

DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC STUDIES TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

The Legacy of Post-war Spanish Women Novelists: An Insight into the Effects of Prevailing Sexual Attitudes and Morality on Women's Lives

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Wednesday 23 November 2016 - 6 p.m.
Arts Building, Room 3126



Among the most repressed and silenced aspects of daily life under Franco were women's sexuality and moral standards relating to sexuality, a theme palpable in numerous novels by women writers. While abuse is rarely explicitly denounced, the effects on the victim are unequivocally depicted. A number of writers of lesser fame and, in particular, those who also wrote *novelas rosas*, have written novels documenting rape, incest and assault. It is significant - as it serves to confirm the authenticity of this reality - that novelists of right-wing leanings, actively supportive of

the regime, record similar experiences to those writers from less conservative backgrounds. This talk will provide a short introduction to the historical and social circumstances of the period and discuss the importance of post-war women's literary production. The main focus will be on the portrayal of the sexual repression, exploitation and abuse of women.

Patricia O'Byrne lectures in Hispanic Studies and on the Master's programme in Comparative Literature in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies at Dublin City University, where she also directs the undergraduate programme *Contemporary Culture and Society*. Her principal research interest is in post-war Spanish women novelists and, in particular, the recovery of the lesser-known voices. Her publications include *Post-War Spanish Women Novelists and the Recuperation of Historical Memory* (Tamesis, 2014); *Transcultural Encounters Amongst Women: Redrawing Boundaries in Hispanic and Lusophone Art, Literature, and Cinema* (ed.) (2010).

