

The School of Arts, English and Languages warmly invites you to attend the Inaugural Lecture

LITERATURE AND THE RIGHT TO WRITE

By Professor **Philip McGowan**

Thursday 15 June 2023 at 6pm
Emeleus Lecture Theatre
Queen's University Belfast



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF
ARTS, ENGLISH
AND LANGUAGES





SCAN TO
BOOK
TICKETS



This lecture is a defence of the practice, understanding, and teaching of literature, in whatever form or language that it may exist. It unapologetically stands up for literature, and the arts more broadly, making the case for their core and foundational status at the centre of what it means to be human. Taking American literature as its testing ground, it will explore some key authors and their works to show how literary and artistic expression do not and should not exist now, nor have they ever, as commodified entities within social, cultural, or educational policy or practice. Self-expression and the free exercise of it are fundamental human rights: the risks attendant in the side-lining of, or even the removal of, literature from our schools, our universities or our societies are greater than any spreadsheet could ever begin to capture or understand.

Philip McGowan is Associate Dean for Internationalisation in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Queen's. He was appointed Professor of American Literature in the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast in 2020. His work focuses on the

interplay between literature and other disciplines, notably philosophy and theology and their connection to poetry, as well as their embedded participation in material and popular culture. Alongside numerous articles and chapters, he is the author of *American Carnival: Seeing and Reading American Culture* (2001), *Anne Sexton and Middle Generation Poetry: The Geography of Grief* (2004); in 2007 he co-edited *After Thirty Falls: New Essays on John Berryman*; and he is the editor of the OUP centenary edition of F. Scott Fitzgerald's debut novel, *This Side of Paradise* (2020), and the Penguin US edition of *The Great Gatsby* (2021). A former Chair of the Irish Association for American Studies, since 2016 Philip has served as the President of the European Association for American Studies and is now in the last year of his second four-year term. The lecture will be followed by an informal reception.

RSVP: **Maria Meehan** (m.meehan@qub.ac.uk) or book a ticket on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inaugural-lecture-professor-philip-mcgowan-tickets-630882505557?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse>