

Cultural Conversations - Discussion Programme - Phase 1 March/April 2022

Thursday 10th March: Cultural Imagination in the context of 100 Years.

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

Wednesday 16th 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 24th 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 31st 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 7th 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 14th 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 28th April: Contemporary Women's Voices

TBC. A focus on Jan Carson, Wendy Erskine (Contemporary poets/novelists), and Stacey Gregg. Extracts from *The Firestarters* (2019) (or *The Raptures* 2022), *Sweet Home* (2019) (or *Dance Moves*) *Your Ma's A Hard Brexit* (2019) and extract from *Lagan* (2011). (Ref. Marie Jones).

*Changes may be made to the Programme.

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 compiled by Ruth Gonsalves Moore in conjunction with the author, lecturer Connal Parr (University of Northumbria). Project Partners are The Yeats Society, Sligo and Eastside Arts, Belfast.

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