

Threshold as Space of Encounter: Boundaries, Crossings, Openings

Organisers: Jeanne Riou and Michael Brophy
(UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)

Venue: Humanities Institute, UCD (HI Seminar Room, H204, top floor)

Date: Friday 17 October 2025

10.30 – 11.00 AM **TEA / COFFEE**

11.00 AM – 12.00 PM **SESSION 1**

Jeanne Riou (UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)
'Beyond Epochal Thresholds? Rethinking Agency and Encounter'

Lisa Foran (UCD School of Philosophy)
'Abiding in the Impossible'

Mary Gallagher (UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)
"*Dichterisch wohnet der Mensch*": Thresholds as ante- or anti-poetic?

12.15 PM – 1.15 PM **SESSION 2**

Douglas Smith (UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics)
'Barrier or Membrane? The Paris Ringroad as a Potential Space of Encounter'

Lai Ma (UCD School of Information and Communication Studies)
'The Limits of Open Research'

Jacob Eisenberg (UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business)
'Travel and Festivals as Liminal Spaces'

1.15 PM – 2.00 PM **LUNCH**

2.00 PM – 3.00 PM **SESSION 3**

Keynote Speaker

Philippe Forest (Novelist and Essayist)
'Inside and Outside : After J. M. Barrie's *Peter and Wendy*'

3.15 PM – 4.15 PM

SESSION 4

Anne Fuchs (UCD Humanities Institute)

‘Permacrisis, Attritional Liminality and Performative Resilience in Beckett’s *Happy Days*’

Marc André Fortin (English Literature and Comparative Canadian Literature, Université de Sherbrooke), ‘Transgressing the Self in Antoine Desjardins’ *Indice des feux*’

Mary Cosgrove (TCD Department of German),

‘Threshold and Encounter in Chloe Dalton’s *Raising Hare* (2024)’

WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

The organisers warmly thank UCD Humanities Institute for funding and hosting this event. The support of the French Embassy in Ireland is also gratefully acknowledged.

This symposium is organised under the auspices of the UCD College of Arts & Humanities Research Theme, ‘Exploring Thresholds of Knowledge’.