

# VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



### CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh! Happy St. Patrick's Festivities!

We were privileged to host [An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin](#) this past weekend. Also, joining were the Ambassadors to the U.S. and Ireland, as well as our [Congresswoman, Mary Gay Scanlon](#). Fr. Peter opened the day by welcoming Martin along with Dean Adele Lindenmeyr. We encouraged the Taoiseach and the Irish Government to continue to use their soft power around the globe for peace and shared values. We are grateful to the Irish Government for their direct financial support of Irish language education at Villanova, as well as indirectly through Culture Ireland grants. It is a collaboration that goes back to 1842, when Villanova was founded!



Enjoy St. Patrick's Day safely, remembering [his strength, resilience, and forgiveness](#).

*Joseph Lennon, Emily C. Riley Director of Irish Studies*

## News and Updates



### **New Podcast Episode - Season 7, Episode 3: University College Cork Historians John Borgonovo and Hiram Morgan visit Villanova's Center for Irish Studies**

This episode features University College Cork historians [John Borgonovo](#) and [Hiram Morgan](#) discussing the future of Irish historical scholarship after Ireland's recent "decade of centenaries," which commemorated events like the Easter Rising and the Irish Civil War. As Irish history shifts from commemorating revolutionary milestones, it is moving towards addressing contemporary issues through historical perspective—such as immigration and multiculturalism in modern Ireland, environmental degradation and land use, the legacy of colonial economic systems, debates about Irish neutrality and European security, and the ongoing constitutional future of Northern Ireland.

Listen on [Youtube](#), [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#) podcasts

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**Dr. Bess Rown Discusses "The Plough and the Stars"**



Center for Irish Studies and Theatre professor, [Dr. Bess Rowen](#) recently appeared as part of a [Newstalk panel](#), hosted by TCD's Patrick Geoghegan, to discuss "The Plough and the Stars." In this podcast episode, we find out about the first staging of Seán O'Casey's play The Plough and The Stars 100 years ago and why it provoked such furious debate and even riots. Click [here](#) to listen.



### Irish in America: America 250

Fox29 News takes a closer look at Irish roots in Philadelphia as the nation's 250 anniversary approaches. Check out their [short documentary](#), featuring Center Director, Dr. Joseph Lennon.

## Fall 2026 Irish Studies Course Offerings

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## Fall 2026 Irish Studies Courses

**ENG 1975: Borders, Migration, National Identity**  
TR 1:00-2:15pm  
Dr. Rena Potok  
Attributes: Core Lit & Writing Sem, Irish Studies, Peace & Justice

**ENG 1975: Women in Irish Literature & Film**  
TR 4:00-5:15pm  
Dr. Rena Potok  
Attributes: Irish Studies, GWS

**IS 1111: Introductory Language I**  
Section I: M 8:30 - 9:20am; TR 8:30 - 9:45am  
Section II: M 9:35 - 10:25am; TR 8:30 - 9:45am  
Section III: M 10:40 - 11:30am; TR 10:00 - 11:15am  
Dr. Jonathan O'Neill (M), Michael Malloy (TR drill sections)

**IS 1121: Intermediate Irish Language I**  
TR 2:30-3:45pm  
Dr. Jonathan O'Neill

**PSC 6900: Social Movements in Divided Societies**  
Tuesdays 4:00-5:50pm  
Dr. Cera Murtagh  
Attributes: Irish Studies, GWS, Writing Intensive Requirement

## Spring 2026 Public Events

**Tuesday, March 17: Irish Trad Music in Connelly Center**



In celebration of St. Patrick's Day we will have musician David Brown and the Brown Family Band performing Irish trad music on the Belle Air Terrace Stage during the lunch hours.

**Connelly Center main floor, at 11:00am - 12:30pm**

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## Sunday, March 29: Villanova Irish Dance Team Showcase

The Villanova Irish Dance Team is a close-knit group of dancers who enjoy sharing their long-standing love for Irish dance, music, and culture with the entire Villanovan community. We hope to see you there!

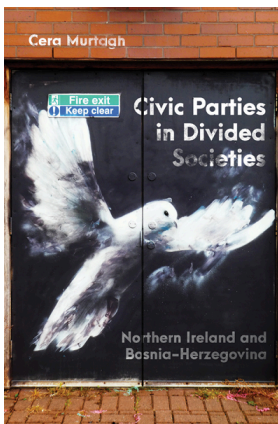
[Tickets can be purchased through the Mullen Center box office.](#)



**Mullen Center, Court Theatre, at 2:00pm**

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## Thursday, April 9: Dr. Cera Murtagh Book Launch



Join us as we celebrate the launch of Dr. Murtagh's book [Civic Parties in Divided Societies](#).

In Northern Ireland and Bosnia-Herzegovina, a new form of politics is emerging thirty years after conflict. Despite ongoing polarization, civic political parties - those that reject ethno-nationalism and organize around alternative identities and issues - have formed, endured, and claimed political space. Notably, these parties have emerged within the context of constitutional power-sharing, a political system explicitly designed to accommodate ethno-national groups.

The rise of civic politics challenges the dominant narrative of deeply divided societies. Cera Murtagh explores how countries transition from armed conflict to issue-based democracies, highlighting both the institutional barriers that civic parties face and the opportunities they can seize. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, including more than one hundred semi-structured elite interviews at critical political moments, *Civic Parties in Divided Societies* is the culmination of over a decade's research on Northern Ireland and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and beyond. ACS Approved. Co-sponsored by the Political Science Department

**Falvey Library, Speaker's Corner at 4:00pm**

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## Thursday, April 16: Hidetaka Hirota talk: "Irish Immigration and the Origins of Deportation Policy in the United States"

The United States' deportation policy is receiving considerable attention today, but Irish immigration in the nineteenth century is often left out in the inquiry into the history of US deportation policy. This lecture explores how northeastern states developed policies for restricting immigration, including deportation, in response to Irish immigration in the mid-nineteenth century and how these state-level measures helped lay the foundations for federal immigration laws.

[Hidetaka Hirota](#) is a social and legal historian from UC Berkely, specializing in the history of American nativism and immigration control, and the author of *Expelling the Poor: Atlantic Seaboard States and the Nineteenth-Century Origins of American Immigration Policy*.



This event is co-sponsored by the [Albert LePage Center](#), [Mother Cabrini Institute](#), [Center for Peace and Justice Education](#), [Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic](#) and [CARES \(Clinic for asylee Refugee and Emigrant Services\)](#). ACS Approved.

Location TBD at 3:00pm

## Spring 2026 Calendar of Events

March 17

### Irish Trad Music in Connelly Center

Connelly Center, at 11:00 - 12:30 pm

March 29

### Villanova Irish Dance Team Showcase

Mullen Center, Courte Theater, at 2:00pm

April 9

### Dr. Cera Murtagh Book Launch: *Civic Parties Divided in Societies*

Falvey Library Speaker's Corner, at 4:00pm

April 16

### Hidetaka Hirota talk: "Irish Immigration and the Origins of Deportation Policy in the United States"

Location TBD, at 3:00pm

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