

9th-13th JUNE 2025  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

INSAP XIII

# PROGRAMME



Zoëic ARNAL



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## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

### **6:00 – 9:00pm Welcome Reception at Belfast City Hall**

*Delegates will access City Hall via rear entrance, Donegal Square South*

### **7:30 – 8:00pm Poetry Reading**

**Poets: Darcey Dugan, Kali Cramer and Matthew Rice (Seamus Heaney Centre, Queen's University Belfast)**

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## **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University*

### **8:45 – 9:10am Registration**

### **9:10 – 9:40am Official Welcome**

Janice Carruthers, Dean of Research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

John Hatch, Chair, INSAP

Marilina Cesario, Local Organiser

### **9:40 – 10:50am Session 1: Cosmic Harmonies**

**Chair: Chris Impey (University of Arizona)**

*Dancing with the Stars: Cosmic Order and Power in Court Ballets of 17th-Century France*  
Cybèle Arnaud (The Catholic University of America)

*The Notes of Black Bile – Saturn and the Musical Description of Melancholy*  
Angelo Adamo (INAF / IASF Palermo)

*Celestial Harmony in French 14th-Century Culture*  
Philippe Debrouse (SPHERE, Université Paris Cité)

### **10:50 – 11:05am Coffee break**

### **11:05 – 12.10pm Session 2: Illuminating the Unknown: Cosmic Intersections of Art, Poetry and Climate**

**Chair: Chris Impey (University of Arizona)**

*Dark Skies and Cosmic Reflection: Grief, Time, and the Climate Crisis*  
Louise Jane Beer (Freelance Artist)

*You, Darkness: A Collaborative Project in Eco-poetry, Art, and Astronomy at Berea College*

Ansel Elkins (Berea College)

*Sequential Lunar Observations*

Betsey Price (Glendon College, York University)

## **12:10 – 1:10pm Lunch Break**

## **1:10 – 2:00pm Session 3: Solar Symbolism and Divine Justice**

**Chair: Aisling Reid (Queen’s University Belfast)**

*Sun Divination and the Twelve Days of Christmas*

Marilina Cesario (Queen’s University Belfast)

*Nothing but the Sun? Lightscares and Liminality*

Laura Hollengreen (University of Arizona)

## **2:00 – 2:10pm Coffee Break**

## **2:10 – 3:45pm Session 4: Visualising the Cosmos: Art, Architecture and Scientific Discovery**

**Chair: Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)**

*Scientific Discovery through Astronomical Illustration: A Visual History of the Ring Nebula*

Alexandra Boelhouwer (United States Naval Observatory)

*“The Stars Drew Near”: The Life of Georg Simon Plössl (1794 – 1868)*

Richard Schmidt (U.S. Naval Observatory)

*Science in Stained Glass: Exploring the Space Window of Washington National Cathedral*

Carrie Fitzgerald (Montgomery College)

*Inspiration Poured in Concrete: Goetheanum Architecture Relating to Mind and Cosmos*

Nicole Montag-Keller (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

## **4:00 – 5:00pm Keynote**

**Presenter: John Hatch (Chair, INSAP)**

*Sighting the Sun — and Moon? — at Stonehenge?*

Professor Clive Ruggles (University of Leicester)

## **5:00 – 6:00pm Wine Reception at Great Hall**

*Music by Ben McCleary*

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### 9:30am Newgrange Excursion

*Coach departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)*

### 11:00am – 1:00pm City Bus Tour

*Tour departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)*

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## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

*Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University*

### 8:30 – 9:00am Coffee Break

### 9:00 – 10:10am Session 1: Skyscapes and Pathways: Navigating Landscapes

**Chair: Terry Moseley (Irish Astronomical Association)**

*Night Landscapes of the Bronze Age? Lunula as Navigational Device: A Working Hypothesis*

Gloria Vallese (Accademia di Belle Arti, Venezia)

*British Writers Grappling with Neolithic Wreckage*

Holly Henry (California State University, San Bernardino)

*A Light in the Dark Matter: Art and the Cosmos Beyond Perception*

Ashar Mobeen (Western University)

### 10:10 – 10:25am Coffee Break

### 10:25 – 12:00pm Session 2: Celestial Knowledge Across Cultures: Navigation, Cosmology, and Temporal Cycles

**Chair: Holly Henry (California State University)**

*“O you who was born in Nu while the sky had not yet come into being, while the Earth had not yet come” – Ancient Egyptian Cosmologies and Philosophical Thought*

Joanna Popielska Grzybowska (Polish Academy of Sciences)

*Astronomical and Cosmological Concepts in Christian Ethiopia and Eritrea*

Daria Elagina and Augustine Dickinson (University of Münster)

*Chasing the Stars Naked Eye: The Benin Ton Shermen Challenging Modern Telescopes in Daily Navigation*

Dafon Aimé Segla (Université d'Abomey-Calavi)

*Circumnavigation in Time*

Maciej Lukasz Zapiór (Academy of Sciences Astronomical Institute)

## **12:00 – 1:10pm Lunch Break**

## **1:10 – 2:00pm Session 3: Myth, Landscape and Celestial Symbolism**

**Chair: Ciarán Walsh (Queen's University Belfast)**

*Croagh Patrick: The Saint, the Serpent and the Sun*

Frances Clynes (University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

*Mesca Ulad and the Axis Mundi at Uisneach: Where the Land Reflects the Sky*

Patrick McCafferty (Chemnitz University of Technology)

## **2:00 – 2:15pm Coffee Break**

## **2:15 – 3:25pm Session 4: Celestial Influence: Astrology, Art and Religion**

**Chair: Elisa Ramazzina (University of Insubria and Queen's University Belfast)**

*Horoscopes and Astrological Representations in the Art of Renaissance Popes: An Updated Survey*

Giangiacomo Gandolfi (INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma)

*The Episcopo*

Arnold Lebeuf (University of Warsaw)

*Heavenly Wonders in Ericus Eriici Sorolainen's Sermons*

Niklas Hietala (Independent Scholar)

## **3:25 – 3:40pm Coffee Break**

## **3:40 – 5:20pm Session 5: Comets, Meteorites and Portents: Arts, Science and Apocalyptic Imaginations**

**Chair: Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)**

*Giant Comets and Their Impacts Through Time*

Mark Bailey (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

*The Astrological Anthology of Wenceslas IV and the Comet of 1402: An Intersection of Art, Science, and Politics*

Nerea Jimena Maestu Fonseca (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

*Comets, Monsters, and the Apocalypse: Examining al-Barzanjī's al-Iṣā'a liaṣrāṭ al-sā'a and its Connection to Lubieniecki's Theatrum Cometicum*

Mai Lootah (Rice University)

*When They Come: Reimagining Earth-Meteorite Relations Through Art*

Monika Bakke (Adam Mickiewicz University)

## **5:20 – 5:45pm Flash Talks**

**Chair: Holly Henry (California State University, San Bernardino)**

*Celestial phenomena between the Russian and Polovtsian identities*

Andrii Kepsha (University of Hradec Králové)

*1977 → 2025: Representing humanity through a new Golden Records*

Fernando P.S. Almeida, Nina R. Azambuja, Miranda P. Dieck, Melissa V.R. Domingues, Natalie Malas, João Pedro O. de Toledo Piza (Avenues São Paulo and AEON School)

*No Planet B – The Pressing Need to Assess the Climate Impacts of Astronomy*

Dylan Magill (Queen's University Belfast)

## **7:30 – 11:00pm Irish Pub Evening with Live Traditional Irish Music**

*Dark Horse Pub, Cathedral Quarter*

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## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Canada Room and Council Chambers, Lanyon Building, Queen's University*

### **8:30 – 9:15am Coffee Break**

### **9:15 – 10:10am Session 1: Mapping Time and Cosmos: Astral Imagery and Temporal Systems in Early Islamic Thought**

**Chair: Sinéad O'Sullivan (Queen's University Belfast)**

*Sun, Moon, and Qur'an: Arabic Solar Months, Jewish Calendar Traditions, and the Making of an Islamic Lunar Calendar*

Erica Ferg (Regis University)

*The Celestial Chronotope: Time and Relative Depiction in Space*

Danielle Adams (Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition)

**10:10 – 10:25am Coffee Break**

**10:25 – 11:35am Session 2: Lunar Reflections, Observations and Myths**

**Chair: Erica Ferg (Regis University)**

*“Moon Beauties” in Medieval Arabic Sufi Poetry*  
Ayoush Lazikani (University of Oxford)

*“The moon-wrought flow of womanhood”: Lunar Menstrual Myths in Victorian Pornography*  
Janice Niemann (Camosun College)

*Moonlit Reflections: Italian Poets and the 1969 Moon Landing*  
Salvo Luigi Guglielmino (INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania)

**11:35 – 11:45am Coffee Break**

**11:45 – 12:35pm Session 3: Cosmology, Myth and Power: Celestial Narratives in Medieval Thought**

**Chair: Valerie Shrimplin (Independent Scholar)**

*Oikoumene and Cosmos*  
Sinéad O’Sullivan (Queen’s University Belfast)

*Constructing a Narrative Cosmology: The Dream of the Rood and the Eccentric Diagrams of Byrhtferth of Ramsey*  
Rebecca Stephenson (University College Dublin)

**12:35 – 1:35pm Lunch Break**

**1:35 – 2:45pm Session 4: Cosmic Devotion: Astronomical and Cosmological Symbolism in Late Medieval and Early Renaissance Thought**

**Chair: Marilina Cesario (Queen’s University Belfast)**

*Astronomical and Cosmological Symbolism in the works of Hildegard of Bingen*  
Valerie Shrimplin (Independent Scholar)

*Devotional Dialectics: Condensing Cosmogony and Cosmology in a Late Medieval Bhakti Text from South India*  
Priyamvada Nambrath (University of Pennsylvania)

*Celestial Metaphors in the “Songs and Sonets”: John Donne’s Astronomical Imagination*  
Elisa Ramazzina (University of Insubria and Queen’s University Belfast)

## **2:45 – 2:55pm Coffee Break**

## **2:55 – 4:05pm Session 5: Divine Order, Art and Astro-Poetry**

**Chair: John Hatch (Chair, INSAP)**

*The Rhythms of the Skies: What the Poets and the People Knew about the Heavens*  
Terry Moseley (Irish Astronomical Association)

*Stellar Strokes: The History of Painting Stars with Stars*  
Kelly Grovier (Poet and Cultural Critic)

*My God, It's Full of Stars: Abstracting the Astronomical Sublime in the Works of Alma  
Thomas and Aubrey Williams*  
Skye Weston (Independent Researcher)

## **4:05 – 4:20pm Coffee Break**

## **4:20 – 5:20pm Keynote**

**Presenter: Mark Bailey (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)**

*From Newgrange to the Extremely Large Telescope: Monuments of Ingenuity in the Quest  
to Understand Our Universe*  
Professor Tom Ray (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

## **7:00 – 11:00pm Reception and Banquet at Belfast Castle**

**Entertainment: Lynda “The Physics Chanteuse” Williams**

*Delegates will make their own way to Belfast Castle*

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## **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

*Copernicus Hall, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium*

*Transport to and from Armagh has been arranged for delegates. The coach will leave from  
the Lanyon building at 7:45am*

## **9:00am – 10:10am Session 1: Stargazing and Society: Exploring the Role of Irish Observatories, Astroparks, and Planetariums in Shaping Place and Democracy**

**Chair: Ed Krupp (Griffith Observatory)**

*Engendering a Sense of Place through the Astronomical Observatories of Ireland*  
Michael Burton (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)

*Cosmic landscapes of Armagh Observatory Astropark*  
Oliver Dunnett (Queen's University Belfast)

*Democracy in the Planetarium - Armagh Planetarium in the 1980s*  
Matthew McMahon (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium and Queen's University Belfast)

## **10:10 – 10:30am Coffee Break**

## **10:30am – 12:10pm Session 2: Exploring Cultural Astronomy: Global Perspectives and Institutional Collaborations**

**Chair: Matthew McMahon (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium and Queen's University Belfast)**

*Introducing IAU Commission C5 Cultural Astronomy*  
Gullberg Steven (University of Oklahoma)

*Scalable Space*  
Robert Hill (NI Space Agency)

*Constructing the Universe: Henrietta Leavitt, Harvard's Global Observatories, and the Materiality of Scientific Empire*  
Adam Kaasa (Royal College of Arts)

*Celestial Impact*  
Ed Krupp (Griffith Observatory)

## **12:15 – 12:50pm Screening of *Pacific Standard Universe: Art, Cosmology, and California***

## **1:00 – 2:30pm Lunch Break and Tour of Observatory and Planetarium**

## **2:30 – 3:40pm Session 3 Cosmic Connections: Art, Science, and the Celestial Imagination**

**Chair: Ciarán Walsh (Queen's University Belfast)**

*What do Karl Marx, Rudolf Clausius, and Paul Cézanne have in Common?: The Unfolding Universe in the Art of Kazimir Malevich*  
John Hatch (Western University)

*Tracing Celestial Bodies over Normandy: From Monet's Impression Sunrise to Hockney's Moon Room*  
Deborah Anne Jenner (Independent Arts Society)

*Ancient Echoes: Soundscapes Across Worlds – Bridging the Gap between Past and Future, Science and Art, Individual and Collective Voice with Sound Art*  
Annette Lee (OSPAPIK and Native Skywatchers)

**3:40 – 3:50pm Coffee Break**

**3:50 – 5:00pm Session 4 Exploring the Cosmos: Metaphors, Imagination, and the Space Age**

**Chair: Annette Lee (OSPAPIK and Native Skywatchers)**

*The Conditio Extraterrestrials in Eighteenth-Century German Proto-Science Fiction Literature*

Renata Gambino and Grazia Pulvirenti (University of Catania)

*The New Space Age: Real and Imagined*

Chris Impey (University of Arizona)

*Space Exploration and the 500 Year Metaphor*

Richard Lee Poss (University of Arizona)

**5:00 – 5:10pm Introduction to Armagh Cathedral and Observatory**

**Presenter: His Grace, The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Chair, Board of Governors, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium**

**5:10 – 6:10pm Keynote**

**Presenter: Michael Burton (Armagh Observatory and Planetarium)**

*Astronomy and Poetry*

Jocelyn Bell Burnell (University of Oxford)

**6:10pm Concluding Remarks**

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**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**9:30am Newgrange Excursion**

*Coach departs from Lanyon Building (Queen's University Belfast)*

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**Exhibitions**

**Astrophotography Exhibition by Irish Astronomical Association**

*McClay Library, Queen's University Belfast*

*Delegates have access to the McClay Library for the duration of the conference*

## Posters

Anushka Nandy (Queen’s University Belfast)

Fernando P.S. Almeida, Nina R. Azambuja, Miranda P. Dieck, Melissa V.R. Domingues, Natalie Malas, João Pedro O. de Toledo Piza (Avenues São Paulo and AEON School)

Alexander Johnson and Zenith Nguon (Queen’s University Belfast)

Andrii Kepsha (University of Hradec Králové)

Jessica Gullberg (Artist)

Rósín Fettes and Ella O’Neill (Queen’s University Belfast)

Srishti Chattopadhyay (Jadavpur University)

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## Travel Advice

### Taxi Services:

Value Cabs: 028 90 80 90 80

FonaCab: 028 90 333 333

### Public Transport:

Bus and Rail timetables: [translink.co.uk](http://translink.co.uk)

Note: Belfast does not have a metropolitan rail network; references to “Metro” on the translink website relate to the pink, local buses which operate within Belfast. Be advised that while travelling from Queen’s University to Belfast Castle by public transport is inexpensive and relatively rapid (under 40 minutes) it requires changing buses three times.

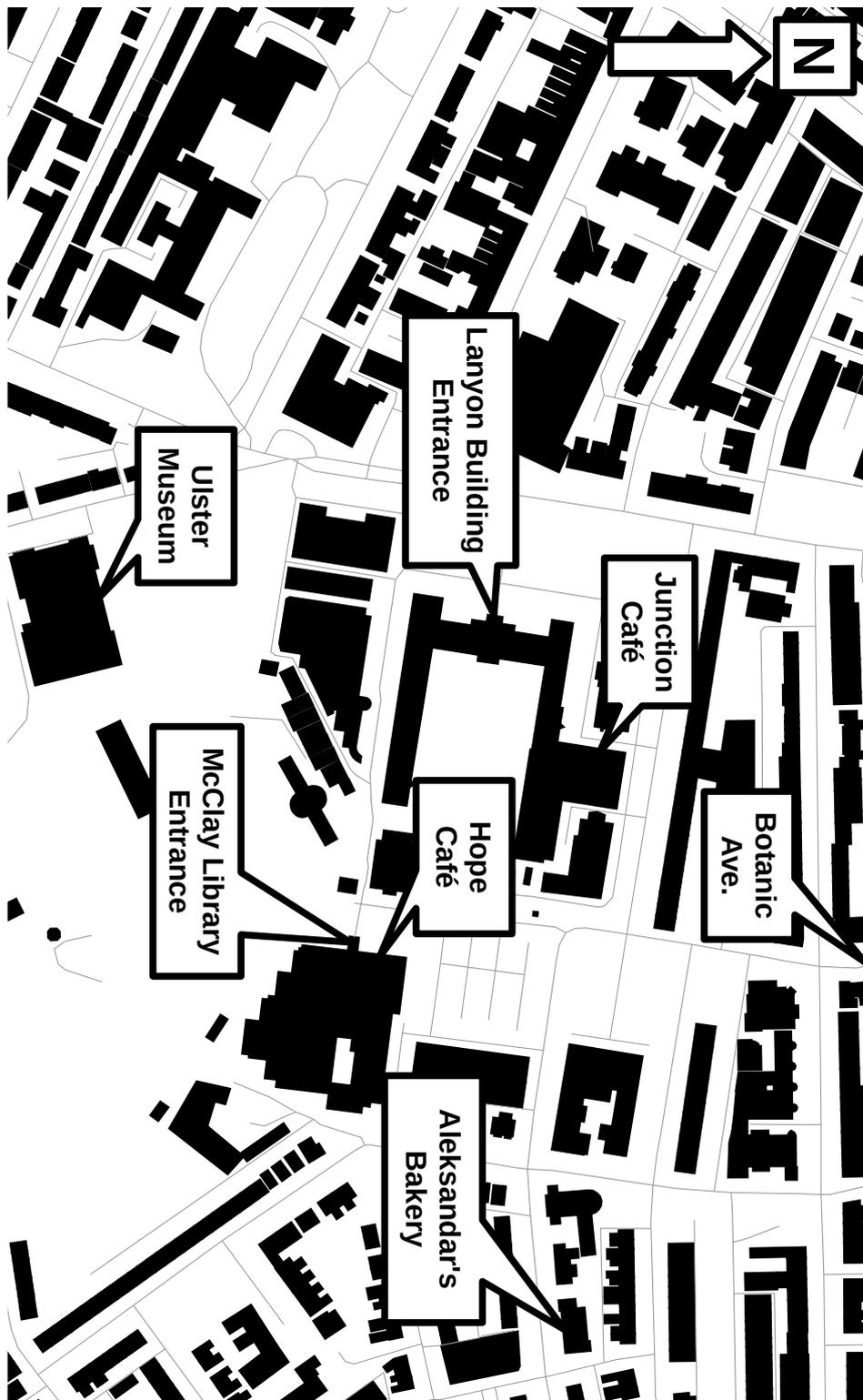
### Key locations:

5G signal is reliable in every part of Belfast, so finding your way around with your preferred app should not be an issue. However, if you are concerned about running out of data we recommend using an offline app such as Organic Maps. Just in case, please save the following co-ordinates to your phone:

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Co-ordinates:</b>
Lanyon Building Entrance	54.5845, -5.9352
McClay Library Entrance	54.5837, -5.9323
Belfast City Hall Entrance	54.5960, -5.9299
Dark Horse Pub	54.6018, -5.9273
Excursion Bus Departure	54.5842, -5.9364
Belfast Castle Entrance	54.6428, -5.9423

# Coffee Map of Queen's University

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THE IRISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION



visit  
**Belfast**

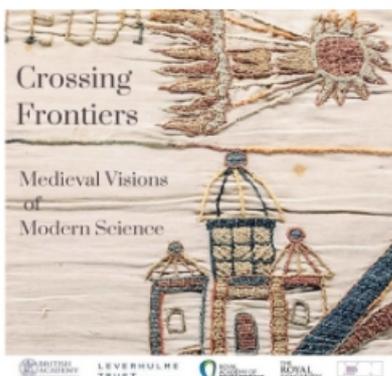


Belfast  
City Council

A  P



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST



**Special thanks to  
Belfast City Hall**

**Cover Design by  
Zoélie Arnal**