

Professor Lindsey Earner-Byrne is the new Professor of Contemporary Irish History. She received her PhD from UCD in 2001 and taught there until 2020, when she took up the first Senior Academic Leadership Initiative Chair in Irish Gender History at University College Cork. She held that Chair until coming to Trinity in August 2023. Her books include *The Irish Abortion Journey, 1920-2018*, co-authored with Professor Diane Urquhart in 2019, *Letters of the Catholic Poor: Poverty in Independent Ireland, 1920-1940* (Cambridge University Press, 2017, paperback 2019) and *Mother and Child: Maternity and Child Welfare in Dublin, 1920s-1960s* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2007, paperback 2013).

She has worked on several documentaries. She narrated and co-authored the documentary *Forgotten: The Widows of the Irish Revolution* (RTÉ One, May 2022, available on RTÉ Player) and was part of the script team for RTE's three-part documentary on the Irish Civil War (RTÉ One, December 2022, available on RTÉ Player). She currently chairs the Expert Advisory Panel of the 20th Century History of Ireland Galleries at the Museum of Ireland, which will be the first permanent exhibition on the history of modern Ireland.

What is something you're excited about right now with regard to your teaching? I really enjoyed a new module I ran last semester focused on the Irish Women's Liberation Movement's 1971 Manifesto *Chains or Change: The Civil Wrongs of Irishwomen*. We considered the context and reasons for the emergence of the women's movement and its impact and legacy. We had some great class discussions about the meaning of activism and how women's demands of the 1970s have and have not been met.

What is something you're excited about right now with regard to your research?

I am working on various projects at the moment which are exciting. In 2024 I will be starting a new AHRC-funded network project with a partner in Glasgow Caledonian University, Prof. Janet Greenlees, in which we will be exploring this history of one-parent families. We will be bringing together the key NGOs and historians in this field from Ireland, England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand, to explore the ways in which history can inform contemporary understanding and policy in relation to these families. As historians, we are interested in analysing the role of gender, race and religion in the history and contemporary realities of one-parent families, in particular the extraordinary dominance of female-headed one-parent families in all of these countries since 1800. In 2023, I worked with One Family in Ireland to prepare its archive for transfer to the National Library of Ireland, so I was interested in creating a space for historians, archivists, and NGOs to discuss the ethical implications of the records generated by voluntary work with one-parent families. We hope this project will have several important outputs in the field of history and policy.

I am also a member of research group focused on the 'Afterlives' of the Irish Revolution, which involves partners from throughout Ireland and the UK. We are interested in what happened to those involved in the Irish Revolution after the dust of conflict settled. There have been so many excellent sources digitised and released in recent years, it is now possible to really understand the personal consequences of that revolution.

In terms of writing, I am currently working on a long study of Irish poverty with my colleague in the Department of History, Dr Carole Holohan. We are quite excited about this as we are experimenting with form and structure with a view to exploring how the micro and macro elements of the past intersect and relate to one another.