
The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies presents
PSYCHOANALYSIS IN CULTURE, SOCIETY & POLITICS:
Reading Rob Weatherill's *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*

A one-day intensive, interdisciplinary seminar
Sponsored by the UCD Humanities Institute



Saturday 9 March 2013

Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland

VENUE DETAILS

Saturday 9 March 2013: Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland (<http://www.ucd.ie/humanities>). A campus map is available to download here: <http://www.ucd.ie/maps>

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This intensive seminar will be devoted to reading and discussing Rob Weatherill's recently-published book, *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*, from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives and psychoanalytic traditions. Closely attending to this text will provide an opportunity to open up broader discussions pertaining to psychoanalysis as a clinical practice and body of theory. The seminar will feature a lecture by Rob Weatherill on his current research, followed by a series of thematic discussions, each preceded by panels of informal (5-10 mins) responses to the issues raised in *Forgetting Freud* by academics and clinical practitioners. We will focus on three broad themes in our discussions: 1) Discourses of Psychoanalysis, 2) Ethics & Politics of Desire & Un/Pleasure and 3) Psychoanalysis & Philosophy in Culture & Society. **The emphasis will be on discussion.**

REQUIRED READING

All delegates must purchase a copy of *Forgetting Freud: Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?* by Rob Weatherill (Bethesda, Dublin, Palo Alto: Academica Press 2011) in advance of the seminar. To obtain a copy, delegates need to contact the author directly: robweath@indigo.ie

DESCRIPTION OF *FORGETTING FREUD: IS PSYCHOANALYSIS IN RETREAT?*

In this timely monograph, Rob Weatherill asks the question, 'Have smarter, newer drugs and so-called "evidence-based" methods of psychological help overtaken psychoanalysis during the twenty-first century?' Weatherill argues that the perspective that psychoanalysis can now provide is more relevant than ever thanks to the increasing objectification of life and people. In addition, the author argues that analysis must engage with its critics, with other disciplines, and above all, with ethical demands. In his work, Weatherill draws not only on the work of key analytic figures around Sigmund Freud like Carl Jung, Melanie Klein and Jacques Lacan but also on serious critics of psychoanalysis such as Emmanuel Levinas, Jean Baudrillard, Jean Lyotard and Vladimir Nabokov.

ROB WEATHERILL

Rob Weatherill is a practicing and supervisory analyst in Dublin, a member of four psychoanalytic groupings in Ireland and a founder member of two. He has a Master's degree in psychotherapy from St Vincent's University Hospital as well as the European Certificate in Psychotherapy. He currently teaches psychoanalysis on postgraduate courses at St Vincent's University College Hospital, Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. He also lectured in psychoanalytic psychology in the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology for fifteen years. He currently convenes a peer supervision group for experienced analysts. He has written many papers and articles exploring the interface between psychoanalysis and culture. His most recent book, *Forgetting Freud. Is Psychoanalysis in Retreat?*, continues the critical explorations begun in *Cultural Collapse* (1994), continued through two books on the death drive, *The Sovereignty of Death* (1998) and *The Death Drive: New Life for a Dead Subject* (1999), taken up again in *Our Last Great Illusion* (2004).

REGISTRATION

There is a registration fee of €30 (academics/waged) and €10 (students/unwaged) payable in advance or on the day of the seminar. To register please email: Noreen Giffney (noreen.giffney@gmail.com), Anne Mulhall (anne.mulhall@ucd.ie) and Michael O'Rourke (tranquilised_icon@yahoo.com). We require the following details to confirm your place:

- Name
- Affiliation/organisation (if applicable)
- Short biographical note (c. 150-200 words) for inclusion in the seminar pack

For delegates travelling from outside Ireland, we ask that you send us your flight details by 15 February 2013 in order to confirm your place.

Early booking is advisable as places are limited. Registration operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Saturday 9 March 2013

Venue: Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin

8.45 am-9.00 am **Registration**9.15 am-9.30 am **Opening Remarks: Noreen Giffney, Anne Mulhall & Michael O'Rourke**9.30 am-11.00 am **Rob Weatherill, 'Psychoanalysis and the Inhuman', chaired by Mary Condren**9.30 am-10.30 am Lecture by Rob Weatherill10.30 am-11.00 am Discussion with delegates facilitated by **Mary Condren**

Lecture Description: In the old days people used to talk about psychoanalysis as 'facing one's demons', but more recently we are likely to refer to 'singularities', dignity and 'organisations of subjectivity', and so on. I will argue that this change parallels the shift from the real to the virtual and a denial of the many contradictions that have arisen with the movement which will be explored with examples.

11.00 am-11.30 am **Tea & Coffee Break**11.30 am-1 pm **Discourses of Psychoanalysis**In this session we will discuss chapters 6, 8 & 9 of *Forgetting Freud*11.30 am-12.00 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud* by **Sheena Eustace, Moynagh Sullivan** and **Eve Watson**. Chaired by **Carol Owens**12.00 pm-1 pm Discussion of chapters 6, 8 & 9 facilitated by **Carol Owens**1 pm-2 pm **Lunch**2 pm-3.30 pm **Ethics & Politics of Desire & Un/pleasure**In this session we will discuss chapters 4, 5 & 10 of *Forgetting Freud*2 pm-2.30 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud* by **Noreen Giffney, Anne Mulhall & Emma Radley**. Chaired by **Graham Price**2.30 pm-3.30 pm Discussion of chapters 4, 5 & 10 facilitated by **Graham Price**3.30 pm-4.00 pm **Tea & Coffee Break**4.00 pm-5.30 pm **Psychoanalysis & Philosophy in Culture & Society**In this session we will discuss chapters 1, 3 & 7 of *Forgetting Freud*4 pm-4.30 pm Short, informal responses to *Forgetting Freud* by **Olga Cox Cameron, Jones Irwin & Tina Kinsella**. Chaired by **Michael O'Rourke**4.30 pm-5.30 pm Discussion of chapters 1, 3 & 7 facilitated by **Michael O'Rourke**5.30 pm **Thanks & Close of Seminar: Noreen Giffney, Anne Mulhall & Michael O'Rourke****RESPONDENTS AND DISCUSSANTS**

Olga Cox Cameron is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Dublin for the past twenty-four years. She lectures in psychoanalytic theory and also in psychoanalysis and literature at Trinity College Dublin and at St Vincent's University Hospital. Published articles have appeared in *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, *American Imago*, *The Letter*,

Lacunae, *The Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine* and *Formations du clinique freudien*. She has contributed a chapter to *The Death Drive* (Rebus Books) and to *Death and Endings* (Routledge).

Mary Condren has studied at the University of Hull, Boston College and Harvard University where she graduated with a doctorate in Religion, Gender, and Culture. She is the author of many articles on feminist theory, spirituality, liberation theology, psychoanalysis and politics. Her first book is *the Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion and Power in Celtic Ireland* (Harper Collins 1989). Currently she directs *Woman Spirit Ireland*, whose aim is to reclaim religion by engaging theoretically and experientially with the issues of feminist theology, ritual, spirituality, and ethics. She is a Research Associate in Women's Studies at Trinity College Dublin teaching in the area, gender, religion, violence and representation. She is currently completing a major study of *Brigit: Gailleach, Goddess, and Saint*, alongside a critical study of the relationship between gender, sacrifice and the politics of violent representation. For further information, see www.womanspirit.com and <http://www.tcd.ie/cgws/staff/mcondren.php>

Sheena Eustace is a practising psychoanalytic psychotherapist and group therapist. She is also the Director of Donnybrook Centre, a practice for private practitioners which also offers a placement service for therapists in training. Sheena herself has been in private practice since 2002. At present she works with adults from the age of 18 to 80+. Her area of expertise ranges from working with those who are experiencing dissatisfaction, unhappiness, insecurity and anxiety in their life and relationships, to working with those who need to explore their lives at a deeper level (eg. sibling and parental relationships, issues arising out of sexuality and intimacy). She is presently completing her studies in Group Analytic Psychotherapy at St Vincent's University Hospital.

Noreen Giffney works as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dublin. She also coordinates postgraduate and postdoctoral researcher training in the Humanities Institute at University College Dublin. Her research focuses on theories of gender and sexuality, Kleinian psychoanalysis, and film studies. She is the co-editor of *Twenty-First Century Lesbian Studies* (2007), *Queering the Non/Human* (2008), *The Ashgate Research Companion to Queer Theory* (2009), *The Lesbian Premodern* (2011), *Theory on the Edge: Irish Studies and the Politics of Sexual Difference* (2013) and *Clinical Encounters: Psychoanalytic Practice and Queer Theory* (under review). She has articles forthcoming in the journals, *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy* and *The American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, which form part of a larger research project on the discourses of desire in the writings of the psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion.

Jones Irwin is a Lecturer in Philosophy at St Patrick's College, Dublin City University and Visiting Fellow to University of Warwick Education Department in 2013, on 'Ethics, Religion and Education'. His current primary interests are in political and educational theory, existential and neo-Lacanian philosophy and aesthetics. His two monographs are *Derrida and the Writing of the Body* (Ashgate 2010) and *Paulo Freire's Philosophy of Education: Origins, Developments, Impacts and Legacies* (Continuum 2012). He is currently working on two new texts, (with Helena Motoh) *Zizek and His Contemporaries: The Emergence of Slovenian Neo-Lacanianism* (Continuum 2014) and *The Pursuit of Existentialism: Sartre and Beauvoir to Badiou* (Acumen 2014).

Tina Kinsella is an IRCHSS scholar and GradCAM researcher, who has just completed her PhD studies at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, where she lectures in the Faculty of Visual Culture. Her doctoral research on the Matrixial Theory and art practice of psychoanalyst, theorist and artist, Bracha L. Ettinger, focuses on intersections between psychoanalytic theory and phenomenological aesthetics in relation to subjectivity and the ethical relation. Kinsella has presented conference papers and published on various aspects of Matrixial theory, gender, feminist and queer theory, philosophy and film, the artworks of Frida Kahlo and emergent contemporary art practice. An arts practitioner, Kinsella's most recent collaborative work, *Umbilical*, was funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and received its premiere at Rua Red South Dublin Arts centre in November 2011. For further details, see <http://ncad.academia.edu/TinaKinsella/About> and <http://philosophynowncad.wordpress.com/>

Anne Mulhall is a lecturer in the School of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin, Ireland, where she teaches and researches in gender, queer and psychoanalytic theory, gender and sexuality studies and twentieth-century and contemporary Irish literature and culture. Anne coordinates the MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture. She has published extensively on queer, feminist and psychoanalytic theory and on twentieth-century and contemporary Irish writing and visual culture. She co-edited, with Moynagh Sullivan and Wanda Balzano, *Irish Postmodernism and Popular Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan 2007) and, with Noreen Giffney and Michael O'Rourke, special features on the work of Bracha Ettinger and Lisa Baraitser for *Studies in the Maternal* and *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*. A co-edited issue of the *Irish University Review*, 'Queer Studies and Ireland', will be published in Spring 2013. She is currently working on two monographs: *Anne Enright: Excavating the Present* and *Intimate States: The Biopolitics of Ireland 1970-2012*.

Michael O'Rourke lectures in the School of Psychotherapy at Independent Colleges, Dublin and writes mostly about the intersections between queer theory and continental philosophy. Among other things, he is currently writing a book called *Queering Speculative Realism*. Some of his many publications can be found here: <http://independentcolleges.academia.edu/MichaelORourke>

Carol Owens is a psychoanalyst and psychoanalytic supervisor in private practice in Swords, North County Dublin. She lectures on the Higher Diploma and MA programmes in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Independent Colleges Dublin. Her doctoral work on the discursive constitution of heterosexual coupling practices was informed by critical theory, post-structuralism and deconstructionism and gave rise to an interest in the work of Jacques Lacan. She studied psychoanalytic theory at Trinity College Dublin and later undertook a clinical training at the School of Psychotherapy in the Lacanian tradition under Cormac Gallagher's direction. She is a Registered Practitioner member of the A.P.P.I. and convenor of the Dublin Lacan study Group. She edited *The Letter: Lacanian Perspectives on Psychoanalysis* from 2003-2006, the *Annual Review of Critical Psychology* on Lacan and Critical Studies in 2009, and has served on the editorial board of *Teoría, crítica y psicología* since its inception. She has presented work at numerous conferences, workshops and seminars and has published articles/book chapters on Lacanian practice; Lacan and subjectivity; Lacan and Žižek, and encounters between Lacanian theory/practice with queer theory, philosophy, feminism, critical psychology, and critical management theory.

Graham Price lectures in the School of English, Drama and Film and Irish Studies at University College Dublin, Ireland. He also tutors part time in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. He has taught courses on Irish literature, critical theory, twentieth-century drama and children's literature. He completed his doctoral dissertation in 2008 which examined the influence of Oscar Wilde on twentieth century Irish writers. He has published articles on Oscar Wilde, Brian Friel, John McGahern and the intersections between Irish Studies and queer theory. He is currently working on a monograph examining Oscar Wilde's influence on contemporary Irish drama.

Emma Radley is Senior Teaching and Research Postdoctoral Fellow on the GREP programme at University College Dublin. She teaches and researches in the areas of psychoanalysis, film theory, horror cinema, popular culture, and Irish cinema and culture. She has just published *Viewpoints: Theoretical Perspectives on Irish Visual Texts* (with Claire Bracken, Cork University Press 2012), and is currently working on *Lacan Redux: Film Theory, Psychoanalysis, and Postmodernism*, a book on contemporary film theory.

Moynagh Sullivan is a lecturer in English Literature at NUI, Maynooth with research interests in Psychoanalysis, Gender, Modernism and Postmodernism, and Popular Culture and Women's Writing. She was the Fulbright Scholar in Irish Literary and Cultural Studies at UC Berkeley, CA (2009), and a recipient of an IRCHSS Post-Doctoral Fellowship (2002-2004). She is currently working on a monograph on Psychoanalysis, Gender, and Irish Culture and she has published extensively in Irish and Gender Studies. She has co-edited *Facing the Other: Interdisciplinary Essays in Race, Gender and Social Justice in Ireland*, (with Borbala Farago) Cambridge Scholar's Press, 2008, *Irish Postmodernisms*

and *Popular Culture* (with Wanda Balzano and Anne Mulhall), Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, and 'Irish Feminisms', Special Issue, *Irish Review*, (with Wanda Balzano) 2007.

Eve Watson is Head of Psychotherapy Programmes at Independent College, Dublin where she also teaches. Trained in the Freudian-Lacanian tradition, she has a private practice in Dublin's city centre. She has been involved with the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI) since 2005 and is well-published in Ireland and abroad in the psychoanalytic field in publications such as *The Letter*, *Lacunae*, *Open Door*, *Annual Review of Critical Psychology* and in publications of the *Paris Ecole de Psychanalyse des Forums du Champ Lacanien*. She is currently working on a book entitled *Clinical Encounters: Psychoanalytic Practice and Queer Theory* which she is co-editing with Noreen Giffney.

DELEGATES

Andrei Berezkin is a junior trainee counsellor with IICP/Village Counselling, an innovative experimental community-based service-cum-training base, mostly focused on the Integrative model. Before this, he did community work in the mental health field. His training (at professional degree level) consists of a blend of humanistic, existentialist and some CBT approaches. While seeing the above models as helpful and necessary to the community, he believes that a contribution from critical theory, (meta-)sociology and psychoanalytic studies would enrich community services. He thus has a deep interest in the psychoanalytic field, so subtly blending macro- and micro-sociology trends in its work: something, he believes, other schools also need to do, if they are to facilitate informed help, as opposed to utopianism.

Audrey Bryan holds a PhD in comparative-international education and sociology from Columbia University, New York. She teaches sociology on the humanities and education programmes at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. She is also an adjunct lecturer at Sciences Po University and University College Dublin. Audrey has published nationally and internationally on issues pertaining to the dynamics of racism and anti-racism, sexuality, and international development.

Alan Corcoran is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and has been working in private practice at the Donnybrook Centre in Dublin 4 since 2010. He also works as an engineering manager at Intel Ireland and has extensive experience in organisational management. Alan holds an MA in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and a BA in Philosophy along with a BSc in Engineering. He is a member of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI) and sits on its Scientific Committee. Alan is interested in contemporary symptomatology and how to work with the varying presentations with find in the modern clinic. He has a particular interest in working with psychosis as well as depressive symptoms in their various guises. He is interested in the work of Freud, Lacan, Klein, Meltzer and Killingmo. He has presented papers at the APPI General Congress on 'Lacan and the Optical Schema' and the APPI RSI Seminar on 'Heidegger and Lacan'.

Patricia Coughlan is a Professor of English at University College, Cork. She has published widely on Irish writing, including edited or co-edited volumes on Irish feminist criticism, Spenser and Ireland and Irish modernist poetry, and essays and articles on 17th-century colonial discourse, Irish-American literature, Peig Sayers and life-writing, Beckett, Bowen, Kate and Edna O'Brien, Banville, Enright, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and others. In the 2000s she led an IRC-funded multi-disciplinary research project on women in Irish society. She has held an IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowship, and the O'Brien Visiting Professorship in Irish Studies at Concordia University, Montreal. She is currently completing a study of gender and subjectivity in Irish literature after 1960.

Stephanie Devlin is pursuing the MA in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Independent College, Dublin, having completed a Higher Diploma in Psychotherapy Studies in 2012.

R. Danielle Egan is a Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies and is currently training as a psychoanalyst in Boston, Massachusetts in the US. She is the author of three books: *Becoming Sexual: A Critical Appraisal of Children and Sexualisation* (Polity 2013; *Theorizing the Sexual Child in Modernity*, co-authored with Dr Gail Hawkes (Palgrave 2010) and *Dancing for Dollars and Paying for Love: The Relationships Between Exotic Dancers and their Regulars* (Palgrave 2006), as well as numerous other articles.

Marie Flynn is a Lecturer in the sociology of education at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. She works in the Departments of Education and Human Development. Her courses and research interests include: gender and education; families, schools and society; intelligence, equality and schooling; and development of reflective practice. Her most recent research work is part of a collaborative project on privacy and schooling and on the potential incursions into children's private lives in schools. She is involved extensively in the supervision of students on their teaching practice placements.

Izzy Fox is a PhD candidate in the Graduate Research and Education Programme (GREP) in Gender Culture and Identity in the Humanities Institute at University College Dublin. Her project is a trans-disciplinary study of the contemporary feminist movement in Ireland and its engagement with social media. The research will examine the Irish Feminist Network (IFN) as a case study, by using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Cyber, feminist and social-movement theory will provide the major theoretical framework for her thesis, while also drawing on queer and psychoanalytic theories. Her findings should ultimately produce a critical insight into feminist discourse in Ireland today.

Mark Griffin is a graduate with a degree in business and law from Griffith College, a degree in psychology from University College Dublin, along with a Masters in Work and Organisational Psychology from Dublin City University. He will commence an MSc in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Trinity College Dublin this Autumn.

Theresa Harney is a PhD candidate and IRC scholar in the School of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Her thesis is entitled "'Coloured' Identity, Slavery and Anachronism in Post-Apartheid South African Literature', and considers representations of the female slave as a figure of anachronism, in relation to contemporary negotiations of racial, gendered and sexual identities in South Africa.

Jason Hartford is currently a Lecturer in French and Global Cinema at the University of Stirling, Scotland. His current interests include religious archetypes, cognitive theory of culture, film genre (especially horror), aesthetics, and biology and ecology in queer theory. He has written on Flaubert, modern French and Italian theories of sexuality, the historical iconography of St. Sebastian, and masculinity in the early work of André Gide. Together with Paul Hegarty of University College Cork and Tina Kendall of Anglia Ruskin University, he is launching a research network on horror cinema in French, and is completing a monograph on queer martyrs in French and Belgian fiction.

MaryRose Kiernan is a Registered Practitioner of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI), a Practitioner Member of the College of Psychoanalysts in Ireland (CPI) and an Associate Member of the Irish Institute of Group Analysis (IGAS). MaryRose has worked for many years as a clinical psychoanalytic psychotherapist and group therapist for the National Counselling Service (NCS), HSE. The NCS was initially set up to provide therapy for clients who have experienced institutional abuse and adults who experienced physical, sexual, emotional abuse and or neglect in their childhoods. She worked as an SRN, Birmingham, England. On returning to Ireland, she attained a BA in Sociology and Theology from Trinity College, Dublin and a Diploma in Psychoanalytical Studies. She holds an MSc in Clinical Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy from University College Dublin, in conjunction with the Centre of Psychotherapy at St Vincent's Hospital Dublin. Her ongoing professional training is an MSc in Group Analysis in the Department of Medicine at University College Dublin and the Centre for Psychotherapy at St Vincent's Hospital.

Magda Kurzawska is a practising psychoanalytic psychotherapist and has been involved in the field of psychology/psychotherapy for over ten years. She gained her academic and clinical training from respectively: Adam Mickiewicz University in Clinical Psychology, University College Dublin in Counselling (Addiction) and Independent Colleges, Dublin in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. Magda is a member of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI). She is also engaged in Continued Professional Development. For the several years, Magda, working as a team member of Merchants Quay Ireland Open Access Services, has been involved in the application of the psychoanalytic principles in the field of addiction treatment. As a bilingual therapist Magda is also interested in the phenomenon of immigration. She has been involved in psychotherapy research on the influence multilingualism has on the psychoanalytic clinical practice in the multicultural society. Magda currently works as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice in Dun Laoghaire.

Eileen Lawless has done most of her training in the Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy in Dun Laoghaire. She is currently finishing her professional training at PCI College.

Sarah McAuley is a Registered Psychologist and Clinical Director at Willow Tree Child and Family in Dublin. She graduated in Psychology from UCD in 1992 and continued her interest in Women's Studies also at University College Dublin and trained at St Vincent's Hospital School of Psychotherapy in 1994-1996. She has taught at Dublin Business School on psychoanalysis and feminism, and has given talks and had articles published on psychoanalytic topics. Her clinical interest is in depression and anxiety disorders.

Noirín Mac Namara is a second-year PhD candidate in the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast. Her thesis combines the work of Jacques Derrida, Judith Butler and Bracha Ettinger and examines the ways in which they theorise responsibility; with a particular focus on the role of not-knowing, vulnerability and compassion in responsivity. She is a graduate of the MPhil in Gender and Women's Studies at Trinity College Dublin where she completed her dissertation on the subjectivization process and concepts of the feminine in the work of Julia Kristeva and Bracha Ettinger.

Caolfhionn Nic Fhearaí completed a single subject major in English literature at University College Dublin in 2010, before entering the MPhil in Popular Literature at Trinity College Dublin. Her MPhil dissertation consisted of an eco-critical reading of the works of James Tiptree, Jr, and she is currently undertaking a PhD in the School of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin, where her doctoral research investigates the impact of both the feminist and the environmentalist movement on New Wave Science Fiction in the United States. This work is funded by the Irish Research Council for the Arts and Humanities (2012-2015). Her research interests include feminist science fiction, cyberculture, queer theory, ecofeminism and ecotopia.

Sarah Meehan O'Callaghan originally studied French and economics. She has had a long-running interest in issues of identity, subjectivity, disability and psychoanalysis. She also has an interest in queer theory and its intersections with psychoanalysis and potential points of tension.

Brian O'Connor is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist working with adults in private practice and with children in a primary school setting in Dublin's inner city. He is trained in the Freudian-Lacanian tradition and is a member of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI). Brian's interest in personal and collective identity is informed both by psychoanalytic theory and his twenty-five years' experience of working in the advertising industry and the visual arts.

Ian S. Miller has a Dublin practice in psychotherapy and consultation, which signals a change in location and urban culture from New York City where he conducted a psychoanalytic practice for over twenty-five years. His professional training includes a Masters and PhD in clinical psychology from Temple University in Philadelphia, as well as

postdoctoral certifications in psychodynamic psychotherapy and psychoanalysis from the New York University Postdoctoral Program, and the Organization Program of the William Alanson White Institute. He is a member of the Irish Forum for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (IFPP). He has written widely in the area of applied psychoanalysis. His forthcoming book, written together with Professor Kay Souter of Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, *Beckett, Bion: The (Im)patient Voice in Psychotherapy and Literature*, is expected to be published in the Spring of 2013, by Karnac Books, in London.

Liz Monahan works in private practice as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist. She is trained in the Freudian-Lacanian tradition and works in conjunction with the GPs in the Carysfort Clinic in Blackrock. As well as her clinical work, Liz lectures in psychoanalytic psychotherapy on the Higher Diploma and Masters programmes at University College Dublin and Independent Colleges, Dublin. She has participated in national and international conferences including Formation Clinique du Champ Lacanien in Paris and Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups (APW) conferences in the US. She is a member of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI) and a member of the APW committee. She has been involved with publications and research for the Family Support Agency (FSA), the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NSOP) and the Probation Office, and frequently presents to schools on the subjects of the unconscious, symptoms in adolescence, and positive mental health.

Belinda Moller is a trainee group analyst and IGAS member. Belinda is conducting her training group in Willow Tree Child and Family Centre in Dublin 3. Prior to commencing training in 2006 Belinda was an organisation consultant.

Margaret O'Neill was an IRCHSS scholar in the English Department at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, from 2006 to 2010. Her research interests lie in psychoanalytic and gender theory, and twentieth century and contemporary Irish women's writing. She currently teaches seminars on Irish Studies in the English Department at NUI, Maynooth and lectures on college writing at Dublin Business School. Margaret is writing a monograph entitled 'The Politics of Desire in Elizabeth Bowen and Kate O'Brien'.

Marie Walshe is a psychoanalyst in private practice, treating individuals, couples and children. She has a MA in Clinical Psychoanalysis and a Certificate in Family Therapy. She is a Registered Practitioner Member of the Association for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy in Ireland (APPI) and the College of Psychoanalysts of Ireland (CPI). Marie currently lectures in Independent College on the Masters and Higher Diploma programmes in psychotherapy. She has also lectured on the Masters in Dispute Resolution at Independent College. A regular contributor to academic and peer journals, Marie has been published in the academic journal *The Letter* and in *The Review*, a peer journal of APPI. Marie was an inaugural member of APPI's Child and Adolescent Analysis Group. This group brought together psychotherapists working in the education system, the health service, the justice system and private practice.

SEMINAR SPONSORS

Noreen Giffney & Michael O'Rourke have been convening events together since 2001. Noreen, Michael & Anne Mulhall have been organising events together since 2007. This event is sponsored by The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies, as well as the following at University College Dublin: the MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture, the Graduate Research and Education Programme in Gender, Culture and Identity, and the Humanities Institute.

The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary seminar series that was founded and has been organised by Noreen Giffney and Michael O'Rourke since 2002. Originally entitled The(e)ories: Advanced Seminars for Queer Research, Noreen and Michael changed the subtitle to Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies in 2007 to reflect their broadening research interests in psychoanalysis and deconstruction respectively. Anne Mulhall joined the organising committee of The(e)ories in 2012. The(e)ories is devoted to examining issues relating to gender and sexuality within the context of critical theory across a wide range of disciplines. The term 'seminar series' is a

misnomer as The(e)ories also includes conferences, symposia and roundtable discussions. The series has featured speakers from Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, including some of the world's most eminent thinkers in this area: Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, Lee Edelman, Leo Bersani, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Jeffrey Weeks, Tim Dean, Nikki Sullivan, David M. Halperin, Bracha L. Ettinger, Sally R. Munt, Sasha Roseneil, Tamsin Wilton, Del LaGrace Volcano, Luciana Parisi, Lisa Baraitser, Sara Ahmed, Nicholas Royle, Elizabeth Freeman, Lisa Downing, Robyn Wiegman and Martin McQuillan to name a few. People have travelled from Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA to attend and participate in events.

The organisers have also been keen to develop links with people working on critical theory in the context of gender and sexuality, and have been committed to inviting participants and respondents—academics and postgraduates—based at UCD, TCD, UCC, NUIG, UL, QUB, UU, DBS, NUIM, DCU, NCAD, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Griffith College Dublin and Independent College, Dublin among others. Specific events have also attracted a number of professionals working in contexts outside or in conjunction with the university, in the applied fields of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, clinical psychology, counselling psychology, psychotherapy, medicine and counselling. In this, The(e)ories operates a trans-academic policy, in which the organisers endeavour to include not only health professionals, but also activists, artists and other non-academic members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community who wish to participate in events.

Web: www.ucd.ie/humanities/research/culturesocietyandchange/theories/#d.en.159954

MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture (School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, University College Dublin) Convened by Dr Anne Mulhall, this interdisciplinary MA programme draws on the extensive expertise in the area of gender studies and sexuality studies in the School of English, Drama and Film Studies at UCD. The MA offers students a dynamic and challenging range of modules where students will explore the theory, history and representation of gender and sexuality in literature, film, television, visual culture, drama and popular culture with a particular attention to the significance of race, ethnicity and class in relation to the understanding and politics of gender and sexuality across time and location. This course provides students with a thorough and wide-ranging training in the fields of literary, visual and cultural studies.

Web: www.ucd.ie/englishanddrama/graduatestudies/maprogrammes/gendersexualityandculture/

Graduate Research and Education Programme (GREP) in Gender, Culture and Identity (University College Dublin) Directed by Professor Gerardine Meaney, Director of the Humanities Institute, this interdisciplinary thematic doctoral programme hosted by University College Dublin brings together a unique combination of expertise and postgraduate training opportunities in the humanities from specialists in gender and sexuality based at University College Dublin, the University of Limerick, and Queen's University Belfast. Courses offered include two core modules (Digital Humanities and Research Methods in Historical and Literary Studies). Students are welcome, by arrangement, to take courses forming part of the MA in Gender, Sexuality and Culture, and courses offered by staff associated with the programme.

Web: www.ucd.ie/gendercultureidentity

UCD Humanities Institute Directed by Professor Gerardine Meaney, the UCD Humanities Institute is a successful and prestigious resource for the humanities within University College Dublin and nationally. Building on its impressive record of doctoral completion rates and reputation as a vibrant centre for research, debate and scholarship, the Humanities Institute works to deepen its role as a catalyst for innovative and high quality research in the arts and humanities. Talks given in the Institute are archived in the Institute's podcast series which has, to date, been accessed by over 24,000 web users. Rob Weatherill's lecture and Mary Condren's remarks will be available to download as part of the podcast series.

Web: www.ucd.ie/humanities

Podcast Series: www.ucd.ie/humanities/newsevents/podcasts/

Podcast Series on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/ie/podcast/ucd-humanities-institute-ireland/id417437263>

FUNDING

This event has been funded by the Humanities Institute at University College Dublin.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This intensive seminar has been generously funded by the Graduate Research and Education Programme (GREP) in Gender, Culture and Identity and the UCD Humanities Institute, and we wish to express our thanks in particular to Professor Gerardine Meaney for her ongoing support of this collaborative seminar series.

NEXT EVENT

The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies presents
Reading Lauren Berlant's *Cruel Optimism*



A two-day intensive, interdisciplinary seminar @ University College Dublin
 Sponsored by the UCD Humanities Institute

Friday 7-Saturday 8 June 2013

DESCRIPTION OF *CRUEL OPTIMISM* (DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS 2011)

A relation of cruel optimism exists when something you desire is actually an obstacle to your flourishing. Offering bold new ways of conceiving the present, Lauren Berlant describes the cruel optimism that has prevailed since the 1980s, as the social-democratic promise of the postwar period in the United States and Europe has retracted. People have remained attached to unachievable fantasies of the good life — with its promises of upward mobility, job security, political and social equality, and durable intimacy — despite evidence that liberal-capitalist societies can no longer be counted on to provide opportunities for individuals to make their lives 'add up to something'.

Arguing that the historical present is perceived affectively before it is understood in any other way, Berlant traces affective and aesthetic responses to the dramas of adjustment that unfold amid talk of precarity, contingency, and crisis. She suggests that our stretched-out present is characterized by new modes of temporality, and she explains why trauma theory — with its focus on reactions to the exceptional event that shatters the ordinary — is not useful for understanding the ways that people adjust over time, once crisis itself has become ordinary. *Cruel Optimism* is a remarkable affective history of the present.

LAUREN BERLANT

Lauren Berlant is George M. Pullman Professor of English at the University of Chicago. She is the author of *The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture* and *The Queen of America Goes to Washington City: Essays on Sex and Citizenship*, both also published by Duke University Press, as well as *The Anatomy of National Fantasy: Hawthorne, Utopia, and Everyday Life*. She is the editor of the books *Intimacy; Compassion: The Culture and Politics of an Emotion*, and (with Lisa Duggan) *Our Monica, Ourselves: The Clinton Affair and National Interest*. Further details can be found here:

For further details, contact Noreen Giffney (noreen.giffney@gmail.com), Anne Mulhall (anne.mulhall@ucd.ie) & Michael O'Rourke (tranquilised_icon@yahoo.com)