

MAKING IRELAND

A Trinity College Dublin Research Theme

presents

a lecture by **Oona Frawley**

On Development, Waste and Ghosts

in **The Trinity Long Room Hub**

Tuesday, January 27th | 6.30pm



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Arts & Humanities
Research Institute

Seán Hillen, 'The Great Cliffs of Collage Green' from IRELANTIS (1997)

Abstract:

Following the lead of critics such as Nixon and Heise and bearing in mind Moretti's notion of 'distant reading', 'On Development, Waste and Ghosts' looks at colonial notions of land development, comparing the ways in which a series of colonial commentaries – on what are now the United States, Australia and Ireland – offers the opportunity to trace attitudes towards landscape and place that in fact function as canny assessments of land-as-commodity. The paper concerns itself with how initial colonial declarations about landscape might have lasting effect in a particular space. Since we can track these attitudes over time and in a range of places and texts, it becomes possible to consider how initial colonial attitudes impact upon and create long-lasting attitudes towards landscape and development. This kind of exploratory comparative work asks us, I suggest, to reconsider our earlier readings of any of these spaces individually, and to consider implications for our relationship with the environment.

Oona Frawley is a lecturer in the Department of English, Maynooth University. She has researched and written extensively, both academic analyses and fiction, on themes of landscape, memory and migration, and on a range of writers from James Joyce to Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. Her many articles, chapters and books include *Irish Pastoral* (2005), and her acclaimed first novel *Flight* (2014) which is currently serialised on 'Book on One', RTE Radio 1. For more information see: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/people/oona-frawley>