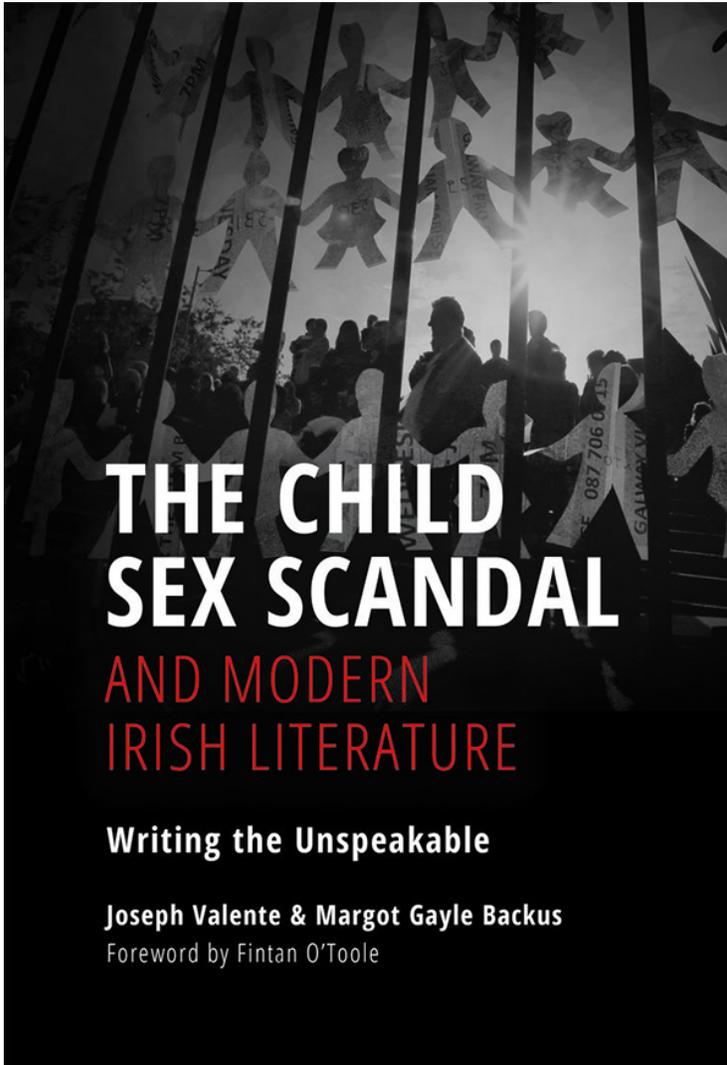


# The Child Sex Scandal and Modern Irish Literature



**The Women's and Gender Studies  
Program presents a talk with  
JOSEPH VALENTE and MARGOT  
GAYLE BACKUS.**

The authors will join Dr. Ed Madden's course "Queer Times, Irish Times" for a discussion of their work *The Child Sex Scandal and Modern Irish Literature: Writing the Unspeakable*. For the class they will focus on the chapter on the novel *The Long Falling* by Keith Ridgway.

JOIN US VIA ZOOM

Thursday, March 11  
from 6:00-7:00 PM EST

For more information,  
please email  
[rdobson@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:rdobson@mailbox.sc.edu)

Even though the Irish child sex abuse scandals in the Catholic Church have appeared steadily in the media, many children remain in peril.

In *The Child Sex Scandal and Modern Irish Literature*, Joseph Valente and Margot Gayle Backus examine modern cultural responses to child sex abuse in Ireland. Using descriptions of these scandals found in newspapers, historiographical analysis, and 20th- and 21st-century literature, Valente and Backus expose a public sphere ardently committed to Irish children's souls and piously oblivious to their physical welfare. They offer historically contextualized and psychoanalytically informed readings of scandal narratives by nine notable modern Irish authors who actively, pointedly, and persistently question Ireland's responsibilities regarding its children. Through close, critical readings, a more nuanced and troubling account emerges of how Ireland's postcolonial heritage has served to enable such abuse.

*The Child Sex Scandal and Modern Irish Literature* refines the debates on why so many Irish children were lost by offering insight into the lived experience of both the children and those who failed them.

The book is available for free from the [Indiana University Press site](https://www.indiana.edu/~iupress/).