

**Migration Seminar, MUSSI Seminar Room, Maynooth University Monday,  
9th March, 2020, 9am-4.30pm**

**Hospitality/'Hostipitality': Tensions and Contradictions in the reception and treatment of migrants in the University, Ireland and Europe**

The current displacement of refugees, the highest since WWII, has put to the test the EU's reception of refugees within its borders. At the same time, the upsurge of the anti-immigrant message has fueled extreme right ideologies in several European countries. Ireland too has moved from a migrant sending country up to the 1980s, to a migrant receiving country and struggles to articulate an adequate and humane response to their arrival.

This seminar stems from the premise that the ancient virtue of hospitality is at the center of this debate, for it structures the ways in which we look at the Other. It seems undeniable that hospitality as a metaphor weaves in and out of "contemporary debates on nationalism, migration, multiculturalism, and asylum" (Molz & Gibson 8), hence its centrality as a critical lens to assess the conditions, duration, and contested roles of hosts and guests. This seminar takes as its inspiration Derrida's concept of 'hostipitality', which identifies the two etymological roots of hospitality, *hostis* and *potis*, pointing to the inner hostility inherent to hospitality.

The seminar seeks to explore the tension identified in Derrida's concept of 'hostipitality'. How do both of its meanings – of *hostility* and *hospitality* - manifest themselves in Europe and Ireland? More pointedly, what role should the University – and the Social Sciences – play in trying to reconcile these seemingly contradictory tendencies within hospitality itself? Maynooth University's Faculty of Social Science has been at the forefront of study of this phenomenon and of migration in general for some time. This seminar seeks to capitalise on this expertise by providing a platform for researchers within MUSSI and the broader university to discuss their work on migration and the issues that it raises and is also inviting researchers from other universities in Ireland and elsewhere to present their work on the theme. The day will open, however, with a presentation by Spanish colleagues leading an Erasmus+ funded project on European Film and migration – [Hostfilm](#) – to discuss its work on migration, of which Maynooth Sociology Department is a partner. Finally, it seeks to involve representatives of local refugee and migrant groups and support groups in a dialogue with university leaders. The aim here is to open the university's doors to these groups to share their experience and understanding of 'hostipitality' in Ireland and help us as researchers reflect on the role of the University within that.

The main aims of the seminar therefore are to:

- Showcase and encourage discussion between different departments in the Faculty of Social Science (FSS), in the University, other Irish universities, and from Spain on the issue of migration in Ireland and Europe from the perspective of 'hostipitality'.
- Provide a platform for migrant groups and support groups to discuss with university leaders the issues that affect them, thus facilitating interaction and exchange of ideas between these groups on the themes of the seminar.
- Provide a forum for both groups to reflect on the role of the university, in making the Ireland and the University more hospitable places for the migrant.

- Provide a safe space for open and engaged interaction and exchange, respecting the group's diversity and varying experiences and perspectives in an atmosphere of civility and mutual respect.

### Draft Agenda:

- 9.00am Welcome from Dean of Social Sciences, Prof. Mark Maguire
- 9.30am Introduction: Hostility, Hospitality and 'Hostipitality': Hostfilm Project on Migration in European Film  
*Prof Ana Manzanas, Hostfilm Project Leader, University of Salamanca, Spain.*
- 10.00 Panel 1: Chair: Barry Cannon, Dept. of Sociology, Maynooth University.
- Sasha Brown, Dept of Geography, Maynooth University *An uneven asylum process: the refugee regime in Ireland*
  - Cliodhna Murphy and David Doyle, Dept of Law, Maynooth University: *Supports for Survivors of Human Trafficking in Ireland: Between Human Rights Obligations and Lived Experiences.*
  - Malene Jacobsen, Dept of Geography, Maynooth University: *Protracted Separation, Refugee Protection, and Family Reunification*
  - Nivelton Alves de Farias, Department of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin: *The Economic and Social Foundations of Brazilian Migration to Gort in the West of Ireland.*
- 11.15 Break
- 11.30 Panel 2: Chair: Malene Jacobsen, Dept of Geography, Maynooth University
- Zoe O' Reilly, Department of Geography, University College, Dublin: *Direct Provision in Ireland as 'hostipitality'.*
  - Gavan Titley, Dept of Media Studies, Maynooth University: *Migration, disinformation and the university*
  - Jorge Diego Sánchez, Department of English, University of Salamanca: *Representing Migration, Rapping Dissent and Acting Protest: The cases of M.I.A. and Riz Ahmed*
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.30 Caoimhe Butterly, Comhlamh, presents her film 'The Border'.
- 14.00 Round Table Discussion on 'hostipitality' for migrants in the University: Access, Curriculum and Research.  
Chair: Dr. Gavan Titley, Media Studies, Maynooth University.

*This round table will include representatives of migrant groups, voluntary migrant support agencies, and university faculty leaders, including from MASI (Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland), Immigrant Council of Ireland, Crosscare, Islam Ireland, Irish Polish Society, and leaders from MUSSI, Sociology, and Law in Maynooth and from Salamanca University.*

16.00 Summing up

16.30 Close

For more information on the seminar please contact:

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