

## Conversations about our Cultural Imaginations

Phase 1 – 2022

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March: Cultural Imagination in the context of 100 Years.**

An introductory group session and plenary with introductory contributions by Connal Parr.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March: Orange Irishman and Irish Loyalism**

A focus on Thomas Carnduff & Sean O Casey with Extracts from Carnduff's autobiography (1993) and Sean O Casey 'The Plough and the Stars' (1926).

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Loyalty in a Free State: Echoes of our Great Wars**

Sebastian Barry - Extracts from Barry's *The Steward of Christendom* (1995) and Jennifer Johnston's *How Many Miles to Babylon?* (1974).

### **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Hierarchy of Identities**

A focus on John Hewitt. Extracts: Interview with Hewitt with Ketzell Levine (*Fortnight*, No. 213, Feb 1985) and poems 'An Irishman in Coventry', 'The Coasters' and 'At the Newsagents' (all taken from *The Collected Poems*, edited by Frank Ormsby).

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April: Northern Loyalist Voices**

A focus on Robert Harbinson & Gary Mitchell. Extracts from Harbinson's *No Surrender: An Ulster Childhood* (1987) and *In A Little World of Our Own* (1997) and interview in *The Guardian – G2*.

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April: Voices from along the border**

A focus on Jonathan Burgess & Jean Bleakney. Extracts from Burgess's *Crows on the Wire* (2013), and Bleakney's poem from *No Remedy* (2017) and short 2-page piece on The Belfast Agreement in *Irish Pages* (2019).

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April: Contemporary Women's Voices**

A focus on Jan Carson & Wendy Erskine (Contemporary poets/novelists). Extracts from *The Firestarters* (2019) (or *The Raptures* 2022) and eponymous story from *Sweet Home* (2019) (or *Dance Moves*) (Ref. Marie Jones)

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Contemporary Voices continues.**

A focus on David Ireland & Stacey Gregg. Extracts from *Cyprus Avenue* (2016), an interview with Mark Lawson (*The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2019/feb/18/david-ireland-cyprus-avenue-violence>) and/or screened extract of *Sadie* (2021). Gregg's *Your Ma's A Hard Brexit* (2019) and extract from her play *Lagan* (2011).

*Confirmation of all details & arrangement for in person events.*

*\*Draft programme. Changes may be made to the Programme depending on availability.*

Biography/Lead Facilitator: Connal Parr. Author: *Inventing the Myth: Political Passions and the Ulster Protestant Imagination* (Oxford University Press 2017). Senior Lecturer: Humanities, Northumbria University.

The *Cultural Conversations* programme is shaped by Ruth Gonsalves Moore in conjunction with and informed by the author, lecturer Connal Parr (University of Northumbria). Project Partners are The Yeats Society, Sligo and Eastside Arts, Belfast. The programme is funded by the International Fund for Ireland as part of the peacebuilding programme *Across the Lines* at The Glens Centre, Manorhamilton

