

Symposium Programme: 'From Modern Crisis to Permacrisis and Polycrisis: Epistemological Perspectives and Interventions'

University College Dublin, Humanities Institute, 22-24 May 2025



Image Credit: Abstract 2025 collage and oil on paper 25 x 25 cm. (c) Judy Carroll Deeley

Day 1: Thursday 22 May: Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)

2:00-2:30: Anne Fuchs (UCD) & Marek Tamm (Tallinn): Opening Remarks

2:30-3:30 — Roundtable: Living with Permacrisis and Polycrisis with panellists:
Aleida Assmann (English Studies, Konstanz); John Barry (Green Economy, Queens University Belfast); Kieran Keohane (Sociology, University College Cork); Ailbhe Smyth (former academic, feminist, and LGBTQ activist)
Chairs: Anne Fuchs & Marek Tamm

03:30-04:00 COFFEE BREAK

04:00-5:30 — Panel 1: Democracy & Polycrisis. Chair: tba

Dirk Oschmann (Leipzig), 'The Question of Belonging in Germany'

Ana Ivasiuc (UCD), 'Polycrisis: Keywords of the far-right, towards an anthropology of polycrisis'

Denise Polaczuk (Salzburg), 'Crisis narratives and apocalypticism between legitimization and compensation strategies in right-wing extremism'

6:15: DINNER at the Schoolhouse

Day 2: Friday 23 May in UCD Humanities Institute (room H204/top floor)

Coffee from 9am in the Humanities Institute (outside H204)

9:15-10:45 — Panel 2: Epistemologies & Philosophical Approaches. Chair: tba
Kieran Keohane (Cork), 'Patterns within the Polycrisis: "Schismogenesis" and "Contagious" Mimesis"'

Donncha Kavanagh (UCD), 'Times in crisis: Temporal frames, epochs and purviews'

Rubén Flores (UCD), 'Illuminating our path amidst crisis claims: *phos* and the challenge of implication' [flash talk]

10:45-11:45 — Panel 3: Literature & Narratology I. Chair: tba

Bianca Cataldi (Galway), 'Narrating Crisis: Igiaba Scego and the Legacy of Italian Colonialism in Somalia' [flash talk; remote]

Megan Kuster (UCD), 'Narrating mining and crisis in contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit writing' [flash talk]

Caitríona Ní Dhúill (Salzburg), 'Thinking, unplugged: Cognitive autonomy as resistance / resilience / resource in polycrisis contexts' [flash talk]

11:45-12:15 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204) (chairs move out)

12:15-12:35 EXHIBITION LAUNCH: The 'HeART of Gaza.'

an exhibition of children's art, and formal Symposium Opening with Professors Kate Robson Brown (UCD Vice-President for Research) and Regina Uí Chollatáin (College Principal, College of Arts and Humanities)

12:35-1:30 — Panel 4: Activism and Humanitarian Responses to Crisis. Chair: tba

Ailbhe Smyth (former academic, feminist, and LGBTQ activist), 'Perma / Poly Crisis and Violence Against Women: "Every Day is Crisis Day"' [flash talk]

Andrea Martin (solicitor), 'Friends of ASCEND Ireland: Enabling 20 Afghan women to build their lives in Ireland' [flash talk]

Féile Butler (architect), 'The "HeART of Gaza" exhibition of children's art: A collaborative project' [flash talk]

*To allow participants to move around and view the exhibition during this panel, there will be limited seating in the room

1:30-2:00 LUNCH (outside H204) (chairs move in)

2:00-3:30 — Panel 5: Praxis: Creativity, Activism & Curation I. Chair: Ana Ivasiuc
Monika Bakke (Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań), 'The Urban Noise Crisis: Multispecies Strategies for Liveable Urban Soundscapes'

Marek Wasilewski (Magdalena Abakanowicz/Municipal Gallery Arsenau, Poznań), 'Can art save the world? - Aesthetics of migrant polycrisis'

Sarah Comyn & Kate Fama (UCD), 'Crafting against Crises' [flash talk + craft]

3:30-3:45 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

3:45-5:15 — Panel 6: Literature & Narratives of Life, chair: tba

Mary Cosgrove (TCD), 'Relational Poetics as Response to Perma- and Polycrisis'

Gillian Pye (UCD), 'Happiness within permacrisis?' [flash talk]

5:15-5:30 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

5:30-6:30 — Panel 7: Praxis: Creativity, Activism & Curation II. Chair: tba

Mary Gallagher (UCD), 'From globalism to planetarity, from postcolonialism to decoloniality: a UCD Journey'

Caroline Levine (Cornell), 'Collective Continuance: Forms for the Future' [remote]

6:45 – WINE RECEPTION with canapés in UCD Club

Day 3: Saturday 24 May in UCD HI (room H204/top floor)

Coffee from 9.45am in the Humanities Institute (outside H204)

10:00-11:30 — Panel 8: Imagining Futures in the Age of Permacrisis. Chair: Marek Tamm

Aleida Assmann (Konstanz), 'Changing Concepts of the Future'

Anne Fuchs (UCD), 'Against "End Times Fascism": Liveable Futures and Aesthetic Precariousness in the Anthropocene'

John Barry (Queens), 'Fluxed Futures or "Barbarism if we're lucky": Radical Hope and the Responsibility of Intellectuals'

Jeanne Riou (UCD), 'Permecrisis, Epochal Threshold and the Problem of Time'

11:30-12:00 COFFEE BREAK (outside H204)

12:00-1:30 — Panel 9: Extinction, Pessimism, & Hope. Chair: tba

Alexander Kondakov (UCD), 'Queer Dystopia: Constructive Predictions of the End of the World' [flash talk]

Quân Nguyen (UCD), 'Pessimism as a Response to Interlocking Crises'

Charlotte Wrigley (Stavanger), 'From permafrost to eternally frozen: temperature and temporality in the climate crisis'

1:30-2:00 LUNCH (outside H204)

2.30 - Optional Event: Dublin Walking Tour

Thank you to our funders.

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