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QUEEN'S
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SCHOOL OF
ARTS, ENGLISH
AND LANGUAGES

The School of Arts, English and Languages
warmly invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture
by Professor Andrew Pepper

DEFECTIVE FICTION

Thursday 5 October 2023 at 5.30pm
Council Chamber, Lanyon Building
Queen's University Belfast



SCAN TO BOOK
TICKETS

What happens when crime fiction sets out to tackle global problems for which there are no obvious solutions? This lecture is an attempt to grapple with this question from the perspective of crime novelist and critic. As an endlessly adaptable genre, crime fiction has always embraced the challenge of critique but this willingness has also been aligned to a countermove to repair and resolve. However, when repair is no longer possible, what happens to this impulse? The result is what I call defective fiction – crime fiction that mutates or is permanently bent out of shape by the challenge of having to respond to social problems that are impossible. This lecture tracks and explores different examples of this phenomenon and argues that amidst the ruins of the contemporary, a new type of unruly, hybrid fiction is starting to emerge, where the ‘detective’ impulse to repair is replaced by an acknowledgment of what it means to live in an era of constant crises and in the shadow of failure.

Andrew Pepper is subject lead for English in the School of Arts, English and Languages. He was appointed Professor of English in 2020. He is the author of *Unwilling Executioner: Crime Fiction and the State* (2016) and *The Contemporary American Crime Novel* (2000) and co-author of *American History and Contemporary Hollywood Film* (2006). He has co-edited *Contemporary European Crime Fiction* (2023), *The Routledge Companion to Crime Fiction* (2020) and *Globalization and the State in Contemporary Crime Fiction* (2016). Additionally, he has written a series of crime novels set in nineteenth-century Britain and Ireland including *The Last Days of Newgate* (2006), *The Detective Branch* (2010) and *Bloody Winter* (2011), all published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

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or book at <https://tinyurl.com/yxf9r9xh>