

# corrymeela



In partnership with  
**Belfast**  
City Council



**Causeway**  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council

quarto  
“ ”



Queen's University  
Belfast



Ulster  
University



WILLIAM & MARY  
CHARTERED 1527

## *Heritage as Reconciliation*

A winter school exploring heritage practice in contested societies.

Monday 15 January -Friday 19 January, 2018.

Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

### **Theme 1: Heritage, the Past and Contemporary Conflict**

**Convenor:** Sean Pettis and Colin Breen

#### **Overview**

This session will examine the ways by which heritage can be appropriated for use in contemporary conflict. From the construction of nation narratives and origin myths through to the erection of monuments and creation of interpretative spaces, heritage has often been utilised as a vehicle to justify socio-political perspectives as well as presenting or promoting difference. History and heritage can often be manipulated to create, confirm and reaffirm collective identity. Contemporary national states have tried to maintain and negotiate identity sets through aspects of their built environment, art and culture, and to further interpret it through museums, monuments and other forms of remembrance. Individual groups or organisations can, in turn, establish their own set of heritage places or resources, which might stand in opposition to officially sanctioned narratives or opposing groups in society. Through the examination of a series of case studies session participants will examine a number of global conflict arenas and position heritage within the broader discourse surrounding heritage agendas.

**Facilitator:** Sean Pettis

#### **Speakers:**

##### **Dr Colin Breen**



Colin is a Reader in the School of Geography and Environmental Science at Ulster University and teaches aspects of conflict geographies, environmental and landscape change and development. His research focusses on historic landscape and societal change, environment and conflict, and the historical archaeologies of past maritime societies. He is currently engaged in research across the Middle East and Africa, as well as across the Atlantic maritime zone of NW Europe. This includes post conflict reconstruction projects in Syria and the broader Middle East region as well as a number of environmental development initiatives in East Africa.



### Dr Sara McDowell



Sara is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Science at Ulster University. Sara teaches key concepts and research methods in Human Geography (specialising in Political Geography). Her research focuses on the spatial dynamics of conflict and peacebuilding in divided or transitional societies and has two key strands. The first strand explores the ways in which the past is negotiated in contested spaces within societies engaged in peace processes. Previous projects considered the impact of the practices and processes of memory on peacebuilding initiatives in South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, the Basque Country, Israel/Palestine and Sri Lanka and mapped the spatial outworking of commemorative-related violence in Northern Ireland. Her work has a strong impact and public engagement focus. The second strand of Sara's research focuses on the relationship between social media and border politics in divided societies.

### Dr John Giblin



John is head curator for Africa and has responsibility for the curation, presentation, development and research of the Africa collections at the British Museum. He has carried out fieldwork in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Botswana. Before taking up his current position, he was a Lecturer in Heritage Studies at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, and a member of the Institute for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney, Australia. John completed his PhD, *Reconstructing the Past in Post-Genocide Rwanda: An Archaeological Contribution*, at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, following which he undertook a post-doctoral fellowship concerning *Post-Conflict Heritage in Western Great Lakes Africa* at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. John's current research interests include the post-conflict use of heritage and practice of archaeology in post-colonial contexts.