

History of Irish Childhood Talks and Exhibition

National Museum of Childhood Event Day, Dún Laoghaire, 19th August 2017

Join us to explore the history of Irish children and childhood at the National Museum of Childhood Event Day in Dún Laoghaire on Saturday, 19th August 2017. Two history sessions and an exhibition entitled Down Memory Lane – Irish Childhood in the Twentieth Century will take place in the Martello Suite of the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin, between 11 am and 4 pm.

Admission is FREE, though booking at www.eventbrite.ie is recommended.

11 am – 1 pm HISTORY SESSION 1 – **Three Centuries of Irish Childhood.**

Learn about the history of Irish children and childhood over the past three centuries through illustrated talks by founding members of the History of Irish Childhood Research Network.

CHAIR: Dr Marnie Hay (DCU)

- 1) **Play and 'Childish Reactions': children's leisure time in eighteenth-century Ireland**
– Dr Gaye Ashford (independent scholar)
- 2) **Children's clothing and the material of everyday life, 1800-1900**
– Mary Hatfield (TCD)
- 3) **Youth and youth culture in twentieth-century Ireland: histories and memories**
– Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (NUI Galway)

Biographies of Speakers:

Dr Gaye Ashford completed her doctorate on 'Childhood: studies in the history of children in eighteenth-century Ireland', which incorporated the digital humanities project 'Irish children in eighteenth-century schools and institutions' funded by An Foras Feasa. Her publications include 'Sources for a study of childhood in 18th century Ireland', in *Irish Archives* Vol. 20 (2013), and 'The letters of Katherine Conolly, 1707-1747', of Castletown House, County Kildare, a co-edited volume which will be launched by the Irish Manuscripts Commission shortly.

Mary Hatfield is a historian of childhood based in Trinity College Dublin and supported by the Irish Research Council. She recently co-edited *Historical perspectives on parenthood and childhood in Ireland* (Arlen Press, forthcoming). She specialises in nineteenth-century childhood and education.

Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley is a lecturer in history at NUI Galway and the author of *The cruelty man: child welfare, the NSPCC and the state in Ireland, 1889-1956* (Manchester University Press, 2013). A specialist in the history of childhood and the family in Ireland, she has also published several articles and book chapters on topics related to child welfare.

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2 pm – 3 pm HISTORY SESSION 2 – **Exhibiting Childhood.**

Explore the National Museum of Ireland's collection of artefacts relating to Irish children and childhood through these two illustrated talks.

CHAIR: Dr Alison Fitzgerald (Maynooth University)

- 1) **Dr Audrey Whitty**, Keeper of the Arts and Industrial Division (Decorative Arts and History), National Museum of Ireland, introduces the National Museum of Ireland's collections as they relate to children and childhood.
- 2) **Clodagh Doyle**, Assistant Keeper, Irish Folklife Division, National Museum of Ireland, shares her experiences of curating an exhibition on Irish childhood in the 1950s.

These history sessions and exhibition are part of the National Museum of Childhood Event Day in Dún Laoghaire to raise awareness about the proposed National Museum of Childhood, an initiative designed to celebrate and engage in the spirit of childhood. The National Museum of Childhood Event Day is supported by the Heritage Council.

Further information about the full range of events on offer for people of all ages is available from www.museumofchildhood.ie and Facebook [nationalmuseumofchildhood](https://www.facebook.com/nationalmuseumofchildhood).