

Irish Association for American Studies Annual Conference

A graphic featuring five classical columns. The central column is highlighted in blue with red horizontal bars at the top and bottom, and three stars (two blue, one red) to its right. The word 'Dis' is in a large, bold, black serif font, and 'TRUST' is in a smaller, bold, black serif font to its right.

Dis TRUST

1-3 May 2024

Keynote Speakers: Johannes Voelz and Imaobong Umoren
Clinton Institute for American Studies
University College Dublin

Irish Association for American Studies Annual Conference

“Dis/Trust”

Clinton Institute for American Studies

University College Dublin

Wednesday 1st May 2024

19:00-19:15 – Welcome and Introductory Remarks

19:15-20:30 – Opening Keynote Lecture

Chair: Matt Prout (UCD)

Johannes Voelz (Frankfurt), ‘Trust, Distrust, and the Media Aesthetics of Partisanship’

Followed by Wine Reception

Thursday 2nd May 2024

09:00-09:30 – Registration

09:30-11:00 – Parallel Session 1

Dis/Trusting American Authorities

Chair: Johannes Voelz (Frankfurt)

Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg), ‘American Philanthropy and Climate Change – Driver of Societal Trust or Distrust?’

Martin Thunert (Heidelberg), ‘Trustfall? Dis/Trust in Epistemic Authorities in the United States’

David Malcolm (Teeside), ‘The Society of the Cincinnati: Exploring the Mistrust of Standing Armies and Aristocracy in the Age of Revolution’

Exhibiting Dis/Trust

Chair: Katherine Fama (UCD)

Shane Morrissy (Duke) “‘Does this look real to you?’ Trust, Distrust, and the Racial Politics of the Postcard at the Panama Pacific International Exposition (1915)’

Madeleine Harrison (Courtauld), ‘White Liberal Dis/Trust: The Harmon Foundation’s Travelling Art Exhibitions of the 1930s’

Trudi Witonsky (Wisconsin-Whitewater), ‘We are the World Together: Muriel Rukeyser’s “Words at War” Exhibit (1943)’

11:00-11:30 – Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 – Parallel Session 2

Declarations of Dependence 1: Narratives of (In)dependence

Chair: Daniel Geary (TCD)

Damanpreet Pelia (Yale), ‘Dependent Sovereign’

Michael Denning (Yale), ‘Dependence and Independence: Toward a Theory of Capitalist Sovereignty’

Ever Osorio Ruiz (Yale), ‘The Loneliness of Modern Dependency: Mexican Narratives of Land Dispossession in the 20th Century’

Jessica Marion Modi (Yale), ‘As if the Nation Depends on it’

Henry Zhang (Yale), ‘Credible Ethnics’

Paranoia and Distrust

Chair: Martha Shearer (UCD)

Dara Downey (TCD), ‘Broken Promises and Demon Lovers in Shirley Jackson and Ira Levin’

Mikkel Jensen (Aalborg), ‘Social Distrust and Media Skepticism in the 1970s: James Bridges’ *The China Syndrome* (1979)’

Janice Lynne Deitner (TCD), “‘Nobody’s Special!’: Infection, Dis/Trust, and Community in Twenty-First Century North American Zombie Narratives’

13:00-14:00 – Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 – Parallel Session 3

Dis/Trusting Institutions

Chair: Clare Hayes-Brady (UCD)

Lola Boorman (York), ‘Why I Live at the Post Office: The Postal Service and New Deal Modernism’

Tim Groenland (UCD), ‘Fear and Loathing in Contemporary Publishing: Editorial Assistants in *Yellowface* and *The Other Black Girl*’

Adam Kelly & Katerina Pavlidi (UCD), ‘Trust Exercise: An Experimental Reading Group’

Trust and Faith

Chair: Maria Stuart (UCD)

Justyna Fruzińska (Lodz), ‘Emerson’s (Dis)Trusting the World’

John Ronan (Kutztown University of Pennsylvania), ‘Faith in Faith: Hawthorne in the Colonial New England Archives’

Brian TJ Park (Independent), ‘Urban Geography, Community-Based Faith, and the Limits of Interfaith Activity in Central Los Angeles’

15:30-16:00 – Coffee Break

16:00-17:15 – Alan Graham Memorial Lecture

Chair: Adam Kelly (UCD)

Imaobong Umoren (LSE), ‘Trust Black Women: Black Women’s Activism and Ideas in Historical and Contemporary Perspective’

Followed by Conference Dinner in Searsons of Baggot St.

Friday 3rd May 2024

09:30-11:00 – Parallel Session 4

Dis/Trusting Poetry

Chair: Catherine Gander (Maynooth)

Philip Coleman (TCD), “‘From the Transience’”: Jorie Graham and the Problem of Trust’

Caren Irr (Brandeis), ‘Can You Still Trust the Trees?: Eco-Anxiety and the Arboreal Imagination in Contemporary US Lyric’

Hope Noonan Stoner (UCC), ‘Trust/Distrust: Questioning the Validity of American Liberty in the Poetry of Lola Ridge and Julia de Burgos’

Revising Black History

Chair: Imaobong Umoren (LSE)

Conor Fitzgerald (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick), ‘John Howard Griffin: Revising the Legitimacy of Historical Narratives’

Jeff Melnick (UMass Boston), ‘Speak On It: Black Boston and the Massachusetts “Miracle” of the 1980s’

Alexander Kroll (UCD), ‘Gentrification Nation: Small-Town Identity and Trust in Colson Whitehead’s *Apex Hides the Hurt*’

11:00-11:30 – Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 – Parallel Session 5

Declarations of Dependence 2: Geographies of Dependency

Chair: Lola Boorman (York)

Javier Porrás Madero (Yale), ‘Dependence after Revolution’

Madeleine Han (Yale), ‘The Cold War Ended, and Orion’s Choco Pie Won’

Morgan E. Freeman (Yale), ‘Arctic Fever: Greenland and Polar Dependence’

Sofia Cutler (Yale), 'The Food Chain'

Jess Cruz (Yale), 'Airing ALBA'

Dis/Trusting Media

Chair: Jorie Lagerwey (UCD)

Thomas P. Oates (Iowa), 'Out of the Sandbox and into the Fire: A Half Century of Struggle to Define Sports' Journalism'

Heather Neilson (UNSW, Canberra) "'The soul of America. Remember?': James Graham's *Best of Enemies* (2021)'

Sarah Anne Dunne (UCD), 'Distrustful Narratives and Disinformation: How American Politics of Distrust Informs the Irish Far-Right'

13:00-14:00 – Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 – Parallel Session 6

Immigration and Memoir

Chair: Alexander Kroll (UCD)

Michael Kaelin (Wisconsin), 'Selected Lives: Immigrant Community and the Origins of Federal Immigration Control in New York, 1847-1882'

Meryem Hana Karouche (Limerick), 'Cultural Myths and Personal Identity: Dis/trust in Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*'

Clodagh Philippa Guerin (Limerick), "'How can one accept anything from so-called rescuers when their predecessors helped your people destroy one another?": The Role of Trust During the Refugee Assimilation Process in Clemantine Wamariya's Memoir *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*'

Contemporary Fictions of Precarity and Violence

Chair: Tim Groenland (TCD)

Rachel Ann Walsh (Bowling Green State), "'A certain amount of deception": Gift, Precarity, and Neoliberal Security in Emma Cline's *The Guest*'

Beth Aherne (UCC), 'Indigenous Families and Histories of Distrust in Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves* (2017)'

Kaiyue Hou (Bristol), 'A Palimpsest of Bodily Costs of the Vietnam War in *The Sympathizer*'

15:30 - IAAS AGM, followed by closing remarks