Streets Ahead:
Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces

9-10 September 2022, Dublin

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

the**LAB**

DUBLIN
CITY
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OFFICE

OLLSCOIL TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA
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TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

IRISH HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Conference Theme

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA), in collaboration with Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) and The LAB, is delighted to present **Streets Ahead: Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces**. Today, as we plan for post-pandemic landscapes, with greater awareness and appreciation of the outdoors, the open-air spaces of our common world have renewed significance. Public places now need to function more effectively as truly shared spaces. Presenting current research from the fields of design, visual and material culture, public history, cultural history, architecture, urban planning, sonic studies, public art and heritage studies, this conference attempts to provide a critical lens through which to focus this newly enhanced attention. The conference takes place on **9-10 September 2022** in Dublin, at TU Dublin, Grangegorman, and The LAB, Foley Street (complying with government guidelines in September 2022).

Format

TU Dublin, City Campus, Grangegorman

09.15-09.45   Registration

09.45-10.00   Introductions

10.00-11.00   Keynote Conversation One: Ali Grehan & Christoph Lindner

11.00-11.25   Tea & Coffee

11.30-13.00   Parallel Panels

Panel One Sensory Streets
Chair (tbc)

Connell Vaughan, TU Dublin
'*Walking to Beauty: Reflections on Recent Public Art as Street Philosophy*'

 Simon Thompson, University of Limerick,
*"Seizing the moment, responding to the public's desire for more inclusive and
 shared civic spaces, a narrative from the perspective of a street performer and
 festival curator"*

Emma Meehan, National Gallery
'*Accessible Public Art: How can lessons from the pandemic contribute to sensory
equity in Dublin's cultural spaces?*'

Panel Two: Occupying the Alleys
Exploring the small civic spaces which are found beyond the back door. This
panel brings together current research, fresh ideas, thoughtful curation, fun
participation, and grass roots lobbying to interrogate overlooked, un-owned and
un-used alleyways

Chair (tbc)

Amberlea Neely, Starling Start and **Aisling Rusk**, Studio idir
*Introducing **9ft in Common**, an investigation about ownership, access, disruption and place.*

Meadhbh McIlgorm, Limin-alley
Testing ideas for participation with residents and artist commissions through small but impactful interventions.

Miriam Turley, Social Farms and Gardens
A forum for alleyway activists.

Brian Lambkin, Mellon Centre for Migration Studies
A micro-study of migration.

Neasa Ni Bhriain, A Playful City
Learnings from Love our Laneways.

DAY ONE – AFTERNOON

The LAB Gallery, Foley Street, Dublin 1

14.30-16.30
Participants will have an opportunity to take part in one of the following activities (which must be selected at Registration):

A walking tour with local historian, Terry Fagan of the North Inner City Folklore Project, featuring stories from the streets of Dublin's infamous Monto.

Or

A Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) workshop related to the current exhibition, *O, To Have Little House*, by artist Michelle Malone. Join the LAB Gallery Curator, Sheena Barrett, in a gallery based VTS session to look together at the current exhibition (limited to 20 participants)**.**

Online participants will have an opportunity to take part in an online session modelled on the VTS Look Club with one of our trained facilitators who will support participants to come together to talk, listen, think and engage with art and each other.

The LAB Gallery supports emerging art practices and focuses on fresh ways to develop engaged audiences for visual arts through exhibitions, commissions, collaborations and learning programmes. The LAB Gallery was established by Dublin City Council in 2005 and is a leading platform for arts practice in Ireland. One of the key methods we use to engage audiences and foster discussion around contemporary arts practice is through Visual Thinking Strategies. **http://www.dublincityartsoffice.ie/the-lab/vts-projects**

18.00   Artist's talk by Michelle Malone
        Followed by Exhibition opening & wine reception:

The LAB Gallery is pleased to present the first major solo show by recent TU Dublin MFA graduate Michelle Malone *O, To Have a Little House*.

In this exhibition, the artist considers ideas of embodied identity and social and council housing, including the impact of moving tenants from the core of the city to the suburbs. These themes are explored through a combination of sculpture, installation, textiles and film.

Michelle Malone is inspired by the personal experience of her grandmother, born in the tenements in Dublin City. The work in this exhibition stems from a particular memory the artist recalls of her grandmother's use of the staircase as the space for private conversations, even when she moved from the tenements to her own house. This context of the staircase was given a new understanding when the artist attended a talk by architect Hugh Campbell where he discussed the history of compartmentalised living versus open plan, in socio economic terms and how that might be revisited because of COVID.

Throughout the making of this work, the artist is interested in the practice of documentation and archive-making, exploring old family photographs as reference points for her sculptural work. This is conveyed in the artist's multidisciplinary approach to sculpture making, in her choice of materials and the immersive experience she creates.

DAY TWO - MORNING

TU Dublin, City Campus, Grangegorman

09.45-10.45   Keynote Conversation Two: Ellen Rowley & Eleanor Herring
10.45-11.15   Tea & Coffee
11.15-12.45   Parallel Panels

Panel Three: Digital Placemaking
Chair (tbc)

Sérgio Barbosa, University of Coimbra,
'*Post-pandemic WhatsAppers*'

Fiona McDermot, Trinity College Dublin,
'*Technological Solutions and Function Creep in Contemporary Public Space*'

Stephanie Costello, TU Dublin,
'*How Can Media Shape Perception of Place? - A Communication Infrastructure Theory approach to a Journalistic Community Engagement Project in Dublin's North Inner City*

Panel Four: Community and the Commons
Chair (tbc)

Chris Williams, University College Cork,
'*Public space in Owenite visions of community living*'

Jieling Xiao, Birmingham City University,
Antonella Radicchi, Technical University Berlin and
Lucas Hughes, Birmingham City University ,
'*"Reclaiming" the street: Socio-economic sustainability in Business Improvement Districts in the post-Covid climate*'

Jack Dignam, The University of Amsterdam,
'*A Common(s) Language*'

DAY TWO - AFTERNOON

TU Dublin, City Campus, Grangegorman

12.45-13.30 Lunch (provided on site)
13.30-14.30 Keynote Conversation Three: Duane Jethro and Katria Tomko
14.30-14.45 Tea & Coffee

14.45-16.15 Parallel Panels
Panel Five: Making Memory in Civic Space
Chair (tbc)

Dee Maher Ring, TU Dublin
'Unseen signs: Illuminating Ireland's undocumented graphic heritage'

Elaine Manley, National Museum of Ireland
'A New Space for Mourning Rituals'

István László, Dublin City University
'*Interactive Monuments in the Digitally Mediated City: Examining the Potential of Digital Objects in Physical Space'*

Panel Six: Rethinking Public Parks
Chair (tbc)

Nina McGowan,
'Seeing the city in a new light, a case for repurposing the visual and physical public realm after dark for health and community building'.

Marcos Dias, DCU, and Carol Barron, Dublin City University,
'Post-Pandemic Changing Patterns in Usage of Dublin Parks' .

Ana Maria Vieira Fernandes, TU Dublin
'The Brazilian Intangible Heritage (BIH) trace in Dublin: paving the way for planning a more diverse and multicultural public spaces in a post-pandemic landscape?

16.30   Concluding remarks

Contributor Bios

Sérgio Barbosa is a PhD candidate in the program "Democracy in the Twenty-First Century" linked to the Centre for Social Studies (CES) at the University of Coimbra. He is also a FCT (Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology) Fellow. Previously, Sérgio was a SYLFF (Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund) fellow sponsored by Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research. Currently, he is a visiting fellow at CAIS (Center for Advanced Internet Studies) and a CITAP (Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life) affiliate (2022-2023). Barbosa was a visiting researcher at University of Münster (2022), University of Glasgow (2022), Utrecht University (2021) and University of Amsterdam (2019-2020). His research interests include the emerging forms of political participation vis-à-vis the possibilities afforded by chat apps, with emphasis on WhatsApp for digital activism and social interaction, focusing on WhatsAppers, Digital Activism, Digital Literacy, and Global South. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the Political Studies Review, Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture, and First Monday, among others.

Carol Barron is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health in DCU. Her research and publication background focuses on children and young people's use of outdoor space as part of their lived experiences. Specifically, she has focused on differences and similarities in urban and rural settings and how children and young people transform spaces and places to meet their recreation and development needs. In addition, Dr Barron is interested in the growing exclusion of children and young people from the public realm at the national and international level and young people's participation in research about issues which impact their lives

Marcos Dias is an Assistant Professor and Programme Chair of the BSc in Multimedia at the School of Communications, Dublin City University. His research investigates the social and spatial impact of digital technologies in the city and citizen wellbeing in urban space. His recent book—*The Machinic City: Media, Performance and Participation* (Manchester University Press, 2021) investigates the potential of performance art in urban space to enable reflection on contemporary urban living. He was Co-PI on the PUDU C-19 project (with Dr. Carol Barron) that investigated the changing patterns of urban park usage in Dublin during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jack Dignam is a PhD Candidate at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) located within the University of Amsterdam. His PhD thesis lies at the crossroads between critical theory, aesthetics and literary criticism, focusing on the deep structures and possibilities of the form of the essay, namely as a textual form that links theory and practice, philosophy and activism. His research interests outside of this include social philosophy, metaphysics and phenomenology.

Ana Maria Fernandes is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the School of Hospitality Management & Tourism at TU Dublin, since 2020, and have been working on *Festspace*, a HERA funded project on Festivals, Public Space and Cultural Inclusion. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Geography at the State University of Campinas (Brazil, 2017) with a doctoral internship at the University of Barcelona, Spain (2014). She was a Professor at the Schools of Tourism, Geography, and Visual Arts at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (Brazil). Her main teaching and research areas are: tourism, mega events; cultural heritage and urban regeneration.

Ali Grehan, city architect at Dublin City Council, has held a variety of roles spanning private practice in Dublin, London and Bilbao, and in the Public Sector; where her particular focus has been on leading large-scale urban regeneration, housing and infrastructure projects.

Eleanor Herring is a Lecturer in Design History & Theory. Eleanor graduated with a BA (Hons) in Design from The Glasgow School of Art and went on to graduate with distinction from the MA History of Design at the Royal College of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 2010 Eleanor was awarded an AHRC Doctoral Bursary to study at the University of Edinburgh in the Department of Architectural History and Cultural Studies. Her PhD thesis, entitled 'Furnishing the modern street: the critical reception to street furniture design in post-war Britain' was completed in 2014. In 2016 Eleanor's book *Street Furniture Design: Contesting Modernism in Post-War Britain* was published by Bloomsbury. Discussions about Eleanor's research and reviews of her book have featured in *Monocle* and on Monocle Radio, the *Journal of Design History*, *The Herald*, and *Architectural History*. Eleanor has contributed to Free Thinking on BBC Radio 3, and spoke at the popular Boring Conference. She subsequently contributed to The Boring Talks podcast for the BBC.Eleanor's current research project, 'Designing from the Centre', explores the role of the British government as 'designer'.

Lucas Hughes is a practising landscape architect and course director for the MA Urban Design course at Birmingham School of Architecture and Design. His specialism covers urbanism, collaborative and participatory practices/design process, extended reality (XR), and crowdsourced data analysis. Currently, he is working on doctoral research to develop and test a conceptual framework for collaborations using extended reality methods for urban design.

Duane Jethro is a Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Curating the Archive at the University of Cape Town (UCT). His research focuses on the cultural construction of heritage and contested public cultures. His current research project is a multi-perspectival analysis of the loss and salvage of the UCT Jagger Library after a devastating fire in April 2021. He has held a postdoctoral position at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage at Humboldt University, CARMAH, Berlin, directed by Professor Sharon Macdonald and he is an Associate Researcher at the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative, at UCT. His 2020 book is titled *Heritage Formation and the Senses in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Aesthetics of Power* (Bloomsbury Academic Press).

Brian Lambkin was formerly Principal of Lagan College, Belfast, and Director of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh, Co Tyrone. He is the author of *Calming Conflict: Northern Ireland, Metaphor, and Migration* (2019), and of 'Passage in Common': A micro-study of migration in Belfast history, 1904–2016', an additional chapter which is accessible through the *Calming Conflict Companion Website* (https://go.qub.ac.uk/gisCALM).

István László is currently a PhD candidate in the School of Communications at Dublin City University. His research analyses the social and spatial impact of digital media technologies in urban space. István previously obtained a Master's degree in Digital Art, from the National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Dublin in 2019, and a Bachelor's degree in Sculpture from the University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in 2004. Since 2002 he has exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions in galleries and art institutions such as Casino Luxembourg (2003), Biennale de Paris (2004), Plan-B Gallery, Berlin (2008), Wilkinson Gallery, London (2009), The Museum of Art, Cluj (2010), Kunsthalle, Budapest (2012), Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest (2015), Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin (2021).

Christoph Lindner is Professor of Urban Studies and Dean of the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment at University College London, where he writes about cities, globalization, and social-spatial inequality. Recent research projects have examined the aesthetics of lockdown, theories of urban imaginaries, boredom in the age of acceleration, visual politics of pollution, ghost living in Detroit and Mumbai, street art and urban memory in Amsterdam, and the rise of elevated parks in New York, London, and São Paulo. He is the author or editor of 14 books in the fields of urban geography, visual culture, and architectural history and theory. His latest book is the edited volume *[Aesthetics of Gentrification: Seductive Spaces and Exclusive Communities in the Neoliberal City](#)* (ed. Amsterdam University Press, 2021), which explores how contemporary creative practices in art, architecture, and related fields help to produce or resist gentrification in locations around the world.

Elaine Manley (she/her) is a design historian and visual designer. She is originally from Cork, but is now based in Kilkenny. She currently works as a researcher for the National Museum of Ireland. She completed a Masters in Design History and Material Culture in NCAD in 2020. Their recent studies delve into the influence of technology on death rituals, particularly over the course of the pandemic. Their interests lie in the visual, vernacular, and the ways people interact with both physical and screen-based technologies, or to put it more concisely: the blending of the online and offline worlds.

Fiona McDermott is a Research Fellow at the CONNECT Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. She holds a PhD in Computer Science from the School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin and a Masters in Urban Design from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Her research explores emerging internet technologies from an interdisciplinary perspective, paying attention to the environmental, spatial and socio-cultural dimensions. She is a member of the curatorial team for the Irish National Pavilion at the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2021 and co-editor of the book, *States of Entanglement: Data in the Irish Landscape* (Actar Publishers, 2021).

Nina McGowan has a 20 year fine art practice, both solo and in the collaboration 'Loitering Theatre'. Scale, spectacle, sound and light are often employed to draw the audience to 'within' the work, where they are then an interactive user, or activator of it.

Meadhbh McIlgorm is an Irish artist and creative producer. She holds a BA in Craft Design (glass) from NCAD and an MA in Arts Management from Queen's University Belfast. She developed her ongoing curatorial project 'Liminal Space Belfast' in 2020 as a response to lockdown. Using in-between spaces of the city, such as alleyways, as temporary exhibition spaces it is an extension of both her personal research interests in that which is ephemeral and transient and her extensive experience in event and project management within the cultural sector.

Emma Meehan is one of the National Gallery and Art Fund Curatorial Trainees 2022-3. Emma studied her BA in English Literature and the History of Art and Architecture in Trinity College, Dublin before pursuing an MSc in Modern and Contemporary Art Curation and Criticism at the University of Edinburgh. Following her placement at the National Gallery, Emma will work on secondment at our partner institution, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. Her research interests include early modern portraiture, sensory history, and the visual culture of nuclear weapons.

Amberlea Neely is Director of Starling Start, a creative practice and consultancy with a focus on arts, place and collaboration. Her work is always rooted in understanding place and creating

change, from research into forgotten spaces beyond Belfast's back gates, to framing a borough wide bid for UK City of Culture with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Amberlea previously led creative and inclusive public engagement as Acting Director of non-profit PLACE. She is a Lecturing Associate on the MA Arts Management at Queen's University Belfast, and a panellist on the Irish Architecture Foundation's Reimagine Placemaking initiative.

Neasa Ni Bhriain is Creative Director of A Playful City. Neasa has a special interest in environmental and human rights, having practiced in these areas as a barrister at law from 2006 – 2015. Neasa approaches her role as project and client manager for A Playful City with these interests at heart. Neasa also lectures at the School of Geography, UCD on a Msc in Urban Studies.

Antonella Radicchi is a registered architect and holds a Ph.D. in Urban Design and Territorial Planning. She is the Principal Investigator of the Hush City project and a High-Level Expert for the European Commission Directorate-General Research & Innovation in the Mutual Learning Exercise on Citizen Science. From 2016 to 2022 she has been Senior Research Associate in the Institute of Urban and Regional Planning at the TU Berlin. Her research on quiet areas with the Hush City project has been featured in international media such as the BBC Future, World Economic Forum, WIRED and awarded numerous prizes and grants.

Dee Maher Ring is passionate about vernacular letterforms. The decline of Kilkenny's rich heritage of hand-painted fascia signs drove her to question their value as design heritage. Her research interests lie at the intersection of design, craft and heritage, leading to her upcoming PhD studies at TU Dublin: Towards a methodology for documenting Ireland's visual graphic of vernacular shopfront lettering: A case study of Kilkenny Signwriting. Recent Creative Ireland/Kilkenny County Council funding awards facilitated the development of a pilot methodology for cataloguing traditional shopfront lettering. Through @signwriteire, her research has attracted wider attention, resulting in a feature in *Signcraft Magazine* (US). She holds a BA in Visual Communications, an HDip in Arts, an MDes in Interdisciplinary Design from Edinburgh Napier University, and previously worked as a design lecturer in Scotland.

Ellen Rowley is Assistant Professor in Modern Irish Architecture at the School of Architecture, Planning + Environmental Policy, University College Dublin. She is an architectural and cultural historian, a teacher and a writer. Interested in architectural obsolescence, the intersection of social histories and buildings, and the place of the Catholic Church in Ireland's built environment, she has published extensively including *Housing, Architecture and the Edge Condition* (2019, Routledge, Taylor + Francis); and (co-editor), *Making Belfield. Space + Place at UCD* (2020, UCD Press); as well as *More Than Concrete Blocks*, volumes 1 and 2 (2016/9, Four Courts Press) which are socio-cultural histories of Dublin's buildings from 1900 to 1972. Volume 3 is currently under production. Before that she was co-editor of the landmark Yale series, *Art and Architecture of Ireland* (Volume 4, *Architecture 1600 – 2000*, YUP/RIA, 2014), Generally, this history is pioneering and so, she admits, there are mistakes. In 2017, Ellen was awarded Honorary Membership of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, for services to Irish architecture. Being privileged with an education from Trinity College Dublin and Cambridge University, UK, Ellen is an advocate for access to university education and specifically, the need for widening participation in architectural education.

Aisling Rusk is a practicing architect and Director of Belfast practice, Studio idir. Her research and work explore practices that build connection in the leftover and in-between spaces of cities. She is founding chair of RSUA's Women in Architecture group, supporting and

promoting women architects in Northern Ireland. In 2020, Aisling was named one of the Architect's Journal's 40 Architects under 40, a celebration of the UK's most exciting emerging architectural talent. She is also an occasional studio tutor on the Master of Architecture at Queen's University, and lives in Belfast with her husband and two children.

Simon Thompson is a practicing mask/clown artist, and Guest Lecturer at University Limerick on the BA and MA Contemporary Dance programs. His current research is focussed on how an artist or ensemble connects with an audience using kinetic empathy, thus generating complicité and shared experience through play. This research takes into consideration the live environment and also the digital realm as places for performance. Between 2014 and 2020 he was Lecturer Below the Bar @ University Limerick for the MA Festive Arts. Where he drew on his experience as an Outdoor Artist who has attended, performed and curated festivals/events for over 30 years.

Katria Tomko is a Research Associate & Data Analyst at the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) and Senior Intelligence & Policy Analyst at the Global Disinformation Index (GDI). She has a diverse background leading international projects at the cross-section of civil society, government, and the private sector having worked on issues related to security, good governance, and human rights at the OSCE, Hivos (Dutch INGO), Article 19, and the Ukrainian Parliament.

Katria's primary focus is on the intersection of identity and security in states with Soviet legacies and the prevention of inter- and intra-state conflict over issues related to historical memory. At the IHJR, Katria has overseen and produced case studies on contested histories and commemorations from Latin America to Africa and Eastern Europe to East Asia. She has spearheaded the development of a database and GIS map that captures all of the IHJR's case studies and supports the comparative analysis of contestations. Additionally, she has served as a liaison for the Southern Poverty Law Center and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. At GDI, Katria's expertise is crucial to understanding the organization's adversarial narrative lens on disinformation.

Katria holds an MSc in International Relations (University of Amsterdam) and a BA in Government & Law and Russian & East European Studies (Lafayette College). Most recently, she has been recognized as a 2021 German Marshall Fund Next Generation Leader and a 2020 UNODA-OSCE Peace & Security Scholar.

Miriam Turley works with local activists to facilitate a forum for alleyway activists from residents to city councillors. Collectively they lobby for support from local and central government as well as using their expertise to make change, as alleyway activists. Miriam has been an environmental and social justice activist all her life, and got involved in community growing with a group of neighbours in a derelict space out the back of her house. She has since worked through Social Farms & Gardens to build local networks of community growers and strengthen support available for community growing activists. Social Farms & Gardens is a UK-wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together

Connell Vaughan is the Programme Chair for the BA in Creative Industries and Visual Culture at the Dublin School of Art and Design (TU Dublin). He specializes in aesthetics and cultural policy. He is an associate researcher with the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media (GradCAM) where he is a member of the Aesthetics Research Group. An executive committee member of the European Society for Aesthetics, he graduated with a Ph.D. in aesthetics from UCD in 2010. His current research is focused on Irish Cultural Policy, Environmental Aesthetics and Soccer Aesthetics.

Chris Williams is Professor of History and Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences at University College Cork. He co-edited (with Noel Thompson) *Robert Owen and His Legacy* (University of Wales Press, 2011), and is currently editing a special issue of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies* on the theme of 'Robert Owen and Co-operation'.

Jieling Xiao is an urbanist, researcher, and educator. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Birmingham School of Architecture and Design. Her expertise lies in theories and creative practices of place-making and environmental design that interpret and play with people's sensory experiences, particularly in relation to soundscape and smellscape. Her research on sensory design and urbanism has been widely published and presented at international conferences such as the 2016 Sensory Design Symposium at the ARCC network event, the 2017 London Architecture Festival, 2018 Way-finding Symposium hosted by Sign Design Society.

Cover image: William Murphy, 'Dublin Street art in Smithfield', https://www.flickr.com/photos/infomatique/41610427681