

Irish Divorce

This is the first history of Irish divorce. Spanning the island of Ireland over three centuries, it places the human experience of marriage break-down centre stage to explore the impact of a highly restrictive and gendered law and its reform. It considers the accessibility of Irish divorce as it moved from a parliamentary process in Westminster, the Irish parliament and the Northern Ireland parliament to a court-based process. This socio-legal approach allows changing definitions of gendered marital roles and marital cruelty to be assessed. In charting the exceptionalism of Ireland's divorce provision in a European and imperial framework, the study uncovers governmental reluctance to reform Irish divorce law which spans jurisdictions and centuries. This was therefore not only a law dictated by religious strictures but also by a long-lived moral conservatism.

Diane Urquhart is Professor of Gender History at Queen's University Belfast. She has written widely on Irish women's history and gender and is the author of *The Ladies of Londonderry: Women and Political Patronage, 1800–1959* (2007) as well as *Women in Ulster Politics, 1890–1940: A History Not Yet Told* (2000) which was selected as an *Irish Times* Book of the Year. She is the editor of *The Papers of the Ulster Women's Unionist Council and Executive Committee, 1911–40* (2001), co-editor of *Irish Women at War: The Twentieth Century* (2010) and co-author of *The Irish Abortion Journey, 1922–2018* (2019) with Lindsey Earner-Byrne.

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A History

Diane Urquhart

Queen's University Belfast



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