

# **Alternative Domesticities: Reading Living Space in Geography, Text, and Media**

**Date:** November 15th, 2024

**Location:** National University of Ireland, 49 Merrion Square East

## **Organisers:**

Kate Fama (katherine.fama@ucd.ie)

Emer O'Beirne (emer.obeirne@ucd.ie)

**Scope:** The symposium seeks to embrace a wide range of perspectives around marginal experiences of domestic architectures, and the renovation, occupation and domestication of textual and material spaces. Contributions include those of established and early-career scholars working across media, culture studies, languages and literatures, and geography.

## **Planned Timetable:**

### **9:45 Registration**

### **10-11am Keynote**

Mary Gilmartin (Geography, Maynooth), "Home and Away"

### **11.00-11.30 Coffee**

### **11.30-1pm Panel: Material Homes: Objects, Art, and Architecture**

Eva Bru-Dominguez (Spanish, UCD), "Time, Movement and the Everyday Object: Home in Eulàlia Valldosera's 1990s Photographic Series"

Dara Downey (English, TCD), "Servants and Floorplans in the Lizzie Borden House"

Claire Moran (French, QUB), "The Impressionist House-Husband and the Making of Modern Art"

### **1-2 Lunch**

### **2-3.30pm New Research Directions in Domestic Architecture and Dwelling**

Kate Aston (Geography, Maynooth), "Domesticity and Ghosts: Lived Experiences of Welcome and Unwelcome Intrusions"

Mara Josí (Italian, UCD), "Fortuitous Dwellings: Surviving in Hiding in Nazi-Occupied Italy"

Juliana Sassi Silva (Geography, Maynooth), "Corporate Landlords & Tenant Conceptions of 'Home' in Dublin"

Hattie Idle (Film & Media, UCD), "'Men don't want women with their own homes!': Netflix, Nollywood, and Single-Girl Apartments of the Global Romantic Comedy"

### **3.30-3:45 Coffee**

### **3:45 - 4:45 pm Keynote**

Victoria Rosner (NYU), "Truth in Materials: Looking at Modernism Through Glass"

## Event Participants

### Mary Gilmartin

Mary Gilmartin is a Professor in the Department of Geography, Maynooth University. Her research on contemporary migration and mobilities focuses on Ireland, and is informed by critical geographical perspectives. Recent publications have focused on migrant integration and the experiences of migrants in Ireland, and her new research project, *MobiliseCare*, will explore and theorise care-based responses to migration. She is also co-editor of *Key Thinkers on Space and Place (3rd edition)*, published by Sage (2024) and including a significantly expanded register of key spatial thinkers.

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### Victoria Rosner

Victoria Rosner is the Dean of the Gallatin School and Professor of English at New York University. Her most recent book is *Machines for Living: Modernism and Domestic Life* (Oxford UP 2020). Rosner's work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and others. She is also the author of *Modernism and the Architecture of Private Life* (Columbia UP 2005), winner of the Modernist Studies Association Book Prize. Rosner is a founding editor of *Pioneering Women of American Architecture*, a web archive that documents the histories of US women architects born before 1940.

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### Kate Aston

Kate Aston is a PhD candidate with the Department of Geography at Maynooth University. Her research interests are emotional geographies and qualitative methodologies. Her current research examines lived experiences of spontaneous ghost encounters in Ireland with a focus on the impacts of dominant western scientific discourses on ways of knowing.

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### Eva Bru-Dominguez

Eva Bru-Domínguez is a Lecturer in Spanish Studies at UCD. Her main research interests are the study of materiality in contemporary Catalan artistic and performance practices as well as dance, investigating the ways in which moving bodies and inanimate objects relate to natural, built and virtual environments. Sensitive to the historicity, vibrancy and location of living and inert matter, she explores how objects and beings interconnect with cultural and geopolitical spaces.

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### Dara Downey

Dr Dara Downey lectures in English in Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, and IADT. She is the author of *American Women's Ghost Stories in the Gilded Age* (Palgrave, 2014), and the

Editor of *The Irish Journal of Gothic and Horror Studies* (online). Her research focuses on domestic space, belief, and labour in American gothic and fantastic popular culture, and on the works of neglected women writers. She is currently working on a monograph entitled *Shirley Jackson and the Modern Imagination*, as well as an ongoing research project focused on servants and enslaved figures in American nineteenth-century and contemporary historical gothic.

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### **Hattie Idle**

Hattie Idle is a PhD candidate in the department of English, Drama and Film at University College Dublin, and is the Director and Curator of Samizdat Film Festival in Glasgow, Scotland. Her research focuses on urban space, global cinemas, and genre studies; her recent research output includes an essay on Christmastime and Hollywood romantic comedy, which will be published in January 2025 as part of an edited collection on Holiday romance films.

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### **Mara Josí**

Mara Josi is a Lecturer/Assistant Professor at University College Dublin. Since completing her PhD at the University of Cambridge, she has specialised in Italian 20th and 21st-century literature and culture. Mara's work reflects her interest in innovative research methodologies and cultural approaches to the study of literature and it is rooted in cultural memory and Holocaust studies.

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### **Claire Moran**

Claire Moran is Reader in French Studies at Queen's University, Belfast. Her research is broadly based on 19th-century France and Belgium and many of her publications are in this area. Recently she has published a number of works on the interior: an article with the interdisciplinary journal *Nonsite.org* on Berthe Morisot and the plein-air interior, an edited volume, entitled *Domestic Space in France and Belgium* (Bloomsbury, 2022), as well as two special issues on *The Interior in Belgium* and on *Intimacy with the journal, Dix-Neuf* (2019; 2021). She is currently completing a monograph, called *Morisot's Modernism and Impressionist Art* (Routledge, 2024) for which she was awarded the 2021 Society of French Studies Research Prize Fellowship.

### **Juliana Sassi Silva**

Juliana Sassi is a PhD candidate in the Geography Department at Maynooth University, where she researches housing financialisation, Corporate Landlords and tenants' relations. She has published about tenants' home experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, the housing movement and migrant activism in Ireland.

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### **Katherine Fama**

Katherine Fama lectures in American fiction at University College Dublin. She recently co-chaired the Irish Association for American Studies and the Modern Architecture and Narrative Research Group. Dr. Fama researches representations of single women and rental housing in modern

literature, domestic emotions, and narratives of later-life women. She co-edited (with J. Lagerwey) *Single Lives: Modern Women in Literature, Culture, and Film*.  
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### **Emer O'Beirne**

Emer O'Beirne lectures on modern and contemporary French literature at University College Dublin. Publications include a monograph on the work of Nathalie Sarraute, an edited volume on European crime fiction, and several articles and chapters on Jean Echenoz, Marie Darrieussecq, Assia Djebar, Georges Perec, Jean-Philippe Toussaint, and others, as well as on Marc Augé's anthropologies of local spaces.  
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