

‘Feminist Attachments and Gender Politics in Twenty-First Century Irish Theatre’

Dr. Clare Wallace (Charles University, Prague)

Tuesday, 28 May, 17.00-18.30

Filozofski fakultet u Rijeci, F-139

In October 2015 the Abbey Theatre proudly launched their programme, ‘Waking the Nation’ to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The programme which all but excluded women playwrights and directors, sparked a vocal and angry response that began on social media and quickly came together as a grassroots arts movement titled Waking the Feminists (#WTF) that focused attention on the pervasiveness of gender inequality throughout the Irish theatre sector and upon the intense emotions such inequality generates. In her 2004 book *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*, Sara Ahmed explores how “feminism involves an emotional response to ‘the world’, where the form of that response involves a reorientation of one’s bodily relation to social norms” (170-1). This lecture seeks to bring Ahmed’s discussion of “feminist attachments” and their affective force to bear upon representational politics in twenty-first century Irish theatre. Drawing on work by Marina Carr, Stella Feehily, Louise Lowe and Grace Dyas the lecture will survey the ways women appear—as playwrights, as theatre makers, as activists and as subjects—within contemporary Irish theatre culture and what kinds of reorientation and contestation are happening.

- Clare Wallace is an associate professor at the Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures at Charles University in Prague. Her teaching is mainly focused on Irish Studies and Theatre Studies. She is author of *The Theatre of David Greig* (2013) and *Suspect Cultures: Narrative, Identity and Citation in 1990s New Drama* (2007) and is editor of *Monologues: Theatre, Performance, Subjectivity* and *Stewart Parker Television Plays* (2008). Co-edited books include, *Cosmotopia: Transnational Identities in David Greig’s Theatre* (2011) with Anja Müller, *Stewart Parker Dramatis Personae and Other Writings* (2008) with Gerald Dawe and Maria Johnston, *Global Ireland: Irish Literatures for the New Millennium* with Ondřej Pilný (2006) and *Giacomo Joyce: Envoys of the Other* with Louis Armand (2002). She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English*.