



History of Women Religious *of Britain and Ireland* 2023 Conference Schedule

Day One: Thursday, 8 June

9.00–9.15 **Welcome from Francis Davis, Head of Digby Stuart College (TBC)**

9.15–10.45 **Session One: Charism**

Chair: Kristof Smeyers, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*.

- Patricia Harris, *Bar Convent, York*:
Returning to the founding charism: the response in Mary Ward's Institute
- Margaret Susan Thompson, *Syracuse University, New York, U.S.*:
Mission, ministry, and the reconfiguration of community in 19th-century American religious life
- Leonardo Rossi, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*:
The second *golden age* of the Company of St Ursula: the refoundation in the nineteenth century between historical continuity and innovation **(via zoom)**

10.45–11.45 **Session Two: Medieval: Enclosed Convents and External Contacts**

Chair: Maria Williams, *Independent Researcher*

- Sara Charles, *Institute of Historical Research, University of London*:
In praise of Leoba and the early medieval missionaries to the Continent
- Virginia Bainbridge, *Exeter University*:
Women and mission: Royal and noble ladies as patrons and nuns of Syon Abbey

11.45–12.00 **Break**

12.00–13.30 **Session Three: Missions: War and Hostile Environments**

Chair: Bronagh McShane, *University of Limerick*

- Paul Shaw, *Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Roehampton*:
Fanny Taylor's *Eastern Hospitals and English Nurses*: a vital eyewitness account of religious sisters as Crimean War nurses
- Ruth Ferris, *University College Dublin*:
The first foreign visitation of Loreto IBVM mission houses 1902–1904
- Elizabeth Patton, *Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.*:
“In time of war, Sunday was like Monday”: a contemplative convent adapts the canonical hours to the rhythms of the battlefield.

13.30–14.30 **Lunch**

14.30–16.00 **Session Four – Parallel Session**

Group 4.1: Missions and Education (A)

Chair: Margaret Susan Thompson, *Syracuse University, New York, U.S.*

- Maria Patricia Williams, *Independent Researcher*:
A method for the mission: Catholic women religious and the internationalisation of the Montessori Method, 1909–1960
- Geraldine Noonan, *University College Dublin*:
Women on a mission: the changing response of the La Sainte Union Des Sacrés Coeurs Teaching Congregation, to the education needs of Catholic children in Ireland from 1863–c.1930
- Deirdre Raftery, Catriona Delaney and Ellen Regan, *University College Dublin*:
The evolving mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) in Ireland: archival and oral sources

Group 4.2: Missions and Vocations

Chair: Carmen Mangion, *Birkbeck, University of London*

- Ana Jelnikar, *Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana*:
“My Passage to India”: Travelogue as a Gendered Site of Missionary Ideas and Expectations
- Barbara Vesey, *Society of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton*:
‘Don’t you think you might exert yourself and write to the Missions?’ – Margaret Thornton RSCJ (1898–1977) in her own words
- Victoria Pearson, *Ulster University*:
Hungry work: Honora ‘Nano’ Nagle: A woman’s mission to keep the faith in eighteenth century Ireland

16.00–16.15 **Break**

16.15–17.15 **Plenary with Carmen Mangion, Birkbeck, University of London**

Chair: Deirdre Raftery

17.15–18.30 **Academic Publishing Workshop and Book Launch**

- Peter Sowden, Commissioning Editor of Boydell with Bronagh Ann McShane, *University of Limerick*
- Book launch of *Irish Women in Religious Orders, 1530–1700: Suppression, Migration and Reintegration* (Woodbridge, 2022) by Bronagh Ann McShane. Speaker: Caroline Bowden, *Queen Mary, University of London*
<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783277308/irish-women-in-religious-orders-1530-1700/>

19.15– **Dinner**

Day Two: Friday 9 June

9.00-10.45 **Session Five: Mission: Instability and Change**

Chair: Sara Charles, *IHR*

- Kristof Smeyers, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*:
Missionaries after death: how the martyrs of Shanxi and Patong came home
- Karen Hanrahan, *University of Brighton*:
Continuity and change: the teaching vocations of former nuns
- Jane McBride, *Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium*.

“Let us never forget that only a real woman of God can be an effective missionary”. An oral history project with the Belgian missionary Sisters, the Zusters van de Jacht (Sisters of the Hunt, ICM)

10.45–11.30 Visit to the Sacred Heart Archives with archivist Barbara Vesey

11.30–13.00 Session Six: Education (B)

Chair: Flora Derounian, *University of Sussex*

- Helen Knight, *Durham University*:
Secondary education for Catholic girls in England, 1870–1920 – government funded schools
- Caroline Lesemann-Elliott, *Royal Holloway, University of London*:
‘A delicate hand on the organ’: Music education and disability at English convents in exile
- Melissa Broome Ursin, *University of San Francisco, U.S.*:
An evolving educational Charism: Exploring the rule and constitution of the Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco (1854– Present)

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Session Seven – Parallel Session: External Relations: Vocations and Mission

Group 7.1:

Chair: Catriona Delaney, *University College Dublin*

- Anselm Nye, *Queen Mary’s, University of London*
The dearest little vikings : the English Dominican Sisters in Norway
- Araceli Rosillo-Luque, *University of Warsaw, Poland*:
Sisters in action: The network of Discalced Carmelites Nuns in Early Modern Portugal
- Brian Heffernan, *Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium*:
Fertilising the ground through prayer: Dutch Discalced Carmelite nuns in the missions (twentieth century)

Group 7.2:

Chair: Eilish Gregory, *University of Durham*

- Jarrette K. Allen, *McNeese State University, Louisiana, U.S.*:
Motivations for missions: The human side of the calling of God
- Katharine Massam, *University of Divinity, Melbourne*:
Cardijn in the convents: women religious re-thinking ministry after the council
- William Barham, *Royal Holloway, University of London*:
Rise and decline of the Grahamstown Sisters – the impact of recruitment on an English missionary sisterhood abroad

15.30–15.45 Break

15.45–17.00 Session Eight: External Relations: Networks

- Rocío Suárez Vallejo, *University of Málaga, Spain and University of Padua, Italy*:
Care among sisters: The duties of nuns in Visigothic Hispania (via zoom)
- Brian Casey, *Durham University*:
The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood’s mission to Kasaba and Singapore, 1946-1962

- James Akpu, *Dublin City University* and Uzoamaka Nwachukwu, *Indiana University, U.S.:*
Tilling the land in wartime: women religious in Biafra, 1968-1970

Day Three: Saturday 10 June

10.00–15.00 Walk led by Paul Shaw, archivist to the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, around Roehampton visiting sites associated with women religious.