

9th-13th JUNE 2025
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

INSAP XIII

PROGRAMME



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Sunday 8th June 2025

6:00 – 9:00pm Welcome Reception at Belfast City Hall

Delegates will access City Hall via rear entrance, Donegal Square South

7:30 – 8:00pm Poetry Reading

Poets: Darcey Dugan, Kali Cramer and Matthew Rice (Seamus Heaney Centre, Queen's University Belfast)

Monday 9th June 2025

Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University

8:45 – 9:10am Registration

9:10 – 9:40am Official Welcome

Janice Carruthers, Dean of Research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

John Hatch, Chair, INSAP

Marilina Cesario, Local Organiser

9:40 – 10:50am Session 1: Cosmic Harmonies

Chair: Chris Impey (University of Arizona)

Dancing with the Stars: Cosmic Order and Power in Court Ballets of 17th-Century France
Cybèle Arnaud (The Catholic University of America)

The Notes of Black Bile – Saturn and the Musical Description of Melancholy
Angelo Adamo (INAF / IASF Palermo)

Celestial Harmony in French 14th-Century Culture
Philippe Debrouse (SPHERE, Université Paris Cité)

10:50 – 11:05am Coffee break

11:05 – 12.10pm Session 2: Illuminating the Unknown: Cosmic Intersections of Art, Poetry and Climate

Chair: Chris Impey (University of Arizona)

Dark Skies and Cosmic Reflection: Grief, Time, and the Climate Crisis
Louise Jane Beer (Freelance Artist)

You, Darkness: A Collaborative Project in Eco-poetry, Art, and Astronomy at Berea College

Ansel Elkins (Berea College)

Sequential Lunar Observations

Betsey Price (Glendon College, York University)

12:10 – 1:10pm Lunch Break

1:10 – 2:00pm Session 3: Solar Symbolism and Divine Justice

Chair: Aisling Reid (Queen's University Belfast)

Sun Divination and the Twelve Days of Christmas

Marilina Cesario (Queen's University Belfast)

Nothing but the Sun? Lightscapes and Liminality

Laura Hollengreen (University of Arizona)

2:00 – 2:10pm Coffee Break

2:10 – 3:45pm Session 4: Visualising the Cosmos: Art, Architecture and Scientific Discovery

Chair: Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)

Scientific Discovery through Astronomical Illustration: A Visual History of the Ring Nebula

Alexandra Boelhouwer (United States Naval Observatory)

"The Stars Drew Near": The Life of Georg Simon Plössl (1794 – 1868)

Richard Schmidt (U.S. Naval Observatory)

Science in Stained Glass: Exploring the Space Window of Washington National Cathedral

Carrie Fitzgerald (Montgomery College)

Inspiration Poured in Concrete: Goetheanum Architecture Relating to Mind and Cosmos

Nicole Montag-Keller (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

4:00 – 5:00pm Keynote

Presenter: John Hatch (Chair, INSAP)

Sighting the Sun — and Moon? — at Stonehenge?

Professor Clive Ruggles (University of Leicester)

5:00 – 6:00pm Wine Reception at Great Hall

Music by Ben McCleary

Tuesday 10th June 2025

9:30am Newgrange Excursion

Coach departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)

11:00am – 1:00pm City Bus Tour

Tour departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University

8:30 – 9:00am Coffee Break

9:00 – 10:10am Session 1: Skyscapes and Pathways: Navigating Landscapes

Chair: Terry Moseley (Irish Astronomical Association)

Night Landscapes of the Bronze Age? Lunula as Navigational Device: A Working Hypothesis

Gloria Vallese (Accademia di Belle Arti, Venezia)

British Writers Grappling with Neolithic Wreckage

Holly Henry (California State University, San Bernardino)

A Light in the Dark Matter: Art and the Cosmos Beyond Perception

Ashar Mobeen (Western University)

10:10 – 10:25am Coffee Break

10:25 – 12:00pm Session 2: Celestial Knowledge Across Cultures: Navigation, Cosmology, and Temporal Cycles

Chair: Holly Henry (California State University)

“O you who was born in Nu while the sky had not yet come into being, while the Earth had not yet come” – Ancient Egyptian Cosmologies and Philosophical Thought

Joanna Popielska Grzybowska (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Astronomical and Cosmological Concepts in Christian Ethiopia and Eritrea

Daria Elagina and Augustine Dickinson (University of Münster)

Chasing the Stars Naked Eye: The Benin Ton Shermen Challenging Modern Telescopes in Daily Navigation

Dafon Aimé Segla (Université d'Abomey-Calavi)

Circumnavigation in Time

Maciej Lukasz Zapiór (Academy of Sciences Astronomical Institute)

12:00 – 1:10pm Lunch Break

1:10 – 2:00pm Session 3: Myth, Landscape and Celestial Symbolism

Chair: Ciarán Walsh (Queen's University Belfast)

Croagh Patrick: The Saint, the Serpent and the Sun

Frances Clynes (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

Mesca Ulad and the Axis Mundi at Uisneach: Where the Land Reflects the Sky

Patrick McCafferty (Chemnitz University of Technology)

2:00 – 2:15pm Coffee Break

2:15 – 3:25pm Session 4: Celestial Influence: Astrology, Art and Religion

Chair: Elisa Ramazzina (University of Insubria and Queen's University Belfast)

Horoscopes and Astrological Representations in the Art of Renaissance Popes: An Updated Survey

Giangiacomo Gandolfi (INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma)

The Episcopo

Arnold Lebeuf (University of Warsaw)

Heavenly Wonders in Ericus Erii Sorolainen's Sermons

Niklas Hietala (Independent Scholar)

3:25 – 3:40pm Coffee Break

3:40 – 5:20pm Session 5: Comets, Meteorites and Portents: Arts, Science and Apocalyptic Imaginations

Chair: Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)

Giant Comets and Their Impacts Through Time

Mark Bailey (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

The Astrological Anthology of Wenceslas IV and the Comet of 1402: An Intersection of Art, Science, and Politics

Nerea Jimena Maestu Fonseca (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Comets, Monsters, and the Apocalypse: Examining al-Barzanjī's al-Iṣā'a liaṣrāṭ al-sā'a and its Connection to Lubieniecki's Theatrum Cometicum

Mai Lootah (Rice University)

When They Come: Reimagining Earth-Meteorite Relations Through Art

Monika Bakke (Adam Mickiewicz University)

5:20 – 5:45pm Flash Talks

Chair: Holly Henry (California State University, San Bernardino)

Celestial phenomena between the Russian and Polovtsian identities

Andrii Kepsha (University of Hradec Králové)

1977 → 2025: Representing humanity through a new Golden Records

Fernando P.S. Almeida, Nina R. Azambuja, Miranda P. Dieck, Melissa V.R. Domingues, Natalie Malas, João Pedro O. de Toledo Piza (Avenues São Paulo and AEON School)

No Planet B – The Pressing Need to Assess the Climate Impacts of Astronomy

Dylan Magill (Queen's University Belfast)

7:30 – 11:00pm Irish Pub Evening with Live Traditional Irish Music

Dark Horse Pub, Cathedral Quarter

Thursday 12th June 2025

Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University

8:30 – 9:15am Coffee Break

9:15 – 10:10am Session 1: Mapping Time and Cosmos: Astral Imagery and Temporal Systems in Early Islamic Thought

Chair: Sinéad O'Sullivan (Queen's University Belfast)

Sun, Moon, and Qur'an: Arabic Solar Months, Jewish Calendar Traditions, and the Making of an Islamic Lunar Calendar

Erica Ferg (Regis University)

The Celestial Chronotope: Time and Relative Depiction in Space

Danielle Adams (Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition)

10:10 – 10:25am Coffee Break

10:25 – 11:35am Session 2: Lunar Reflections, Observations and Myths

Chair: Erica Ferg (Regis University)

“Moon Beauties” in Medieval Arabic Sufi Poetry
Ayoush Lazikani (University of Oxford)

“The moon-wrought flow of womanhood”: Lunar Menstrual Myths in Victorian Pornography
Janice Niemann (Camosun College)

Moonlit Reflections: Italian Poets and the 1969 Moon Landing
Salvo Luigi Guglielmino (INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania)

11:35 – 11:45am Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:35pm Session 3: Cosmology, Myth and Power: Celestial Narratives in Medieval Thought

Chair: Valerie Shrimplin (Independent Scholar)

Oikoumene and Cosmos
Sinéad O’Sullivan (Queen’s University Belfast)

Constructing a Narrative Cosmology: The Dream of the Rood and the Eccentric Diagrams of Byrhtferth of Ramsey
Rebecca Stephenson (University College Dublin)

12:35 – 1:35pm Lunch Break

1:35 – 2:45pm Session 4: Cosmic Devotion: Astronomical and Cosmological Symbolism in Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Thought

Chair: Marilina Cesario (Queen’s University Belfast)

Astronomical and Cosmological Symbolism in the works of Hildegard of Bingen
Valerie Shrimplin (Independent Scholar)

Devotional Dialectics: Condensing Cosmogony and Cosmology in a Late Medieval Bhakti Text from South India
Priyamvada Nambrath (University of Pennsylvania)

Celestial Metaphors in the “Songs and Sonets”: John Donne’s Astronomical Imagination
Elisa Ramazzina (University of Insubria and Queen’s University Belfast)

2:45 – 2:55pm Coffee Break

2:55 – 4:05pm Session 5: Divine Order, Art and Astro-Poetry

Chair: John Hatch (Chair, INSAP)

The Rhythms of the Skies: What the Poets and the People Knew about the Heavens
Terry Moseley (Irish Astronomical Association)

Stellar Strokes: The History of Painting Stars with Stars
Kelly Grovier (Poet and Cultural Critic)

My God, It's Full of Stars: Abstracting the Astronomical Sublime in the Works of Alma Thomas and Aubrey Williams
Skye Weston (Independent Researcher)

4:05 – 4:20pm Coffee Break

4:20 – 5:20pm Keynote

Presenter: Mark Bailey (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

From Newgrange to the Extremely Large Telescope: Monuments of Ingenuity in the Quest to Understand Our Universe
Professor Tom Ray (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

7:00 – 11:00pm Reception and Banquet at Belfast Castle

Entertainment: Lynda “The Physics Chanteuse” Williams

Delegates will make their own way to Belfast Castle

Friday 13th June 2025

Copernicus Hall, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

Transport to and from Armagh has been arranged for delegates. The coach will leave from the Lanyon building at 7:45am

9:00am – 10:10am Session 1: Stargazing and Society: Exploring the Role of Irish Observatories, Astroparks, and Planetariums in Shaping Place and Democracy

Chair: Ed Krupp (Griffith Observatory)

Engendering a Sense of Place through the Astronomical Observatories of Ireland
Michael Burton (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

Cosmic landscapes of Armagh Observatory Astropark
Oliver Dunnnett (Queen's University Belfast)

Democracy in the Planetarium - Armagh Planetarium in the 1980s
Matthew McMahon (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium and Queen's University Belfast)

10:10 – 10:30am Coffee Break

10:30am – 12:10pm Session 2: Exploring Cultural Astronomy: Global Perspectives and Institutional Collaborations

Chair: Matthew McMahon (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium and Queen's University Belfast)

Introducing IAU Commission C5 Cultural Astronomy
Gullberg Steven (University of Oklahoma)

Scalable Space
Robert Hill (NI Space Agency)

Constructing the Universe: Henrietta Leavitt, Harvard's Global Observatories, and the Materiality of Scientific Empire
Adam Kaasa (Royal College of Arts)

Celestial Impact
Ed Krupp (Griffith Observatory)

12:15 – 12:50pm Screening of *Pacific Standard Universe: Art, Cosmology, and California*

1:00 – 2:30pm Lunch Break and Tour of Observatory and Planetarium

2:30 – 3:40pm Session 3 Cosmic Connections: Art, Science, and the Celestial Imagination

Chair: Ciarán Walsh (Queen's University Belfast)

What do Karl Marx, Rudolf Clausius, and Paul Cézanne have in Common?: The Unfolding Universe in the Art of Kazimir Malevich
John Hatch (Western University)

Tracing Celestial Bodies over Normandy: From Monet's Impression Sunrise to Hockney's Moon Room
Deborah Anne Jenner (Independent Arts Society)

Ancient Echoes: Soundscapes Across Worlds – Bridging the Gap between Past and Future, Science and Art, Individual and Collective Voice with Sound Art
Annette Lee (OSPAPIK and Native Skywatchers)

3:40 – 3:50pm Coffee Break

3:50 – 5:00pm Session 4 Exploring the Cosmos: Metaphors, Imagination, and the Space Age

Chair: Annette Lee (OSPAPIK and Native Skywatchers)

The Conditio Extraterrestrials in Eighteenth-Century German Proto-Science Fiction Literature

Renata Gambino and Grazia Pulvirenti (University of Catania)

The New Space Age: Real and Imagined

Chris Impey (University of Arizona)

Space Exploration and the 500 Year Metaphor

Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)

5:00 – 5:10pm Introduction to Armagh Cathedral and Observatory

Presenter: His Grace, The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Chair, Board of Governors, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium

5:10 – 6:10pm Keynote

Presenter: Michael Burton (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

Astronomy and Poetry

Jocelyn Bell Burnell (University of Oxford)

6:10pm Concluding Remarks

Saturday 14th June 2025

9:30am Newgrange Excursion

Coach departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)

Exhibitions

Astrophotography Exhibition by Irish Astronomical Association

McClay Library, Queen's University Belfast

Delegates have access to the McClay Library for the duration of the conference

Posters

Anushka Nandy (Queen's University Belfast)

Fernando P.S. Almeida, Nina R. Azambuja, Miranda P. Dieck, Melissa V.R. Domingues, Natalie Malas, João Pedro O. de Toledo Piza (Avenues São Paulo and AEON School)

Alexander Johnson and Zenith Nguon (Queen's University Belfast)

Andrii Kepsha (University of Hradec Králové)

Jessica Gullberg (Artist)

Rósín Fettes and Ella O'Neill (Queen's University Belfast)

Srishti Chattopadhyay (Jadavpur University)

Travel Advice

Taxi Services:

Value Cabs: 028 90 80 90 80

FonaCab: 028 90 333 333

Public Transport:

Bus and Rail timetables: [translink.co.uk](https://www.translink.co.uk)

Note: Belfast does not have a metropolitan rail network; references to “Metro” on the translink website relate to the pink, local buses which operate within Belfast. Be advised that while travelling from Queen's University to Belfast Castle by public transport is inexpensive and relatively rapid (under 40 minutes) it requires changing buses three times.

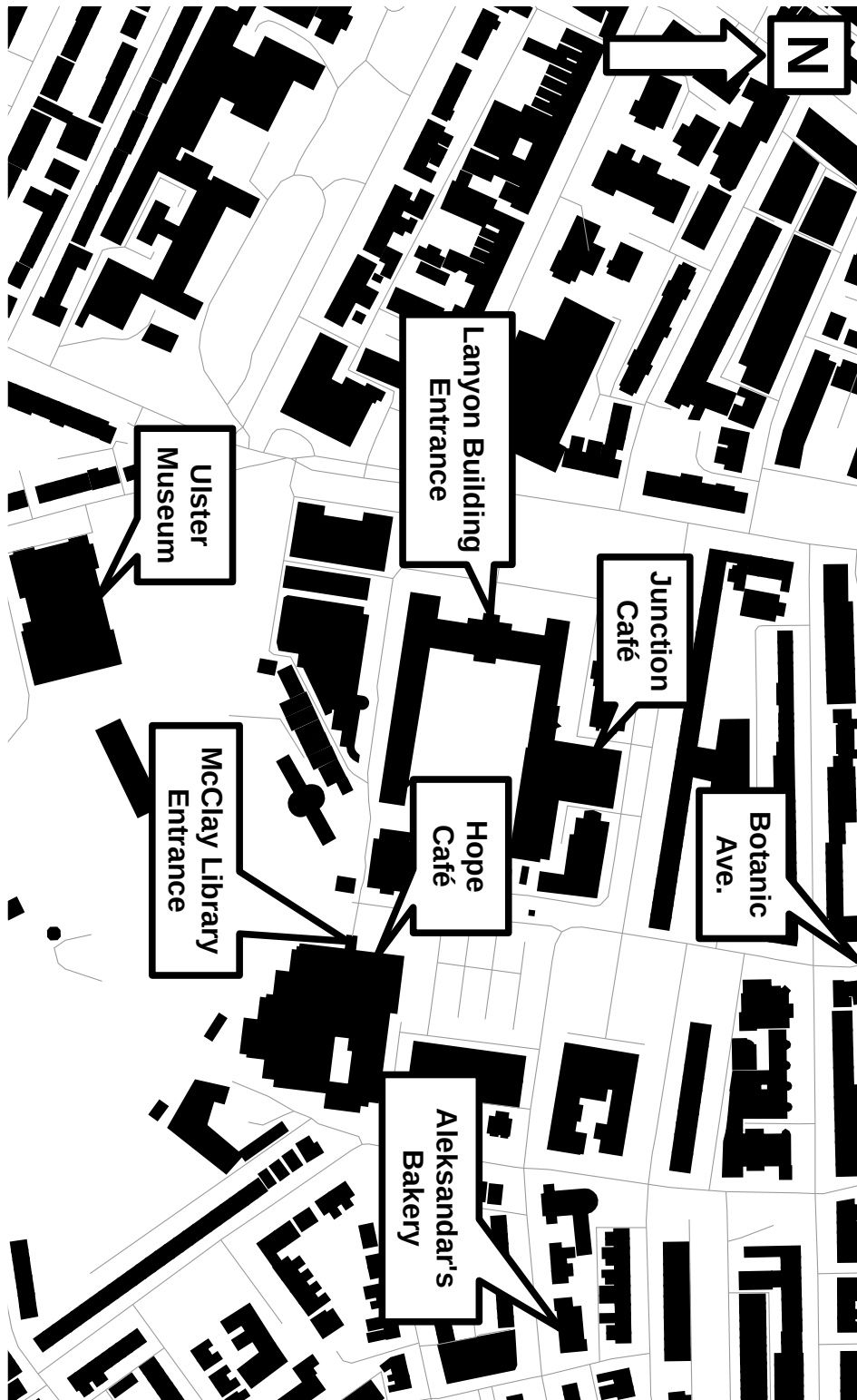
Key locations:

5G signal is reliable in every part of Belfast, so finding your way around with your preferred app should not be an issue. However, if you are concerned about running out of data we recommend using an offline app such as Organic Maps. Just in case, please save the following co-ordinates to your phone:

Location:	Co-ordinates:
Lanyon Building Entrance	54.5845, -5.9352
McClay Library Entrance	54.5837, -5.9323
Belfast City Hall Entrance	54.5960, -5.9299
Dark Horse Pub	54.6018, -5.9273
Excursion Bus Departure	54.5842, -5.9364
Belfast Castle Entrance	54.6428, -5.9423

Coffee Map of Queen's University

©OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL)





visit
Belfast



AOP



**Special thanks to
Belfast City Hall**

**Cover Design by
Zoélie Arnal**