Seamus Heaney: Making the Archives Visible
September 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2022
6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Moderated by Geraldine Higgins, Associate Professor of English and Director of Emory's Irish Studies Program and of the Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature.

Irish Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney lived in a time of accelerated judgment and instant celebrity. Over the course of his life (1939-2013), he became an important cultural figure as well as an award-winning global poet whose work was translated into over 27 languages. This seminar will consider what it means to encounter Seamus Heaney’s work in an exhibition setting. Inspired by my curatorial work on two public exhibitions on Seamus Heaney in two different locations, the first here at Emory in 2014 (Seamus Heaney: The Music of What Happens) and the second at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin (Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again 2018-2023), our discussions will go behind the scenes of the gallery to explore the challenges and rewards of exhibiting the words and world of this beloved poet.

This Great Works Seminar will meet at The Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry @ Emory University from 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. on the following Wednesday evenings during the 2022 fall semester: September 7, 14, 21, & 28. Participants are expected to attend all four sessions. For further information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.