

Kieran Hayes

Writer's CV

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The Arts Council Artist Reference Number (ARN): 96401

Work and writing practice

I live in Galway and hold a postgraduate qualification in Journalism from the University of Galway. My writing is focused on the personal essay and narrative prose and deals with themes such as mental health, the arts, contemporary society, spirituality and nature. For essayistic inspiration I look to Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Adam Phillips, W.G. Sebald, Leslie Jamison and Geoff Dyer. I have published journalism and academic essays both in print and on-line. In 2024 I set up The Yessayists, a peer critique group for writers of creative non-fiction encompassing essays, memoir, reportage and autofiction. I facilitate the group which meets once a month online to share and discuss members' work, with the aim of publishing quality writing in literary journals.

Professional Development

Writing Truth and Narrative - Mark O'Connell, The Stinging Fly Online Seminar Series (February 26, 2024).

Demystifying the Personal Essay - Ellen Brickley, Big Smoke Writing Factory (November 18, 2023).

Narrative Medicine Basic Virtual Workshop - Rita Charon, Columbia University, New York (April 8-10, 2022).

Mentorship with English novelist and essayist Paul Kingsnorth, 2019

Rewild your Words: 2-day writers' retreat - Paul Kingsnorth, The Boghill Centre, Co. Clare (October 26 - 28, 2018).

A Sense of Place: Writing about Location and Nature - Philip Hoare, West Cork Literary Festival (July 17 - 19, 2018).

Higher Diploma in Applied Communications (Journalism) (2H1, NFQ Level 8), University of Galway, 2002

Bachelor of Arts Degree (Joint Hons 2H1, NFQ Level 8), University College Cork, 1994

Publications

'[Orphans](#)', Shortlisted for the Munster Literature Centre Creative Non-Fiction Award 2025. To be published in *Southword* 50, summer 2026 [personal essay]

'[Email to a 'Black Sheep' #2](#)', *Lust for Life*, June 2022 [article]

'[Email to a 'Black Sheep' #1](#)', *Lust for Life*, March 2022 [article]

'[Merton and the Red Thread](#)', *Studies in Spirituality* (28), 2018 [essay]

'[A Light in the Darkness: Theologies of the Book of Kells](#)', *Spiritus* (7) 2, 2017 [essay]