

November 11, 2008

Dear colleague,

The Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame is delighted to host a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University teachers from June 22 to July 24, 2009. The interdisciplinary Seminar, entitled “Anglo-Irish Identities” will explore the complex and contested cultural, political, and ideological identities of the group known variously as the Anglo-Irish, the English in Ireland, or the Protestant Ascendancy. Colin Kidd notes that “the contentious role played by ethnic identity in the history of Ireland makes it easy to forget that the Irish, like other nations, have played out their conflicts in a world of imagined communities.” Within this context, how did the Anglo-Irish come to define themselves as a group? How did they differentiate themselves from the native population or “meer Irish” or from the so-called “Old English,” the Norman descendants of Strongbow? From the Presbyterians, Baptists, and other Dissenters, or from the English themselves?

Our five-week Seminar will examine this question of identity and difference in some representative writers who have dominated the teaching and understanding of Irish history and literature of the critical period between 1600 and 1800--Edmund Spenser, William Molyneux, Jonathan Swift, George Berkeley, Maria Edgeworth, and Edmund Burke. Close readings from the works of these figures will take place with a discussion of their historical, political, and ideological contexts, which have connections to our larger understanding of the construction of identities in colonial and post-colonial worlds. During our first week, Seminar members will look at constructions of identity in English accounts of the Irish, and of the English in Ireland, with special attention to Edmund Spenser’s *View of the Present State of Ireland* (1596) written during the initial phase of Tudor colonialism, and published posthumously in 1633. During the second and third weeks, Seminar members will move to later views of Anglo-Irish identity in William Molyneux’s *Case of Ireland Stated*, and in writings of Swift and Berkeley and their assertions of identity and articulations of resistance to British colonial policy during the politically and economically tempestuous decades of the early eighteenth century. In the fourth week, on “Upheaval and Revolution: The Later Eighteenth Century,” the group will examine several key works of Edmund Burke. We will be concerned here with how the construction of Anglo-Irish identity was affected by the profound political and social trauma of the French Revolution and the Great Irish Rebellion of 1798. We will also touch on the radical response to Burke including that of Mary Wollstonecraft. During the fifth and final week, we will focus on Maria Edgeworth’s attempt to recover or reformulate the Irish and British national characters from the fallout of the 1798 Rebellion and, with the Act of Union in 1801, the loss of hope for Irish parliamentary sovereignty. Throughout the five week discussion, the participants will be asked to share their on-going research on issues related to Seminar concerns. Seminar members will

also have an opportunity to interact with and respond directly to work of several major scholars in the field.

My own interest in Irish Studies has grown out of my interests in Jonathan Swift and eighteenth-century Ireland. With my colleague Seamus Deane in 1993, I co-founded the Keough Institute for Irish Studies, recently renamed the Keough-Naughton Institute. Most recently, I have edited *The Cambridge Companion to Jonathan Swift*. I have also been a fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Reilly Center for the History and Philosophy of Science. I have written a book on John Locke and co-edited (among other books) a volume on the emergence of human science in eighteenth-century Europe.

In keeping with the Seminar Director's interests, the proposed Seminar is intentionally interdisciplinary. It welcomes a wide spectrum of faculty from different fields. Participants in the Seminar could be college or university teachers of literature, history, or philosophy. They might have an interest in Irish Studies. They might also have an interest in early modern Europe or in eighteenth-century studies, or in the revolutionary period in Ireland, England, France, and America. They might have an interest in comparing these revolutions. They might also have a specialized interest in Berkeley or Burke and wish to take advantage of the Notre Dame Hesburgh Library's Luce-Berkeley or Todd-Burke Collections. They might have an interest in English or Irish politics, and in (say) the 1801 Act of Union. They might have an interest in the Irish novel, or popular culture and wish to explore the world famous Loeber Collection of Irish Fiction also housed in the Hesburgh Library. They might also have an interest in enriching their teaching of such canonical works as *Gulliver's Travels*. They may wish to explore the relations between identity, revolution, and gender, particularly in connection to Maria Edgeworth. Or members may have a broader interest in the history of Anglo-Irish relations, or in colonialism or its aftermath in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries. Whatever the Seminar member's interest, it would be welcomed and nourished in discussions with other participants, the Director, and distinguished visiting faculty.

The interdisciplinary approach of the Seminar reflects the equally interdisciplinary face of the best research and teaching being done in the humanities. As Director, I am committed to the argument that the most exciting work being done in the academy today is not happening in departments but between them. We will seek participants who represent as many fields and interests as possible, in order to stimulate broad, productive dialogue and discovery. Regular, lively and thoughtful contributions to Seminar discussions are expected of all participants. At the beginning of the NEH Seminar, each participant will be asked to outline a research project that links his or her scholarly or teaching interests with the Seminar's topic. Each will also be expected to make progress on the independent project and, at an appropriate time to be determined with the Director, make a Seminar presentation of the work in progress.

Participants will convene for Seminar discussions three mornings a week in the conference room of the Keough-Naughton Institute, located on the University of Notre Dame's campus. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, participants will meet for regular Seminar discussion sessions of three hours in length which will feature discussions of exemplary texts and critical readings. The sessions will also include opportunities for individual presentations and scholarly exchange and analysis of the participant's own work-in-progress, and opportunities to respond first-hand to visiting faculty experts. Sessions will be scheduled in the morning, leaving afternoons free for independent reading, research, writing, and consultation with colleagues, the director, and visitors. This will also provide time for Seminar members to use Notre Dame's extensive Irish collections and other rare materials in the Hesburgh Library. The director will be available afternoons for consultation throughout the Seminar and will meet individually with each NEH Seminar member.

The Seminar will be held in the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies on the University of Notre Dame campus. In the Keough-Naughton Institute, seminar participants will have access to the R. C. Sweetman Reading Room and a designated NEH faculty office, with computers and internet access. Seminar participants will also enjoy Visiting Faculty status and have access to all of Notre Dame's facilities, including the over 3,000,000 volumes in the University's Hesburgh Library, which is about a three minute walk from the Institute. In addition to these privileges and use of the Hesburgh Library's electronic catalogues and services, NEH Seminar participants will have full access to the Resources in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Notre Dame boasts one of the finest collections of rare Irish texts, printed maps, and music outside of Ireland. Scholars of Anglo-Irish literature, history, and thought will find particularly valuable the massive William B. Todd Collection of Edmund Burke, the A.A. Luce Berkeley Collection, the Collection of Grattan's Political Pamphlets, the Heinz J. Vienenk Swift Collection, the new Seventeenth-Century Collection, the Michael Foot Swift collection, and the Loeber Collection of Irish Fiction. Scholars will also have access to the Francis O'Neill Collection of Irish Music (which includes a broad range of materials), and the David J. Butler Collection of Irish maps and sea charts, along with rare collections related to the Great Irish Rebellion of 1798, the Act of Union of 1801, and collections devoted to Mangan and Yeats. Many of these collections include materials not available in Ireland. The distinctive collection of Anglo-Irish materials also includes a first edition of Molyneux's *Case of Ireland Stated* (1698), an original letter and first editions of Swift, a copy of Locke's *Second Treatise* annotated by the revolutionary Robert Emmet, and many early editions of the principal authors to be considered, along with a major microfilm collection of Maria Edgeworth's papers and an Edgeworth manuscript. Another of Notre Dame's most valuable research tools for the student of eighteenth-century Ireland is "The Eighteenth-Century Online." The Library also owns "The Eighteenth Century," an interdisciplinary microfilm collection of approximately 250,000 titles between 1700-1800. The Library is one of the very few in

the United States to hold the complete collection. For the earlier pre-1700 period, the Library owns the complete microfilm of Wing-Early English Books and an extensive collection of Irish language materials supplemented by a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. The Irish Studies Librarian (who is fluent in the Irish language) and the English and French Librarian will also be available to help the participants during the seminar. For more information on the Irish Studies collection, please consult the following website: [www.library.nd.edu/subjects/irish\\_studies](http://www.library.nd.edu/subjects/irish_studies)

Having hosted several NEH seminars and national and international conferences--including the recent American Conference for Irish Studies, the national meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and an international meeting (with the Irish Government) on the Great Irish Rebellion--Notre Dame's campus is uniquely suited to visiting scholars. Especially beautiful in the summer months, Notre Dame offers many recreational activities, including swimming pools, tennis and squash courts, an eighteen hole golf course, lakes and boating, full gym facilities, and running and cycling paths. The University continually hosts cultural events and activities year-round, and possesses a fine and varied collection of fine arts at its Snite Museum. Participants are encouraged to stay in one of the University's on-campus rooms and enjoy these amenities, but may also opt to stay in rental accommodations near the university. Daily and weekly informal meals and other social gatherings between Seminar faculty and participants are also planned. Though the Seminar and the Notre Dame campus should keep participants busy and entertained, opportunities for amusement outside the University abound: Lake Michigan, with its many beaches and sights, is within driving distance (45 minutes), and the many enticements of Chicago are easily reachable by car or rail connection from South Bend.

Individuals selected to participate in the five week NEH Seminar will receive \$3,800. Stipends are intended to help defray travel expenses to and from the Seminar, books and other research expenses, and living expenses for the duration of the period spent in residence. The first check (1/2 of the stipend) will be waiting for participants when they arrive. The second check will be available during the third week. Stipends are taxable. Participants however are encouraged to save receipts related to expenses which may, given individual circumstances, be tax deductible.

Application information is included with this letter. You can download the cover sheet and application materials from this website. Your completed application should be postmarked no later than March 2, 2009 and mailed to Professor Christopher Fox, Director NEH Summer Seminar, Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, 422 Flanner Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. Perhaps the most important part of the application is the essay (of up to four double-spaced pages) that must be submitted as part of the complete application. This essay should include any personal or academic information that is relevant; reasons for applying to this seminar; your interests, both intellectual and personal, in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the seminar and make a contribution to it; what you hope to accomplish by participation,

including any individual research and writing projects; and the relation of your project to your teaching.

I thank you for your interest and look forward to seeing your application. If you have any questions, by all means get in touch.

Sincerely,

Christopher Fox  
Professor and Director

Enclosure