

**New England ACIS Regional Conference
November 20-21, 2015
University of New Haven, West Haven, CT**

Celebrity, Distinction, and Reputation

The 2015 NEACIS (New England Region of the American Conference for Irish Studies) meeting will be held at the University of New Haven on November 20-21. We welcome proposals for individual papers and panels focusing on all aspects of Irish Studies. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Especially welcome are papers that address the conference theme of “Celebrity, Distinction, and Reputation.”

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. **Diane Negra**, Professor of Film Studies and Screen Culture at University College Dublin. Dr. Negra is the author of *Off-White Hollywood: American Culture and Ethnic Female Stardom* and the editor of *The Irish in US: Irishness, Performativity, and Popular Culture*.

The conference this year wishes to explore how Irish and Irish-American identity intersects with public identities in a variety of spheres. How is public perception of an individual shaped or reshaped by that individual’s perceived Irishness? The conference anticipates that this theme will generate a range of papers investigating how Irishness has factored into the celebrity of some individuals, how Irishness has distinguished certain people in their professions, and how Irishness has impacted the reputation of prominent figures throughout history. Following are some possible topics:

- Celebrity in the fields of literature, art, sports, and entertainment
- Public personas of politicians and other public figures
- The politics of writing about public figures
- Reputations at home and abroad
- Irish and Irish-American business leaders
- Identity and power
- Reconsiderations of historically notable figures
- Faux-Irish personages in popular culture
- The intersection of ethnic, national, and gender identities
- Irish identity in the age of social media
- Identity and innovation
- Irishness in the workplace
- Family legacies and reputations
- Figures who challenge popular perceptions of Irish identity
- Leadership and Irish identity
- Language and public identity

Both individual paper and panel submissions (3–4 participants) are welcomed, as are proposals for roundtables presentations. Papers and panels that take an interdisciplinary approach are particularly encouraged. Paper proposals should be 250 words in length, and should include a brief (50-word) bio of the submitter. Panel proposals should be 250-500 words in length and include a description of the panel as well as brief descriptions of each paper and short bios for each participant. Submissions should be sent to cmdowd@newhaven.edu and are due by September 10, 2015.

The University of New Haven is located in West Haven, Connecticut and is easily accessible from Boston and New York by car and train. Direct inquiries to Chris Dowd at cmdowd@newhaven.edu. All conference presenters will be required to be members of the ACIS. Additional information (including details on registration and accommodations) is available at www.newhaven.edu/4486/academic-programs/undergraduate/english/894500/