. The event explored the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the first Joint Bilateral Review of the Irish and Scottish Governments. Launched in January 2021, the Joint Bilateral Review has provided the chance to further strengthen the relationship between Ireland and Scotland.





Prof. Murray Pittick, co-chair SAHA

Introductory remarks were made by Prof. Murray Pittick, SAHA Co-Chair and Prof. Sonja Tiernan, IHA Coordinator. Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and Thomas Byrne, Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence gave insightful opening remarks on Irish Scottish relations.

This was followed by an engaging discussion on culture, collaboration and diaspora by an esteemed panel; Jerry O'Donavan, consul general of Ireland in Edinburgh; Katy McNeil, Head of Scottish Gov in Ireland; Triona McCormack, VP strategy & engagement UCD; & Ciarán Walsh associate director Culture Ireland – expertly chaired by Prof. Catherine O'Leary, co-chair SAHA.

The event concluded with a showcase of Scottish Irish research projects by [Dr Aoife Crummy](#) (ATU) and [Dr Helen MacGrath](#) (UCC) - awardees of the [Ireland-Scotland Bilateral Network Grants](#).

Over 200 people attended this hybrid event through a mix of online and in-person attendance. The full event is available to view on the [IHA website](#).



R-L: Chair Prof. Catherine O'Leary; Jerry O'Donavan, consul general of Ireland in Edinburgh; Katy McNeil, Head of Scottish Gov in Ireland; Triona McCormack, VP strategy & engagement UCD; & Ciarán Walsh associate director Culture Ireland.

## Ireland Scotland Bilateral Cooperation Framework 2030 Launch

On 26th November 2025, the Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Neale Richmond TD, and the First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney MSP, met at Iveagh House, Dublin to discuss bilateral relations and to launch the new [Ireland Scotland Bilateral Cooperation Framework 2030](#). The IHA Coordinator was invited to attend the launch and the IHA features on page 15 of this document.



L to R: Minister Neale Richmond TD and First Minister John Swinney MSP.

## Annual IHA Conference

### Feeding the Soul: Transnational Narratives of Food and Belonging

Co-organised by Dr. Bianca Cataldi (UG), Dr. Sarah Comyn (UCD), Dr. Megan Kuster (UCD) and Prof. Anne Fuchs (UCD), was sponsored by the Irish Humanities Alliances and took place at the UCD Humanities Institute on 4-5 September 2025.

The conference welcomed an interdisciplinary cohort of 16 international speakers from Europe, the United States and Canada and two keynote speakers: Dr. Raúl Matta (Centre de Recherche Institut Lyfe) and Dr. Tania Aguila-Way (University of Toronto).



*Group picture on the final day of the conference*

Building on the vision articulated in the original call for papers, the conference sought to investigate how food functions as a narrative medium through which belonging, exile and hybridity are negotiated. Food operates in artistic and cultural texts not only as a symbol of nourishment but also as a lens through which we perceive global inequalities between excess and scarcity, between the global North and South, and between the preservation and erosion of indigenous foodways.

The theme invited interdisciplinary contributions from literary and cultural studies, visual arts, film, history, journalism, and environmental humanities, resulting in a rich dialogue that traced connections between local kitchens and transnational “foodscapes”. Across panels, speakers also interrogated the sensory dimensions of taste and smell, the politics of food production and waste, and the affective bonds forged around shared meals and recipes.



*Walk & Talk to the UCD Rosemount Environmental Research Station*



*One month later: Seeds of Action*

The conference programme included a guided visit to the UCD Rosemount Centre and Apple Orchard, and a practical “Seed Paper” workshop. The event closed with the launch of the new IHA website, introduced by Prof. Sonja Tiernan, and a convivial wine reception hosted by the UCD Humanities Institute.

## Professional training

The IHA Medical & Health Humanities Working Group organised a Doctoral Training Workshop on the theme - [Boundary Objects & Collaborative Working](#). The event took place at the Royal Irish Academy on 15th May 2025.

Experts in the field of medical and health humanities discussed this growing and vibrant area of research, outlining opportunities in academic publication and development. This workshop was aimed at those pursuing, or planning to pursue, doctoral or post-doctoral research in Medical Humanities. 34 attendees registered for this event which generated much discussion and sharing of ideas across the afternoon.



*Guests and speakers at the Doctoral Training Workshop*

## Antigone and Ireland

The Legal Humanities WG organised a one-day symposium [Antigone and Ireland: A Symposium in the Legal Humanities](#) on 1st May. The event took place on the iconic Peacock Stage, at the Abbey Theatre exploring the enduring influence of this ancient Greek heroine in Ireland. Since the play was first performed, Sophocles' Antigone has raised vital and troubling questions regarding the law and its limits.



*Playwright Marina Carr in conversation with Dr Melissa Sihra (TCD)*

## Information sessions

The IHA Executive are pleased to hold online or in-person information sessions with colleagues at our member institutions when requested. Sessions provide further details to colleagues about writing impact case studies, joining or forming working groups or any aspect of IHA membership. In February an information session was held on campus at the University of Galway. In May an online session took place with ATU and in October with MIC colleagues.

## Working Groups

The Irish Humanities Alliance currently host six Working Groups at the cutting edge of current issues and trends in arts and humanities. WGs play a vital role in the IHA work programme producing position papers and research reports; organising public seminars and training workshops which inform the community while contributing to HEI and the national research policy agenda in Ireland.

### Environmental Humanities



Co-chaired by Associate Professor Marc Caball (UCD) and Dr Leah O'Hearn (MU), WG meetings took place regularly during 2025 with a view to expanding representation across IHA member institutions. The WG currently consists of members from: UCD; UCC; TCD; UG; MU; MIC; DCU; TUD; UU; TCD; & ATU. The WG is committed to enabling networking opportunities for interested humanities scholars and academics across a broad range of career stages.

The WG will host an early-stage researcher training event at the RIA on 26 March 2026, aimed at doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars in areas including landscapes; eco-feminism; environmental history; aesthetics and senses; decolonial ecologies; political ecology; language and culture; communication and storytelling; creative arts; eco-criticism. Performance and creative art praxis as well as socio-historical archival research should be considered in this context.

WG members have agreed to work on a policy-style paper relating to the environmental implications of AI. It is proposed that a short policy statement will be circulated as widely as possible among academics; policymakers; and the broader public. In this paper, it is proposed to consider the environmental costs of AI infrastructures and the possible contribution of AI in tandem with environmental humanities to the amelioration of the impacts of climate change and ecological degradation among other issues.

### Horizon Europe



The Horizon Europe WG was formed as a body of experts to respond to calls for comments /feedback on aspects of draft Horizon Europe work programmes. WG members have in the past been tasked with responding to upcoming calls issued by the Irish National Delegate. Future tasks could include investigating the opportunities beyond the current Horizon Europe to the successor initiatives under Framework Programme 10.

## Legal Humanities



Established in November 2024, the Legal Humanities WG aims to provide a connective forum for encouraging interdisciplinary and inter-institutional scholarly collaboration; gather information on activities in the Legal Humanities conducted in HEIs across the island; gather expertise and resources; and provide a network to be drawn upon in the design and preparation of funding bids.

## Medical and Health Humanities



Reconstituted in 2024, the WG organised a Medical and Health Humanities Research Survey that year, to provide insight into the breadth and depth of Irish humanities research related to the areas of health and medicine. Download the [report](#) which includes details of publications, research grants and work in this area from 138 scholars in this field. As a direct follow on from this research, the WG organised a Doctoral Training Workshop in May 2025, see p. 15.

## Research Ethics & Integrity



Formed in 2024 to address the distinct and rapidly evolving challenges, both national and global, confronting arts and humanities research. Amongst the diverse areas that the WG aims to respond to are the role of AI in humanities research, including copyright and publishing, research ethics review processes within and beyond the university, and ethics and integrity training for graduate students.

## Research & Innovation



Established in June 2023, in response to the announcement that the Government of Ireland would amalgamate the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland to create a single funding agency for research in Ireland. The WG was to the forefront in organising a workshop in collaboration with the Royal Irish Academy on 15 May 2024. This was the first of two consultation events convened by the RIA to consider the corporate plan and future funding portfolio of the new funding agency, Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

## Website

In September, the IHA launched a new website aimed at improving engagement and accessibility. Further possibilities for engagement include a new Emerging Scholar section welcoming blog contributions from early career researchers and emerging scholars with submissions relating to their research. While Working Groups now have a dedicated section to share details of their activities, reports and to announce events.

Within the first 60 days of launching, [www.irishhumanities.ie](http://www.irishhumanities.ie) recorded 2.6k active users and 15k event count hits.



About

News & Events

Working Groups

Resources

### Latest News

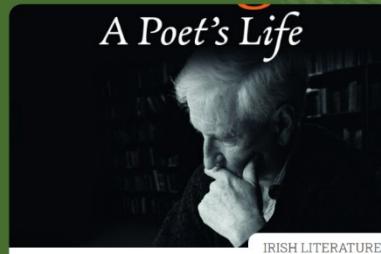
[View Blog Archive](#)

The Humanities Blog is a collection of Humanities perspectives and comment pieces on news, current affairs, and publications. We encourage contributions from researchers and those interested in Arts & Humanities. The Emerging Scholars Series is a new series welcoming contributions from early career researchers and emerging scholars with submissions relating to their research.

Please read the [template for authors](#) before submitting.



VISUAL AND MATERIAL CULTURE



EVENT REVIEW

## Social Media

In consultation with the IHA board, it was decided to close the IHA X account in April. Updated contact details and social media platforms are detailed below.

## Connect with us

Website	<a href="http://www.irishhumanities.ie">www.irishhumanities.ie</a>
Bluesky	<a href="https://bluesky.social/@irishhumanities.bsky.social">@irishhumanities.bsky.social</a>
LinkedIn	Irish-humanities-alliance
YouTube	irishhumanitiesalliance
Soundcloud:	Irish Humanities Alliance
Email	<a href="mailto:ihha@ria.ie">ihha@ria.ie</a>

# Looking ahead to 2026

## IHA Annual Conference (2026) in SETU Waterford

The 2026 IHA Annual Conference entitled 'Un/Silencing Healthcare: Voices, Power, and Imagination' will take place on the 3rd and 4th of September 2026 at South East Technological University's (SETU) College Street, Waterford Campus. Un/Silencing Healthcare will bring together scholars, clinicians, artists, community partners and practitioners for a major gathering in the medical and health humanities. Contributions are invited through a humanities lens, while also incorporating interdisciplinary and lived experience insights. SETU's modern interdisciplinary environment, home to vibrant research clusters, creative practice and community-engaged scholarship, offers an ideal space for critical conversations about the future of healthcare and its contested narratives.

This year's conference theme addresses the paradoxes that define contemporary healthcare. It considers the coexistence of extraordinary technological advances alongside deepening inequalities, the expansion of patient advocacy alongside enduring structural silence, and the emergence of global connectivity that is continually challenged by local exclusion. The conference asks what it means to 'Un/silence' healthcare by asking whose voices shape medical and healthcare knowledge, whose experiences are marginalised, and how we might create more just, plural, and compassionate futures.

Across its thematic streams, the 2026 conference will address questions of voice, power and representation in medicine and healthcare; the reimagining of ethics beyond compliance; crip, queer and decolonial challenges to dominant healthcare norms; the shifting boundaries of the human in an era shaped by artificial intelligence; and the radical potential of imagination to transform relations of care. It is anticipated that keynote speakers and the full program will be announced in June 2026. The event is designed to bring together critical and creative approaches, featuring testimony, speculative practice, performance and collaborative research.

The IHA Annual General Meeting will take place during the conference at SETU.

The event is being developed by the SETU Conference Committee with support from the IHA. The call for abstracts will be issued in January/February 2026 through the SETU and IHA websites. By foregrounding diverse forms of knowledge and expression Un/Silencing Healthcare seeks to create a setting in which silences can be critically examined, solidarities strengthened, and new possibilities for equitable and relational care can take shape. For further information and enquiries please contact: [UnsilencingHealthcare@setu.ie](mailto:UnsilencingHealthcare@setu.ie)

