

and  
**The National School of Arts**  
present

## **IHSS Research Seminar Program 2024**

### **Time and Place in Sara Baume's *Seven Steeples***

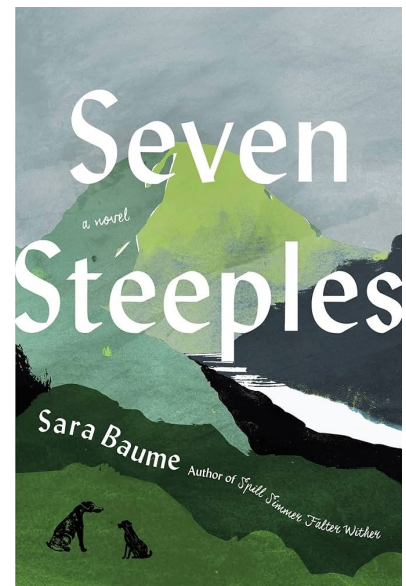
**Dr Matthew Ryan (NSAH)**

**Chairs: Assoc. Prof. Nell Musgrove (NSAH) & Dr. Sarah Bendall (IHSS)**

**Tuesday 10 September, 12-1pm AEST**

**To be held in the Arts Precinct (room 412.1.01) and online via Teams**

Sara Baume is sometimes counted as one of Ireland's 'new modernist' writers. Her novels *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* (2015), *A Line Made by Walking* (2017), and *Seven Steeples* (2022) present narratives of isolation using formal experimentation that calls to mind the earlier modernisms of Beckett and Woolf. It is common to consider twentieth-century modernism as working within the catastrophic milieu of that period. This paper will consider the ways Baume's modernism is marking out twenty-first century crises and transitions at the level of the individual and at that of small communities. In particular, the paper will read *Seven Steeples* as presenting scales of time and place that counter the familiar liberal aesthetic of the novel form and that begin to shift the assumptions of the anthropocentric relation to place.



**Bio:** Dr Matthew Ryan is Senior Lecturer in Literature in the School of Arts and Humanities at ACU. He is secretary of the Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ISAANZ). He was convenor of the 2023 ISAANZ conference, which was held at ACU's Melbourne campus in December. Matthew has published on the work of a variety of contemporary Irish authors including, Paul Murray, Anne Enright, Colm Tóibín, and John Banville.