

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, 17:30

**Karen ní Mheallaigh (JHU): “Look, I’m Picasso!” Anatomical fantasy on Lucian’s Moon.**

**By Zoom**



**Please register on EventBrite (link below).**

**Zoom links will be circulated to all EventBrite registrants closer to the date.**

**All Welcome**

**<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/all-island-irish-classics-k-ni-mheallaigh-jhu-on-anatomical-fantasy-tickets-157998227953>**

This discussion explores the vivid anatomical fantasies in the lunar world of Lucian’s *True Histories* (VH 1.22-26). I will focus especially on the leg-wombs of the Moon-people, the artificial penises of the ‘Arborigines’ or the Tree-people, and the sense organs of the lunar inhabitants, including their extraordinary removable eyes. I will suggest ways in which we might make sense of Lucian’s fantasies within the context of Dionysiac thought especially. The Moon emerges from Lucian’s fantasy as a playful and provocative space for thinking about gender, sexual technology, and the technological enhancement of the senses.

**Brief responses to Karen ní Mheallaigh will follow the presentation.  
Respondents TBD**

Karen ní Mheallaigh is Professor of Classics in the Dept of Classics at Johns Hopkins University. Her research is in the field of Greek literature (mainly of the Imperial period) and increasingly sits at the intersection between the literary imagination and ancient scientific thought, especially in thinking about the cosmos. She is the author of two monographs with CUP: one on Lucian (*Reading fiction with Lucian: fakes, freaks and hyperreality*, 2014) and the other: *The Moon in the Greek and Roman imagination: myth, literature, science and philosophy*, 2020). Among other projects, she is currently putting the finishing touches on a volume, co-edited with Claire Jackson, on Antonius Diogenes’ novel, *The wonders beyond Thule*.