



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

Trinity Long Room Hub
Arts & Humanities Research Institute

rethink Words

Reconsidering Narratives of Trauma and
Violence in the Humanities

School of English Postgraduate Conference

Trinity College Dublin – Trinity Long Room Hub

Hybrid event
9th February 2024

Organisers: Elena Valli and Ginevra Bianchini

Registration links:

- In Person



- Online



Memory (1948), René Magritte

This event will take place **online and in person** at Trinity College Dublin, in the Trinity Long Room Hub. There is no registration fee, but in order to attend either in person or online, please register at either of the links available through the QR codes above – **speakers do not need to register**.

For any queries, please contact the organisers at **pgengconference2024@gmail.com**.

Code of Conduct

The AfterWords conference team will strive to ensure that all participants at this event feel safe and welcome. We are strongly committed to diversity, equality, equity, and inclusion. We value the free expression of ideas and concepts through scholarly discourse and believe that such expression is underpinned by a fundamental respect for the rights, dignity, and value of all persons, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, dis/ability, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, nationality, religion, or career stage. We recognise the shared responsibility of creating a mutually respectful environment. We therefore wish to remind all conference delegates that behaviour and interaction breaching these standards is not acceptable and may result in expulsion from the event.

Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Undermining or belittling behaviours or words
- Verbal or physical forms of aggression or intimidation
- The use of derogatory language, such as racial and sexual slurs
- Unwelcome comments on the appearance of others
- Unwelcome solicitation of emotional or physical intimacy with any participant
- Persistent interruption of talks, presentations, or other events
- Failure to respond to relevant requests by chairs, moderators, or conference organisers

We will adhere to Trinity College's policy on dignity and respect, which provides clear and cogent definitions of harassment, and which can be found here:

- <https://www.tcd.ie/equality/assets/docs/dignity-and-respect.pdf>

If you would like to report an incident of harassment, please approach one of the conference organisers; alternatively, you can also contact Ken O'Doherty from Trinity College employee relations, who is trained to handle such complaints: 01 896 3328 or kodoher@tcd.ie

Thank you for your cooperation, and for familiarising yourself with this code.

With thanks to the IAAS (Irish Association of American Studies) for allowing us to adapt their code of conduct.

Conference Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi connection will be provided at the conference venue. Instructions on how to access TCD Wi-Fi will be outlined on the day.

AfterWords Final Program

9:00 - 10:00

Trinity Long Room Hub Lobby

Check in (in person)

9:40 - 10:00

Neill Lecture Theatre

Welcome/opening remarks from Dr Bernice Murphy, School of English, Trinity College Dublin Organisers Elena Valli and Ginevra Bianchini (TCD School of English). “Introducing AfterWords: Two Researchers’ Questions on Depictions of Trauma in the Humanities”

10:00 - 11:00

Panel 1 – Starting Anew: Redefining and Relocating the Traumatized Self Through the Use of Narrative Personae (in person)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Dr Rachel Hoare

- **Clodagh Guerin, University of Limerick:** “You’re a mother, Ma. You’re also a monster”: Mothers, Trauma and Memory in Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*
- **Alisha Mathers, University of Southampton:** The Representation of Refugee Homemaking in Remi Weekes’ horror film *His House* (2020)
- **Tomás Lally, University of Galway:** Beginning Again Post-trauma – The Reconstruction of Self-narrative

Panel 2 – Visualising Violence: Representing Trauma Through Diverse Artistic Media (hybrid)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Aoife-Marie Buckley

- **Ritika, Jamia Millia Islamia.** Drawing Bodily Violence: Critically Analysing Violence in Graphic Illustration Through Diane Noomin’s *Drawing Power*

- **Stephen Huws, Trinity College Dublin.** Shattered into Shards of Glass: Commemoration and Collective Memory in Stained Glass in the Aftermath of Traumatic Events
- **Larissa Vilhena, Trinity College Dublin.** Reimagining a Crime of Passion: Architectural Ruins as an Ambivalent Memorial in Millais's Illustration (1857) for Tennyson's "The Sisters" (1832)

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee break

Hoey Ideas Space

Poster presentation

- **Dr Vicky Garnett, Trinity College Dublin, and Dr Kristen Schuster, University of Southampton – Digital Humanities.** Protecting the Investigator in Traumatic Research Areas - a Community Interest Group

11:15 - 12:30

Panel 3 – **Unspeakable Violence: Performativity and Word Choices in Narratives of Trauma** (hybrid)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Dr Kristen Schuster

- **Katherine Vage, Queen's University Belfast:** "Stay at home, save lives": Critical Discourse Analysis of domestic abuse in UK media during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Nora Grimes, Trinity College Dublin:** Narratives of Rape Onstage and in Court in Suzie Miller's *Prima Facie*
- **Soultana Diamanti, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki:** Experiencing the Unspeakable, Writing the Unspeakable: War Violence, Psychic Wounds, and (Im)Possibilities of Narrating Trauma in Lan Cao's *The Lotus and the Storm* (2014)
- **Jennifer Kenyon, Independent Scholar:** "This is Stevens speaking, and now he is torturing you": words as weapons in Patrick Hamilton's radio dramas

Panel 4 – **Reading (on) the Margins: Re-centring Liminal Spaces, Identities, and Voices** (online)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Paddy O’Sullivan

- **Marietta Kosma, University of Oxford.** Reconsidering narratives of trauma through Shailja Patel’s *Migritude*
- **Viola Nassi, University of Leicester.** “Many Times She Wished to Speak, to Act, to Protest, to Challenge”: the Violence of Silencing in Gloria Anzaldúa’s *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
- **Zineb Rabouj, Sidi Mohame Ben Abdellah Morocco/ University of Padova Italy.** Terrorism & Counterterrorism: Deconstructing the Effects of 9/11 and its Post on Two Moroccan Women’s Lives in America through Anissa Bouziane’s *Dune Song* and Laila Lalami’s *The Other Americans*

12:30 - 13:30

Hoey Ideas Space

Lunch

13:30 - 14:45

Panel 5 – **Shifting Perspectives on South Asian Traumatic Histories and Cultural Representations** (hybrid)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Yael Bassan

- **Neha Tetali, Trinity College Dublin.** Divine, Strong & Compassionate — Portrayals of women and ‘Epistemic Violence’
- **Debadrita Saha, Ashoka University.** A violent mourning: *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* and the ideological appropriation of the Partition survivor’s traumatised subjectivity.
- **Harjot Banga, University of Turin.** Unveiling Traumas: Old Delhi’s Historical Violence and Collective Memory in Anita Desai’s Novels
- **Muhammad Numan, University of Management and Technology, Lahore.** Mapping South Asian Memoryscapes in Anglophone and Vernacular spaces: A (Post)memory study of contemporary Pakistani poetry

Panel 6a – **Writing Childhood Trauma in Irish and British Fiction** (13.30 – 14.00) (hybrid)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Ginevra Bianchini

- **Carmen Gloria Cernadas-Lema, University of Santiago de Compostela.** Beyond the Façade: Trauma and Violence in Roddy Doyle's *Smile*
- **Rebeka Kuszinger, University of Debrecen.** Violence Against 'The Human': Mute and Feral Children in Jill Paton Walsh's *Knowledge of Angels* and John Burnside's *The Dumb House*

Panel 6b – **Contemporary Retellings of Trauma: Embracing New Gendered Viewpoints Through Adaptation** (14.00 – 14.45) (hybrid)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Ginevra Bianchini

- **Ester Díaz Morillo, UNED.** “For there is no friend like a sister”: Transmediating Christina Rossetti's “Goblin Market” from the Female Perspective
- **Jessica Hannon, University of Galway.** The Wives of Bluebeard: Charting Changes in Violence Through Fairy Tale Adaptations

14:45 - 15:00

Coffee break

15:00 - 16:00

Panel 7 – **Surviving Totalitarianisms and Their Aftermath: Strategies of Representation and Memorialisation** (hybrid)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Nemo Castelli SJ

- **Rafael Mendes, Trinity College Dublin.** Why don't you dance? Playing with trauma in Nona Fernández's *Space Invaders*
- **Hannie Lawlor, University College Dublin.** Connecting women's voices against violence: Dialogue as a strategy of resistance in Dulce Chacón's *La voz dormida* [The Sleeping Voice]

(2002) and Cristina Fallarás' *Ahora contamos nosotras* [Now It's Our Turn to Tell Our Stories] (2019)

- **Soma Mandal, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.** The Totalitarianism of Caste: Terror and Violence against Dalits

Panel 8 – **Deconstructing Masculinities: Gender Identities and Their Relation to Personal and Collective War Traumas** (hybrid)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Elena Valli

- **Laetitia Nebot-Deneuille, Dublin City University.** War Trauma in *A Farewell to Arms* and *Across the River and Into the Trees* by Ernest Hemingway
- **Ahlem Bounechada, University of Limerick.** Violence and the Subversion of Identity in Modern Arabic Writing: Hoda Barakat's *The Stone of Laughter* in Perspective
- **Angel Antonio De Oliveira Amata, University of Pisa.** Anti-War Feelings in Ancient Greece? The Strange Case of *The Song of Achilles*

16:00 - 16:15

Coffee break

16:15 - 17:15

Panel 9 – **Healing Through Testimony: The Complexities of Depicting Gendered Violence** (hybrid)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Ginevra Bianchini

- **Lucy Cullen, Queen's University Belfast.** Trauma, Taboo and Testimony: Re-Writing the Narrative of Gendered Violence in Contemporary Irish Short Stories
- **Kawther Naila Mansouri, University of Limerick.** Unveiling The Therapeutic Potential of Fiction: An Empirical Literary Investigation of Bibliotherapy to Extract Writing Recommendations for YA Genre Novels. Presentation Case Study: The novel *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

- **Elena Miriam Dobre, Universidad Jaume I.** Traumatic violence and narrative injustice in William Faulkner's *Sanctuary*

Panel 10 – **Can Language Be a Weapon? Three Perspectives on the Depictions of Mass Shootings in the USA** (hybrid)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Laetitia Nebot-Deneuille

- **Tyler Sehnal, New Mexico State University.** “Guns don’t kill people; people kill people”: Diversionary Rhetorics and Weaponizing Bodies in the Wake of Mass Violence
- **Johannes Vith, University of Limerick.** Footage and Trauma: The Cinematic Legacy of Columbine
- **Kelly Michels, University College Dublin.** Trauma and the Role of Perspective in Poetry of Witness: Notes from the Creative Process

17:15 - 17:30

Coffee break

Hoey Ideas Space

Poster presentation

- **Dr Dalila Burin, Trinity College Dublin.** Victims and offenders: how to process traumatic events in virtual reality

17:30 - 18:15

Panel 11 – **Narrating the Black Female Experience: Historical and Political Angles** (online)

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Dr Dara Downey

- **Juan Carlos Ontiveros Gómez, University of Oviedo.** “She let her whole body shudder with the memory of it as though it were a fresh hurt and she were overcome”: Traumatic Manifestations in Afia Atakora's *Conjure Women* (2020)
- **Claire Patzner, Indiana University.** The Politics of Representation in Black Female Narratives from the Great Migration

Panel 12: **Re-queering and Re-contextualising Patriarchal Roles, Symbols, and Relations: Two Case Studies** (online)

Galbraith Seminar Room

Chair: Elena Valli

- **Andreea Moise, University of Bucharest.** “Skin Him First and Use the Snail Fork”: Re-Queering the Pirate and Ludic Semiotics of Violence in *Our Flag Means Death*
- **Anna Maria Ronewicz, University of Szczecin.** “The Love Song of St. Sebastian”: recontextualisation of consensual queer martyrdom and sacrilege

18:15 - 18:30

Break

18:30 - 19:30

Neill Lecture Theatre

Chair: Dr Vicky Garnett

Conference Roundtable. **“AfterWords’: Three Academics Reconsidering Narratives of Trauma and Violence in the Humanities”** (in person)

- Dr Ailise Bulfin, School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin
- Dr Rachel Hoare, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Trinity College Dublin
- Prof Gillian Wylie, School of Religion and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin

19:30

Neill Lecture Theatre

Closing Remarks

Acknowledgements and Thanks

This conference was funded by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (FAHSS) events fund and by the School of English, at TCD.

Dr Bernice M. Murphy, Prof Stephen Matterson, Dr Melanie Otto, and Dr Dara Downey were extremely supportive in assisting us with the organisation of this event, providing advice, guidance, and generously offering their time and help – our many thanks go to them.

We would also like to thank first-year PhD students Paddy O’Sullivan and Yael Bassan, for helping us run the conference on the day, and the School of English admin and teaching staff, who provided invaluable support throughout this project.

AfterWords Location Info

The symposium will take place at the Trinity Long Room Hub of Trinity College. There are campus maps available here: <https://www.tcd.ie/Maps/map.php?b=256>

Trinity College is in Dublin city centre and therefore surrounded by shops and restaurants. It can be reached with the green Luas line, at the stop Trinity (southbound) or Dawson (both north and southbound), or with the red Luas line, at the stop Abbey St (both north and southbound) – which is a 10 minutes’ walk from campus. It can also be reached by a number of buses that stop either at College Green, Bank of Ireland, or Nassau St.

Those travelling from elsewhere in Ireland or from abroad may find this information useful: <https://www.tcd.ie/Maps/directions.php>