

James Beirne – Curriculum Vitæ

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Research interests

My research interests are wide-ranging, but are united by empirical and theoretical synthesis, queer feminist methodology, a commitment to social justice, and an emphasis on historical mediation.

My major projects explore the historical and theoretical relationship between Ireland and the rest of the colonial world. I also conduct interdisciplinary work in critical pedagogies, critical AI studies, games studies, and Irish studies.

Education

PhD, Social & Political Thought, York University (2023).

Expropriating Ireland: Land Theft, Colonial Property Relations, and Ireland's Colonial Regime; Supervisors: George Comninel; William Jenkins.

Graduate Diploma, European Studies, York University (2023).

MA, Social & Political Thought, York University (2017).

BA, Hon. International Relations (First Class with Distinction), Political Science; Minors Economics & French; Mount Allison University (2016).

Appointments

Critical Skills, Maynooth University, Office of the Vice President of Students and Learning, Critical Skills Tutor, (2022–present).

Department of Equity Studies, York University, Teaching Assistant (2019–21).

Department of Social Science, York University, Teaching Assistant (2018–19).

Department of Political Science and International Relations, Mount Allison University, Teaching Assistant (2015).

Publications and contributions

Peer-reviewed journal articles

(2025). 'Roots of Anticolonial Universalist Communism: Between James Connolly and Frantz Fanon.' *Interventions*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369801X.2025.2555836>

(2026). McKenzie, Brian, Bret Zawilski, and James Beirne. 'Concealed Conscientization: A Case Study of a Commercial Dungeons & Dragons Adventure'. *International Journal of Role-Playing Studies*. (in press).

(2026). 'Colonial Property Relations.' *Settler Colonial Studies*. (forthcoming).

Book reviews

(2022). 'The Coffin Ship, Cian T. McMahon'. *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* 45, 2 (2022).

Conference papers

- (2026). 'A feminist sociology of knowledge account of the architecture of large language models.' Gender & AI Symposium. Trinity College Dublin. June 2026 (upcoming).
- (2025). 'ChatGPT and 21st-century fascism: A Marxist feminist critique of large language models, ideology, and capital accumulation.' Historical Materialism 2025. SOAS, London. November 2025.
- (2025). 'Decolonising third-level teaching: Practical and conceptual limits of existing approaches.' International Conference on Postcolonial Studies, London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, University of London. July 2025.
- (2025). 'Making coherent game narratives in heterogeneous roleplaying groups: A Gramscian perspective on folklore and hegemony.' DiGRA Ireland Inaugural Conference. April 2025.
- (2025). 'Some connections in the politics of James Connolly and Frantz Fanon.' Imbolg Early Career Seminar, Journal of Franco-Irish Studies. February 2025.
- (2024). 'Folklore, "good sense", and the conjuration of an Irish oral space.' International Yeats Society Conference 2024, Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto, Brazil. December 2024.
- (2024). 'Creating Ireland as coeval.' Canadian Association of Irish Studies 2024, University of Galway. June 2024.
- (2024). 'Value, violence, and abstraction in Ireland's colonial political economy.' Asociación Española de Estudios Irlandeses 2024, Universidad de Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares. May 2024.
- (2023). 'The colonisation of Ireland and the history of political economy.' Economic and Social History Society of Ireland 50th Annual Conference, University College Dublin. November 2023.
- (2023). McKenzie, Brian, Bret Zawilski, and James Beirne. 'Writing and playing praxis: Conscientization, Marxism, and colonialism in Dungeons & Dragons.' International Conference on Games and Narrative, University of Waterloo. May 2023.
- (2022). 'Notes towards Irish and global anticolonial solidarities.' Asociación Española de Estudios Irlandeses 2022: Ireland in Transformation (1922–2022), Universidad de Burgos, Burgos. June 2022.
- (2018). 'History devours itself: Revolutionising Irish historical method.' Undisciplined, Queen's University, Kingston. March 2018.
- (2017). 'Colonial capitalism and Celtic communism: Marxism and Irish nationalism.' Augmenting the Left, York University & OCAD University, Toronto. May 2017.
- (2017). 'Colonial capitalism and Celtic communism: The transformation of social and property relations in Ireland.' Strategies of Critique XXX, York University. April 2017.
- (2017). 'Fuzzy Borders: Mapping postcoloniality in Ireland.' Pathways and Intersections, Carleton University, Ottawa. March 2017.

Engagements

- (2026). Guest lecturer. 'Interconnected Struggles: Coloniality, Identity, and the Bodhisattva Path.' Radically Engaged Buddhism. Online course by Adriana DiFazio, 7 May 2026 (upcoming).

- (2026). Speaker. 'Enhancing third level teaching: Decolonial theory and practice.' External Visibility & Recognition Fund, Office for Students & Learning. 20 January 2026 (upcoming).
- (2022). Panelist. 'The Dissertation Proposal and Getting to ABD'. Social & Political Thought, York University. 30 March 2022.
- (2021). Moderator and chair. Strategies of Critique XXXIV. Social & Political Thought, York University. May 2021.
- (2017). Moderator and chair. Strategies of Critique XXX. Social & Political Thought, York University. April 2017.
- (2014). Guest speaker. 'Language'. The Digital Human. *BBC Radio 4*, 20 October 2014.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04lpxx9>

Academic service and community involvement

- Rundale: Irish Media Platform, Ireland (2025–present).
 Editorial collective, member (2025–present).
- Academics for Palestine (2023–present).
 National Steering Committee, member (2023–present).
 Maynooth Branch, founding member (2023–present).
- Irish Federation of University Teachers, Maynooth Branch (2022–present).
 Annual Delegates' Conference, delegate (2025).
 Committee member (2023–4).
- Social & Political Thought Graduate Student Association, York University (2018–25).
 Speaker series organising committee (2022–25).
 Co-chair (2021–22).
 Executive member (2018–22).
- New Sociologies*, Department of Sociology, York University (2019–23).
 Editorial board (2019–23).
- Graduate Program in Social & Political Thought, York University (2018–22).
 Program Executive, member (2018–20, 2021–22).
 Graduate Program Director Search Committee, member (2021).
 PhD Admissions Committee, member (2019–20, 2021–22).
- Strategies of Critique XXXIV: Abolition. Social & Political Thought, York University (2021).
 Co-chair (2020–21).
 Scientific Committee (2020–21).
- Queer Graduate Students' Caucus, York University (2019–21).
 Interim President (2020–21).
 Vice President (2019–20).
 Scientific Committee, QGS Conference (2020).
 Organiser, QGS Conference (2020).
- Centre for International Studies, Mount Allison University (2015–16).
 Coordinator (2015–16).

Grants and awards

Total: CAD 184 125 (EUR 115 000).

- (2025). External Visibility and Recognition Fund. 'Decolonising third-level teaching: Practical and conceptual limits of existing approaches.' Office of Students and Learning, Maynooth University. €1250.
- (2024). Arqus Teaching Excellence Award. Brian McKenzie *et al.* 'Universal Critical Skills/Data Literacy for Arts Students'. Arqus Alliance, €5000.
- (2022). Academic Excellence Fund. 'Notes Towards Irish and Global Anticolonial Solidarities.' Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University, \$2000.
- (2021). Susan Mann Dissertation Award. *Expropriating Ireland: Land theft, colonial property relations, and Ireland's colonial regime*. Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University, 2020–21, \$24 500.
- (2019). Ontario Graduate Scholarship Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, 2018–19, \$15 000.
- (2016). York University Graduate Student Awards. Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University, 2016–2021, \$108 000.
- (2016). Joseph–Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship–Masters (CGS–M). Canada Tri–Agency Research Councils, 2016–17, \$17 500.
- (2015). Independent Student Research Grant, 'The Mutual Constitution of Canadian Identity and Foreign Policy'. Mount Allison University, 2015–16, \$6750.

Professional affiliations

Political Science Association of Ireland.
Sociology Association of Ireland.
International Yeats Society.
European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies.
Canadian Association of Irish Studies.
Spanish Association for Irish Studies (AEDEI).

Professional development

GDPR Staff Awareness Course, Privacy Engine (2025).
Bystander Intervention, University College Cork (2025).
Identifying and Responding to Students in Distress, Maynooth University (2022).
Teaching Assistant Certification in Teaching, York University/Educational Developers Caucus of Ontario (2021–22).
Hands On Interviewing Workshop, Department of Sociology, York University (2021).

Languages

English: Native.

French: Fluent; academic.

Irish: Intermediate.

IT skills

Research: R Studio; Python; Zotero

Education: Moodle; TurnItIn; CATME

Office: Office 365; LibreOffice; OpenOffice; Google Docs; Scrivener

Operating systems: Linux, Windows, Mac OS, Android, iOS

Internet: Wikipedia editing; Wordpress; Mediawiki; HTML/CSS; web administration; server administration; listserv administration

Social media/other: TikTok; Twitter; Instagram; Facebook; LinkedIn