

Family History Research Centre at EPIC

Fiona Fitzsimons, Director, Research & PR Director

Fiona Fitzsimons is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, a historical expert and entrepreneur. Since 1996 she's developed our historical research department, setting high standards for all our research work.

From 2005 to the present, Fiona and her team have provided research and historical consultancy for television and film production, including WDYTYA, Faces of America, Finding our Roots, Ancestors in the Famine, etc.

From 2010 Fiona has carved out a role as a writer and educator in Irish Public History. She has taught at the Innovation Academy, Trinity College Dublin; Ancestral Connections Summer School in N.U.I. Cork (2013, 2014, 2015, forthcoming 2016); the British Institute, SLC (2015).

Since 2012 Fiona hosts the popular Summer Talks series in the National Library of Ireland. In 2014 she established the monthly Expert Workshop @NLIreland series.

Fiona writes a column, Kindred Lines, in **History Ireland**; is a feature writer for online magazine **Irish Lives Remembered**; and contributes regularly to specialist journals, and popular magazines and newspapers.

Fiona Fitzsimons, Director, General Manager, Research Director

Fiona graduated in history in 1992, and subsequently tutored at Trinity College Dublin. Fiona Fitzsimons is Research Director of Eneclann, which she co-founded in 1998 with Brian Donovan. Since then Eneclann has completed over 10,000 individual commissions, ranging from private family history research and house histories to media research for television programmes. Research credits include the British, Irish, Australian and Canadian productions of 'Who Do You Think You Are?', RTE's 'Ancestors During the Famine' and 'Faces of America' (NBC). As Eneclann's Research director, Fiona plays a key role in developing and ensuring quality in the company's digital publications and online resources at www.irishorigins.com and elsewhere. Fiona and her research team have also completed some of the largest historical research projects ever undertaken in Ireland, developing new methodologies to be tested and used by others. Work includes an audit of the accuracy of the Irish Genealogical Project's database of 16 million records and the Irish Battlefields Project. The Irish Battlefields Project, commissioned in 2008 by the Department of the Environment, is the Irish corollary of the U.K. Battlefields Trust Project. This project covers a millennium of Irish history, and in her role as researcher for the early modern period and project manager Fiona drew on her formal historical training.

Areas of specialization include Gaelic lordships and Irish lineages; Irish land law 16th to 20th Centuries; Dublin Guilds and artisan-business 17th to late 19th Centuries; and Irish records for fostering and 'boarded-out' children, prior to 1952. She has also made a particular study of

collections including the records of the Valuation Office, the Registry of Deeds, and the Petty Sessions Courts in Ireland. She has published scholarly articles in academic journals and books of essays, and was also a contributor to *The Encyclopedia of Ireland* (Rutledge Publications New York), and *The Oxford Companion to Irish History* (Oxford University Press).