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|  Apeirogon: A Novel(2020)ByColum McCann(1965 - ) |  Irish Cultural Center Book ClubJanuary 27, 202410:30 AM – 12:30 PMNorton Room in McClelland Library |

**Discussion Guide:**

Colum McCann is best known for his powerful novels, Let the Great World Spin, TransAtlantic, and Apeirogon. Among his prizes are the Rooney Prize, Novel of the Year Award, National Book Award and the International Dublin Literary Award. He was born in Dublin and now lives in New York. He is currently a writer in residence at Hunter College.

--What other works by McCann have you read? What other aspects of biography should we consider?

--What are some major themes you noticed in Apeirogon as you read this novel? How is the title significant?

--Consider the “shape” of this novel. Why are there so many short chapters? Does the novel itself have a shape?

How are these aspects important to the messages or themes of the novel?

--Characterize the two principal characters (or subjects) in the novel, Rami Elhanan and Bassam Aramin.

--There are continuing references to birds in this novel. What is the significance of such references?

--How did McCann’s novel influence your understanding of the current situation in the Middle East?

--Did you enjoy this novel? Why/why not? Do you consider McCann an important Irish novelist?

**→→Looking ahead**—In February, the book for discussion is The Searcher by Tana French.