



women's
studies at UL

'Unmarried Mothers' in Twentieth-century Ireland: Cultural Reflections

University of Limerick
Ireland
24th-25th June 2004

Thursday 24 June

09h00 - 10h30 **Registration / Tea and coffee**

10h30 - 11h30 Welcome Address and opening remarks

11h30 - 13h00 **Session 1: The Magdalen Laundries.**

"Art Installation as Cultural Representation: Diane Fenster's "The Secrets of the Magdalen Laundries" (2000)"

James M. Smith (Boston College, USA)

"Washing Away Their Sins: 'Unmarried Motherhood' in Peter Mullan's *The Magdalene Sisters*"

Aida Rosende Pérez (University of Vigo, Spain / University College Dublin, Ireland)

The Magdalen Laundries in Narrative and Film: Voicing the Silence"

Paula Murphy (Mary Immaculate College, Ireland)

13h00 - 14h30 **Lunch**

14h30 - 16h00 **Session 2: Irish Culture and Single Maternity.**

"'Surely My God is Feminine': Motherhood and the Constitution of Ireland"

John-Paul McCarthy (University of California, USA / University College Cork, Ireland)

"Representations of 'Unmarried Mothers' in Irish Folklore"

Anne O'Connor (RTÉ)

"Secrets Unveiled: Representations of Single Motherhood in Contemporary Irish Language Cultural Texts"

Bríona Nic Dhiarmada (University of Limerick, Ireland)

16h00 - 16h30 Tea/Coffee

16h30 – 18h00

**Keynote Address: “The Gothic Republic”
Gerardine Meaney (University College Dublin, Ireland)**

20h00

Conference Dinner

Friday 25 June

09h00 – 10h30

Session 3: ‘Unmarried Motherhood’ in Contemporary Ireland.

“*The Snapper: A Non-Crisis Pregnancy?*”

Dervila Layden (University College Dublin, Ireland)

“Mothers out of Place in Mary Morrissy's *Mother of Pearl*”

Sinead McDermott (University of Limerick, Ireland)

“Papa Don't Preach: The Necessity of Naming in *December Bride* and *The Snapper*”

Patrick Walsh and Marcus Free (Mary Immaculate College, Ireland)

10h30 – 11h00

Tea/Coffee

11h00 – 13h00

Session 4: Single Maternity in 20th-century Ireland:

Socio-historical Perspectives.

“Impact of the Motherhood Ideology on Single Mothers”

Clare O'Hagan (University of Limerick, Ireland)

“Redressing a Balance: Mother and Baby Homes in Ireland from 1922”

Ann Matthews (NUI Maynooth, Ireland)

“Unmarried Mothers and Infanticide in Ireland from 1920 to 1939”

Clíona Rattigan (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

“Irish Newspaper Representations of Women, Migration and Pregnancy outside Marriage in the 1930s”

Louise Ryan (Middlesex University, UK)

13h00 – 14h30

Lunch

14h30 – 16h30

Session 5: Representations of Single Maternity in Irish Literature.

“‘She pushed her secret out into the night, far from the town tucked up in little scandals’: The Unmarried Mother in Brinsley MacNamara’s *The Valley of the Squinting Windows* with Reference to Paula Meehan and Nathaniel Hawthorne”
Siobhán O’Connor (University of Limerick, Ireland)

“Visualizing Single Maternity in Edna O’Brien’s *Down by the River*”

Auxiliadora Pérez-Vides (University of Huelva, Spain)

“Unmarried Mothers Marrying Ireland: Subversive Strategies in Edna O’Brien’s Literature”

María Amor Barros del Río (Miguel de Cervantes European University, Spain)

“Scandalous Women: Unmarried Mothers in Short Stories by Mary Lavin, Edna O’Brien and Éilís Ní Dhuibhne”
Deirdre O’Byrne (Loughborough University, UK)

16h30 – 17h00 Tea/Coffee

17h00 – 18h30 Keynote Address and Conference close.
Aisling Walsh, film director (director of *Sinners* and *Song for a Raggy Boy*)

19h00 Farewell Reception