



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

**The French Department
Trinity College Dublin**

requests the pleasure of your company at its

End-of-Year Lecture in French Studies 2023-24

to be delivered by

Dr Max McGuinness

(French Department, Trinity College Dublin)

on

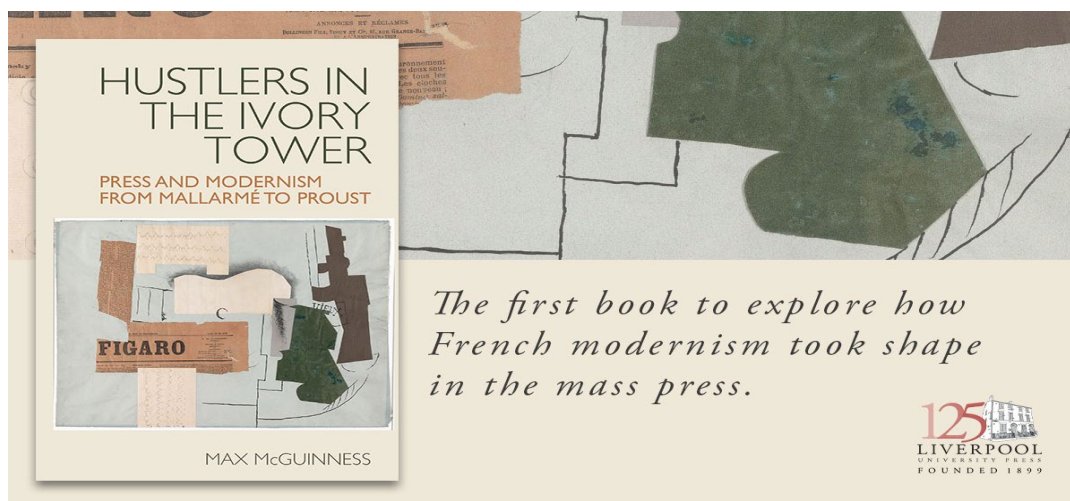
Freedom in the Fetters:

**The Conquest of Autonomy between
French Modernist Literature and the Press**

at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 May 2024

in The Jonathan Swift Lecture Theatre,

The Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin



Enquiries: Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, FTCD, Head of French; salynsta@tcd.ie

Résumé: Throughout the nineteenth century, French writers portrayed the rapidly expanding press as a corrupting behemoth that was swallowing up art and culture. Those perspectives acquired theoretical shape in Pierre Bourdieu's *Les Règles de l'art* (1992), which posits that the French literary field achieved autonomy by defining itself against the press from the 1850s onwards.

Over the past twenty years, scholars such as Marie-Ève Thérenty and Alain Vaillant have led a reassessment of connections between French literature and the press, arguing that the

newspaper became ‘the laboratory of literature’ during the nineteenth century. And yet they simultaneously replicate many of Bourdieu’s assumptions about literary autonomization, concluding that the French press had largely ceased to be a literary laboratory by the end of the century.

Drawing on *Hustlers in the Ivory Tower: Press and Modernism from Mallarmé to Proust* (Liverpool University Press, 2024), this lecture will examine how journalism and French literature remained deeply intertwined into the twentieth century and how French modernists such as Mallarmé, Apollinaire, and Proust created space for their writing within newspapers and magazines without sacrificing their autonomy.

The speaker: Max McGuinness is a Teaching Fellow in French at Trinity College Dublin. He previously taught at University College Dublin, the University of Limerick, and Columbia University, where he received his PhD in French in 2019. His first book, [*Hustlers in the Ivory Tower: Press and Modernism from Mallarmé to Proust*](#) (Liverpool University Press, 2024), explores how French modernist writers used the press as a forum for literary experimentation. Other publications include articles in the *Bulletin d’informations proustiennes*, *Dix-Neuf*, *French Studies Bulletin*, and *Paragraph*. Max is also a theatre critic for *The Financial Times*.