



# AHSS NEWSLETTER

# Summer 2023





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## Welcome to the AHSS Summer Faculty Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the Summer edition of the Faculty Newsletter with you, documenting such sustained excellence across our disciplines. As we approach the start of the Summer and amidst a year of celebration for the University, it is the ideal moment to celebrate all the wonderful achievements of our Faculty community.

The newsletter details a rich mix of engagements and achievements. Our staff have been recognised for their leadership in community and industry engagement, teaching excellence and research scholarship. This is evidenced through our faculty members' activities documented throughout this newsletter. Examples include the Charlemont Grant Awards, the Public Policy Agendas on a Shared Ireland initiative, Marie Curie Funding success and individual appointments to the Royal Irish Academy, to name a few.

Our sense of civic engagement remains very strong through our impactful research but also in our connections to local and national networks. Examples of important community engagement initiatives include our students working with intergenerational community groups, our continued outreach with the Ukrainian community in Limerick through our Access campus, combatting racism as evidenced in the SALAAM project and connecting with our local and national community through enriching arts and cultural events.

Our internationalisation activity is evident through engagement and participation in international networks such as the Wild Atlantic Alliance and EMERGE Networks, through the development of academic partnerships in China and the facilitation of a new Erasmus funded Summer School with EU partner institutions, as detailed in this newsletter.

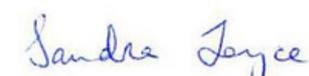
I remain deeply impressed by the continued dynamism that is evident in the pursuit of knowledge and cultural exchanges in the Faculty, particularly in relation to the hosting of wonderful events. These engagements consist of workshops, seminars, concerts, festivals, cultural exchanges and more. Examples include faculty colleagues participating in the UL50 celebrations through the Launch of DREAMS, a commemorative book documenting 50 years of creativity, culture and community at UL, the launch of the Culture Shocked! Exhibition celebrating cultural diversity in all its forms and celebrating 50 years of European Studies at UL.

Our students also continue to impress across a range of pursuits, which include being recognised for their outstanding academic and creative achievements in diverse areas such as Creative Writing and Journalism. These achievements include continued success by our Journalism students at the Student Media awards, recognition of creative writing excellence with the Prix Laurence award, and students' continued commitment to make their world a better place through community engagement with Limerick Citizens Information Service as well as intergenerational community outreach events.

Our alumni also continue to shine, including AHSS Alumnus Tomás Heneghan who successfully won his case in the Supreme Court to award voting rights to UL Graduates in Seanad Elections. Our MA Music Therapy graduates also featured on RTÉ's Late Late Show, highlighting the transformative effects of Music Therapy practice.

As a snapshot of time, I believe that this Newsletter evidences the exceptional quality of our staff and students. I am extremely grateful to all who contributed to it, and especially to Oonagh Grace and Ciara Murray who worked so hard to put it together. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful Summer break before our return in the Autumn for another academic year.

Warm regards,



*Dr. Sandra Joyce*

*Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*



*Dr. Sandra Joyce*  
*Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,*  
*Humanities and Social Sciences*



# Faculty News



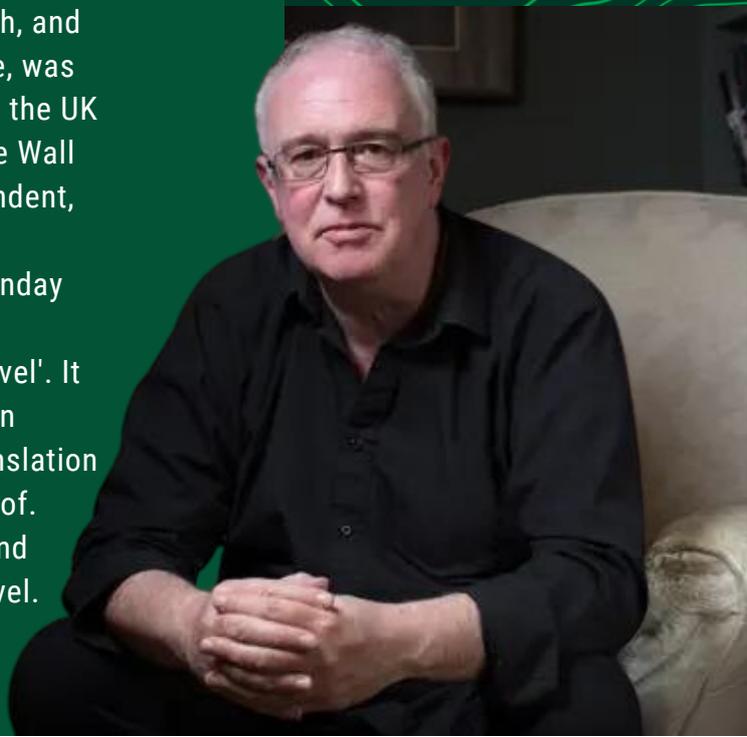
## Album Launch - Since You and I Have Been: Songs of Love and Loss in the Irish Tradition

Dr. Sandra Joyce, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and former Director of the Irish World Academy launched her debut album, accompanied by the album producer, Donal Lunny. Love and loss are recurrent themes in many traditional songs. This album represents a long engagement with Irish traditional songs and singers, as well as related traditions, and is a snapshot of the repertoire and styles of song Dr. Joyce particularly resonates with.



## Joseph O'Connor releases new novel 'My Father's House'

Prof. Joseph O'Connor's (School of English, Irish, and Communications) new novel, *My Father's House*, was published by Penguin Random House in Ireland, the UK and the USA. It received excellent reviews in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Sunday Independent*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Publishers Weekly*, and was described in the *Sunday Times* by lead fiction reviewer Peter Kemp as 'magnificent' and 'a thrilling and sensational novel'. It was serialised by BBC Radio 4 over two weeks in February and has already been acquired for translation in France, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Spain. Prof. Joseph O'Connor will be undertaking a spring and summer Irish national reading tour with this novel.





## Ryan Tubridy meets AHSS Faculty and students

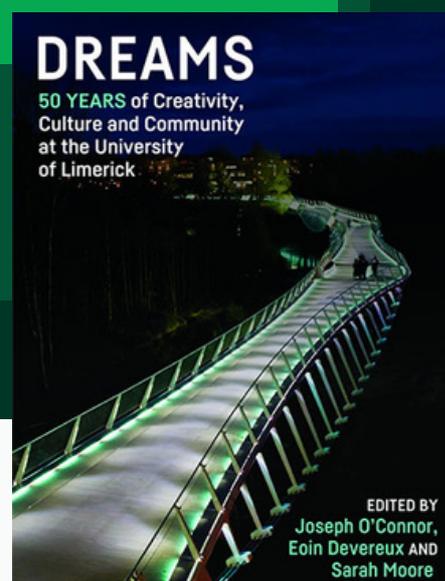
On the 23rd of May, Ryan Tubridy, Presenter of the Ryan Tubridy Show on RTÉ Radio One and former host of the Late Late Show, met with Faculty staff and students at a special event in the Glucksman Library, UL. Ryan, a great supporter of the Arts, interacted with faculty staff and students which included musical performances from staff and students from the MA Music Therapy and MA Songwriting programme (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) and presentations from the Creative Writing section (School of English, Irish, and Communication).

Special performances at the event included two poems (Limerick format) composed by MA Creative Writing student, Elaine Kiely on the subject of Ryan's departure from the Late Late Show after 14 years and a song penned especially for Ryan by MA Songwriting student Sarbik Guha. A gift of the sheet music of this original song was presented to Ryan by Stephen Ryan, Course Director, MA Songwriting. Ryan also received a gift of the specially commissioned book celebrating UL's 50 year anniversary "Dreams", edited by faculty from the MA Creative Writing programme, Prof. Joseph O'Connor, Prof. Eoin Devereux and Prof. Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald. Prof. Eoin Devereux presented this gift along with a selection of novels authored by Creative Writing Faculty and alumni of the programme. This event was held ahead of a live radio broadcast of the Ryan Tubridy show on the UL campus on the 24th May. which also featured members of faculty including Donal Ryan (School of English, Irish, and Communication), Prof. Jennifer Scheppe (School of Law) and Prof. Amanda Haynes (Department of Sociology).



# Launch of DREAMS

DREAMS, a commemorative book documenting 50 years of creativity, culture and community at University of Limerick was launched. UL Professor of Creative Writing and international bestselling author Prof. Joseph O'Connor devised and lead-edited the special collection of essays in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the University's foundation, with co-editors Prof. Eoin Devereux and Prof. Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald. The sumptuously illustrated book, published by Irish Academic Press, features fifty contributions from or about people associated with the University, including, among others - Dr. Sindy Joyce (Dept. of Sociology), Loretta Glucksman, internationally acclaimed composer Bill Whelan, poet Mary O'Malley, entrepreneur Paddy Meskell, Noel Hogan of The Cranberries, Irish rugby legend Paul O'Connell, award winning author Donal Ryan, human rights activist Donnah Vuma and President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins remembering Jim Kemmy. A wide variety of writing is featured, with poetry, personal memoirs, scholarly essays, and students' tweets among the rich contributions celebrating a wide spectrum of members of the UL community, from catering and ground staff to teachers, researchers, inspirational current students, and alumni. Speaking at the launch of DREAMS at UL's Plassey House, UL President Prof. Kerstin Mey said: "It is very difficult to capture the essence of a place at a moment in time but this is precisely what Prof. Joseph O'Connor and co editors Prof. Eoin Devereux and Prof. Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald have achieved with DREAMS. This magnificent text will hold its place as an anthology of creative and scholarly writings to celebrate our milestone fiftieth anniversary. Prof. Joseph O'Connor said: "To have been asked by University of Limerick to devise and project-manage the fiftieth anniversary book was an honour and a challenge, for which I am profoundly grateful. When researchers and readers in the future want to know what UL was like in 2023, they will have this book, made by so many of us who value and believe in this place, as map of where we were, and of where we wanted to go."



**UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

# 50

Reflecting | Connecting | Transforming  
Machnamh | Nasc | Gníomh

# Awards



## School of Law wins "Practical Law Book of the Year"

'Byrne and McCutcheon on the Irish Legal System' won Practical Law Book of the Year at the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association awards. The book was written by Prof. Paul McCutcheon and Dr. Laura Cahillane (School of Law), along with Ray Byrne and Emma Roche-Cagney. The book, which has been a staple of Irish law students for many years, is now in its 7th edition and the judges of the award commented on its utility and versatility given that it is an essential book not just for students but for practitioners and judges too.

This book is considered to be the foundational work on the Irish legal system. It is frequently cited as a leading authority in Courts and by practitioners and academics. It is also the principal authoritative source referred to by International scholars when writing about the Irish legal system. It provides a detailed analysis of the Irish legal system and its history, the legal profession and law officers of the state, the administration of justice, the legislative process, and a deep analysis of sources of law and the Irish Constitution.

## Charlemont Grant Awards

Dr. Cecilia Benaglia from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics was awarded a Charlemont Grant from the Royal Irish Academy for her project titled "Women Writers-Mediators in the 20th Century: Michèle Causse, Feminist Translator". The grant will enable Dr Benaglia to visit the Swiss Literary Archives in Bern which host documents pertaining the works of Michèle Causse and Alice Ceresa, including their correspondence.

Dr. Bronagh Ann McShane, Department of History won an award for her study 'Global Women Religious: the case of the Irish Dominican Sisters in South Africa'. Incorporating digital and oral history approaches, the project investigates the role of the Congregation of Irish Dominican Sisters in the history of global Catholicism, from the late nineteenth century, when the IDS first initiated their missionary activities in Cape Town, South Africa, down to the present day.

The Royal Irish Academy's Charlemont Grants Scheme is an international research scheme awarded to outstanding early career researchers in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.



# Research News



## Irish World Academy Tower Seminar: 'We will tell everyone!' Learning About the Experience of Living With Dementia Through Song

On March 29th 2023, a hybrid Tower Seminar took place at the Irish World Academy in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the HRI. At this event, a song written by a Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) group who have been collaborating with Lisa Kelly on her PhD research at the Academy on telehealth music therapy for people living with dementia and their supporters, was launched.

The group wrote a song about their experiences of living with dementia, facilitated by esteemed songwriter Carl Corcoran and Lisa Kelly, which was performed live on the day. Chaired by Prof Hilary Moss, the event included presentations from the PPI contributors, music therapists, eminent geriatrician Prof Desmond O'Neill, and was launched by Prof Anne MacFarlane.





## Dr. Scott Fitzsimmons: Erasmus+ teaching visit to the University of Malta

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Scott Fitzsimmons undertook an Erasmus+ teaching visit to the Department of International Affairs at the University of Malta in March 2023. As Europe's premier international exchange program, Erasmus+ offers educators the opportunity to gain professional development and cultural immersion through teaching and learning in a different country. The University of Malta is an excellent destination for this type of visit, given its vibrant academic community and strategic location in the heart of the Mediterranean. During the visit, he had the chance to share his expertise on international organizations, theories of international relations, military alliances, collective security, and Donald Trump's negotiating style as well as strengthening links between the Universities of Limerick and Malta and interacting with students from a diverse range of countries. The trip proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for all involved.

### Connecting Cartography: The Looney Map of Tipperary

Dr. Catherine Porter (Geography section) delivered a lecture titled 'Connecting Cartography: The Looney Map of Tipperary' as part of the Tipperary People and Place Lecture Series at 7pm on 25th April at The Source Arts Centre, Thurles. Funded by the Faculty, the research team has recently developed an interactive online resource to facilitate exploration of the 'Looney Map' extant in Special Collections and Archives, UL. In this lecture, Catherine introduced the online resource and the on-going research into the cartography. The online resource can be accessed here: [shorturl.at/cfHRV](https://shorturl.at/cfHRV) A related co-authored publication (with Dr Zenobie Garrett, Dr Rebecca Milligan, Caleb Derven and Ken Bergin) can also be accessed here: [https://e-perimetron.org/Vol\\_17\\_4/Porter\\_et\\_al.pdf](https://e-perimetron.org/Vol_17_4/Porter_et_al.pdf).

# Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy

Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) and Chair in Applied Languages, was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and was formally admitted at a recent Admittance Ceremony. The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) is an independent, all-island learned society established under Charter in 1785. It has approximately 650 Members, chosen for their distinguished contributions to scholarship and research in the sciences, humanities, social sciences and public service. Membership is by election and considered the highest academic honour in Ireland.



## The Public Policy Agendas on a Shared Island Project

The Public Policy Agendas on a Shared Island (PPASI) project is led by Dr. Conor Little (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) and partners include Dr. Michele Crepaz and Prof. Muiris MacCarthaigh (Queen's University Belfast), Dr. Shaun Bevan (University of Edinburgh), Dr. Mary Murphy (University College Cork), Dr. Catherine Lynch (Houses of the Oireachtas Library and Research Service), and Prof. Christoffer Green-Pedersen (Aarhus University). It is funded by the Irish Research Council's New Foundations scheme and is also supported by the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI) and the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (HAPP) at Queen's University Belfast.

The PPASI project aims to examine politics and policymaking on the island of Ireland by measuring the allocation of attention to policy issues in legislation, party manifestos, and in shared institutions of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

The first peer-reviewed articles from the Irish Policy Agendas Project (of which the PPASI project is a part) were published recently. Contact [conor.little@ul.ie](mailto:conor.little@ul.ie) if you wish to be added to the PPASI mailing list.

# HSE Funding for 'Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation' (DNACPR) Research

Dr John Lombard (School of Law) was awarded €89,810 from the HSE in order to conduct research on Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders and to lead the development of a stand-alone DNACPR policy for Ireland.

This research will shape DNACPR practice for all HSE and HSE funded staff in the State.



## Professor Jennifer Scheppe: 3rd meeting of Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime

Prof. Jennifer Scheppe (School of Law) participated in the 3rd meeting of Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime in Strasbourg 30-31 March, where she was tasked by the Committee with preparing the draft Recommendation and Explanatory Memorandum for review and deliberation. The PC/ADI-CH is a subordinate committee to the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and to the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI).

It is composed of national experts nominated by their respective governments, as well as four independent experts and representatives from international organisations and civil society, of which Prof Scheppe is one.

# Dr. Ann Marcus-Quinn presentation to Oireachtas Education Committee

Dr Ann Marcus-Quinn (EIC) was invited to present to the Oireachtas education committee on the future of STEM in Irish Education. The Irish Times reported on her contribution to the roundtable discussion in an article also published on April 18th <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/education/2023/04/18/parents-forced-to-pay-up-to-1000-for-digital-devices-in-school-despite-cost-of-living-crisis/>

## Dr. Lydia Bracken appointed to Young Academy of Ireland (RIA)

Dr. Lydia Bracken, Assistant Dean, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has been appointed as one of the inaugural members of the Young Academy of Ireland (YAI). The YAI is an initiative of the Royal Irish Academy that promotes engagement between early career researchers and innovators (ECRIs) to tackle important issues and challenges in society and promote meaningful change. The YIA will also support ECRIs in leadership roles, contribute to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and develop networks and skills. More information about the YAI and the inaugural members can be accessed on the Royal Irish Academy website: <https://www.ria.ie/news/young-academy-ireland/young-academy-ireland-announces-first-members>

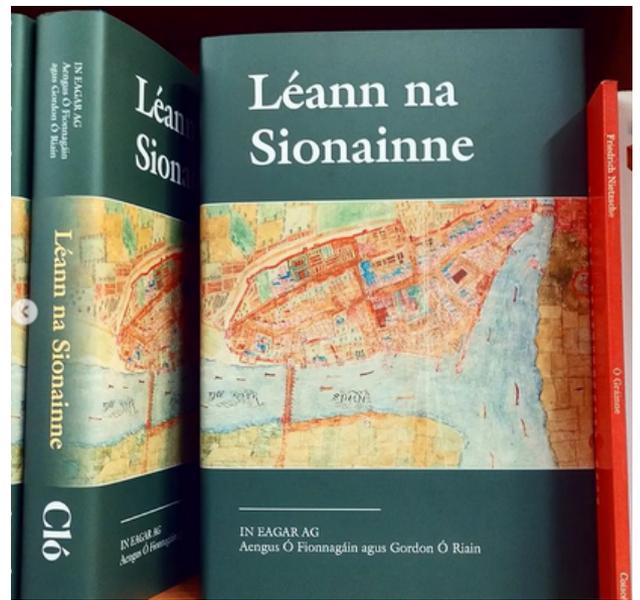


# Dr. Eleanor J. Giraud awarded an IRC New Foundations Grant

Dr Eleanor J. Giraud (IWAMD) has been awarded an IRC New Foundations grant to run a collaborative project with the Irish Dominican Province, which will re-examine the medieval roots of the Dominican Order in Ireland. 2024 will mark the 800th anniversary since the arrival of the Dominican Order in Ireland. Upon arrival, the Dominicans spread quickly and made a point of interacting and integrating with local populations

In preparation for jubilee celebrations in 2024, this collaborative project will run from until September 2023 and will:

- create a network of interested scholars in Ireland and abroad,
- collaborate to identify extant manuscripts and other artefacts that shed light on medieval Irish Dominican activities, and
- facilitate awareness and further study of medieval Irish Dominican heritage through the digitisation of key manuscripts, and a virtual exhibition.



## Book Publication

Dr Aengus Ó Fionnagáin and Dr Gordon Ó Riain (School of English, Irish and Communication) recently published a co-edited volume of essays entitled *Léann na Sionainne*. The volume covers various topics on Irish language and literature from the early modern period to the present day. Among the subjects discussed are folklore, gender, medicine, bardic poetry, the Fenian cycle, 18th- and 19th-century poetry, textual editing, the song tradition, the poems of Seán Ó Ríordáin, and language acquisition in Ireland and Scotland. The book was awarded funding of €8250 by Foras na Gaeilge and is published by the imprint Cló Léann na Gaeilge.

This volume has been published to mark 50 years of the study of Irish in the university, as part of UL50. It features an essay by Aengus Ó Fionnagáin which explores the origins of *Léann na Gaeilge* in NIHE and Thomond College of Education, and traces the ongoing growth and development of the subject in the university since 1991'



## One year of the SALAAM Research project

This year, UL research week 2023 coincided with the third meeting of the steering group for the EU Commission funded Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) project which is led by Dr James Carr (Dept. of Sociology). The steering group consists of project partners (Doras; the Immigrant Council of Ireland; and the Irish Network Against Racism) as well as national and international experts. This meeting was particularly meaningful, marking as it did the successful completion of one year of the SALAAM project. During this time, the project team, including Post-doctoral researcher Dr Nasrin Khandoker (Dept. of Sociology), have engaged in extensive fieldwork which has involved interviewing 69 staff from seven Local Authorities as well as conducting interviews/focus groups with 193 people from within Muslim communities across four Irish cities. As discussed at the meeting, the findings that have emerged from these engagements not only shed new light on the topic of anti-Muslim hatred in Ireland, but also provide an important basis as to how this phenomenon can be challenged in the Irish context, but also internationally.

## Visiting Professorship to the University of Zurich

Dr Lydia Bracken (School of Law) recently undertook a visiting professorship to the Faculty of Law at the University of Zurich as part of the Human Reproduction Reloaded project. This project explores the rapidly changing medical technology on human reproduction and its sociological, societal, ethical and legal implications.

As part of the visiting professorship, Dr Bracken delivered workshops to project members on the best interests of the child in assisted human reproduction and integrating gender and diversity perspectives into research. She also delivered a public talk on the topic of international surrogacy and held office hours with project members and students.



# Students



## Intergenerational Community Event

Intergeneration Week took place from 24 to 30 April 2023. As part of the campaign a community event between retirees from Probus and UL students took place in Bobby Byrnes (Limerick City) on the 25th of April. Organised in collaboration with UL HR EDI office and the office of the VPGCE, Student Community Engagement Liaison Officer, Andrea La Touche planned an intergenerational Narrative 4 story exchange. The event was facilitated by Dr Florence Le Baron-Earle and Dr Maria Rieder (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics), Dr Niamh Lenahan (Faculty office, AHSS), and PhD candidate Leticia Scheidt (Dept of Psychology).

## Student Presentation to Limerick Citizens Information Service

Fourth Year Law Plus students on the Advanced Lawyering project – Migrant Workers' Employment Rights in Ireland – presented Information sheets to the management and staff of the Limerick Citizens Information Service on migrant rights in Ireland.

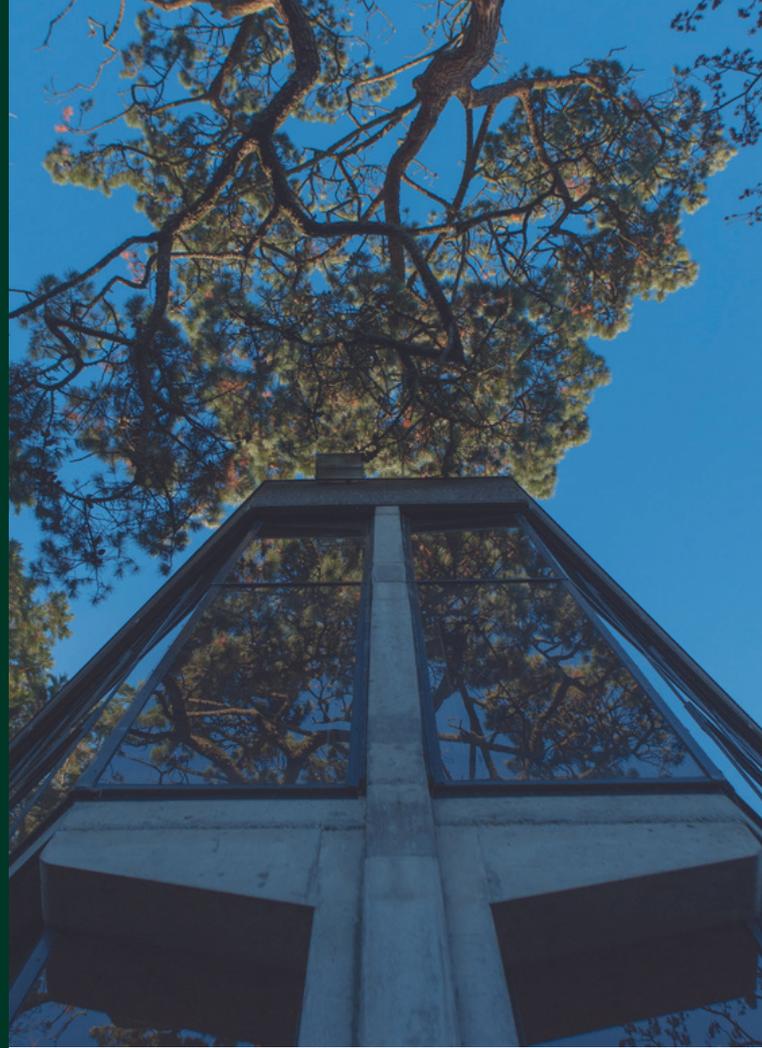
The feedback from the Citizens Information Service was exceptionally positive. They were so impressed with the information sheets that they are planning to utilise them in their work with service users. It is a testament to the students on the project that their work is directly helping migrant workers who are coming to Ireland.



# Success for journalism students at the Student Media Awards

UL journalism students have scooped four awards at the National Student Media Awards. Curious Magazine produced by third year journalism class was named Magazine of the Year and also won the award for Layout and Design of the Year. Two editors of the Limerick Voice multimedia news platform were also winners at the annual awards ceremony, that brings together media industry leaders, educators, and students from across Ireland. Limerick Voice Digital Editor Rachel Pettricrew won the award for Journalism Relating to Health and Aislinn Kelly Limerick Voice Business and Agriculture Editor was named Features Writer of the Year Arts and Pop Culture.

UL journalism students received 15 nominations at this year's SMEDIAS, which is testament to the talent of the University's undergraduate and post graduate students, according to Dr. Kathryn Hayes, Course Director BA Journalism and Digital Communication. "We are extremely proud of all of our students who were nominated for awards in highly competitive categories at this year's SMEDIAS and of those who received awards. This is well deserved industry recognition of the excellent work our students have been producing across multimedia news platforms, which is an integral part of journalism education in UL."



## Creative writing win at the Prix Laurence

UL Creative Writing student Maxime Heim won the Audience Award at the Prix Laurence in Luxembourg, a major European award for young writers. Maxime's winning poem, 'I Am the City', was written as part of his MA Creative Writing coursework, with the support of Dr Emily Cullen, Meskell UL-Fifty Poet in Residence.

Prof. Joseph O'Connor commented, 'We are immensely proud of Maxime's exceptional achievement, which is a testament to his skill, dedication and hard work.'



## The Ogham Stone 2023



The 2023 edition of The Ogham Stone was launched on the 13th April 2023, this literary journal is produced by students in UL's MA in English and MA in Creative Writing programmes. This year's edition of the journal showcases work by UL students, staff, and alumni. It features an introduction by Prof. Sarah Moore-Fitzgerald as well as guest contributions by Emily Cullen, Jack Fennell, Victoria Kennefick, Donal Ryan, and Joseph Woods. The theme of the 2023 edition is 'Metamorphosis.' The stories, poems, and nonfiction in this issue explore transformations of various kinds, reflecting 'anxieties about the fragility and mutability of identity' as well as conveying 'a sense of magic, tapping into new potential, [and] bending the boundaries of existence'. The artwork for this year's edition reflects the theme. The students have also designed a brand-new website to showcase the journal. A link to purchase a copy and/or download a digital version is available [on this website](#). The journal was launched as part of the annual MA Creative Writing/MA Songwriting Open mic Performance event.

## Unveiling ceremony of the Feeney Way

Irish World Academy students and Stepping Stone Scholarship recipients performed at the unveiling ceremony of the Feeney Way in the Glucksman Library. Prof. Helen Phelan, Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, spoke to the importance of the scholarships and the historical support of Chuck Feeney and the Atlantic Philanthropists.

## Irish World Academy siblings perform on the Late Late Show

Congratulations to siblings Caoimhe (BA in Irish Music) and Seamus Ui Fhlatharta (BA in Applied Languages) on their stunning song performance on the Late Late Show. Seamus and Caoimhe have also launched an EP, produced by Bill Whelan.





## Trad Café - Lunchtime Performances

A series of free lunchtime traditional music performances took place throughout the semester. Talented students from the BA in Irish Music at the Irish World Academy performed a series of free lunchtime concerts in Café Allegro (Foundation Building) this Spring! With three students per session playing a variety of instruments including banjo, whistle, box, fiddle and harp as well as song, these lunchtime treats were the perfect interlude to a busy day.

## Irish World Academy Music Café

The Irish World Music café was delighted to be joined by Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for a few tunes at the University of Limerick City Campus. The Academy, in partnership with Doras Luimní, holds the Irish World Music Café in Limerick city as a social and cultural event where new migrants can meet other people living in Ireland. The cafés are an important part of research about the impact of music on the health and well-being of migrants, led by Prof. Helen Phelan, the Director of the Irish World Academy, and Prof. Anne MacFarlane, Chair of Primary Healthcare at the University. The sessions are led by musicians from the Academy, in particular Ewa Zak-Dyndal, a PhD Arts Practice student. Doras Luimní is an independent non-governmental organisation working to promote and protect the rights of migrants in Ireland and their staff Ahmed Hassan and Serhii Korobtsov, recognise how important music is for people’s wellbeing and social inclusion in a new country.

The cafés are a reminder that music is one of the most effective ways for human beings to connect with each other, and to celebrate both cultural differences and human similarities.



# Undergraduate Careers Evening

Prospective students, parents, guardians & guidance counsellors from local schools and further afield attended an on campus Careers Evening on Wednesday 26th April focusing on undergraduate programmes offered by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

The evening was a success thanks to the contribution of our graduates and the support of members of faculty including Dr. Chris McNerney (Course Director, BA Arts) and Executive Dean FAHSS, Dr. Sandra Joyce who extended a warm welcome address to all. Attendees heard from a diverse selection of inspiring alumni employed in a wide variety of sectors.

All spoke warmly about their time in UL and applauded the level of support, guidance and motivation they experienced. Several graduates also mentioned the flexibility they enjoy in terms of careers opportunities and the fact that employers hold our graduates in high esteem.

It was great to be able to welcome prospective students in person once again as this is the first time the event has been held in person in recent years.

This type of engagement with prospective students will continue as it has proven to be an excellent opportunity to spark interest in career possibilities and raise aspirations for further study under the banner of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

#Study At UL

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Dáin, Daonnachtaí agus Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta  
Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences  
**Careers Evening**

On Campus, 6.30pm Wednesday 26th April 2023

Prospective undergraduate students, parents, guardians and teachers are invited to join this on campus evening where they will hear from a selection of our graduates as they discuss the varied career paths they have taken after pursuing undergraduate degrees from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences including Law, Journalism, Arts and Languages.

Register here

## Other undergraduate events that occurred throughout the semester include:

- German play, 'Woyzeck' - 23rd March
- Law for A Day - 4th April
- Arts for A Day - 5th April
- Art History revision evening - 26th April





## 50 Years of European Studies at UL

A celebratory UL@50 event to mark 50 years of European Studies took place at the University recently. Hosted by Prof. Joachim Fischer (Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) and Dr. Sorcha de Brún (English, Irish, and Communications) and organized by a working committee in AHSS and the UL@50 team, the hybrid event saw Alumni, faculty, guests, and current students come together in the Millstream Common Room and online in a series of panels and presentations followed by Q&A sessions, with discussions exploring the changing nature of European Studies in the 21st century.

Introduced by the Provost, Prof. Shane Kilcommins, Prof. Emerita Brigid Laffan of the European University Institute delivered her keynote speech on 'The 21st Century Dynamic of European Integration', where she underlined for the assembled guests the current tensions within Europe and the concept of collective power that the European project embodies. Amongst those in attendance were Mr. Stephen Ryan of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Prof. Emeritus Professor Edward Moxon Browne; and Ms. Jutta Jennings of the German-Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce, all of whom noted the high calibre of graduates from European Studies and spoke of the continued demand for these graduates in the public and private sector.

## The Centre for Irish-German Studies Guest Lecture - John Gormley

The Centre for Irish-German Studies was delighted to host a guest lecture and discussion with John Gormley, chaired by Prof Kerstin Mey, UL President. John is the former Irish Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and former Leader, Green Party.

In his talk he discussed his personal journey into environmental issues and specifically what role his time in Germany played and links between the German and Irish Green parties. This event took place in a blended format on the 21 March 2023 in the Millstream Common Room.



## A day of celebration honouring past colleagues from the Irish World Academy and Irish Chamber Orchestra

'House of Light' was the original description given to the Irish World Academy building by architect Daniel Cordier to describe his vision of a building that interacts with the world around it – the River Shannon, the Clare hills, the 'Living Bridge' – and encourages creative collaboration and vision. This year's House of Light event, Calling the Clans, celebrated the legacy of past colleagues from the Irish World Academy and Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO). The day-long celebration featured three special events, the first of which celebrated the conferring of an honorary doctorate on Professor Jörg Widmann (pictured). The second event, the Tower interviews, featured a series of public interviews with past colleagues, including Carl Corcoran, Dr Catherine Foley, Dr Mary Nunan and Dr Colin Quigley. The day culminated in The Three Forges concert, curated by Professor Mel Mercier for the Irish Gamelan Orchestra and guests.

## Children of Achill and Robert Henri (1865-1929) History Festival

Dr. Ciara Breathnach (Department of History) and Dr. SORCHA DE BRÚN (School of English, Irish, and Communication) were delighted to present their ongoing research at the inaugural Children of Achill and Robert Henri (1865-1929) History Festival held at Keel Community Hall on 25 March. Henri was an American artist who visited Achill annually from 1913 until 1928. During his visits he painted portraits of the people, primarily the children. None remain in Ireland: they sold to the great and the good of Irish America and some grace the walls of America's finest museums and galleries. The event began with a history panel titled Childhood in Nineteenth Century Ireland, was followed by an innovative intergenerational art project where the current generation of children from Achill presented their own self-portraits, and the final panel focused on art history. Dr. Breathnach's paper focused on the social history of child and youth labour and the tradition of seasonal migration from Achill Island that continued well into the 1950s.

Dr. de Brún focused on the changing fortunes of the Irish language and its decline, in part owing to economic necessity. This community driven history initiative emerged when a descendant of one the child sitters and an Achill resident, Sarah Lavelle, approached the Museum of Childhood in Ireland to find ways of capturing this unique heritage. Children of Achill and Robert Henri (1865-1929) is the first of a series of events that aims to capture this unique social history. The event was organized in partnership with Achill Tourism and generously funded by Mayo County Council. Dr. Breathnach is a member of the organizing committee, along with Dr. Sarah-Anne Buckley, University of Galway. Further reading about the festival at this link. <https://museumofchildhood.ie/robert-henri-and-the-children-of-achill-island-1913-1928/>

# The School of Law welcomes top legal team from Google

The School of Law was delighted to host an event in the Appellate Court this semester with the top legal team from Google in Ireland, presenting a series of talks on topical issues in online content regulation both specifically and at a broader level of the potential role for Ireland as a leading regulatory hub for Europe. Sinead Eaton (School of Law) was in conversation with Ruth Murphy, Head of Legal at Google Ireland giving further detail on the role of General Counsel for a multinational tech company in Ireland.



## Message in a Bottle: Poetry Day Ireland Event

Dr. Emily Cullen and Prof. Eoin Devereux, UL Creative Writing co-organized a very successful Poetry Reading event to celebrate Poetry Day, Ireland on the 27th of April. Held in the Bourn Vincent Gallery, a capacity audience were treated to readings by guest poet Anton Floyd, Emily Cullen, Eoin Devereux and Donal Ryan. Students on the MA in Creative Writing Emily Folley, Maxime Heim, Elaine Kiely, Rian Upton Mescal, Anna Ryan Moloney, Jack Reid, Sarah Lou Ryan, Mairin Stronge and Barry Treacy read from their work. "Poetry is often a vital act of compression" said Emily Cullen, the Meskeil Poet in Residence. "In keeping with this year's theme of 'Message in a Bottle,' the students on the MA in Creative Writing composed urgent new poems with important messages about our times, which they cast out for Poetry Day," Cullen said.

"A particular focus of our event was the plight of international refugees" said co-organiser, Prof. Eoin Devereux and we are delighted that our guest poet, Anton Floyd, read from his collection, *Depositions* (Doire Press, 2022), which engages with the international refugee crisis and themes of war and displacement."

Now based in West Cork, Anton Floyd was born in Egypt, a Levantine mix of Irish, Maltese, English and French Lebanese. His first poetry collection, *Falling into Place* (2018) was published by Revival Press. Floyd edited *Remembrance Suite* (2018), a chapbook of sonnets by Shirin Sabri and an international anthology of poems, *Point by Point* (2018).



# International



## New Study Abroad Student Practicum at Access Campus; teaching Ukrainian learners of English in the community

A new community-based practicum has been created for Study Abroad (SA) students at UL involving the teaching of English as a foreign language to members of the Ukrainian community in Limerick. This includes an initial, introductory teacher education course that also features trauma-informed training. The first practicum took place at the Access Campus hub in Roxboro, between April and May 2023 and was organised by Michelle Daly from the TESOL/Linguistics Section of the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, AHSS, in conjunction with Katherine Martin, Head of the Study Abroad programme at UL Global, Donal O’Leary, Coordinator of UL Access Campus, and PhD students from the International Structured PhD Programme with the latter providing guidance and mentorship to the eight SA students who participated. Featured in the photo above are the eight SA students who participated in the Practicum: Samantha Corteal, Halle Gentry Funk, Jackson Meadow, Dezerae Pelot, Rebekah Siekierski, Emily Olson, Veeka Malanchuk and Kenneth Buckley with Katherine Martin, UL Global, Angela Farrell, ADI AHSS, and Michelle Daly, MLAL, and in the second photograph are learners from the Ukraine who participated in the classes in the Access Campus hub in Roxboro, Limerick.

Study Abroad student Jackson Meadow’s talks about his experience of teaching on the Practicum on the following link: [Jackson Meadow – Student Video Testimonial – Practicum Experience.mp4](#)



# Culture Shocked!: Launch of exhibition celebrating cultural diversity



**CULTURE SHOCKED!** is an exhibition comprising fifty original comic-style illustrations celebrating cultural diversity. The artworks depict authentic anecdotes of cultural misunderstandings with humour. The project is part of a series of events taking place around the campus as our institution marks its fiftieth anniversary. The opening reception took place on 23rd March 2023. Project Leader Dr Florence Le Baron-Earle, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, explained how the exhibition came together with the collaboration of UL staff, students, and the wider community who shared anecdotes of cross-cultural encounters. She expressed her gratitude to all the people who contributed including the five illustrators - Julie Alquier, Megan Brophy, Edison Cai, Thomas Cunningham, and Lakeisha Lazo - the organising committee, Patricia Moriarty (UL Arts Officer) and Yvonne Davis (curator).

Dr Anca Minescu, Assistant Dean International, Faculty of EHS, congratulated everyone involved in bringing the intercultural project to fruition. She praised the team for their creative energy, seeing it as a true reflection of UL's spirit. She highlighted that the illustrations are fun but also have the academic rigour to be used for workshops raising cross-cultural awareness. The art gallery will be visited by local schools in the coming weeks as part of an outreach initiative facilitated by the Access Office.

**CULTURE SHOCKED!** has been made possible with the financial support of UL Visual Arts (Corporate Secretary's Office); University of Limerick Arts Office (Student Affairs Division); The School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics; the Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty Teaching Board; the ADI Internationalisation Fund; UL Global, and The Tell Your Own Story Project.

The **CULTURE SHOCKED!** exhibition is open to the public at the Bourne Vincent Gallery, Concert Hall, UL, until 30th June 2023.

You are invited to  
**CULTURE SHOCKED!**  
Visual Impressions of  
Intercultural Encounters

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
50  
Reflecting Centenary  
Translating  
MacInnesh  
Sine Coluinn

Opening Reception and Launch on **23 March 2023**  
at **1.00pm** at the **Bourn Vincent Gallery**, Foundation  
Building, University of Limerick.

by **Professor Kerstin Mey**, President, UL and **Dr Florence Le  
Baron-Earle**, University Teacher in French and Technology,  
School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics.

.....

**CULTURE SHOCKED!** is a compilation of fifty original comic-style  
illustrations celebrating the cultural diversity of UL's community as the  
institution celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, centred on themes of UL  
Culture, Language, Dress, Food, Customs, Gestures and Superstitions.

# Language Centre takes part in Limerick City St. Patrick's Day parade

The University of Limerick Language Centre (ULLC) took part in this year's Limerick city St. Patrick's Day parade. ULLC joined up on the day with the bigger entry from UL, with Maura Casey working closely with Andrea La Touche to ensure that all students had the best day out – in fact, a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in such an occasion. ULLC had students participating from all around the world including Japan, China and Kuwait. It was a fantastic and memorable day for all involved.



## Argentinian Students visit UL Language Centre

In the first week of January 2023, the University of Limerick Language Centre welcomed another group of students from Argentina. The students, 54 in total, came with Colonias De Inmersion Al Idioma, a longstanding partner of the ULLC based in Buenos Aires, and arrived in stages from 3rd to 25th January. Fresh from winning the World Cup and leaving behind the subsequent parties, and Argentinean summer, the students enlivened the campus in the quiet days of early January. ULLC provided a programme based around language and culture, with the students learning about Irish history, music, cinema, literature, customs and traditions, while also exploring the historical, cultural and sporting ties between the two countries. In the mornings the groups visited the sights of Limerick and environs, taking in Lough Gur, the Milk Market, Bunratty and then seeing Dublin, Cork and Galway at the weekends.



They had school exchanges where they shared their culture and traditions with the students they met and they also made great use of the sports facilities on campus, particularly the UL Arena. ULLC looks forward to welcoming more students from Argentina in the coming months.



## Africa Day 2023

The Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group (LIAF) took part in Africa Day 2023 in Dublin, organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Last year LIAF took part in Limerick's Africa Day in the Hunt Museum and there have been a number of activities since 136 Algerian PhD students arrived in January 2021 in UL.

LIAF is run by a steering group consisting of members from the University of Limerick, including the ISPhD course director Dr Angela Farrell, intercultural advocate Michelle Daly, PhD supervisor Dr Marieke Krajenbrink and members of Limerick City & County Council (including Arts Officer Dr Pippa Little) and an executive group of four Algerian PhD students (Randa Brachouche, Oum Charrak, Rayene Larkeche and Meriem Zine); chair is Prof Gisela Holfter, co-chair Andrea LaTouche, Student Community Engagement Liaison Officer.



There have been numerous events since the first public event including photo competitions, guided tours, arts and crafts workshops, contributions to Culture Night 2021 and 2022 as well as Africa Day and St Patrick's Day, coffee mornings, lecture series etc. A particular highlight was a Tree Planting ceremony with the UL President, the Mayor of Limerick and the Algerian ambassador to Ireland – the start for an Algerian Oak Forest on the grounds of the University of Limerick. In 2022/23 there were also several textile workshops, a guided city tour and LIAF co-organised the Eid celebrations on 21st April 2023.

## New Summer School for Ukrainian Students at UL funded by USFI

Following the initial, academic and intercultural bridging programme that was offered to incoming Ukrainian students in June to August 2022 in order to support their academic, social and cultural integration in to the UL community, a new summer programme will be provided in June and July 2023 in order to prepare students from this background for their second year of study at UL. This new offering will be supported by the EU Commission which has made financial resources available to Irish universities in order to support Ukrainian student well-being by means of the Ukrainian Student Funding Initiative. In UL, the new summer programme will be taught by graduate interns of the MA in TESOL programme in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, AHSS, and PhD students from the School of Psychology in EHS, and it will seek to address challenges that the students themselves have identified following a review of their first year of study at UL across a range of undergraduate programmes. This initiative follows a successful joint proposal made by Dr Angela Farrell, ADI-AHSS and Dr Anca Minesu, Course Director of the MA in Global Minds programme to the USFI Working Committee which oversees the administration of this fund. It is led by Dr Rhona Mc Cormack, Interim Director of UL Student Affairs at UL.

## The Wild Atlantic Alliance

The Wild Atlantic Alliance (WAA) is a newly formed network of seven coastal Irish and Breton universities that seeks to exploit the common Celtic heritage that Ireland and France share within the European Union.

The WAA is focused on collaboration in teaching and research in the following broad areas of common interest:

- Celtic and Irish Studies
- Ports, Sea and Water
- Digital Transformation
- Environment and Sustainability



The inaugural research and teaching symposium of the WAA was held on 29th March 2023 on board L'Armorique, a Brittany Ferries' ship that connects Roscoff and Cork. The formal opening was attended by the French Ambassador to Ireland, the Irish Ambassador to France, the Presidents of the WAA partner universities, civic representatives of the home cities and other dignitaries and academics from the seven universities.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Nigel Healey, Vice President for Global and Community Engagement at the University of Limerick, wished the 160 academics in attendance well.

"Today we bring our teams together to meet physically, to befriend each other, to explore the potential for a common future of research and teaching. In order to lay the foundations for a future European Union that will be a foundation for projects of all kinds, we hope that by this evening we will be able to agree on the next concrete steps to be taken to deepen our alliance, be it through shared cultural events, joint research projects or new partnerships in teaching."

Over the course of the next year, discussions will take place with faculty in AHSS and in the other UL faculties to explore potential areas for collaboration in relation to these broad thematic areas and to plan for further events that will raise awareness of the new alliance and help to strengthen ties between the seven institutional partners.

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



## AHSS Athena Swan Update

UL has become the first institution in the Irish Higher Education Sector to receive a prestigious Silver Athena Swan Institution Award. This success builds on UL's established commitment to advancing gender equality having become one of the first institutions in Ireland to achieve an Athena Swan Bronze Institution Award in 2015. The Silver award recognises the impact of the committed actions in previous submissions and a commitment to continued progress to address this area

AHSS was awarded a Bronze Athena SWAN award in 2020, which will be due for renewal in 2024. The Faculty will apply for renewal to a Silver award at that time. Work has now commenced on the Faculty's Silver application. As part of this, the AHSS Athena SWAN Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee has divided into a number of working groups to work on the application and will meet once a month until the submission deadline.

The [AHSS Athena SWAN Agreed Principles for Websites, Events and Committees](#) encourage event organisers to consider diversity in the selection of speakers at events.



# UL Anti-Racism Month 2023

To mark Anti-Racism Month, the Ethnic Diversity Forum organised a series of events during the month of March, which were centred on a different core theme for each week of the month:

Week 1: Empathy Building

Week 2: Celebrating Culture

Week 3: Challenging Racism

Week 4: Pedagogies of Anti-Racism

A number of AHSS staff and students led and participated in events during the month.

Congratulations to all involved in this important series of events!

**ANTI-RACISM MONTH 2023**

## A University for All

**WEEK ONE: BUILDING EMPATHY**  
March 6th-March 9th: **Narrative 4 Story Exchanges**  
March 8th: **International Women's Day, EDI conference**  
5-7pm, **UL Global Holi event**, between UCH and CSIS  
March 9th: 11-12pm **Irish World Music Cafe (IWAMD)**, City Campus  
5pm **Cultural Conversations with Coffee**, KBS/Cube

**WEEK TWO: CELEBRATING CULTURE**  
March 13th: **Culture Fair (Student Life)**  
March 15th: 4-5.30pm **Cross Culture Musical Dialogues: Ireland and Ukraine, IWA Theatre 2**  
March 16th: 11-12.30pm **Irish World Music Café (IWAMD)**, UL City Campus  
5pm **Cultural Conversations with Coffee**, Bernal Cafe  
March 17th: 12pm **St. Patricks Day Parade**, Limerick City

**WEEK THREE: CHALLENGING RACISM**  
March 20th: 11-1pm **How to support the Victims of Racism** (Dr Anca Minescu)  
March 21st: **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, tbc**  
March 23rd: 11-12.30pm **Irish World Music Cafe (IWAMD)**, UL City Campus  
5pm **Cultural Conversations with Coffee**, Pavilion  
March 25th: 10-4pm **Diversity and Intercultural Education Network Launch**, MIC

**WEEK FOUR: PEDAGOGIES OF ANTI-RACISM**  
March 28th: 12.15-1pm **Demystifying racism in health care practice and education** (Dr Kathleen Markey)  
March 30th: 10-12pm **Webinar: Pedagogies of Anti-Racism** (Khadija Mohammed, University of West of Scotland)  
11-12.30 **Irish World Music Cafe (IWAMD)**, UL City Campus  
5pm **Cultural Conversations with Coffee**, Pavilion

Logos: ULPSU, STUDENT LIFE (Being is the Best)

## Aibidil LADTA+/ ABC's of LGBTQ+

Reáchtáil Aonad na Gaeilge i gcomhpháirt le ShoutOut ceardlann idirghníomhach i Seomra na Gaeilge, Áras na dTeangacha ar an 14 Márta do bhaill foirne agus mic léinn. Thug an cheardlann seo blaiseadh de théarmaíocht, féiniúlachtaí agus comhghuallaíocht an phobail LADTA+. Rinneadh áisitheoireacht ar spás sábháilte a thabhairt do dhaoine chun ceisteanna a chur agus tugadh léargas mionsonraithe ar na bealaí éagsúla le meas comhionann a léiriú ar phobal LADTA+.

Aonad na Gaeilge in partnership with ShoutOut provided an interactive workshop for staff and students in Seomra na Gaeilge in the Languages Building on March 14th. This workshop offered an introduction to LGBTQ+ identity, terminology and allyship. A safe space was facilitated for attendees to raise questions and a detailed account was given on the various ways of providing equal respect to the LGBTQ+ community.



# Connections' Podcast

Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes, Centre for Applied Language Studies and School of Modern Languages and Applied Languages, recently participated in an episode of 'Connections', the new podcast series run by [Suicide or Survive](#). Suicide or Survive (SOS) is 'a nationwide Irish charity focussed on breaking down the stigma associated with mental health issues and ensuring that those affected have access to quality recovery services that are right for the individual'. A key aim of SOS is to actively work for 'a society where people embrace their mental health wellness and those with difficulties are treated with dignity and respect'. SOS launched the Connections podcast to raise awareness of mental health and stigma and, in line with this, the topic of Helen's episode is 'language and stigma'. The podcast is run by Alice Hartigan, a graduate of UL's Graduate Certificate in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Alice took the 'Language and Inclusion in Organisations' module which Helen offers as part of the Certificate and based on her experience in the module Alice wanted to explore the role of language in creating or breaking down stigma in relation to mental health. In the episode Helen talks with Alice and Paula Lawlor (CEO of Suicide or Survive) about the positive and negative role of language in our lives and why the language we choose and use everyday matters. They also talk about how to be mindful of our language in relation to perpetuating stereotypes and stigmatization in relation to mental health. The episode is available here: [Connections: Language and Stigma - Connections: Conversations Worth Having | Podcast on Spotify](#)

## Spotlight on Accessibility

The following resources created by [UDL@UL](#) provide helpful advice for creating accessible digital content. See the [UDL@UL webpage](#) for more information and resources.

**UDL @UL** Creating Accessible Digital Content

**Apply Headings**  
Use heading styles to organise page structure and hierarchies.  
H2 H3 H3 H4 H4 H4

**Provide Alternative Text for non text elements**  
A short concise and contextual description of the non text elements.  
● Incorrect: "Picture of flowers"  
● Correct: "yellow, pink and purple flowers"

**Use Descriptive Links**  
Meaningful hyperlink text.  
● Incorrect: "Click here" or "Here is the link"  
● Correct: "Accessibility is crucial to inclusive education at the [University of Limerick](#)"

**Consider Colour**  
When applying meaning, emphasis and contrast.  
● Incorrect: use colour only to convey meaning  
● Correct: use text and symbols to convey meaning, with colour as decoration

**Creating Lists**  
Format data into proper lists.  
● Incorrect: listing items without order  
● Correct: use ordered or unordered list tool

**Creating Tables**  
Keep your tables simple in structure.  
● Incorrect: no header row, merged fields  
● Correct: caption, heading row and/or column

**Including Audio/Video**  
Accompanied with complete and accurate transcripts and closed captioning.  
● Incorrect: no CC or auto-generated CC  
● Correct: CC edited for grammar and punctuation

Use Plain Language

Use Camel Case Hashtags

Consider Hashtag Placement

Use Alt Text

**UDL @UL** Social Media Accessibility

Add Captions

Use Link Shorteners

Reduce Emoji Usage

Keep default Twitter handle font



## Musicians from the Academy perform and highlight Music Therapy on the Late Late Show

Several musicians from the Irish World Academy made an impactful appearance on the Late Late Show. The show's celebration of Tradfest, featured some of the most talented musicians and vocalists in Ireland, including Tara Howley from the BA Irish Music and Dance, Aisling Lyons, a graduate of both the BA Irish Music and Dance and the Professional Masters in Education (Music), as well as Tommy Hayes and Sorcha Costello, graduates of the MA Music Therapy programme. Tommy, a world renowned bodhrán player and percussionist, and Sorcha, a fiddle player and awardee of the TG4 Gradam Ceoil, took the opportunity to talk to Late Late Show host Ryan Tubridy about their daytime careers as music therapists. "It's something I didn't understand at all until I went to see it first-hand" explained Ryan who recalled recently witnessing the positive impacts of music therapy on children. Ryan also recalled 10-year-old Saoibh Longeran, who performed her own song that she composed in music therapy on the Late Late Toy Show.

Both Tommy and Sorcha completed the MA Music Therapy programme at UL which is the only music therapy training on the island of Ireland. "The training that we got through on the Masters course at UL is just amazing, both personally and professionally, it really sets you up for your career" said Sorcha. Tommy also spoke to Ryan about the need for the Irish Government to take action in recognising music therapy as a health profession, following suit of most other countries in Europe. The stellar line-up also included Niwel Tsumbu, who recently performed on the stage of the University Concert Hall with Academy artist-in-residence, Rhiannon Giddens as part of the UL50 celebrations, 'Sounding Sionna'.

# Victory in Supreme Court on Seanad Votes for UL students

Congratulations to AHSS alumnus Tomás Heneghan and to UL School of Law's Dr Laura Cahillane who acted as expert witness in the case where it was argued that the current situation which denies rights of voting in Seanad elections to UL graduates was unconstitutional. The Constitution currently only gives a right to NUI and TCD graduates to vote in Seanad elections, as the only such institutions in existence at the time of its enactment. An amendment passed in 1979 would have allowed for this to be extended but it was never acted upon.

The Supreme Court agreed that this state of affairs was unconstitutional. Dr Cahillane said: "Every year, teaching constitutional law in UL I explain this to my students, and they are perplexed as to why they do not get a vote simply due to happenstance in terms of which university they decided to attend and due to inaction on the part of the Government to change this. Tomás Heneghan felt very strongly about the inequality of this situation and so he took a case, initially as a lay litigant but then with the Free Legal Advice Centres coming on board as legal representation. Today Tomás has won his case in the Supreme Court, which has found that the 1979 amendment must be implemented to allow Seanad votes for all third level institutions. I was delighted to act as an expert witness for the Court, giving evidence on the history of the Seanad provisions and on the context around the amendment in 1979.

The judgments are hugely significant with ramifications for the future interpretation of the Constitution but on a practical level it will mean a lot of work now for government to put in place a fair voting system as soon as possible. The case can be regarded as a victory for democracy and a lesson about the importance of the voice of the people."



# Gradam Ceoil Awards

Alumni from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance featured strongly in the Gradam Ceoil TG4 Music. These prestigious awards recognise those who have contributed to the advancement and preservation of traditional music in Ireland.

Dr Síle Denvir was announced as the recipient of the Singer of the Year award, while Dr Michelle Mulcahy received the Music Group Award alongside her father and sister, Mick and Louise Mulcahy. Both Síle and Michelle completed the Graduate Diploma in Education (Music) at UL.

Síle completed an MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance, after which she undertook doctoral research, exploring the reinterpretation and performance of traditional Irish song in Ireland and Scotland. Michelle completed an MA in Ethnomusicology, followed by an arts practice PhD, exploring Karen, Burmese and Irish harping traditions. The awards ceremony took place at the University Concert Hall, Limerick, on Sunday 23rd April.



# Postgraduate Research



## AHSS Annual Postgraduate Conference

The AHSS Annual Postgraduate Conference took place on 18th and 19th May 2023. A call was sent to postgraduate students from University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College and the Technological University of the Shannon to participate at the event by presenting a paper or poster on the day.

Forty-five papers and twenty three posters were on display by the postgraduate community in the foyer of the Foundation Building. The research provided by the students included a diverse range of topics such as Intimacy in Sally Rooney's writings; teaching and learning expectations between first year undergraduates students and staff; corpus linguistics; Forest School Pedagogy; autism and girls; intercultural communication; climate; education and discovering history through comics. Executive Dean, Dr. Sandra Joyce opened the proceedings welcoming everyone to the University of Limerick. Dr. Christina Morin, ADR thanked everyone for their participation in this year's Conference and looked forward to hearing more about their research. Dr. Niamh Lenahan who co-ordinated the two date event thanked Mary Immaculate College and Technological University of the Shannon staff and participants for their continued support each year and for their involvement in the Conference. Dr. Lenahan hoped that through their presenting and attendance at the event, this would help them to explore their areas of research further, hear about possible new sources, discover new connections with other other postgraduates, connections that could possibly be followed up after the conference. All of these items should help the students research as well as help to build a Limerick based research community.



The postgraduate community chaired the sessions where they introduced the speakers and managed the Q&A sessions that followed. After each session, questions were posed and lively discussions on the topics ensued.

## AHSS Thesis-in-3

The AHSS Thesis-in-3 heat took place on Wednesday, 29th March 2023. Seven excellent PhD researchers from across the faculty competed to represent AHSS in the final on Thursday, 27th April 2023.

Congratulations to all who took part: Moufida Benmoussa, Alaeddine Boutamine, Imane Daca, Saoirse Enright, Zina Hadjadj, Nour Lahiouel, and Wafa Rougab. The presentations were excellent and ably showcased the high-quality research being undertaken by our postgraduate researchers.

The top three contestants who went forward to the final are: 1. Nour Lahiouel (MLAL) 2. Alaeddine Boutamine (Sociology) 3. Wafa Rougab (MLAL).

The final was held during Research Week where the finalists were required to present a summary of their thesis topic and its potential impact in just three minutes. This was followed by a panel of judging providing feedback.

Well done to Nour Lahiouel who won first place at this years competition.

## Postgraduate researcher, Frank Fitzgerald, featured on Newstalk radio

Postgraduate researcher, Frank Fitzgerald, (Department of Politics and Public Administration), featured on 'Taking Stock with Mandy Johnston' on Newstalk radio to discuss the creation of the Department of Energy in the U.K. and his recent RTÉ Brainstorm article on the effects on Government departments of the Taoiseach rotation:

<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2022/1129/1338932-government-departments-reshuffle-reorganisation-ministers-taoiseach/>

Link to podcast here - <https://www.newstalk.com/podcasts/taking-stock/do-we-need-more-government-departments-and-do-we-need-cash>



## AHSS Celebrates PhD Conferings

On Tuesday 17th January 2023, 11 PhD graduands received their parchments. Congratulations to all the graduands, their supervisors and all who supported them on their journey. After the ceremony, the graduands with their families and supervisors were invited to a reception in the Kate O'Brien Room.

Congratulations to the following students - Sultan Alenezi (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics/Centre for Transformative Learning) supervised by Prof. Fiona Farr and Dr. Ide O'Sullivan, Dana Garvin (School of English, Irish and Communication) supervised by Prof. Margaret Harper and Prof. Michael Griffin, Marie Glynn (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) supervised by Dr. Triona McCaffrey, Kai Kippels (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) supervised by Prof. Neil Robinson, Maelle Le Roux (Dept. of Sociology) supervised by Prof. Ciara Breathnach, Claire McCormick (Dept. of History) supervised by Prof. Ciara Breathnach and Dr. Alistair Malcolm, Kevin McNally (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) supervised by Prof. Mel Mercier and Dr. Jenny Roche, Roisin Ni Ghalloglaigh (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) supervised by Dr. Sandra Joyce and Dr. Niall Keegan, Marina Selnitsyna (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) supervised by Prof. Neil Robinson, Michelle Starr (Dept. of Sociology/School of Education) supervised by Dr. Breda Gray and Dr. Aoife Neary, Gautam Gulati (School of Medicine/School of Law) supervised by Prof. Colum Dunne/Dr. Alan Cusack/Prof. Shane Kilcommins.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

***Wishing you all an  
enjoyable summer.***

