



All lectures will be held in Tipperary County Museum, Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel.



Lectures will commence at 10.30am sharp.



€5 per lecture. Space is limited. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis



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Tipperary County Museum Lecture Series

OCT'19
APR'20



MORALS & MISCONDUCT

Tipperary County Museum is delighted to announce our 7th annual lecture series 'Morals and Misconduct'. It will delve into the concept of crime both legally and morally. It will examine the perceptions of crime, punishment and rehabilitation from early Christian to modern times. It will look at the offenders, the justice system and the public perception of what constituted a crime. Is a crime actually a crime when it is committed for a valid or justifiable reason in the opinion of the offender or wider society? Does upbringing, faith and education determine what individuals perceive as right and wrong? Speakers will examine the attitudes of society towards the law as well as how punishment has evolved towards a more sympathetic rehabilitative notion.

Cover Image: Getty's Open Content Program.

Lecture Calendar

2019

LECTURE	DAMIAN BRACKEN	
01	Sin and Punishment: Church and the People in Early Ireland	SATURDAY OCT 5
LECTURE	CONOR REIDY	
02	'The Rise and Fall of Borstal in Clonmel, 1906-1956'.	SATURDAY NOV 2
LECTURE	FIN DWYER	
03	Justifying Violence Food Riots and the Great Hunger	SATURDAY DEC 7

2020

LECTURE	JOHN FLANNERY	
04	The Cormack Brothers	SATURDAY JAN 11
LECTURE	DR. GERALDINE CLEERE	
05	Mirroring Morals in Penalty	SATURDAY FEB 1
LECTURE	GEORGINA LARAGY	
06	Suicide in 19th century Ireland: medicine, law and memory	SATURDAY MAR 7
LECTURE	EUGENE BRODERICK	
07	Ireland's Industrial Schools	SATURDAY APR 4



LECTURE
01



Sin and Punishment: Church and the People in Early Ireland

Saturday 5th October 2019

Damian Bracken



Synopsis: Confessors' guides, known as penitentials, were used in early Ireland to measure the gravity of sin, and the punishment. Some thought the penitentials were key reforming texts that allowed the most

serious of offenders to be rehabilitated, others thought they should be banned. Their impact was profound and, in time, the penitentials came to be used across western Europe influencing ideas about Christian forgiveness, punishment, the fate of sinners, and the afterlife. This talk explores the penitentials, their history, and the ideas that lie behind them.

Biography: Damian Bracken teaches in the School of History, UCC, and spent periods teaching in the Department of History, Boston University, and the History Department, Boston College, where he held the Brian P. Burns Chair in Irish Studies. His research focuses on Hiberno-Latin literature, especially on the works of St Columbanus, the earliest Irish writer to leave an identifiable corpus of writings, and the first to explore Irish identity. Damian is interested particularly in exploring Columbanus's works in the context of late antique and early medieval ideals of authority and concepts of orthodoxy. He jointly edited *Ireland and Europe in the twelfth century: reform and renewal* (Dublin 2006) and the commentary volume that accompanies the facsimile of the Schaffhausen Adomnán, recently published as the first volume in the series *Irish Manuscripts in Facsimile*.

LECTURE
02



The Rise and Fall of Borstal in Clonmel, 1906-1956

Saturday 2nd November 2019

Conor Reidy



Synopsis: Between 1906 and 1956, the town of Clonmel was home to the main weapon used by the Irish state in a never-ending fight against juvenile criminality. Named after the village of its parent-institution

founded four years earlier in Kent, Clonmel borstal was the place of detention for male criminals between sixteen and twenty-one years of age. The institution was managed wholly by the prison service and each boy was a convicted criminal, sent there by a court. This lecture outlines the extraordinary story of Clonmel borstal from humble beginnings in the local prison, through revolution, civil war, world wars, and controversy.

Biography: Dr Conor Reidy holds a Ph.D in History from the University of Limerick, where he lectured for several years. He also taught at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and as a Distance Learning Tutor with Dublin City University. He worked as a Researcher with the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes. Conor has written three books on Irish penal history, Ireland's Moral Hospital, *Criminal Irish Drunkards and Mutiny or Murder*. He now works fulltime as a Copyeditor and Indexer. He serves as a monthly history contributor on Tipp FM and has made frequent appearances on national radio and TG4.

LECTURE
03



Justifying Violence Food Riots and the Great Hunger

Saturday 7th Dec 2019

Fin Dwyer



Synopsis: During the Great Hunger South Tipperary was greatly disturbed. Major riots and violence were common as the poor sought to stop export of food. This was met with an often equally violent response by the

authorities. This talk by historian Fin Dwyer will examine this violence and how our ancestors in the 19th century justified their actions. Whether the starving poor struggling to survive or the wealthy protecting their property both believed violence was justified. This subject poses fascinating questions in an often neglected aspect of the Great Hunger.

Biography: Fin Dwyer is a 38 year old Irish historian. He is a published author and creator of one of Ireland's most popular podcasts. Over the past three years he has been focused on the Great Hunger and is currently writing a book on resistance during the famine. He also designed the award winning *Kilkenny Famine Experience*, an interactive self-guided tour which brings the story of Kilkenny Workhouse to life and the acclaimed *Dublin Famine Tour*.

LECTURE
04



The Cormack Brothers

Saturday 11th Jan 2020

John Flannery



Synopsis: In May 1858, brothers Daniel and William Cormack from Loughmore were executed for the murder of local land agent John Ellis. Despite their pleas of innocence, the unreliability of the main witness

and a huge public outcry over their convictions the brothers were not spared. This lecture will look at the events leading up to the crime, the society in which the events occurred and the legacy it created.

Biography: John Flannery compiled and presented the popular *Talking History* at Steeples talks on local history. He has lectured extensively to historical societies and schools throughout Munster. He is currently president of the Ormond Historical Society, based in Nenagh. He is deeply interested in local history, particularly the Irish Civil War period. John is currently completing an MA in History of Family at University of Limerick.

LECTURE
05



Mirroring Morals in Penalty

Saturday 1st Feb 2020

Geraldine Cleere



Synopsis: This lecture will explore the main eras of punishment from the 17th Century to modern day, considering how punishment has evolved in line with public concepts of morality and justice.

Examining first a system of mainly brutal and corporal punishments, then exploring the various rehabilitative or penal 'responses' that developed in Ireland depending on the ideology of the time, this lecture will conclude by analysing the way we use punishment today as a reflection of our own attitudes towards crime and offenders.

Biography: Dr. Geraldine Cleere is a lecturer of Criminology and Law at Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland. She lectures primarily in the area of prison law and penology, with a keen interest in imprisonment, punishment and rehabilitation. She currently works on a WIT programme to train the Irish Prison Service recruit prison officers. Her research interests are prison education, rehabilitation, reintegration and desistance from crime, the effects of imprisonment and understanding prison sociology. Her forthcoming book 'Desistance from Criminality: Prison Education and Social Capital' is being published by Routledge Publications.

LECTURE
06



History of Suicide, Law and Medicine

Saturday 7th March 2020

Georgina Laragy



Synopsis: In 1864 Tipperary landlord Thomas Judkin Fitzgerald drowned himself in the River Suir near his property in Golden Hills, Lisheen. The response to his suicide will be used as a microcosm to help us

understand Victorian attitudes to suicide more generally. This case, discussed in tandem with others, will demonstrate that when a suicide occurred locally there was religion, medicine and the law intersected at a point of personal crisis for a family. The response of local people was also very important in this case, and folklore is key to understanding why the community reacted as they did.

Biography: Georgina Laragy is Glasnevin Trust Assistant Professor in Public History and Cultural Heritage, Director of M.Phil in Public History and Cultural Heritage. She works on suicide, poverty and institutions in 19th and 20th century Ireland. Recent publication: 'Locating Investigations into Suicidal Deaths in Urban Ireland, 1901-1915' in Laragy, Purdue and Wright, *Urban spaces in nineteenth century Ireland* (LUP, 2018)

LECTURE
07



Ireland's Industrial Schools

Saturday 4th April 2020

Eugene Broderick



Synopsis: Ireland's industrial schools have become a byword for the gross neglect and depraved treatment of children. This lecture examines their origins and development in the nineteenth and twentieth

centuries, and the treatment of the more than 170,000 girls and boys committed to their care. The reasons for, and the extent, of institutional abuse will be considered. Among the industrial schools which will be discussed is Ferryhouse, Clonmel.

Biography: Dr Eugene Broderick is a former secondary teacher and school principal and lecturer. He has a particular interest in the political and social history of Ireland in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His publications include: *John Hearne: Architect of the 1937 Irish Constitution* (2017); *Patterns and Patrons: The Holy Wells of Waterford* (2016); *The Boycott at Fethard-on-Sea 1957: A Study in Catholic-Protestant Relations in Modern Ireland* (2011); *Intellectuals and the Ideological Hijacking of Fine Gael 1932-1938* (2010); and *Waterford's Anglicans: Religion and Politics 1819-1872* (2009). He is currently modern history adviser at Waterford Museum of Treasures. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

