Trinity College Dublin
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The University of Dublin

SCHOOL OF POLITICAL

ENTITLEMENT METHODS – AN EXAMPLE OF THE GREAT FAMINE IN IRELAND, 1845 – 1851

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this Dissertation is entirely my own work and that it has not been submitted as an exercise for a degree at this or any other university.

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Date: May 9, 2024

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I would like to thank my supervisor, **Prof. Martina Kirhberger**, for her guidance through each stage of this dissertation.

Abstract

A short summary of the problem investigated, the approach taken and the key findings. This should not be more that around 400 words.

The must be on a separate page.

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October playing a symphony on a slack wire paling.

Maguire watches the drills flattened out

And the flints that lit a candle for him on a June altar,

Flameless.

— "The Great Hunger" by Patrick Kavanagh. (Kavanagh and Quinn, 2006)

In 1851, when the Irish Great Famine had not yet ended, census noted that about 1 million people had died for hunger, and a similar number had gone into overseas exile [1]. In 1926, as a result of the Irish independence 5 years earlier, the Central Statistical Office was capable to integrate historical documents since famine and showed the fact that the population was decline of roughly 22% [2] in the 10 years from 1841 to 1851. Apart from these quantitative explorations, the Great Famine is equally pivotal in Irish cultural history and ethnography. From Joseph O'Connor's fiction "Star of the sea" to W. B. Yeats's "The Countess Cathleen", together they expressed that the Great Famine not only pointed to the corpses of the dead, but also to a black hole of identity, naming and meaning (Luchen, 2019).

Indeed, the effects of the Great Famine were far-reaching. It wasn't until 120 years later, in the 1960s, that Ireland's population began to grow consistently due to large-scale emigration, late marriage and a high incidence of permanent celibacy no longer hold (Grada, 1979), but it was still nowhere near as large as it had been during the Great Famine [3]. This also makes Ireland one of the few countries in the world to suffer population decline over the past 170 years when the world's population has increased more than six fold [4].

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[1]   Census 1851, Last accessed: 2 May, 2024
[2]   Census 1926, Chapter II, Last acceseed: 9 May, 2024
[3]   Census of Population 2022 – Summary Results, Last accessed: 8 May, 2024
[4]   Blog by Ambassador Mulhall on Black '47: Ireland's Great Famine and its after-effects, Last accessed: 9 May, 2024

People believe potato blight was responsible for the Irish Great Famine.

2 | Literature Review

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Grada, C. O. (1979), The population of ireland 1700-1900: a survey, *in* 'Annales de démographie historique', JSTOR, pp. 281–299.

Kavanagh, P. and Quinn, A. (2006), *Collected poems*, Penguin Books.

Luchen, W. (2019), 'The naming of identity: The famine narrative in joseph o'connor's star of the sea and the transatlantic diasporic writing', *Foreign Literature Studies* **41**(5), 123.