Trinity Long Room Hub
Arts & Humanities Research Institute

Celebrating
10 Years
Complex challenges need a portfolio of insights, perspectives, scholarship and experience. That’s why Trinity’s Arts & Humanities research institute, the Trinity Long Room Hub, is so important.

Terry Neill, philanthropist and strategist

SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE. DELIVERED.
COLLABORATION. DELIVERED.
PUBLIC HUMANITIES. DELIVERED.
The story of the Trinity Long Room Hub is a story of remarkable ambition to propel Trinity’s Arts and Humanities to new heights by focusing on cutting edge collaborations and public engagement.

We began our work back in 2004 as a PowerPoint presentation, and here we are, 15 years later, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of our iconic research institute in 2010.

Over the past 10 years, our ambition has been underpinned by generous university, state and philanthropic support, which has allowed us to become a focal point for the Arts and Humanities at Trinity, the highest-ranked faculty in Ireland, and placed 50th worldwide in the prestigious QS World University Subject Rankings 2019.

A decade on, the Hub is a dynamic physical and human infrastructure, an engine attracting world class talent that builds and promotes Trinity’s reputation internationally. It is a well-established presence on both national and international stages and a leading contributor to the political, social and cultural discourse of Ireland.

The Hub is for everyone.

We are proud of our role in connecting diverse communities across Ireland and the world with the perspectives of the Arts and Humanities on the human condition and its relevance for society today.

Today’s turbulent global socio-political environment could scarcely have been imagined 10 years ago and gives new urgency to the vital function of the Arts and Humanities in promoting liberal values, critical thinking, dialogue and tolerance.

Now, we are poised to build on the achievements of the past 10 years. We hope you will support us in our ambition to become one of the top 10 Arts and Humanities research institutes in the world.

Here’s to the next 10 years!

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Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
ADVANCING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We support Trinity’s Arts and Humanities academic and research staff by providing research funding, promotion and advocacy, and a collaborative physical and intellectual space.

We nurture world-class talent, building Trinity’s reputation internationally. Since 2010, we have:

- Hosted 270 early career researchers from over 25 countries
- Appointed 171 visiting research fellows from the world’s top universities from 29 countries
- Awarded €500k for new projects to 132 TCD researchers

DRIVING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

We are spearheading research approaches which position the human at the centre of measures to tackle complex societal challenges.

Since 2010, we have secured €10 million in external funding through philanthropy and competitive awards. Our current projects include:

- Human+: Enhancing human experience in technological innovation
- Crises of Democracy: Enabling active participation
- Shape-ID: Shaping interdisciplinary practices in Europe

ACTIVATING PUBLIC HUMANITIES

Connecting diverse communities, we seek to create a space where informed discussion can take place and perspectives can change. Our public engagement highlights since 2010 include:

- 2000+ workshops, seminars, lectures and panel discussions
- Online global reach of 1M+ through podcast, social media and website
- 200,000 audience attendance

I found the discussion very honest and was glad to hear realistic views of complexity which will not be solved in haste.

Launched in 2015 and endowed by The John Pollard Foundation, our ‘Behind the Headlines’ discussion series brings Trinity academics and external experts together with members of the public to discuss contentious topical issues in the news, such as climate change, terrorism and Brexit, providing a forum that deepens understanding, and combats simplification and polarization.

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OTHER CURRENT HUB-SPONSORED PUBLIC PROGRAMMES INCLUDE:

ANNUAL EDMUND BURKE LECTURE
OUT OF THE ASHES: COLLECTIVE MEMORY, CULTURAL LOSS AND RECOVERY
ANNUAL HUMANITIES HORIZONS LECTURE
TRINITY AND THE CHANGING CITY
WOMEN’S STORIES

The Trinity Long Room Hub performs a crucial role, not only for Trinity but for the wider world. On every burning cultural, political and social issue of the day, the Hub hosts lectures, exhibitions, seminars, symposia … In just a short decade, the Irish public has come to see the Hub as a place for dialogue, discourse and elucidation … It is at the heart of the university, a driver for ambition. We are so proud of it.

Patrick Prendergast, Provost, Trinity College Dublin

The Hub’s public engagement provision is impressive, with highly commendable and innovative elements. This feature of their work is as strong as any we have observed anywhere. The Hub provides excellent ambassadors for the College and their disciplines.

Independent external review report, 2017
Trinity’s Arts and Humanities and the Decade of Commemorations

Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury is a flagship project for Ireland’s Decade of Commemorations. It builds on the rich contribution of Trinity’s Arts and Humanities to this turbulent and emotive period in Ireland’s history. It is also an example of how the Trinity Long Room Hub facilitated a major interdisciplinary project from concept to state funding.

Early funding and ongoing support from the Trinity Long Room Hub was crucial in unlocking national research funding which brought together the Computer Sciences and Humanities to show the potential of digitally reconstructing an archive as important as the Public Records Office of Ireland.

Professor Peter Crooks, School of Histories and Humanities, Principal Investigator, Beyond 2022.

1922
An explosion and fire at the Four Courts, Dublin, destroys the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) and, with it, seven centuries of Ireland’s collective memories.

2010
Archives in Crisis Symposium co-sponsored by the Trinity Long Room Hub, discusses crucial funding issues for Ireland’s archives in the midst of national recession.

2012
CIRCLE is launched at TCD to reconstruct the lost records of the medieval Irish chancery rolls destroyed in the 1922 fire.

2016
Funding provided to the Making Ireland research theme, through the Trinity Long Room Hub, enables development of Irish Research Council proposal for Beyond 2022.

2017
Irish Research Council awards Peter Crooks (History Dept) and Shay Lawless (ADAPT Centre) funding for ‘Beyond 2022’, a digital infrastructure and virtual reality prototype to reconstruct digitally the PROI.

2018
Beyond 2022 concept launch in the Trinity Long Room Hub, in partnership with National Archives of Ireland, The National Archives UK, Public Records Office Belfast and Irish Manuscripts Commission.

2019
€2.5m in government funding awarded for Phase II of Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury through the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under Project Ireland 2040.

2022
On the centenary of the fire, the completed virtual reality model will be your point for search and discovery. Step inside the fully immersive 3D PROI, browse the virtual shelves and link to substitute and salvaged records held by archives and libraries around the world.

2013
Europe’s Violent Memories, 2013-2016
This series was co-organised by the Hub with the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies and the School of Histories and Humanities. It was planned to coincide with two significant centenary commemorations for Irish and European people – The First World War and the 1916 Easter Rising. It explored how war, its traumas and its contested memories have proved pivotal to the formation of European identities, helping people come to a more complex understanding of Irish history in an international context. This series was supported by Dr Beate Schuler.

2018
Out of the Ashes: Collective Memory, Cultural Loss and Recovery, 2018-2021
This lecture series was inspired by the Beyond 2022 project. As the Irish State enters the final phase of its Decade of Centenaries, the series offers an opportunity to set the Irish experience of cultural loss arising from the destruction of the Public Record Office in 1922 in its broadest possible context. It is organised by Dr Peter Crooks, in association with the Hub, Trinity’s Arts and Humanities led research themes and the College Library. The series is supported by Sean and Sarah Reynolds.
Across the world, rising populism and authoritarianism coupled with nationalism and xenophobia pose serious threats to democracy as we know it. New multidisciplinary approaches to these complex global challenges are required, particularly with climate change and other factors exacerbating instability.

The Trinity Long Room Hub has been leading international initiatives to foreground cultural perspectives in examining the interrelated and multifaceted causes of challenges to democracy, providing the nuanced and long-term perspectives often overlooked by the short termism characteristic of current public debates.

CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

The accelerating developments in technology and their significant impact on all aspects of human life are raising profound questions about the prospects for individual and societal well-being, and the shape of political culture and economic life.

The Trinity Long Room Hub recently partnered with Accenture on a public lecture series exploring aspects of this theme. Collaborating with enterprise and Trinity's Computer Sciences and Neurosciences, we are rolling out a new four-year research fellowship programme dedicated to developing human-centric approaches to technological innovations.

Investment in the Arts and Humanities is now more vital than ever. They bring the valuable insights needed to meet the challenges facing societies worldwide, including the threats to democracy. This is why I support the Hub.

Dr Beate Schuler, scientist and education philanthropist

#HuBat10
Since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, peace has been maintained and over the last decade Ireland has ushered in a new era of liberalism. But as a new political landscape emerges, the fallout from ongoing issues with homelessness, housing and health, signify a further shift in Irish society.

The Futures of Ireland research strand led by the Trinity Long Room Hub explores many of the changes that have transformed Irish society both North and South, as well as the challenges which lie ahead post-Brexit. Trinity’s deep and wide-ranging strengths in Irish Studies will lead interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and multi-sectoral conversations around development and resolution, underpinned with its wealth of expertise in the intertwined histories of Ireland and Britain.

In just one decade, the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute has, with the support of generous benefactors, made enormous strides in its mission.

Philanthropy has been essential to our success from the very beginning. Now, as we look to the next ten years, we require support to future-proof our efforts and enable ongoing excellence on three critically-important challenges.

Your support for the Trinity Long Room Hub will be used to:

- Attract talent and facilitate transdisciplinary and multidimensional collaborations that investigate the challenges before us;
- Foster an Irish presence in the global knowledge and creative economy, making the Hub one of the top ten Arts and Humanities Institutes in the world; and
- Support researchers in standing up for truth, tolerance, democracy, respect, creativity, openness and dialogue.

To discuss how you can support the Hub, please contact:

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Trinity Long Room Hub

Generous supporters and our constituent partners and the wider Trinity community have enabled the Hub to establish itself as a flagship research institute for Trinity’s Arts and Humanities. We would like to thank them for their vision, commitment and unwavering support and look forward to delivering our shared ambitions for the future.

Friends of the Hub

Terry and Marjorie Neill
Beate Schuler
Stephen Vernon
Sheelagh O’Neill
Sean and Sarah Reynolds
Priya Nair
Gillian Fallon
Accenture
William and Pamela Lowe
Loretta Brennan Glucksman
Sir David Orr
Kathy Gillilan
Lorraine Spencer and Thomas Spencer
Carol Leighton
McCullough Mulvin Architects
Lindy Guinness, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava
Bridget O’Brien-Twohig

Our Partners

Library of Trinity College Dublin
School of Creative Arts
School of Education
School of English
School of Histories and Humanities
School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
School of Law
School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
School of Religion
Department of Philosophy

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#HubAt10

Inspiring Generations

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin