



**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 the  
**End-of-Year Lecture in French Studies 2024-2025**

to be delivered by

**Dr Ashley Harris**

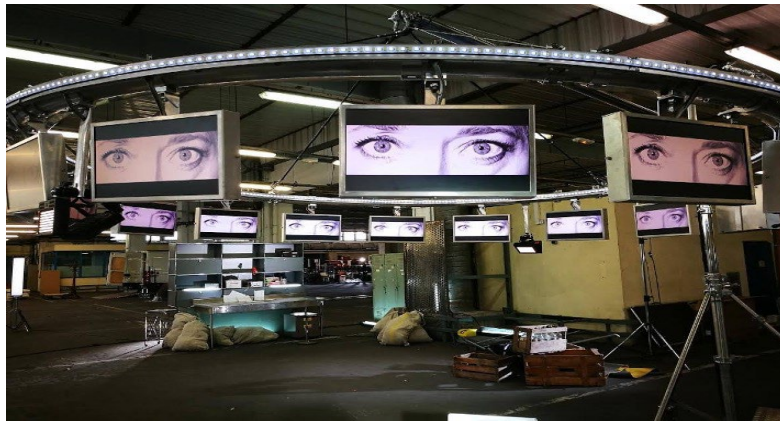
**(Department of French, Trinity College Dublin)**

on

**Media, Gender and Authorship in Contemporary France: The Rise of the *écrivain médiatique***

at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 15 May 2025

in The Swift Theatre, the Arts Building,  
Trinity College Dublin



**ALL WELCOME**

**RSVP by Wednesday 14 May 2025 to Professor Sarah Alyn Stacey, FTCD [salynsta@tcd.ie](mailto:salynsta@tcd.ie)**

**About the speaker**

Dr Ashley Harris joined Trinity College Dublin in September 2023, following posts in Queen's University Belfast, the University of Surrey and the University of Stirling. Prior to these academic roles, she worked in diplomacy for the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. Ashley Harris's research focuses primarily on twentieth- and twenty-first-century French and Francophone culture, politics, and society. Her research interests include the contemporary, socio-critical approaches and questions of representation and identity. She has published on contemporary *écrivains médiatiques* including Houellebecq, Beigbeder and Despentès, and has a forthcoming monograph on the subject. More recently, she has published on mainstream and grassroots visual representations of the *banlieues*. Ashley is currently the elected ECA Representative on the Executive Committee of the University Council for Languages and the Media and Communications director for AUPHF+.

**About the paper**

This lecture explores how contemporary writers in France are seeking to reassert the role of the author as a culturally relevant and multimedia figure. Taking three highly mediated French authors - Michel Houellebecq, Frédéric Beigbeder and Virginie Despentes - we will examine how they represent an ambivalent use and critique of mass media as they spread their influence across literature, film, television, stage and music. Through these media strategies, they address and engage with the broader cultural context, while placing themselves into more strategic and visible market positions. These figures' careers reveal the significant links between mass-market appeal, media, visibility, gender and literary success in France today. Acknowledging these tensions, these authors assert their media usage as an obligation to protect the author in what they present as hostile context towards literature and writers in the New Media Age.