

LIST III – Hilary Term

MODULE TITLE: HIU33126: “Homosexuals are revolting”: Reading Queer Ireland in a Global Context, 1973-2015

ASSESSMENT: 2,000-word end of semester essay (100%)

IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT



GAY SWITCHBOARD

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MODULE OUTLINE: Shortly after the Stonewall riots of 1969 the movement for gay liberation quickly exploded throughout much of the West. Activist movements sprung up in earnest between 1969 and 1973 forming a key component of a wider liberation moment towards the end of the 1960s. Despite a repressive Catholic culture, and the criminalisation of

homosexuality, Ireland sat firmly within this wider social movement, with the founding of the Irish Gay Rights Movement (IGRM) in 1974. This module explores this movement and the wider social history of queer Ireland using an array of primary source documents.

Queer activists in Ireland meticulously archived their history, having a clear contemporary sense of the significance of their work. At the same time, these activists built a system of communication, both between themselves and the wider community, in the form of underground magazines, from the late 1970s onwards. In this module students will engage with these sources in order to get a sense of both the history of queer activism in Ireland and the lived experience of queer Irish people in the past. Students will learn about crucial developments in this history beginning in 1973, just prior to the formation of the IGRM, and following this history up to the historic 2015 marriage referendum, and the passage of the Gender Recognition Act the same year.