



Transformative Memory International Network

Participants Information

Dublin-Belfast-Derry Visit 14 October to 22 October 2022



Introduction

We are looking forward to hosting you in Dublin-Belfast-Derry for the Transformative Memory International Network 2022 Memolab.

Organisers

The main programme organisers and logistic support will be provided by:



Hands Across the Divide (Derry)

Primary Contacts

- Brandon Hamber +447810182954 and b.hamber@ulster.ac.uk
- Kate Turner +44786 263083 and cate@healingthroughremembering.org

Additional Support

- Sinead Grant +353863796903 and s.grant@ulster.ac.uk

Please feel free to contact above if you have any queries or difficulties, use text messages, WhatsApp or call. We will help with all matters relating to the delivery of your accommodation, food, travel and any other practical aspect of the program.

Transformative Memory International Network

As you know the overall study visit is part of the much wider Transformative Memory Network that was set up by Pilar Riaño and Erin Baines from the University of British Columbia.

Some of the key political struggles of our time concern how and what to remember about mass violence, such as war, genocide, slavery and dispossession. The Transformative Memory Network is a collective of scholars, artists, community-based organizations and policy makers engaged with the broader question of what makes memory transformative of a sense of self, relations to others, legacies of violence, and connections to the land. We seek to change the ways in which memory is conceived, documented and practiced in the context of public policy and scholarship on mass atrocity as a mechanism for dealing with 'the past.' Instead, our work

reconceptualizes memory as a generative force to challenge the present and reimagine the future.

The methodology of the Network is **knowledge exchanges** (active link) designed to de-centre Western epistemologies and ‘the expert’ and work towards a methodology of relational and reciprocal learning that is place-based and embodied. Located in the territories of—and in dialogue with—memory keepers, the exchanges hasten new ways of thinking about the possibilities of a different future. As you know, there have been exchanges in Uganda and Colombia.

The exchange in October 2022 will take place in Dublin-Belfast-Derry. The exchange is organised by the International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE) and Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) at Ulster University, and partners Healing Through Remembering. We are also working with a range of local partners, including Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality and Front Line Defenders the organisers and supporters of The Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival. Other key local partners are Conflict Textiles and the Ulster Museum.

The exchange is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the support of the UBC Research Excellence Cluster.

Arrivals

Everyone arrives either in Dublin or Belfast. Everyone is on a different flight so you will be communicated with separately about arrival instructions, pick-ups, etc.

If your flight is delayed, please let Brandon/Kate or Sinéad know as soon as possible so that we can change the meet and greet arrangements. Preferably send a WhatsApp to all of us!

Currency and borders

As is noted some of you come into Dublin and others Belfast, please remember that Northern Ireland (Belfast/Derry, the UK) and the Republic of Ireland (Dublin) are in different countries. You will learn lots about this and there is much politically and culturally to discuss!
But politics aside:

In the **Republic of Ireland (Dublin) the currency there is Euros**. Since COVID, most places you will visit will accept, and sometimes prefer a card payment but be aware of foreign currency charges on each transaction if you are using your \$\$ or other account. If you want to have some cash you can obtain Euros from the currency exchange in the terminal or at the ATM at Dublin airport. Please be aware that € Euros is NOT the currency at your final destination, and when we leave Dublin we will cross the border into Northern Ireland (there are no check points and it is fairly invisible) – but jurisdictions change. **In Northern Ireland the currency is £ Sterling (pounds or British pounds)**. So likewise, you can draw pounds in Northern Ireland, and we can help with that – although if you have a bank card that may be easiest.

Programme

You will receive a detailed programme in a separate attachment. But in summary it looks like this:

**Summary Programme
Dublin-Belfast-Derry Visit 14 October to 22 October 2022**

13/14 October	Arrivals depending on your tickets	Dublin or Belfast
Fri 14 October	Evening launch of The Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival	Dublin
Sat 15 October	The Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival (Panels, Discussions, Viewings)	Dublin
Sun 16 October	The Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival (Panels, Discussions, Viewings)	Dublin (Morning)
Sun 16 October	Travelling to Belfast leaving Dublin 2:30pm by Bus (2-3 hours but will include a stop at a cottage of local poet)	Dublin to Belfast
Mon 17 October	Tours, workshops and visits	Belfast
Tues 18 October	Tours, workshops and visits	Belfast
Weds 19 October	Post-graduate Conference	Belfast
Weds 19 October	Travelling from Belfast to Derry (2 hours)	Derry/Londonderry*
Thurs 20 October	Tours, workshops and visits	Derry
Fri 21 October	Tours, workshops and visits	Derry
Sat 22 October	Departures	Belfast/Dublin. Leaving via bus direct to airport at different times. If leaving from Belfast takes 2 hours and to Dublin 3-4 hours.

*Derry or Londonderry – the city goes by two names – all linked to the past and memory, we will talk about it! But just in case you see it listed in differently in different places

Accommodation

You will receive a separate email about accommodation and plans in Dublin, and that programme shortly. As accommodation is very expensive there, people may be spread out and in different accommodation (hotels, Air B&B). But expect more detail on that in a separate email.

In Northern Ireland you will be staying in:

- Belfast (16-19 October): Ramada by Wyndham Belfast City Centre, 20 Talbot Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT1 2LD. See <https://tinyurl.com/yttb9wam>
- Derry (19-22): The City Hotel, Queens Quay, Londonderry BT48 7AS. See <https://www.cityhotelderry.com>

Food and drinks

As this is organised by the university it is difficult to reimburse costs, so in transit, etc. you will need to cover your own expenses for food or drinks (other than what is supplied by the airlines, etc.). We will cover your breakfast, lunch and dinners during the trip at the designated times and places on the programme (we cannot cater for anything outside of the meals on the programme). You will be asked about specific dietary requirements. All snacks and additional drinks are to be covered by yourself. We will not pay for any alcohol at any meals. So, you will need to cover that yourself.

Weather

In Ireland everyone talks about the weather. You will too! Ireland is a beautiful and green country, but it is green for a reason – rain! So bring a raincoat.

Temperature-wise, it's cool but (technically) not cold, with an average low-high range of 50°F-57°F (10°C-14°C) at this time of year, and the sun does still regularly, with the average number of daily sunshine hours (four) actually on a par with any month of the high season. If you come from a warm country, however, you might find it cold so bring a warm hat and jacket. That said, it could just rain all the time! Luckily there are lots of cosy pubs to compensate.

Clothes

The dress for the event is casual. As above bring a raincoat and warm coat and hat if you are from the global South. Can you ensure you bring a good pair of closed walking shoes. We will be walking to most venues and there are few walking tours – so comfort and having dry feet is very important.

Using electrical appliances

Electricity in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK has a different electrical standard from the US, Europe, South America and Africa. The good news

is that all modern laptops and mobile phones will work provided you can plug them into a socket, which you can do with an adaptor which you can purchase at the airport or before coming. Both the UK and the Republic of Ireland use a three-pin (square pin) plug and socket.

Other appliances such as hair straighteners and toothbrushes may not be compatible so check before you pack them. If you bring them and plug them in, they may melt or catch fire (well we hope not!). For more information visit here: <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/gb/ireland/>



Mobile Phones

You can use your cell or mobile phone but you will be likely charged roaming charges which can easily mount up unless you buy a specific International call and data package. **Please figure this out before you leave.** We cannot cover phone costs. Of course, as an alternative, you can use Zoom and WhatsApp once you have a Wifi connection. Most airports and hotels will have this – but we cannot cover any costs for this. We will ensure everyone has access to the Ulster University Wifi when on the campus. Just remember: if you have not purchased an international roaming package from your phone service provider before you left, it is probably best to switch off data roaming on your mobile phone so that you only get data when on the internet and you can avoid eye-wateringly huge charges.

Preparation and readings

Everyone on this trip brings a massive amount of experience and knowledge. So mainly we want you and your existing knowledge to share and work with each other! So you do not need to prepare anything yourself directly. Although those of you that Smashing Times have been in touch with may need to prepare a little in terms of input or panels.

In terms of memory and conflict in Northern Ireland, a little background reading would be helpful to get you started. There is lots and lots (and then some more) written but we would recommend, if you have limited knowledge the following is a basic introduction:

- Conflict in Northern Ireland: A Background Essay by John Darby (1995). Download here: <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/othelem/facets.htm#chap2> (although this stops just before the 1998 Agreement but gives basic historical context)
- The Northern Ireland Troubles: INCORE background paper by Mari Fitzduff and Liam O'Hagan (2009). Download here: <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/othelem/incorepaper09.pdf>
- No War, No Peace: Northern Ireland after the Agreement by MacGinty, Roger, et al. in *Political Psychology*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2007, pp. 1–11. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20447017>
- A Lens Over Conflicted Memory: Surveying 'Troubles' Commemoration in Northern Ireland by Kris Brown & Adrian Grant (2016), *Irish Political Studies*, 31:1, 139-162, DOI: 10.1080/07907184.2015.1126925
- Moving Past the Troubles: The Future of Northern Ireland Peace by Charles Landow and James McBride. Council of Foreign Relations:

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/moving-past-troubles-future-northern-ireland-peace>
(good to look at online and follow the links)

CAIN

Ulster University runs the CAIN data service. It has a massive amount of information on the conflict. We recommend spending some time on the website: <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk>

Healing Through Remembering

An organisation dealing with how Northern Ireland should deal with the past, check out their website and reports: <https://healingthroughremembering.org>

Dealing with the Past

There are lots of debates about how to address the past in Northern Ireland, here are some resources and key policy documents: <https://brandonhamber.blogspot.com/2012/06/dealing-with-past-in-northern-ireland.html>

Acronyms

Often people will **use acronyms** for different parties and groups, you can find a list of them here that might be helpful: <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/othelem/acronyms.htm>

