



Engaging with Cultural and Heritage Organisations in a Covid World
Wednesday 15 September 2021 @ 11am
Speakers' Biographies

Professor Keith Lilley, School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's is an historical geographer whose research interests lie in maps and mapping, as well as landscape history and urban history. Keith has led research projects in areas that include digitally mapping historic cities, such as Chester, Swansea, and Derry/Londonderry, as well as directing projects on digitising historic maps. Keith works closely with historians and archaeologists and is currently leading on a major cross-border digital humanities research project (OS200) that will follow the footsteps of the surveyors who mapped Ireland 200 years ago.

PANEL ONE

Professor Olwen Purdue, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's specialises in the social and economic history of 19th and 20th century Ireland. Her research focuses on poverty, welfare and public health in the industrial city. Olwen is the founder and Director of the Centre for Public History, and of the Queen's MA in Public History and she works closely with the cultural and heritage sector across Northern Ireland in research, teaching and public engagement. She was specialist historical advisor for Titanic Belfast and a member of the advisory group for the Ulster Museum's Irish history exhibition and its Troubles and Beyond gallery.

Dr JD Hill, The British Museum is Head of Research at and oversees the strategic direction, management and funding of research activities across the British Museum. JD is often involved in cross-museum projects, including spending four years as the Lead Curator for the British Museum/BBC 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' project. The British Museum's permanent collection of some eight million works is among the largest and most comprehensive anywhere and it documents the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present.

William Blair, National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI) has been Director of Collections at NMNI since March 2017. He is part of the executive leadership team setting a new strategic direction for the organisation and has overall responsibility for curatorial, collections management, interpretation, audience development and programming. William previously curated the Titanic exhibition at the Ulster Transport Museum, as well as the Modern History gallery and the Troubles and Beyond exhibition at the Ulster Museum. NMNI comprises four Museums - The Ulster Museum, The Ulster Folk Museum, The Ulster Transport Museum and the Ulster American Folk Park and serves as a custodian of the National Collection of 1.4 million objects.

Hannah Crowdy, National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI) became Head of Curatorial at NMNI in 2017. She is responsible for leading NMNI's core activities of collections development, management, access and research, with a focus on unlocking the potential of collections and curators. Along with her colleague William Blair, Hannah has been involved in the redevelopment of the Modern History gallery and the Troubles and Beyond exhibition, both at the Ulster Museum.



Siobhan Stevenson, Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) is Director of the NIMC and is responsible for the strategic leadership of the Council ensuring that it supports and remains relevant to its stakeholders. Siobhan has more than 30 years' experience as a heritage professional and has a diverse background in the care of collections, museum and private conservation practice, cultural policy, business planning and strategic development. The NIMC is the lead body supporting local museums across Northern Ireland.

PANEL TWO

Professor Eileen Murphy, School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's is a bioarchaeologist whose research focuses particularly on human skeletal populations recovered from prehistoric Russia and all periods in Ireland. Eileen is particularly interested in the use of approaches from bioarchaeology and funerary archaeology to help further understanding of the lives and experiences of people in the past. Another of her research interests involves the study of past children and she is the founding editor of the international journal, *Childhood in the Past*. Eileen is Co-Director, with Dr Colm Donnelly, of the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's.

Pip Willcox, The National Archives (UK) is Head of Research and leads the Research and Academic Engagement team. Pip's own research started in palaeography, codicology and digital editing and has always been interdisciplinary, bringing together collections, technology and people. She has worked on projects linking collections and semantic web technologies, and social machines. Pip's focus for the past several years has been on multidisciplinary engagement with collections, enabling digital research and innovation and her current projects include *Engaging Crowds* and *Deep Discoveries*. Previously Pip founded the University of Oxford's Centre for Digital Scholarship at the Bodleian Library, designed the university's Masters programme in Digital Scholarship, and directed the Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School.

Frances Bailey, The National Trust has 32 years' experience working in curation with the National Trust and she is currently Senior National Curator, Northern Ireland (Social & Irish History). Frances has built up an extensive knowledge of the National Trust collections, historic landscapes, houses and gardens across Northern Ireland and has played a pivotal role in the delivery of many of the Trust's projects, particularly the £7.5m Restoration Project at Mount Stewart in County Down. The National Trust looks after special places throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland such as coastlines, forests, fens, moorlands, archaeological remains, nature reserves, villages and houses, as well as one of the world's largest art collections.

Dr Will Megarry, School of Natural and Built Environment is an archaeologist, geographical information systems (GIS) and heritage management specialist with over 15 years' commercial and academic experience. Will has a particular interest in (and has published widely on) the application and transferability of geospatial technologies to archaeology and cultural heritage site management and protection. His career has included time in commercial GIS and heritage management consultancy and he has worked at World Heritage Sites and other cultural heritage sites around the world.