

TRANSNATIONALISING THE HUMANITIES: THE UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE RESEARCH STRAND

We live in an entangled world in which the local, regional, national and global are interconnected through intricate networks and loops of exchange. The analysis of the multidirectional movement of people, languages, ideas, knowledge, and things requires innovative methodological perspectives that are capable of capturing all kinds of spatial and temporal practices. Transnationalism is often associated with an emancipatory politics of resistance as manifest in hybrid or creolized communities which often engender forms of agency that "deterritorialize the nation state". On the other hand, the history of transnational exchange and contact also includes the history of empires, warfare, colonisation, slavery, the global exploitation of natural resources, and climate change. In the light of this intrinsic tension, the research strand on Transnationalising the Humanities explores methodological issues alongside specific case studies of transnational and transcultural practices, both from historical and contemporary perspectives.

TNH Research workshops, conferences, collaborations January 2020 - July 2023

1. 'POST-EXTRACTIVIST LEGACIES AND LANDSCAPES: HUMANITIES, ARTISTIC AND ACTIVIST RESPONSES' | The Andrew W. Mellon-funded CHCI Global Humanities Institute 2022-2023 (total grant: €200,028)



Image Credit: "Over Turn". oil and mixed media on canvas_50 x 40 cm_2021_Judy Carroll Deeley

Led by the UCD Humanities Institute (PI: Anne Fuchs; Co-Is: Sarah Comyn, Megan Kuster), 'Post-extractivist legacies and landscapes' is a collaborative research project with the [Centre of Excellence in Intercultural Studies](#) (Tallinn

University, Estonia), the [Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research](#) (University of Witwatersrand, South Africa), the [School of Culture, History and Language](#) (Australian National University) and the [Humanities Research](#) and [Environmental Studies](#) Centers (Rice University, USA). The project artist is Judy Carroll Deely. Involving researchers from anthropology, history, literary studies, environmental studies, bio-archaeology and activist art practice, the project investigates former sites of mining in Ireland, Estonia, South Africa, Oceania and the Gulf Coast of the United States. Focusing on the role of activism and art practices, the project will develop through three institutes in 2023, each hosted by a

different partner institution, with opportunities to participate online. There is a strong focus on local activism and art practices.

2. FRAMING AGEING: A CLINICAL, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE (2020-2021) was a collaborative Wellcome Trust-funded project in partnership with TCD's medical humanities (Prof. Demond O'Neill, Prof. Mary Cosgrove, Dr Julia Langbein).

Total grant: €28,341



Originally planned as two conferences, the project was redesigned as a series of webinars that facilitated methodological exchange between geriatricians, gerontologists, humanities researchers, social scientists, and practitioners. A key aim was to create a transdisciplinary network that liberates the field from the constraints of failure models of ageing. For more information and podcasts see:

<https://framingageing.ucd.ie/>

3. 'HISTORICAL FUTURES: APPREHENDING THE PAST AND ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE' | Workshop with HI Visiting Fellow [Professor Marek Tamm](#) (Prof. of Cultural History, Tallinn University) **27 October 2021**:

The age of the Anthropocene has fundamentally altered our relationship to the future. Faced with the advances of AI and robotics and the climate crisis, the future appears increasingly uncertain and disconnected from the present. Visiting HI Fellow Professor Marek Tamm ran an in-house workshop on the "historical futures" project which he developed with Zoltán Boldizsár Simon (University of Bielefeld) and the journal *History and Theory*.

4. 'PAST POSTCOLONIALISM: INDIGENOUS METHODOLOGIES AS TRANS-INDIGENOUS STUDIES' | Online lecture by [Professor Harald Gaski](#) (UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Co-hosted by Arctic Voices/UiT The Arctic University of Norway and Professor Renée Hulan, the Craig Dobbin Visiting Professor, UCD Centre for Canadian Studies) **11 February 2021**:

Over the last few decades Indigenous methodologies have developed into becoming a new and invigorating approach to research on Indigenous topics over a wide range of disciplines. The methodology is built upon Indigenous peoples' own worldviews and epistemologies, and it takes into account the wisdom passed down through generations in stories and traditional knowledge.

5. THEORIZING CRISIS IMAGINARIES | JOINT ONLINE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

UCD Humanities Institute and Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London [24 November 2020](#):



In 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic overturned our habitual realities: the highly infectious virus travelled across regional and national boundaries, crossing continents to create a transnational “mega event” disrupting economic activity, education, cultural life, and everyday social interactions. Using the idea of a “crisis imaginaries” as a springboard, this workshop investigated the idea of crisis and its role in public discourse from interdisciplinary perspectives. Participants discussed the etymology of crisis; the relationship of crisis

and normality; crisis and prevention; crisis and diagnosis, crisis and renewal, the temporality of crisis, and the transnational dimension of the crisis imaginary.

Listen to the podcast of the event [HERE](#)

6. TRANSNATIONALISING THE HUMANITIES: RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES, APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES | TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM (WEBINAR) [17-18 June 2020](#):

Keynote speaker: [Professor Rebecca Braun](#) (Lancaster University): When is the Nation and Where is the Human? Four Provocations

- Listen to Podcasts [HERE](#)
- Watch Videos [HERE](#)

METHODOLOGY, PEDAGOGY AND TRAINING

1. 'TRANSNATIONALISING THE CLASSROOM' SYMPOSIUM (Funded by the Humanities Institute and organised by HI Resident Scholar Dr Vanessa Iacocca, IRC Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellow, School of English, Drama and Film) [3 March 2023](#):

Funding: €1,888

This symposium explored and encouraged transnational approaches in teaching across the humanities. 21 presenters debated inclusive linguistics in classroom textbooks, decolonizing art and film studies syllabi, and “undisciplining” and queering humanities curricula. A “Best Practices for “Transnationalising the Classroom” roundtable shared transnational methods in teaching that decentre the nation and incorporate queer, intersectional, Indigenous, and Critical Race Studies approaches. There has been a preliminary discussion of building on the symposium by holding a joint Leeds-UCD event for PhD students at the University of Leeds next year.

- Link to programme available [HERE](#)
- Listen to the Roundtable podcast [HERE](#)

2. HI PHD CONFERENCE | TRANSNATIONAL HUMANITIES: CONCEPT AND PRAXIS 19 February 2021:



Keynote:

Dr Ailbhe Kenny (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick): "Shaping Space while Stateless: Insights from transcultural interactions"

- Read the full report [HERE](#)
- Listen to the podcasts [HERE](#)

[TNH PhD Network](#)

Members:

School of Art History and Cultural Policy: Prolet Decheva, Beke Mchunu, Pooja Sastry, Bronwen Gulkis

School of Classics: Mike Norris

School of English, Drama and Film: Lauren Cassidy (Chair), Suchismita Dattagupta, Clare Ní Cheallaigh, Deborah Schrijvers, Mathieu Bokestaël, Thinley Chodon, Taylor Follett, Bernadette Fox

School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore: Fiona Lyons

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures: Bianca Rita Cataldi, Maika Nguyen

School of Music: Tomos Watkins

School of Philosophy: Kelly Louise Rexzy Agra

Recent Activities:

The TNH PhD network is a community of postgraduate students who meet monthly to discuss developments in transnational studies, collaborate on writing outputs, and plan events. New material is regularly added to our blog, which is hosted and supported by the HI: [TNH-PHD Network](#)

Recently, Taylor Follett has written a report on "[Imperceptible Thresholds: New Heuristic Approaches](#)", a panel hosted by the Thresholds of Knowledge ECR network in collaboration with the HI PhD Conference 2022 | Thresholds: Contexts of Rupture, Change and Adaptation. Maika Nguyen's "[Home and Home/land in the Autofiction of Anna Moi and Dany Laferriere](#)" is also a recent addition to the blog; Nguyen's piece analyses the way global practices have shaped the private space of "home" in autofiction.

HI SEED FUNDING ROUNDS 1 and 2

(Round 1: max funding per project €4,000; Round 2: max funding per project €15,000):

1. Seed funding Round 1:

'INTERPRETING CHINA: ENGENDERING TRANSNATIONAL DIALOGUES' | WORKSHOP

Funding awarded: €3,590



Cover photo: Zhao Fengfeng acting as interpreter for Zhou Enlai. Image care of Zhao Fengfeng

On 16-17 June 2022 a workshop entitled 'Interpreting China: Engendering Transnational Dialogues' was held at University College Dublin Humanities Institute and online. The workshop was organised by Dr. Yanli Xie (UCD) and Dr. Jennifer Bond (UCL). The workshop brought together 15 scholars from across Ireland, UK and Europe working in Chinese History, Gender Studies and Translation Studies. It aimed to shed light on the lives of Chinese interpreters who conveyed to non-Chinese knowledge of Chinese culture, language, politics, and society across Chinese history. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor

Henrietta Harrison, Stanley Ho Tutorial Fellow at Pembroke College, Oxford. The workshop was made possible by Seed Funding grants from UCD Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UCD Humanities Institute (Transnationalising the Humanities Research Strand) and the UCD School of History.

2. Seed funding Round 2:

EXTRACTIVIST LANDSCAPES: HUMANITIES, ARTISTIC AND ACTIVIST RESPONSES

Funding awarded: €14,982



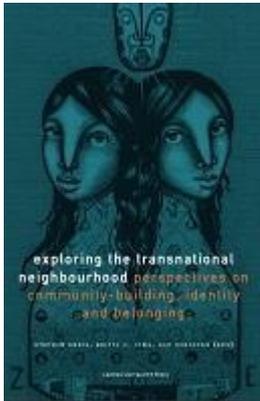
This project aims to analyse the entangled relations between the extractivist processes of mining and how artists and activists work to reimagine the potential futures of post-excavated landscapes. Comprised of three interrelated strands (methodologies, site studies, and creative dialogues), and working across a range of geographic, temporal, and imaginary sites in literary, visual art, historical and cultural works, our

project investigates the transhistorical and transregional legacies of mining in Europe and the UK with a specific focus on mines and the post-mining communities that have developed on the sites of defunct mines, as well as on the communities resisting the development of new mining sites, in Estonia (oil shale), Ireland (peat) and Northern Ireland (gold). The project includes a series of transdisciplinary workshops, site visits and commissioned artwork that will be delivered in 2023.

Activities and events linked to this project are planned for later in 2023 and 2024.

[Image credit: 'Goldmine_Germiston'_Natalie Fuller c.1928_watercolour additions by S. Comyn]

PROJECT-RELATED PUBLICATIONS



Exploring the Transnational Neighbourhood: Perspectives on Community-Building, Identity and Belonging. Leuven UP, 2022. [Open Access e-book](#)

Open Access funding: €4,586

Co-edited by Stephan Ehrig and Britta Jung, two Humanities Institute IRC postdoctoral fellows, in collaboration with Gad Schaffer, this peer-reviewed volume arose from two interconnected TNH events: a workshop on *Transnational and Translingual Urban Writing* at the IMLR in London in June 2018, which was followed by the interdisciplinary conference on the *Transnational Neighbourhood* at the UCD Humanities Institute in September 2019. This volume offers a pivotal response to one of the key questions of our time: How do people create a sense of community within an exceedingly globalised context? By focusing on the neighbourhood as a central space of transcultural everyday experience, the multidisciplinary contributions explore bottom-up practices of community-building alongside cultural, social, economic, and historical barriers.

(2023), *Framing Ageing: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Shared Experience*, eds. Julia Langbein, Mary Cosgrove and Anne Fuchs London. Bloomsbury. In press. HI Open Access funding: €10,000

Fuchs, Anne, (2023), Von der Krisenerzählung der Moderne zur chronischen Krisenerzählung im Anthropozän: Überlegungen zur Aktualität von Kathrin Röggla's *die alarmbereiten*. *GegenwartsLiteratur. Ein Germanistisches Jahrbuch/A German Studies Yearbook* 23. In press.

Fuchs, Anne (2023), Gender, the Politics of Looking and the Narration of Old Age: Elizabeth Strout's Empathetic Realism in *Olive, Again*. In: Mary Cosgrove, Anne Fuchs, Julia Langbein (eds) *Reframing Ageing: interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Shared Experience*. Bloomsbury. In press.

Fuchs, Anne (2023) Posthumane Figurationen von Beschleunigung, Tempo und Bewegungseuphorie in Kafkas *Betrachtung*. In: Johannes Lehmann and Alexander Klings (eds), *Kafkas Zeiten. Tagung der Franz Kafka Gesellschaft 2021*. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann 2023: pp. 57-76.

Fuchs, Anne (2022,) The Translocalization of Place: Sectarian Neighbourhoods, Boundaries, and Transgressive Practices in Anna Burns Belfast. In: Britta Jung, Stephan Ehrig and Gad Schaffer (eds). *The Transnational Neighbourhood in Interdisciplinary Perspective*. Leiden University Press 2022: pp. 139-159.

Fuchs, Anne (2022), On Unbecoming Human and the End of Genealogy in Kafka's *Die Sorge des Hausvaters*. *Germanistik in Ireland: Yearbook of the German Studies Association of Ireland*. 17 (2022): 117-127.

Fuchs, Anne (2022,) Chronic Crisis Novels and the Quest for ‚the Good-Enough-Life‘: Kathrin Röggla's *die alarmbereiten*, Kristine Bilkau's *Die Glücklichen* and Thomas Nagelschmidt's *Arbeit*. Special Issue: Being In/Human: Normativity, Precarity and Relationality, ed. by Maria Roca-Lizarazu and Simone Pfeifer. *Seminar* 58/3 (2022): 328-48.

Fuchs, Anne (2021), How to do Things with Words. Animal Ontology in Kafka's *Ein Bericht für eine Akademie*. *Germanistik in Ireland: Yearbook of the German Studies Association of Ireland*. 16 (2021): 57-66.

Fuchs, Anne (2020), Die schleichende Dystopie unserer Gegenwart: Krise als Latenzphänomen in Sibylle Bergs *GRM*. *Brainfuck*. Special issue: Krisennarrative und Krisenszenarien, ed. by Ansgar Nünning. *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift* vol 70, 3/4 (2020): 397-412.

Fuchs, Anne (2020), It's About Time: The Temporality of Transnational Studies. In: Rebecca Braun and Ben Schofield (eds), *Transnational German Studies*. Liverpool University Press: 177- 191.

Fuchs, Anne (2020), Resonance: A Normative Category or Figure of Uncertainty? On Reading Hartmut Rosa with Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*. Special issue 'Resonance' eds. Mark Haugaard and Kieran Kohane, *Journal of Political Power* vol 13/3: 353-365.