

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

***Beyond Victimhood: New Perspectives on Memory, Violence and Representation in Irish Studies*¹**

Edited by

Olga Fernández-Vicente
University of the Basque Country (EHU)

Richard Jorge
University of the Basque Country (EHU)

Call for Contributions

Building on the discussions initiated during the 25th Anniversary AEDEI International Conference, held at the University of the Basque Country (EHU) in Vitoria-Gasteiz in May 2026, we are pleased to invite contributions to the edited volume *Beyond Victimhood: New Perspectives on Memory, Violence and Representation in Irish Studies*.

Accepted for publication in Peter Lang's Irish Studies series, this peer-reviewed collection seeks to advance current scholarship on the representation of victimhood across Irish literature, culture and the arts. While inspired by the conference theme, the volume is not conceived as conference proceedings. Instead, it aims to bring together original, high-quality research that offers fresh perspectives on the cultural, political and ethical dimensions of victimhood in Irish Studies. Accordingly, this call is open to all scholars whose research engages with the themes of the collection, and submissions from both established and early-career researchers are warmly welcomed.

Ireland's history has been profoundly shaped by experiences of colonisation, famine, migration, institutional abuse, political violence and social transformation. These historical processes have generated complex and often competing narratives of victimhood that continue to inform Irish literature and culture. Yet victimhood itself remains a dynamic and contested concept, raising fundamental questions concerning agency, testimony, justice, responsibility, reconciliation and remembrance.

Rather than approaching the victim as a fixed or homogeneous category, this volume seeks to examine the multiple ways in which Irish cultural production has represented, negotiated and reimagined experiences of suffering, resilience and survival. Particular attention will be paid to how literary and cultural texts not only depict violence but also contribute to wider debates surrounding historical memory, ethical representation, identity formation and social healing.

Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives from literary studies, history, cultural studies, film studies, theatre studies and related disciplines, the collection aims to demonstrate how Irish cultural production continues to shape contemporary understandings of trauma, resilience and collective memory while contributing to broader international discussions of conflict, human rights and the politics of representation.

Suggested Topics

¹ A peer-reviewed edited volume accepted for publication in **Peter Lang's Irish Studies Series**

Organised in collaboration with

AEDEI – Asociación Española de Estudios Irlandeses
Department of English, German and Translation and Interpreting Studies
University of the Basque Country (EHU)

Contributions may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Literary representations of victims, survivors and perpetrators
- Trauma, memory and narrative
- Violence, silence and testimony
- The Troubles and their literary and cultural afterlives
- Institutional violence and historical redress
- Colonialism, postcolonialism and victimhood
- Gender, sexuality and feminist perspectives on victimhood
- Bodies, vulnerability and precarity
- Ethics of witnessing and representation
- Migration, exile and diaspora
- Ecological loss, environmental violence and eco-trauma
- Comparative approaches to violence and memory
- Ireland in dialogue with other conflict and post-conflict societies
- Film, theatre, visual arts and other cultural manifestations
- Victimhood in contemporary Irish poetry
- Childhood, family and intergenerational trauma
- Memory politics and commemorative practices
- Digital media and new forms of remembering violence
- New theoretical perspectives informed by trauma studies, memory studies, affect theory, postcolonial studies, feminist and queer theory, disability studies, ecocriticism and related approaches

Interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives are particularly encouraged.

We especially welcome contributions that challenge established understandings of victimhood and explore innovative methodological, interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to Irish literature, culture and the arts. By fostering dialogue across periods, genres and disciplines, the volume seeks to offer fresh perspectives on the evolving meanings of victimhood, resilience and cultural memory in Irish Studies.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit the following:

- An abstract of 300–400 words
- Five keywords
- A short biographical note (approximately 150 words)

to: aedei2026@gmail.com

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: 4 September

Notification of acceptance: 20 September

Full chapter submission (6,000–7,000 words): 10 November

Peer Review

All submissions will undergo a rigorous **double-blind peer-review** process prior to final acceptance. The editors are committed to assembling a coherent, innovative and internationally relevant collection that reflects the diversity and vitality of contemporary Irish Studies.

We look forward to receiving original contributions that advance critical debates on memory, violence, victimhood and cultural representation while demonstrating the continuing relevance of Irish literature and culture to contemporary discussions of conflict, justice and remembrance.