

CALL FOR PAPERS: SOUTHERN REGIONAL ACIS 2018
“Irish Archives”
March 22-24, 2018
University of South Carolina, Columbia SC

the archive is first the law of what can be said – Michel Foucault

Keynotes:

- Paula Feldman and Brian Cooney, editors of *The Collected Poetry of Mary Tighe*
- Sean Kennedy, editor of *Beckett and Ireland*, co-editor of *Samuel Beckett: History, Memory, Archive*

When Sotheby’s announced earlier this year that it planned to offer an enormous collection of W.B. Yeats family papers and memorabilia in auction, scholars worried about the materials leaving Ireland and falling into private rather than public collections. “Shouldn’t Ireland’s university archives, as well as organizations such as Poetry Ireland, be consulted, alongside national institutions, about the export of literary archives?” asked poet John McAuliffe in the *Irish Times* in September. A letter to the *Irish Times* that garnered 80 signatures from Irish studies scholars argued that the collection was “much more than just a family collection” and “illuminates the very making of modern Ireland.” Though the state eventually purchased a portion of the collection, the rest may end up in private hands, and questions remain about the nature, value, and use of archives. This conference will offer a space for exploring the relations among culture, archive, history, and scholarship. We invite presenters to think broadly about this theme, exploring such topics as:

- history and politics in the archive, historiography, literary history, history from below, archives and canonicity, archives and marginal(ized) voices, feminist archives, queer archives, migrant archives
- material history in the archive, *A History of Ireland in 100 Objects*, digital humanities and Irish studies, digital archives, video archives, documentary film, museums, libraries, cemeteries, historical tours, docents, textual archives, commemorations and archives, archival practices, archival methods, *archive fever*, medical archives, legal archives, archives of abuse
- nontraditional archives, ephemera, pamphlets, family collections, oral histories, footnotes, marginalia, collections, obsessions, *the archival sliver*, archival fragments, archival absences
- time and temporalities, anachronisms, representations of space and time
- contextual readings, (mis)appropriations, stories of archival work, archival discoveries, archival (re)readings, archives and memory studies

We invite both individual and panel proposals, as well as proposals for roundtables and performances, and we welcome papers on other topics in Irish studies. Individual proposals should be no more than 250 words and include a two sentence biography. Panel proposals should be 300-400 words, including a rationale for the panel and brief description of papers and presenters. Send proposals to Ed Madden (University of South Carolina) at edward.madden@gmail.com by December 15, 2017. Presenters must be members of the

American Conference for Irish Studies. Accommodations will be offered at the Inn at USC Wyndham Garden, the conference hotel.