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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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SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
M.Sc. APPLIED SOCIAL DATA SCIENCES

## 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.

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year, found at <http://www.tcd.ie/calendar>.

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Date: May 11, 2024

## Acknowledgements

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# **Abstract**

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

The must be on a separate page.

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# 1 | Introduction

*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<sup>1</sup>. In 1926, as a result of the Irish independence 5 years earlier, the Central Statistical Office was capable to integrate historical documents since famine and showed the fact that the population was decline of roughly 22%<sup>2</sup> in the 10 years from 1841 to 1851. Using parish baptism data, some scholars have estimated that in the year 1847 alone – which is also known as black 47 in Ireland history – there existed counties with a nearly 80% reduction in baptisms in Munster province in the south of Ireland (Cousens, 1960), especially from southwest Cork and including north and east Clare<sup>3</sup>, while it was not the worst hit by the famine compared to the province of Connacht in the west. 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, and reflected in the population, land institution structure and attitude to the UK government directly. It was

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<sup>1</sup> Census 1851, Last accessed: 2 May, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Census 1926, Chapter II, Last accessed: 9 May, 2024

<sup>3</sup> How “a truly modern famine” devastated Ireland - and changed the world forever, Last accessed: 11 May, 2024



not 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 <sup>4</sup>. 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 <sup>5</sup>.

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

lumper potato

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<sup>4</sup> Census of Population 2022 – Summary Results, Last accessed: 8 May, 2024

<sup>5</sup> Blog by Ambassador Mulhall on Black '47: Ireland's Great Famine and its after-effects, Last accessed: 9 May, 2024

## 2 | Literature Review

*October playing a symphony on a slack wire paling.*

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