



UCD School of Archaeology

Home and Away:

The Reach and Range of Archaeology at UCD

Research Day 2025

Theatre L143, Sutherland School of Law building, Tuesday, 2nd December, 9:30-16:30



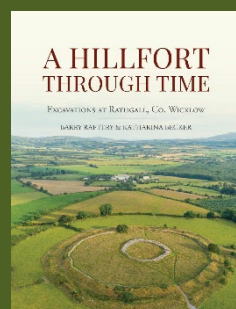
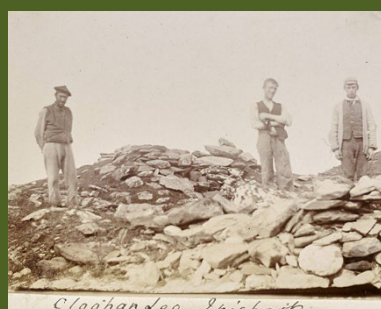
UCD School of Archaeology has grown in size and scope in the past 20 years. Building on our outstanding tradition of archaeological research into the island of Ireland in its regional context, our geographic range now covers much of Europe as well as Southeast Asia, North Africa and the Americas together with World Heritage studies that are truly global in scope. Articulating with UCD strategy to 2030's *Irish Roots, Global Reach* initiative, our School brings our national heritage to an international audience embedding this in wide-ranging dialogues while also mobilising the unique skillsets of Irish researchers to tackle global challenges.

Our Research Day for 2025 celebrates our recent research and the impacts this has made at home and away and we look forward to sharing our work with colleagues and stakeholders working across sectors in Ireland.

Faculty and postgraduate researchers will present their research projects through 20 minute oral presentations and new ideas / projects through 5 minute overview oral presentations.

We will also celebrate four new publications by Early Career Researchers in our School to be chaired by UCD Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, Professor Kate Robson Brown.

You are asked to RSVP by Friday 21st of November: barry.molloy@ucd.ie





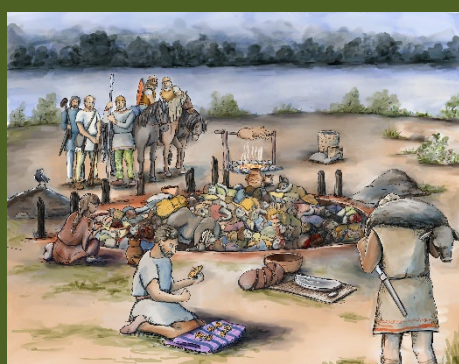
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Session 1

9:15 - Tea/coffee

9:45 – Opening Remarks, Professor Aidan O’Sullivan

10:00 - Graeme Warren

Bag

10:25 - Neil Carlin, Seren Griffiths, Kate Kanne & Jessica Smyth

The Dog(king)s of Newgrange?

10:50 - Jessica Smyth & Jonny Geber

Fourknocks passage tomb, Co. Meath: new osteological analysis and ¹⁴C dating

11:15 - Charlotte Lucy Molloy, Jessica Smyth, Rosie R. Bishop & Darren R. Gröcke

In the weeds – a ‘First Harvests’ mid-project update

11:25-11:50 - BREAK

11:50 - Mark Haughton

What would a Wool Age mean?

12:15 - Barry Molloy, Jason Laffoon, Cheryl Makarewicz, Petrus le Roux & Linda Fibiger

(Im)mobility in Bronze Age societies of the south Carpathian Basin: New insights from strontium isotope analysis

12:40 - Penny Johnston, Ben Spillane, Deborah Buchanan & Neil Carlin

Radiocarbon Ireland: Making chronological datasets FAIR for the future

13:05 - Aidan O’Sullivan, Brendan O’Neill, Siobhan Scully, Ronan Swan, Fintan Walsh, Ed Danaher, Matt Seaver, Siobhan Pierce & Maeve Sikora

COALESCE Early Medieval People and Things (EMPAT) project

13:15-14:00 – LUNCH

Session 2

14:00 - Professor Kate Robson Brown

Early Career Researcher new book celebration

14:35 - Amanda Kelly

The Roman Aqueduct of Lyttos; a masterclass in hydraulic engineering

15:00 - Tadhg O’Keefe

Writing an archaeology of the Global Middle Ages

15:25 - Claire Cave & Patrizia La Piscopia

Reversing Old Practices: New Collaborative Approaches to the Revision of the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

15:50 - Ryan Lash

Alternative Archetypes for Collaboration in the Heritage of Irish and Italian Pastoralism

Session 3

16:30 – Reception in the Barry Raftery Seminar Room, Ardmore Annexe



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Session 1 Abstracts

Bag. Graeme Warren

At the request of the author, an abstract is not included so that key details of the presentation can be revealed on the day.

The Dog(king)s of Newgrange? Neil Carlin, Seren Griffiths, Kate Kanne & Jessica Smyth

We present results from recent work on the faunal remains from inside the large passage tomb at Newgrange, dating to the later fourth millennium BC. In particular, we will report on the radiocarbon measurements we obtained on canids from the monument to clarify the very poorly dated sequence of activity within its interior. We will outline what we know about the size and age of these individuals, the character and context of their deposition within the monument, and whether they might have been dogs or another species.

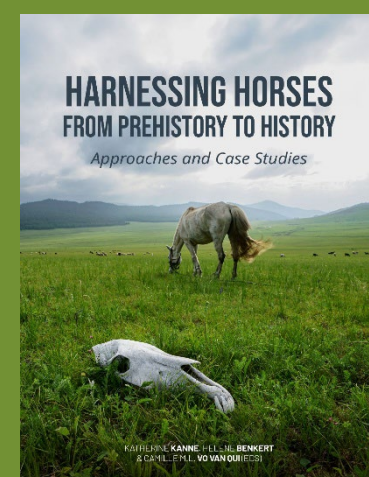
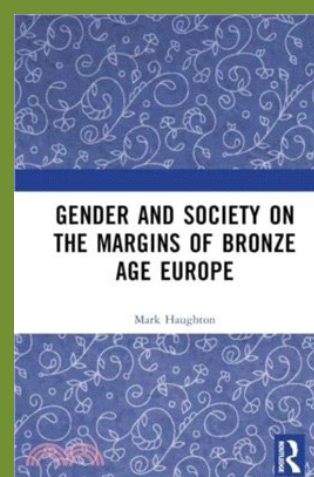
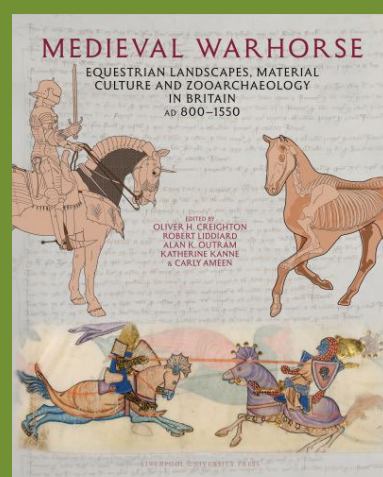
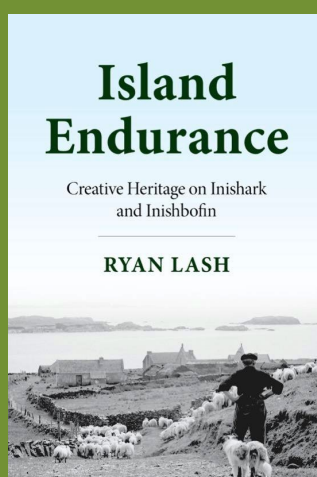
Fourknocks passage tomb, Co. Meath: new osteological analysis and radiocarbon dating. Jessica Smyth & Jonny Geber

Fourknocks passage tomb and associated cremation site in Co. Meath (Fourknocks I and II) were excavated from 1950-1952, yielding a very substantial quantity of cremated and unburnt human bone. However, this osteological material was only briefly assessed following its excavation, and radiocarbon dates for the site were never obtained. Recent funding from the Royal Irish Academy has enabled analysis of the c. 100 kgs of human remains from Fourknocks I and II to modern osteological standards and provided 26 radiocarbon measurements on cremated and unburnt human bone. This paper outlines our preliminary findings on this important Neolithic burial assemblage.

In the weeds – a 'First Harvests' mid-project update. Charlotte Lucy Molloy, Jessica Smyth, Rosie R. Bishop & Darren R. Gröcke

The introduction of farming and associated cultural practices in Ireland was relatively rapid during the Early Neolithic, occurring over just a century or two at c. 3800 BC. However, following an early 'boom' there is a marked reduction in the frequency of cereals recovered from archaeological sites during the Middle and Late Neolithic, from c. 3600 BC onwards. The Research Ireland COALESCE project 'First Harvests' is working to untangle the relationships between climate, chronology and cereal cultivation in this period. This paper presents a short mid-project overview of our datasets and a first look at the single entity carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) stable isotope analysis of plant remains – the first study of its kind for Neolithic Ireland.

Early Career Researcher new book celebration chaired by Professor Kate Robson Brown





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Session 2 Abstracts

What would a Wool Age mean? Mark Haughton

'The Wool Age' is a memorable if somewhat unoriginal name for a project. It hints at the importance of wool to prehistoric communities, reflecting recent research which highlights the labour investment which prehistoric textile-making required, its vital use in clothing and to show identity and/or status, and its potential importance as a trade good. In this talk, I reflect on the title of the project I've been doing for the past year - beyond attention-grabbing, what import does this title have? How would our narratives change if we could take its implications seriously? Taking a root in postcolonial thought, I argue that most of our basic assumptions about human nature have been written in stone, bronze and iron. If we swapped Occam's razor for Melos's shears, would radically different pasts emerge?

(Im)mobility in Bronze Age societies of the south Carpathian Basin: New insights from strontium isotope analysis.

Barry Molloy, Jason Laffoon, Cheryl Makarewicz, Petrus le Roux & Linda Fibiger

Two major turnover events can be identified in the south Carpathian Basin in Central Europe c. 1500 BC. The first was the comparatively sudden emergence of a large network of enclosed sites in lands that had previously been marginal to settlement and the second was the introduction of an exogenous ceramic tradition associated with new settlement and cemetery forms, termed the Tumulus culture. The first articulates with long-term developments in material culture, the second is more of a disruption to craft conventions. With these differences in mind, we set out to explore articulations between mobility and organisation in socially and temporally comparative perspective. To do this, we have conducted strontium isotope analyses on human remains and developed a new reference dataset for bioavailable strontium for the surrounding landscapes. We will present this new data and preliminary observations on mobility patterns, including voicing methodological concerns regarding mapping human mobility using such data.

Radiocarbon Ireland: Making chronological datasets FAIR for the future. Penny Johnston, Ben Spillane, Deborah Buchanan & Neil Carlin

In this talk, we will introduce our COALESCE-funded project, Radiocarbon Ireland: Making chronological datasets FAIR for the future and outline our work to safeguard the value of radiocarbon measurements for future research by ensuring that this data is Findable, Openly Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable within a transnational digital repository. We will outline the background and aims of the project before highlighting its relevance and benefits. We are also excited to provide a live demonstration of our new digital repository and its capabilities through a case study.

COALESCE Early Medieval People and Things (EMPAT) project. Aidan O'Sullivan, Brendan O'Neill, Siobhan Scully, Ronan Swan, Fintan Walsh, Ed Danaher, Matt Seaver, Siobhan Pierce & Maeve Sikora

This paper presents an overview of our new COALESCE funded Early Medieval People and Things (EMPAT) project, focussed on the materiality of society in Ireland during this formative period, drawing upon original artefact research and experimental archaeological methods.



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Session 3 Abstracts

The Roman Aqueduct of Lyttos; a masterclass in hydraulic engineering. Amanda Kelly

In 2024, Amanda Kelly and Calliope E. Gkalanaki launched their collaborative project focussing on the Roman aqueduct of Lyttos, Pediada, in east central Crete, one of the most important ancient cities of the Cretan Homeric Ekatompolis, a status it maintained through the Roman Imperial period. In September 2024, together with their colleague Anna C. Moles, they plotted the length of the aqueduct using a handheld Catalyst Trimble GPS with a centimetre accuracy margin. The Roman aqueduct of Lyttos is striking in terms of the inaccessibility of its highest tracts, the sheer scale of its walling, and its impressive pressurized system. Amanda Kelly will present findings from the 2024 fieldwork season.

Writing an archaeology of the Global Middle Ages. Tadhg O'Keefe

This paper will explore the experiences of the author in tackling the subject of what a Global Middle Ages picture may look like and how to write a book on such an extensive topic.

Reversing Old Practices: New Collaborative Approaches to the Revision of the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. Claire Cave & Patrizia La Piscopia

For many years, the identification of sites and landscapes suitable for consideration as World Heritage properties was primarily a responsibility of central government. This reflected UNESCO's procedural requirements, which designate State Parties to the 1972 Convention as the official channel for nominations to the World Heritage Committee. Over time, UNESCO has encouraged greater involvement of local stakeholders, fostering more inclusive and participatory practices. In Ireland, earlier reviews of the Tentative List of potential World Heritage sites reflected the heritage management structures of their time, emphasising expert evaluation and formal procedures. While ensuring academic rigour and consistency, this limited opportunities for wider local engagement and did not result in sites progressing to nomination. Recognising the value of community participation, recent initiatives have complemented expert input with stronger collaboration and dialogue. This paper outlines how Ireland has developed a more inclusive and transparent process for reviewing Tentative List applications. It describes mechanisms that support local applicants, strengthen communication between communities and government, and build capacity for long-term heritage stewardship. The resulting framework not only fosters partnership across all levels of heritage management but also offers practical guidance that may inform similar processes in other States Parties, connecting Irish heritage practice with global World Heritage dialogues.

Alternative Archetypes for Collaboration in the Heritage of Irish and Italian Pastoralism. Ryan Lash

At first glance, traditions of sheep pastoralism in Ireland's western islands and Italy's central Apennines present stark contrasts in their environmental contexts, products, and management strategies. Nevertheless, breeders in both areas confront similar challenges of depopulation, climate change, and uneasy articulations with tourism and conservation. Drawing from archaeology, folklore, and participant observation, I will suggest how traditions of pastoralism in these areas might offer archetypes of creative collaboration that provide alternatives to mainstream models of agriculture, tourism, and dwelling in peripheral environments.