

# BRITISH AND IRISH CONTEMPORARY POETRY CONFERENCE:

*British and Irish Poetry  
1960-2010*

Supported by



Queen's University  
Belfast

School of English



BRITISH  
ACADEMY



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

From 11.00

***Registration:*****(At the Conference Venue, the Medical Biology Centre [MBC],  
97, Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7BL)**

1.00

*SANDWICH LUNCH*

1.45

*Welcome from Ed Larrissy, MBC North Lecture Theatre*

2.00-3.30

Parallel Sessions

1.a *Irish Poetry (1)* (Chair: Matthew Campbell) – MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
 Chris Agee (*Irish Pages*), The ethnic basis of Irish Poetry  
 Bruce Stewart (University of Ulster), The metaphysics of modern Irish poetry

1.b *Geoffrey Hill (1): Miltonic and Other Echoes* (Chair: Thomas Day) – MBC,  
 Lecture Theatre 2  
 Richie Hofmann (Emory University), Geoffrey Hill's Epigraphs  
 Steven Matthews (Oxford Brookes University), Sound as Politics: Geoffrey Hill as a  
 blind mouthed, blind understanding poet  
 Michael Molan (Magdalen College, Oxford), 'Simple, sensuous and passionate':  
 Milton and Eliot in the work of Geoffrey Hill

1.c *The Music of Poetry (1)* (Chair: William Rowe) – MBC, Rm 104  
 James Cummins (University College, Cork), Narcissus and Echo: Self Reflection and  
 Repetition in Writing and Catacoustics by Tom Raworth  
 Tony Lopez (Plymouth University), Only more so  
 Lacy Rumsey (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon), Reading Prynne Aloud:  
 Constraint, Orientation, Form

3.30  
*Coffee Break*

4.00-5.30

*Plenary*, MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
Christopher Ricks (Boston University), The strength of Hill's unrelenting,  
unreconciling mind  
(Chair: Edna Longley)

6.00

*Reception*  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland, MacNeice House, 77 Malone Road, Belfast  
(With the announcement of the first award of the Seamus Heaney Centre's  
Poetry Prize)

8.00

*Poetry Reading*, MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
Michael Schmidt, Don Paterson, Gerald Dawe, Christopher Reid, Peter McDonald,  
Peter Fallon

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

9.15-10.30

Parallel Sessions

2.a *Geoffrey Hill (2): Questions of Interpretation* (Chair: Steven Matthews) – MBC, North Lecture Theatre

Thomas Day (University of Central Lancashire), Criticism or Credulity? The later poetry of Geoffrey Hill

Niamh Downing (University of Exeter), 'Ton Kairon Exagorazomenoi': Redeeming Time in the poetry of Geoffrey Hill

Samira Nadkarni (University of Aberdeen), Suspensions: Seeking the 'I' in Geoffrey Hill's *Speech! Speech!*

Bridget Vincent (University of Cambridge), The example of Geoffrey Hill

2.b *The Music of Poetry (2)* (Chair: John Dennison) – MBC, Lecture Theatre 2

Naomi Banks (Durham University), Give your ears to this gabble-clinkered music: the contemporary Northern Irish sestina

Adrian Paterson (NUI, Galway), 'Sense in Sound': The Musics of Don Paterson

John Raimo (University of Oxford), Lines long behind them: Ciaran Carson, Sinéad Morrissey and the Irish Poetic Line

2.c *Ethics, Politics, Experimentation* (Chair: Tony Lopez) – MBC, Rm 104

Jack Baker (Durham University), 'This is the underworld of the deliberately lost': Jane Draycott's modernist evasions

Neil Pattison (St John's College, Cambridge), 'The ex-poet's beside herself': Reading the End of Poetry

Robin Purves (University of Central Lancashire), Being an(d) Object: Ontology and Ethics in Tom Leonard's 'nora's place' and Keston Sutherland's *Stress Position*

William Rowe (Birkbeck), Overturning the laws of appearance: Barry MacSweeney's political poetry.

2.d *Nature and Birds* (Chair: Ian Sansom) – MBC, Rm 105

Joanna Blachnio (Oxford), The ordinary otherness - the poetry of Fergus Allen

Maria Johnston (Trinity College, Dublin), For the birds: flights of fancy in Irish Women's Poetry

David Wheatley (University of Hull), 'As cold as hard and as temporary as flight': Birds in some recent poets of Britain and Ireland

10.30  
*Coffee Break*

11.00-12.15  
Parallel Sessions

3.a *Demanding Lyric* (Chair: John Goodby) – MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
Derek Attridge (University of York), Sound Reading: Don Paterson's Lyric Principle  
Natalie Pollard (University of York), Contemporary Poetry and Stupidity

3.b *Irish Poetry (2)* (Chair: Bruce Stewart) – MBC, Lecture Theatre 2  
Andrew Browne (NUI, Galway), 'A few ancient faces/detach and begin to circle':  
Thomas Kinsella and feminine archetypes  
Matt Campbell (University of Sheffield), Before Elegy: In love with Carson (Kinsella)  
and Muldoon  
Katelyn Ferguson (Trinity College, Dublin), Making Vision Possible: The body of  
Brendan Kennelly's 'The man made of rain'  
Florence Impens (Trinity College, Dublin), Remembering the Poets: Michael Longley  
and Greek Lyric Poetry

3.c *In and Out of Gender* (Chair: Meg Harper) – MBC, Rm 104  
Catriona Clutterbuck (University College, Dublin), Women Poets and the Irish History  
Wars  
Jane Dowson (De Montfort University), Towards a new confessionalism  
Will May (University of Southampton), The visual aesthetic in Lynette Roberts, Stevie  
Smith and Liz Lochhead

3.d *The familiar: place and the everyday* (Chair: John Brannigan) – MBC, Rm 105  
Ian Gregson (Bangor University), Simon Armitage's changes of place  
Ahren Warner (Queen Mary), Beyond explanation: The radical challenge of the  
Everyday in the poetry of Michael Donaghy  
Alex Wylie (QUB), 'For whom should I build?': Place and Self in Basil Bunting

12.15  
*SANDWICH LUNCH*

1.15-2.30

*Plenary*, MBC, North Lecture Theatre

Panel of Poet-Publishers: Peter Fallon (Gallery Press)  
 Don Paterson (University of St Andrews)  
 Michael Schmidt (University of Glasgow)

(Chair: Neil Corcoran):

2.45-4.00

Parallel Sessions

4.a *Seamus Heaney* (Chair: Rui Carvalho Homem) - MBC, North Lecture Theatre

John Dennison (University of St Andrews), The voices of my education: the origins of  
 Seamus Heaney's poetics

Michael Parker (University of Central Lancashire), In 'the stillness of long evenings':  
 Seamus Heaney's Poetry since 2006

Meg Tyler (Boston University), You Hardly Notice as You Move: Sound Patterns in  
 Recent Sonnets

4.b *Poetry and Place* (Chair: Peter McDonald) – MBC, Lecture Theatre 2

Neal Alexander (University of Nottingham), The god tracks converge: Peter Riley  
 and the poetic of place

John Brannigan (University College, Dublin), Dreaming of the Islands: The poetry of  
 the shipping forecast

Amy Cutler (Royal Holloway), Littoral and literal: capes, coasts, and British poetry

4.c *Scottish Poetry* (Chair: John McAuliffe) – MBC, Rm 104

Peter Mackay (QUB), Sorley MacLean and the Modernist Long Poem

Margery McCulloch (University of Glasgow), Bards and Radicals in Contemporary  
 Scottish Poetry: Liz Lochhead, Jackie Kay and an Evolving Tradition

4.d *Ends of Empires* (Chair: Philip McGowan) – MBC, Rm 105

Justin Quinn (Charles University, Prague), Poetry and Translation during the cold  
 war

Nathan Suhr-Sytsma (Yale University), An Ulsterman Abroad: James Simmons and  
 Nigeria

Rory Waterman (University of Leicester), Philip Larkin and Americans

Stephen Wilson (University of Coimbra), Songs for a drowsy emperor: on reading  
 John Ash

British and Irish Contemporary Poetry Conference

4.00-4.30  
*Coffee Break*

4.30-6.00

*Plenary* - MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
William Logan (University of Florida), Lowell's Skunk: Heaney's Skunk  
(Chair: Fran Brearton)

6.30-7.45

*Poetry Reading* : Poets of Contemporary Belfast – MBC, North Lecture Theatre  
Michael Longley, Ciaran Carson, Medbh McGuckian, Frank Ormsby,  
Sinéad Morrissey, Leontia Flynn

9.00

*Conference Dinner* (Great Hall, Lanyon Building, QUB)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

9.15-10.30

Parallel Sessions

5.a *Derek Mahon* (Chair: Michael Parker) – MBC, North Lecture Theatre

Gail McConnell (QUB), 'A Prolonged course//of lobotomy and vivisection': Calvinism, Rupture and Revision in the Poetry of Derek Mahon

Kelly Sullivan (Boston College), 'Even as we speak': Time in Form from MacNeice to Mahon

Mélanie White (Paris), Staging the present - the real as vision: the heritage of Greek historiography and philosophy in the poetry of Derek Mahon

5.b *Medbh McGuckian* (Chair: Leontia Flynn) – MBC, Lecture Theatre 2

Rui Carvalho Homem (University of Porto), Of bodies, brides and ballerinas: Women and Intermediality in McGuckian and Morrissey

Eamonn Hughes (QUB), 'anti-home ... counter-home': place in Medbh McGuckian's Poetry

Ashley Tellis (Hyderabad), Observations of Rain: Medbh McGuckian and the Troubles

5.c *Munster Poetry* (Chair: David Wheatley) – MBC, Rm 104

John Goodby (University of Swansea), On Thomas McCarthy

Clíona Ní Ríordáin (Sorbonne Nouvelle) , On Gerry Murphy

Val Nolan (NUI, Galway), On Michael Hartnett

5.d *The Text* (Chair: Brian Caraher) – MBC, Rm 105

Elizabeth Chase (Emory University), 'Smaller than the nation, larger than the family': Exploring Michael Longley's work as an editor

Matthew Sperling (Keble College, Oxford), Trade publishers and small presses

10.30

*Coffee Break*

11.00-12.15

*Plenary* – MBC, North Lecture Theatre

Angela Leighton (Trinity College, Cambridge), Justifying Time in Contemporary Poetry

(Chair: Derek Attridge)

12.15

*SANDWICH LUNCH*

1.15-2.30

Parallel Sessions

6.a *Ciaran Carson* (Chair: Eamonn Hughes) – MBC North Lecture Theatre  
 Nicholas Allen (NUI, Galway), 'If you have ever thought of writing a novel, I would very much like to hear about it' Ciaran Carson and the Poetry of Prose  
 Grzegorz Czemieli (University of Warsaw), Remembering Being: A reading of Ciaran Carson's poetry in the light of Martin Heidegger and Paul Celan  
 Ciaran O'Neill (QUB), 'In and out of time': Ciaran Carson's Poetry

6.b *Irish Poetry (3)* (Chair: John Redmond) – MBC, Lecture Theatre 2  
 Miriam Gamble (QUB), Bad Language: Political (de)constructions in Sinead Morrissey and Leontia Flynn  
 Meg Harper (University of Limerick), 'Carolina Hat': Transnational Translation and Vona Groarke's Lament for Art O'Leary  
 Laura O'Connor (University of California, Irvine), Feminist linguistic utopianism and the *aisling* genre

6.c *Welsh Poetry* (Chair: Peter Mackay) – MBC, Rm 104  
 Philip McGowan (QUB), Thirteen ways of looking at RS Thomas  
 Nerys Williams (University College, Dublin), 'While the bird sang, like a shower of rain/they forgot about Bush and Saddam Hussein' Robert Minninnick's representation of War from Wales

6.d *Poetry, Creation and Value* (Chair: Ian Gregson) – MBC, Rm 105  
 Jon Glover (Bolton University), Poetry in 1960s Leeds: a peculiar cultural economy  
 William Wootten (University of Bristol), Seriousness and Value in the work of Peter Porter

2.30

*Coffee Break*

2.45-4.00

Parallel Sessions

7.a *Paul Muldoon* (Chair: Justin Quinn) – MBC, North Lecture TheatreJohn McAuliffe (University of Manchester), *Books of Numbers*Ruben Moi (University of Tromsø), 'Quoof', 'Quaquaqua' and 'Chiraqui': the  
language of Muldoon's poetryJohn Redmond (University of Liverpool), *The Shape of the table: Uses of the dinner  
party in the poetry of Paul Muldoon*7.b *Irish Poetry (4)* (Chair: Nicholas Allen) – MBC – Lecture Theatre 2Adam Crothers (Girton College, Cambridge), 'The chances are this won't work':  
Peter McDonald and some versions of PastoralsLucy Collins (University College, Dublin), *Thomas Kinsella: From Centre City*7.c *Hauntings* (Chair: Stephen Wilson) – MBC, Rm 104Sarah Jackson (Nottingham Trent University), *Ghostly currents: Alice Oswald and  
the return of the repressed*Evan Jones, *All who take pleasure in the learning of that time: Cavafian resonances  
in Christopher Middleton and John Ash*Maren Kratz (University of Heidelberg), *Harry Clifton's Paradise: Dante and the  
Contemporary Irish Poet*

4.15

*Coffee/tea: Close**END*