

## **Honorary Members**

### **Polite Literature and Antiquities**

Patrick Joyce is professor emeritus of history at Manchester University and is one of the leading social and cultural historians working on modern Britain and Ireland. He is at the forefront of theoretically informed and interdisciplinary history writing: his scholarship illuminates many ambitious themes, including the politics of class, the nature of liberalism, and the European peasantry. He is highly esteemed both within the Academy and as a public intellectual.

Nicholas Vincent is professor of medieval history at the University of East Anglia, a fellow of the British Academy and corresponding fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. He is internationally recognised as a groundbreaking historian of medieval England, contextualised in a wider Irish and European context. He has been elected to deliver the Ford Lectures at the University of Oxford in 2027–8.

### **Science**

Professor Eileen Furlong FRS is head of the genome biology department at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory. She is an internationally renowned scientist with seminal contributions to understanding how the genome is regulated. Genes are switched on and off by control elements called enhancers. Furlong's groundbreaking work revealed how they function and pioneered the integration of genomics and developmental biology, propelling our understanding of how embryos develop

**Teresa Lambe** OBE FMedSci is professor of vaccinology and immunology at the University of Oxford. An internationally recognised expert in translational vaccinology, she co-designed the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in 2020. Her research continues to shape responses to epidemic threats, with multiple vaccines from her group selected for WHO ring vaccination strategies. Her expertise readily combines discovery science with experimental medicine to enable translational impact.

## Members

### Polite Literature and Antiquities

\*Monica McWilliams is emeritus professor of women's studies at the University of Ulster. She is a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement on behalf of the Women's Coalition, and former chief commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. A distinguished contributor to human rights organisations and initiatives internationally, she has worked to advance peace and equality in a courageous, reflective and scholarly way throughout her career. \*Elected in 2023.

**Anne Enright** is professor of creative writing at University College Dublin, an internationally acclaimed creative writer, a distinguished essayist and critic, and a leading influence in the mentoring of creative writers in Ireland. The first Laureate for Irish Fiction (2015–18), throughout her formidable body of work Enright has explored a changing Ireland and the legacies of the past. She has made an extraordinarily rich and varied contribution to Irish society and culture, shaping new and dynamic connections between academic, critical and creative life.

Delia Ferri is professor of law at Maynooth University and co-director of the ALL Institute. She is a widely published scholar, known for her influential work on the rights of persons with disabilities, accessibility and equality. Internationally recognised as a leading voice in disability law, she has contributed to shaping policy debates, particularly within the European Union, on how law can advance an inclusive society.

Crawford Gribben is professor of history at Queen's University Belfast. He is a scholar of international repute and expert on early modern literature, history and religion. He is the author of 9 monographs and 80 articles. Over the last ten years, his work has transformed our understanding of John Owen, the seventeenth-century theologian and political writer.

Ahuvia Kahane is regius professor of Greek and A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture in Trinity College Dublin, and senior associate of the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford. He is a member of the Academia Europaea, and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. His chief areas of expertise are Homer, ancient Greek and Roman literature, classical reception, ancient literature and modern critical thought. Among his recent significant publications are *Epic, Novel, and the Progress of Antiquity* (2025), and *Oral Theory, Complexity and Homeric Epic* (2021).

Professor Aileen Kavanagh is professor of constitutional governance law at Trinity College Dublin. Her award-winning book, *The Collaborative Constitution*, while written principally from a UK perspective, is a ground-breaking analysis of the way in which the constitutional principle of the separation of powers actually works in a modern society. Professor Kavanagh has already established herself as the best comparative constitutional lawyer Ireland has ever produced.

Dr Avila Kilmurray is honorary professor of practice in Queen's University Belfast. A graduate of University College Dublin, Australian National University and Queen's University Belfast, Avila has an impressive record of activism in the women's and community movements as well as in philanthropy and peacebuilding. A founder member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, she participated in talks for the Good Friday Agreement. She has written and published extensively.

Debbie Lisle is professor of international relations at Queen's University Belfast. A globally leading figure in international relations scholarship, her pioneering work has shaped both critical international relations and also the new interdisciplinary field of international political sociology.

Professor Lisle's original, interdisciplinary work has generated important dialogue with diverse fields, including geography, anthropology and sociology, and it has proved internationally influential.

Professor Muiris MacCarthaigh is professor of politics and public policy at Queen's University Belfast. He has published pioneering scholarship on Ireland's legislature, executive and administrative system. His contemporary research integrates political science, public administration, policy studies, organisation studies and the computer sciences. He is an internationally recognised authority on the evolution of state administrations, organisational autonomy and accountability, and changing modes of public sector governance.

Maeve McCusker is professor of French and Caribbean studies at Queen's University Belfast. She is a world-leading specialist in the writing and culture of the French Antilles. Her 2021 monograph, *Fictions of Whiteness*, won the prestigious R. Gapper Book Prize and was described by the judges as 'a remarkable work of scholarship'. Professor McCusker is president-elect of the Society for French Studies.

Kevin Murray is a professor in Roinn na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge, University College Cork. Expert in several branches of medieval Irish narrative, he is currently principal investigator of a Taighde Éireann-funded project to edit *Acallam na Senórach* from all extant witnesses. He co-directs the Locus Project to produce *The Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames* and is editor of the series *Cork Studies in Celtic Literatures*.

Donal O'Donnell has been a judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland since January 2010 and has served as the Chief Justice of Ireland since October 2021. He is recognised, in particular, for his expertise in constitutional law. He holds an honorary doctorate of law from University College Dublin and is president of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union.

Bill Roche holds the chair of industrial relations and human resources in the College of Business at University College Dublin. He completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford, where he was Heyworth Memorial Prize Research Fellow of Nuffield College. An internationally renowned research scholar, he has published extensively on Irish and comparative industrial relations. Described as 'an expert's expert', his work has strongly influenced public policy.

Peter Sheridan is a respected leader in policing and peacebuilding. After 30 years with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, he became CEO of Co-operation Ireland, supporting key moments in British-Irish relations. Now Commissioner for Investigations at the Independent Commission on Troubles-era cases, he is an authority on conflict resolution, with academic contributions and international peacebuilding experience across several continents.

Professor Steven Elliot Wilmer, fellow emeritus in Trinity College Dublin, co-founded and developed Ireland's first university drama department. His published work engages with neglected areas of performance, including Native American culture, contemporary immigrant theatre, new nationalisms, postmodern philosophy, and biopolitics. He also specialised in Finnish theatre with translations and criticism, for which services he was made Knight of the Order of the Lion of Finland.

## Science

Peter Gallagher is a senior professor in astrophysics and director of Dunsink Observatory at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. His research has given an insight into why solar eruptions occur and how they impact the earth, using space missions and ground-based telescopes such as the

Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) at Birr Castle. He is an adjunct professor and honorary fellow at Trinity College Dublin.

Murray Hitzman is professor emeritus of earth sciences at University College Dublin. He is internationally recognised for his research in economic geology, particularly for developing ore deposit models, for his studies on the Central African Copperbelt, and for his visionary leadership in academia, industry and public service in Ireland and the United States. He is passionate about the importance of interdisciplinarity in addressing societal challenges.

Ilias Kyriazakis, professor of animal and veterinary science at Queen's University Belfast, is a leading authority on advancing animal health and welfare through innovative management and transformative technologies. His pioneering work at the intersection of environmental, life and health sciences has strengthened the One Health agenda. His publications have shaped multiple scientific fields, and his research excellence has been recognised through major national and international awards.

Professor Fiona Lyng leads a multidisciplinary research team working at the interface of physics, biology and medicine at the Radiation and Environmental Science Centre, Technological University Dublin. She is an internationally recognised leader in bio-photonics, renowned for applying microscopy and spectroscopy techniques to elucidate the signalling pathways underlying non-targeted effects of radiation, and to develop minimally invasive technologies for cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment monitoring.

Des MacHale is professor emeritus of mathematics at University College Cork. He is an internationally distinguished mathematician, author and humourist, best known for his contributions to group and ring theory. His biographical works on George Boole are held in the highest regard and continue to attract international attention. In addition to his academic work, he has written several books on John Ford's film *The Quiet Man*.

Professor Brian Ó Gallachóir is professor of sustainability and associate vice-president of sustainability at University College Cork. He has shown outstanding academic leadership in developing his field of research on energy systems modelling. As well as his significant intellectual contribution and research output, the fruits of his research have played an essential role in developing energy policy in Ireland.

Rosemary O'Connor is professor of cell biology at University College Cork. She is internationally recognised for translational cancer research, including identifying and testing new drugs. Her fundamental discoveries on cell signalling and on how growth factors function continue to shape our understanding of metabolism, inflammation and cancer biology.

Professor Suresh Pillai is director of the Nanotechnology and Bioengineering Research Group at Atlantic Technological University, Sligo. His research interests lie in new materials for energy and environmental applications in areas ranging from photocatalysis to wearable electronics. He was awarded the Boyle Higgins Medal of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland in 2019.

Tracy Robson is deputy vice-chancellor for academic affairs and professor of cancer biology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. An internationally recognised leader in biotherapeutic innovation, she discovered FKBPL and translated it into first in class peptide therapy, ALM201, with anti-tumour activity, leading to clinical trials and FDA orphan designation. Her patented technologies,

spinouts and drug development pipeline in cancer, obesity and metabolic disease was recognised by the 2025 Irish Association for Cancer Research Outstanding Contribution Award.

Professor Kevin M. Ryan is vice-president of research and innovation at the University of Limerick and professor of chemical nanotechnology. An internationally recognised leader in nanomaterials for rechargeable batteries, he has made major contributions to the development of advanced battery materials and has helped shape materials research and innovation in Ireland and internationally.