**Normal People McClelland Library**

(2018) Book Discussion (Via Zoom)

by Saturday, September 26, 2020 Sally Rooney 10:30-12:30

Sally Rooney is the youngest writer we have read. She was born in 1991 in County Mayo. **Normal People** is her second novel. Her first, **Conversation with Friends, was** published in 2017. **Normal People** was long-listed for the Booker Prize, won the Costa Novel of the Year award. It has been made into a RTE television series that has been nominated for four Emmy awards in the U.S.

Discussion Questions

* Literature often allows us to understand other people, other cultures, or other times that we are not a part of. Does **Normal People** give us an insight into a younger generation? An Irish post Celtic Tiger generation?
* One reviewer noted that the novel appeals across both gender and generation.
* What theme resonated with you as a reader: the class distinction, the small town (County Sligo) vs. the metropolitan city (Dublin), parenting (toxic vs. nurturing)?
* Who are the normal people in the novel? Does the perception of normal change for Maryanne and Connell during the four years in the novel?

In addition to the novel, we plan to share two short poems by Eavan Boland.  We are working on a way to get copies of these poems to you.  Most of her poems to be shared in the upcoming months are found in the following collection: Boland, Eavan. *New Collected Poems*. W.W. Norton, 2009.