

# IRISH MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION SEMINAR 2016: CITY LIFE: MUSEUMS AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION

Friday 21 October 2016, 12:15 – 5pm

Ulster University, Belfast – Building A, Ground Floor, Room 021

#irishmuseums

## SCHEDULE

12:00	Registration
12:15 – 12:30	Welcome. Elizabeth Crooke, Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies, School of Creative Arts and Technologies, Ulster University
12:30 – 13:20	<b>The Urban Villages Initiative</b> Paddy Gilmore, Director of Learning and Partnership, National Museums Northern Ireland <b>A Practitioner's Perspective</b> Siobhán McCartney, Learning and Outreach Manager, Titanic Belfast
13:20 – 14:00	Lunch (Tea/coffee and sandwiches/wraps)
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Performing Imaginary Healings: the post-conflict heritage of Ebrington Barracks in Derry-Londonderry</b> Dr Tom Maguire, Co-ordinator, Exploring Heritage module, MA Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, and Senior Lecturer, Theatre Studies, School of Creative Arts and Technologies, Ulster University <b>Inclusion, Belonging and Identity: Ethnic Minorities and the Museum Space in Northern Ireland</b> Dr Phillip McDermott, Lecturer, School of Sociology & Applied Social Studies, Ulster University
15:45 – 17:00	Site Visit, Ulster Museum (transport provided to the museum)
Moderator:	Dr Emily Mark-Fitzgerald, Lecturer, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin

## THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Elizabeth Crooke, Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies, School of Creative Arts and Technologies, Ulster University

Dr Emily Mark-Fitzgerald, Lecturer, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin

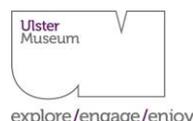
William Blair, Head of Human History, National Museums Northern Ireland

Gina O'Kelly, Irish Museums Association

This event has been funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs under the Cooperation with Northern Ireland scheme. It is additionally supported by the School of Creative Arts and Technologies, Ulster University.



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

## THE URBAN VILLAGES INITIATIVE

Paddy Gilmore, Director of Learning & Partnership, National Museums Northern Ireland

National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI) has sought to align itself with the strategic priorities both of the Northern Ireland Executive and its sponsoring Department over the last number of years. This has resulted in a clear commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion, to diversifying and growing our audiences and to utilising our resources for the most marginalised communities and individuals. This commitment has manifested itself in a range of programmes and initiatives which have delivered social impact, much of which has been evidenced by both internal and external evaluations. In recent months NMNI has been working with Urban Villages Initiative to help build community capacity and increase the relevance of museum resources to local communities.

The Urban Villages initiative is a headline action within the NI Executive's Together Building a United Community (TBUC) strategy, designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places where there has been a history of deprivation and community tension. It has three inter-connected aims: to foster positive Community Identities; to build Community Capacity; and to improve the Physical Environment.

NMNI have been working with the Urban Village areas in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry under their social inclusion and collections outreach programme. All of the projects delivered seek to enable access to collections, as well as promoting discussion about the role of the museum and the resources that museums hold. Through this programme, NMNI aims to develop long-term relationships, build connections with hard-to-reach audiences and ensure that the museum reflects the interests of local communities.

**Paddy Gilmore** joined National Museums Northern Ireland as Head of Appeals in 1999 and was Acting Director of Marketing, Communications and Trading from 2008 - 2009. He has previously held senior fundraising roles in NSPCC, Age Concern and Gingerbread.

Paddy was responsible for securing the voluntary income for the Ulster Museum redevelopment, which included a \$1m gift, and the co-ordination of the bid to Heritage Lottery Fund which secured a £4.5m grant, the largest amount ever provided for a Northern Ireland project. He is a member of the Institute of Fundraising and the Chartered Institute of Marketing. He has a BA (Hons) in Social Administration, a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing and an MBA from the University of Ulster Business School

## A PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVE

Siobhán McCartney, Learning & Outreach Manager, Titanic Belfast

1. What difference can Titanic Belfast as a corporate venue make?
2. What have we done so far at Titanic Belfast?
3. Why are heritage venues so important in bringing about social change?
4. Why bother?

**Siobhán McCartney** is a qualified Primary School Teacher with a varied range of classroom experience including a year in a special school. Siobhán worked with the National Trust for 6 years, first as the Education Officer at Castle Ward, where she won her first Sandford Award (she has just won her second) and then as Regional Learning & Interpretation Officer for Northern Ireland.

Siobhán is passionate about access in all its guises and believes in heritage education's ability to change lives. Creativity is what keeps her sane in work and at home and she is rarely without a project on the go!

## PERFORMING IMAGINARY HEALINGS: THE POST-CONFLICT HERITAGE OF EBRINGTON BARRACKS IN DERRY-LONDONDERRY

Dr Tom Maguire, Co-ordinator, Exploring Heritage module, MA Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, and Senior Lecturer, Theatre Studies, School of Creative Arts and Technologies, Ulster University

The remapping of the urban landscape of Derry-Londonderry has been undertaken through the regeneration of the built environment and initiatives to re-image the city. This paper examines how Ebrington military barracks has been transformed to deal with this contested heritage. The regeneration of the site has created a public realm denuded of the markers of the site's colonial and military heritage. Alongside this, cultural practitioners have been invited to re-imagine the site by re-performing it in a series of ephemeral interventions. It is in the very ephemerality of these interventions that the potential of the site as an imaginative space is unleashed. The conceptual framework for this argument rests on the proposition that any heritage site is simultaneously a physical, discursive and affective space. This intersection of these is analysed here as a series of performative practices to suggest that the site of Ebrington Barracks offers the opportunity to engage with heritage in a way that allows peace to be experienced, in however so ephemeral and fragile ways.

**Tom Maguire** is a Senior Lecturer in Theatre Studies at the School of Creative Arts and Technologies of Ulster University, teaching on programmes in Drama and in Heritage and Museum Studies.

Much of his work has been concerned with the performance of the past in conflict and post-conflict societies; the social functions of theatre; and theatre's place in cultural history and historiography.

His publications include *Making Theatre in Northern Ireland: Through and Beyond The Troubles* (2006) and *Performing Story on the Contemporary Stage* (2015), as well as essays on contemporary British and Irish performance.

## INCLUSION, BELONGING AND IDENTITY: ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE MUSEUM SPACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Dr Phillip McDermott, Lecturer, School of Sociology & Applied Social Studies, Ulster University

Ethnic minorities and newcomer communities have made substantial contributions to life in Northern Ireland, yet there continues to be difficulties in accessing public services. However, the cultural sector, particularly museums and galleries, provides significant opportunities for such communities to access events and exhibitions which enrich their experience of life in the region.

This paper considers practical and ideological challenges in attracting members of minority ethnic communities to these institutions. Reflections and feedback which have been gathered from members of minority ethnic communities will be utilised to illustrate key points in relation to 'access' and 'representation'. The research has been funded by British Academy.

**Philip Mc Dermott** joined the university as an associate lecturer in 2008 and was appointed to a lectureship in Sociology in September 2012. He is from Derry and graduated with a BA Hons in 2002 and an MA in 2004. This was followed by a PhD at Ulster, awarded in 2008, which investigated language planning and policy for migrant languages in Northern Ireland. He has also conducted research for a number of external bodies such as the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre, the Centre for Global Education and Fermanagh District Council.

Philip's research focuses on the relationship between the state and minority groups – especially linguistic minorities. A focus of his previous research has been in the area of language policy and planning for (and by) migrant communities. He has a specific interest in the perception of migrant languages in public places, the ways that government and communities deal with such linguistic diversity and the manner in which multilingualism and bilingualism are dealt with in policy contexts. He has published a number of articles and a book on these themes.