
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

Fáilte ar ais! Welcome back!

Fomhair 2024 / Autumn 2024

Villanova's campus is bustling as our semester starts and changes are happening! We welcome new and familiar faces into our community of students, staff, alumni, friends, and professors. Danielle Redden, our new Center Administrator, is coordinating our programs, events, and internships. Many of our students, such as Center intern, Kaitlin Gibson, have returned from summers in Ireland. We hope to send even more students next summer!

This semester, we will explore new perspectives and new works, including hosting a night at Inis Nua's production of Bisi Adigun and Roddy Doyle's reimagined *Playboy of Western World*. Along with the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies, we host leading scholars on campus for a symposium on *Protesting Across the Divide: Social Movements in Conflict Societies*. We will also host scholars into our classes and who will give public talks, including professors Brian O'Conchubhair and Anelise Shrout. A highpoint of the semester will also be a celebration of one of Villanova's most esteemed professors, philosopher, William Desmond.

I hope your academic year begins smoothly and with excitement!

Joseph Lennon, PhD, Emily C. Riley Director

News and Updates



New Season 6 Podcast Episode Available: Emilie Pine on Process

Our new podcast episode is out and available! Season 6, Episode 1 features a conversation between Irish author and 2024 Heimbold Chair [Emilie Pine](#), Villanova creative writing professor [Adrienne Perry](#), Villanova student Charlotte Ralston, and Center Director



[Joseph Lennon](#).

Listen to their wide-ranging discussion about the writing process, flow, and the role of the reader here on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#) and iTunes.

Fall 2024 Events

Wednesday, September 4 - Thursday, September 5: *Protesting Across the Divide: Social Movements in Conflict Societies*

This two-day workshop will explore the issue of social movements in deeply divided societies with a particular focus on non-sectarian movements. These are mobilizations that in some way cross-cut and/or challenge the status quo of politics and political institutions in these societies. The workshop will be interdisciplinary, featuring contributions from political science, sociology and anthropology,

among other fields. It will explore a range of empirical case studies from different global regions, including Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Burundi, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine and Israel. *Photo credited to Belfast Pride, 2018 © Love Belfast



The workshop will be hosted by Villanova University, co-sponsored by the [Center for Arab and Islamic Studies](#) and the [Center for Irish Studies](#), and in partnership with [Queen's University Belfast](#). It will conclude with a roundtable discussion open to students, faculty and members of the wider Villanova community. The roundtable will address the timely issue of protest in so-called 'divided' and 'polarized' societies in different part of the world. It brings together experts on the topic to discuss how social movements are coming together across the divide in places including Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Palestine and Israel, for causes such as peace, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, the environment and protection of public spaces. All are welcome.

Roundtable Participants:

Cera Murtagh, Villanova University (Chair)

John Nagle, Queen's University Belfast

Tamirace Fakhoury, Tufts University

Siobhan Byrne, University of Alberta

Runa Annasdotter Neely, Villanova University affiliate

Nidžara Ahmetašević, Independent Researcher, Journalist and Activist, Sarajevo

Roundtable (Open to the public): Sept. 5, at 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Garey Hall, Room 31

Saturday, September 21: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Preview Day



We invite prospective Villanova students to experience and learn about the distinct benefits of a Villanova education at our Fall Preview Days! You will have the opportunity to learn more about our community, academic programs and campus activities. Join us to hear from our students, faculty and staff who will share with you what makes an education at Villanova an exceptional and life-changing experience.

[Registration required](#)

Villanova University, Campus Green. 1 - 3 p.m.

Monday, September 23: Brian O'Conchubhair Talk: "Flann O'Brien: The "Lost" Irish Genius"

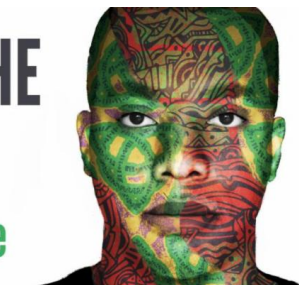
[Brian O'Conchubhair](#) (University of Notre Dame), a leading scholar and translator of Irish-language literature, will discuss Flann O'Brien, one of most overlooked major writers of Irish modernism. O'Brien wrote in both Irish and English and as the journalist, Myles Na gCopaleen. O'Conchubhair will also meet with students in two courses.



St. Augustine Center, Room 300, at 6:00 p.m., followed by Q&A

Wednesday, October 9: *The Playboy of the Western World* by Bisi Adigun & Roddy Doyle

THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
By Bisi Adigun & Roddy Doyle



Get ready for Villanova Night on 10/9 at 7pm, at Inis Nua for a theatre performance of [The Playboy of the Western World](#)

Almost 120 years after [J.M. Synge's](#) blistering masterpiece *The Playboy of the Western World* shocked audiences, [Inis Nua](#)—Philadelphia's home for contemporary Irish plays—opens their 21st season with a bold adaptation by Nigerian playwright [Bisi Adigun](#) and Irish writing icon [Roddy Doyle](#) (*The Commitments, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*). Set in modern Dublin, they reimagine Synge's young rascal-hero Christy Mahon as Nigerian refugee Christopher Malomo, who arrives at a run-down pub with a wild tale he hopes will save his life. The power of Synge's classic shines anew through a razor-sharp modern lens. Supported by: [The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage](#)

Tickets: Contact Danielle Redden to arrange for a complimentary ticket: d.redden@villanova.edu



Inis Nua performances take place at The Theaters at The Drake 302 South Hicks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Contact: 215.454.9776

Thursday, October 24: Anelise Shroul Talk: “The Great Irish Famine and the Origins of International Philanthropy”

Join us for an innovative talk from [Anelise Shroul](#), PhD, an assistant professor at Bates College, teaching digital and computational studies. Her research focuses on the nineteenth-century origins of international humanitarianism, and particularly the ways in which philanthropic donations were used as proxies for arguments about governance in the middle decades of the nineteenth century.



St. Augustine Center, Room 300, at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30: Summer Study Abroad Fair



Come learn about all of our study- and intern- abroad options in Ireland! We are planning a spring-break trip to the Seamus Heaney Center at Queens University in Belfast, as well as the return of our Galway Summer Program, our LCA program in Dublin, our Abbey Theatre Summer Studio, and our internships in Ireland programs, including at the Jackie Clarke Collection.

You may be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or even a graduate student--there are possibilities for all! And, thanks to generous donors we offer scholarship opportunities for every program, including a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scholarship.

[Center for Irish Studies Study Abroad Programs](#)

Thursday, November 14: William Desmond Celebration

Join us to celebrate the work of one of Ireland's leading philosophers, William Desmond. Desmond is the author of over 20 books, including *Being and the Between* (1995) and *Being Between: Conditions of Irish Thought* (2008). Desmond serves as the **David R. Cook Professor of Philosophy at Villanova**. Former doctoral students of Desmond will discuss his influence on their work, including the Associate Director of the Augustinian Institute, Paul Camacho, PhD, and Terence Sweeney, Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of Humanities. Reception to follow.



Space is limited; [please RSVP to irish.studies@villanova.edu](mailto:irish.studies@villanova.edu) by Nov 1.

Grace Kelly House, East Falls, Philadelphia, at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: Villanova Irish Dance Festival



The Villanova Irish Dance Team will host the Irish Dance Festival, hosting teams and musical guests from across the region.

Stay tuned to the [Villanova Irish Dance Team Instagram page](#) for updates!

Jake Nevin Field House, at 10:00 a.m.

Fall 2024 Calendar of Events

Sept 4 & 5

Protesting Across the Divide: Social Movements in Conflict Societies Workshop

Roundtable (open to the public) on Thursday, September 5th, at 2:30 p.m.
Villanova University, Garey Hall, Room 31

September 21

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Preview Day

[Registration Required](#)

Villanova University, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Brian O'Conchubhair Talk: "Flann O'Brien: The "Lost" Irish

September 23

Genius"

St. Augustine Center, Room 300, at 6:00 p.m.

October 9

The Playboy of the Western World by Bisi Adigun & Roddy Doyle

The Theaters at The Drake, 302 South Hicks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Contact Danielle Redden for a complimentary ticket: d.redden@villanova.edu

October 24

Anelise ShROUT Talk: "The Great Irish Famine and the Origins of International Philanthropy"

St. Augustine Center, Room 300, at 4:00 p.m.

October 30

Summer Study Abroad Fair

Bartley Atrium, at 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

November 14

William Desmond Celebration

Grace Kelly House, East Falls, at 6:00 p.m.

Reservation Required:

Email irish.studies@villanova.edu by Nov 1

November 16

Villanova Irish Dance Festival

Villanova University, Jane Nevin Field House, at 10:00 a.m.

Visit our Website

Stay Connected



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