‘The state of Irish urban history’

Keynote speaker: Prof. David Dickson (Trinity College Dublin)

The study of Irish modern urban history is a relatively new and unexplored field compared with many other European countries: in the United Kingdom, for example, the discipline emerged as an independent pursuit as early as the 1960s, and the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester was founded in 1985. Yet in 1986, Professor Mary E. Daly, writing in *Urban History*, commented that ‘Irish historians have been rather slow to recognize that urban history constituted a valid area for scholarly research,’ and questioned the all-powerful emphasis on, and enduring appeal of rural history.

In recent years this trend has started to be reversed, and there are now major works on Irish modern urban history either recently published or in preparation. This symposium seeks to bring together the most cutting-edge research in the field of Irish modern urban history today.

Speakers include: Joseph Curran (Edinburgh); Susan Galavan (TCD); Peter Hession (Cambridge); Olwen Purdue (QUB); Niamh NicGhabhann (Limerick); Ruth McManus (DCU); Gary Boyd (QUB). Our keynote speaker will be Prof. David Dickson of Trinity College Dublin, author of the highly acclaimed *Dublin: the making of a capital city* (London and Cambridge, MA., 2014).

Cost (including lunch): £20
To register please email irishurbanhistory@gmail.com
For more details see https://irishurbanhistory.wordpress.com or contact the symposium organizers: Richard Butler (Leicester) rjb86@le.ac.uk and Erika Hanna (Bristol) erika.hanna@bristol.ac.uk
 Provisional Programme

10:00-10.30: Registration

10.30-1.00: Public Space and Civic Authority

Gary Boyd (QUB)
‘Architecture, infrastructure and modern Ireland’

Peter Hession (Cambridge)
‘Market reform and the rule of freedom in pre-famine Ireland’

Niamh NicGhabhann (Limerick)
‘Producing and negotiating public spaces in twentieth-century Ireland: mapping performance, encounter and narrative’

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2.00-5.00: Housing and Welfare in the Irish City

Susan Galavan (TCD)
‘New streets in green fields: building Dublin’s Victorian suburbs’

Ruth McManus (DCU)
‘Tackling the urban housing problem in the early years of the Irish Free State’

Joseph Curran (Edinburgh)
‘“It is a metropolis for the poor, but not for the rich”: charity and authority in Dublin, c. 1815 - c. 1845’

Olwen Purdue (QUB)
‘Belfast child: childhood poverty in the Irish industrial city’

5:00-5:30 Coffee

5:30-6:45 Keynote: Prof. David Dickson (TCD)
‘Whatever happened to Irish urban history?’