

DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC STUDIES

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

**ROSA MONTERO'S *LA RIDÍCULA IDEA DE NO VOLVER A VERTE*:
A MEMOIR OF TEXTURED RECOVERY**

DR DEIRDRE KELLY (TCD & DIT)

Wednesday 5 April 2017 at 6pm

Arts Building Room, 3069



Rosa Montero

Examining the generically hybrid auto/biographical grief memoir, *La ridícula idea de no volver a verte* (2013), by the well-known contemporary Spanish author and journalist, Rosa Montero, this talk traces a number of parallels between Montero and her biographical subject, the Polish scientist, Marie Curie—particularly regarding their respective grieving processes in widowhood. Superficially, the text concentrates principally on the biography of the distinguished scientist, which has led a number of critics and writers to censure Montero for failing to reveal sufficient details about herself and her deceased husband. This talk will analyse the mourning process in Montero's text and locate it within a recent trend in grief memoirs which Amy Prodrômou calls “memoirs of textured recovery” (2015). Such texts challenge the Freudian distinction between normal and pathological grief. *La ridícula idea* resists such neat dichotomies, and instead presents a much more nuanced, complex and ambiguous approach to mourning. In this unconventional grief memoir, we will see how Montero navigates the tensions between her ethics of life writing and her attendant restrictions and self-censorship on the one hand, and her aspiration to achieve freedom in her writing process and in her life on the other.

Dr Deirdre Kelly is an Assistant Lecturer in Spanish at the Dublin Institute of Technology and a Teaching Visitor in Spanish at the University of Dublin, Trinity College. She was awarded both her B.A. (French and Spanish) and her Ph.D. (Spanish) by the University of Dublin, Trinity College. Her principal research area is on Spanish writers of Franco and post-Franco Spain. Her doctoral thesis focuses on “Rosa Montero's Autobiografictions: Aesth/ethics of Distance in Life Writing”. She has given various talks on Rosa Montero's literature at University of Warwick, University College London, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. Deirdre's work has previously been published in *The Journal of Romance Studies*. She is currently working on a monograph examining Rosa Montero's Life Writing.