# Proceedings of Borderlines Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference 2003.

## Foreword

*Borderlines* is an interdisciplinary conference series, which is organised and attended by graduate students of Old, Middle, and Early Modern literature, culture and society. It was initially conceived as a cross-border initiative by then graduate students Stephen Kelly and Jason O'Rourke, both of the English Department at Queen's University, Belfast, and has over the past ten years developed into a exemplary forum, encouraging links between researchers not only in Ireland and the UK but in Europe and North America.

The organisers of *Borderlines VII*, which was hosted by the Departments of English and History, University College Cork, April 8th-10th 2003, are pleased to bring the proceedings of that conference to the scholarly community. The papers chosen for publication are testament to the wide variety of research being carried out in Irish and British universities, and display too the interdisciplinary nature which has made the *Borderlines* conference series so successful. Since *Borderlines* has always nurtured the various approaches, theories, and methodologies that an interdisciplinary approach brings, the editors decided not to impose a system of referencing on the contributors; rather, each paper should be read as a singular piece of research, albeit one which contributed to and was informed by an extremely stimulating and unifying conference.

The editors wish to acknowledge: the individual contributors to this electronic edition, for their co-operation and patience while this project was coming to fruition; the sponsors of, and the delegates and speakers at, *Borderlines VII*, UCC; the help and support of Peter Flynn, UCC Webmaster; Professor Donnchadh Corrin who gave the plenary lecture at the conference; and

Paul Vetch, Center for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London, who helped to design the original conference website. The editors can be contacted at their individual email addresses listed below. The site was designed and is maintained by Julianne Nyhan, please contact here directly with any technical enquiries.

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