

Dr Aoife O’Leary McNeice
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I am a social and environmental historian of the British Empire and Ireland. My research interests include archives, water and inequality.

Education

- 2017-2021** PhD in History, University of Cambridge, ‘Global Networks of Relief and the Great Irish Famine’, supervised by Prof. Renaud Morieux
- 2014-2015** MSc in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Literature, University of Edinburgh, ‘The Liberating Power of Travel Literature in the Writings of Helen Maria Williams and Mary Wollstonecraft’, Distinction
- 2010-2014** BA International in English and History (joint honours), University College Cork, First Class Honours
- 2013** University of California San Diego, History, study abroad year, 3.98 grade point average

Publications

Monograph

- Forthcoming** *A Failure of Humanity? Global Giving and the Great Irish Famine*, under contract with Manchester University Press, expected 2027.

Articles

- 2022** “‘A Painful and Tender Sympathy Pervaded every Class of Society’”: Consensus, class and Coercion in Global Giving during the Great Irish Famine’, *Radical History Review*, 143, ‘Irish and World histories’ (2022):165-176.
- 2020** ‘Bored Bluestockings and Frivolous Flirts: Dynamics of Gender and the Experiences of the First Female Students of Queen’s College Cork, 1879–1910’, *Irish Studies Review* 28, 4 (2020): 445-62. (British Association of Irish Studies Postgraduate Essay Award prize winner)
- 2020** ‘Towards a History of Global Humanitarianism’ [review article], *The Historical Journal* 63, 5 (2020): 1378-89.

Book Chapters

- In preparation** ‘The Carrier Bag Theory of Archives’, in Aoife O’Leary McNeice, Ceri Ashley, Elena Isayev, Kodzo Gavua and Nancy Rushohora (eds.), *Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts: The Power of Archival Practices* (Open Books Publishers, Spring 2025).

- Forthcoming** 'From the Soil to the Lecture Hall: Different epistemologies of potato and climate during the Great Irish Famine', in Eleanor Shaw and Robert Naylor (eds.), *Climate Food and Famine* (Berghahn Books, expected 2026)
- 2024** 'Humanitarianism and Colonialism', in Silke Roth, Tobias Denskus and Bandana Purkayashita (eds.) *Handbook on Humanitarianism and Inequality* (Edward Elgar: 2024), 21-48.
- 2021** 'Visions of the Future in Humanitarian Responses to the Great Irish Famine', in Richard Butler (ed.) *Dreams of the Future in Nineteenth Century Ireland*, (Liverpool UP: 2021), 175-193.
- 2020** 'Pride and Prejudice: Jane Austen and the (In)ability to Speak International Law', with Elizabeth Schweiger, in Renske Vos and Sofia Stolk (eds.) *International Law's Selected Stories* (Palgrave MacMillan: 2020), 17-37.

Edited Collection

- In preparation** *Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts: The Power of Archival Practices* Collection co-edited with Elena Isayev, Kodzo Gavua, Ceri Ashley, and Nancy Rushohora, under contract with Open Books Publishers, expected 2026.

Reviews

- 2022** Review of Sherra Murphy, "The First National Museum": *Dublin's Natural History Museum in the mid-nineteenth century* (Cork UP, 2021), *Irish Studies Review*.
- 2018** Review of John Gibney, *A Short History of Ireland, 1500-2000* (Yale UP, 2018), *Irish Studies Review* 27, 1 (134-135).
- 2018** Review of Helen McGonagle, *A Room of Their Own: Cork Carnegie Free Library & its Ladies Reading Room* (Cork City Libraries, 2015), Women's History Association of Ireland.
- 2016** Review of Niamh O'Sullivan, *In the Lion's Den: Daniel MacDonal, Ireland and Empire* (Quinnipiac University Press, 2016), Women's History Association of Ireland.

Public History/Policy Publications

- Forthcoming** *Egalitarian Archival Practices: Work Play-Book*, *Imagining Futures Through Un/Archived Pasts*, co-edited with Elena Isayev (2026)
- June 2024** *Un/Archival Conversations and Practices*, *Imagining Futures Through Un/Archived Pasts*, co-edited with Elena Isayev, Jairo Flórez and Orhun Uğur
<https://create.ifrepo.world/VolumeB/>
- Feb. 2021** 'Replicating Past Mistakes? The Irish Government, Survivors, and the Mother and Baby Homes Report', *Doing History in Public*.
- Dec. 2021** 'Ford Box Bungalow', *Doing History in Public*.
- May 2020** 'Paying it Forward': Bonds of Giving between Ireland and the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Navajo Nations from the Irish famine to COVID-19', *Doing History in Public*.

- Feb. 2020** 'Irish Politics: Past, Present, Future?' *Doing History in Public*.
- Dec. 2019** 'A Celebrity Chef's Recipe for Famine Coup', *Doing History in Public*.
- June 2019** 'Shipwrecks and Sand Dunes: A brief History of Sable Island', *Doing History in Public*.
- April 2019** 'Angela Davis in Conversation: Legacies, Lessons and Reflections on Resistance, Justice and Hope', with Mobeen Hussain, *Doing History in Public*.
- April 2019** 'From the Jarrow Crusade to the Brexit blues: Historical Protests and Expressions of Direct Action', *Doing History in Public*.
- Dec. 2018** 'Moving Statues and Moving Away from the Catholic Church in Ireland', *Doing History in Public*.
- Nov. 2019** 'Mike Leigh's Peterloo: Inequality and Resistance in Nineteenth-Century Britain', with Helen Sunderland, *Doing History in Public*.

Fellowships & Awards

- 2026-2028** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, European Commission, University of Galway (€252,728.64)
- 2024-2026** Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, University of Galway (€112,986.50)
- 2024** Maurice J. Bric Medal of Excellence, Research Ireland (awarded to top-ranking Postdoctoral Scholar in the domain of arts, humanities and social sciences)
- 2024** Leverhulme Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, University of Birmingham, declined (£96,000)
- 2024** Seal of Excellence, European Commission, Horizon Europe
- 2022-2024** Associate Fellow, Central St Martins, University of the Arts London
- 2022** Teaching award nomination, Pembroke College Cambridge
- 2020-21** Institute of Historical Research, Scouloudi Fellowship (£7,863)
- 2020** British Association for Irish Studies Postgraduate Bursary (£250)
- 2020** British association for Irish Studies Postgraduate Essay Award (£500)
- 2019** Pembroke College Travel Grant (£2,500)
- 2019** Cambridge History Faculty Conference Funding (£250)
- 2017-20** Cambridge Trust European Scholarship (£23,571)
- 2017-20** Robert Gardiner Memorial Scholarship (£20,160)
- 2014** National University of Ireland Mansion House Scholarship (€2,000)
- 2014** John A. Murphy History Award (€250)
- 2014** Undergraduate Essay Award, School of English UCC
- 2013** Provost Honours, UCSD
- 2012** College Scholar, College of Arts Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, UCC (€1,500)
- 2012** Second Arts History Student of the Year, School of History, UCC (€250)
- 2011** First Arts History Student of the Year, School of History, UCC (€250)

Invited Talks

- March 2026** 'Learning from Pearl Mussels: A co-operative approach to more-than-human histories', Voluntary Action History Society Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London.
- Sept. 2024** 'The relationships behind global networks of Catholic giving during the Great Irish Famine', Catholic Historical Society of Ireland annual conference, Dublin City University.

- Sept. 2023** “‘To preserve from moral evils and promiscuous assemblages’”: female relief workers and the Great Famine’, Strzelecki Exhibition Launch Symposium, University of Galway.
- July 2023** ‘Class and Global Giving During the Great Irish Famine’, 24th Conference of Irish Historians in Britain, ‘Humanitarianism and Irish History’, Hertford College, University of Oxford.
- June 2023** ‘Modernisation, globalisation and landscapes of hydro-electricity in mid-century Ireland’, ‘Globalisation, Landscape and Environment in Modern Ireland, 1922-2022’, Workshop, University of Galway.
- March 2023** ‘A Failure of Humanity: Global Networks of Relief and the Great Irish Famine’, Trinity College Dublin Contemporary History Seminar.
- Feb. 2022** ‘Empire and Irish Famine Humanitarianism’, Cambridge Group for Irish Studies, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge.
- Oct. 2020** ‘Global Humanitarianism and the Great Irish Famine’, Cambridge Modern British History Seminar, University of Cambridge.
- June 2020** ‘The Gifts of the Poor to the Poor’’: Emigrant Remittances and Personal Sympathy on a Global Scale’, Cambridge Modern Irish History Seminar, University of Cambridge.
- Nov. 2020** ‘Networks of Relief and the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1853’, Fellows Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London.
- Feb. 2019** ‘The British Relief Association and Global Philanthropy during the Great Irish Famine’, Voluntary Action History Society Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London.

Conference and Workshop Contributions

- March 2026** ‘A Literary Corpus for a Blocked River? The River Liffey, Dublin and Wicklow’, part of roundtable ‘Finding Insight, Meaning, and Challenges in Fiction about “Drowned Towns”’, American Society for Environmental History Conference, Kansas City (participated remotely).
- Nov 2025** ‘A more-than-human framework for Utopia’, Assembling a Political Economy for Utopia, Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies, University of Limerick.
- Nov 2025** ‘Bodies & Oral Histories’ discussant, Sites of Fracture: Twentieth Century Ireland at the Margins of Capitalism, Workshop, Greywood Arts Centre & Glenbower Wood, Killeagh, Co. Cork
- June 2023** ‘Imperial Masculinities of Care during the Great Irish Famine’, Conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland, Radboud University, the Netherlands.
- March 2023** Manifesto co-writing session, Imagining Futures Gathering III: Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, Sotuta, Mexico

- Feb. 2023** Manifesto co-writing session, Imagining Futures Gathering II: Strategic Use of Archives in Contexts of Displacement and Post-Conflict, British Institute at Ankara, Turkey
- Jan. 2023** Manifesto co-writing session, Imagining Futures Gathering I: Roles of Institutions in Egalitarian Archival Practices and Methods of Creating Digital Repositories, University of Ghana.
- Jan. 2023** ‘Facilitating a Manifesto for Egalitarian Archives’, Vestibule Programme, Lethaby Gallery, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London.
- Dec. 2022** ‘Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts’, roundtable discussion with Prof Elena Isayev, Prof Kodzo Gavua, Dr Nancy Rushohora and Dr Jihad Nammour, ‘Legacies of Violence and Trauma’s Repair in the Global South’, University of Stellenbosch.
- Sept. 2022** ‘Global Turns in Irish History: Roundtable Discussion’, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University.
- May 2022** ‘Irish and World Histories Roundtable’, American Conference for Irish Studies, online.
- Jan. 2021** ‘Gender in the Writing of Famine Humanitarians’, 6th Cambridge-Edinburgh Early Careers Workshop in Modern Irish History, hosted online by the University of Edinburgh.
- Jan. 2020** ‘Searching for Gender in the Great Irish Famine’, Cambridge Gender and Sexuality History Workshop, University of Cambridge.
- Jan. 2020** ‘The Church in Conflict: Global Catholic Giving during the Great Irish Famine’, 5th Cambridge-Edinburgh Early Careers Workshop in Modern Irish History, University of Cambridge.
- June 2019** ‘Improvement, Relief and Paralysis: How Conceptions of Future and Present influenced Philanthropic Responses to the Great Irish Famine’, 27th Conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland, University of Leicester.
- April 2019** ‘The British Relief Association’s Imperial Philanthropy during the Great Irish Famine,’ Britain and the World Conference, Kansas City, USA.
- March 2019** ‘Global Giving and the Limitations of Relief during the Great Irish Famine’, ‘An Unhealthy Intersection? Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture in Ireland, 1789 to Present’, Irish Studies Conference, Woolf Institute, Cambridge.
- Nov. 2018** ‘Adapting Transatlantic Humanitarianism: The Abolitionist Movement and Famine Relief’, Cambridge Cultural History Workshop, University of Cambridge.
- May 2018** ‘The Power of Subscribers to Undermine Textual Authority in the Report of the British Association for the Relief of Distress in Ireland, 1847-1848’, ‘Texts in Motion: Materiality, Mobility and Archiving in World History’, World History Conference, University of Cambridge.
- Sept. 2015** ‘The Politics of Aesthetics in the Travel Narratives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Helen Maria Williams’, Women’s History Network Annual Conference, University of Kent.

Public Lectures

Oct. 2019 'Migration Crises from the Irish Famine to the Present Day', Current Affairs or Old News? Doing History in Public Panel, Cambridge Festival of Ideas, October 2019.

Oct. 2018 'Civilising the Rural Landscape: Feminism and the Genteel Domination of the Countryside', The Sciences of Prejudice Panel, Cambridge Festival of Ideas, October 2018.

Conferences

Co-organiser, Imaging Futures Gatherings:

- Gathering III: Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, Sotuta, Mexico, March 2023
- Gathering II: Strategic Use of Archives in Contexts of Displacement and Post-Conflict, British Institute at Ankara, Turkey, February 2023
- Gathering I: Roles of Institutions in Egalitarian Archival Practices and Methods of Creating Digital Repositories, University of Ghana, January 2023

Liaison, Affiliates Programme, 'Legacies of Violence and Trauma's Repair in the Global South', Cape Town, 6-9 December 2022.

Co-convener, 'Liminal Borders: Constructing and Deconstructing Borders in World History', St Johns College, Cambridge, 17-18 May, 2019.

Co-convener, 'An Unhealthy Intersection? Cultural Politics and the Politics of Culture in Ireland, 1789 to Present', Woolf Institute, Cambridge, 28-29 March 2019.

Academic Service

2025 – Present Member, Environmental Humanities Working Group, Irish Humanities Alliance.

2025 – Present Committee Member, European Society for Environmental History Next Generation Action Team (ESEH NEXTGATE)

2017-Present Collaborator, *Herstory Ireland*

2018-21 Editor, *Doing History in Public*, University of Cambridge

2018-2021 Co-convener, Cam Queer History

2018-2021 Communications Officer, Modern Irish History Seminar, University of Cambridge

2018-19 Graduate World History Workshop convener, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge.

2018 Teaching Assistant, History for Schools outreach scheme, Cambridge

2012 Conference Administrator, University College Cork History Department, Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies.

Peer Reviews: *Forum, University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Journal of Culture and the Arts* (2014); *Irish Studies Review* (2022).

Work Experience

2022-2024 Postdoctoral Fellow, *Imagining Futures through Un/Archived Pasts*, University of Exeter

2019– Present

Teaching (2024 – present)

University of Galway | Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

Guest Lecture:

Human Rights, Brave New World: Globalisation Since 1945 (final year course)

Guest Seminar:

More than Human Histories, The Environment Since 1945 (final year seminar)

University of Exeter (2022-2024)

MA Programme, *Imagining Futures Through Un/Archived Pasts*, (teaching and course design)

University of Cambridge (2019-2024)

Undergraduate Teaching, History Faculty,

Lectures (Designed):

Empires, Historical Argument and Practice (historiography paper)

Seminars (Designed, including developing reading lists and setting assignments):

Global History, Historical Argument and Practice

Empires, Historical Argument and Practice

Ireland and Empire, Part 2, Paper 25, Ireland and the Irish since the Famine

Writing Skills, History Faculty Induction and Transition Programme

Supervisions (groups of 1-3 students):

Part 1, Paper 10, British Economic and Social History: 1700–1880

Part 1, Paper 5, British Political History 1688-1886

Part 2, Paper 25, Ireland and the Irish Since the Famine

Part IB, Research Project (the craft of history), supervision of undergraduate research projects, option 8 modern British and Irish History, environmental history

Writing skills and support

2021-2022 Admissions Interviewer and Assessor, Pembroke College, Cambridge

2017 Map Digitisation Officer, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

2016-2017 PhD Thesis Digitisation Officer, Library Annexe, University of Edinburgh

2015-2016 Assistant Shelver, Main Library, University of Edinburgh

Volunteering

2017-2019 Cataloguing Volunteer, Feminist Library, London

2015 Conservation Volunteer, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

2014-2015 Conservation and Cataloguing Volunteer, Musical Instrument Museum & Anatomy Museum, University of Edinburgh

2014-2015

Palaeographic Volunteer, Cockburn Geological Museum, Grant Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Language Skills

English, native. French, proficient reading, basic speaking. Irish (Gaeilge), proficient.

Professional Memberships

- British Association for Irish Studies
- European Society for Environmental History
- Institute of Historical Research
- Irish Association of Professional Historians
- Royal Historical Society (Associate Fellow)
- Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland
- Voluntary Action History Society
- Women's History Association of Ireland