



## WHAI PGR/ECR DAY

**NOVEMBER 26 2021**

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Susie, Tanya and Judy formed the Post-Graduate sub-committee of the WHAI, working together virtually through lockdowns, to promote post-graduate and early career collaboration. Our aim is to build upon the supportive peer-networks that exist in our field to create spaces for interaction, discussion and dissemination of new research related to Irish women's and gender history. Building networks of post-graduate students and early career researchers has never been more important than in the current climate. We hope that through this network and these events we can mitigate the often solitary nature of our work and facilitate a supportive, encouraging environment for researchers to meet and converse.

The PGR/ECR day will, hopefully, be the first of many events!

We would like to express our thanks to the broader WHAI committee, especially Diane Urquhart, Fionnuala Walsh and Kristina Decker for all their support and guidance during the preparation of this conference. Likewise, we are very grateful to all the speakers and senior academics who kindly supported our endeavours by agreeing to participate in our event.

**9.45 am:** Welcome Address

**10 am:** Thesis in Three Panel 1:  
Women, identity and Irish society

**11.15 am:** Round Table:  
"Encouragements and  
Challenges"

**12 pm:** Thesis in Three Panel 2:  
Revolutionary and Post-  
Revolutionary Ireland

**1.30pm:** Mini Keynotes

**2.15pm:** Poster Display and  
Closing Remarks

# PRESENTERS

## **Geraldine Brassil (MIC)**

Geraldine is a PhD Student at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. She has been awarded an IRC 2020 Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship. She was also selected as the recipient of the 2020 MIC Postgraduate Studentship award. Her work focuses on the study and recovery of nineteenth century Irish women writers and evolving print cultures in contemporary publishing contexts. Her research interests include mid-late nineteenth Century Irish Women's Writing; Irish Periodical and Print Culture; Irish Women in History; the History of the Book. She is a postgraduate assistant researcher with the Irish Women's Writing (1880-1920) Network.

## **Susan Byrne (TCD)**

Susan is a fourth year PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin. Her research examines women's experience of the Irish Free State justice system from 1922-1937 and is funded by the Irish Research Council. "Keeping Company with the Enemy": gender and sexual violence against women during the Irish War of Independence and Civil War, 1919-1923', an article based on her MA thesis, was published by Women's History Review in 2021.

## **Niamh Coffey (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)**

Niamh is a third year PhD student, jointly supervised by the University of Strathclyde and University of Edinburgh. Her research primarily focuses on Irish women's political and cultural activities in Dundee with a transnational and gendered focus. She is particularly interested in Irish women's involvement in nationalism across the diaspora. In 2020 she was a recipient of the British Association of Irish Studies' Postgraduate Bursary Award.

## **Olivia Frehill (TCD)**

Olivia is a PhD researcher in History at Trinity College Dublin. Her overall PhD thesis topic examines women, work and welfare in Dublin c. 1890 – 1940. She holds BA and MPhil degrees from TCD and has written a recent article in Irish Economic and Social History on St Joseph's Asylum, Dublin. Her PhD is funded by the TCD Provost's PhD studentship.

## **Shannon Freegrove (UCD)**

Shannon holds a first class Master's degree in Irish History from University College Dublin, funded by the Margaret MacCurtain Scholarship for Women's History. Her MA thesis explores the relationship between politics, youth and gender in the early years of the Irish Free State. She received a first class honours degree in English and History from Carlow College, where her undergraduate thesis examined the relationship between the suffrage movement and various branches of the struggle for political independence. Shannon will be attending University College Cork in September 2022, undertaking research on the history of Irish masculinity during the Free State period.

## **Suzanne Jobling (QUB)**

Suzanne is a History PhD student at Queen's University Belfast. Graduating with a degree in Analytical Science from DCU, she pursued a career in IT consultancy and Business Analysis, working in Dublin, London and Belfast. Suzanne returned to education in 2018, graduating with an MA in History in 2019. As a result of her career and experiences working in IT, Suzanne is fascinated by the history of women in employment. Her research focuses upon the Republic of Ireland and the UK, in the period between 1970 and the early 1990s.

## **Ciara Henderson (TCD)**

Ciara is an interdisciplinary doctoral researcher in the School of Nursing & Midwifery Trinity College Dublin. Her research project, The Spaces Between Us, explores family experiences of baby and pregnancy loss from 1900 – 2000 using qualitative research methods. This project is funded by the Trinity College 1252 Postgraduate Research Scholarship. A social scientist, Ciara's work focuses on the social and cultural dimensions of mourning and the social responses to infant death, dying, burial and bereavement across time. Ciara has a multidisciplinary background graduating with a BA in Journalism (2000), MSc in Marketing (2004) and most recently a MSc in Social Science (2014) from University College Dublin, where her thesis examined the social conceptualisations of infant death.

## **Maria Kane (TCD)**

Maria is a doctoral student at Trinity College Dublin. Her research explores the role of associational philanthropy in the context of civil conflict and state creation in Ireland between 1921-1928. She received a B.A in History and an M.Phil. in Modern Irish History at Trinity College and was awarded a Universities Ireland scholarship in 2021.

## **Aisling Keavey (IADT)**

Aisling is a London and Dublin-based photographic artist and researcher. She is currently undertaking a Masters by Research in photography at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Dublin, Ireland. This practice-led project is concerned with female members of the Irish diaspora living in England. The women were photographed and interviewed about their experience of being Irish in London, their reasoning for emigrating and their thoughts about what home means to them. She has presented at various international conferences, including the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference and the Limerick Postgraduate Research Conference.

## Elizabeth Kehoe (TCD)

Elizabeth returned to education in 2015 and now holds a first-class Honours B.A. degree in History a first-class M.Phil. degree in Modern Irish History, both completed at Trinity College. In both her dissertations she has used the methodologies of microhistory and the study of everyday life and she will continue to use these approaches in her current studies. Her PhD is about curfews in Irish conflicts and their impact on the civilian population. She is the recipient of the McDowell Memorial Studentship.

## Rachel Killeen (TCD)

Rachel is a student of Gender and Women's Studies at Trinity College Dublin. Her research interests focus on working motherhood; the women's liberation movement in the 1970s; and forms of resistance and protest in support of gender equality. Rachel is currently investigating working motherhood in 1970s Ireland with a lens on the forms of resistance encountered by and employed by single, widowed and married women who simply wished to earn an income to support their families.

## Declan O Doherty (QUB)

Declan is a third year PhD candidate studying Irish History at Queen's University Belfast. He is currently working on a study of PTSD in post-revolutionary Ireland.

## Caoimhe Kiernan (TUD)

Caoimhe is a third year PhD student and part-time assistant lecturer with the Law Department in TUD. Her doctoral research investigates the impact that the introduction of female judges has had on the development of Irish jurisprudence. Her research interests include feminist legal theory, the judiciary, gender studies, Irish history, constitutional law, human rights law, and Irish jurisprudence. She conducts her research from the Environmental, Sustainability and Health Institute within TU Dublin and is supervised by Dr Brian Barry. She holds an LLB Clinical from Maynooth University and her final year thesis focussed on the responsibility of online moderators in the European Union to combat online hate speech. She has previously presented papers at several conferences, including the 2021 LSA and SLSA Annual Conferences, and the 2020 SLS Annual Conference. She also worked as a research assistant with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Directorate in TU Dublin from March 2020 to March 2021, working under Professor Yvonne Galligan.

## Helen Litton (TCD)

Helen worked freelance in publishing as indexer, editor and proof-reader and retired in 2014. Great-niece of Kathleen Clarke, edited her memoir for publication in 1991. Now doing MLitt in TCD on aspects of the memoir, under Professor Anne Dolan. Helen wrote 2 volumes in O'Brien Press series Sixteen Lives, 'Edward Daly' (2013) and 'Thomas Clarke' (2014).

## Áine McKenny (University of Brighton)

Áine is a PhD researcher based in the Centre for Memory, Narrative and Histories and the Centre for Design History at the University of Brighton. Her research interests include war and conflict, memory, oral history, emotions and the display of these subjects in exhibition spaces. Her PhD research examines exhibitions on the Troubles in Northern Ireland and how women's experiences of the conflict are/aren't displayed.

## Geraldine Noonan (UCD):

Geraldine is a Masters graduate from University College Dublin, at the School of Education. She is an early stage PhD researcher examining the role of the La Sainte Union des Sacrés Coeurs (LSU) teaching congregation in the provision of education in Ireland from 1863 to the 1920s.

## Annika Stendebach (Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen)

Annika is a PhD Candidate at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture at the University of Giessen, Germany. She has fallen in love with Irish culture and history while studying a year at NUIG and has since worked on the student movement in 1960s Ireland and on the Irish Teddy Boys. Her current research project also reflects that interest and focuses on the spatial dimension of youth and their social interactions in 1960s and 1970s Ireland.

## Katie Tate (QUB)

Katie is in the third year of her History PhD at Queen's University Belfast, having also studied at QUB for her BA and MA in History. Her interests focus on the social history of Northern Ireland in the twentieth century, with a particular focus on gender. Her PhD thesis draws on these themes by examining the Governors' wives in Northern Ireland between 1922-1973. Who these women were, what their role involved and how their contributions benefitted Northern Ireland will be examined, which will allow the stories of these previously unstudied women to be told.

# SPEAKERS

## Professor Diane Urquhart

Diane is Professor of Gender History in the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (HAPP) of Queen's University Belfast. The former chair of modern history in the Institute of Irish Studies of the University of Liverpool, Diane is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. A graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's and worked as a researcher for the Women's History Project. Diane is an editorial board member of the Women's History Review and a committee member of the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies. She has published extensively on Irish women's history, gender and politics including Irish Divorce: A history(2020), The Ladies of Londonderry: women and political patronage (2008), Women in Ulster Politics, 1890-1940 (2000), five edited/co-edited international collections as well as the co-authored Irish Abortion Journey, 1920-2018 with Lindsey Earner-Byrne (2019). Diane is currently working on the first full-length history of the criminal conversation legal suit.

## Dr Shannon Devlin

Shannon Devlin is a social and gender historian of nineteenth-century Ireland with a particular interest in the Irish middle classes and social networking. She has recently completed her PhD at Queen's University Belfast which explored sibling relations in the middle-class family. She is currently researching sibling sociability and attitudes towards cousin marriage. Her first article on the experience of the governess within the Irish home has just been published with Women's History Review.

## Dr Deirdre Foley

Deirdre is a historian of modern Ireland with a particular interest in birth control, maternity care, female associational culture and the legal status of women in 20th century Ireland. She has a PhD in History from Dublin City University, and previously studied at Trinity College Dublin (MPhil) and University College Dublin (BA). As the current Roy Foster Irish Government Research Fellow, she is in the process of revising her doctoral thesis, entitled "'Women are Citizens': Women's groups and the Commission on the Status of Women in Ireland, c. 1967-1979', into a monograph which will investigate, in a wider sense, the changing legal and social status of women in Ireland.

## Dr Liz Kyte

Liz is a freelance Irish women's historian, feminist activist and writer. Liz teaches on the UCC MA Women's Studies on the history of Irish feminism, is a committee member of the Women's History Association of Ireland and member of the Irish Labour History Society. Liz is currently working on publishing her doctoral thesis on the history of Irish women and radicalism as a monograph. She is a co-founder of We Care Collective ([www.wecarecollective.ie](http://www.wecarecollective.ie)), a campaigning and support group for mothers and carers of children with additional needs. Liz's website; [www.redkyte.ie](http://www.redkyte.ie), connects her academic work and activism through her personal writing on the lived experience of mothering additional needs, the need for a more care-centric economy and a advancing a politics of interdependence for Ireland. Prior to her academic experience, Liz was a Sabbatical Women's Officer for NUS at the University of Kent at Canterbury and had a subsequent career as a development educator in international development agencies in the UK.

## Dr Derek Mulcahy

Derek Mulcahy works in the Academic Support Centre in Mary Immaculate College Limerick. He holds a PhD in History and a BA in History and English from Mary Immaculate College. Derek's most recent publication is a book on the life and music on Prof. P.J. McNamara (1869-1927) of McNamara's Band fame, Limerick, and New York. His research incorporates oral history interviews on the musical tradition of his native Limerick and beyond. Derek has recently been engaged by Limerick City and County Council to write the history of Limerick's civilian marching bands. This will be published in 2022. He is membership officer of the Oral History Network of Ireland.

## Dr Clodagh Tait

Clodagh is a lecturer in history at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Her research interests include social and cultural histories of early modern Ireland and Britain; death; birth and infancy; magic and the supernatural; violence; religion and sources. She has published extensively on a wide variety of topics including commemoration, violence, martyrdom, childbirth and infant rearing, naming, religious culture, and the folklore of graveyards. She is currently an editor of Irish Historical Studies.

# JUDGES

# ORGANISERS

## Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley

Sarah-Anne is a lecturer in history at NUIG with a specialism in social history, particularly in the fields of Irish gender history and the history of childhood and child welfare. She has worked as a public historian and contributor to public policies and as Co-PI for the 'Tuam Home Oral History Project'. She has published extensively on childhood, child welfare and the family in Ireland. She is Chair of the Irish History Student's Association (IHSA) and a former President of the WHAI.

## Dr Elaine Farrell

Elaine is Reader in History at Queen's University Belfast. She has published on nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Irish crime, gender and social history. With Leanne McCormick, she leads the Bad Bridget project, which focuses on criminal and deviant Irish women in North America, 1838-1918.

## Dr Laura Kelly

Laura is senior lecturer in the history of health and medicine at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow whose research has focused on gender and the history of medicine in modern Ireland. She has published two monographs to date: Irish women in medicine, c.1880s-1980s: origins, education and careers (MUP, 2012) and Irish medical education and student culture, c.1850-1950 (LUP, 2017). She is currently completing her third monograph which emanates from her Wellcome Trust-funded research on Contraception and Modern Ireland, c.1922-92. Laura also holds a Carnegie Trust research incentive grant for a project on Pro-Choice and Pro-Life activism in Ireland in the 1980s and 1990s.

## Judy Bolger

Judy is a PhD researcher in the department of Modern Irish History at Trinity College, Dublin. Her PhD examines the social discourse surrounding impoverished mothers and women's experiences of maternity and motherhood in Irish workhouses during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. This project is funded by the Trinity College, Dublin 1252 Postgraduate Research Scholarship. She has published recently in the edited collection Birth and the Irish: a miscellany (2021) and her research on the representation of 'workhouse mothers' within nineteenth-century Irish newspapers was published in Historical Studies (2019). She received a first-class M.Phil. degree in Modern Irish History from Trinity College, Dublin (2017) in which her thesis research examined the social history of Irish breastfeeding during the nineteenth century. She also holds a first-class Honours B.A. degree in English and History from Carlow College (2016) where her under-graduate thesis researched reproductive insanity.

## Susie Deedigan

Susie is a PhD candidate at Queen's University, Belfast. She previously studied at Trinity College, Dublin (MPhil), Balliol College, Oxford (BA) and Sheffield Hallam (PGCE). Her PhD research is funded by a Department for the Economy studentship. It comparatively examines the impact of gender on political imprisonment during the Second World War in Ireland. It considers women's experiences and explores how lives were changed as a result of imprisonment. It explores the impact of gender on state responses and discusses women's roles and perception within republicanism. She has presented widely and contributed to blog posts on many aspects of Irish women's and gender history. Her previous research, and broader research interests, include: militancy and Irish suffrage, female activism, labour and trade unionism, female associational culture and histories of incarceration.

## Tanya Higgins-Carey

Tanya is a historian of medicine with a particular interest in the charitable maternity hospital. Hospital finances, management, governance and stakeholder relationships. Nursing education and the early evolution of clinical birthing practices. Patient care and medical advancements in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology. Tanya holds a BA from Mary Immaculate College where she is researching her PhD under the supervision of Dr Clodagh Tait. She was awarded an assistantship to fund her research by the Department of History, where is currently employed as a tutor. She sits as an executive committee member of the WHAI and is an Early Career Member with the Royal Historical Society. Tanya has presented her work widely, nationally and internationally.

