

**EPHEMERA IN LITERATURES AND LITERARY WORKS OF  
IRELAND AND BANGLADESH: PEOPLE’S NARRATIVES OF  
MARTYRDOM**

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**Abstract**

This study attempts to unravel the terms ‘martyr’ and ‘martyrdom’ through their use by the people of Ireland and Bangladesh in relation to everyday objects (ephemera) and related processes. The unravelling was done in the contexts of undivided Bengal, undivided Ireland, present Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Bangladesh at the different stages of their post-conflict and post-independence situations, and increasing instances of present clashes and violence. This unravelling revealed numerous contestations, which have been understood at the level of the quotidian existence through ephemera.

This thesis, divided into five main chapters along with an introduction and conclusion, outlines the meaning and methodology of collection and analysis of martyr ephemera, lays down the premises of the emergence of contestations in martyrdom – naming, making, continuums and subversions – and explores ephemera-specific texts, art and music.

The research has brought together field study, snowballing and constant comparative method, participant-observer immersion method, archival studies, and thematic and objective analysis to explore the contestations in martyrdom through ephemera. Its purpose is not only in the building of a martyr ephemera archive (including paper-based ephemera, non-paper but transient ephemera, photographs, objects created for short-term use, verbal ephemera, digital ephemera and country-specific ephemera) but also in an in-depth analysis of the same. Through these explorations of each martyr’s narrative, both the well- and the lesser-known, this study has developed a concept of people’s martyrology, on the basis of which policymakers may work towards facilitating a more comprehensive recognition of martyrs’ contributions and their claims of justice and closure.