Provisional Conference Programme, 2019

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Registration

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Welcome and Book Launches. Reception sponsored by the History Department at Quinnipiac University.

4:15 p.m. Travel by Shuttle to Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, Hamden

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  Reception and Tour the Great Hunger Museum

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Keynote Lecture (in Great Hunger Museum) Dr. Niamh Ann Kelly, Technological University, Dublin, ‘Famine in Art: Imagery, Influences and Exhibition in Mid-Twentieth-Century Ireland’.

6.45 p.m.  Depart by Shuttle for Mikro Depot or for the York Hill Campus
Thursday, 13 June 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration
Viewing of Rebecca Abbott of Quinnipiac University, Emmy-winning documentary: ‘Ireland’s Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora’ (optional)

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Early Famines

Brendan Scott, Independent Scholar, ‘Famine and Poverty in Early Modern Ireland’.

Father Jordan Lenaghan, Executive Director of University Religious Life at Quinnipiac, ‘Weaponizing Famine – the example of Early Munster’.

Robert A. Young, Special Collections, Arnold Bernhard Library, Quinnipiac University. ‘The Irish Poverty Collection, 1683 - 1914: A Review of Publications in the Lender Family Special Collection at Quinnipiac University’.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Panel A. Post-Famine Famines

Dr. Harvey Strum, The Sage Colleges, ‘America’s Errand of Mercy to Ireland in 1880; the role of New York City’.

Dr. Catherine Shannon, Westfield State University, ‘Boston and the Threat of Famine and Eviction in Ireland, 1879-1881’.

Dr. Timothy Forest, University of Cincinnati, ‘Fresh Starts, Fenian Exiles, and Frozen Hells, The Irish, Colonization and the (Un)Making of the Canadian West’.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Panel B. The Irish Imagination

Peter Murphy, Independent Scholar, ‘A Modest Proposal: Jonathan Swift and Hunger’.

Dr. Robert Smart, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Quinnipiac University, ‘The “Vital Blood” of Irish Colonials in America and the Formation of the New Nation’.

Dr. Maureen Murphy, Hofstra University, ‘Heroic Women in the Drumlish Land War’.
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. The Long 18th century

Dr. Karen Sonnelitter, Siena College, ‘Such frequent wants and famines”: Philanthropy and the Famine of 1741’.

Dr. Mary Burke, University of Connecticut, ‘A dangerous memory that had to be controlled or forgotten: Famine and the historiography of 18th-c. Ulster Presbyterian emigration’.

Professor Liam Kennedy, Queen’s University, Belfast, and Dr. Peter M. Solar, Université Saint-Louis—Bruxelles, ‘The Famine that Wasn’t? 1799-1801 in Ireland’.

3:30 p.m. Travel by Shuttle to the Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven.

4:00 p.m. Reception at Knights of Columbus Museum and a chance to view the exhibits.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Keynote Lecture. (in the Knights of Columbus Museum)
Professor Mary Corcoran, Maynooth University, ‘The Political Economy of the Urban Food Landscape’.

6:00 p.m. Explore New Haven. Dinner on own.

8:30 p.m. Return by Shuttle to York Hill Campus
Friday, 14 June 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Keynote Lecture. Professor Christine Kinealy, Founding Director of Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University, ‘Maude Gonne: the real Famine Queen’.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel A. The fate of the Strokestown Emigrants

Professor Mark McGowan, University of Toronto, ‘Masters of their own destiny? Rethinking the Fate of the 1490 from the Mahon Estate, 1847-48’.

Dr. Jason King, Irish Heritage Trust, “‘The Black Hole of Calcutta was a Mercy Compared to the Holds of these Vessels”: Press Coverage of the Virginius, Naomi, and the fate of the Mahon Estate 1,490 Emigrants at Sea’.

10:30 p.m. – 12.00 p.m. Panel B. Emigration

Dr. Hanna F. Khaswneh, Yarmouk University, ‘The Role of the Press in Supporting the Irish Famine Immigrants’.

Barry Feely, Independent Scholar, ‘We Are the Survivors. Boyle Workhouse and Emigration during the Famine’.

Dr. Eileen Moore Quinn, College of Charleston, “‘We Were Always Hungry”: Irish Women’s Food Experiences and Strategies for Survival in Scotland’s Tattie-Hoking Fields in the Twentieth Century’.

12:00 p.m.– 1:15 p.m. Panel A. Teaching the Famine

Dr. Alan Singer, Hofstra University, ‘Teaching the Great Irish Famine’.

Greg Garvey, Director, Game Design and Development, Quinnipiac University, ‘The Bad Times/An Droch Shaol’. Designing an interactive game on the Famine.’
Mike Murphy, Geography Department, University College Cork/The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. ‘Famine education and the “Great Irish Famine Online”’. 

During the Conference, Mr. Murphy will be available for individual tutorials and a breakfast demonstration on Saturday. A sign-up sheet will be available.

12:00 p.m.– 1:15 p.m. Panel B. How Emigrants settled. The example of the Strokestown survivors

Professor Mark McGowan and Bridget Hager, Emma McKean, Jaime McLaughlin, and Sofiya Romashchenko, Undergraduates in St Michael’s College, Toronto, ‘Irish Famine Children in Montreal, the Churches, and Resettlement’.

1:30 p.m. Travel by Shuttle to Mount Carmel Campus

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Lunch at Quinnipiac University’s Center for Religion.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tour of Arnold Bernhard Library and James Hack Tuke Exhibition: ‘Quaker Philanthropist and Friend to Ireland’s Poor’. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Teresa Deevy Exhibition, hosted by the AB Library in partnership with Maynooth University, and be shown items from the Great Hunger Collection by the Librarians.

4:30 p.m. Return to York Hill Campus

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Great Famine Voices Roadshow Open House event. University Club at the People’s United Center, Quinnipiac University, York Hill Campus.

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Irish Heritage Trust / Strokestown National Famine Museum Reception at the University Club, People’s United Center, Quinnipiac University, York Hill Campus. Entertainment by the world famous, ‘Edjukated Jazz Band’.

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Conference Dinner.
Saturday, 15 June

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Registration
* A demonstration of ‘Famine education and the “Great Irish Famine Online”’ (optional).


10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The Tuke Emigrants

Dr. Margaret Lynch, Irish American Archives Society, ‘Leaving Mayo in 1883-1884’


11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Round Table Discussion on Tuke Emigrants.

12:00 p.m. – 12.15 p.m. Farewells and information about the 2020 Famine Summer School in Strokestown.

*For further information, please visit:* go.qu.edu/ighiconference or *Contact:* ighi@qu.edu

Register at: https://alumni.qu.edu/forgottenfamines

Thank you to our sponsors: History Department, Quinnipiac University; Ireland’s Great Hunger Institute; Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum; the Irish Heritage Trust; the Knights of Columbus Museum, New Haven; the Center for Religion at Quinnipiac University.