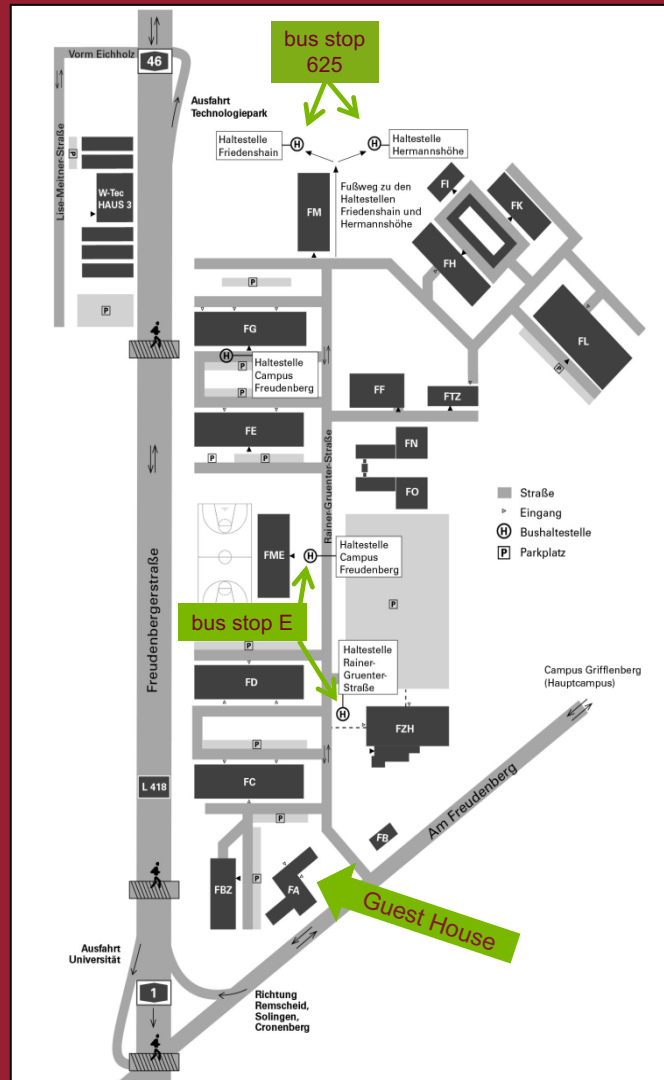




venue:

Guest House Campus Freudenberg (Building FA)
Rainer-Gruenter-Strasse 3
42119 Wuppertal



Narrating Ireland

Social Transformation and Individual Development (1950-2025)

International Symposium
4-5 June 2026



<https://irishstudies.uni-wuppertal.de>
registration: sekrennhak@uni-wuppertal.de

Images: Katharina Rennhak with ChatGPT

organised by:

Sandra Heinen
Katharina Rennhak
Loic Wright



Thursday, 4 June

10:00

Welcome Addresses

URSULA KOCHER

Dean of the School of Humanities, University of Wuppertal

JAMES KILCOURSE

Deputy Head of Mission, Irish Embassy, Berlin

SANDRA HEINEN, KATHARINA RENNHAKE, LOIC WRIGHT

Irish Studies at the University of Wuppertal

10:30-11:30

Panel I: History and Nostalgia

STEPHEN O'NEILL (Trinity College Dublin)

Nostalgia and Narrative in Polly Devlin's *All of Us There* (1983) and Ciaran Carson's *The Star Factory* (1997)

CHRISTOPH REINFANDT (University of Tübingen)

Historical Landmarks and Social Transformations: Reconfiguring the Easter Rising in Mary O'Donnell's *Empire* (2018)

COFFEE

12:00-13:00

Panel II: Twentieth Century Narratives

Seán Crosson (University of Galway)

"Ar son an Náisiúin": Examining the Role of Depictions of Gaelic Games on Film in the Articulation and Deconstruction of Irish Identity in the Mid-20th Century

Michelle Witen (Europa Universität Flensburg)

"Always looking for a master": Transformations in Iris Murdoch's *A Severed Head*

LUNCH

14:30-16:00

Panel III: Narratives of the 2020s

DEIRDRE FLYNN (MIC Limerick)

The Irish Campus Novel and Social Transformation in the Twenty-First Century

KATHARINA RENNHAKE (University of Wuppertal)

Narrating Masculinities in the Contemporary Family Novel

CAROLINE LUSIN (University of Mannheim)

The Connected Vulnerability of Being: Post-Celtic Tiger Identities in Sheila Armstrong's *Falling Animals* (2023)

18:00-19:30

Readings by SHEILA ARMSTRONG and MICHELLE GALLEN at the Swane Café

20:00

DINNER at Alaturka (self-pay)

Friday, 5 June

09:30-11:00

Panel IV: Coming of Age across Different Genres

JESSICA BUNDSCHUH (University of Stuttgart)

Coming of Age Queer in Ireland in Rosamund Taylor's Verse Novel of Tactility

SARAH L. TOWNSEND (University of New Mexico)

Perpetual Children: Celtic Tiger Irish Drama and the Refusal to Grow Up

LOIC WRIGHT (Visiting Professor at the University of Wuppertal)

Technology, Narrative Voice, and the Stunted Bildungsroman of Modernity

COFFEE

11:30-12:30

Panel V: Subgenres of the Novel

JOACHIM FRENK (Universität des Saarlandes)

Darker Green: Gothic Visions of Ireland since the 1990s

MICHAEL G. CRONIN (Maynooth University)

Coming-out Romance: Resistance and Complicity in Neoliberal Ireland

LUNCH

13:30-14:30

Panel VI: Writing against Patriarchy

RALF HAEKEL (University of Leipzig)

"I want you to know that she was": Doireann Ní Ghríofa's *A Ghost in the Throat*

STEFANIE LEHNER (Queen's University Belfast)

Rejecting Traditional Depictions of Female Victimhood in Two Recent Northern Fictions

14:30-15:30

Panel VII: Onscreen Irishness

TONY TRACY (University of Galway)

Familiar Faces: Character Actors, Lallor Roddy and Irish Cinema

DIANE NEGRA (University College Dublin)

Expository Irishness, Garron Noone and the Politics of Irish Differentiation in the 2020s

COFFEE

15:45-16:30

Narrating Ireland and the Future of Irish Studies in Germany: Concluding Roundtable Discussion
Chair: BIRGIT SPENGLER

JESSICA BUNDSCHUH (University of Stuttgart), ÉAMONN Ó CIARDHA (Ulster University), KATHARINA RENNHAKE (University of Wuppertal), MICHELLE WITEN (University of Flensburg), LOIC WRIGHT (Visiting Professor at the University of Wuppertal)