

Trinity
Arts & Humanities
Research Festival

**18 - 28
September
2026**

Festival Programme

Who owns the future? • Can machines know you better than you know yourself? • How do we build trust from doubt? • What is worth preserving? • What is democracy made of? • Where does belonging begin? • Can the past predict the future? • Who gets to decide what matters? • How far can imagination take us? • What makes us believe? • Can a forgery tell the truth? • How do we imagine a world that does not yet exist? • When does a story become history? • Can objects connect worlds? • How is technology changing theatre?

Trinity Long Room Hub
Arts & Humanities Research Institute



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity Arts & Humanities Research Festival

Friday, 18th September

All events in
Trinity Long
Room Hub
unless
indicated

11.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning



Kick off the 2026 Research Festival with coffee and conversation. We'll hear from Sally Smith, Director of Trinity Research, alongside the Hub's Director Patrick Geoghegan (History).

13.00 - 14.00 Trinity's Medical and Health Humanities: Bridging Cultures; Challenging Norms; Raising Consciousness



Join Mandy Lee (Medicine/Sociology), Ema Vyroubalova (English), and Ciara Henderson (Nursing & Midwifery/History) to explore the diverse range of Medical and Health Humanities research at Trinity College, and the exciting programme of public lectures planned for the coming year.

14.00 - 14.30 The Vatican Archives: Myths and Realities from Ancient Times to the Age of AI



Hybrid Event - Available Online via Zoom - Registration Required

What lies within the Vatican Archives, and how much of what we believe about them is true? Patrick Houlihan (History) explores the history, myths and realities of one of the world's most fascinating archives, from ancient times to the age of AI, including Pope Leo's emerging approach to artificial intelligence and the Vatican's new AI encyclical.



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15.00 - 17.00 Can People Who Disagree Work Together to Shape the Future?
Registration Required



Adam Kahane, who pioneered Transformative Scenario Planning and wrote the foundational book on it, explains how people can work together to shape the future, even when they do not agree with, like, or trust one another. An introduction to the method and to what it might open up for Ireland.

18.00 - 19.30 Suspension of Disbelief (& Other Great Lost Inventions)
Registration Required



Join Australian artist, author, and founder of the satirical Institute of Backyard Studies, Mark Thomson, and Chris Morash (English) for an exploration of invention, imagination and the things we might almost believe to be true.



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11.00 - 12.00 **Coffee Morning**



Led by colleagues from Law, Arushi Sharma asks what happens when AI begins to know, predict and judge us, while Deirdre Ahern explores the oporties and challenges of AI regulation.

11.30 - 12.30 **Behind the Books: Conservation & Preservation at the Library** *Registration Required. Location - Trinity College Library*



Go behind the scenes to explore how the Library's conservation and preservation teams protect our collections for future generations or researchers.

12.00 - 13.00 **Conversation with Stephanie Martin, O'Mahony Music Fellow**



Nicole Grimes (Music) in conversation with composer Stephanie Martin, the inaugural Trinity Long Room Hub O'Mahony Music Fellow.

13.00 - 14.00 **Early Career Researcher Video Showcase**



Join us for screenings of three short research videos by early career researchers Chiara Marchetiello (Linguistics), Miguel Angelo Andriolo Mangini (Classics), and Michael McLaughlin (Music), created through the inaugural year of our Video Project Workshop.



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15.00 - 16.00 **Creating a Europe Where Everyone Belongs**



Brian Brewer (Hispanic Studies), Andrea Mulligan (Law), John Bosco Conama (Deaf Studies), and Ben Thomas (History of Art) explore how the arts and humanities can help address questions of identity, belonging, and Europe's future.

16.00 - 17.00 **Literary Encounters: Forgery, Objects, and Meaning**



Brendan O'Connell (English) explores how textual criticism and the art of literary forgery overlap in surprising ways, as forgers have drawn on scholarship to make their fakes more convincing, in turn compelling textual and literary scholars to develop ever sharper methodologies; while Melissa Alexander (English) addresses how objects can serve as conversation pieces that not only engage diverse thinkers through conversations that span centuries, but also encapsulates modern aspirations for relationality.

17.30 - 18.30 **A Sorry Business: How Britain's Accidental Apology for the Irish Famine Changed the Course of History**



Join David Kenny (Law) in conversation with David Kinley (Visiting Research Fellow, University of Sydney) about his latest book on Tony Blair's 1997 'accidental apology' for the Irish Famine and its extraordinary impact on peace negotiations in Northern Ireland.



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Tuesday 22nd September

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10.00 - 11.00

Thesis in 5



Five minutes. One big idea. Get a glimpse into the latest Arts and Humanities research from Trinity's PhD community in this fast-paced showcase.

11.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning



Lisa Doyle (Classics) compares how the story of the Trojan War was told in ancient Greece to its portrayal in Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey*. Alastair Daly (Classics) discusses Homeric similes and how they are reworked for the big screen in Nolan's *Odyssey*.

11.30 - 12.30

Behind the Books: Conservation & Preservation at the Library

Registration Required. Location - Trinity College Library



Go behind the scenes to explore how the Library's conservation and preservation teams protect our collections for future generations or researchers.

12.00 - 13.00

Little Gems: Favourite Items from the Library



Library staff present their favourite items from current projects featuring Cuala Press printing blocks, hidden snakeskins, and Christy Nolan's unicorn stick, among other wonders.



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14.00 - 15.00

A Common Language: Researching Forced Migration, Creativity and Healing



In this festival edition of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies seminar series, Rachel Hoare (French) discusses how music, football and shared creative expression can open up communication where words alone fail. Chaired by James Hanrahan (French).

15.00 - 16.00

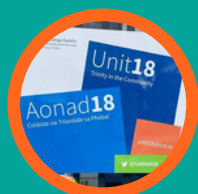
Can We Imagine a Better World?



Jonathan Hodgers (Music), Jennifer O'Meara (Film), Jude Lal Fernando (Peace Studies), and Rowan Mellor (Philosophy) consider how the arts and humanities can inspire new ways of thinking about Europe's future.

16.15 - 17.30

Democracy and Disinformation



Location - Unit18 (Trinity in the Community) Macken Street

Is Democracy under threat and what can we do to defend it? This discussion in Unit18 will explore questions of trust, polarisation of debate, the challenge of AI, and our ability to distinguish truth from lies. Expert panel includes Carmel O'Sullivan (Dean of AHSS), Seán Adderley (Library), John Walsh (Education) and Patrick Geoghegan (History).

16.30 - 18.30

MSCA at 30 Celebrating Excellence, Mobility and Impact in Ireland



Join us for a special event discussing the impact of the European funded Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions on research and innovation in Ireland.



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10.00 - 11.00

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11.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning



Maja Halilovic Pastuovic and Neven Vukić (Peace Studies) will present their Horizon Europe funded GEMS project (Gaming Ecosystem as a Multilayered Security Threat). Rossella De Bernardi (Philosophy) explores how interpersonal variations of 'affective dispositions' raise concerns in terms of egalitarian justice.

12.00 - 14.00

Connective Detective *Closed Event*



How can we facilitate smart city education for children? The Connective Detective and their team of primary school sleuths are on the case. Clara Butz (Education) and a primary school class will be putting research into action.

13.00 - 14.00

The Europe We Need



PhD researchers Ronan Daly (History), Lucy McCabe (Drama), Emily Cunniffe (Law), Katarzyna Stepień (Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies) and Kristen Poli (English) explore what it means to think seriously about Europe's future, bringing big ideas — grounded in critical thinking, historical perspective, cultural awareness and creative imagination — to bear on the Europe we need.



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14.00 - 15.00

Uncomfortable Dublin Walking Tour *Registration Required*



What has Dublin chosen to remember, and what has it chosen to forget? This two-hour, community-co-created walk from Trinity College to the Custom House uncovers the city's contested histories and asks how they continue to shape the world we live in now.

15.00 - 16.30

How to Apply for a Job in EU Institutions *Registration Required*



A panel discussion with the Director of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), Olivier Salles, and staff working in the EU institutions and in the Department of Foreign Affairs as they discuss the opportunities on offer and share their own career journeys. This event is relevant for EU Member State students.

17.00 - 18.30

Electric Dreams: How Technology Helps Us Make Live Theatre *Registration Required*



Join Rough Magic Theatre Company's Artistic Director, Lynne Parker, and our outgoing and incoming Rough Magic Fellows, director and theatremaker Eoghan Carrick, and writer, director and designer Choy-Ping Ní Chléirigh-Ng, for a fascinating discussion on the role of technology in contemporary theatre-making.



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Thursday 24th September

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10.00 - 11.00 Thesis in 5



5 minutes. One big idea. Get a glimpse into the latest Arts and Humanities research from Trinity's PhD community in this fast-paced showcase.

11.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning



Focusing on the graduate research journey, this morning we'll hear from Andrew Dorman (Arts and Humanities Research Programme Officer), Lindiwe Mpofu (TCDSU Postgraduate Research) and Ava Tuohy (TCDSU).

12.30 - 14.30 Professional Skills Development for Doctoral Candidates: Translating Aspirations into Action



This workshop will bring together leaders from across research, innovation, and industry to discuss the skills and competencies that enable doctoral researchers to thrive in an increasingly diverse and dynamic professional landscape. Guest speakers include representatives of Clúid, Nexalus, Enterprise Ireland, SoapBox Labs, and Community Foundation Ireland.



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14.00 - 15.00 Uncomfortable Tours

Registration Required



What has Dublin chosen to remember, and what has it chosen to forget? This two-hour, community-co-created walk from Trinity College to the Custom House uncovers the city's contested histories and asks how they continue to shape the world we live in now.

15.00 - 16.00 Learning from the Past, Imagining the Future

Suzanne O'Neill (Classics), Niamh Deignan (Education), Mary Grace Albanese (English) and Laura Shanahan (Library) consider how the arts and humanities can help us understand the past and imagine a better future for Europe.



18.00 - 19.30 Ceannlínte faoi Chaibidil: Géarchéim Muiníne

Behind the Headlines: Crisis of Confidence

Registration Required - Teastaíonn Clárú



Tarraingeoidh an comhrá grúpa saineolaithe le chéile chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an mbunús atá leis an ngéarchéim muiníne, an tionchar a bhíonn aici ar ár ndaonlathas agus ar ár sochaí, agus, níos tábhachtaí ná aon rud eile, an tslí inar féidir linn an mhuinín a atógáil. Á reáchtáil go hiomlán trí Ghaeilge.

The discussion will bring together a panel of experts to examine the roots of the crisis of trust, its impact on our democracy and society, and how we can rebuild that trust. Conducted entirely in Irish.



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10.00 - 11.00

Thesis in 5



5 minutes. One big idea. Get a glimpse into the latest Arts and Humanities research from Trinity's PhD community in this fast-paced showcase.

11.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning



As part of the Languages 250 celebrations of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Catherine Leen (Hispanic Studies) will introduce the work of renowned Mexican-American film director Jesús Treviño, who will be in TCD on October 8th, and its current relevance in the context of ICE raids and deportations. Natalia Resende (Literary and Cultural Translation) will speak about her research spanning Translation Studies, Machine Translation, AI and Human-Computer Interaction.

12.00 - 13.00

PhD Research Poster Celebration



Join Fergus McAuliffe, Trinity's Head of Research and Impact Engagement, to meet the early career researchers behind our vibrant poster display in the Hoey Ideas Space.



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13.00 - 14.00

Uncomfortable Dublin Walking Tour

Registration Required

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17.00 - 19.00

Libraries for Democracy

Registration Required

Launch of a new Library series, featuring a keynote address by EU Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Mairead McGuinness, followed by a panel discussion moderated by the Librarian and College Archivist, Helen Shenton, with special guests.



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11.00 - 12.00

Coffee Morning



For our festival coffee morning finale, we will hear from Lorna Carson and Maria Dimitropoulou (Linguistics) about the Living Observatory of Shared Languages and Identities project (LIFELANGS), funded under the Shared Island North South Research Programme. Chaired by our Associate Dean of Research, Joseph Roche (Education).

12.00 - 13.00

Create a window for your Hub



What would you like others to see when they look into the Hub? In Create a Window for Your Hub, Áine Griffin (Communications) and participants will collaborate to design window displays that showcase the research, ideas and stories that make our community unique.

15.00 - 16.00

Gulliver's Travels



Registration Required. Location - Trinity College Library

Join the Library team for a special Arts and Humanities Research Festival event exploring Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, beginning with a guided visit to the Gulliver at 300 exhibition in the Long Room of the Old Library.



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18.00 - 20.00

Festival Finale: Colm Tóibín's *Testaments of Mary*: An Interview with the Author



Join David Shepherd (Biblical Studies) in conversation with celebrated Irish writer, Colm Tóibín, about his Booker Prize short-listed novella, *Testament of Mary*, and its operatic adaptation, *Testament* (composed by Tarik O'Regan with a libretto by Colm Tóibín), which will feature in the Dublin Theatre Festival this October.



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