

## Research Profile of Dr Niall Keane

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### Academic Qualifications

2009	PhD in Philosophy (Catholic University of Louvain)
2002	M.Phil. (Catholic University of Louvain)
2000	M.A. in Philosophy (University College Dublin)

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### Academic Posts and Roles of Responsibility

#### *Academic posts*

2012	Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Philosophy (MIC)
2012	Lecturer in Philosophy (MIC)
2009	Assistant Lecturer in Philosophy (MIC)

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#### *Roles of responsibility*

2012--	Head of the Department of Philosophy (MIC)
2010--	Treasurer of the Irish Phenomenological Circle
2009--	Member of the Executive Committee of the British Society for Phenomenology

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### Research Interests:

Ancient philosophy; Phenomenology; Hermeneutics; Nineteenth-Century European Thought; Self/Other Relation; Philosophy of the Subject

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### Current Research Projects

My current research examines two of the most significant problems that occupy the contemporary philosophical, sociological, and cultural landscape: (1) the question of the relationship between the home and its particular language(s), i.e. their role in the formation of cultural identity; and 2) the question of the relationship between cosmopolitanism, localism and detraditionalization. By interpreting these problems from a contemporary perspective, and by endeavouring to uncover the philosophical presuppositions behind the various sociological interpretations of

cosmopolitanism, localism, and detraditionalization, the project expects to make a concrete contribution to our present understanding of one of the most central aspects in the advent of modernity, namely, our unceasing encounter with cultural difference and the erosion of shared beliefs and practices. To get a conceptual grasp of the notions of cosmopolitanism, localism, and detraditionalization, a key role is attributed to the works of Walter Benjamin and Martin Heidegger, specifically those dealing with the issues of translation, language and their respective interpretations of the German poet and philosopher Friedrich Hölderlin. The project aims to explain how Benjamin's and Heidegger's exemplary interpretations of translation challenge more commonly held images of the home and its languages, and thus advance the discussion of cosmopolitanism and localism beyond the strictures of mere oppositional thinking.

By putting the philosophy of Heidegger and Benjamin at the service of this objective, I aim to both criticize the static, essentialist view of the local and to open up a space for a genuine response to the persistent de-traditionalizing or weakening of the home as a concrete meaningful unity. The driving motivation of this project lies in the fact that the particularity of our native language forms our various images of the home and thereby holds the key to a contextualized understanding of our cosmopolitan situation. Addressing the fragmented sense of the local will entail the recognition of an intimate self-particularity, which is a prerequisite for any genuine encounter with the self and its inseparable social relation with others.

## Publications

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Keane, N. (2013) "Negativity, Finitude and the Leap in Heidegger's *Contributions to Philosophy*" in *International Journal for Philosophical Studies*, Volume 21, Issue 2.

Keane, N. (2013) "The Silence of the Origin: Philosophy in Transition and the Nature of Thinking" in *Research in Phenomenology*, Volume 43, Issue 1.

Keane, N. (2013) "Overcoming the Transcendental: On the Turn in the Event" in *Phenomenology and the Transcendental*, eds. S. Heinämaa, M. Hartimo, T. Miettinen (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul)

Keane, N. (2013) "Appearing and Speaking in Heidegger and Henry" in *Existenz, Sein, Leben: Michel Henry und Martin Heidegger*, eds. F. Seyler and S. Grätzel (Freiburg im Breisgau/München, Karl Alber Verlag).

Keane, N. (2011) "Getting One Over On Hegel: Heidegger and the Dialectical Movement of Overcoming in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*" in *Hegel-Jahrbuch*, hrsg. von A. Arndt, 299-307.

## Conference Papers

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"Gadamer and the Hiddenness of Health", University of the West of England, Bristol, March 2012.

"On What Grounds, Phenomenology?" 50th Anniversary Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Philadelphia, October 19-22, 2011.

"Whither Transcendental Phenomenology: Rethinking Selfhood and Ground". Invited lecture at Conference on *Phenomenology and the Transcendental*, University of Helsinki, Finland, Sept 8-10, 2011.

"Nietzsche's Philosophical Axiology", Manchester Metropolitan University, March 17, 2011.

"Poets and/or Thinkers: Heidegger's Attempt to Get to the Bottom of Things", Comparative Continental Philosophy Circle, University College Cork, March 2-5, 2011.