



## WHAI 2020/2021

### **Besieged bodies: Gendered violence, sexualities and motherhood**

**Women's History Association of Ireland Annual Conference,  
University College Dublin, March 2021**

**Online via Zoom**

#### **Organisers:**

Dr Mary McAuliffe, UCD Gender Studies  
Dr Fionnuala Walsh, UCD History

This conference has been supported by the UCD Decade of Centenaries Fund, the UCD School of History, the UCD School of Gender Studies, UCD Centre for Gender, Feminisms and Sexualities (CGFS), and the UCD College of Arts and Humanities Fund.

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## **Registration Details**

**Day 1 of the Women's History Association of Ireland Conference, 5 March 2021:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_uqOmxB2URY2SXP6XEy34Xw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uqOmxB2URY2SXP6XEy34Xw)

**Day 2 of the Women's History Association of Ireland Conference, 12 March 2021:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vSabKVwgQvGDnABBTBSQUw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vSabKVwgQvGDnABBTBSQUw)

**Day 3 of the Women's History Association of Ireland Conference, 19 March 2021:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Zxv6mgGVSe21XfN7qifBFQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zxv6mgGVSe21XfN7qifBFQ)

**Day 4 of the Women's History Association of Ireland Conference, 26 March 2021:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CYcnAJIwSXmWM\\_GXQ421Zg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CYcnAJIwSXmWM_GXQ421Zg)

Please note it is necessary to register for each day separately if you wish to attend more than one day. Registration is free of charge.

**Day 1: 5 March 2021**

**Panel 1: 9.30am -11.30am**

**1. Sexuality, birth control and activism**

**Chair: Fionnuala Walsh**

- Caitriona Beaumont, "Baby and the Bathwater": The attitude of religious women's organisations to birth control and legalised abortion in England, 1920-1939.
- Amy Walsh, Story-telling, Repeal of the Eighth Amendment and the Ethics of Care
- Sharon Healy, Fleeting narratives: web histories of Irish LGBT activism.
- Jennifer Duffy, Irish Art Queered: An Exploration of LGBTQ+ Histories and Heritage.

**Panel 2: 11.45-1.15pm**

**2. Pregnancy, motherhood and violence**

**Chair: Mary McAuliffe**

- Niamh Wycherley, Gendered and sexual violence in early medieval Ireland.
- Elaine Pereira Farrell, Pregnancy and Motherhood in early medieval Ireland.
- Áine Foley, Ravished and taken by force: Rape and abduction in Ireland during the later medieval period.

**Lunch 1.00-2.30**

**Panel 3 2.30-4.30pm**

**3. War and Trauma**

**Chair: Martin Walsh**

- Jenny Bond, 'At the centre of a Tornado': Missionary School girls' experiences of the Second World War in Shanghai 1937-1945.
- Karen Holland, The Besieged Women of Londonderry in John Michelborne's Ireland Preserv'd.
- Veronica Barry, The fall of the home front: A case-study of the Nazis' propagation of German women as victims of Allied atrocities to Ireland and Spain.
- Siobhra Aiken, Máiréad Ní Ghráda's civil and gender wars.

**Keynote 5pm: Professor Ruth Karras (Trinity College Dublin):**

**Chair: Dr Elva Johnston (UCD)**

'Mutilation as Gendered Punishment: State Violence and Sexual Transgression in Medieval Europe'

**Day 2: 12 March 2021**

**Panel 1: 9.30am -11am**

**4. Gender and political activism - *Decade of Centenaries funded panel***

**Chair: Mary McAuliffe**

- Susannah Deedigan, 'It is to be assumed that members of C. na m Ban cannot be kept out of such a body': republican women and prisoner support organisations, 1939-45.
- Dieter Reinisch, Women's Activism against Peace: Cumann na mBan & Women in Dissident Republican Organisations, 1968-2018.
- Charlotte Aslesen, 'I suffered indescribable pain': The emotional impact of hunger striking and forcible feeding on male Republicans, 1916-1921.

**Panel 2: 11.30 -1.00pm**

**5. Maternity care**

**Chair: Judy Bolger**

- Phil Gorey, The newly-registered midwife in Saorstát Éireann: organisation, impact, change.
- Tanya Higgins-Carey, The body and soul of the Bedford Row Lying-In Hospital, the building, the running and the occupants of the charitable institution 1866-1970.
- Deirdre Foley 'Provided the family is not neglected': Women's work, maternity leave and childcare in Ireland, c. 1969-1981.

**Lunch 1.00-2.15pm**

**Keynote Panel: 2.15pm-3.45pm**

Profesor Jane Ohlmeyer (Trinity College Dublin) with Prof. Rosemary Byrne (NYU Abu Dhabi) and Prof. Stephanie McCurry (Columbia University):

'Political Investigations, Legal Archives and Women's Testimonies of Sexual Violence'

**Chair: Dr Clodagh Tait (MIC-UL)**

**Panel 3: 4-6pm**

**6. Motherhood and welfare**

**Chair: Ann Marie O'Brien**

- Leanne McCormick and Elaine Farrell, 'A Poor Ignorant Irish girl' : Bad Bridget and 'bad' mothers in North America, 1838-1918.
- Judy Bolger, 'If she is allowed to go out free of that child I am afraid she will be in again next year': the official discourse and social construction of motherhood and poverty at the turn of the twentieth-century.
- Gerardine Meaney, Radical Utopianism: Single Mothers and Their Children in Irish Women's Fiction, 1940-60.
- Grainne Blair: Blood and Fire: The Battle for Souls -The Salvation Army in Ireland, 1880-1980.

**Day 3: 19 March 2021**

**Panel 1 9.30am -11.20am**

**7. Women, violence and punishment**

**Chair: Fionnuala Walsh**

- Molly Daly, The life and death of Bridget Cleary.
- Conor Reidy, 'Sober, quiet, inoffensive, harsh and cruel': the secret victims of the criminally inebriate Irish male, 1900-20.
- Sile Healy Hunt, Purity and promiscuity: The attribution of blame to female victims of gender based violence in post-revolution Ireland.
- Lynsey Black, Enemies of the State: Gender and Punishment in Ireland.

**Panel 2 11.45 -1.40pm**

**8. 'Single motherhood and institutional childhoods in the twentieth century: from Tuam to London'**

**Chair: Barry Houlihan**

- John Cunningham (NUI Galway), "A sympathetic native scheme"? The origins of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home'
- Sarah-Anne Buckley (NUI Galway), 'Reflecting on Ireland's institutional childhoods: The Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Inquiry'.
- Mary Cunningham (NUI Galway), 'Collecting the life stories of the Tuam Survivors'
- Lorraine Grimes (NUI Galway), "It's an escape, right?": Cases of Irish Unmarried Mothers in Britain, 1926-1973'Lunch 1.40-2.30

**Panel 3 2.30-4.30pm**

**9. Shame, rage and intimate histories**

**Chair: Tanya Higgins**

- Clodagh Tait, 'The curse of God on you, drunken Moggy': women's rage and the power of the ritual curse, c.1850-1950.
- Elizabeth Kirkland, 'The Pall of a Double Tragedy': Aileen Hingston, Shirley Davidson, and the speculation of a suicide pact in Montreal, 1907.
- Jackie Hatton, Shame, Gossip and Banter in the Courtroom: Women's Testimony in 1840s Trial Reports.
- Lisa Godson, The speculum and the truncheon: the Contagious Diseases Acts, Gynaecology and Material Culture.

**5pm Keynote speaker: Dr Sinead Kennedy (Maynooth University):**

'Antigone's Daughters: Gender, Reproduction and the Irish State'.

**Chair: Dr Fionnuala Walsh**

## Day 4: 26 March 2021

### Panel 1: 9.30am -11.00am

#### **10. Women as revolutionaries – *Decade of Centenaries funded panel***

**Chair: Mary McAuliffe**

- Elaine Callinan, 'The best feminist propaganda that is being done is being done by the mere fact of voting...': Propaganda and women in elections from 1918 to 1920.
- Liz Kyte, 'Radicalised Bodies': Irish Socialist Feminists and Anti-Militarism, 1913-1923.
- Gerri O'Neill, Sex for Secrets? The IRA's 'honey-trap' operation, 1920-21.

### Panel 2: 11.30 -1.30pm

#### **11. Narratives of Gendered and Sexual Violence in modern Ireland - *Decade of Centenaries funded panel***

**Chair: Deirdre Foley**

- Susan Byrne, Keeping company with the enemy: Gender and sexual violence during the Irish War of Independence and the Civil War (1919-1923).
- Leeann Lane, 'War on women': violence and the female Civil War prison.
- Mary McAuliffe, The Dublin Brigade in Kerry, 1923: gendered militancy and violence against women during the Civil War.
- Lindsey Earner-Byrne, Telling women's bodies: A history of sexual and gender violence in modern Ireland, 1920s-1980s.

### **Lunch 1.30-2.30**

### Panel 3: 2.30-4.40pm

#### **12. Bodily autonomy, agency and recognition**

**Chair: Diane Urquhart**

- Linda Connolly, Sexual Violence in the Irish Civil War.
- Donna Rose, The material culture of Ireland's Magdalene Laundries 1767-1996.
- Alice Mulhearn, Hungry bodies: Gender, food and punishment in the twentieth-century Magdalen laundries.
- Norah Burns, A Gendered Variant of Ethnic Discrimination: Cases of Forced Sterilisation of Roma Women before the European Court of Human Rights.

#### **Keynote 5pm: Professor Elisabeth Jean Wood (Yale University): 'Sexual violence during war'.**

**Chair: Dr Mary McAuliffe (UCD)**