



HISTORY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY UK
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Conference Programme

*Democracy and Education: Histories of
Inclusion and Exclusion*

13th – 15th November 2026

Maynooth University, Ireland



Please note that information is correct at the time of printing/posting.

DAY 1

Friday 13th November 2026

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus
13:00 – 14:00	Registration (<i>Renehan Hall</i>) and Lunch (<i>Pugin Hall</i>)		
14:00 – 15:30	Session A1: Democratising Education: Access, Structure and Participation 1. Prof. Johannes Westberg <i>What Do We Mean by Comprehensive, Unitary and Multilateral? Conceptualizing Educational Democratization in Postwar Europe</i> 2. Dr. Pam Mansell <i>‘Able to receive children of all classes’?</i> 3. Mr. Marcus Bhargava <i>Representing all the interests: democratic pluralism and the founding of the Schools Council in England and Wales in 1964</i>	Session A2: Religion, Gender and Educational Formation 1. Prof. Brian Titley <i>Learning About Bodies and Boys in Ireland’s Convent Schools, 1922-1966</i> 2. Assoc. Prof. Karen Hanrahan <i>“It was like opening a window onto a different world, and this world was colourful”: opportunities for learning and unlearning in the lives of teaching nuns</i> 3. Dr. Helen Knight <i>Forgotten leaders – the religious women who led the way in England</i>	Session A3: PGR Session: Education, Democracy and the Politics of Inclusion 1. Mr. Xiaoyu Wang <i>Citizenship, Democracy, and Policy Making: Reinterpreting the Making of the Crick Report</i> 2. Ms. Ruth Martini <i>Sexual Education in Bavaria (Germany) as a Site of Democratic Negotiation</i> 3. Ms. Becca Mowbray <i>‘Keep in step’?: gender, conflict and Northern Irish educational policymaking, 1968-1972</i> 4. Ms. Monika Maini <i>From critical thinkers to Compliant Minds: A critical Analysis of the New Policy Reforms and the Ontological Purpose of the University through the lens of Governmentality</i> 5. Ms. Wanwei Nie <i>Historicising Student Agency in British Higher Education Overseas</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee and Tea		

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus
16:00 – 17:00	Session B1: Disability, Difference and the Histories of Inclusion 1. Assoc. Prof. Attila Nóbik <i>From Inclusion to Normalisation. Disability in Hungarian Textbooks on History of Education.</i> 2. Prof. Pieter Verstraete <i>The Afterlife of Disability: Family Memory, Intergenerational Learning, and the Legacies of Belgian First World War Veterans</i>	Session B2: Educating for Democracy in the Shadow of Authoritarianism 1. Dr. Giovanni Brunetti <i>Unteaching Fascism: An Experiment in Democratic Education after World War II, 1944-1946</i> 2. Prof. Helge Wasmuth <i>Beyond Nationalism: Fröbel's Vision of Kindergarten as a Space for Everyday Democracy</i>	Session B3: Student Cultures and Moral Formation in Higher Education 1. Dr. Ashley Tull <i>Historic Traditions Involving Symbolic Death and Rebirth for U.S. Men's College Fraternities</i> 2. Dr. Heather Ellis and Prof. Gary McCulloch <i>Feeding Democracy? School Meals, Stigma and the Lived Politics of Inclusion</i>
17:10 – 17:45	Welcome and Opening Address (<i>Renehan Hall</i>)		
17:45 – 18:45	KEYNOTE 1 (<i>Renehan Hall</i>) Professor Judith Harford, University College Dublin “Words Importing the Masculine Gender Includes Females”: <i>Gender, Catholicism and the Limits of Educational Democracy within the National University of Ireland</i>		
18:45 – 19:30	Drinks reception (sponsored by <i>Taylor and Francis</i>)		
19:30	Dinner (<i>Pugin Hall</i>)		

Friday: Tour of Russell Library for those who have booked (11am, 12pm and 2pm).

DAY 2

Saturday 14th November 2026

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus
08:30	Registration (<i>Renahan Hall</i>)		
09:00 – 10:30	Session C1: Women, Education and Civic Agency 1. Prof. Caterina Sindoni Beyond Charity. Women's Political Philanthropy and Democratic Education in Southern Italy: the Case of the "Legione delle Pie Sorelle" 2. Ms. Stefanie Vochatzer "The Glory of Our Education is that it has Developed Culture, Intellectual Recourses, Ideals and the Life of the Spirit" - The New England Women's Club's Educational Vision (est. 1868) 3. Dr. Katie Tate Lady Wakehurst and Women's Education in Mid-Twentieth Century Northern Ireland	Session C2: Schooling, Selection and the Unequal Promise of Educational Access 1. Dr. Ting-Hong Wong <i>How Parental Demand Both Enabled and Entrapped the Postwar Taiwanese Authoritarian State: The Unconditional Admission Experiment</i> 2. Ms. Clara D'Alessandro <i>Democratic Education Across Tracks: The Risk of Political Exclusion in Luxembourg Secondary Schools</i> 3. Dr. Andrés Payà and Prof. Santiago Mengual <i>Mapping the Evolution of Global Citizenship: A Digital Tool for the Analysis of Inclusion and Exclusion in Educational Discourse (GCEDBASE)</i>	Session C3: Language, Curriculum and the Regulation of Knowledge in Irish Education 1. Assoc. Prof. Máire Nic an Bhaire <i>Censorship, Curriculum and Control: The Politics of Irish-Language Literature in Twentieth-Century Education</i> 2. Dr. Thomas Walsh and Dr. Joe Oylar <i>Regulating Knowledge, Re-presenting the World: Gender and Educational Purpose in Irish National School Readers</i> 3. Dr. Claire Dunne <i>Irish in the Education System: Tensions between Inclusive Ideals and Exclusionary Practices</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee and Tea		
11:00 – 12:30	Session D1: Democratic Change and Participation in Contemporary Irish Education 1. Dr. Laoise Ní Chléirigh <i>Loss, Inclusion, and Democratic Change: Reconsidering Niamh Bheathnach's Educational and Political Legacy</i> 2. Dr. Derek Grant <i>Democracy in Practice? Curriculum Redevelopment and Participation in Contemporary Ireland</i> 3. Dr. Pauline Egan <i>Restorative Practice as Democratic Education: Reinterpreting Relational Traditions in Kilkenny and Carlow ETB Schools</i>	Session D2: Education Beyond the Classroom: Democratic Spaces, Agency and Dissent 1. Dr. Tom Cryer <i>Disciplining Democracy? How Public Historians Grappled with Student Protest at the University of Chicago in the Long 1960s</i> 2. Assoc. Prof. Sharon Clancy <i>Participatory Democracy and Agency – the Lost Critical Spaces of Adult Education</i> 3. Prof. Mark Freeman <i>Helping the rootless to root: local studies and university adult education in the 1950s and 1960s</i>	Session D3: Teachers, Historical Consciousness and the Purposes of Education 1. Dr. Nick Mead <i>Is there evidence of dialectical synergies between teacher training programme and trainee narratives of historical consciousness which can challenge neoliberal policy?</i> 2. Prof. Tom Woodin <i>Teacher education, democracy and social change in the nineteenth century</i> 3. Prof. Tony Hall <i>Teaching history of education in the 'Age of AI': Synthesising biography, history and autoethnography</i>

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (<i>Pugin Hall</i>)		
13:30 – 14:30	KEYNOTE 2 (<i>Rehehan Hall</i>) Professor Emeritus Karen Graves, Denison University “Because We Stand in the Centre of Progress toward Democracy”: <i>Reflections on the History of LGBTQ+ Educators in the United States</i>		
14:40 – 16:10	Session E1: Religion, Authority and the Boundaries of Educational Inclusion 1. Prof. Noel Purdy <i>Democracy, Religious Authority and the Limits of Educational Reform: Northern Ireland’s 1923 Education Act and the Contemporary Reframing of Religious Education</i> 2. Dr. Francesca Cadeddu <i>Citizenship Education and Catholic Religious Education in Italy: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Reconfigurations</i> 3. Assistant Prof. Molly Daly <i>“Godless Colleges” vs. Pluralist Inclusion. The Synod of Thurles and its Enduring Impact on Irish Schools</i>	Session E2: Education, Authoritarianism and Democratic Transition 1. Prof. Teresa Lopo and Dr. Daniel Bart <i>Literacy, Democracy and Emancipation? The campaigns of the Pró-UNEP Commission and the Alfa Movement in Portugal (1974–1976).</i> 2. Prof. Tamar Groves <i>Global governance and grassroots opposition: the democratization of Spanish education in the late Franco period</i> 3. Dr. Angela Rickard <i>Not the First Time: Reading Backlash Against LGBTQ+ School Inclusion as Historical Pattern</i>	Session E3: PGR Session: Educational Inclusion, Difference and Alternative Possibilities Ms. Zixue Chen <i>Democracy Begins at Home? Women’s Higher Education, Familialism, and the Limits of Democratic Agency in Modern China</i> Ms. Risako Katayama <i>The Male Administrators in Women’s Higher Education: Toshikazu Yoshikawa at Tsuda College, Japan, 1917–1953</i> Ms. Elena Patino <i>The apparatus of the Quiet Child: Tracing How Quietness Became an Educational Problem (1980–Present)</i> Ms. Siobhán Nic Fhearaigh <i>Irish Speakers: Out of the Equation</i> Ms. Ardra K S <i>Historically locating an alternative school in Kerala (India): The KPM Approach and the Clonlara</i>
16:10 – 16:30	Coffee and Tea		

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus
16:30 – 17:30	Session F1: Student Cultures, Institutional Identity and Higher Education 1. Dr. Ashley Tull <i>A History of Espoused Values through Use of Heraldry for U.S. Women's College Social Sororities: 1824-1874 and 1885-1929</i> 2. Dr. Caitlin Harvey <i>Old Boys and New Men: Institutional Survival and the Student Body</i>	Session F2: Curriculum, Policy and the Negotiation of Educational Reform 1. Ms. Rose Crossgrove <i>Strange Bedfellows: The Schools History Project, Conservative Governments and the Shaping of History GCSE</i> 2. Dr. Fátima Rosado-Castellano and Prof. Tamar Groves <i>Selective Modernization: UNESCO, Women's Education, and Francoist Spain</i>	Session F3: Journal Editor workshop Dr Heather Ellis, Dr Geert Thyssen, Dr Thomas Walsh
17:30 – 18:30	Annual General Meeting (<i>Rehehan Hall</i>)		
18:40 – 19:20	Organ recital, Ferdia O'Cairbre (<i>St Patrick's College Chapel</i>)		
19:30	Conference Dinner and Award Presentations (<i>Pugin Hall</i>)		

Saturday: Walking tour of the campus for those who have booked (11am).

DAY 3

Sunday 15th November 2026

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus	Renehan Hall
09:00 – 11:00	Session G1: Empire, Difference and the Historical Boundaries of Educational Inclusion 1. Dr. AnneMarie Brosnan <i>Saving Souls in the US South: The Life and Work of Mary Kildare, an Irish Missionary Among Former Slaves</i> 2. Dr. John Carroll <i>An acceptable fit? Inclusion and exclusion in the Irish national education system in the early nineteenth century.</i> 3. Ms. Odity Barthakur <i>Reading and Writing the “Nation” Education, Language and the Making of the Assamese Identity.</i> 4. Dr. Daniel Deplazes <i>Inclusive Schooling in the Making in 1980s Switzerland</i>	Session G2: Voice, Representation and the Limits of Democratic Inclusion 1. Ms. Anna Cozzi and Dr. Matteo Umbro <i>Educating the “Almost Citizen”: Democracy, Schooling, and the Historical Production of Unequal Participation</i> 2. Dr. Christina Delistathi <i>Inclusive visions, excluded voices: civic imagination and the limits of democratic education in 1930s Greece</i> 3. Dr. Nancy Rosoff <i>‘Two women. Half the population. Several thousand years of history. About an hour’: The History Chicks podcast as an educative tool</i> 4. Ms. Nastajja Canello <i>Colonial Slavery and the Politics of Representation in English and Dutch History Textbooks</i>	Session G3: Gender, Sexuality, Care and the Politics of Educational Inclusion 1. Ms. Susan Birch <i>Access Within Education: Who Could Gain Birth Control and Sexual Education in Birmingham and Winchester?</i> 2. Dr. Florence Smith <i>An Elite Education? Coeducation and the construction of the female elite.</i> 3. Prof. Lisa Pfahl and Dr. Josefine Wagner <i>The Painting of a Disabled Man Revisited: Contemporary Sources of Inclusion History</i> 4. Dr. Maria Lucenti <i>Muslim Girls at School: Visibility, Belonging, and the Boundaries of Democratic Inclusion</i>	Session G4: PGR Session: Institutions, Participation and Educational Democracy Mr. Robert Sulley <i>Beyond Church versus State: Elected School Boards and Local Power in Leicestershire</i> Mr. Ed Green <i>A testing ground for parliamentary elections: English and Welsh school board elections 1870-1902</i> Ms. Rosa Schling <i>The ‘do-it-yourself nursery’: the role of democratic ideas and practices in activism around childcare and early education in 1970s and 1980s Britain.</i> Ms. Emer Shanahan <i>Shining a Light on the Dark Ages: The Historic Inclusion of Christian Narratives in Primary History Textbooks to the Exclusion of Islamic Perspectives</i> Mx. Milo Edwards <i>Democratising University Histories: Critically engaging with archives of LGBTQ+ student experience at English universities</i> Ms. Monika Maini <i>Rethinking University in Democracy: Reflections on Student Protests, Critical Consciousness and student Activism for social justice</i>

Time	Homiletics	1 Divinity	Middle Loftus	Renehan Hall
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee and Tea			
11:30 – 12:30	PANEL DISCUSSION <i>(Renehan Hall)</i> AI in History of Education Moderator: <i>Dr. Jenny Crowdy</i> Panellists: <i>Jack Deasley, Dr Heather Ellis, Prof. Tony Hall, Dr Geert Thyssen</i>			
12:30 – 12:45	Conference Close <i>(Renehan Hall)</i>			

