

The American Conference for Irish Studies – West Regional:

New Date and Revised Call for Papers

With anticipation of transformation and brighter days ahead, we are pleased to announce that the American Conference for Irish Studies (Western Region) will be held at the University of Colorado – Denver from September 23rd – 26th, 2021. We have pushed the date of the conference from April to September due to our desire to have an in-person conference and the anticipation of a safer world in the fall. While this will be an in-person conference, if you are unable to travel to Denver, we are accepting proposals for virtual presentations.

The theme of the conference is Labor, Immigration, and Class. As we mark 100 years since the Government of Ireland Act and the Partition of the island, we are also witnessing the effects of Brexit on economics, borders, communal memory, and mobility. Our global community is also experiencing a rising consciousness around race, identity, and colonization.

The conference committee welcomes paper, panel and roundtable proposals that address any aspect of Irish Studies, including literary, historical, political, socio-economic, cultural, and visual arts. We also welcome creative presentations in dramatic or literary form, i.e. poetry readings, monologues, or group performance.

Possible topics include:

- Irish immigrant labor in the American West
- Irish railroad gangs
- Construction of class in Irish American mining communities
- Irish domestics in Rocky Mountain mining camps
- Irish soldiers and American Empiricism
- Irish Labor Radicalism in the Rocky Mountain West
- Autochthony/Indigeneity
- Land-based ethics
- Revolutionary Ireland
- Sexual orientation and transgender identities
- The North of Ireland conflict
- Negotiated spaces/Contested territories
- Border communities
- Migration (specifically Irish settlement in Colorado)
- Globalization
- Empiricism, imperialism, & colonialism
- BREXIT





The conference will end with a Sunday morning pilgrimage by chartered bus to the old silver mining town of Leadville, where a major memorial to 19th century Irish immigrants is being constructed in the pauper section of the cemetery. This memorial will honor and name nearly 1,400 mostly Irish immigrants buried in sunken, unmarked graves. The average age of those buried there is 23 and half are children. This memorial recasts the story of the Irish in the West. Keynote and plenary sessions will include a panel discussing the construction of Leadville's Irish immigrant memorial and a keynote address by Helen Thorpe. The conference will also address how the Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Black and Indigenous People of Color (BiPOC) Movements intersect with and inform Irish Studies.

Accommodations are available at the centrally located Springhill Suites by Marriott on the Auraria Campus. Conference participants are also encouraged to visit the Molly Brown House, the History Colorado Museum, the Western History Department of Denver Public Library, and Regis University in the Denver area during their stay.

We look forward to exploring these topics and more in this multidisciplinary event. The deadline for submissions is June 1st, 2021. All conference presenters and attendees must be current paid members of ACIS.

Submission Guidelines: Individual papers and panel submissions (3-4 participants) are welcomed, as are proposals for presentations in non-traditional formats such as poetry, monologues, roundtables, discussion groups, or seminars. Abstracts should be 250-300 words in length and should include a brief (100-word) bio of the presenter. Proposals should be submitted via <https://acisweb.org/conferences/acis-western-regional-2021/>.

