

Hi,

The renaming of the library is an issue which situations analogous to this such as taking down of statues or renaming of roads, lecture theatres etc has often been contentious. Oftentimes contentious issues are only contentious due to a misunderstanding between what something means. In the case of statues, of the reasonable defenses in favour of keeping certain statues, many argue that the statues are a part of the history of the place and one can't simply hide the blemishes of a past we don't like. However, this doesn't address the issue of the perception that these historical figures were involved with actions we would consider heinous today. We were recently praised for our willingness to examine our colonial past and to make the necessary amendments. This is what Trinity ought to memorialise, our willingness to examine our past wrongdoings. Questioning the norms which were laid out before us. This introspection is something in the very heart of Trinity.

Drawing the line between what is and isn't colonial can be tricky. In the process of decolonising we shouldn't lose our essence. Tea for example is viewed as quite British yet there are plenty of Irish people who view tea as part of their heritage. Walking this line can be tricky. Trinity College is a college who chose to memorialise Berkeley, renaming the library without the renamed library acknowledging that it has been renamed would be an attempt to mask our flaws. It is for this reason that I propose it be renamed "The Library Formerly Known as The Berkeley".

This is modelled after the German education system in which they draw attention to their past atrocities. This will encourage a dialogue among future students as to the merits of the renaming and is a name I suspect many will find amenable—making amends without trying to hide. In my view, a rename to anything else, even honourable graduates such as Mary McAleese (someone who stands in direct contrast to the proselytising of Berkeley) and Mary Robinson both diminishes their achievements (as one could argue they only received the commendation due to the renaming as opposed to having something explicitly named in their honour) while also trying to cover-up the library ever being named after Berkeley as in a half a century's time it will only be remembered as the McAleese or the Robinson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eoin