



Professional Training

Environmental Humanities

Challenges & Opportunities

Royal Irish Academy

26th March:

14.00-16.30



Programme

14.00 **Welcome and introductions**

Marc Caball, Co-Chair, IHA Environmental Humanities Working Group
Leah O'Hearn, IHA Environmental Humanities Working Group
Sonja Tiernan, Coordinator IHA

14.15 **Networking session**

- Participants will be invited on registration on the day to join one of six tables, where one of the following questions will be discussed.
- What draws you into environmental humanities? What environmental aspects are there, or could there be, in your own work?
- Hope in Dark Times? How to keep spaces for hope in a time of precarity and poly-crises?
- What are some shared methodologies across the various disciplines within the environmental humanities? (for example, do you do place-based research? do you have sources? what does your practice look like?)
- How can/do early career researchers develop their teaching profile by applying their research to pedagogy?
- How can artistic practice expand or challenge dominant narratives about the climate crisis and ecological change?
- Where are the environmental humanities going in terms of policy impact?

15.15 **Coffee Break**

15.35 **Panel Discussion**

Prof. Michael Cronin (TCD)

Dr. Maureen O'Connor (UCC)

On the theme of Challenges (and Opportunities) in the Environmental Humanities.

16.20- 16.30 **Closing Remarks**

Contributors

Maureen O'Connor is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English in University College Cork. She has published widely in the field of Irish Studies, especially on women's writing and the environment, and organised Ireland's first Irish ecocriticism conference (2010). Author of *The Female and the Species: The Animal in Irish Women's Writing* (2010), she has co-edited a number of field-defining volumes, including, with Derek Gladwin, a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*, 'Irish Studies and the Environmental Humanities' (2018). Her latest monograph, *Edna O'Brien and the Art of Fiction*, was published by Bucknell University Press in 2021.

Michael Cronin is 1776 Professor of French in Trinity College Dublin and Senior Researcher in the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation. He is the author of *Eco-Translation: Translation and Ecology in the Age of the Anthropocene* (Routledge, 2017), *Irish and Ecology: An Ghaeilge agus an Éiceolaíocht (FÁS, 2019)*, *Eco-Travel: Journeying in the Age of the Anthropocene* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and *Ireland: Why it matters to be an island* (Royal Irish Academy, forthcoming (2026)). He is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, the Academia Europaea, an Officier in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin.

Marc Caball is Associate Professor at UCD School of History and a former director of UCD Humanities Institute. He has published widely on the cultural history of early modern Ireland. A former director of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, he has extensive experience of research funding and policy at national and EU levels.

Leah O'Hearn is Assistant Professor/Lecturer in Ancient Classics at Maynooth University, where she co-leads Critical Anthropocenes, one of the university's research strengths. She has published on gender, sexuality, and nature in ancient Roman poetry, particularly from the perspective of ecofeminism. Her first monograph, *Akrasia and the Catullan Lover: Resisting Reason in Republican Rome*, is forthcoming with Bloomsbury in August 2026.



Further information
Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2
E: info@irishhumanities.com