



From Deirdre O'Mahony's [Sustainment Experiments: The PLOT](https://deirdre-omahony.ie/)  
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# Sustainability in Irish Culture

Call for Papers – Special Issue –

*American Journal of Irish Studies*

*The American Journal of Irish Studies* seeks proposals on the topic of “Sustainability in Irish Culture” for the inaugural issue of its new online, open-access journal. We call for broad interdisciplinary proposals that critically address the theme, are historically aware yet future-oriented, and sensitive to heritage conservation and cultural practice. We particularly invite works that consider how organizations and governmental policy intersect with media and communication, arts and culture, education, architecture, agriculture, tourism, heritage, or language issues. We also invite proposals that critically challenge the viability of the concept “sustainability.” We especially welcome under-represented disciplinary approaches in the field of Irish Studies, including from the sciences and social sciences, and are open to multidisciplinary and multi-modal approaches that will engage audiences beyond academia through a public humanities model.

The Princess Grace Irish Library, in collaboration with the Villanova University Center for Irish Studies and the Philadelphia Kelly House, hosted the symposium “Sustainability in Irish Culture: Communication of Sustainability through Culture” in October, 2023. Scholars, writers, artists, and institutional leaders from Ireland and the diaspora were invited to present and discuss

priorities and strategies that address sustainability and the climate crisis. This issue is inspired by that exchange of ideas on multidisciplinary approaches to the topic.

Ongoing threats to the environment and mounting inequities are forcing us to move beyond familiar academic training into areas of collaboration, comparison, and communication. We aim for this issue to build on recent Irish Studies scholarship, which has led the way in exploring the long history of cross-pollination between Irish literature and the environment, and expand the discussions further into cultural policy, behavioral change projects, museum studies, philosophic enquiry, and theoretical interventions. The issue will approach culture as an enabler and driver of social, economic, and political change, and we welcome critiques and appraisals of Irish culture's role in addressing threats caused by climate crisis and disaster capitalism during the Anthropocene.

Many Irish artists and cultural organizations highlight the relationships between Irish ecosystems, culture, tradition, folklore, place history, and landscape, and imagine sustaining systems. Contemporary artists embrace apocalyptic optimism, create works addressing global heating, mass extinction, environmental racism, and global migrations, and look to cultural organizations for support. Organizations around the world also often employ the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and many educational institutions now incorporate aspects of the SDGs into their learning objectives. Examinations of these and other approaches to inspire public discourse and engagement, stimulate change, or reimagine institutional priorities are also welcome. *Cuirfear fáilte roimh ábhar scríofa i nGaeilge*—Material written in Irish is also welcome.

The editors hope to include traditional, peer-reviewed articles of approximately 6,000 to 10,000 words alongside multi-modal and multi-disciplinary elements. We also welcome other material including visual and documentary art and interactive work. Thus, we invite 250-500 word proposals for work that will be curated online on a new web platform alongside visual art, illustrations, visual data, photography, recordings, or other auditory or visual media.

**Issue Guest Editors:** Joseph Lennon and Jonathan O'Neill (Villanova University)

**Journal Editors:** Kelly Sullivan and Nicholas Wolf (New York University)

**Proposal deadline: August 15, 2024**

Full submission deadline: January 15, 2025

Please send proposals and enquiries to [irish.studies@villanova.edu](mailto:irish.studies@villanova.edu)

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