



# **BODIES OF DATA: INTERSECTING MEDICAL AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

22-23 November

(Venue: RIA and UCD Humanities Institute)

*Conference Programme*

Irish Humanities Alliance



**22-23 November 2018**

**Thursday 22 November, Royal Irish Academy**

**Friday 23 November, University College Dublin**

*'Bodies of data: intersecting medical and digital humanities' addresses the emerging discipline of the Medical Humanities at the intersection between arts and humanities and the biomedicine which explores the social, historical and cultural dimensions to Medicine. Medical and digital humanities have emerged as two of the most dynamic interdisciplinary forces in contemporary humanities scholarship. Both generate new perspectives and relationships at the intersection between interpretative, data driven, medical and technological methodologies and research practices.*

See conference abstracts at [www.bodiesofdata2018.wordpress.com](http://www.bodiesofdata2018.wordpress.com)

## **Format**

### **Thursday 22 November (Royal Irish Academy)**

**10:30 Registration.**

**11.00 Introductions by:**

Prof. Anne Fuchs MRIA, Director UCD Humanities Institute and Chair of the IHA.

Prof. Gerardine Meaney MRIA, Professor of Cultural Theory UCD and IHA Board member.

Prof. Noel Fitzpatrick Dean of GradCAM DIT and IHA Board member.

**11:30 Panel One**

**Keynote Lecture,**

Prof. Samuel K Cohn, University of Glasgow

***"Epidemics and Emotions: An Exploration in Digital Humanities"***

Chair: Prof. Anne Fuchs (UCD, IHA Chair).

**13:00 Lunch break**

**14:00 Panel Two**

***"Contagion, Biopolitics and Cultural Memory: Disease and Infection in the British Library  
Nineteenth Century Corpus"***

Chair: Prof. Eugene McNulty (DCU, IHA Vice-Chair).

Prof. Gerardine Meaney, UCD.

Dr Derek Greene, UCD.  
Dr Susan Leavy, UCD.  
Dr Cormac O'Brien, UCD.

**15:30 Coffee Break.**

**16:00 Roundtable Discussion.**

*"Rethinking the Medical in the Medical Humanities"*

Chair: Prof. Gerardine Meaney (UCD, IHA Board member).

Prof. Desmond O'Neill, TCD.  
S. O'Keefe, NUIG.  
Prof. Brendan Kelly, TCD.

**17:30 End of Day One**

## **Friday 23 November (Humanities Institute, University College Dublin)**

**09:30 Introductory Remarks**

**09:45 Panel One**

Chair: Dr Niamh NicGhabhann (UL, IHA Board Member).

1. Dr Jennifer O'Meara, TCD, 'The aesthetics of magnified bodies in Instagram's ASMR digital videos'.
2. Dr EL Putnam, DIT, 'Leaking Milk and Beating Hearts: Technological Immanence and the Maternal'.
3. Dr Hilary Moss, UL, 'Narratives of health and illness: Arts based research capturing the lived experience of dementia'.

**11:00 Coffee Break.**

**11:30 Panel Two.**

Chair: Dr Marc Caball (UCD, IHA Board Member)

1. Dr Pádraig Ó Liatháin, DCU, 'Bás Beo: TB in Seán Ó Ríordáin's early diaries'.
2. Dr Justin Tonra, NUIG, 'Poetry in Motion: quantified self data and automated poetry'.
3. Dr Marion McGarry, GMIT, 'Dracula = Cholera'.
4. Dr Ailise Bulfin, TCD, 'The myth of the paedophile as a monstrous stranger in Victorian discourse on child sexual abuse'.

### **13:15 Lunch Break.**

### **14:00 Panel Three**

Chair: [tbc]

1. Dr Glenn Loughran (DIT) and Dr EL Putnam, DIT, 'Biopedagogy' - a short eight-minute video presentation.
2. Dr Susanne Michl, Charité- Berlin, and Dr Anita Wohlmann, SDU -Denmark, 'Data, stories and the clinical encounter'.
3. Dr Conor McGarrigle, DIT, 'How do you feel? Detecting Urban Ambiances with artistic data devices'.
4. Dr Andrew P. Allen, Maynooth, 'Reminiscence in older adults: digital archiving and the functions of autobiographical narrative'.

### **15:30 Coffee Break**

### **16.00 Panel Four**

Chair: [tbc]

1. Ms Ellen Finn, TCD, 'Body Building: Constructing Virtual Human Physiques in Archaeological Visualisations'.
2. Dr Paula Murphy, DCU, 'Through the Looking Glass: Bodies of Data in Alex Garland's Ex-Machina'.
3. Mr Daniel Webster, QUB, 'The [Data] Double'.

### **17.15 Close of Conference**

## Contributors

**Andrew P. Allen** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Psychology, Maynooth University. He is currently working on an Irish Research Council-funded project examining reminiscence and autobiographical memory in older adults. As part of this project he is developing the Recall Initiative collection at the Digital Repository of Ireland, a resource for sharing highlights of memories shared by older adults participating in reminiscence work. A recent area of interest is how discursive approaches might inform and problematize our understanding of the functions of reminiscence.

**Ailise Bulfin** is a literary and cultural scholar whose research ranges from nineteenth-century to contemporary literature and explores the dark side of the human imagination, with a particular focus on representations of catastrophe, war and trauma. She has published a number of critical essays on topics such as gothic fiction, xenophobia, invasion scares, natural catastrophe and climate change, and her monograph, entitled *Gothic Invasions: Imperialism, War and Fin-de-Siècle Popular Fiction*, came out in April 2018. She currently works as a medical humanities Research Fellow in the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin, focusing on representations of child sexual abuse in nineteenth-century and contemporary culture. She also lectures in Victorian and Modern Literature in the School of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin. Her work has been funded by the Irish Research Council, Royal Irish Academy and the Trinity Wellcome Trust ISSF.

**Samuel Cohn, Jr.** is Professor of Medieval History at the University of Glasgow, an Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities (University of Edinburgh), and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. During the past 20 years, he has focused on the history of popular protest in late medieval and early modern Europe and on the history of disease and medicine. This year he published *Epidemics: Hate and Compassion from the Plague of Athens to AIDS* with Oxford University Press. In this work, he mostly escaped from the Middle Ages and Italy to explore two-and-a-half millennia of history almost across the globe. Funded by a small grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, he has returned to Italian archives and to a very late Middle Ages: Popular Protest in Sixteenth-Century Italy.

**Ellen Finn** is a doctoral researcher in the Department of Classics, Trinity College Dublin. Her current research project focusses on anthropological approaches to the funerary archaeology of Early Bronze Age Crete. Other research interests include the history of anthropology and archaeology in the early twentieth century, the ethical representation of prehistoric people and cultural attitudes to death and dying.

**Derek Greene** is Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Science, University College Dublin, and a Funded Investigator at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics. He has over 14 years' experience in the field of machine learning, with a PhD in Computer Science from Trinity College Dublin, and over 50 research papers presented at international conferences and published in journals. His current research includes work on applying methods from text mining and network analysis in the areas of digital humanities and political science.

**Brendan Kelly** is Professor of Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Psychiatrist at Tallaght University Hospital. In addition to his medical degree (MB BCh BAO), Professor Kelly holds masters degrees in epidemiology (MSc), healthcare management (MA) and Buddhist studies (MA); and doctorates in medicine (MD), history (PhD), governance (DGov) and law (PhD). Professor Kelly has authored and co-authored over 225 peer-reviewed publications and 450 non-peer-reviewed publications, as well as a number of book chapters and books, including *Mental Illness, Human Rights and the Law* (2016), *Hearing Voices: The History of Psychiatry in Ireland* (2016), and *Mental Health in Ireland: The Complete Guide* (2017).

**Susan Leavy** is a research fellow with the School of English, Drama and Film and Insight Centre for Data Analytics. Her current project explores the use of artificial intelligence and text analytics to examine a collection of digital texts from the British Library. She earned a PhD in Computer Science at Trinity College Dublin, where her work concerned detection of gender bias in media coverage of Irish politicians employing machine learning and natural language processing techniques. She holds an MSc in Artificial Intelligence from Edinburgh University, an MPhil in Gender and Women's studies from Trinity College Dublin and a BA in Philosophy and English Literature from UCD. She also worked for several years in Investment Banking on the design, development and deployment of global trading systems.

**Marion Mc Garry** has been a part time lecturer in Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (Letterfrack) since 2004. She has also lectured on art and design history at Griffith College Dublin and Limerick Institute of Technology. She is the co-author (with Dermot O'Donovan) of *See The Wood From The Trees* (Artisan House Editions, 2018) and the author of *The Irish Cottage: History, Culture and Design* (Orpen Press, 2017) and *An Illustrated Dictionary of Furniture and Interiors* (Stobart Davies, 2014). Her research interests include contemporary Irish design and also Irish identity expressed in art, design and architecture. Recently she has been researching Bram Stoker's Sligo influences and is a founding member of the Sligo Bram Stoker / Dracula Society.

**Conor McGarrigle** is an artist and researcher working primarily with digital media. He received his BSc from UCD, his MFA from NCAD and PhD from DIT. He lectures in Fine Art at the Dublin School of Creative Arts, DIT. His practice-based research examines the implications of pervasive networked devices and computational processes through the lens of critical art practice. This work is rooted in a historical analysis of the intersections of art and technology, demonstrating how historical and contemporary practices develop new readings and critical understandings of networked technologies and emergent user practices. A particular focus is on evolving notions of space and place afforded by the new spatial practices of the smart city. This work emphasises the materiality of digital cultures, attending to hardware and coded processes alongside user practices to reveal and study the entanglements of the network, algorithms and data in all aspects of the everyday. He has exhibited extensively internationally including the Venice Biennale of Art, Fundació Miro Mallorca, Saint-Étienne Biennale, SIGGRAPH, FILE São Paulo, SITE Santa Fe, Glucksman Gallery, EVA International and the Science Gallery.

**Gerardine Meaney** is Professor of Cultural Theory in the School of English, Drama and Film. Her current research interests are in gender, ethnic and national identities in literature and culture and the application of new digital methodologies to humanities research. Her current research projects include an exploration of Victorian anxieties around public health and migration in the British Library's Nineteenth Century Corpus and a Decade of Centenaries project presenting the diaries of novelist and revolutionary, Rosamond Jacob, in blog form. She is the author of *Gender, Ireland and Cultural Change* (Routledge, 2010) intro online; *Nora, Ireland into Film Series* (Cork University Press); *(Un)like Subjects: Women, Theory, Fiction* (Routledge, 1993; reissued Routledge Library Editions, 2012) and numerous articles and book chapters on gender and culture, from Joyce to *The Wire*. She co-authored *Reading the Irish Woman: Cultural Encounter and Exchange, 1714-1960*, with Bernadette Whelan and Mary O'Dowd (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013). She was one of the major co-editors of the *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing: Women's Writing and Traditions*, volumes 4 and 5 (Cork: Cork University Press, 2002). Digital projects include a centenary multimedia exploration of an iPad app of James Joyce's short story 'The Dead' and the 17 research demonstrator projects of the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive. She was Chairperson of the Irish Humanities Alliance (2016-17) and Vice-Chair (2015-16). She was also previously Director of the UCD Humanities Institute, Vice-Principal for Research and Innovation in the College of Arts and Celtic Studies and Directors of the Centres for the Study of Gender, Culture and Identities and Film Studies at UCD.

**Susanne Michl** is Junior Professor for Medical Ethics and Medical Humanities at the Charité – University Medical Center in Berlin. From 2007 to 2017 I was a lecturer, postdoctoral researcher and member of local clinical ethics committees at different Institutes for Medical History and Ethics in Germany (Tübingen, Greifswald, Göttingen and Mainz). At Mainz I was a member at the graduate program “Life Writing- Life Sciences”. My research interests include history of pharmacogenetics, social and historical studies of personalized medicine, stories and data in digital medicine, cases in medicine, and clinical ethics.

**Hilary Moss** is Senior Lecturer in Music Therapy at the World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, Ireland and previously the Director of the National Centre for Arts and Health, Tallaght Hospital, Dublin. She completed her PhD in 2014 on aesthetic deprivation and the role of the arts for older people in hospital at Trinity College Dublin School of Medicine under the supervision of Prof Desmond O’Neill. She is a musician and Music Therapist and has an MBA in Health Service Management. Her research interests include arts therapies; the aesthetics of healthcare spaces; narratives of health and illness through the arts and inter-disciplinary research. She has just conducted a study on the health benefits of singing in HSE workplace choirs and is chair and founder of the Arts and Health Research Cluster at UL. [Hilary.moss@ul.ie](mailto:Hilary.moss@ul.ie)

**Paula Murphy** is an assistant professor in the School of English, Dublin City University. She teaches and researches on postmodernist literature and film and literary theory. She is currently researching representations of technology in film.

**Cormac O'Brien** lectures in Anglo-Irish Drama, Irish Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Medical Humanities. He joined the School of English, Drama and Film in the spring of 2016. Prior to this he was a part-time lecturer in Drama at Trinity College Dublin and at UCD. Cormac is a founding member of the International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR) Queer Futures working group. Cormac is active in the area of HIV/AIDS advocacy and community empowerment and is co-founder of the International working group for HIV in Performance, aka HIP. He is also on the organising committee for Queer at Queens, an annual two-day event in Belfast that, as part of the larger OutBurst Queer Arts Festival, brings together scholars, queer artists, and the public. He is also an active member of the Irish Society for Theatre Research (ISTR) and the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures (IASIL). Before coming to academia as a mature student in 2005, Cormac worked as a drama workshop facilitator and theatre director. He continues to be involved in workshop facilitation and has recently developed and delivered a series of drama workshops that explore HIV-related stigma. He is also involved in developing projects that bring performing artists and academics together and has recently worked with Dublin playwright and musician Neil Watkins. In Spring 2018 he will be going on a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of South Carolina to investigate queer Irish diasporas during the AIDS crisis years

**Shaun O’Keeffe** MD FRCPI graduated from University College Dublin and St Vincent’s Hospital, Dublin. He trained in Internal and Geriatric Medicine in Galway, Dublin, Boston and Liverpool. He was Consultant Physician in St Michael’s and Vincent’s Hospitals in Dublin before becoming Consultant Geriatrician in Galway University Hospitals in 2000. He was a member of the Law Reform Commission working group that developed recommendations for changes in Ireland’s laws on mental capacity. He was Chairman of the Adult Subgroup of the National Consent Working Group and is a member of the HSE and Ministerial working groups on implementing the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) law, including advance healthcare directives. Research interests include cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance and ethical issues in the care of older people.

**Pádraig Ó Liatháin** is a former editor of the interdisciplinary bilingual journal *Iris an Dá Chultúr*/Eighteenth Century Ireland. His latest book, an annotated critical edition of Donncha Rua Mac Conmara’s 18th century mock-epic poem ‘Eachtra Ghiolla an Amaráin’ is to be

launched shortly. His research interests include Irish language literature from the 17th century to the present, including connections with Ireland and Newfoundland, and New England. He is also currently editing the complete diaries of the poet, Seán Ó Ríordáin, housed in Special Collections, UCD. He has just submitted for publication Volume I, a transcribed, standardised and annotated edition of the first two diaries.

**Jennifer O'Meara** is an Assistant Professor in Film Studies at Trinity College Dublin, where her research focuses on digital theory and practice. Her monograph *Engaging Dialogue: Cinematic Verbalism in American Independent Cinema* was published by Edinburgh University Press in 2018. She has published on a diverse range of film and media topics in venues such as *The Velvet Light Trap*, *Celebrity Studies*, *The New Soundtrack*, and *The Journal of Digital Media Arts and Practice*. In 2017, she guest edited a double issue of *The Soundtrack* on "Sound and music in emerging audiovisual media."

**Desmond (Des) O'Neill**, Consultant Physician in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine at Tallaght University Hospital and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). A graduate of TCD, he trained as a geriatrician in St James's Hospital and the University of Bristol. Following appointment as consultant geriatrician in Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham he returned to Dublin and currently is the senior academic in Medical Gerontology at the TCD campus at Tallaght University Hospital. With over 500 peer-reviewed publications, his major fields of research are a) transportation, ageing and health; and b) medical humanities, particularly as related to ageing. In this context he is co-chair of Medical and Health Humanities in TCD, and Chair of the Humanities and Arts Committee of the Gerontological Society of America.

**EL Putnam** is a visual artist, scholar, and writer working predominately in performance art, video, sound, and digital media. Her work draws from multiple themes and sources, including explorations of gender and sexuality, play, materialism, technology, and the study of place, which she investigates through personal and cultural lenses. She holds a PhD from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. Her research focuses on continental aesthetic philosophy, performance studies, digital studies, and feminist theory. She is member of the artists' groups *Mobius* (Boston) and *Beyond* (Belfast). Originally from the United States, she currently lectures in visual culture, art history and critical theory at the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland. [www.elputnam.com](http://www.elputnam.com) and [www.inaction.ie](http://www.inaction.ie).

**Justin Tonra** is Lecturer in English at the National University of Ireland Galway. He has published peer-reviewed work on digital text-analysis, authorship attribution, and network analysis, as well as non-digital articles on literature of the Romantic period. He is currently joint National Coordinator for DARIAH Ireland and a Management Committee member and Working Group leader for a COST Action on Distant Reading for European Literary History.

**Dan Webster** is a PhD candidate at the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. His research investigates algorithmic digital adspace, highlighting and challenging its normative surveillant function in contemporary consumer society. He is a graduate of the University of Birmingham (BA Hons) and Queen's University Belfast (MA). Dan has ten years experience as a Digital Account Director and Business Director at marketing agencies including Starcom MediaVest (Publicis) and Maxus (WPP).

**Anita Wohlmann** is Assistant Professor of Literature and Narrative Medicine at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, where I am a member of the research project "The Uses of Literature." I am the project leader of 'Body and Metaphor: Narrative-Based Metaphor Analysis in Medical Humanities', funded by the German Research Foundation. I was a postdoctoral researcher at the graduate program "Life Writing - Life Sciences" at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. My academic background is in American literature and film studies.



My research interests are metaphors, narrative medicine, gender, illness, disability, age, aging, seriality.

Further information

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