

Sean Farrell

Professor of History
Northern Illinois University
701 Zulauf Hall
DeKalb, IL 60115
sfarrell@niu.edu

Education

- Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of History, 1996
Major Field: Modern Britain and Ireland
Minor: Peasant Studies
- M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of History. 1991
Thesis title: *The Sash and the Harp: Sectarian Violence in Ulster, 1820-35*
- B.A. Pomona College, Claremont, CA, 1988
Major: History

Current Research Projects

Farrell, Sean, *The Blackstaff Nuisance: Politics, Public Health and the Urban Environment in Victorian Belfast*.

-----, *Sectarianism in Nineteenth Century Ireland: An Historical Problem*.

Publications

Farrell, Sean, *Thomas Drew and the Making of Victorian Belfast* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2023).

-----, "The Trillick Railway Outrage: The Politics of Atrocity in Post-Famine Ulster," in E.G. Bouwers, ed., *Catholics and Violence in the Nineteenth Century Global World* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2023), 178-98. Revised version of German-language chapter listed below.

Farrell, Sean and Mathieu Billings, *The Irish in Illinois* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2021). **Received 2022 Superior Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society.**

Farrell, Sean, "The Trillick Railway Outrage: The Politics of Atrocity in Post-Famine Ulster," in E.G. Bouwers, ed., *Glaubenskämpfe: Katholiken und Gewalt im 19. Jahrhundert* (Battles over Belief: Catholics and Violence in the 19th Century) (Berlin: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2019), 217-40.

- , "Going to Extremes: Anti-Slavery and Anti-Catholicism in Early Victorian Belfast," *European Romantic Review*, 28, 4 (2017), 461-72.
- , "Contested Histories? Richard Mant's *History of the Church in Ireland* and religious politics in Early Victorian Belfast," in Alan Ford, James Golden and Miriam Moffitt, eds., *The Church of Ireland and its Past: History, Interpretation and Identity* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2017), 95-107.
- , "An Irish Nationalist and Imperial Reformer: Charles Gavan Duffy and Australian Federation, 1857-71," in Timothy G. McMahon, Michael de Nie, and Paul Townend, eds., *Ireland in an Imperial World: Citizenship, Opportunism and Subversion* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 69-90.
- , "Feed My Lambs: The Reverend Thomas Drew and Protestant Children in Early Victorian Belfast," *New Hibernia Review* 19, 2 (Summer 2015), 43-58.
- , "Building Opposition: The Mant Controversy and the Church of Ireland in Early Victorian Belfast," *Irish Historical Studies*, 154 (November 2014), 52-71.
- , "Progress, Providence and Silence: Writing the Famine on Sandy Row," *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* (Winter 2013), 101-113.
- Farrell, Sean, with Ciara Meehan, Gary Murphy and Kevin Rafter, "Assessing The General Election of 2011: Roundtable," *New Hibernia Review*, 15, 3 (Autumn 2011), 36-53.
- Farrell, Sean, "Ulster Sectarianism and the Lessons of South Asian Historiography," *History Compass*, 8/9 (2010), 1023-35.
- Farrell, Sean and Michael DeNie, ed., *Power and Popular Culture in Modern Ireland: Essays in Honour of James S. Donnelly, Jr.* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2010).
- Farrell, Sean, "Educating the Poor in North Armagh: The Lurgan Free School, 1786-1795," in Farrell and DeNie, eds., *Power and Popular Culture in Modern Ireland*, 93-108.
- , "Using the Grand Turk for Ireland: Ottoman Images in *The Irish Vindicator*," in David A. Wilson, ed., *Irish Nationalism in Canada* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009), 22-33.
- , "The Reverend Ian Kyle Paisley," in Jeffrey Ian Ross, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion and Violence* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2011).
- Farrell, Sean and Danine Farquharson, ed., *Shadows of the Gunmen: Violence, History and Art in Modern Ireland* (Cork: Cork University Press, 2007).

Farrell, Sean, "Writing an Orange Dolly's Brae," in Farquharson and Farrell, *Shadows of the Gunmen*, 90-106.

-----, "The Burning of Freeduff Presbyterian Church: Presbyterian Emigration and the Construction of Community in Eighteenth Century South Armagh," *New Hibernia Review*, 9: 3 (Fómhar/Fall 2005), 72-85.

ed., *Eire-Ireland* (special issue on Unionist identities), Spring 2004.

-----, *Rituals and Riots: Sectarian Violence and Political Culture in Ulster, 1784-1886* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, September 2000). **Received Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book in Irish Studies (2001) from the American Conference for Irish Studies.**

-----, "The Origins of the Orange Order," "James Connolly," "Sir Edward Carson," and "James Larkin," in *The Encyclopedia of Ireland*, ed., James S. Donnelly, Jr., (New York: Gill and Macmillan, 2004).

-----, "Recapturing the Flag: The Campaign to Repeal the Party Processions Act, 1860-72," *Eire-Ireland* XXXII (Summer/Fall 1997), 52-78.

-----, and Patrick F. Tally, *Modern Irish History: A Course for University Credit* (Madison: University of Wisconsin-Extension, January 1999).

Recent Book Reviews

Farrell, Sean, review of Patrick Mannion and Fearghal McGarry, *The Irish Revolution: A Global History* (New York: NYU Press, 2022), in *New Hibernia Review*, Volume 26, Number 4 (Winter 2022), 135-37.

-----, review of Margaret Kelleher, *The Maamtrasna Murders: Language, Life and Death in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2017), in *Irish Historical Studies*, Volume 43, Number 164, (Winter 2019), 352-3.

-----, review of Guy Beiner, *Forgetful Remembrance: Social Forgetting and Vernacular History of a Rebellion in Ulster* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), in *New Hibernia Review*, Volume 23, Number 1 (Spring 2019), 155-8.

Fellowships and Awards

Robert M. Kingdon Fellowship, Institute for Research in the Humanities (2024 – applicant).

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award, NIU (2019-20).

Research and Artistry Award, NIU (Fall 2018).

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend (2018).

Great Journeys Research Assistantship, NIU (2016-17).

IACI-NUIG Visiting Fellowship, National University of Ireland, Galway (Fall 2014).

Research and Artistry Award, NIU (Fall 2011).

Outstanding Faculty and Staff Recognition, Mortar Board, NIU (Spring 2009).

Professional Development Award, The College of Saint Rose (Summer 2002).

Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book in Irish Studies, American Conference for Irish Studies (2001).

Professor of the Year (Newberry College, 1997-98).

Professional Experience

Academic Position

Professor of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 2019-

Associate Professor of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 2006-19

Assistant Professor of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 2004-06

O'Brien Visiting Scholar, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, Fall 2005

Assistant Professor of History, College of Saint Rose, Albany, New York, 2000-04

Assistant Professor of History, Newberry College, Newberry, S.C., 1997-2000

Instructor in History, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Fall 1996

Administrative Position (internal)

Acting Chair, Department of History, Fall 2021

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History 2015-18, Spring 2019

Assistant Chair, Department of History, 2008-10

Administrative Position (external)

President, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2013-14

Vice President, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2011-12

International Representative, Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland, 2016 to the present

Member, International Editorial Board, *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* (2011 to the present).

Advisory Editor, *New Hibernia Review*, 2006 to the present

Newsletter Editor and Member of the Executive, Canadian Association for Irish Studies, 2003-2008

Public History Projects and Media Appearances

“The Famine Irish in Chicago,” video lecture for the Great Famine Voices project of The Irish National Famine Museum, (Strokestown, Co. Mayo, Ireland), posted on the website of the Irish Consulate of Chicago, 5/15/22: 1400 views, 8/2023

“The Death of Queen Elizabeth II,” television interview with Fox 39, Rockford, 9/8/2022.

“Queen Elizabeth and Ireland,” radio interview with WMAQ, Chicago, 9/5/2022.

Presentations and Invited Lectures (Since 2010)

Farrell, Sean, “Sectarianism in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: An Historical Problem,” (invited plenary address: the Lawrence M. McBride Lecture at the Midwest Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Washington University, St. Louis, October 2023).

-----, “Andrew Malcolm and the Politics of Public Health in Early Victorian Belfast,” (paper presentation at the international meeting of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, June 2023).

-----, “The Blackstaff Nuisance: Civic Culture and the Urban Environment in Belfast, 1848-55,” (paper presentation at the national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, San Jose State University, June 2023).

-----, “The Blackstaff Nuisance: Civic Culture, Public Health, and the Urban Environment in Victorian Belfast,” (invited lecture at the Newberry Library, Chicago, June 2023).

-----, “The Blackstaff Nuisance: Civic Culture and the Urban Environment in Belfast, 1842-50,” (paper presentation at the Midwest Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, October 2022).

-----, “A Genius for Politics? Irish Immigrants and the Contest for American Democracy,” (invited talk at the Schaumburg Public Library, March 10. 2022).

-----, “‘The Worst Understood Man of His Times’: Thomas Drew, Land Reform, and Orange Democracy in 1868,” (paper presentation at the Midwest Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Northern Illinois University, October 2021).

-----, “We Lost ‘Wee Jack’: The Death of a Child in Postfamine Ulster,” (paper presentation at the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century

Ireland, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 29-30 June 2021 [virtual].

- , "Writing a New History of the Irish in Illinois," (invited presentation at Chicago: An Irish Metropolis?, a virtual conference hosted by the University of Chicago, Université de Caen Normandie, and Université de Paris, 21 June 2021).
- , "'The Burden of an Artificial Social Standard': Catherine Drew's Advocacy for Women in Late Victorian Britain and Ireland," (paper presentation at the international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Ulster, Derry, Northern Ireland, 4 June 2021 [virtual]).
- , "A Genius for Politics? Irish Immigrants and the Fight to Expand American Democracy," (invited lecture for the Irish Embassy/Inaugural Eileen Patricia McMahon Zogby Lecture at LeMoyné College, 17 February 2021).
- , "Writing a New History of the Irish in Illinois," Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, 12 October 2020.
- , "The Limits of His Advocacy: Thomas Drew and the Crisis of the Ballymacarrett Weavers, 1842-3," (paper presentation at the Midwest meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Creighton University, Omaha, 10 October 2019).
- , "The Tuam Controversy of 1854: Party Processions and the British State in Postfamine Ireland," (paper presentation at the Midwest meeting of the North American Conference of British Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, 29 September 2019).
- , "Strange Bedfellows: Thomas Drew and the Politics of Famine Relief in Belfast," (paper presentation at the international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Boston, 20-4 March 2019).
- , "We Lost 'Wee Jack': The Death of a Child in Postfamine Ulster," (paper presentation at the Midwest meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN, 4-7 October 2018).
- , "The Trillick Railway Affair: Writing Microhistory in Postfamine Ulster," (invited lecture at Queen's University, Belfast, 28 September 2018).
- , "The Modernization of Sectarianism in Postfamine Ulster," (paper presentation at the international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, 16-20 June 2018).
- , "Changing the Subject: Ulster Catholics and the Trillick Railway Affair of 1854" (invited presentation at workshop ["Is There an American School of Irish History?"], Boston College, Boston, MA, 12-14 April 2018).

- , "The Trillick Outrage of 1854: Assassination and Alternative Facts in Postfamine Ireland," (invited lecture at Lemoyne College, Syracuse, New York, 12 March 2018).
- , "The Trillick Outrage of 1854: Assassination and Alternative Facts in Postfamine Ireland," (invited keynote at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia, 12-14 October 2017).
- , "The Tuam Controversy of 1854: Party Processions and the British State in Postfamine Ireland," (paper presentation at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia, 12-14 October 2017).
- , "The Trouble with Trillick: Atrocity, Outrage, and Descendancy in Ulster, 1854-56," (paper presentation at international meeting of the Canadian Association of Irish Studies, University of Ulster, Derry, Northern Ireland, June 30, 2017).
- , "High Anxieties: Sectarianism and Technology in the Trillick Railway Outrage of 1854," (paper presentation at the national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, March 24-27, 2017).
- , Chair, "Irish Displays Across Space and Time," (American Historical Association Meeting, Denver, Colorado, January 8-10, 2017).
- , "The Trouble with Trillick: Atrocity, Outrage and Descendancy in Ulster, 1854-56," (paper presentation at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Kansas, September 24-26, 2016).
- , "Romantic Voices, Sectarian Songs: Anti-Catholicism and Romanticism in the Church of Ireland, 1823-43," (paper presentation at the international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, March 30-April 3, 2016).
- , "Mapping the Orange Order in Belfast in the 1850s", (paper presentation at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, October 2015).
- , "Somewhere Between McGee and Mitchel: Charles Gavan Duffy and the Question of Imperial Violence," (invited lecture at the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School, Carlingford, Ireland, August 18, 2015).
- , "The Rev'd Thomas Drew and the Limits of Anti-Catholic Politics in Victorian Belfast," (invited lecture at Queen's University, Belfast, 27 November 2014)
- , "The Worst Man in All of Ireland: Thomas Drew and Anti-Catholicism

- in Mid-Victorian Belfast," (invited lecture at National University of Ireland, Galway, 13 November 2014).
- , "Feed Thy Lambs: Christ Church and Anglican Children in Victorian Belfast," (presentation at the international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, 13-16 June 2014, University College, Dublin, Ireland).
- , "God Bless the Child: Thomas Drew and the Making of Victorian Belfast," (presentation at the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland, 20 November 2013, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland).
- , "An Imperial Irish Rebel in the Southern Ocean: Charles Gavan Duffy and Australian Federation, 1857-71," (presentation at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, 10-12 October 2013).
- , "Unlocking the Pews in Ballymoney: Lay-Clerical Conflict in a Prefamine Ulster Parish," (presentation at Canadian Association for Irish Studies/Scottish Studies conference at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 2013).
- , "The New Drew Reviewed: Evangelical Religion and Social Reform in 1840s Belfast," (presentation at the national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Chicago, IL, 10-13 April 2013).
- , "Marching to a Modern Drum: Orange Processions and the Emergence of Modern Ulster Politics, 1850-1885," invited paper presentation at Politische Kommunikation vor Ort. Demokratische Kulturen und lokaler Raum in Europa 1870-1990/Political Communication on the Spot. Democratic Cultures and the Local in Europe, 1870-1990, international conference at Cologne, Germany, 4-6 April 2013.
- , "Evangelical Protestantism and the Making of the Belfast Working Class," (presentation at the Midwest Regional Conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, October 2012).
- , "Writing the Irish Famine on Sandy Row," (presentation at the national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, New Orleans, 14-17 March 2012).
- , "Fighting Over Dues: The Associational Culture of Orangeism in Victorian Belfast" (presentation at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Fargo, North Dakota, 17 October 2011).
- , "A Loyalist Space? The Christ Church Census of 1852 and the Making of Sandy Row," (presentation at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 2011).
- , "Pragmatic Evangelicalism: Reverend Thomas Drew and Working Class

Protestantism in Early Victorian Belfast," (presentation at national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Madison, Wisconsin, April 2011).

-----, "Evangelical Protestantism and Working-Class Belfast," (invited lecture At The Institute for Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, 24 March 2010).

-----, "The Sectarian Dilemma: Writing Violence in Nineteenth-Century Belfast (invited lecture at the Institute for Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast, United Kingdom, 1 March 2010).

-----, "The Sectarian Dilemma: Writing Violence in Nineteenth-Century Belfast", (invited lecture at the Centre for History Research, Limerick, Republic of Ireland, 9 February 2010).

Teaching Experience

Northern Illinois University (Fall 2004 to the present)

Ph.D. Dissertation Director

Mathieu Billings, "Potent Legacies: Irish and Irish American Politics, 1815-40," (Ph.D. awarded, December 2016). Received Outstanding Dissertation Award, Arts and Humanities, NIU, 2017.

J. Hollis Harris, "Dreaming a Nation into Being: The Reunion of Clan na Gael and the Transformation of Irish American Politics, 1899-1915," (current project).

Kevin Luginbill, "Building an Imperial World: Imperial Ideologies and the Tariff Reform Movement in Britain, 1900-14," (Ph.D. awarded, August 2022). Nominated for Outstanding Dissertation Award, Arts and Humanities, 2023.

Journey Steward, "Immigrants or Prostitutes? White Slavery Panics and Reform in Britain, France, and the United States, 1885-1915," (Ph.D. to be awarded, December 2023).

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

Gregory Bereiter, Coral Carlson, Katrina Chludzinski, Nicole Dressler, Robert Hanserd, Tom Arne Mitrod (completed).

Jonathan Adsit, Alex Lundberg, Alexander Sosenko (current).

Ph.D. External Reader, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.

Antoine Guillemette (2013).

Micheal Rast (2016).

M.A. Committees

Jennifer Albertsen, Cody-Austin White, Kassidy Babler, Alex Carlson, Emily Eckles, Natalie Fisher, Matthew Gentile, J. Hollis Harris, Jay Mayer, Sean O'Connor, Nate Pendergraft, Alex Revzan (completed).

Peter Alexander, Alexander Englehardt, Adiza Mohammed (current).

Undergraduate and Graduate Courses Taught

Northern Illinois University (Fall 2004 to the present)

HIST 112: Western Civilization: 1815 to the Present
HIST 171: World History Since 1500
HIST 295/395: Historical Methods
HIST 356: Modern Ireland
HIST 357: History of the British Isles to 1688
HIST 358: Modern Britain: 1688 to the Present
HIST 452: The British Empire
HIST 453: History of Northern Ireland
HIST 454: Victorian Britain
HIST 495: Senior Thesis
HIST 640/740: Nation and Empire
HIST 640: History and Theory
HIST 695: Introduction to College Teaching
HIST 740: History of Violence (co-taught with Rachel H. Cleves)

O'Brien Visiting Scholar, Centre for Canadian Irish Studies (Fall 2005)

The Making of the Irish Diaspora
The History of Northern Ireland

The College of Saint Rose (Fall 2001-2004)

Nationalism and the Legacies of Empire: Ireland, India and Canada
Ireland and the Making of Irish America (graduate course)
Historians and the British Empire (graduate course)
Revolution and Nationalism in Modern Ireland
The British Isles to 1688
The British Isles from 1688 to the Present
Empire and Nation in Britain, 1700-1914
Europe to 1500
Europe from 1500 to the Present
Renaissance and Reformation
War and Revolution in Europe, 1900-1945

Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec (Summer 2002)

History and the Troubles: Northern Ireland

Newberry College (1997-2001)

A Survey of Civilizations to 1500

A Survey of Civilizations from 1500 to the Present

British History to 1660

British History from 1660 to the Present

Literary and Historical Ireland: A Study-Abroad Course

Modern Irish History

History of East Asia

Latin American History

The Vietnam Wars

Honors 101 and 102: In Search of Ourselves

University of Wisconsin-Madison (Summer 1997)

Europe Since 1945

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (Fall 1996)

World History to 1500

University of Wisconsin-Madison (Summer 1994)

Modern Irish History

Service

Administrative Service

Acting Chair, Department of History (Fall 2021)

Assistant Chair, Department of History (2008-10)

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History (2015-19)

Faculty Advisor, History Graduate Student Association (2008-14; 2015-17, 2023-24)

Committees (Northern Illinois University only)

Annual Merit Evaluation Committee, 2006-2008
Chair, 2007-08
Brown Bag Committee, 2004-05, 2012-13 (chair)
CLAS Representative, Provost Search Committee, 2023-24
Executive Committee, 2006-08, 2009, 2012, 2014-15, 2019, 2022-23
Faculty Senate, 2006
Graduate Committee, 2006-08, 2009-10, 2013-4, 2019-20, 2022-24
Lecture-Colloquium Series, 2004-06
Chair, Fall 2009; 2016-17
Personnel Committee Chair, 2015, 2022, Spring/Summer 2023
Undergraduate Committee, 2004-05, 2020-21
University Council, 2011-17, 2019
Chair, Academic Policy Committee (Fall 2012-14)

Department Search Committees

African History, 2006-7 (interviews at AHA)
Chair, History Department Chair, 2012
Chair, Modern France, 2011-12 (interviews at AHA)
Chair, 1 year position in Modern Germany, 2008
Early Modern European History, 2005-6 (*while not on the committee, I did interviews at the AHA)
Russian and Soviet History, 2010-11 (interviews at AHA)
Southeast Asian History, 2008-9 (interviews at AHA)

Organizational Membership

American Conference for Irish Studies
American Historical Association
Canadian Association for Irish Studies
North American Conference on British Studies
Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland

References

James. S. Donnelly, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Peter Gray, Professor of History, Director, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University,
Belfast

Timothy G. McMahon, Associate Professor of History, Marquette University

Gillian O'Brien, Professor of Public History, Liverpool John Moores University

Brian Sandberg, Professor of History, Northern Illinois University