

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface ix

INTRODUCTION

Female Empowerment in Theory and in Practice: Four Irish Women Poets 1

CHAPTER ONE

Power-With: Irishwomen’s Relational Empowerment and Women’s Empowerment in Connection 29

1.1. Female Relational Empowerment as “The Self-In Relation” in the Poetry of Sinéad Morrissey 29

1.2. “To Act in Concert:” Women’s Mutual Empowerment in the Poetry of Mary O’Donoghue 79

1.3. The Female Power of Relational Autonomy: Establishing Indoor and Outdoor Connections in the Poetry of Vona Groarke 113

1.4. The Anxiety of Disconnected “Unmoored Pieces” in the Poetry of Caitríona O’Reilly 173

CHAPTER TWO

Power At: Ecopower and Irish Women’s Ecological Selves 211

2.1. The Empowering Ecofeminist Care Ethic and Land Ethic in the Poetry of Mary O’Donoghue 211

2.2. Mechanical Power versus Women’s Eco-empowering Criticism in the Poetry of Caitríona O’Reilly 241

2.3. “Lay it down there on the newspaper; / let it settle, unearth itself.” Gendering Nature in the Poetry of Vona Groarke	292
2.4. The Empowered Female Environmental Consciousness as the Source of the Spiritual in the Poetry of Sinéad Morrissey	340

CHAPTER THREE

Against Power-Over: Irish Women’s Empowerment Through Resistance.....	387
3.1. Resisting the Confinement of <i>Other People’s Houses</i> : Female Empowerment and Political Emancipation in the Poetry of Vona Groarke	387
3.2. Resisting Power Realised as Violence: “A Power Failure” and Female Empowerment in the Poetry of Sinéad Morrissey	437
3.3. Resisting the Victimisation of Women in the Poetry of Mary O’Donoghue.....	487
3.4. “Death, desirelessness: such kinless things.” Resisting female powerlessness in the Poetry of Caitríona O’Reilly.....	523
Conclusion.....	567
Bibliography.....	573