

CALL FOR PAPERS

Éire-Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies and guest editors Sara Dybris McQuaid (Aarhus University) and Fergal McGarry (Queen's University, Belfast) welcome submissions for a Spring/Summer 2022 special issue on Politics and Narrative in Ireland's Decade of Commemorations.

We are at a key moment of rethink. Ireland is in the midst of a critical reassessment of the past and present, in which centenary commemorations of catalyst events such as the 3rd Home Rule Bill, the Easter Rising, WW1, women's suffrage, the partition of Ireland and Irish independence are important vehicles. An abundance of cultural forms and practices, have been rehearsed and produced in the context of the official *Decade of Centenaries* from 2012-2023 to reshape the past and open up vistas for the future. This special issue of *Éire-Ireland* will reflect on how historical narratives are being re-written and how understandings of Irish identity and society are reconfigured through various media, as a result of events and engagements both formally linked and external from the official programme. The special issue will provide a double reflection in the sense that we ask contributors to reflect critically on how their own research and expertise is enabling and contributing to practice, politics and narratives in the decade of commemorations.

How has memorialization become an increasingly important category through which to understand historical narratives, social practices, cultural formations and political challenges in contemporary Irish society? What kinds of expertise, ethics and aesthetics are involved at various stages of delivering the past into the present? How can we study such processes beyond the nation state to also capture the transnational formations of national memory, narratives and politics? How are processes of memorialization used to leverage different political narratives and constituencies in relation to each other? How do commemorative activities seek to integrate migrant communities and their narratives and histories? How are imperial and post-colonial relationships renegotiated in centenary events that position Ireland at once as party- and subject to the imperial project? As the Decade of Centenaries has endeavoured to recast relationships across the island and across the Isles, how has Brexit (as a half time fault line) impacted the turn of events?

This call for papers builds on and is intended to supplement a number of confirmed contributions written in the context of the first 'half' of the Decade of Commemorations and so we are particularly looking for submissions addressing the years 1918/2018 – 1923/2023.

Pivotal events might include but are not limited to:

- The conscription crisis
- Representation of the People Act
- The first Dáil Éireann
- The Limerick Soviet
- The Irish War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War
- Yeats' 1919-1920 tour of the US
- Partition
- Civil war 1922-1923

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Proposals for papers addressing the intersection of one or more relevant issues will also be welcome. Confirmed contributors include Emilie Pine (UCD), Fearghal McGarry (QUB), and a number of scholars working from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Existing contributions examine the influences of different types of evidence and narrative forms on the progress and impact of the decade of centenaries. These include history, both popular and scholarly, election materials, theatre, film, radio, commemorative exhibitions, special issue stamps, graffiti, eye-witness testimonies, military and pension records, government reports and newspaper archives. Thematic threads running across existing contributions include: the tensions between competing conservative and pluralist narratives of the past; the transnational reception of commemorative narratives; differing modes of commemoration north and south of the Irish border; the politics of witnessing; the experiences of women and children and wider gender dynamics. The special issue thus aims to provide multiple perspectives on how narratives of various kinds are being explored to interrogate fundamental issues of Irish identity, memory, and self-awareness.

We invite proposals for papers which complement these approaches and objectives. Abstracts of 500 words should be submitted in the first instance for an extended **31st Jan 2020** deadline. Final papers will be expected by a **1 June 2021** deadline and should be in the range of 8,000–10,000 words, inclusive of footnotes, and submitted digitally in Word format. All submissions will be subject to blind peer review. Literature and Arts submissions should be prepared according to the MLA Style Manual; History, Social Sciences, and Science or Environmental Studies submissions should adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style. Please consult the journal style guide for further guidelines; a copy may be accessed on the website of the Irish American Cultural Institute: <http://www.iaci-usa.org/programspublications/eireireland.html>.

Proposals and articles should be submitted to Sara Dybris McQuaid (engsdm@cc.au.dk) with CC to Fearghal McGarry (f.mcgarry@qub.ac.uk).