

Border Literatures



Border Literatures: About the panellists

Border Literatures is a reading and conversation series designed to share diverse literary perspectives on the experience of living in, crossing through, and reflecting on the century that has passed since the partition of the island of Ireland.

Border Literatures was co-curated by The National Library of Ireland and Professor Nicholas Allen in association with the Willson Centre for Humanities and Arts at the University of Georgia. Below you will find further information on each event as well as the panellists taking part in each discussion.

Opening Event Border Literatures: A Conversation 22nd of September 2021

In this event, we will open up the discussion with an exploration of how writers have shaped these ideas from their individual perspectives, in order to experience a range of literary representations of the border, from the historical to the contemporary.

Moderator: Nicholas Allen



Nicholas Allen holds an endowed professorship in the humanities at the University of Georgia, where he directs the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts. He is the author and editor of many books about Ireland, the most recent of which are *Archipelago: A Reader* (Lilliput, forthcoming September 2021, with Fiona Stafford) and Ireland, *Literature and the Coast: Seatangled* (Oxford, 2020).

Purchase *Archipelago: A Reader* [here](#)

Garret Carr



Garrett Carr travelled Ireland's border creating maps that have been exhibited widely and he is also the curator of a touring cartography exhibition called Mapping Alternative Ulster. His book, *The Rule of the Land: Walking Ireland's Border* was published by Faber in 2017 and was a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Queen's University, Belfast.

Purchase *The Rule of the Land: Walking Ireland's Border* [here](#)

Dónal Hassett



Dónal Hassett is a Lecturer in French who teaches on topics relating to the history, the politics and the societies of France and the wider Francophone world. Originally from Dublin, he completed his doctorate on the legacies of the Great War in colonial Algeria at the European University Institute in Florence in June 2016. He has lived, studied and worked in France, Spain, Italy, the UK and Ireland and has also carried out research in Morocco and Algeria. His research focuses on the history of colonial rule and the legacies of conflict in the French Empire. As well as teaching about the history and politics of Francophone societies, he also leads a comparative course on migration, mobility, and borders in the contemporary world. His first monograph, *Mobilizing Memory: The Great War and the Language of Politics in Colonial Algeria, 1918-1939*, appeared in August 2019 with Oxford University Press.

Purchase *Mobilizing Memory: The Great War and the Language of Politics in Colonial Algeria 1918-1939* [here](#)

Kapka Kassabova



Kapka Kassabova is a poet and writer of narrative non-fiction. The exploration of place fuels her work which focuses on the intimate relationship between people and their environment. She is most recently the author of *Border* (Granta 2017) and the more biographical *To the Lake* (Granta 2020). These polyphonic works are set in different parts of the southern Balkans and enquire into how human destiny is shaped by geography and politics. Her work is translated into twenty languages. *Border* was awarded or shortlisted for many literary prizes in Europe, the UK and the USA. Her next book is *Elixir* (Cape 2022-2023). Kapka Kassabova grew up in Bulgaria, was university-educated in New Zealand, and since 2005 has lived in Scotland.

Purchase *Border* [here](#)

Suchitra Vijaran



Suchitra Vijayan was born and raised in Madras, India. She is the author of *Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India*. Her work has appeared in The Washington Post, GQ, The Boston Review, The Nation, and Foreign Policy. A Barrister by training, she previously worked for the United Nations war crimes tribunals in Yugoslavia and Rwanda before co-founding the Resettlement Legal Aid Project in Cairo, which gives legal aid to Iraqi refugees. She is an award-winning photographer, the founder and executive director of the Polis Project, a New York based hybrid research and journalism organization.

Purchase *Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India* [here](#)

Event 2 – Death at Whitewater Church by Andrea Carter 20th of October 2021

This event will explore Andrea Carr's *Death at Whitewater Church*.

Moderator: Liam McIlvanney



Liam McIlvanney was born in Scotland and studied at the universities of Glasgow and Oxford. He has written for numerous publications, including the *London Review of Books*, the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Guardian*. His debut, *Burns the Radical*, won the Saltire First Book Award, and *Where the Dead Men Go*, won the Ngaio Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel. His most recent book, *The Quaker*, won the 2018 McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year. He is Stuart Professor of Scottish Studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand. He lives in Dunedin with his wife and four sons.

Purchase *The Quaker* [here](#)

Elizabeth Mannion



Elizabeth Mannion's research focuses on theatre and an interdisciplinary range of Irish studies, from revivalist drama to contemporary crime fiction. She is the co-editor, with Brian Cliff, of the Edgar Award-nominated *Guilt Rules All: Irish Mystery, Detective, and Crime Fiction* (2020); editor of *The Contemporary Irish Detective Novel* (2016); and the author of *The Urban Plays of the Early Abbey Theatre* (2014). Her research has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, most recently *Bernard Shaw and the Making of Modern Ireland* (2020). Beth teaches at the City University of New York and is currently working on a book that examines the theatre of Wallace Shawn.

Purchase *Guilt Rules All: Irish Mystery, Detective, and Crime Fiction* [here](#)

Neil Hegarty



Neil Hegarty grew up in Derry. His novels include *The Jewel*, published in 2019; and *Inch Levels*, which was shortlisted for the Kerry Group Novel of the Year award in 2017.

Other titles include *Frost: That Was the Life That Was*, a biography of David Frost; and *The Story of Ireland*, which accompanies a BBC-RTE television history of Ireland. His essays and short fiction have appeared in the *Dublin Review*, *Stinging Fly*, *Tangerine* and elsewhere; and he is a regular literary reviewer for the *Irish Times* and *Dublin Review of Books*. Neil lives in Dublin.

Purchase *Inch Levels* [here](#)

Event 3 – Death and the Nightingales by Eugene McCabe 19th of November 2021

This event will explore Eugene McCabe's *Death and The Nightingales*.

Moderator: Stefanie Lehner



Dr Stefanie Lehner is a Senior Lecturer in Irish Literature at Queen's University, Belfast, and Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice (QUB). Her current research explores the role of the arts, specifically performance, in conflict transformation processes, with a focus on the Northern Irish context. She also researches and teaches on representations of trauma and memory in (Northern) Irish drama, fiction, film, and photography. She is author of *Subaltern Ethics in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Literature* (2011) and is currently working on the PaCCS/AHRC-funded project, *Sounding Conflict: From Resistance to Reconciliation*.

Purchase *Subaltern Ethics in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Literature* [here](#)

Eóin Flannery



Dr Eóin Flannery lectures in the Department of English Language and Literature at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. He has published over 60 scholarly articles and book chapters, and is the author of 5 books: *Form, Affect and Debt in post-Celtic Tiger Fiction*; *Ireland and Ecocriticism: Literature, History, and Environmental Justice*; *Colum McCann and the Aesthetics of Redemption*; *Ireland and Postcolonial Studies: Theory, Discourse, Utopia* and *Versions of Ireland: Empire, Modernity and Resistance in Irish Culture*. His current book project is entitled: *Sounding the Contemporary: Essays on Twenty-First Century Irish Poetry*. He is also currently working on an Irish Research Council-funded project on *Irish Studies and the Economic Humanities*.

To Purchase *Colum McCann and the Aesthetics of Redemption* [here](#)

Eoin McNamee



Eoin McNamee was born in Killeel, Co Down. He has written seventeen novels including *Resurrection Man*, the *Ultras*, the *Blue Trilogy* and the *Vogue*. He also writes for cinema, radio and television. He is Director of the Oscar Wilde Centre in Trinity College Dublin.

Purchase *The Vogue* [here](#)

Event 4 – Guard Your Heart by Sue Divin 19th of January 2022

This discussion will centre on Sue Divin’s Young Adult novel *Guard Your Heart*.



Moderator: Freya McClements

Freya McClements is a writer and journalist. She is Northern Correspondent with The Irish Times and co-author (with Joe Duffy) of the award-winning *Children of the Troubles: The Untold Story of the Children Killed in the Northern Ireland Conflict*.

Purchase *Children of the Troubles: The Untold Story of the Children Killed in the Northern Ireland Conflict* [here](#)

Alison Garden



Alison Garden is a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow at Queen’s University, Belfast, working on a social and cultural history of mixed marriage in modern Ireland. From 2018-2020 she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at Queen’s University Belfast. Alison’s UKRI Future Leaders award is supporting her current research project, ‘Acts of Union: Mixed Marriage in Modern Ireland’.

Her first book, *The Literary Afterlives of Roger Casement, 1899-2016*, was published by Liverpool University Press in June 2020. She is currently working on her second monograph, *Love Across the Divide: desire and colonial culture in Northern Ireland, 1970-present*.

Purchase *The Literary Afterlives of Roger Casement* [here](#)

Dawn Sherrat-Bado



Dr Dawn Miranda Sherrat-Bado is Visiting Scholar in the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen’s University Belfast. She specialises in Global Irish Studies, with a focus on women writers. Dawn currently holds an Arts Council of Northern Ireland award for her work as a literary and cultural critic. She is co-editor of *Female Lines: New Writing by Women from Northern Ireland* (Dublin: New Island Books, 2017). Dawn has recent publications in *Irish Studies Review*, *Review of Irish Studies in Europe*, *The Literary Review*, *Breac*, *Open Library of Humanities*, *The Stinging Fly*, and the *Sunday Business Post*. She contributes frequently to the *Dublin Review of Books*, *The Irish Times*, and *The Honest Ulsterman*. Dawn has also appeared on RTÉ Radio and BBC Radio Ulster to discuss her research.

Purchase *Female Lines: New Writing by Women from Northern Ireland* [here](#)

Event 5 – Opened Ground by Seamus Heaney 16th of February 2022

This event will discuss the poetic works of Seamus Heaney in his *Opened Ground* collection.

Moderator: Gail McConnell



Gail McConnell is Senior Lecturer in English at Queen's University Belfast and she publishes poetry and literary criticism. She is the author of *The Sun is Open* (Penned in the Margins, September 2021), *Northern Irish Poetry and Theology* (Palgrave, 2014) and two poetry pamphlets: *Fothermather* (Ink Sweat & Tears, 2019) and *Fourteen* (Green Bottle Press, 2018). Gail's writing interests include violence, creatureliness, queerness and the possibilities and politics of language and form.

Purchase *The Sun is Open* [here](#)

Maria Johnston



Maria Johnston holds a PhD in English from Trinity College Dublin and is a freelance poetry critic, editor and teacher. She has presented papers at many conferences in Ireland and abroad and has published widely on modern and contemporary poetry. An established reader of contemporary poetry, her reviews have appeared in a range of publications including, most recently, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *TLS*, *Poetry Review*, *Irish Times*, *Symbiosis* and the *Dublin Review of Books*. She has also contributed essays to the *Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Poetry* (2012), *Oxford Handbook of Contemporary British and Irish Poetry* (2013), *Cambridge Companion to Irish Poets* (2018), and *A History of Irish Women's Poetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). She is the co-editor of *Irish Women Poets Rediscovered* (Cork University Press, 2021).

Purchase *Irish Women Poets Rediscovered* [here](#)

Stephen O'Neill



Stephen O'Neill is an IRC Enterprise Partnership Postdoctoral Fellow at the Irish Museum of Modern Art and Trinity College Dublin. He previously held an NEH Fellowship at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His book *Irish Culture and Partition, 1920-1955* will be appearing next year with Liverpool University Press.

Irish Culture and Partition will be available for purchase in 2022

Closing Event 6 – New Horizons 23rd of March 2022

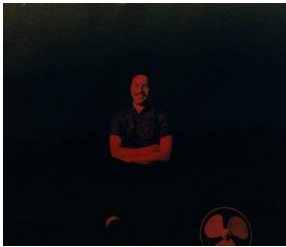
Our final event of the series will see a panel discussion featuring four contemporary writers in conversation on their work and the border.



Moderator: Martin Doyle

Martin Doyle is a writer and journalist at The Irish Times where he is Books Editor, writer of the Irish Times Book Club Newsletter and co-host of The Irish Times Books Podcast.

Luke Cassidy



Luke Cassidy is the author of *Iron Annie*, a debut novel set primarily in and around the Irish border town of Dundalk. The town, and indeed the region, are active characters in their own right in the book, and the region has inspired a lot of his work, including a short story *A Good Turn*, which is to be published in the New Island anthology of writing from the Irish border, 'The New Frontier.' In Autumn of 2021 and March 2022, a stage show adapted from *Iron Annie*, the *Iron Annie Cabaret* will tour theatres around the Island of Ireland.

Purchase *Iron Annie* [here](#)



Jill Crawford

Jill Crawford grew up in County Derry, Northern Ireland. She has a BA Hons in English Literature and Modern Languages from University of Oxford and an MA in Creative Writing Prose Fiction from University of East Anglia, where she received the John Boyne Scholarship. She began publishing work in 2017. Her writing has appeared in *The Stinging Fly*, *n+1*, *Winter Papers*, *Banshee* and *The Irish Times*. Her story LAMBETH appears in Faber anthology *BEING VARIOUS: New Irish Short Stories*, edited by Lucy Caldwell. Her essay WHAT CRISP WATER appears in *THE NEW FRONTIER: Reflections from the Irish Border*, edited by James Conor Patterson, published by New Island Books. She's working on a novel.

Purchase *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* [here](#)

James Patterson



James is a writer and photographer from Newry, Co. Down. His poetry and non-fiction has appeared in The Irish Times, New Statesman, Poetry Ireland Review, Poetry London, The Poetry Review, The Stinging Fly, and The White Review, among others. His debut poetry collection *bandit country* is under contract with Picador and is scheduled for publication in August 2022. He is editor of an upcoming anthology

of Irish border writing, *The New Frontier: Reflections on the Irish Border* scheduled for publication from New Island Books in October 2021.

In 2019, he was the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors, and in 2017 he was granted an ACES Bursary from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He was the inaugural Writer-in-Residence for the C.S. Lewis Festival in 2018, and in 2021 he was shortlisted for The White Review Poet's Prize.

Pre-order *The New Frontiers: Reflections on the Irish Border* [here](#)

Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe



Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe is a poet, pacifist and fabulist. Founder of the Play It Forward Fellowships, she is poetry editor at Skein Press and Fallow Media, and contributing editor with The Stinging Fly. She is the recipient of a Next Generation Artist Award in Literature from the Arts Council of Ireland and currently serves on the Expert Advisory Committee of Culture Ireland as well as the Advisory Board of Diversifying Irish Poetry. *Auguries of a Minor God*, her first collection were published with Faber & Faber in 2021.

Purchase *Auguries of a Minor God* [here](#)

To register for any of the above events click [here](#) and follow the instructions to your chosen event.

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