

Autumn

2021



AHSS Newsletter



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Dean's Welcome

Fáilte, welcome to our Autumn 2021 Newsletter issue.

Dear colleagues,

I am really pleased to introduce you to the latest edition of the Faculty Newsletter. A special thank you to Oonagh Grace and Torin McGlynn for coordinating its production, and for presenting us with such a splendid publication.

We have over the last six weeks transitioned back in to the UL campus. This was done relatively quickly, and with minimal disruption. I am very grateful to all of our staff across the Faculty. Their professionalism and dedication has ensured that our students can have the best possible campus experience in the circumstances.

The newsletter reminds me once again of industry and creativity of our staff and students. It documents a rich mix of engagements across an extended domain. Our staff, for example, have been recognised through engagements with Emmanuel Macron, Michael D Higgins and the French Ambassador to Ireland, but also through prestigious awards such as the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature. On the curriculum development front, they have developed cutting edge training and accreditation programmes for court intermediaries and for security intelligence professionals in An Garda Síochána. Their research scholarship is both rich and diverse in its reach, revealing the immense curiosity of our talented scholars and their commitment to critical engagement and knowledge expansion. In this newsletter we document some examples, relating to religion and the law, territorial stigmatisation, political representation in Ireland, the realities of rape trials, and music and creativity in healthcare settings. We have also had very significant funding successes in areas such as emerging technologies in the digital humanities and digitally remapping Ireland's ordnance survey heritage.

I am also very impressed by the energy and dynamism that is generated around knowledge exchange, particularly in relation to the hosting of conferences, seminars and summer schools. Some of the events featured in this newsletter include the Corpus Linguistics Conference, the Wild Geese Commemoration, the Blás International Summer School, the Intercultural Summer School, the Summer Initiative programme, Arcadia at the Manchester International Festival, the Eighteenth Century Ireland Annual Conference, the Language for Work initiative, the Dánnerstag poetry project, the Judicial Education and Training Conference and the European Day of Languages event.

Our students and graduates also continue to impress. Oonagh captures some of these successes including the participation of our MA Classical Strings students in the National Concert Hall, the President's Volunteer Awards, the Mincéir Manifesto Play, the Unapologetic Magazine, the establishment of a postcolonial student reading group, the RTE Francis McManus Short Story Award, the IMRO radio award, the Tell Your Own Story Initiative, the Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group, and the TG4 Gradam Ceoil award.

Warm regards,



Professor Shane Kilcommins

Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



Professor Shane Kilcommins
*Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Humanities and Social Sciences*



French President Emmanuel Macron meets with Dr. Joachim Fischer during official visit

President Emmanuel Macron undertook a one-day tour of Dublin, meeting with President Michael D Higgins and Taoiseach Micheál Martin on the 26th August, 2021.

Dr. Joachim Fischer, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics was among a select group of leading intellectuals and academics described "writers and thinkers" who met with President Emmanuel Macron at the special invitation of President Michael D Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin as part of the official visit to Ireland by the French President.

The group discussed Irish History in a discussion chaired by broadcaster Dioreann Ní Bhriain. The visit fulfilled part of an election pledge made by President Macron to visit all 27 EU member states during his presidential term.

During his visit to Áras an Uachtaráin, President Macron wrote in the guestbook that Ireland "occupies a precious place in the heart of the European dream".



Accreditation and training programme for intermediaries in Irish Court System

Dr. Alan Cusack and Prof. Sean Redmond (School of Law) had recent funding success in relation to a proposal to develop an appropriate training and accreditation programme for relevant professionals to be recognised as intermediaries. The accreditation programme tender is focused on designing and delivering a training programme for registered intermediaries to act in Ireland's court system. These trained professionals will assist vulnerable parties in understanding questions that are asked during their examination/cross-examination in court.

As intermediaries, they will be drawn from the country's rank of qualified speech and language therapists, the project is being delivered in collaboration with two colleagues from the School of Applied Health - Dr. Aoife Gallagher and Dr. Áine Kearns. They will take the lead on the communication aspect of the training, and they will oversee the creation of two bespoke, new modules on the topic of courtroom communication and identifying vulnerability. The tender will lead to the creation of a new joint Professional Postgraduate Diploma between the School of Law and School of Allied Health (level 9, minor award).

School of Law Launches New Security Intelligence Programme



On the 6th of September 2021, the School of Law at the University of Limerick was delighted to welcome thirty senior-ranking members of An Garda Síochána onto the School's newest co-curricular programme- GNCSIS Foundation Principles. The programme was launched by course director, Dr. Alan Cusack (School of Law, University of Limerick) together with Superintendent Ciarán Hoey (GNCSIS) and Detective Inspector Seán Fallon (GNCSIS). Candidates also received a warm welcome address from Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security Intelligence Service, Orla McPartlin.

Representing the first programme of its kind in Ireland, this new online module is a twelve week full-time course specifically designed to provide course participants with a greater understanding of the nature of the GNCSIS region and how the distinct but interconnected sections within it function both in their individual capacity and collectively to deliver this policing and security service. The programme will be delivered by a team of expert academics within the School of Law at the University of Limerick in collaboration with a team of highly experienced officers within An Garda Síochána. The GNCSIS – Foundation Principles represents the initial foundational element of a wider Professional Diploma in Crime and Security Intelligence which is expected to be rolled out within the University of Limerick in Autumn 2022.

Awards



Donal Ryan awarded the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature

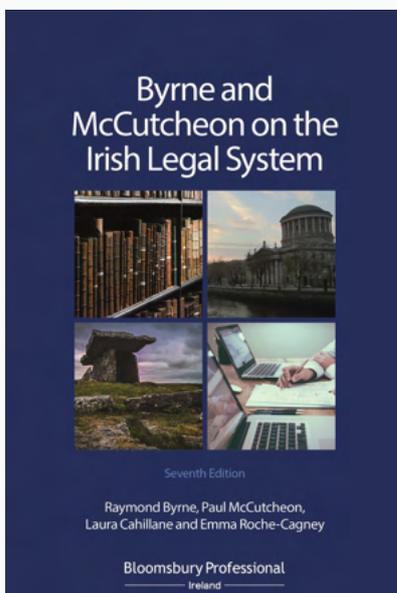
Donal Ryan (School of English, Irish and Communication), has won the Jean Monnet Prize for European Literature. He is the first Irish writer to win the 27th Annual 'Prix Jean Monnet for European Literature' for the French translation of his work 'From a Low and Quiet Sea'.

The book, published in 2018, has been chosen as the winner by the team at the European Literature Festival in Cognac, with the President of the jury Gerard de Cortanze comparing Donal to acclaimed novelists William Faulkner and John McGahern. Donal will receive his prize at the European Literature Festival in Cognac, France, on the 20th of November.

Nomination: Irish Law Awards– Law Book of the Year

Prof. Paul McCutcheon and Dr. Laura Cahillane's book on the Irish Legal System: "Byrne and McCutcheon on the Irish Legal System" has been shortlisted for the Irish Law Awards, Law Book the Year.

The awards aim to identify, honour, and publicise outstanding achievements, while also recognising those who have dedicated their lives to serving in the legal profession. This annual event is designed to recognise excellence in the legal profession of Ireland.



International



French Ambassador visit to UL

The French Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Vincent Guérend visited the University of Limerick on Saturday, 10th July as part of the Bastille Day Wild Geese festival. Faculty representatives who met with Ambassador Guérend, Cultural Councillor Ms Mariam Diallo, and Honorary Consul of France Dr Loïc Guyon were Executive Dean Prof. Shane Kilcommins, Dr. Michael G Kelly and Dr. Joachim Fischer (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics).

The discussion during their visit highlighted existing collaborations with French institutions and industry and the development of new initiatives in this area.

They discussed research scholarship, collaborations and exchanges with France, including with key partnerships with Lille, Nantes, Rennes 2, Aix, and Strasbourg. UL has over 50 Erasmus partners in France. The Faculty is also part of an innovative programme called Applied Languages Europe which is a joint degree with Aix, UL, Cologne and Ghent.



Intercultural Summer school

The Intercultural Summer School was organised for the 135 students of the ISPhD programme who arrived in Ireland in January 2021 to support their social and cultural integration into UL and the local community. This Summer School took place from the 8th-11th of June and was a collaborative initiative organised by ISPhD Course Director Dr. Angela Farrell, ISPhD Intercultural Advocate Michelle Daly, the Internationalisation Committee of the School of MLAL led by Prof. Gisela Holfter, Dr. Anca Minescu, ADI Education and Health Sciences, and the Postgraduate Student Union team led by PG President Andrea La Touche.

It featured workshops on self-empowerment and intercultural themes, panel discussions, and guest speakers, and was also attended by other PhD students from UL and PhD students from Algeria who are currently studying at UK universities.

The Summer Institute Programme

The *Summer Institute Programme*, created by UL Global in conjunction with TESOL/Linguistics (MLAL), was launched, with the first cohort of 20 teachers from Brazil successfully completing the first course. This initiative has been developed in response to the transition to English medium instruction in HE and secondary education in many parts of the world, and in support of the UL@50 strategic internationalisation plan.

The Summer Institute Programme offers bespoke courses in EMI for international academics, and secondary school teachers which was led by Dr Angela Farrell and Dr Catherine Martin, with Dr Chris Fitzgerald and AHSS PhD student Michelle Daly involved in its delivery.





Publication: Indelible stain: territorial stigmatization and the limits of resistance .

Prof. Amanda Haynes, Dr. Martin J. Power and Prof. Eoin Devereux (Dept. of Sociology) published some further work on how neighbourhoods can be stigmatized. This publication builds on previous research that the team have published in high ranking International academic journals including *Housing and The Built Environment*.

Their work on how working class communities in Limerick come to be stigmatized has attracted considerable interest from researchers outside of Ireland. There has been a particular focus in their research on the media's role in stigmatizing neighbourhoods. This article examines whether or not a stigmatized identity can ever truly be overcome.



Research on political representation in Ireland

New research by Dr. Rory Costello (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) examines political representation in Ireland, drawing on surveys of parties and voters that he conducted during the last general election. The idea that voters endorse the policies of the party they vote for is a basic tenet of representative democracy.

This research finds that voters generally agree with the core policies of the party they vote for, but on other issues there can be significant divergence between parties and their voters. Policy agreement between parties and their voters was found to be higher for smaller 'niche' parties than for larger government-oriented parties.

Furthermore, parties tend to represent the views of some types of voters (i.e. younger, urban, more educated voters) better than others (i.e. older, rural, less educated voters), particularly when looking beyond the bread-and-butter economic issues to so-called 'post-material' issues such as immigration, the environment, and European integration. The research, which is published in *Irish Political Studies*, suggests that we should be sceptical of claims by parties that they have a 'mandate' from their voters in relation to all of the policies in their manifesto.





Harnessing emerging technologies in the digital humanities to analyse online discourse in different workplace contexts'

Prof. Fiona Farr (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) received funding for the project, 'Interactional variation online: harnessing emerging technologies in the digital humanities to analyse online discourse in different workplace contexts'. The project is funded by UKRI-AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) and the IRC (Irish Research Council) under the 'UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Research Grants Call'. It is very significant funding: £390,000 from AHRC +€270,000 from IRC.

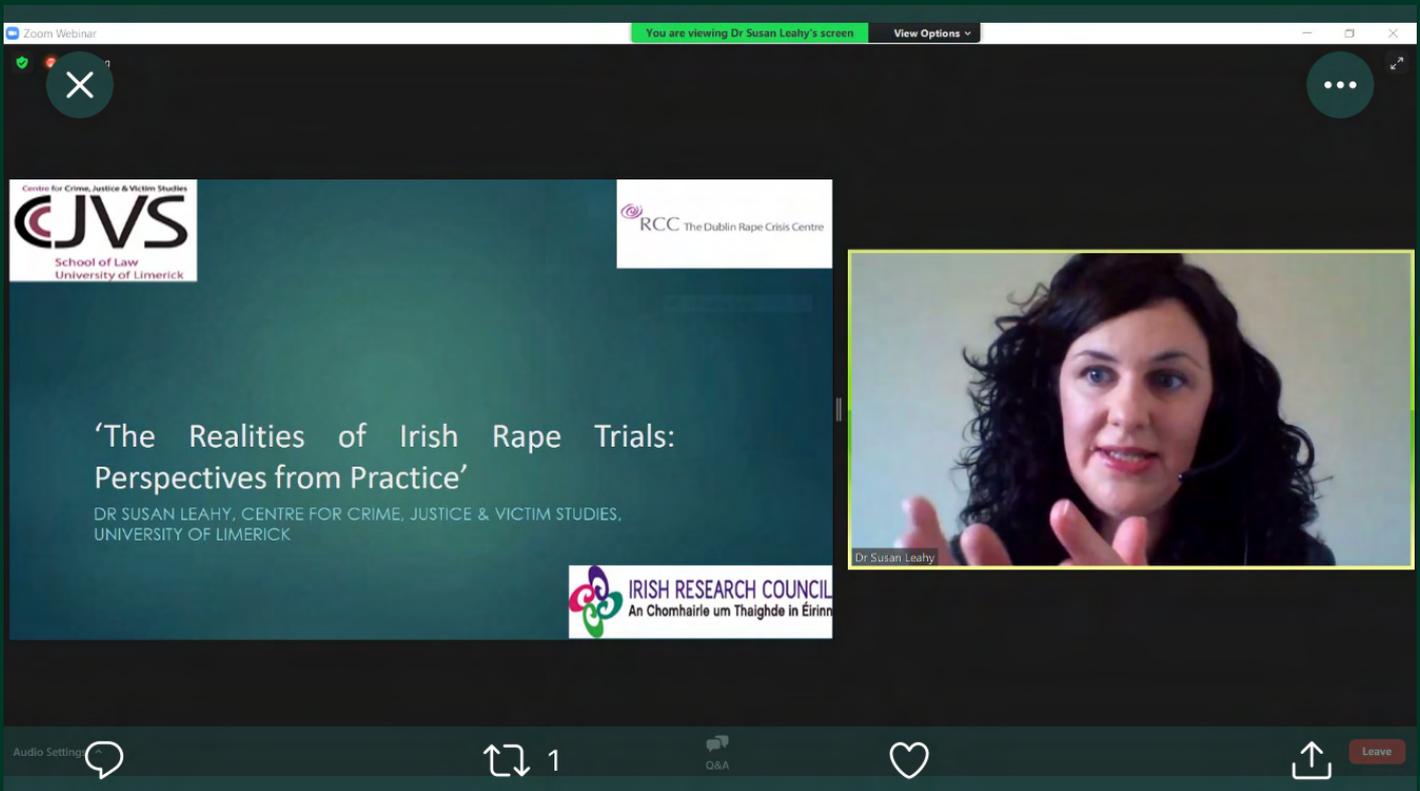
The project first aims to examine virtual workplace communication to gain depth of insight into the potential barriers to effective communication. The second aim is to propose the next generation of frameworks for analysing online discourse and will make these frameworks available to all arts and humanities research and end user communities.

This will lead to a step change in our ability to develop equality of access in online communication.

OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage

Dr. Catherine Porter (Lecturer in Geography, Dept. of History) secured IRC Digital Humanities Funding for 'OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage' which aims to reinvigorate interest in the Ordnance Survey (OS) by reconnecting and sharing the divided legacies of the OS in Ireland through the OS's historic maps, memoirs, letters, name books and sketches. Co-led by Dr Catherine Porter (UL) (with Dr. Niamh NicGhabhann and Dr. Aengus Finnegan as UL co-investigators) and Prof Keith Lilley (QUB), the project involves geographers, historians, linguists and computer scientists. Key partners include the RIA, DRI, PRONI, the place-name projects, Logainm.ie and the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project NIPNP.

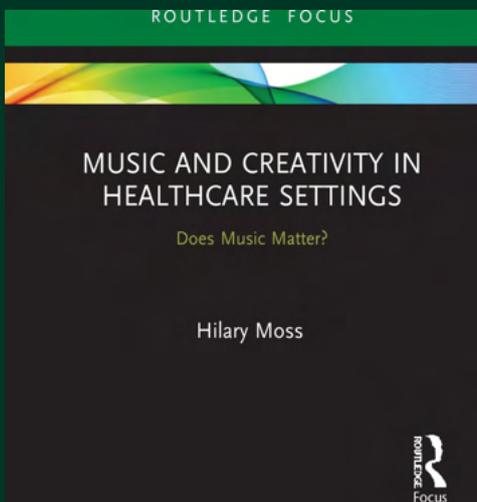




Dr. Susan Leahy's report 'The Realities of Rape Trials: Perspectives from Practice'

Dr. Susan Leahy, Senior Lecturer in the School of Law has published a report, 'The Realities of Rape Trials: Perspectives from Practice', which was funded by the Irish Research Council New Foundations Scheme and conducted in partnership with Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. The research involved interviews with legal professionals and court accompaniment workers on the realities of Irish rape trials and fills a significant gap in knowledge on the practical operation of the law in this area.

The report was launched at a webinar hosted by Dublin Rape Crisis Centre on 21st of June 2021, which was attended by over 140 participants from key criminal justice stakeholders including the Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, the Department of Justice and representatives from victims' rights organisations. It is available to download at: <https://www.drcc.ie/news-resources/resources/the-realities-of-rape-trials-in-ireland/>



Music and Creativity in Healthcare settings

Dr. Hilary Moss, Senior Lecturer and Course Director for the MA Music Therapy (IWAMD), published her excellent new monograph, 'Music and creativity in healthcare settings: does music matter?' with Routledge.

Through a series of vivid case studies, *Music and Creativity in Healthcare Settings: Does Music Matter?* documents the ways in which music brings humanity to sterile healthcare spaces, and its significance for people dealing with major illness. With an emphasis on service user narratives, chapters are enriched with examples of good practice using music in healthcare. This concise study will be a valuable source of inspiration for care givers and service users in the health sector; it will also appeal to scholars and researchers in the areas of Music medicine and music Therapy, and the Medical Humanities.

New Book: Religion and Law in Ireland

Derived from the multi-volume International Encyclopaedia of Laws, this convenient resource authored by Dr. Kathryn O'Sullivan, (School of Law), provides systematic information on how Ireland deals with the role religion plays or can play in society, the legal status of religious communities and institutions, and the legal interaction among religion, culture, education, and media.

After a general introduction describing the social and historical background, the book goes on to explain the legal framework in which religion is approached. Coverage proceeds from the principle of religious freedom through the rights and contractual obligations of religious communities; international, transnational, and regional law effects; and the legal parameters affecting the influence of religion in politics and public life.

Also covered are legal positions on religion in such specific fields as church financing, labour and employment, and matrimonial and family law. A clear and comprehensive overview of relevant legislation and legal doctrine make the book an invaluable reference source and very useful guide.



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Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance

The 25th Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance was hosted virtually from 21st June to 1st July. Blas has firmly established itself as one of Ireland's most prestigious summer schools, and this year's virtual programme was no different! The new virtual programme featured a one week intensive with an optional second academic week for students seeking university accreditation.

Students attending the course benefited from the wisdom and tutelage of eminent figures of the traditional world such as Dónal Lunny, Paddy Glackin, Louise Mulcahy, Siobhán Peoples, John Carty, Jim Higgins, Karan Casey, and Liam Scanlon, to name a few. In addition to masterclasses, Blas students experienced a whole range of online events including interactive Irish language and culture classes, live-streamed lectures on Irish traditional music and dance topics, daily lunchtime concerts, as well as live-streamed evening concerts.

Preparations for Blas 2022 are already underway with the dates confirmed for 20th June to 1st July. For further information on all aspects of the Blas Summer School, visit www.blas.ie or contact Blas Director Pamela Cotter by email (Pamela.Cotter@ul.ie).

Corpus Linguistics 2021

The Corpus Linguistics 2021 conference ran from the 13th to the 16th of July. Corpus Linguistics is largely an international conference which runs on a biennial basis. This is the first time it is being hosted outside of the UK and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was very honoured to have the pleasure of co-organising the event with colleagues in MIC. Corpus linguistics involves the analysis of computerized databases of collections of spoken, written and online language from a variety of different contexts using sophisticated processing software.

The conference attracted almost 400 participants, with the vast majority presenting papers and posters at the conference. Participants joined remotely from universities all over the world, including Sao Paulo, Brigham Young, Iowa State, Helsinki, Modena, Lancaster, Cologne, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Milan, Vienna, Santa Barbara, Saudi Arabia, Arizona, Louvain, Chengchi, Finland, Cambridge, Bergin, Ljubljana, Queensland, and Stockholm, as well as lots of Irish representation from Dublin, Maynooth, Galway, Limerick, and Cork. Congratulations to Prof. Farr Fiona and the team involved in its production.



Commemoration: The Wild Geese

The premiere performance of Cuimhnigh ar Sarsfield: The Wild Geese Suite took place in King John's Castle, Limerick at 2pm on Sunday 11th of July 2021 as part of 'Remember Limerick!', an official ceremony and commemoration of the 330th anniversary of the Flight of the Wild Geese.

Cuimhnigh ar Sarsfield – The Wild Geese Suite is a newly composed suite of music and dance, especially commissioned by the Limerick Bastille Day Wild Geese Festival Committee to mark the 330th anniversary of the Flight of the Wild Geese.

Described by Dr. Loïc Guyon, French Honorary Consul, as 'a poetic musical tribute to Patrick Sarsfield and the Wild Geese', this new commission combines music, dance, history, and language to illuminate a key story in the history of the Treaty city and has been created collaboratively by composer Dr. Francis Ward (DCU) and lyricists Dr. Mairead Ni Bhriain (MIC) and Dr. Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain (IWAMD).





Prof. Mel Mercier's Arcadia at the Manchester International Festival

Prof. Mel Mercier, Chair of Performing Arts (IWAMD) participated in the Manchester International Festival with Deborah Warner for the world premiere of Arcadia. Two years in the making, Arcadia is the first artwork presented at The Factory, Manchester's extraordinary, still-under-construction, arts venue. Mel's 81-minute Arcadia composition weaves together original music and sounds of the natural world with recordings by 33 diverse voices of 70 nature poems, written by 60 poets. The tapestry of solos, duets and trios was played from within 81 glowing tents, through 100 speakers in the vast concrete space, using 1,368 sound cues. This piece was commissioned by Manchester International Festival and Stanford Live at Stanford University.



The Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society Annual Conference

The Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society/An Cumann Éire San Ochtú Céad Déag Annual Conference was hosted at the University of Limerick from the 16th to the 18th of June in association with the Centre for Early Modern Studies. The event took place entirely online and featured contributions from scholars across Europe and from the US. The plenary speakers were Dr. Clíona Ó Gallchoir of University College Cork, Prof. Ciarán Mac Murchaidh of Dublin City University and Prof. Ian MacBride, Foster Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford. The Conference was co-organised by Dr. David Fleming (Department of History), Dr. Christina Morin and Prof. Michael Griffin (both School of English, Irish, and Communication).



Language for Work: Supporting Work-Related Second Language Learning

On the 30th September and 1st of October 2021, a Language for Work (LfW): Supporting Work-Related Second Language (L2) Learning in Ireland event, took place for the first time in Ireland. The co-ordinators of this national event were Dr Deirdre Ní Loingsigh (EIC), Dr Catherine Martin (MLAL), Ciara Considine (EIC) & Tara Robinson Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board. The ECML funded Language for Work (LfW) project supports development of work-related language skills which are crucial to the integration and participation of second language (L2) adult migrants and ethnic minorities in the workplace.

The national Language for Work (LfW) event aims to bring together a broad range of stakeholders to network and share ideas about language for work for L2 learners in Ireland. The event will offer practical guidance for teachers, policymakers and others involved in supporting work-related L2 learning by adult migrants and ethnic minorities across the country.

Prof. Eoin Devereux: U2 X Radio

Prof. Eoin Devereux (Dept. of Sociology) currently co-scripts and co-performs a monthly radio programme called the Cedarwood Chronicles for the U2 Radio Station, U2 X Radio. The programme is a collaboration with the renowned singer and artist Gavin Friday and is broadcast on the Sirius Platform in the United States.

The show documents the early days of U2 from the perspective of their close friend and collaborator Gavin Friday. Told in the form of an audioscape, it takes a surreal twist on Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s. It is broadcast on repeat each month on U2X radio across the United States and Canada. Eoin has previously collaborated with Gavin Friday hosting public interviews about David Bowie and Brian Eno.



Dannerstag Poetry Project

Prof. Gisela Holfter and Dr. Sorcha de Brún launched the “Dännerstag” Poetry Project in the Goethe Institute Dublin. The project was funded by the German, Austrian, Swiss Embassies and the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst / German Academic Exchange Service) and Foras na Gaeilge.

In their opening remarks, project leaders Prof. Gisela Holfter, Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies in the University of Limerick, and Dr. Sorcha de Brún, School of English, Irish and Communication described to the assembled audience how “Dännerstag” was coined as the project title, referring as it does to to poem in Irish and Thursday in German.



Both project leaders noted how “Dännerstag” was a wonderful literary and research opportunity to explore and deepen the cultural and linguistic links between contemporary German language poetry and Irish language translation, and how the uniqueness of this project lies in the span and range of poems translated.

The poems performed were celebratory, hopeful and yet a poignant reminder of loss, both universal and personal. Among the poems showcased at the launch were Jan Wagner’s ‘krähenghasele’ dedicated to his friend and colleague, the poet Matthew Sweeney, and translated into English and Irish by students of the University of Limerick. Sweeney, a prolific poet who died in 2018, was a close friend of Wagner’s and a much-loved guest of the Centre for Irish-German Studies.

Judicial Education and Training in Ireland

The School of Law, UL along with the School of Law, NUIG and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties hosted a seminar on Judicial Education and Training in Ireland with over 60 national and international judges, academics, practitioners, and civil society organisations in attendance.

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Cahillane, Prof. Paul McCutcheon, Dr. Jennifer Scheppe (all School of Law, UL), Prof. Amanda Haynes (Dept. of Sociology) and Saoirse Enright PhD candidate on their participation. Organised by Dr Laura Cahillane and Dr Rónán Kennedy, the event is part of a larger project focusing on the recently established Judicial Council and is funded by the Irish Research Council. A further event examining the new judicial conduct framework will take place in late October.



Dr Ger Coffey: 'Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal: Experiences and Challenges' hosted by the Victims' Rights Alliance.



On Thursday 17th June 2021, Dr Ger Coffey participated in a webinar on the 'Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal: Experiences and Challenges' hosted by the Victims' Rights Alliance. Dr Coffey spoke on the limitations and challenges of the Tribunal from a legal analysis perspective.

The webinar was part of a series of monthly webinars focusing on issues relevant to victims of crime, which consisted of a presentation by Dr Coffey as an independent person followed by presentations from a membership organisation focusing on the experience of their clients on the ground, in this case the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal.

Other speakers at the event were representatives from AdVic, an NGO that supports family members of homicide victims. The presentations were followed by a short Q&A session.



European Day of Languages at UL

Celebrating the linguistic and cultural diversity of the UL campus community European Day of Languages (EDL) has promoted linguistic and cultural diversity throughout Europe over the past twenty years. EDL has always been a special day at UL, an opportunity to enjoy the many vibrant languages and cultures on campus. This year, it was celebrated through a series of exciting events, which were launched by Professor Máireád Moriarty, UL Interim Vice President Global and Community Engagement.

The day began with an international coffee morning at Eden restaurant attended by more than one hundred students from around the world, and by Professor Shane Kilcommins, Executive Dean of AHSS, Michelle Daly, student Intercultural Advocate, Dr Angela Farrell and Catherine Jeanneau from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Languages and Postgraduate Student Union team led by its President, Rania Shadeed. The event provided the opportunity for linguistic and cultural exchanges in an informal atmosphere. It was followed by a photo booth event on the UL Plaza, which captured the numerous languages spoken on the UL campus by students, highlighting internationalisation at home.

The grand finale was an online evening performance event featuring students from fifteen different countries, which was officially opened by UL Professor Kerstin Mey in her native German language. This offered a journey around the world highlighting the literature, poetry, folklore and singing of the various countries represented, with each performer introduced by faculty from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics and the School of English, Irish and Communication. Students spoke knowledgeably and passionately about their performance piece highlighting its significance to their lives.

The day of events was organised by Dr Marie-Thérèse Batardière, Dr Angela Farrell, Michelle Daly and Catherine Jeanneau from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics with the support of the PPLI (Post-Primary Languages – Ireland) to promote greater intercultural communication and understanding as a key European Union and UL goal. For more info on the EDL, check: <https://edl.ecml.at/Portals/33/documents/poster/EDL-infographic-languages-EN.pdf>

Students



MA Classical String Students perform at National Concert Hall Anniversary Gala

The MA in Classical Strings students were the main performers at the recent NCH showcase on the 9th September. Course Director Diane Daly was invited to devise and direct a programme that would celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of this prestigious Concert Hall, to launch the new concert season and the NCH return to live audiences. The 10 current MACSP students formed the core of the new ensemble *Libra Strings*, joined by young professional performers, many of whom were recent graduates of the MA programme and members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra. The ensemble embraces Diane's recent doctoral research, combining movement and lighting to enhance the experience of connection for both performers and audience.

To view the concert and witness the incredible audience reaction please click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_YIG70P8qE

President's Volunteer Award

The Faculty was delighted to be informed that 188 of the recipients of the President's Volunteer Award for 2021 are from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (the largest number of any Faculty).

This rich and original initiative connects our students with civil, social, and cultural life in the Shannon Region, taking them beyond UL and opening up dimensions of life not presented in books and lecture halls. Congratulations to all the students involved for their commitment and service to organisations and communities in the region.

The Mincéir Manifesto

Stand-up comic, writer, podcaster, and MA in Journalism student, Martin Warde was interviewed on the Brendan O'Connor show in a wide-ranging discussion about his upcoming play, 'The Mincéir Manifesto', his studies in UL, the passing of his grandmother and intersectionality in the Travelling community. You can listen to his interview [here](#).

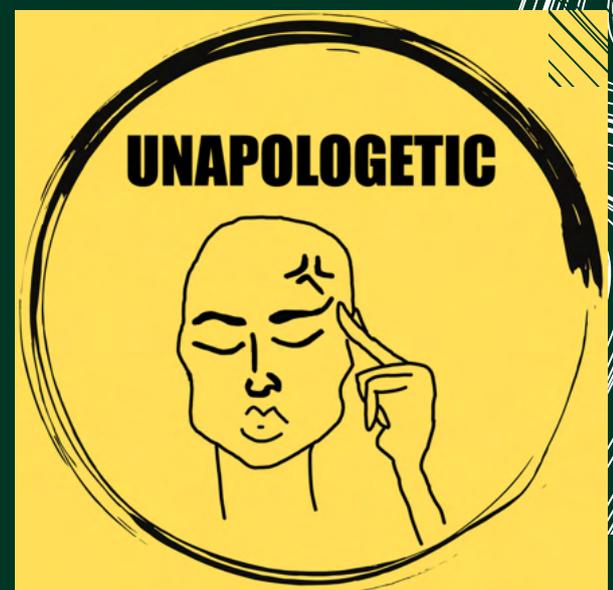


€1000 award for 'Unapologetic' Magazine

'Unapologetic' magazine won a total of €1,000 from Stand.ie as part of Ideas collective 2021. PhD students Sandrine Ndahiro and Gareth Brin took part in this programme for 3 months after being offered a scholarship, and successfully pitching their idea to three judges and to the public.

Unapologetic is about creating a medium that showcases the cultural richness of the multiple heritages that define contemporary Ireland but are unrepresented in modern discussion. The first issue 'Change Makers', will be available online from mid-October and will showcase the power of creativity especially, from individuals who are typically excluded from mainstream spaces.

The judges commended the originality of the magazine as something that is needed in contemporary Ireland. Congratulations to Sandrine and Gareth.



Postcolonial Studies Reading group

This group brings together postgraduate students and faculty pursuing interdisciplinary research on the historical and contemporary effects of western imperialism in different regions of the world.

The group will read critical and theoretical texts from the fields of political philosophy, literary theory, environmental humanities, memory studies, and art and aesthetics. The group will meet about once a month to discuss selected readings and host guest speakers. The meetings are open to all. To join, please contact: Sandrine.Ndahiro@ul.ie

PhD Student Donal Minihane runner up for RTE Francis McManus Short Story Award

Congratulations to MA Creative Writing graduate and PhD student Donal Minihane who came runner up in the RTÉ Francis McManus Short Story Award. Ten stories were selected from 2,800 entries.

Listen to Donal's short story here which featured on rte Radio 1 [here](#).



UL Success at the IMRO Radio awards

Congratulations to MA Journalism student Tara McCormack who won the Gay Byrne Newcomer of the Year award at the IMRO Radio awards.

Spanning categories as diverse as music, speech programming, news, sports, Irish language, promotions, and innovation, the IMRO Radio Awards celebrate the skill and craft of great radio.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Athena SWAN award ceremony



The Faculty of AHSS secured a Bronze Athena SWAN award in 2020. The Athena SWAN Bronze award recognises that the faculty is working to promote gender equality and to address challenges particular to the faculty and discipline.

The award ceremony for the 2020 recipients was postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic and will now take place as a one-hour virtual showcase event on the 20th of October 2021 and will be attended by the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD.



Tell your own Story initiative



Twelve postgraduate participants from different backgrounds have completed media training as part of the 'Tell your own story' project. 'Tell your own story' is a media initiative which uses a story-based approach in local media to promote empathy and inclusivity on campus and in the wider community.

In three full day workshops (14th-16th of June) the participants learned about and experienced the power of story exchanges and participated in practical workshops on the Irish Media landscape, writing for media, videoing and the creation of podcasts and radio shows. The training was supported by lecturers in Journalism Dr Henry Silke, Dr Fergal Quinn, Kathryn Hayes and Audrey Galvin, as well as media consultant Peter O'Connell and Wired FM producers Ray Burke and Martin Mongan. Going forward, the participants will continue to be coached and supported as they are starting to produce the first contributions for local media.

National Seminar Series 2021/22

Dr Lydia Bracken has been awarded funding by the National Forum for Teaching and Learning to run a National Seminar Series 2021/22 event on the topic of universal design for learning that will take place in UL on the 3rd of December 2021. The seminar is titled "Promoting Inclusivity through Universal Design for Learning (UDL)" and will be delivered by Tracy Galvin, Educational Developer, Queen's University Belfast.

The Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group

The Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group (LIAF) was officially launched at an event at the Limerick Milk Market on the 11th of July with some 150 participants, including not only well over 100 AHSS ISPhD students from Algeria but also many of their supervisors, the Mayor of Limerick Daniel Butler, UL Deputy President Prof. Nigel Healy, members from Limerick City and County Council and others interested in LIAF. Entertainment included Irish traditional music and musical contributions from the Algerian students themselves. A slideshow of photographs of the event was created by Sean Shinnars and can be accessed here: <https://vimeo.com/573693774>.



The goal of LIAF is to facilitate best practise in PhD education by bringing a community-based approach to the internationalisation processes and to support the multicultural drive and internationalisation developments of Limerick City and County. Since July, LIAF has been involved in a number of events such as walks and art exhibitions and most prominently it contributed to Limerick's Culture Night on 17 September 2021 with its own (booked-out!) event, featuring fascinating and interesting contributions from the Algerian PhD students at the Hunt Museum under the heading of "An Insight into Algerian Culture".



Postgraduate Research activity

The Faculty of Arts Humanities Social Sciences and the Kemmy Business School jointly held three virtual workshops on 8th, 9th and 13th of September on MS Teams. These training sessions were open to students interested in applying for the Scholarship (during the current call or in future calls).

On Wednesday, 8th of September, Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann (AHSS) and Dr. Deirdre O'Loughlin (KBS) welcomed everyone to the first day of workshops. They spoke in detail about the IRC Scholarship and explained to the postgraduate community the hallmarks of a successful application. Michael Frain from the Graduate & Professional Studies office looked at the application form in great detail with an overview of the different sections and fielded questions from participants.

On Thursday, 9th September, Prof. Fiona Farr, MLAL, Dr. Conor Little, PPA, Dr. Jenny Roche, IWAMD and Dr. Deirdre O'Shea, KBS, supervisors of successful candidates, explained the journey that they undertook with their students by offering advice on their experiences. A Q&A session followed.

Postgraduate researchers, Sean O'Rourke, School of English, Irish and Communication, Gail Flanagan, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics and David Martin School of Law and Gemma McCarthy, KBS, all successful postgraduates in securing funding, gave good insights on their approaches to submitting their applications with particular focus on the common pitfalls and challenges involved.

On Monday 13th September Armin Straube, Research Data Manager, Glucksman Library discussed at length how to ensure data management was correctly addressed as part of the IRC application. Prof. Ross MacMillan, Head of Sociology, gave a workshop on how to compile a visual display of a research timetable through the medium of a Gantt Chart. Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann and Dr. Deirdre O'Loughlin concluded the 3-day workshops by re-iterating some of the key points from each session highlighting issues such as taking time to edit/proof read the application, working closely with your intended/allocated supervisor(s) on a realistic work plan, and ensuring there is clarity in your writing.

An Internal Review of draft applications is available to AHSS student applying for IRC whereby Faculty will anonymously review draft IRC applications and offer constructive feedback to the students.

There was a great attendance over the three workshops and feedback was positive. The workshops were arranged by Dr. Niamh Lenahan on MS Teams. All links to powerpoint and recordings were made available on the site.



Postgraduate Researcher profile: Kévin Saudé

Kevin is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the department of Politics and Public Administration. In a previous life, Kevin was in turn a fireman/paramedic and security officer and was involved as a party activist until 2012. His academic journey began in 2013 as a mature student at the University of Limerick, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Sociology. Meanwhile, the world was grappling with successive shocks that visibly transformed the political landscape, with the rise of populism and new, divisive issues; The financial, economic, and so-called migration crises between 2007-2016 in Europe inspired Kevin's research. In 2018 he embarked on a Structured PhD under the supervision of Dr. Rory Costello, to investigate how elite disagreements on issues like immigration and economic redistribution seep into the electorate and trigger deep antagonisms between groups of voters.

In his dissertation titled "Firing up the base: The impact of elite polarisation on positive and negative partisanship in Western Europe between 1990-2020", Kevin acknowledges the widespread disenchantment with party politics. However, he also hypothesises that when parties fundamentally disagree with each other, as was the case during the crises, voters feel compelled to take sides in the argument. If this is true, the implications for the stability of democracies hinge on whether parties can manage to attract more supporters than archenemies.



Postgraduate Researcher Profile – Robyn Cunneen

Robyn Cunneen is currently a 2nd year PhD student in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics. Robyn graduated from the B.A. Applied Languages in UL in 2016 with a First Class Honours degree. It was here where her research interest in Irish Sign Language (ISL) developed. The focus of her Final Year Project was ISL and Language Ideologies and was enthusiastically supervised by Prof. Máiréad Moriarty. From here, Robyn went on and completed an M.Phil. in Linguistics in Trinity College Dublin where her thesis focused again on ISL and language ideology, however this time with perspectives incorporated from policymakers. Her M.Phil. supervisor, Dr. John Bosco Conama, is also part of her PhD supervisory team. Robyn's PhD investigates the official recognition of Irish Sign Language through the lens of minority language rights and through both quantitative and qualitative methods, aims to gain an in-depth understanding of sign language rights in Ireland. Dr. Maria Reider (MLAL) and Dr. Andrew Shorten (PPA) are also supervising this research.

Robyn grew up using ISL and is extremely passionate about this area of research but also ISL as a language itself and the Deaf community. ISL is now a recognised language in Ireland by means of the ISL Act 2017, highlighting the timeliness of this research. She has worked as a Special Needs Assistant in the Mid-West School for the Deaf and is part of the Irish Deaf Research Network. Robyn also has a keen interest in disability matters. Her personal interests lie in the areas of dance and performance.

Our Graduates



TG4 Gradam Ceoil 2021 Award Winner: Sorcha Costello

Music Therapist Sorcha Costello, has just been awarded young musician of the year. Sorcha graduated from the MA Music Therapy this summer (2021).

Young Traditional Musician of the Year Sorcha Costello is an east Clare fiddle player and teacher who is steeped in the languid swing of her home place. The daughter of concertina player Mary McNamara, she graduated as a music therapist from the University of Limerick this year, having immersed herself in a very different kind of music education over the past two years.

MA Journalism Graduate: Reem EL Hassamy

Congratulations to our recent 2021 MA in Journalism graduate Reem El-Hassany who has taken up a position as co-anchor on the RTE News2day programme.



**We hope you all have a
successful and safe semester**



**UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK**
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Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta**

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