

14th Limerick Conference  
in Irish-German Studies

# EXILES

7/8 November 2013  
Plassey House, UL



Send completed form to:

Dr Gisela Holfter,  
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or email to

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The conference is supported by the German and  
Austrian Embassies, and by the Teaching Fund and  
Research Office of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities  
and Social Sciences and the School of LLCC.

Conference organiser:

Dr Gisela Holfter, Joint Director,  
Centre for Irish-German Studies,  
University of Limerick

Conference Administrators:

Robyn Byrt and Mary McDermot  
(irishgermanconference2013@gmail.com)

Conference fee:

€20 for 7 & 8 November 2013 if registered by  
1. November, (€30 after that)

Day rates:

€10 for 7 November 2013; €15 for 8 November  
if registered by 1. November,  
(€15 and €20 after that)

Supporters:

The conference is supported by the German and  
Austrian Embassies, Dr Beate Schuler, the Arts,  
Humanities and Social Sciences Teaching Fund  
and Research Office and the School of Languages,  
Literature, Culture and Communication at the  
University of Limerick.

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**Context of  
'Kristallnacht'  
Ireland and the  
German-speaking  
refugees 1933-45**

**A colloquium on  
German-speaking exiles,  
Irish helpers  
and the national and  
international context  
75 years ago**



## 14th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies

### Context of 'Kristallnacht'

### Ireland and the German-speaking refugees 1933-45

### A colloquium on German-speaking exiles, Irish helpers and the national and international context 75 years ago

75 years ago, on 9th November 1938, thousands of synagogues were burned, tens of thousands of mainly Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps for no other reason than their religious background. They were released only after weeks and months, once they could produce proof of emigration opportunities.

For some few of the men and their family members, Ireland became a place of refuge. They included for example Dr Ernst Scheyer, eminent lawyer in the Silesian town of Liegnitz, and his wife Marie. Their son Heinz studied medicine at Trinity College. Later they were joined by their daughter Renate. Years later, Renate married Robert Weil, who had escaped from Berlin as a teenage refugee to Ireland and who found shelter in Newtown School in Waterford. They were the first couple to marry in the newly founded Progressive Jewish community. Others came to Ireland through the auspices of the Irish Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees, some as academics to build up the newly founded Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, others as entrepreneurs who provided employment in towns across Ireland. With this colloquium we want to focus on the contexts from which and into which the refugees came and on current research as well as personal reflections from family members of former refugees. It is also meant as a tribute to the individuals and groups who reached out and helped. Again, it is not only academic work but also the individual experiences that will be presented by speakers who grew up in families that took in refugees. Following a showing of the short film *Blind Eye*, the legacy of the refugee experience will be discussed with Hugo Hamilton, who wrote the script, and with producer Mary Rose Doorly.

The research project on the German-speaking refugees 1933-1945 has been running at the Centre for Irish-German Studies for more than ten years and has been supported by grants from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Austrian Academy of Science, DAAD, Royal Irish Academy and the University of Limerick. A first conference on the topic was held in Limerick in 2004. Contributors included academics as well as former refugees such as Eva Gross, Monica Schefold (John Hennig's daughter) and Ruth Braunizer (Erwin Schrödinger's daughter) who came to Ireland as children. All fifteen papers were published in the acclaimed volume *German-speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945*, Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi 2006 (edited by Gisela Holfter).

Thursday, 7. November 2013

#### 4.00pm Welcome Addresses

Prof Don Barry, President University of Limerick  
H.E. Dr Eckhard Lübke, German Ambassador to Ireland  
H.E. Thomas Nader, Austrian Ambassador to Ireland

#### 4.30-5.45 Personal reflections I

Stephen Weil (London)  
Klaus Unger (Dublin)  
Paul Dubsy (Wexford/Dublin)

#### 6.00-7.15 Personal reflections II

Hans Kohlseisen (Wien/skype)  
Herbert Karrach (King's Lynn, England, Nepal / video)  
Prof Eoin Bourke (Galway/Berlin) – George Clare

#### 7.30pm Cultural legacy (film/music programme)

Film – *Blind Eye* (2007)  
Followed by a discussion with Mary Rose Doorly (director)  
and Hugo Hamilton (author)

Friday 8. November 2013

#### 9.00-10.30 Contexts in Ireland, Great Britain and the Continent

Prof Anthony McElligott (UL) – 'Kristallnacht' 75 Years After  
Prof Ian Wallace (Bath) – Refugees in Great Britain – a comparison  
Dr David O'Donoghue (Dublin) – Nazis in Ireland

#### 11.00-12.00 Insights into the helpers' side I

Philip Jacob (Dublin) – Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Yanky Fachler (Dublin) – The Jewish Community

#### 12.15-1.15 Insights into the helpers' side II

Glynn Douglas (Dublin) - Nora Douglas and the Belfast Committee for Refugees  
Michael Kennedy (Peterborough) - A second generation's perspective

#### 1.15-2.30 lunch break

#### 2.30-4.15 Research on German-speaking refugees in Ireland

Martti Steinke (Belfast/Limerick) - Refugees in Northern Ireland  
Birte Schulz (Dublin) - Questions of Identity  
Dr Siobhan O'Connor (UL) - Policy and public responses towards the exiles  
Dr Gisela Holfter (UL) - Schrödinger was not the only one - Academics in Irish exile



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Please register via email or fill out the form below and send it to  
Gisela Holfter, Centre for Irish-German Studies,  
School of Languages, Literature, Culture and  
Communication,  
University of Limerick

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the full conference   
7.11 only  8.11 only

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_