



2026 Disappearance Studies Conference INCORE, Ulster University, Derry-Londonderry

Day 1: Sunday 30th August

Time	Academic Programme - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
2:00 – 2:15 pm	<p>Opening of the Conference Élise Féron, Director of INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), Ulster University, and co-editor in chief of the <i>Journal of Disappearance Studies</i> Colin Davidson, Chancellor of Ulster University (tbc) <i>Great Hall</i></p>
2:15 – 2:45 pm	<p>Opening Keynote Lecture Geoff Knupfer, Former Lead Forensic Scientist & Head of Investigation Team, Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains, Northern Ireland <i>Great Hall</i></p>
2:45 – 3:30 pm	<p>Panel with Families of the Disappeared of Northern Ireland <i>Great Hall</i></p>
3:30 – 4:30 pm	<p>Launch of Conflict Textiles Exhibition: “Disappeared” <i>Ulster University Library</i></p>
5:00 – 6:00 pm	<p>Reception <i>The Guildhall, Derry-Londonderry</i></p>
7:30 pm	<p>REWIND, Theatre Play by Ephemeral Ensemble <i>The Playhouse, Derry-Londonderry</i></p>

Day 2: Monday 31st August

Time	Great Hall	Minor Hall	Lecture Hall
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Panel 1: Disappearances, Loss, and Trauma</p> <p>Paolo Boccagni <i>On vicarious presence: multilevel struggles to "fill up" disappearance and their promise for a sociological research agenda</i></p> <p>Pamela Favre and Lisa Ott <i>Local Communitarian Psychosocial Accompaniment: Learning with Families of the Disappeared in El Salvador</i></p> <p>Mariat Imaeva <i>When the researcher is also a victim: surviving field research on enforced disappearances in Chechnya</i></p> <p>Sandra Peake <i>Orchestrated Loss</i></p>	<p>Panel 2: Disappearances, Forensics, and AI</p> <p>Liliia Korostelova and Volodymyr Krasnopolsky <i>Modern Tech and Medical Solutions Speed Up Identifying and Returning Missing Persons</i></p> <p>Shari Eppel <i>Unearthing the past in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe</i></p> <p>Alejandra Blanco, Angel Serrano Galvez, and Thomas Favennec <i>Artificial Intelligence applied to Mexico's Forensic Crisis: Automated Image Analysis for Human Identification</i></p> <p>Lauren Dempster <i>Forensic Scientists and Knowledge Production in Transitional Justice: Key Findings and Potential Relevance for Policy and Practice</i></p>	<p>Panel 3: Disappearances and International Law</p> <p>Ayesha Jawad <i>Enforced Disappearances in Pakistan: Constitutional Breakdown, State Silence, and the Militarisation of Accountability</i></p> <p>Salvador Leyva Morelos Zaragoza <i>Enforced disappearances committed by non-state actors: Developments in the Inter-American human rights jurisprudence</i></p> <p>Elvina Sanje <i>The contribution of the European Court of Human Rights to the construction of a legal status for victims of enforced disappearances</i></p> <p>Ester Nergis Canefe <i>Critical Debates on State Criminality and Responsibility for Addressing Disappearance as an Act of Violation</i></p>
	Coffee Break: 11:00 – 11:15		
11:15 – 12:45	<p>Panel 4: Disappearances, Necropolitics, and Political Theory</p> <p>Bincy Sebastian <i>Unmarked Graves as Necropolitical Archives: Buried Evidence and Militarised Death(scapes) in Indian-Administered Kashmir</i></p> <p>Nousheen Sharmila Ritu and Muhammad Asadullah <i>Carceral Archipelago of the Disappeared: Architecture of Enforced Disappearances under the Awami League Regime in Bangladesh</i></p> <p>Ana López Godoy <i>The Necropolitics of the Disappeared: The Subversive Body in Argentina's Military Junta (1976-1984)</i></p> <p>Sabrina Villenave <i>Indifference as Power: Necropolitics, Grievability, and the Making of Disappearable Lives</i></p>	<p>Panel 5: Gender and Minority Harms</p> <p>Chulani Kodikara <i>A continuum of violence from those forcibly disappeared to their women next-of-kin in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Rebekka Friedman and Diana Florez <i>'I couldn't take a day to grieve': Fatherhood and state enforced disappearances in Northern Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Phoebe Martin and Rebekka Friedman <i>Relational harm: Family separation as a reproductive justice issue (in Peru and Sri Lanka)</i></p> <p>Yajna Sanguhan <i>Legacies of enforced disappearances in Northeast Sri Lanka: Household impact and the intersection of multiple harms</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Barnert <i>Trauma, identity, and healing: Families' experiences with DNA-based reunification in post-war El Salvador</i></p>	<p>Panel 6: Disappearances in the Irish Context</p> <p>Catherine Harper <i>The Irish for Omertà</i></p> <p>Faye Donnelly <i>Disappearing Acts: Securitization and Missing People</i></p> <p>Niamh McCullagh <i>The Institutional Burials Act (2022) as a Response to the Liminal Disappeared</i></p>
	Lunch: 12:45		
11:15 – 12:45	<p>Panel 7: Disappearances, Families, and Activism (Part One)</p> <p>Bilgesu Sümer</p>	<p>Panel 8: Institutional Logics of Disappearances</p> <p>Emiliano Alba Vivanco <i>Forced recruitment as forced disappearance: how weak states react to a humanitarian crisis</i></p>	<p>Panel 9: Indigenous and More-Than-Human Approaches to Disappearances</p> <p>Anna Charlton and Michael Charlton Yindjibarndi</p>

Day 2: Monday 31st August

Time	Great Hall	Minor Hall	Lecture Hall
14:00 – 15:30	<p><i>Intergenerational family-based repression as a method of counterinsurgency: An Ethnographic Exposition of Turkish Security Practices</i></p> <p>Ali Hakim Sahib <i>The Trauma of Disappearance in ISIS-fighters Families: Intergenerational Impact on Mothers and Children and Implications for Reconciliation and PVE in Iraq</i></p> <p>Yasmine Bennis <i>"Nothing For Us Without Us": Syrian Victim-Led Mobilisation on Enforced Disappearance (2016–2024)</i></p> <p>Elma Hadžić, Selma Hadžić, and Behzad Hadžić <i>Changes after the identification and burial of a missing family member</i></p>	<p>Judi Aldalati <i>The Architecture of Disappearance: Institutionalized Enforced Disappearance in the Anwar Raslan Trial</i></p> <p>Cian Cooney <i>Missing French Military Personnel during the Algerian War: A Logic of Forced Disappearances?</i></p> <p>Marco Castillo <i>Disappearances, identifications, and the Archives of Terror. Transnational networks of violence and solidarity</i></p>	<p><i>Not gone walkabout! Aboriginal disappearance in remote Western Australia</i></p> <p>Livia Daza Paris <i>Remaining in Relation: Ecologies of Poetic Forensics and the Disappeared</i></p> <p>Daniela Suárez Vargas <i>The Cauca River as a 'Mass Grave': Socio-Environmental Perspectives on Enforced Disappearances and Transitional Justice in Colombia</i></p>
15:30 – 17:30	—	—	Short Film Festival

Day 3: Tuesday 1st September

Time	Great Hall	Minor Hall	Lecture Hall
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Panel 10: Disappearances, Families, and Activism (Part Two)</p> <p>Giorgia Foti and Michela Lovato <i>Parentalizing Disappearance: Maternal Identity and Epistemic Violence at European Borders</i></p> <p>Luis Orlando Pérez Jiménez and Par Engstrom <i>Mexico's Disappeared and Colectivos: Collective Mobilisation Amidst Violence and Impunity</i></p> <p>Emily Fisher <i>Conceptualising and Testing the Utility of the Enforced Disappearance Cause Field</i></p> <p>Charlotte McMackin <i>"Calladita te ves más bonita": Counter-Archives of Disappearance and the Madres Buscadoras' Struggle for Truth and Justice in Mexico</i></p>	<p>Panel 11: Disappearances in the Syrian Context</p> <p>Chantal Youssef <i>Waiting as Rule: Gendered Temporalities of War and Disappearance</i></p> <p>Julie Bernath <i>The things we were able to hold onto – Affective Archives of Syria's Disappeared in the Context of Displacement</i></p> <p>Kholoud Barakat <i>Activism as a Coping Mechanism to deal with Ambiguous Loss: Benefits, Challenges, and Psychological Risks</i></p> <p>Nisren Habib <i>Participatory Action Research on Ambiguous Loss: Critical Reflections on Methods and Ethics from a Project with Syrian Women in Syria, Lebanon, Germany</i></p>	<p>Panel 12: Art and Memorialization</p> <p>Paulina Trejo Mendez <i>Voluntary blindness: art and memory-making in the context of disappearance in Mexico</i></p> <p>Myriam Dalal <i>Participatory Action Research in Disappearance Studies: A Proposal for the Missing of the Lebanese Civil War</i></p> <p>Marina Wondrich, Sara Al-Taeshi, and Spede Mizuri <i>Being.Lost: Exploring Disappearance through Public Art in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq</i></p> <p>Robert Lunday <i>The Anatomy of Missingness: Tropes of Space and Place in Writing Disappearance</i></p> <p>Blerina Këllezi and Gazmend Bajri <i>Documentary Film: Blood in the blackbirds' field. A story of war, justice and resilience</i></p>

Coffee Break: 11:00 – 11:15

Day 3: Tuesday 1st September

Time	Great Hall	Minor Hall	Lecture Hall
11:15 – 12:45	<p>Panel 13: Borders and Disappearances</p> <p>Giulia Sezzi <i>The Disappearing Multitude: For a Politics of Re/Appearance in the Central Mediterranean</i></p> <p>Michela Lovato <i>Contested Restitution: Necropolitics and the Political Work of Grieving at Europe's Borders</i></p> <p>Phevos Simeonidis <i>On Frozen Assets: Attributions of value and significance to missing, disappeared, and recovered human remains across different actors and stakeholders in the Greek-Turkish border</i></p>	<p>Panel 14: Missing Bodies and Postwar Reconciliation</p> <p>Stipe Odak <i>Found and Lost Again: Reinscribing the Bodies of the Disappeared into the Collective Body</i></p> <p>Vadim Romashov <i>Reconciliation Through Recovery? Transborder Engagement with the Wartime Missing</i></p> <p>Aso Piri <i>Disappeared Husbands, Resilient Widows: Gendered Agency Reconfiguration among Female Survivors of the Barzani and Anfal Genocides</i></p> <p>Anush Petrosyan <i>The Missing and the Politics of Disappearance in Armenia: Re-Embodying the Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict</i></p>	<p>Panel 15: Cultural Lives of the Disappeared</p> <p>Cheryl Lawther <i>'In absentia': Relocating Northern Ireland's 'missing' and 'disappeared'</i></p> <p>Alison Ribeiro de Menezes <i>Embodied Frictions: Spain's Civil-War Disappeared</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Rosales Martínez <i>We are all missing the disappeared: translation as extended kinship</i></p> <p>Nuala Finnegan <i>Encrypting pain: an ethics of hope in storytelling about enforced disappearance in Mexico</i></p> <p>Katie Taylor <i>Heartlands and beyond: Creative practice as a method for exploring absence, memory and conflict</i></p>
Lunch: 12:45			
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Round Table: Addressing Enforced Disappearance: A Task for Multidisciplinary Teams</p> <p>Pamela Favre (<i>Psychologist, Program Officer at swisspeace (previously at Pro Búsqueda, El Salvador)</i>)</p> <p>Nisren Habib (<i>Manager of the Feminist Research Unit at Women Now</i>)</p> <p>Shari Eppel (<i>Director, Ukuthula Forensic Anthropology Team, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe</i>)</p> <p>Lisa Ott (<i>Head of Dealing with the Past Program, swisspeace</i>)</p>	<p>Panel 17: Gender, Women, and Feminist Approaches</p> <p>Gerard Maguire <i>Colonial Disappearance and Legacy of Harm: Addressing the MMIWG2S Crisis in Canada</i></p> <p>Helena Rodríguez-Bronchú <i>Who May Reproduce? Enforced Disappearance and Reproductive Violence</i></p> <p>Aruni Samarakoon <i>Binary of Appearance–Disappearance: Narrative Agency of Women's Collective Movement in Post-War Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Valentina Mendez Höcherl <i>Bodies That Do Not Count: Gendered Regimes of Enforced Disappearance Along the Mexican Migration Corridor</i></p> <p>Aimée Baker <i>Restoring Presence: Art, Witness, and the Lives of Missing Women</i></p>	<p>Panel 18: Transitional Justice and Aftermaths of Disappearances</p> <p>Abiramy Sivaloganathan <i>The Right to Truth and the Right to Know: The Missing Persons in the Context of Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Elil Rajendram <i>The Geopolitics of the accountability mechanism (on enforced disappearance) in Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Brandon Hamber <i>Echoes of Absence: The Symbolic Power of Political Loss</i></p> <p>Anna Reißig <i>Temporalities of disappearance</i></p>
15:30 – 16:30	—	Closing Workshop	—