

The Sancho Panza Literary Society
Winter “Sophisticants” Residency
Trinity College Dublin

Founding Director— Prof. Joseph M. Reynolds did his graduate work in Creative Fiction under the tutelage of acclaimed novelist and memoirist Da Chen. He teaches college in New England, and at Trinity College Dublin, and is the author of the novel *Make Dust our Paper*, which was reviewed “an instant classic, a major new talent has arrived,” by Da Chen. As an undergraduate, he was a speechwriter and intern in the U.S. Senate office of the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. In addition to directing the residency program, he is the editor in chief and fiction editor of Sancho’s official publication, *New Square Literary Magazine*. Contact Joe at ajoreynolds@fordham.edu.

Associate Director—Dr. Sean Forbes is the Director of Creative Writing at The University of Connecticut. He is the poetry editor of *New Square Literary Magazine* and the author of the acclaimed poetry collection, *Providencia*. Contact Sean at sean.forbes@uconn.edu

2026 Dates—January 7-16

2026 Teaching Fellows—Margherita Galli (B.A.; M.Lit TCD) Tom Keith (musician, writer, and Sancho summer residency alum).

Participants/General Description—Since its’ inception, our traditional summer residency/workshop has featured primarily graduate students, along with published alums, faculty, and a small number of talented undergrads. The “Sophisticants” winter residency is geared towards lovers of literature from all walks of life, and has no experience or academic prerequisites. It is again in residence at Trinity College Dublin, and participants may choose to stay in the campus guest house on-campus guest house (as opposed to the student quarters where summer participants reside), or at any of the adjacent hotels (we have a long list of options for those interested in staying off campus).

Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama are all welcome, as we favor an interdisciplinary discussion and interpretation of text. And unlike the summer session, submitting original writing is completely optional—you may attend simply as a reader of text, and we’ll be discussing famous published works in addition to participant submitted writing. The winter intersession is a beautiful time to be at Trinity—it’s really only about 10 degrees cooler than in May, and you’ll reside in a Dublin largely absent of tourists, and a Trinity populated only by Trinity regulars (it’s also far easier to get tables at restaurants, and tickets for excursions). We’ll also have plenty of impromptu dinners, guest speakers, and visits to Dublin literary events. For those interested in further European travel, it’s immensely easy and inexpensive to do so from Dublin.

Application Process—Applications are rolling. Simply contact Director Joseph Reynolds at ajoreynolds@fordham.edu

Accommodation—In residence at Trinity College Dublin (private rooms and full maid service) or at one of the adjoining hotels (roughly 110-130 euro per day).

Academic Fee—600 dollars per session. While slightly higher than our summer residency tuition due to limited campus availability and smaller cohort size, flights to Dublin are considerably cheaper in winter, and will more than offset the higher tuition vs the summer program. The academic fee is payable to the “Sancho Panza Literary Society”, and covers Sancho faculty expense, classroom amenities, theatre tickets (which is not included in summer tuition), and other miscellaneous Trinity costs. Winter participants will automatically become free subscribers to our publication, be listed as donors in both the print and online editions, and of course be invited to all stateside events.

Flights—No mandated flights. People are free to book whichever flight arrangements are most convenient.

Class—10:00am to 12:30 each day—Trinity College Dublin. The academic schedule is hybrid between open workshop of attendee’s work, and open-forum debate of featured published work.

Featured Outside of Class Excursions (among others, and all are optional):

Attend a play at the Abbey Theatre

Attend a play at the Gate Theatre

Visit the Book of Kells and the Long Room Library at Trinity

Tour the Dublin Writer’s Museum

Trip to the Irish Sea via a short train ride to the village of Howth (train leaves right from campus and the ticket is 5 euros)

Day Trip to Galway City, The Burren, and the Cliffs of Moher (there will be a “free day” scheduled to allow attendees to take this tour).

Tour Grafton Street and St. Stephen’s Green (adjacent to campus)

Previously Featured Published Titles:

Brendan Behan—*Borstal Boy*

Seamus Deane—*Reading in the Dark*

John Banville—*The Sea*

James Joyce—*Dubliners* (Winter 2023 text).

Sally Rooney—*Normal People*

Mike McCormack—*Solar Bones*

Itinerary

*The workshop meets at Trinity in the seminar room in The Jonathan Swift Theatre (I’ll show everybody where the room is during our opening day meet-up). It will convene at 10am each day, and usually continue until around lunch time. That said, the room is ours all day and we can

stay longer if we like and as the situation dictates, and we can also have afternoon sessions to include further stories from *Dubliners* and/or field follow-up questions on your submitted pieces.

**There will be a reading event in the courtyard outside the Book of Kells and Long Room library featuring members of the cohort towards the end of the session. Each member will be given the opportunity to read and present a new or revised section of work and field on the spot questions from the audience, which will include your cohort colleagues and a bunch of my degenerate and vagabond friends from around Dublin. This keeps you writing and engaged in your own work, even after the discussion of your workshop submissions has concluded.

***All excursions are optional--if anything sounds just terrible, or if you just have something else in mind, you are free to skip it. The time and the city are yours.

****A note about workshop—I think the best way to talk about writing is to just talk about writing. Get a group of smart people in a room and have them argue the pieces that come in; no drills or thought exercises or preordained objectives. I'll lead the workshop by asking follow up questions and giving my own perspective on the work, but it really is pure open forum...have at it.

Jan 10 (sample dates are based on prior winter cohorts and may not match up with this year's exact dates)

Meet at Trinity College Clock Tower at 3pm—Tour the neighborhood (Grafton Street, St. Stephen's Green, O'Connell Street, and the River Liffey).

Opening night dinner.

Jan 11

Workshop begins--10-1230. Discuss submissions by Rose Malone and Pearl Granat.

Evening—Attend *The Weir* at The Abbey Theatre

Jan 12

Workshop 10-1230. Discuss Enid Eckstein submission one, and Mike Veve submission one.

Visit The National Art Gallery (3 blocks from campus—free admission).

Jan 13

Workshop—10-1230. Discuss John Muro submission and *The Boarding House* by James Joyce (all of the Joyce titles are from *Dubliners*).

Visit The Dublin Writers Museum and The Book of Kells/Long Room Library at TCD

Jan 14

Visit the village of Howth and the Irish Sea via a 20 minute train ride from campus. (This is a stunning place with amazing vistas; the real Irish seaside—and for those of you unfortunate enough to have read my book—the setting of Jane’s death).

Jan 15

No workshop. I’m leaving this day open for those of you who want to take the tour west to Galway, the Burren, and The Cliffs of Moher. This trip can be booked through The Dublin tour company’s website (it’s the first option—Cliffs of Moher, Galway, and Burren tour), or in person once you arrive on campus. The tour leaves from upper O’Connell Street in Dublin (10 minute walk from Trinity) at 7am. It’s an all- day jaunt to the wild western countryside of Ireland— Galway (guided tour of Galway City), County Clare, The Burren, the village of Doolin, and the legendary Cliffs of Moher. To be clear, people can do whatever they want with this open day—I only suggest the west because it is all an day excursion and so if you want to travel there, this is the day (unless of course you’re staying in Dublin after workshop ends).

Jan 16

Workshop 10-1230. Discuss submissions by Sara Slymon and Submission two by Mike Veve

Attend *Piaf* at The Gate Theatre

Jan 17

Workshop 10-1230. Discuss submission two by Enid Eckstein and *The Dead* by James Joyce

Member Reading 5-630. Trinity College (described at the beginning of this itinerary).

Farewell Dinner