

Law and Humanities Roundtable 2026

Visions of Democracy in Art and Literature

Date: Friday 19 June 2026

Venue: TRiSS Seminar Room, Sixth Floor, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin

9.00 – 9.30 Welcome & Introductory Remarks

- *Dr Róisín Á Costello (Trinity College Dublin), Convenor*
- *Prof David Gurnham (University of Southampton). General Editor of Law and Humanities*
- *Dr Elena Cooper (University of Glasgow), Arts Editor of Law and Humanities*

9.30 – 11.15 - GEOGRAPHIES OF EXPRESSION

Chair: Dr Róisín Á Costello (Trinity College Dublin)

9.30-9.50 Dr Daniel Hugh Shanahan (University College Cork/University of Stanford) *“Disturbed Areas: Literature and Emergency Law in Kashmir and Northern Ireland”*

9.50 – 10.10 Sinead Mercier (University College Dublin) *“Re-writing the earth: A legal geography of EU/Irish critical raw materials legislation with and through Brian Friel’s Translations”*

10.10 – 10.30 Dr Sophie Doherty (Open University) *“Street art, censorship and metamorphosis”*

Discussion (30 mins)

11.00 – 11.15 break

ERASURE AND SILENCED VOICES IN ART AND LITERATURE

Chair: Dr Anni Carlsson (Swedish Defence University)

11.15 - 11.35 Hannah Mimiec (University of Dundee) *“The Memory Police and the erasure of history”*

11.35-11.55 Dr Michael Randall (University of Strathclyde) *“From Procedure to Paranoia: Law and Authority in The Seed of the Sacred Fig”*

11.55-12.15 Isabella Salsano (University of Salento) *“Silent Voices, Contested Heritage: Freedom of Expression and the Politics of Cultural Memory in International Law”*

12.15-12.35 Nichola McNulty (Queens University Belfast) *“‘Peace, Peace, When There is No Peace’: Anne Brontë’s Feminist Manifesto in The Tenant of Wildfell Hall”*

Discussion (30 mins)

12.50 - 13.45 lunch

CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURES (AND FAILURES) IN LITERATURE PART I

Chair: Prof David Gurnham (University of Southampton)

13.45-14.05 Dr Alan Greene (University of Birmingham) *“On Sovereign Dictators and Noble Lies: reflections on Christopher Nolan’s Dark Knight trilogy in the wake of Trump’s America”*

14.05 - 14.25 Prof David Kenny (Trinity College Dublin) *“Gulliver’s Travels as a Pioneer of Comparative Constitutional Law and Law and Literature”*

Discussion (15 mins)

14.40 - 14.55 break

CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURES (AND FAILURES) IN LITERATURE PART II

Chair: Prof David Kenny (Trinity College Dublin)

14.55 - 15.15 John F Manderscheid (Trinity College Dublin) *“The Veiled Constitution: Flaubert’s Salammbô and the Jurisprudence of Freedom of Expression”*

15.15 - 15.35 Dr Bence Kis Kelemen (University of Pécs) *“Democracy in Harry Potter and what it means for us muggles”*

Discussion (15 mins)

16.00 Finish