

“Chicago: an Irish-American Metropolis?  
Politics, Ethnicity, and Culture from 1830s to the Present Time”

An International and Multidisciplinary Conference  
June 21-23, 2021

The conference will be entirely online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please register here: <http://bit.do/irishchicago>

This three day conference will explore the past and present imprint of the Irish diaspora on the Windy City, including its reverberations in Hibernia.

### Program

Monday June 21, 2021

9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome Remarks

#### Keynote speech

Chair: Philippe Cauvet (Université de Poitiers)

**David Brundage** (University of California at Santa Cruz)  
“Chicago: Second City of Irish American Nationalism?”

10:00 - 10:15 am: Q&A

10:15 - 10:30 am: Coffee Break

**Session 1: Chicago and Transatlantic Irish Nationalism** 10:30 - 11:50 am

Chair: James Chandler (The University of Chicago)

**Frank Rynne**, CY Cergy Paris University/ Trinity College Dublin:

“Virtual Republic: The First National Convention of Fenian Brotherhood, Chicago, November 1863”

**Gillian O’Brien**, Liverpool John Moores University:

“A Carnival of Plots’ Irish-American Republicanism in the late Nineteenth-Century”

**Andrew Wilson**, Loyola University Chicago:

“From the South Side to the Bogside: Chicago and the Northern Ireland Conflict”

11:30 – 11:50 am: Q&A

**Lunch Break** 12:00 - 2:00 pm

2:00 – 6:30 pm

**Session 2: Chicago's World Fairs and Transatlantic Irish Nationalism** 2:00 - 3:40 pm

Chair: Fiona McCann (Université de Lille)

**Eimar O'Connor**, Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig:

“Ireland and the Chicago World's Fair: Castellated Kitsh or Crucial Controversy?”

**Billy Shortall**, Trinity College Dublin:

“No Thatched Cottages: The Chicago World's Fair 1933”

**Jeffrey O'Leary**, Mitchell College:

“The Chicago World's Fair 1893: The Windy City Braces for More Blarney”

**Amy Mulligan**, University of Notre Dame:

“Moving into Chicago's “White City” – Race, Medieval Iconography and the Construction of Irishness at the 1893 World's Fair”

3:20 – 3:40 pm: Q&A

3:40 – 4:00 pm: Coffee break

**Session 3: Irish Chicago Politics and History** 4:00 - 5:20 pm

Chair: Frank Rynne (CY Cergy Paris University/ Trinity College Dublin)

**Greg Koos**, Executive Director Emeritus of the McLean County Museum of History:

““Whiskey Vs. Lager Beer – Bejabers”: The Irish and the Politics of Chicago's Hinterland 1854-1860”

**Ana Artiaga**, Université de Toulouse-Jean Jaurès:

“The Chicago Irish and the Democratic Machine”

**Sean Farrell**, Northern Illinois University:

“Writing a New History of the Irish in Illinois”

5:00 – 5-20 pm: Q&A

5:20 - 5:30 pm: Coffee Break

**Keynote Speech**

Chair: Alexandra Maclennan Slaby (Université de Caen Normandie)

**Clair Wills**, University of Cambridge

“Mother and Baby Homes: Adoption and the Chicago Connection”

6:15 - 6:30 pm: Q&A

Tuesday June 22, 2021

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Keynote Speech**

Chair: Andrew Diamond (Sorbonne Université)

**James Barrett**, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign  
"Irish Americans in Chicago's Interethnic History: Race and Class"

9:45 - 10:00 am: Coffee Break

**Session 4: Education, Work and Ethnic Identity in Irish Chicago** 10:00 - 11:40 am

Chair: Paul Schor (Université de Paris)

**Bradford Hunt**, Loyola University Chicago:

"Irish-Americans and the 1919 Chicago Race Riot"

**Sophie Cooper**, University of Leicester:

"Sister, sister: Irish Female Teachers and Ethnic Identity in Chicago, 1840-1922"

**Catherine Healy**, Trinity College Dublin:

"The Problem of Bridget": Managing Irish Domestic Servants in Gilded Age Chicago"

**Emma Moreton**, University of Liverpool:

"Irish Emigrants Letters"

11:20 – 11:40 am: Q&A

**Lunch Break** 12:00 - 14:00 pm

2:00 - 6:30 pm

**Session 5: Chicago and the Gaelic Revival** 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Chair: Cliona Ni Riordain (Université de Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

**Máire Nic an Bhaire**, Maynooth University:

"Douglas Hyde: An Irish Idol in Chicago"

**Liam Mac Mathúna**, University College Dublin:

"Chicago and the Mid-West Leg of Douglas Hyde's American Journey, 1906"

**Cuan Ó Seireadáin**, The Gaelic League - **Brian Ó Conchubhair**, University of Notre Dame:

"The Irish-Language in Chicago: Forgotten Features of Ethnic Identity?"

3:00 – 3:20 pm: Q&A

3:20 - 3:30 pm: Coffee Break

**Session 6: Chicago and Irish Culture**

**3:30 - 5:00 pm**

Chair: Fiona Kearney (University College Cork)

**Charles Fanning**, Southern Illinois University:

“Banish the Boushwah: Why We Ought to Read James T. Farrell”

**Mary Rose O’Shea**, University of Illinois at Chicago - **Conor O’Shea**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - **Michael O’Shea**, University of Toronto:

“No longer at the Crossroads: Irish Dance Halls in Chicago and Late Generation Ethnicity”

**Ellen Skerrett**, Independent Historian:

“Reconsidering the Catholic Culture of the Chicago Irish”

4:30 – 5:00 pm: Q&A

5:00 - 5:15 pm: Coffee Break

**Keynote Speech**

Chair: Wesley Hutchinson (Université de Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)

**Aileen Dillane**, University of Limerick

“Chronotopes, Cartographies, and Musical Imaginaries:  
“Celtic” Chicago at the End of the Long 20<sup>th</sup> Century”

6:00 - 6:15 pm: Q&A

Wednesday June 23, 2021

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Session 7: Diasporic Circulations**

**9:30 – 11:10 am**

Chair: Claire Connolly (University College Cork)

**Scott Spencer**, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California:

“Chicago at the Center of the Irish Piping World: Captain Francis O’Neill and the Edison Wax Cylinder Recorder”

**Amélie Dochy**, Université de Toulouse - Jean Jaurès:

“Illustrating Pleasant Irish Archetypes in Paintings: Erskine Nicol’s Images of Irish Life Presented in Chicago at the End of the Nineteenth Century”

**Patrick O’Sullivan**, London Metropolitan University:

“Chicago, Theory and the Discourse of the Irish Emigrant Letter”

**Henri Peretz**, Université de Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis:

“Mapping the Irish Territory in Chicago during the Great Migration, 1895-1940”

10:50 – 11:10 am : Q&A

**Lunch Break**

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Panel Discussion 1: Globalization, Ireland and its Diaspora** 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Moderators: Anne Groutel (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) - Grainne O'Keefe-Vigneron (Université de Rennes 2)

Participants:

- 1 John Bradley, EMDS, Dublin
- 2 Kevin Byrne, Consul General of Ireland to the Midwestern US
- 3 Feargal Cochrane, University of Kent

3:15 – 3:30 pm: Coffee Break

**Panel Discussion 2: Chicago and Irish (American) Culture** 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Moderator: Sylvie Mikowski (Université de Reims)

Participants:

- 1 Aileen Dillane, University of Limerick
- 2 Jude Blackburn, Director, Chicago Irish Film Festival
- 3 Charles Fanning, Southern Illinois University

**Official launching of the online display of Capt. Francis O'Neill's dedication pages**

**Reading of a passage of James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan* by John Judd, actor**