

Irish Humanities Alliance:

'Creating Our Future':
Online Brainstorming Session,
Friday 22 October,



A National Conversation
on Research in Ireland



Irish Humanities Alliance



Irish Humanities Alliance: 'Creating Our Future' brainstorm, 22 October 2021

Context and objectives:

On Friday 22 October the [Irish Humanities Alliance](#) (IHA) hosted an online brainstorming session as part of the Government of Ireland ['Creating our Future'](#) campaign. This campaign calls on the public to submit ideas that can be tackled by Irish researchers to create a better future for all. With this in mind, the IHA felt it appropriate to bring together arts and humanities researchers to consider areas relevant to our fields. We did this with the aim of encouraging the arts and humanities community as a whole to engage with the 'Creating our Future' campaign ahead of the 30 November deadline. A sample range of questions gathered during the IHA session are listed below.

Sample questions:

- How do we use visual culture to imagine/represent the past?
- How is poverty visually represented?
- How do social media cultures impact upon self-representation?
- How will musician re-invent themselves post-Covid?
- What have we learned about doing this differently after Covid?
- How has technology affected the history of the family?
- How can we preserve digital repositories?
- Who owns museum collections?
- How do museums narrate the nation?
- How should museums represent us via artefacts and spaces?
- How do we promote multilingualism in Ireland, especially among those born on the island?
- Why are Arts sector workers so precariously employed when the Arts are so central to Ireland's image?
- Why are poets' deaths so widely mourned in Ireland?
- How can digital technology help us understand the spread of literary movements?
- What is the history of ideas of the universe?
- What did Europeans know about Ireland before 1900?
- What is the role of the Humanities past present and future in supporting the mental health of our youth in Ireland?
- How was and is Ireland implicated in imperial processes and formations in the past and present? How do we avoid such implications in the future?
- How did partition impact the border counties Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth?
- Are the people in the Republic of Ireland ready for a United Ireland? How would it impact their lives?
- What would life in Ireland be like if we lived with the 1922 Constitution?
- How do we support Irish writers and Irish literary culture to be a more active force in Irish society?
- What proportion of Famine relief projects were actually useful?
- How did Irish events impact on events elsewhere, for instance in the years 1647-1648?

- How does critical race theory play into our understanding of Irish history and culture?
- Why has the GAA dominated Irish sporting life?
- What new tools would be necessary to search through the European world for references to Ireland?
- Who or what is a public intellectual, and what is their role?
- What is the future of traditional news media? Of print? Of books?
- Why, historically, have Irish politics been so distinct from the shape of British politics?
- What is the place of public engagement by academics?
- How do we best preserve and communicate our rich archaeological heritage, including that of the more recent past, even as we seek to build and expand our national infrastructures?
- What is Ireland's role in the next phases of regulating social media?
- How have Irish experiences shaped European Art, world literature, cinema, the structure of the EU?
- What does it mean to be Irish-Abroad and how do these contexts vary in other locales?
- Where do we look to understand how Irish identity is formed?
- How does the way in which we are taught about our history affect our view of the rest of the world?
- How do we successfully manage our place in new online spaces? Who will get left behind in these?
- How modern are we? What are we missing that has been left behind in the race to modernity?
- How does independent Ireland compare with other states created after 1918 in terms of welfare provision?
- What has Europe meant, historically, to Ireland?
- Why have townlands had an enduring importance in Ireland?

Further information

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