



Call for Papers:
**Streets Ahead:
Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces**
9-10 September 2022, Dublin



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Conference Theme

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA), in collaboration with Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) and The LAB, is delighted to present **Streets Ahead: Post-Pandemic Civic Spaces**. Today, as we plan for post-pandemic landscapes, with greater awareness and appreciation of the outdoors, the open-air spaces of our common world have renewed significance. Public places now need to function more effectively as truly shared spaces. We are extending the Call for Papers deadline and are now inviting proposals up to **5pm on Thursday 30 June 2022**.

The conference will take place, in hybrid form, on **9-10 September 2022** in Dublin, at TU Dublin, Grangegorman, and The LAB, Foley Street (it will comply in full with any government guidelines that may be in place in September 2022). Speakers will have the opportunity to present virtually, and registered attendees may also attend virtually if they so choose. Registration will open in June with the final programme available to all in mid-August.

Call for Papers

Looking to the past to inform the present, Streets Ahead will bring together researchers from the full range of arts and humanities fields to interrogate the impacts of the past and present on the future of shared open-air civic spaces. As we emerge from the pandemic, how can we best capitalise on the desire for multi-use and genuinely civic spaces and remake the streets, squares, parks, and gardens? What can we learn from the past? Presenting current research from the full range of arts and humanities fields including (though not limited to) design, visual and material culture, history (public history, cultural history, social history, architectural history), architecture, literature, philosophy, urban planning, sonic studies, public art and heritage studies, this conference attempts to provide a critical lens through which to focus this newly enhanced attention.

We invite proposals of **200 words** for **individual (20 minute)** papers and of **500 words for curated/themed panels**, derived from any of the above questions, centred on aspects of visual and material culture in shared public spaces, including but not limited to: urban planning, transport, human flow, utility functions, commerce, leisure, cultural history, architecture, buildings, facades, windows, signage, art, performance, sound, street furniture, memorials, monuments, advertising and designed objects.

Participants may wish to explore:

- What can we learn of civic society from public places as they are currently synthesised?
- How might we assess the impact of past binary urban differentiations, such as from rural spaces?
- How is history embodied across such spaces defined by modernist civic design?
- What can we learn about society by looking at the everyday, often overlooked, visual, material and sonic cultures of shared civic spaces?
- How are the complexities and lived legacies of colonial and imperial histories manifested in shared open-air public spaces?

- In what ways are cultural diversity and transnational identities visually, materially and sensorially present in our shared civic spaces?
- What is the relationship between the owners of streets, squares, public gardens and parks and those who use them?

Proposals should be emailed to irishhumanities@gmail.com by **5pm on Thursday 30 June 2022**. For further information contact IHA Director Dr Mel Farrell at m.farrell@ria.ie / info@irishhumanities.com

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