

Conference

Padraic Reaney - Leaving Home - The Priest's Blessing II (An Gorta Mor)

CONAMARA: EMIGRATION & LANDSCAPE

23rd-25th April 2015

The Courthouse, Oughterard, Co. Galway

Oughterard Heritage Group in partnership with the Heritage Office, Galway County Council is hosting a conference entitled 'Conamara: Emigration & Landscape'

Thursday 23rd April 2015

8:00pm Official Opening of Conference and launch of M'ait Dhúchais.
'My Native Place' exhibition by Cllr. Mary Hoade, Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council

About the Exhibition

'M'ait dhúchais - My Native Place' is an exhibition responding to the theme of emigration and the landscape of Connemara presented by uachtarARTS and friends

Friday 24th April 2015

10:00am - 10:30am Registration and Coffee



Rosie McGurran - Blue Faced Doll

Speakers

10:30am - 11:30am Michael Gibbons 'Connemara's Lost 18th & 19th Centuries Landscapes'

11:30am - 12:30pm Dr Gerard Moran 'The Tuke Assisted Emigration Schemes from Oughterard in the 1880s: From Poverty to Posterity'

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch in The Boat Inn, Oughterard

1:30pm - 2:30pm Dr Regina Donlon 'I ain't sorry for leaving Ireland': the legacy of Mr Tuke's assisted emigration scheme, 1880-1930

2:30pm - 3:30pm Oughterard Heritage Group 'Sharing the Legacy'

3:30pm - 3:45pm Coffee

3:45pm - 4:45pm Dr Ciara Breathnach, 'The Congested Districts Board: Photography, Poverty and Development.'

4.45pm – 5.00pm Open Forum & Close

8.00pm – 9.00pm The Oughterard Writers Group 'Same Moon: Voices on the theme of Emigration.'
This free event is an important creative contribution from Oughterard Writers Group in response to the theme of emigration using words, music, drama and song

Saturday 25th April 2015

9:30am – 10.30am Registration in Oughterard Courthouse, Oughterard

10.30am – 5.30pm 'Uncovering Connemara: Emigration & Landscape'
A Bus Trip with Michael Gibbons



Dolores Lyne - Green Road, Inishbofin

'Uncovering Conamara: Emigration & Landscape'

A Bus Trip with Michael Gibbons

The trip will start at the Courthouse in Oughterard and take the visitor through the landscape of Leam, Maam Cross and will include a visit to the Maam Valley which is draped with the remains of a lost 19th century landscape. Participants will have the opportunity to view a ruined cashel and mass rock. Further on there will be a stop at a lonely children's burial ground on the shores of Killary Harbour, near Ashleagh waterfall.

There will be a stop in Leenane with an opportunity to view the old village above the hotel and also a viewing spot showing where the Atlantic fleet was anchored in 1907. Then the trip will head west to Little Killary and visit Salrock cemetery with its holy well and there will be a short walk along the most dramatic relief road built in Ireland.

There will be an opportunity to view a 4000 year old forest at the roadside and then travel west to the Blake Estate, passing the home of the Wilde Family. The group will also see Renvyle castle and house where Yeats stayed on his honeymoon. On the side of Tully mountain the group will see one of the best preserved 19th Century landscapes in the county. The trip will return via Letterfrack, Kylemore Castle and Inagh Valley.

Please Note:

Lunch

A light picnic lunch will be provided, if you have any special dietary requirements we request that you bring your own lunch.

Clothing & Footwear

Please bring rain gear and suitable walking shoes.



BIOGRAPHIES

Oughterard Heritage

Oughterard Heritage is a voluntary group that has established itself as one of the leaders in digitising and sharing community heritage. This is showcased through their award winning website: www.oughterardheritage.org

In partnership with The County Galway Heritage Office and the National Museum of Ireland-Country Life, the group educates and mentors other communities in this important endeavour.

uachtarARTS

uachtarARTS Community Arts Group was formed in 2008 to develop community-based arts events. Its aim is to raise the profile of the arts in the Oughterard area, to support artists and craftspeople and to develop innovative ways of engaging local audiences with the arts. The group was the recipient of the Cathaoirleach's Award for Arts and Culture in 2014. Artists working on this project include: Leah Beggs, Renske Boef, Brian Bourke, Denis Farrell, Kathleen Furey, Doc Gilbert, Margaret Irwin West, Dolores Lyne, Jay Murphy, Gearoid MacGabhann, Rosie McGurran, Patricia McQuinn, Colette NicAodha, Catherine O'Lenachain, Cormac O'Neill, Siobhan Potter, Chris Mayhew, Pádraic Reaney, Joan Sugrue, Jess Walsh & Tara Walsh.

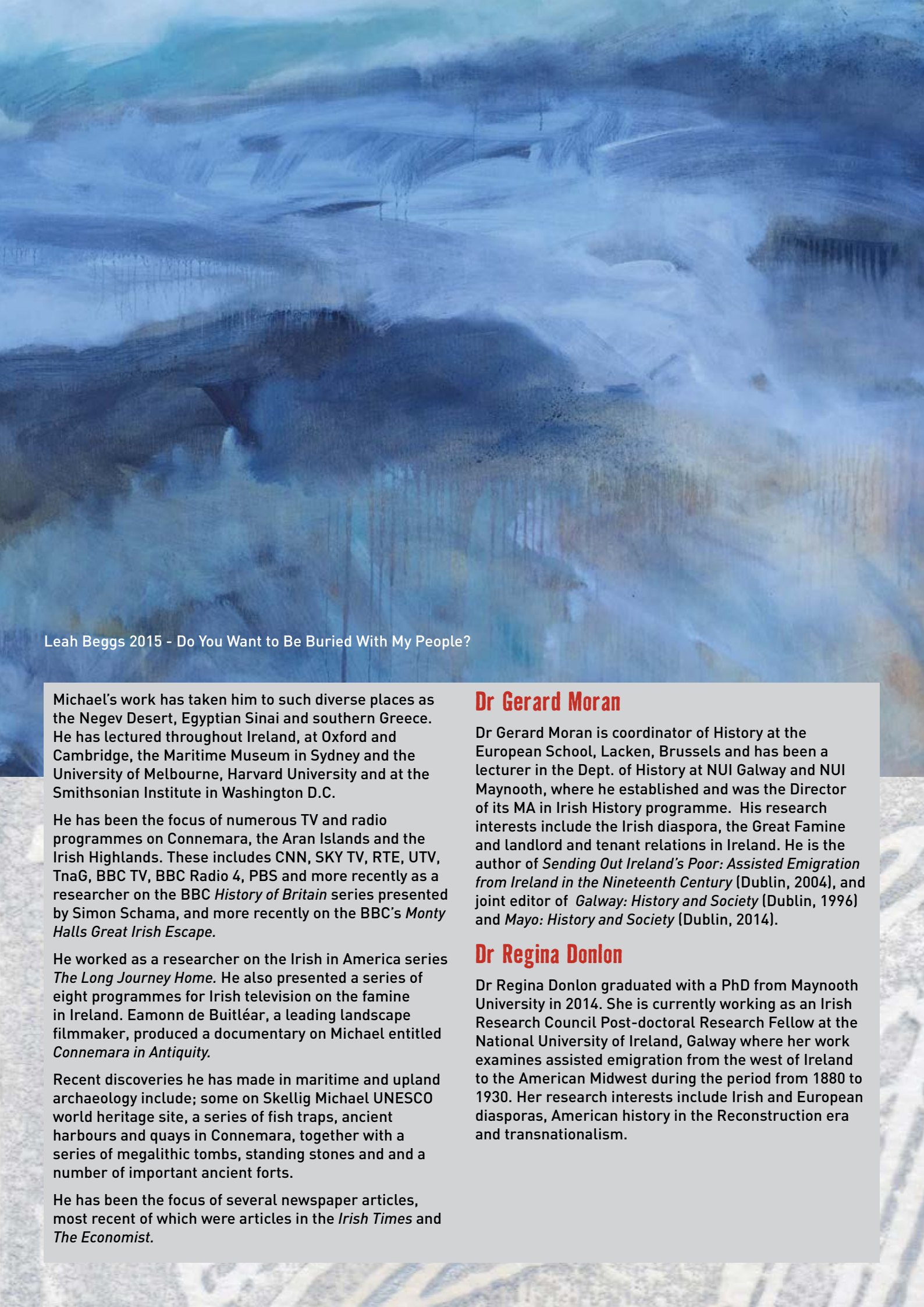
The Oughterard Writers Group

The Oughterard Writers Group is open to everyone. The overall aim of the group is to provide a regular space where people can come together to write and share what they have written in an appreciative and positive non-judgemental atmosphere. Among those contributing will be: Helena Burke, John Cronin, Kathleen Furey, Nicola Geddes, Margaret Larminie, Chris Mayhew, Matt Molloy, Pete Mullineaux, Jack McCann, Elizabeth Power, Louise Felton, Nella Ní Neachtain and Jess Walsh.

Michael Gibbons

Michael's knowledge of Ireland's highlands and islands has been gained by over thirty years of exploring its multi-faceted landscapes on foot, by boat and from the air. This experience has given him the ability to put together the most interesting walking and cultural itineraries that Ireland has to offer. Michael Gibbons, a native of Connemara, is one of Ireland's leading field archaeologists, a writer, broadcaster and mountaineer.

Michael is a former director of local and national archaeological survey programmes. Other work has involved research on the pilgrimage tradition in Ireland. He spent three seasons as a field director surveying and excavating the summit of Croagh Patrick in County Mayo, climbing 2,510 feet to work every morning!



Leah Beggs 2015 - Do You Want to Be Buried With My People?

Michael's work has taken him to such diverse places as the Negev Desert, Egyptian Sinai and southern Greece. He has lectured throughout Ireland, at Oxford and Cambridge, the Maritime Museum in Sydney and the University of Melbourne, Harvard University and at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

He has been the focus of numerous TV and radio programmes on Connemara, the Aran Islands and the Irish Highlands. These include CNN, SKY TV, RTE, UTV, TnaG, BBC TV, BBC Radio 4, PBS and more recently as a researcher on the BBC *History of Britain* series presented by Simon Schama, and more recently on the BBC's *Monty Halls Great Irish Escape*.

He worked as a researcher on the Irish in America series *The Long Journey Home*. He also presented a series of eight programmes for Irish television on the famine in Ireland. Eamonn de Buítléar, a leading landscape filmmaker, produced a documentary on Michael entitled *Connemara in Antiquity*.

Recent discoveries he has made in maritime and upland archaeology include; some on Skellig Michael UNESCO world heritage site, a series of fish traps, ancient harbours and quays in Connemara, together with a series of megalithic tombs, standing stones and a number of important ancient forts.

He has been the focus of several newspaper articles, most recent of which were articles in the *Irish Times* and *The Economist*.

Dr Gerard Moran

Dr Gerard Moran is coordinator of History at the European School, Lacken, Brussels and has been a lecturer in the Dept. of History at NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth, where he established and was the Director of its MA in Irish History programme. His research interests include the Irish diaspora, the Great Famine and landlord and tenant relations in Ireland. He is the author of *Sending Out Ireland's Poor: Assisted Emigration from Ireland in the Nineteenth Century* (Dublin, 2004), and joint editor of *Galway: History and Society* (Dublin, 1996) and *Mayo: History and Society* (Dublin, 2014).

Dr Regina Donlon

Dr Regina Donlon graduated with a PhD from Maynooth University in 2014. She is currently working as an Irish Research Council Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the National University of Ireland, Galway where her work examines assisted emigration from the west of Ireland to the American Midwest during the period from 1880 to 1930. Her research interests include Irish and European diasporas, American history in the Reconstruction era and transnationalism.



Brian Bourke - The Back Field

Dr Ciara Breathnach

Dr Ciara Breathnach, FRHistS, is a lecturer in history at the University of Limerick. She has published on Irish socio-economic, cultural and health histories. Author of *The Congested Districts Board of Ireland, 1891-1923, poverty and development in the West of Ireland* (Dublin, 2005) and editor/co-editor of six conference proceedings, she has published articles in *Medical Humanities*, *Medical History*, *Irish Historical Studies*, *Immigrants and Minorities*, *History of Family: an International Quarterly*, *the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, *Historical Research: the Bulletin of the Institute for Historical Research and Social History*. She has held visiting Fellowships at the Institute of Historical Research in London, the University of Massachusetts Boston and Harvard University.



Kathleen Furey - First and Minna



Margaret Irwin, etching: Rocks and Cottage, Inishlacken

To Book Conference & for Further Information please contact:

Email: oughterardheritage@gmail.com

Tel: 085 165 7496

Conference Fees

Full Conference Fee: €20

Includes the following:

Thursday evening launch and reception

Friday lectures, coffee and lunch

Saturday bus trip with picnic lunch

Partial Conference Fee

Thursday Evening Launch and Reception: Free

Friday lectures including tea/coffee and lunch: €10

Saturday bus trip, tea/coffee and picnic lunch: €10



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

