

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
American Conference for Irish  
Studies  
Western Regional



“Ireland and the Indigenous”

Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

October 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**ACIS-W Officers:**

ACIS-W President: Matthew Spangler, San Jose State University  
ACIS-W Secretary-Treasurer: Caleb Richardson, University of New Mexico

**Conference Organizing Committee:**

Mary Power, University of New Mexico  
Caleb Richardson, University of New Mexico  
Matthew Spangler, San Jose State University  
Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico  
Sarah Townsend, University of South Dakota

**Local Arrangements Committee:**

Leandra Binder, University of New Mexico  
Jennifer DeMerritt, University of New Mexico  
Kelly Hunnings, University of New Mexico

**Thanks to our supporters:**

American Conference for Irish Studies

University of New Mexico:  
Office of the Provost  
Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences  
University College  
English Department  
Feminist Research Institute

**Early Events of Interest**

**Wednesday October 22nd**

7:00-9:00 PM

**Readings and Conversations: Alice McDermott with Michael Silverblatt**

Location: Lensic Performing Arts Center, Santa Fe

**Thursday October 23rd**

1:30-3:00 PM

**UNM History Department Colloquium**

Location: UNM Albuquerque

History Department Common Room

Mesa Vista Hall, Room 1104

Nuala Ní Chonchúir

“Now and Then:

The Contemporary Writer and Historical Fiction”

5:00-6:30 PM

**Registration**

Location: Library, Hotel Santa Fe

**Conference Begins**

**Friday October 24th**

8:00-9:00 AM

**Registration**

Location: Library, Hotel Santa Fe

9:00-10:40 AM

**Panel 1: Contacts**

Location: Kiva A

Chair: Sarah Townsend, University of South Dakota

Jeanne Armstrong, Western Washington University, "Recovering Ritual in Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Valdez' *Mummified Deer*"

Dorothea McDowell, Independent Scholar, "Ella Young"

Bonnie Roos, West Texas A&M, "Spies in Joyce's 'Sisters': Allegorical Histories, The Irish Rebellion, and the Modernist Moment"

Sandra Sprayberry, Birmingham Southern College, "Captive or Captivated? W.B. Yeats's 'The Stolen Child'"

**Panel 2: Settlers and Others**

Location: Kiva B

Chair: James P. Walsh, San Jose State University

David M. Emmons, University of Montana, "Savage Twins: Indians and Irish on the Border"

Nicholas Harrington, Washington State University, "The Last Emperor Scottorum: John Redmond and Irish Empire"

Alex Hunt, West Texas A&M University, "An Irishman Out West: John George Adair and the Complexities of Empire"

Caleb Richardson, University of New Mexico, "Picnicking for Ireland: The Fenians and Diasporic Nationalism"

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:50-12:30 AM

**Panel 3: Indigenous Ireland?**

Location: Kiva A

Chair: Mary Power, University of New Mexico

Jim Fairhall, DePaul University, "Native Ecosystems, Flora and Fauna in James Joyce's Writing"

Matt Horton, University of California Berkeley, "Invasions & Articulations: Assimilating Foreigners & Anti-Colonial Alliances as Aspects of Modern Irish Identity"

Mary Mullen, Texas Tech University, "Indigeneity and Institutionalality: William Carleton's 'Native' Irish Texts"

Edward Stack, University of California Berkeley, "The Storytelling Tradition of Doolin, County Clare, Ireland"

**Panel 4: Indigenous Irish-America?**

Location: Kiva B

Chair: Beulah Baker, Taylor University

Sara Brady, Bronx Community College, "Performing Anne Bonny: Spectacular Irish Female Pirate"

Margaret Lasch Carroll, Albany College of Pharmacy, "Place and Identity in the Novels of Alice McDermott"

Catherine Eagan, Las Positas College, "Sentimentally Irish, Racially White: Mary Anne Sadlier and the Balancing Act of Irish-American Identity"

John L. Murphy, DeVry University Long Beach, "Thrift, Schemes and Recklessness in the Letters of J.F. Powers and His Life in Minnesota and Ireland"

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

12:30-2:00 PM

**Lunch Break**

2:00-3:00 PM

**Keynote**

Location: Kiva A&B

**“Children of Empire: Irish Children in Imperial Scandal Networks,  
from Street Arabs to the Arab Street”**

Margot Gayle Backus, University of Houston

**Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

3:15-4:55 PM

**Panel 5: Performances**

Location: Kiva A

Chair: Kathleen Heining, George Fox University

Charlotte Headrick, Oregon State University, “Irish Women Dramatists”

Sarah O’Brien, Northern New Mexico College, “Exploring Community, Nationhood and Belonging in Irish-Argentine Oral Narrative, 2010-2012”

Sharon Pressburg, St. Francis of Assisi, “Looking ‘Home’ in *In Bruges*”

Matthew Spangler, San Jose State University, “Exploring the Ethics of Intercultural Theatre: John Scott’s *Fall and Recover*, a Modern Dance Production with Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Ireland”

**Panel 6: Conflicts**

Location: Kiva B

Chair: Caleb Richardson, University of New Mexico

Aleja Allen, University of New Mexico, “The Long March: Belfast to Derry, Northern Ireland 1969”

Elena Bergia, Queen’s University Belfast, “Irish Republicans in Northern Ireland: On Ethnicity, Politics and Class, and on the Nature of Imagined Communities”

Brian McCabe, Claremont Graduate University, “‘All Stories are Love Stories’: Writing Reconciliation in Contemporary Irish and Northern Irish Literature”

Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico, “Falls Road, West Belfast: An Oral History of the IRA During the Troubles”

**Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:15-6:15 PM

**Special Presentation**

Location: Kiva A&B

**“Ernie O’Malley: Republican in Ireland, the US and New Mexico”**

Nicholas Allen, University of Georgia  
Cormac O’Malley, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University

6:15-7:15 PM

**Reception**

Location: Hacienda, Hotel Santa Fe

**Special Presentation**

Location: Hacienda, Hotel Santa Fe

**“Finley Peter Dunne and Mr. Dooley:  
Irish Wit and Wisdom in Progressive America, a History and Reenactment”**

Myles Dungan, RTÉ  
Glen Gendzel, San Jose State University



**Saturday October 25th**

9:00-10:40 AM

**Panel 7: New Perspectives**

Location: Kiva A

Chair: Audrey Eyler, Pacific Lutheran University

Kathleen Heininge, George Fox University, "Joyce and Irish Grammar"

Ryan Michael Kehoe, Rice University, "Eastern Promises: James Joyce and the Resurrection of Hungary"

Mary Power, University of New Mexico, "Joyce, 'Nausicaa' and Beach Culture"

Weldon Thornton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "The Religious Sensibility of James Joyce"

**Panel 8: Close Readings**

Location: Kiva B

Chair: Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico

Eileen Kearney, University of Colorado Denver, "Patricia Burke Brogan's *Stained Glass at Samhain*: The Politics of Memory"

Sarah Townsend, University of South Dakota, "Porcine Pasts and Economic PIGS"

Robert Tracy, University of California Berkeley, "The Leaving of Lemnos: Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy*"

Emer O'Toole, Concordia University, "Playing Happy Families: Representations of the Family in Irish Theatre, Film and Society, 1980 – Present"

**Saturday October 25th**

10:45-11:15 AM

**ACIS-W Annual Business Meeting  
(All Interested Parties Welcome)**

Location: Kiva A

11:15 AM-1:00 PM

**Lunch Break**

1:00-2:00 PM

**Keynote**

Location: Kiva A&B

**“Your Empire Needs You’:  
Ireland and the 'Selling' of the Great War”**

Myles Dungan, RTÉ

**Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>**

2:15-3:55 PM

**Panel 9: *Dubliners* and Affect Theory in an Introduction to Literary Studies Course**

Location: Kiva A

Chair: Margot Gayle Backus, University of Houston

Isabella Chen, University of Houston, "A Dubliner's Confessions"

Christian Hernandez, University of Houston, "Childhood Innocence Debunked in 'The Sisters,' 'An Encounter,' and 'Counterparts'"

Tiffany Mays, University of Houston, "Before the Race"

**Panel 10: Connections and Disruptions**

Location: Kiva B

Chair: Matthew Spangler, San Jose State University

Beulah Baker, Taylor University, "Characteristically Irish: Fictional Exiles in Touch With Their Roots"

Kelvin Beliele, Oklahoma State University, "Roger Casement: Queer Irish Revolutionary Among the Dark Indigenous"

Camille Harrigan, Concordia University, "Colonized Bodies: The Discursive Use of Women's Bodies in Ireland and North America"

Marguerite Quintelli-Neary, Winthrop University, "Rocking the House of Atreus: Edna O'Brien and Greek Myth in *Down By The River*"

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

4:10-4:40 PM

**Special Presentation**

Location: Kiva A&B

*Here and Gone:*

**A Reading by John Menaghan from his 4<sup>th</sup> book of poetry  
(Salmon Poetry, 2014)**

John Menaghan, Loyola Marymount University

4:50-5:50 PM

**Special Presentation**

Location: Kiva A&B

**Monologues from Conor McPherson's *The Weir***

Directed by Maria Szasz, University of New Mexico

Featuring: Aleja Allen, Michael Beckner, Daniel Bidal, Jennifer DeMerritt,  
Brendan Kearns and Krystal Montoya

6:00-6:30 PM

**Book Launch**

Location: Kiva A&B

*Irish Women Dramatists*

By Eileen Kearney and Charlotte Headrick

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

**Closing Banquet**

Location: Patio/Canyon

Announcements/Memorials/Award Presentations

**Special Presentation:**

**Tir Conaill Dance Academy, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Aleja Allen, Zoe Moore and Sandra Sullivan