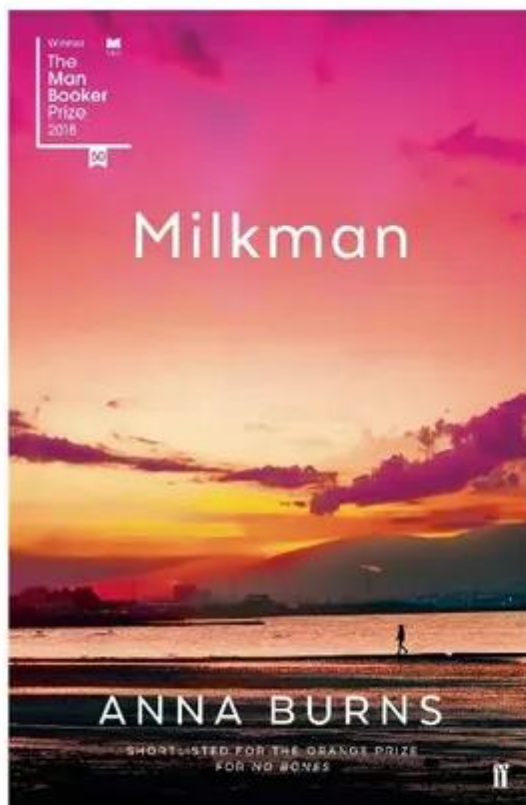


Guest Lecture by **Georgina Nugent-Folan** (LMU Munich)

‘No Symbols Where None Intended’: Tracing Beckettian Legacies in Anna Burns’s *Milkman*

Thursday, Dec 16th, 13:45-15:15



This is how Dr. Nugent-Folan describes her talk:

In this short talk I will situate Anna Burns's 2018 novel *Milkman* alongside Samuel Beckett's 1953 novel *Watt*, a novel Beckett composed during World War Two, while, as a member of the French resistance, he was on the run in Southern France. There exist numerous fascinating stylistic parallels between these two novels and, rather than argue for a kind of derivative form of influence, I will instead be exploring the political and cultural comparabilities between these two works in terms of their production and their setting. Beckett's work was written in the midst of a World War that was, among other things, motivated by ethno-nationalism; Burns's is set during 'The Troubles', an ethno-nationalist and sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland. What led both authors, separated by some seventy years, to adopt stylistic devices that create evasive, euphemistic worlds of 'No Symbols Where None Intended', as Beckett notes in his appendix to *Watt*?

Dr. Dr. Georgina Nugent-Folan is Assistant Professor of Modern English Literature at LMU Munich. Her monograph study, *The Making of Samuel Beckett's Company / Compagnie* was published in 2021 with Bloomsbury Academic, and a study on Beckett and Gertrude Stein is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. She is editing a special issue of the *Journal of Beckett Studies* that focuses on Beckett's Female Contemporaries (April 2023) and is co-editing a critical retrospective of Hans Walter Gabler's *Critical and Synoptic Edition of Ulysses* with Sam Slote, for publication in 2024.

Zoom-Meeting in the context of the seminar "Writing Ireland" at the English Department: