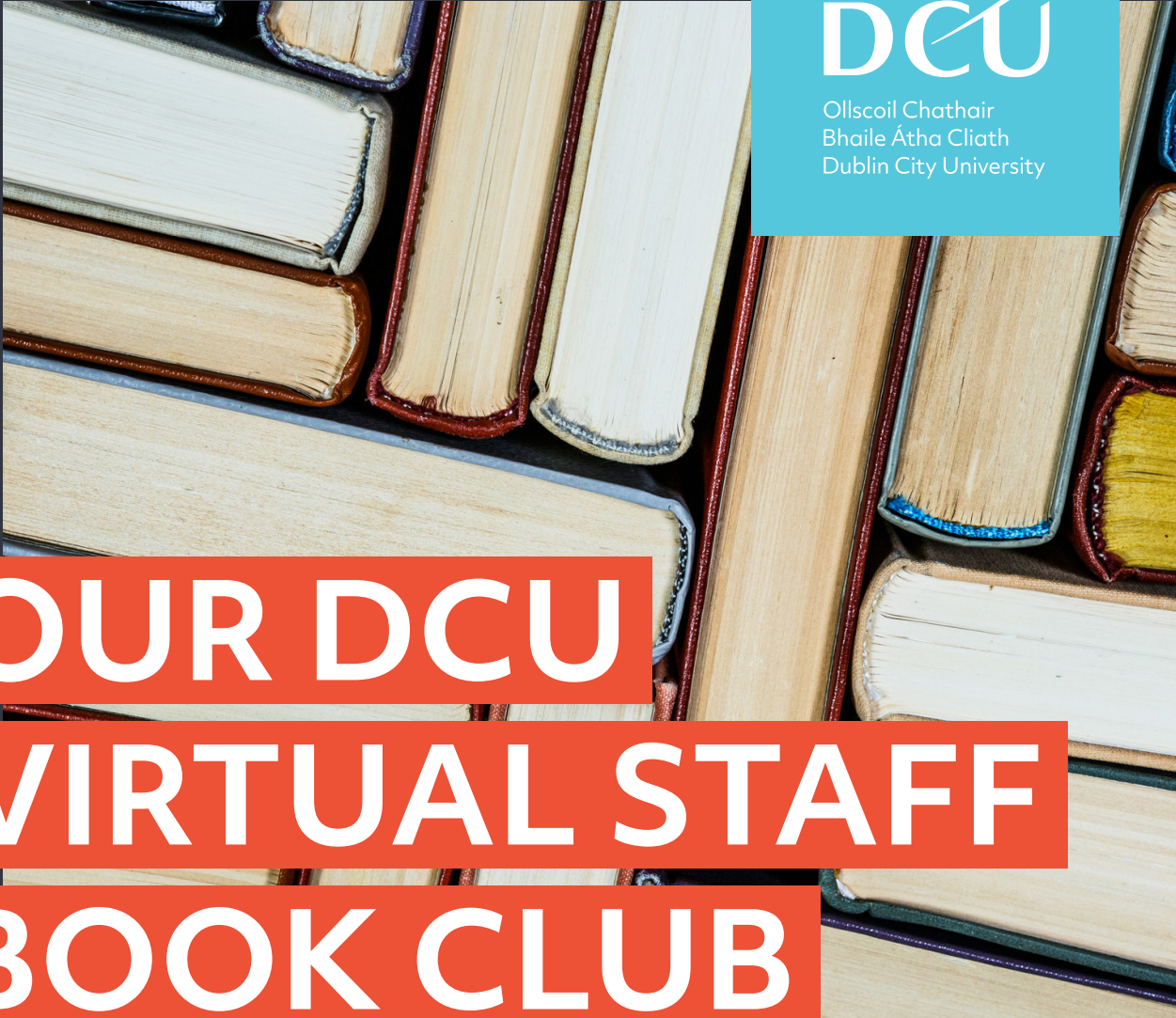




Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

A close-up photograph of several old, worn books stacked on a dark surface. The spines and pages are visible, showing various colors and textures.

OUR DCU VIRTUAL STAFF BOOK CLUB

January - May 2022

OUR DCU VIRTUAL STAFF BOOK CLUB

Connect with the DCU community
through the love of reading!

From January until May, DCU will continue its virtual monthly book club for our staff community. A live book club event will take place online at the end of each month, where the featured writer will join us to talk about their book, writing life and to answer your questions!

There's no cost to join, all you need are the books. Whether you borrow a copy from the library, buy your own print copy, download to your tablet, or listen to it on Audible, the format is up to you!

PROGRAMME

JANUARY

Did Ye Hear Mammy Died by Séamus O'Reilly
Book Club Event with Séamus O'Reilly
Thursday, January 27th at 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan
Book Club Event with Claire Keegan
Thursday, February 24th at 7.30pm

MARCH

The Tainted by Cauvery Madhavan
Book Club Event with Cauvery Madhavan
Thursday, March 31st at 7.30pm

APRIL

Dance Move by Wendy Erskine
Book Club Event with Wendy Erskine
Thursday, April 28th at 7.30pm

MAY

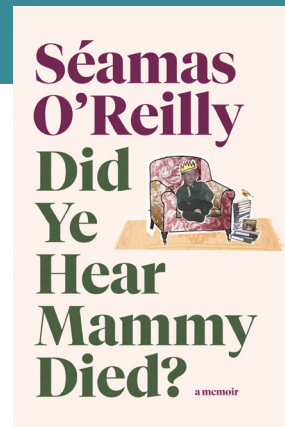
Poguemahone by Pat McCabe
Book Club Event with Pat McCabe
Thursday, May 26th at 7.30pm

To register your interest in joining Our DCU Book Club please click here:
www.dcu.ie/dcuartsandculture/our-dcu-book-club-registration

Connect with the DCU community through the love of reading! From January until May, we are hosting a virtual monthly book club for our staff community. Here is some information on the books and writers featured in this series. Enjoy!

January

Did Ye Hear Mammy Died by Séamas O'Reilly A Memoir



Séamas O'Reilly's mother died when he was five, leaving him, his ten brothers and sisters and their beloved father in their sprawling bungalow in rural Derry. It was the 1990s; the Troubles were a background rumble (most of the time), and Séamas at that point was more preoccupied with dinosaurs, Star Wars and the actual location of heaven than the political climate. *Did Ye Hear Mammy Died?* is a book about a family of argumentative, loud, musical, sarcastic, grief-stricken siblings, shepherded into adulthood by a man whose foibles and reticence were matched only by his love for his children and his determination that they would flourish. It is the moving, often amusing and completely unsentimental story of a boy growing up in a family bonded by love, loss and fairly relentless mockery.

Séamas O'Reilly is a columnist for the Observer and writes about media and politics for the Irish Times, New Statesman, Guts and VICE. He shot to a kind-of prominence with a range of online endeavours including 'Remembering Ireland', a parody of Irish nostalgia sites, which featured entirely invented moments from Irish history. In 2016, he posted a long Twitter thread about the effects Brexit would have on Northern Ireland, which led to his first political writing for the New Statesman. Later on that year, his exasperated reviews of the novels of erstwhile footballer and manager Steve Bruce led to his participation in events with Guardian Football Weekly and various others. His most recent viral sensation was a thread about the time he inadvertently ...

Review: "Remarkably funny exploration of childhood grief."
— Irish Times

February

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan



Small Things Like These, the latest work by Irish writer Claire Keegan, is a beautiful and delicate tale of one man's courage and a remarkable portrait of love and family. It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man, faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church. An international bestseller, Small Things Like These is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers.

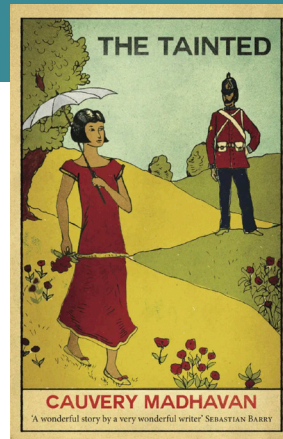
Claire Keegan was raised on a farm in Ireland. Her stories have won numerous awards and are translated into more than twenty languages. *Antarctica* won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and was

chosen as a Los Angeles Times Book of the Year. *Walk the Blue Fields* won the EdgeHill Prize for the finest collection of stories published in the British Isles. *Foster*, after winning the Davy Byrnes Award — then the world's richest prize for a story — was recently selected by The Times UK as one of the top 50 novels to be published in the 21st Century. It is now included as text for the Irish Leaving Certificate. Her stories have been published in the *New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Granta*, and *Best American Stories*. Keegan now holds the Briena Staunton Fellowship at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Review: 'It is impossible to change the past but essential to face up to it. That's precisely what Keegan does in this tender, condensed and pitch-perfect tale. As soon as I reached the end, I returned to the beginning to read it again.'

— Martina Devlin, *Independent*

The Tainted by Cauvery Madhavan



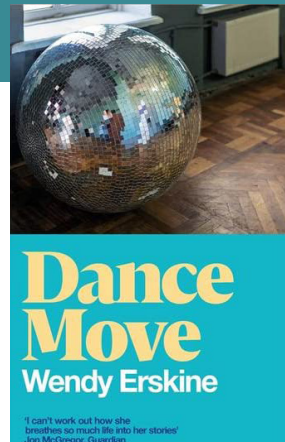
Based on a true story of the Irish Connaught Rangers in south-east India in 1920, *The Tainted* is set in the fictional town of Nandagiri. Colonel Alylmer, commander of the Royal Irish Kildare Rangers, is in charge. A distance away, decently hidden from view lies the native part of Nandagiri with its heaving bazaar, reeking streets and brothels. Everyone knows their place and the part they were born to play - with one exception. The local Anglo-Indians, tainted by their mixed blood, belong.. Nowhere. When news of the Black and Tans atrocities back in Ireland reaches the troops in India, even their priest cannot cool the men's rage. Politics vie with passion as Private Flaherty pays court to Rose, Mrs Aylmer's Anglo-Indian maid but mutiny brings heroism and heartbreak in equal measure.

Cauvery Madhavan was born in India and moved to Ireland thirty-three years ago. She is the author of three books of fiction – *Paddy Indian*, *The Uncoupling* and *The Tainted* which was picked as one of *An Post's* Top Summer Read 2020. In the same year she was awarded the runner-up prize in SAHR Prize for Military Fiction and listed by *The Times*, UK, in their top 40 Historical Fiction novels. Cauvery has written for the *Irish Times*, the *Irish Independent*, *Evening Herald*, the *Sunday Tribune*, the *Phoenix* and *Travel Extra*. She is currently working on her fourth novel. She lives in County Kildare.

Review: "If she hadn't written this book I might have been tempted to have a go at it but now she has done it brilliantly. A wonderful book by a wonderful writer."
— Sebastian Barry

April

Dance Move by Wendy Erskine



This second short story collection from the acclaimed author of *Sweet Home* gathers an assortment of brilliantly drawn protagonists who are fighting against being defined by a crucial moment from their past, as Erskine deftly illuminates lives of regret, longing and tragedy. In *Dance Move*, we meet characters who are looking to wrest control of their lives, only to find themselves defined by the moment in their past that marked them. In these stories - as in real life - the funny, the tender and the devastating go hand in hand. Full of warmth, the familiar and the strange, they are about what it means to live in the world, how far you can end up from where you came from, and what it means to look back.

Wendy Erskine lives in Belfast. Her debut collection, *Sweet Home*, was published by Stinging Fly in 2018 and Picador in 2019. It has been translated into Italian and Arabic and optioned for TV. It won the 2020 Butler Literary Award, was shortlisted for the Edge Hill Prize 2019 and longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize 2019. *Sweet Home* was Book of the Year in the *Guardian*, *The White Review*, *Observer*, *New Statesman*, and *TLS*. Her work has been published by *The Stinging Fly*, *Winter Papers*, *Female Lines: New Writing from Northern Ireland* and *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* (Faber) and read on BBC Radio 4.

Review: "I can't work out how she breathes so much life into her stories."
— Jon McGregor, *The Guardian*

May

Poguemahone by Pat McCabe



This hotly anticipated verse novel by Pat McCabe, is a swirling, psychedelic, bleakly funny fugue. *Poguemahone* is a masterpiece of formal invention with the rollicking clip of a drinking song and the devastating story of one family's history—and the forces, seen and unseen, that make their fate. Una Fogarty, suffering from dementia in a Margate care home, would be alone were it not for her brother Dan, whose free verse monologue tells the story of their clan. Exile from Ireland and immigrant life in England. Their mother's trials as a call girl. Young Una's search for love in a hippie squat in Kilburn, and the two-timing Scottish poet and stoner whose vatic recitals and prog rock vibes she'll never get over. Not to mention the squat itself, seemingly haunted by vindictive ghosts who eat away at the sanity of all who lived there. Now she sits outside in the Margate sun as her memories unspool from Dan's mouth, whose own role in her story grows ever stranger—and more sinister.

Patrick McCabe was born in 1955 in Clones, Co. Monaghan. He is the author of 14 books including *The Butcher Boy*, which won the Irish Times Irish Literature Prize for Fiction; *The Dead School*; *Breakfast on Pluto*, *Winterwood* which was named the 2007 Hughes & Hughes/Irish Independent Irish Novel of the Year, and more recently *The Big Yaroo* and *Heartland*. *The Butcher Boy* and *Breakfast on Pluto* were both shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and both made into critically acclaimed films. He's also written a children's book, numerous short stories and award winning plays.

Review: "If you're looking for this century's *Ulysses*, look no further than Patrick McCabe's *Poguemahone*."

— The Guardian

