“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 Word’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 Maclean 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

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 Bhaird, 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 20th 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**