

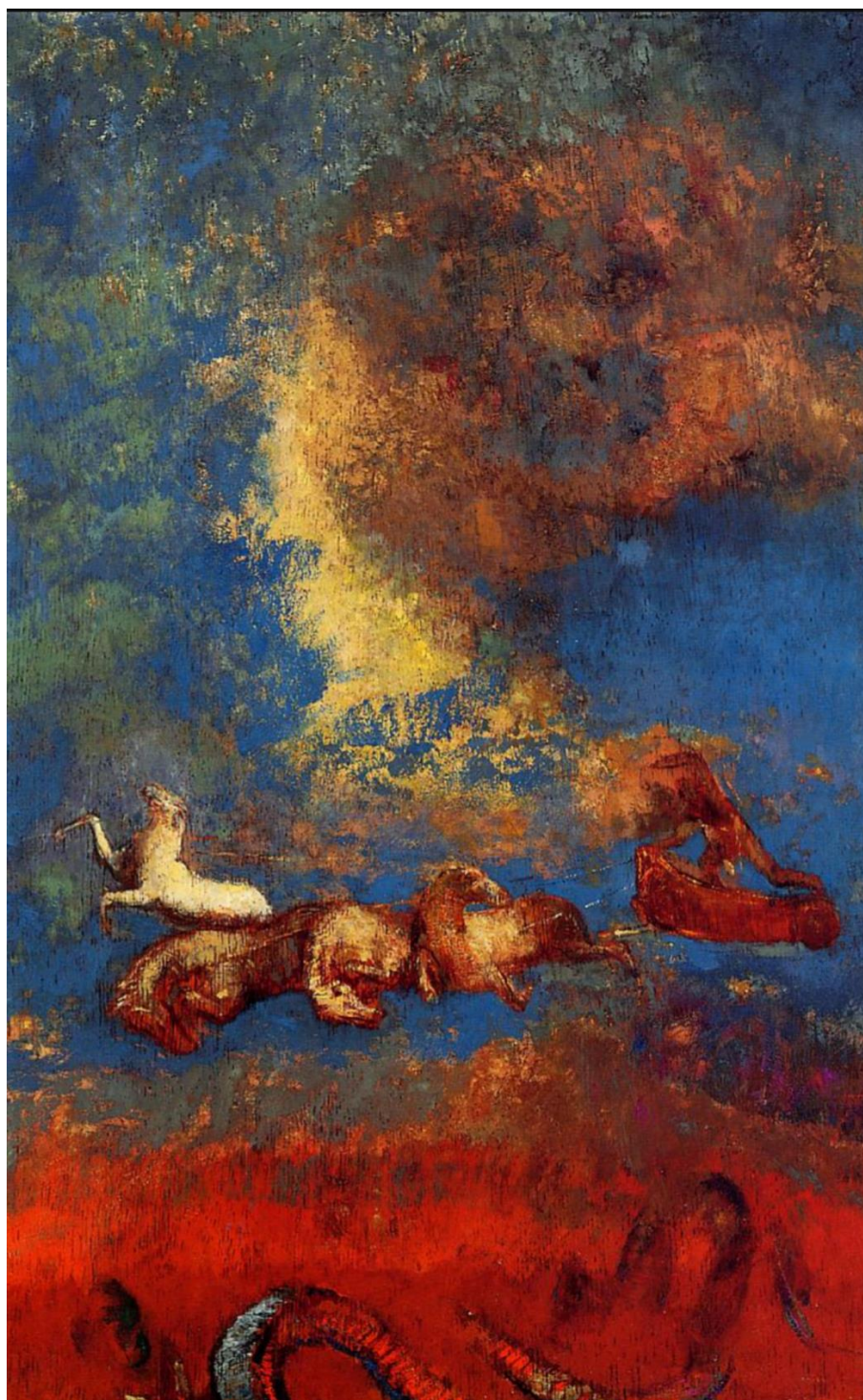


Modernist Studies Ireland

Telling the Time: Modernism and Time Symposium

9 June 2021, NUI Galway (via Zoom)

<https://moderniststudiesireland.org>



Odilon Redon, Apollo's Chariot (1904-1919)



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Telling the Time: Modernism and Time Symposium

Wednesday 9 June 2021

NUI Galway Live Zoom link: <https://nuigalway-ie.zoom.us/j/94394913973>

From Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols* and Bergson's concept of *durée* to Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity and Heidegger's *Being and Time*, philosophically and scientifically the modernist period represents the birth of modern understandings of time. Artistically and conceptually, then, it is no surprise that again and again modernism features time in revolutionary representation, giving new attention to simultaneity, interruption, repetition, anachronism, modulation, memory, duration, kinesis, habit, polyphony, or other kinds of sonic, historical, or narratological fracture and recurrence, fuelling works as diverse as Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers* (1906), Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase No. 2* (1912), Marcel Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu* (1913-1927), Virginia Woolf's *The Waves* (1931), T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* (1936-1943), Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), and James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* (1939).

Yet *Time and Western Man* (1927), the painter and novelist Wyndham Lewis's scathing critique of the period's obsession with time, has proven remarkably resilient in arguing that space and form marked the proper way to make it new. Can thinking again about time inform the limits of Joseph Frank's concept of 'spatial form' or the 'material turn' in modernist studies? Does science's posited inextricability of time and space negate such oppositional values? Can thinking about time tell us something important about the individual and social experience of art and the self? Does the telling of time still count?

At a time when so many house-bound or homeless people are finding themselves more than ever time-bound, it might be the world is facing a temporal as well as spatial crisis. Especially in times of rapid viral spread and belated public health response, and the associated traumas of lockdown, physical isolation, gig economies, and virtual (dis)connection, what can modernism tell us about time, and what does it reveal about its contemporary experience?

In this symposium, **Modernist Studies Ireland** brings together researchers and practitioners of all levels and disciplines to consider deeper connections between modernism and time, and their place in our present understanding.

Featuring the lecture hosted by NUI Galway Italian & the Moore Institute:

W.J.T. Mitchell

Present Tense 2020: On the Iconology of Time

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10-11 Poetry and Temporality

(All times IST = UTC+1)

Jade French (Queen Mary's, London), 'The Prevaricating Productivity of Djuna Barnes's Late Poetry'

Zizi Temple (University College Dublin), 'MacNeice's Manipulation of Temporality'

Alexander Jones (Trinity College Dublin), "'The years that did not count': Haunted modernism and temporality in the post-war poetry of Louis MacNeice'

11.15-12.15 Narratological Time

Edward Kearns (NUI Galway), 'Measuring moments: annotating and quantifying narrative time disruptions in modernist and hypertext fiction'

Adrian Howlett (Trinity College Dublin), "'Single lives in momentary touch': Killing Time with Don DeLillo and Virginia Woolf"

Isabelle Brasme (Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier 3 - Université de Nîmes), 'Remembering the Past: Narration and the Refiguration of Time in Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier*'

12.30-1.30 Time in *Finnegans Wake*

James Green (University of Manchester), "'Between Two Ages": Medievalism and *Finnegans Wake*'

Stephen Valeri (Dartmouth College), 'Interlingual Morphology and *Wakean* Topology'

Adrian Paterson (NUI Galway), "'The big kuss of Trustan with Usolde": More Waking Time'

BREAK

2.30-3.45 What is past, or passing, or to come

Elizabeth Barry (Warwick University), 'The Moment of Truth: Proust, Barthes and the Temporality of Old Age'

Julian Hanna (Tilburg University, The Netherlands), "'Time and Space died yesterday": On Manifesto Time'

Vincent Sherry (Washington University, St Louis), 'About Time: Taking Modernism at its Word'

4-5.30 NUI Galway Italian & Moore Institute presents: W.J.T. Mitchell in Galway

W.J.T. Mitchell (University of Chicago), 'Present Tense 2020: On the Iconology of Time'

Respondents: Jeannine Kraft (Columbus College of Art and Design, Ohio)

Neassa Cronin (NUI Galway)

W.J.T. Mitchell lecture: <https://mooreinstitute.ie/event/w-j-t-mitchell-present-tense-2020-on-the-iconology-of-time/> Register for lecture here <https://tinyurl.com/uha5fd>