

Cian T. McMahon

Department of History & Honors College • University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway • Las Vegas, NV 89154-5020 • cian.mcmahon@unlv.edu

SPECIALIZATION

My research focuses on the transnational dimensions of Ireland and the Irish diaspora with emphases on migration, identity, solidarity, and maritime social history.

EDUCATION

PhD (History)	Carnegie Mellon University	(2010)
MA (History)	University College Dublin	(2002)
BA (History)	University of Manitoba	(2000)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor	Joint Appointment, Department of History & Honors College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2019-Present)
Assistant Professor	Joint Appointment, Department of History & Honors College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2014-2019)
Post-Doctoral Scholar	Department of History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2011-2014)
Visiting Instructor	Department of History, Duquesne University (2010-2011)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Routledge History of Irish America [co-edited volume] (New York: Routledge, 2024)

The Coffin Ship: Life and Death at Sea during the Great Irish Famine (New York: New York University Press, 2021)
[Chinese-language translation; Shanghai People's Publishing Press, 2024]

The Global Dimensions of Irish Identity: Race, Nation, and the Popular Press, 1840-1880
(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Sabbath on the Ocean: Rules, Rituals, and Religion on Irish Emigrant Ships in the Mid-Nineteenth Century” in *Rituals of Migration: Italians and Irish on the Move*, edited by Maddalena Marinari and Kevin Kenny (New York: New York University Press, forthcoming)

- “Shipwrecks and Society: Press Reports of the Irish Emigrant Passage to Canada, 1845-1855” in *Canada and the Great Irish Famine*, edited by William Jenkins (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, forthcoming)
- Co-editor, “Globalizing Irish America” Special Issue, *Journal of American Ethnic History* 44, no. 1 (Fall 2024): 5-160
- “‘That City Afloat’: Maritime Dimensions of Ireland’s Great Famine Migration,” *American Historical Review* 127, no. 1 (March 2022): 100-128
- “Shipwrecks and Society: Press Reports of the Irish Emigrant Passage to Canada, 1845-1855” in *Canada and the Great Irish Famine*, edited by William Jenkins (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, forthcoming)
- “Tracking the Great Famine’s ‘Coffin Ships’ Across the Digital Deep,” *Éire-Ireland* 56, nos. 1–2 (Spring/Summer 2021)
- “The Pages of Whiteness: Theory, Evidence, and the American Immigration Debate,” *Race & Class* 56, no. 4 (April 2015): 40-55
- “International Celebrities and Irish Identity in the United States and Beyond, 1840-1860,” *American Nineteenth Century History* 15, no. 2 (2014): 147-168
- “Cartoons in the Classroom: Using Digitized Political Caricatures to Teach Migration and Ethnicity,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 33, no. 4 (Summer 2014): 87-93
- “Caricaturing Race and Nation in the Irish-American Press, 1870-1880: A Transnational Perspective,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 33, no. 2 (Winter 2014): 33-56
- “Transnational Dimensions of Irish Anti-Imperialism, 1842-1854” in *Irish and Scottish Encounters With Indigenous Peoples*, edited by Graeme Morton and David Wilson (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2013), 92-107
- “Ireland and the Birth of the Irish-American Press, 1842-61,” *American Periodicals: A Journal of History and Criticism* 19, no. 1 (2009): 5-20
- “Irish Free State Newspapers and the Abyssinian Crisis, 1935-6,” *Irish Historical Studies* 36, no. 143 (May 2009): 368-388

WORK IN PROGRESS

A Mystic Communion: How Celebrating Saint Patrick Shaped the Irish Diaspora
(book manuscript)

SELECT GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- Choice Outstanding Academic Title* [*The Coffin Ship*] (Choice, 2022)
- Honorable Mention, Theodore Saloutos Book Award* [*The Coffin Ship*] (Immigration and Ethnic History Society, 2022)
- “*Books of the Year 2021*” [*The Coffin Ship*] (*Times Literary Supplement*, November 2021)

Hibernian Research Grant (CUSHWA: Center for the Study of American Catholicism, 2021)
William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, College of Liberal Arts, UNLV (2016)
William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Liberal Arts, UNLV (2016)
Honorable Mention, Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book (American Conference of Irish Studies, 2016)
NEH Summer Stipend (National Endowment for the Humanities, 2015)
Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant (American Historical Association, 2013/2014)
Visiting Research Fellowship in Irish Studies (NUI Galway/Irish-American Cultural Institute, 2012/2013)
Potts-Jordan Memorial Emerging Scholar Award (American Conference of Irish Studies—West, 2011)
Irish Education 100 (New York *Irish Voice*, 2010)

SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Friendly Brothers and Marching Knots: The Loyalist Roots of New York’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, 1740-1780,” American Conference for Irish Studies (June 2024)
“‘Those of the Irish Nation or Extraction’: Using Saint Patrick’s Day to Write a New History of the Irish Diaspora” [invited lecture], Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame (March 2024)
“A New Perspective on the Great Irish Famine’s ‘Coffin Ships,’” *History Graduate Colloquium Committee, Northern Illinois University* (November 2023)
“Writing the Seas and Oceans into our Histories of Irish Migration,” [plenary lecture], Midwest American Conference for Irish Studies (October 2022)
“Convict Transports as Emigrant Ships: The Irish to Australia during the Great Irish Famine,” Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (December 2021)
“Twenty-Two Gallons of Whiskey and One Greased Pig: The Irish Brigade Celebrates Saint Patrick’s Day in Camp, 1863,” American Conference for Irish Studies (June 2021)

SELECT PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

“The Taoisigh Visits to White House for Saint Patrick’s Day” *Talking History, Newstalk FM* [Irish national radio] (March 2024)
“Revisiting the ‘Coffin Ships’: Emigrant Mortality during the Famine,” *Great Irish Famine online project, Raidió Teilifís Éireann/University College Cork* (December 2023)
“The Coffin Ship,” *The History Show, RTÉ Radio 1* [Irish national radio] (October 2023)
“Nothing Less Than Coffin Ships? New Perspectives on Irish Emigrant Mortality during the

Great Famine,” *Eileen Patricia McMahon Zogby '67 Lecture, Le Moyne College* (February 2023)

“The Story of Irish Coffin Ships,” *Irish History Podcast* (January 2023) [Fin Dwyer]

“‘Coffin Ships’ in Irish Popular and Political Memory,” *Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany, New York* (November 2022)

“The Coffin Ship,” *Irish Family History Forum* [Long Island, New York] (November 2022)

“The Coffin Ship,” *New York Irish History Roundtable* (May 2022)

“The Coffin Ship,” *Irish Literary and Historical Society, San Francisco* (April 2022)

“The Coffin Ship: Life at Sea during *An Gorta Mór*,” *Ancient Order of Hibernians’ Irish Heritage Month* (March 2022)

SELECT BOOK REVIEWS AND PEER-REVIEWING

I have peer-reviewed manuscripts and tenure applications for Routledge (2022, 2020) • Department of History, York University (promotion, 2022) • University of North Carolina Press (2022) • Anthem Press (2022) • Government of Ireland Research Schemes (2022) • Anthem Press (2021) • Division of Libraries, New York University (tenure, 2020) • Vernon Press (2020) • *Irish Historical Studies* (2020) • *Éire-Ireland* (2019) • Department of History, University of New Mexico (tenure, 2018) • *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (2017) • *Irish Studies Review* (2017) • *Journal of British Studies* (2017, 2015) • *American Nineteenth Century History* (2016) • Bloomsbury Academic (2016) • Red Line Editorial (2016) • Syracuse University Press (2016) • *Journal of American Ethnic History* (2015) • *Law and History Review* (2012)

I have published book reviews in the *Irish Literary Supplement* (2025, 2021) • *Journal of British Studies* (2024, 2011) • *H-Water Reviews* (2023) • *Western Historical Quarterly* (2023) • *American Historical Review* (2022) • *Journal of American Ethnic History* (2020, 2016) • *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* (2019, 2017) • *Journal of American Studies* (2017) • *New Hibernia Review* (2016, 2014, 2012) • *H-Net Reviews* (2013)

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT AT UNLV

Honors College

“Reading and Writing Historical Fiction” • “Country Music in American History” • “Soccer and the Making of the Modern World” • “Pirates, Outlaws, and the Popular Imagination” • “World Thought And Experience II” • “Themes in American Civilization (Protest)”

History Department

“Society and Culture in Modern Ireland” • “Immigration and Identity in American History” • “Great Personalities in History [The Enlightenment]” • “The News in Historical Perspective: Issues Facing the 2016 Presidential Candidates” • “Capstone Research Seminar” • “Great Migrations in Human History” • “Great Migrations in American History” • “The French Revolution & Napoleon” • “Europe Since 1914” • “Sports and Society in American History” • “The United States Before 1877” • “The United States Since 1877”

Graduate Education

I have also taught graduate courses/seminars and sat on a number of MA and PhD committees

COURSE DEVELOPMENT AT UNLV

MA in World History (2023-2024) • HIST151/351 (2018-2019) • HON 110/115 (2015-Present)
• “Lied Library Special Collections Faculty Retreat,” (January 2016) • Teaching and Curriculum Committee (Fall 2015) • D.E. HIST 101 Revision Committee (Spring 2015) • COLA 100LA Critical Thinking Assessment Subcommittee (Fall 2014) • Institute on Integrated Course Design (Spring 2012)

SELECT UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

I currently (since 2023) serve as the History Department’s Graduate Coordinator. I also served as the department’s Undergraduate Coordinator between 2017 and 2019. In this position, I helped to coordinate the teaching schedules of our faculty, addressed long-term shortcomings in our curriculum by developing new 1-credit workshops, pursued college retention/progression/completion (RPC) targets by establishing closer connections between the department and our majors, and made important contributions to institutional documents including the annual Assessment Plan and our department’s Ten-Year Review.

At the college level, I have served on committees relating to student RPC, faculty awards, and course development. My joint-appointment in the Honors College has also enabled me to have an impact on the development of some of UNLV’s brightest and hardest-working students. I am a member of the UK/Ireland Scholarships Committee, which seeks to identify and prepare gifted students applying for prestigious scholarships abroad. I also sit on the HON 110/115 committee, which is dedicated to providing our first-years with a formative freshman seminar experience.

Beyond UNLV, I have dedicated much time and effort to peer-reviewing books, articles, and applications for others in my field and am on the advisory board of a book series on migration, demography, and the environment at the University of Nevada Press. I am also currently serving as the History Representative of the American Conference for Irish Studies and chair one of its book prize committees.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association

American Conference for Irish Studies

Immigration & Ethnic History Society

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST