



# MEDIEVAL TOWNSCAPES

Comparative perspectives through the Irish and British historic town atlases

## IHTA SEMINAR 20 MAY 2016

Royal Irish Academy

19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

**No registration fee** but please RSVP by 18 May to secure your place. Register at [www.ria.ie/events/ihta-seminar-2016](http://www.ria.ie/events/ihta-seminar-2016) or email [ihtaseminar@ria.ie](mailto:ihtaseminar@ria.ie) with the word 'seminar' in the subject line; or telephone +353 1 6762570 ext. 207.

The 2016 annual seminar of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) is being convened in collaboration with the British Historic Towns Atlas/Historic Towns Trust (HTT) and will explore the similarities and differences to be found in the urban landscapes of our two neighbouring islands, reflecting on their shared and connected histories, as well as on the common purposes of the two atlas projects. Focusing on 'medieval townscapes', the 2016 seminar will compare towns and cities of both Ireland and Britain using a thematic structure to consider how, despite the close geographical proximity of Ireland and Britain, their urban landscapes in the Middle Ages were shaped as much by local factors and influences as they were by common structures and concerns, such as religion, warfare, defence, lordship and commerce.

## PROGRAMME

- 9.45–10.00 Welcome/introduction  
Sarah Gearty (IHTA) and Keith Lilley (Queen's University Belfast/HTT)
- MORNING SESSION**
- Chairperson: Raymond Gillespie (Maynooth University/IHTA)
- 10.00–10.50 **A tale of two ports: Bristol and Galway** — Peter Fleming (University of West of England) and Paul Walsh (National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)
- 10.50–11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15–1.00 **The church in two regional capitals: Kilkenny and Norwich** — Michael Potterton (Maynooth University) and Brian Ayers (University of East Anglia)
- Romans, Normans and the indigenous other: practicalities, aesthetics and the past in the planning of medieval Limerick and York** — Tadhg O'Keeffe (University College Dublin) and Sarah Rees Jones (University of York)
- 1.00–2.15 Lunch (several restaurants and cafés within walking distance)
- AFTERNOON SESSION**
- Chairperson: Caroline Barron (HTT)
- 2.15–4.00 **Overlordship and its expression in the urban landscape: Caernarfon and New Ross** — Spencer Smith (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Linda Doran (University College Dublin)
- Medieval metropolitan cities: London and Dublin** — Vanessa Harding (University of London) and Howard Clarke (IHTA).
- 4.00–4.30 Coffee break
- PLENARY SESSION**
- Chairperson: Anngret Simms (IHTA)
- 4.30–5.30 **Comparing medieval towns in Britain and Ireland: a plan-analytical approach using the historic town atlases** — Terry Slater (University of Birmingham) Response: Keith Lilley (Queen's University Belfast/HTT)  
General discussion

[www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie) / [www.historictownsatlas.org.uk](http://www.historictownsatlas.org.uk)

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