

DEPAUL HUMANITIES CENTER FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

2012 - 2013 FACULTY FELLOW JAMES H. MURPHY welcomes

EAMONN HUGHES: WRITING BELFAST

Dr. Eamonn Hughes is Senior Lecturer in the School of English and Assistant Director of the Institute of Irish Studies in Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. He specializes in Irish Literacy and Cultural Studies, on which he has published widely. He is the editor of several volumes, including *A Further Shore: Essays in Irish and Scottish Studies* (2008), *Ireland (Ulster) Scotland: Concepts, Contexts, Comparisons* (2003), and *Northern Ireland: Culture and Politics 1960-1990* (1991). His current projects are a book on Irish autobiography from the seventeenth century to the present, and a book on ideas of place in contemporary Northern Irish poetry.



Belfast presents the writer with a number of problems. Its reputation as a place of violent political conflict necessitates a response from its writers. Its anomalous status as the only fully industrialised city in Ireland makes it difficult to frame such responses in the conventional terms established in other forms of Irish writing. Belfast, it seems, is very much a place apart and one which resists representation.

However, during the period of the Troubles and their aftermath, Belfast has produced a number of remarkable writers. While their work was often a response to political violence, it also stretched imaginatively beyond the Troubles and in doing so began to find alternative versions of Belfast and links between Belfast and other places. What contemporary writers such as Ciaran Carson (in, for example, *The Star Factory*, 1997) or Glenn Patterson (in, for example, *The Mill for Grinding Old People Young*, 2012) have come to recognise is that the apparently distinctive problematic of Belfast raises key questions about the nature of the urban and its representation.

Monday, November 5, 2012
5:30 p.m. Reception - 6:00 p.m. Lecture
DePaul Student Center, Room 314
2250 North Sheffield

For more info contact:
DePaul Humanities Center
773-325-4580
aperson@depaul.edu
www.las.depaul.edu/humanitiescenter



This event is free and open to the public