



'Festival of Ideas: Living in an Age of Permacrisis' Programme  
10 March 2026, at the Museum of Literature Ireland, 13.00-19.45

13.00-13.20: Welcome by David Cleary (Director, Museum of Literature Ireland), Prof Anne Fuchs (UCD Humanities Institute), and Dr Megan Kuster (UCD Humanities Institute)  
Location: Old Physics Theatre

13.00-19.30: Photographic exhibition *What We Brought With Us* (curated by Prof Vanessa Agnew, Technische Universität Dortmund) exploring the significance and emotional resonance of objects brought by refugees when fleeing their homelands

Location: Aula Maxima

13.20-14.30: 'Belonging/s in Times of Permacrisis and Language/s as Home' (chaired by Prof Mary Cosgrove, TCD)

Location: Old Physics Theatre

Speakers:

Egemen Özbek and Renate Poccia from The Academy in Exile (Technische Universität Dortmund), on the work of AiE and the exhibition *What We Brought with Us*

Nidhi Zakaria Eipe (Skein Press), '(En)counter the Narrative' on publishing in Irish and in translation

Roundtable: 'The longing to belong: language/s as home?' with Burhan Sönmez, Egemen Özbek, Svitlana Kononchuk, Tim Groenland, and Nidhi Zakaria Eipe

14.30-14.50: Coffee break (Location: Saloon)

14.50-16.10: Poetic Responses and Performances (chaired by Prof Michael Brophy, UCD)

Location: Old Physics Theatre

Readings and performances:

Eva Bourke, reading poems from *Spring in Henry Street* (1996), *Seeing Yellow* (2018) and *Tattoos* (2024), plus new poems

Patrick Deeley, reading poems from *Keepsake* (2024) and *The End of the World* (2019), plus new work

Cormac Mac Gearailt, performing 'Caoineadh na gCrann' ('The Lament of the Trees')

Adam Mohamed, performing 'The Daily' and 'Better'

Students from Fighting Words, performing group poem

QnA session: 'Performing poetry in times of permacrisis' with Eva Bourke, Patrick Deeley, Cormac Mac Gerailt, Adam Mohamed, and students from Fighting Words

14.50-16.10: Roundtable on 'Permacrisis and the State of Democracy' (chair tbc)

Location: Rose Room

Speakers:

Maeve Cooke (UCD), 'Decentring and Opening Democratic Theory'

Svitlana Kononchuk (The Academy in Exile, Technische Universität Dortmund), 'Licensing Democratic Permacrisis: Top-Down Referendums in Autocracies'

Rhona Jamieson (UCD), 'Accelerationism in the Time of Generative AI'

16.10-16.40: Reception with speeches by Professor Kate Robson Brown (Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD) and Professor Regina Uí Chollatáin (College Principal, College of Arts and Humanities, UCD)

Location: Saloon

16.20-16.35: Pop Up – Youth Responding to Crisis: Spoken Word Poems by students collaborating with the arts and creative writing NGO Fighting Words, coordinated by Nóra Nic Con Ultaigh, with co-facilitators Cormac Mac Gearailt and Adam Mohamed

Location: Rose Room

16.40-18.10: Art as Resistance (chaired by Prof Sarah Comyn, UCD)

Location: Old Physics Theatre

Film screenings and talks by artists:

Peeter Laurits, screening video and VR installation piece 'Werefolks'

Helen Doherty, presenting sculpture and expanded practice piece *The Encyclopaedia of Contested Words*

Bassam Issa Al-Sabah, film screening and talk on *Fenced within the silent cold walls* (2018)

Roundtable: 'Practices of activism, resistance and resilience' with Peeter Laurits, Helen Doherty, and Bassam Issa Al-Sabah

18.20-19.40: Reading and Writing Crises (chaired by Alex Clark, *Times Literary Supplement, The Guardian*)

Location: River Run

Readings by authors:

Sarah Moss (UCD), reading from *Ripeness* (2025)

Emilie Pine (UCD), reading new work from her forthcoming *On Being Seen*

Suad Aldarra, reading from her memoir *I Don't Want to Talk About Home* (2022)

Burhan Sönmez, reading from *Lovers of Franz K.* (2025)

Roundtable: 'Counternarratives in an age of permacrisis' with Sarah Moss, Burhan Sönmez, Emilie Pine, Eva Bourke, and Suad Aldarra

