

Special Issue

Celibacy in Irish Women's Writing

Message from the Guest Editor

The essays collected in this Special Issue draw on a range of methodological and theoretical approaches that build on Benjamin Kahan's pioneering work on modernist celibacies and the debates it has engendered in queer theory, gender studies, and singles studies. Across the issue, this framework is applied to novels, short fiction, plays, poems, essays, and correspondence by Irish women writers, including texts by Frances Power Cobbe, Anna Haslam, L. T. Meade, Sarah Grand, George Egerton, Ethel Colburn Mayne, Margaret Cousins, Hannah Lynch, Eva Gore-Booth, Esther Roper, Teresa Deevy, Elizabeth Bowen, Kate O'Brien, Mary Lavin, Janet McNeill, and Edna O'Brien, among others. Particular attention is paid to the emergence of new literary genres to express feminist political desires, emergent forms of queer kinship, and post-patriarchal ideals, from the all-women 'celibate utopias' of first-wave feminist science fiction to the emergence of the 'celibate plot' as an alternative to the marriage plot [...]

Guest Editor

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