

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/radical-hospitality-from-thought-to-action/>

The speaker reflects on their upbringing in Ireland during the post-war years, influenced by the traumas of WWII and ongoing conflicts in Northern Ireland. They discuss the interplay between hostility and hospitality, suggesting both concepts share a common linguistic root, highlighting the ethical imperative to transform hostility into hospitality.

Key anecdotes include a 15th-century story of Lord Fitzgerald extending a hand to end a feud, symbolizing the potential for reconciliation. The speaker relates this to their academic work in Paris, particularly with thinkers like Paul Ricoeur and Emmanuel Levinas, who explored the themes of hospitality and storytelling in the context of post-war Europe.

The concept of "hospitality" is examined across different dimensions: linguistic, narrative, confessional, and carnal. The speaker emphasizes the importance of sharing stories to bridge divides between conflicting communities, using examples from Northern Ireland and interactions among diverse groups.

In their project, the Guest Book, they create dialogues among students from different backgrounds, encouraging them to share experiences and narratives. This video process aims to shift from enmity to a common understanding of hospitality, illustrating the transformative power of storytelling. Ultimately, they argue that stories can both harm and heal, serving as a basis for a hopeful future through mutual recognition and empathy.