

# AHSS NEWSLETTER



## GOLD GAISCE AWARD FOR UL ARTS STUDENT

DECEMBER 2019

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MUSIC AND THE MIND RESEARCH ON RTE



## DEAN'S WELCOME

**Fáilte, welcome to our December 2019 issue!**

Once again we had much to celebrate in the second half of the year:

Dr Amanda Haynes (Sociology) and Dr Jennifer Schweppe (Law) were awarded prestigious Marie Curie funding for an innovative training network for PhD students. The network is entitled NETHATE and is based in the very successful and high profile work being carried out by the Hate and Hostility Research Group.

Professor Joachim Fischer was awarded the first Jean Monnet chair in the field of European Cultural Studies. This award will boost UL's long-standing reputation for European Studies.

One of our new students on the BA (Arts) programme, Lorcan Tuohy was awarded one of only 77 gold Gaisce medals for 2019. As you will read in the newsletter, his achievement is made all the more special by the fact that his mother, also a UL graduate, was awarded a gold Gaisce medal 28 years ago by President Mary Robinson. Lorcan and his mother are the only mother and child pair to have achieved this honour.

And one of our Journalism graduates, Muireann Duffy, scooped the top bursary award of the Press Council of Ireland for a series of articles she wrote as part of her undergraduate thesis.

Glucksman Chair in Creative Writing, Professor Joseph O'Connor was the winner of the Eason Novel of the Year 2019 for 'Shadowplay', while fellow Creative Writing faculty member Professor Sarah Moore's latest book 'Strange Kind of Brave' was shortlisted in the Children's Book of the Year (Senior) category.

I hope you enjoy reading about these achievements and the many activities that have taken place over the a busy semester here in the Faculty.

Beannachtaí na Nollaig agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir!



**PROFESSOR  
HELEN KELLY-HOLMES**

Dean, Faculty of Arts,  
Humanities and Social Sciences  
*University of Limerick*



**@AHSSUL**



**@RESEARCHARTSUL**



**@AHSSUL**

This newsletter is published by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick. Contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome—please contact [jess.beeley@ul.ie](mailto:jess.beeley@ul.ie).

Be sure to subscribe to our blog at [ahss.blog](http://ahss.blog) for daily news from our Faculty.

Newsletter editor: Jess Beeley

## HATE AND HOSTILITY RESEARCH GROUP

# REPORT BY UL RESEARCHERS SHOWS STATE FAILING TO MEET OBLIGATIONS ON HATE CRIME

A report by researchers based at University of Limerick presented to a United Nations Committee has said that the Irish State is failing to meet its obligations in relation to hate crime.

The Hate and Hostility Research Group (HHRG) at University of Limerick (UL) was asked by the Coalition Against Hate Crime to write an alternative report for the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on the issue of hate crime and related matters.

Presenting to the committee on its findings at the United Nations in Geneva, the HHRG, led by Dr Jennifer Schweppe and Dr Amanda Haynes of UL, along with Dr Sindy Joyce, said that a majority of previous recommendations by the committee have not been implemented by the Irish State.

Dr Sindy Joyce stated: "Ireland, and its police, are wilfully ignoring racial profiling, which is highlighted in the fact that children as young as four years of age were entered onto the Garda Pulse system and given criminal tag numbers."

Dr Amanda Haynes added: "These hearings give us an important opportunity to highlight the policy vacuum in Ireland with respect to hate crime."

The report examined four specific issues and presented findings and summary recommendations for each.

Issue one relates to the **Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989**. The researchers found that it was not clear how many convictions there have been under the act; that civil society organisations, academics and practitioners have described the act as ineffective; and that the Irish Law Reform Commission considers the Act to be ineffectual in combatting online hate speech.

Issue two relates to **hate crime**: Summary findings include that data collected indicates that a majority of victims of hate crime in Ireland do not report to the police; research shows that the hate element of a crime is often

**“an important opportunity to highlight the policy vacuum in Ireland with respect to hate crime.”**



Dr Jennifer Schweppe. Picture: Alan Place

‘disappeared’ through the criminal process due to a lack of training and the absence of legislation.

Issue three related to **racial profiling**: Summary findings include that there is no clear statement in law as to the illegality of racial profiling; there is no official data on racial profiling available; there is no evidence that members of An Garda Síochána have received training in relation to racial profiling.

Issue four examined **training in the criminal justice process** and showed that there are only 247 Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELOs) available across the State, and the new Garda Diversity and Inclusion Strategy omits any reference, or commitment, to the role; research has documented significant shortcomings in the training made available to ELOS and likewise to Gardai; and there has been no relevant judicial training.

The report makes a series of its own recommendations, including publishing the outcomes of the Department of Justice and Equality’s review of the 1989 act “as a matter of urgency” and providing training across the criminal justice sector.

# 16 DAYS OF ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Professor Shane Kilcommins (School of Law) spoke at the Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women event in Dublin on the 6th December.

The event centred on the prevention of, and protection from, intimate partner violence (IPV), recognising that a failure to protect may result in severe harm to women and, at its most extreme, intimate partner homicide.

Prof. Kilcommins spoke on the the law reforms which have arisen from the ratification process of the Istanbul Convention (Domestic Violence Act 2018, Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences) Act 2017, and Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017).

Other speakers at the invent included: Drew Harris, Garda Commissioner; Nora Gibbons, Chair of the Independent Review into Familicide and Domestic Homicides; Sarah Benson CEO Women's Aid; Deaglan O'Briain, Dept. Justice and Equality; Tessa Collins, Pavee Point. Frances Fitzgerald MEP opened the event.

## UL RESEARCH WEEK

UL Research Week 2019 was officially launched on Monday 2nd December in the Glucksman Library by Professor Kerstin Mey, Vice President Academic Affairs and Student Engagement at the University of Limerick.

As part of the 2019 UL Research Week, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences presented a roundtable on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Humanities – A New Horizon on Tuesday 3rd December 2019.

Speakers included:

- **Conor Little** (Lecturer in the Department of Politics and Public Administration), UL
- **Katja Bruisch** (Ussher Assistant Professor in Environmental History at Trinity College Dublin)
- **Amanullah De Sondy** (Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Islam at University College Cork)
- **Ross Macmillan** (Chair in Sociology at the University of Limerick)
- **Hala Jaber** (Palestinian community musician and PhD candidate in community music in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance).

RESEARCH  
WEEK@UL

02-06 DEC

[ul.ie/researchweek](http://ul.ie/researchweek)



This event was followed by a Research Party celebrating the research in the Faculty of Art, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the launch of the Irish Humanities Alliance strategy 'By Imagination We Live'. Each year, we gather the research from across the Faculty, and toast the work of the year past together. Dr Puneet Sadiha launched the Irish Humanities Strategy in UL – this is an ambitious and thoughtful document, which we hope will impact and inform policy around the humanities in future.



## SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH ON CRIMINAL NETWORKS

A report by School of Law's Dr Johnny Connolly 'Building Community Resilience', recently featured on the Six One News and The Irish Times.

The report gives a rare and detailed insight into 'criminal networks'. The networks are often characterised as a large, loose grouping of street drug dealers and runners and a more organised layer of bosses or "key players".

Dr Connolly was commissioned by four local policing fora in Dublin South Central, a large area running from Kevin St to Ballyfermot and from James's St to Drimnagh and Crumlin. Building upon the work of the Greentown study, his work involved mapping known criminals and their associations with other criminals and discussing these individuals confidentially with local gardaí. The study identified about 650 people, then pared them down to



two identifiable criminal networks across the area, the first comprising 44 individuals and the second 52 individuals, including a large number of teenagers in the 15-17 age bracket.

Dr Johnny Connolly is an Irish Research Council/Irish Council for Civil Liberties research fellow in the Centre for Crime, Justice & Victim Studies at University of Limerick.

## ENGLISH, IRISH AND COMMUNICATION USE OF TABLETS IN SCHOOLS



Dr Ann Marcus Quinn (School of English, Irish and Communication) spoke to RTÉ Radio 1's Drivetime about the use of technology in schools. Dr Marcus Quinn warns about the over-reliance on using tablets in schools, and that a blended approach works best for students.

## HISTORY MEDICAL HUMANITIES CONFERENCE AT UL



Dr Ciara Breathnach recently spoke to the British Medical Journal podcast about the upcoming Association of Medical Humanities conference MAKING SPACE, which will take place in Limerick in June 2020. The conference website can be found at [www.amh2020ireland.com](http://www.amh2020ireland.com).

# JEAN MONNET CHAIR IN EUROPEAN CULTURAL STUDIES

Congratulations to Dr Joachim Fischer, who was awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in European Cultural Studies in September 2019.

This is the first Jean Monnet Chair ever awarded to Irish universities with an explicitly cultural, literary and language focus. Joachim Fischer is Director of the Centre for European Studies, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, and Course Director of the BA in European Studies at University of Limerick.



## FUNDING FOR IRISH LANGUAGE BASED ARTS RESEARCH

A research team from the University of Limerick and Mary Immaculate College has been awarded €35,000 in funding by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Creative Ireland to research and develop a Research and Development Strategy for the Irish language based arts (Straitéis d'Ealaíona Teangabhunaithe na Gaeilge).

The researchers from the University of Limerick are Dr Sandra Joyce and Dr Eamonn Costello from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance; and Dr Sorcha de Brún from Léann na Gaeilge in the School of English, Irish and Communication. The researchers from Léann na Gaeilge in Mary Immaculate College are Dr Róisín Ní Ghairbhí and Mr Shane Grant.

"This is a great opportunity to research the social, cultural and financial impact of the Irish language arts," Dr Sandra Joyce explains. "Although research has been carried out previously on various art forms which use the Irish language, this is the first research strategy which involves researching a number of different art forms."

In addition to examining opportunities for development, barriers, challenges, funding sources, access and participation, the primary focus of the research is the impact of the Irish language based arts. The first strategy of its kind, it follows the publication of the 2018-2022 Irish Language Action Plan and encompasses the Irish



STRAITÉIS D'EALAÍONA  
TEANGABHUNAITHE  
NA GAEILGE

language based arts in both Irish language speaking areas (Gaeltacht) and English language speaking areas.

The Research Group are supported by a working group, drawn from TG4, The Arts Council, Foras na Gaeilge, Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative Ireland, Udarás na Gaeltachta and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

**"Our research to date shows that some cohorts who take part in Irish language based arts are not Irish speakers."**

"Our research to date shows that some cohorts who take part in Irish language based arts are not Irish speakers," says Dr Sorcha de Brún. "Our research aims to capture those nuances in language use and to examine the issues in further detail."

A promotional video has been made by TG4 for to advertise the research strategy, and is currently being shown on TG4.

Members of the public, organizations and arts practitioners are welcome to make submissions and recommendations for the Irish language based arts through the Strategy's website [ealaionateanga-bhunaithe.ie](http://ealaionateanga-bhunaithe.ie).



## POSTGRADUATE COURSE OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Three Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences postgraduate courses were shortlisted for Postgraduate Course of the Year 2019 by Gradireland:

- MA in Songwriting
- MA in Serious Crime Investigation
- LLM/MA in Human Rights in Criminal Justice

Submissions for each course category were shortlisted and judged by specialist panels comprised of experts in their field, drawn from industry, careers, education and other renowned professionals in each subject area.

Congratulations to Course Directors Carl Corcoran (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance), Dr Alan Cusack and Ger Coffey (both School of Law) on the nominations.



Three Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences lecturers have been awarded UL Excellence in Teaching Awards:

- UL Excellence in Teaching (Individual) 2017/8 Overall Winner: **Dr Kathryn O'Sullivan**
- UL Excellence in Teaching (Individual) 2018/9 Faculty Award Winner: **Dr Clara Breathnach**
- UL Excellence in the provision of Pedagogic Support 2018/9: **Dr Darina Slattery**

The awards are given by UL's Centre for Teaching and Learning, and have three strands: individual award; team award; and pedagogic support award.

These awards are based on a comprehensive review of a range of teaching and learning related activities. The teaching award system uses sources of evidence that can help to build a strong picture of those faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to their profession.

## MARIE CURIE FUNDING FOR HATE AND HOSTILITY RESEARCH GROUP

Dr Jennifer Schweppe (School of Law) and Dr Amanda Haynes (Department of Sociology) have been selected for funding for a Marie Curie Initial Training (PhD) Network for NETHATE.

The vision for the NETHATE (Network of Excellence of Training on HATE) ETN is to bring together an interdisciplinary team of world-leading European researchers to tackle a highly ambitious and relevant research project on the nature of hate. It will also examine the dynamics of its spread in both offline and online fora, mitigation and reconciliation strategies, and the impact on victims and bystanders. The research and training programme will deliver doctoral training of 15 ESRs and high-impact research outputs. The participation of 10 universities and 1 NGO as the network beneficiaries and 14 partner organisations (2 ministries, 2 companies and 10 NGO's) all deeply involved in this area will ensure that the ESRs acquire a broad and deep multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral training and experience that will make them highly marketable and sought after graduates.



## ERASMUS+ DELTA SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to Dr Liam Murray and Dr Marta Giralt from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, who are the first UL scholars awarded with the ERASMUS+ DELTA Scholarship by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

DELTA stands for Disciplinary Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Assessment and is a core concept of the work of the National Forum.



© Urszula Sołtys

## NOVEL OF THE YEAR

Many congratulations to our Creative Writing colleague Professor Joseph O'Connor, who has won the Eason Novel of the Year for his acclaimed historical tale 'Shadowplay'.

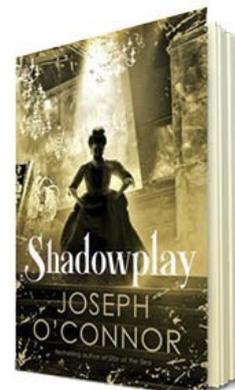
Professor Sarah Moore Fitzgerald's book 'A Strange Kind of Brave', was shortlisted for Specsavers Children's Book of the Year (Senior).

The An Post Irish Book Awards celebrate and promote Irish writing to the widest range of readers possible. Each year it brings together a huge community passionate about books – readers, authors, booksellers, publishers and librarians – to recognise the very best of Irish writing talent. The winners were announced at a gala ceremony in Dublin on Wednesday 20th November.

Joseph's book 'Shadowplay' has also been nominated for a Costa Award, we wish him the best of luck!



## Eason Novel of the Year





## IRISH WORLD ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIAL SINGING, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

'Here's a health to the company: Social singing, health and well-being' took place at the Irish World Academy on 15th November, in conjunction with Sing Ireland.

This special event gathered the energy of researchers and practitioners in the field of social singing, health and well-being. This seminar concentrated on the health and well-being benefits of social singing, from the perspectives of music therapy, community music, voice studies, traditional song, social justice and more. The day combined presentations, discussion and experiential elements.

## MINDFUL MUSIC

The Assistant Dean in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in AHSS organised a series of 'Mindful Music' lunchtime sessions this semester.

The mindfulness sessions were delivered by staff and students from the MA in Music Therapy, and offered to UL staff during the month of November, to offer a few moments to rest, relax and find calm. Musicians from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance interweaved music with mindfulness to support staff health and well-being. The sessions were very well attended by staff across the university.



## MUSIC AND THE MIND ON RTE LYRIC FM

Dr Hilary Moss and PhD candidate Jessica O'Donoghue of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance contributed to the RTE Lyric FM series Music and the Mind on November 8th and 15th.

The programme focussed on the health and well-being aspects of music in the workplace.

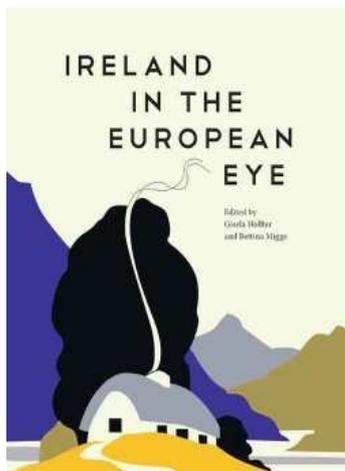
*Pictured left: Liz Nolan, Dr Hilary Moss and Dr Sarah Sinnamon*



The Irish launch for 'Ireland in the European Eye', edited by Bettina Migge and UL's Dr Gisela Holfter (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics), took place at Goethe-Institut Irland in Dublin on 7th November.

Dr Thomas Lier, the director of the institute, hosted the evening celebrating the achievement of the 20 contributors to collection and its co-editors.

This timely publication offers a comprehensive survey of Ireland's place in Europe, through a detailed narrative of a cultural relationship that began with Irish missionaries bringing Christianity and learning to the continent. It asks how Ireland, her people and her culture have been perceived and represented in Europe, through contributions on film, music, art, architecture, media, literature and European studies.



The book was also reviewed in the Irish Times, where Eamon Maher described the book as "an excellent analysis of Ireland's various interactions with its European allies, from the early medieval period up to the present moment."

## IRISH-GERMAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM WITH IRISH EMBASSY

An International Colloquium "90th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations – 1929-2019" was organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies in collaboration with the Irish Embassy on 14 November in the Appellate Court, Glucksman Library, UL.

The event followed on from a colloquium in the Irish Embassy in June 2019. It included a review of the history of Irish-German diplomatic relations and a discussion on current and future developments in bilateral diplomacy with current and former German and Irish diplomats, together with the ambassadors of Austria and Switzerland.

**IRELAND  
- DEUTSCH  
LAND  
1929  
2019**

*Celebrating 90 years of diplomatic relations*



## LIMERICK FLING

The Limerick Fling, featuring award-winning artists, students and faculty of the Irish World Academy took place at University Concert Hall on 18th November.

This special concert of music, song and dance was in support of Limerick Marine Search and Rescue. One hundred performers from five continents came together to celebrate all the creativity, talent and passion that the Irish World Academy has to offer in a unique concert. The Academy's faculty and students were joined by acclaimed musician and songwriter John Spillane and the incredible aerialists from the Irish Aerial Creation Centre.

## AHSS ALUMNI RECEPTION

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni reception took place at the University of Limerick, on Saturday 28th September. Classes celebrated included 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009.



## CENTRE FOR EARLY MODERN STUDIES WINTER SCHOOL

The second Centre for Early Modern Studies Winter School, in Archival Research Skills and Book History took place on 2nd-3rd December at Glucksman Library, UL. The Winter School featured talks and workshops by historians, archivists and librarians.



- 21st SEPTEMBER 2019 -

# MEDICAL CANNABIS SYMPOSIUM



## MEDICAL CANNABIS SYMPOSIUM AT UL

The School of Law hosted a symposium on the law and policy surrounding medical cannabis in Ireland on 21st September 2019.

The event was organised by Alicia Maher, Dr John Lombard, and Gino Kenny TD. The event included the speakers Prof David Finn, Vera Twomey, Karen Gray, Hannah Deacon, Prof Mike Barnes, Dr Garrett McGovern, and Tom Curran.

The symposium heard that the medical cannabis access programme in Ireland is too restrictive and needs to be

extended to include people who suffer with chronic pain.

Alicia Maher, a PHD student at the University of Limerick School of Law, who is researching the regulation of the drug, and who has suffered chronic pain herself for the past 13 years, said the biggest challenge now that the medicinal cannabis law has been passed, is widening access to it, particularly for those suffering long-term pain symptoms.

The event was very well attended and was reported on by RTE News.



SCHOOL OF LAW

## STREET LAW TRAINING AT UL

The School of Law was delighted to facilitate Street Law training for a group of youth justice workers based in the Kerry Garda Youth Diversion Project on 19 and 20 August 2019.

The aim of Street Law is to teach law at grassroots level. It is a learner-centred process that encourages young people to develop their capacity for democratic decision-

making, communication and teamwork skills, while also educating them about the legal system and their legal rights.

The Street Law training was co-ordinated by Dr Lydia Bracken of the School of Law. Lydia delivered the training alongside John Lunney, Law Society of Ireland, and Bronagh Heverin and Siobhan Cullen of Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

## EVENTS

Always Different, Always The Same...

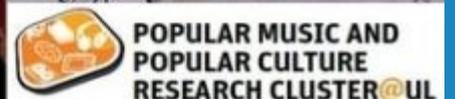
A Day Long Symposium on

# THE FALL

November 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

Upstairs at Dolan's Limerick,  
Ireland.

Booking from [Dolans.ie](http://Dolans.ie)  
Inquiries to [popmusicandculture@ul.ie](mailto:popmusicandculture@ul.ie)



# SYMPOSIUM ON THE FALL

*Always Different, Always the Same: A Symposium on The Fall* took place on 7th November, organised by the Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster. The daylong event celebrated the extensive contribution made by The Fall to Indie music. It took place at Dolans, and featured papers, and public interviews, plus a performance by Imperial Wax at the Kasbah Club.

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING WORKSHOP

Dr Lydia Bracken hosted a workshop on 'Promoting Inclusivity through Universal Design for Learning', which was delivered by Karen Buckley, Academic Developer, Dublin City University on 6th November.

The workshop introduced participants to the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and provided practical guidance on how participants can integrate UDL principles into their own teaching and learning practice to promote and implement an inclusive teaching and learning environment that engages all learners. The workshop formed part of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education's 2019/20 National Seminar Series.



## CREATIVE WRITING WELCOMES POETS TO UL

Poet Eiléan Ni Chuilleain (left) read to a capacity audience in the Millstream Common Room, University of Limerick on October 24th. The event was the first time Eiléan read from her new book 'The Mother House'. It was a hugely memorable experience for all in attendance.

The MA in Creative Writing at UL also welcomed award-winning poets Leanne O'Sullivan and Stephen Sexton to UL this semester, when they read in the Millstream Common Room on November 13th, as part of the Guest Vocals poetry series.

## MODERN LANGUAGES AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS

## PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UL AND SDUT, CHINA

Dr Angela Farrell and PhD student Michelle Daly (MLAL) were guest EAP lecturers at Shandong University of Technology (SDUT) in China this semester, as part of the 2+2 undergraduate joint programme between UL and SDUT.

SDUT, founded in 1956, is situated in the city of Zibo, in the Shandong province, three hours east of Beijing. During their visit, they have attended meetings with SDUT faculty members with a view to further exploring future links, student and teacher exchanges, and English Medium-Instruction (EMI) courses for the SDUT language teachers at the University of Limerick, and research collaboration in TESOL education.



## GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Dr Lydia Bracken attended and presented at the Global Alliance for Justice Education 10th Worldwide Conference, which took place at Pasundan University, Bandung Indonesia. The Global Alliance for Justice Education works to promote justice through education and hosts regional and worldwide conferences to disseminate knowledge in this field.

Dr Bracken presented the initial findings of the 'REAL Project' (Reimagining Experiential Academic Learning) at the conference, alongside Siobhán Cullen and Bronagh Heverin of Letterkenny Institute of Technology. The REAL Project is funded under the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's 'Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.' The focus of the project is



to develop a model of experiential learning for law students in Ireland, which will be transferrable to other disciplines and countries.



# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

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

AHSS

## SEMINARS FOR AHSS POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

As part of the AHSS Professional Development Programme for postgraduate researchers, the AHSS Graduate Research Centre organised a series of seminars this semester:

On 9 September 2019, a workshop entitled 'Building your Online Research Profile' was delivered by Ashling Hayes, Head of Research Services in UL.

The workshop highlighted the benefits of having up to date profiles and looked at online profiles that are important for researchers such as ORCID, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, ULRIS, Scopus, Google Scholar. Ashling highlighted tips and tricks on how to keep them updated easily. The comments and feedback from attendees was very positive.

On 26 November, an information session was run on 'How to write an excellent conference paper' followed by a session on 'Developing an academic CV and letter of application for jobs/grants/funding'. The seminars were delivered by Dr Niamh Nic Ghabhann, Assistant Dean, Research, who gave some well received tips and advice on preparing and delivering an academic conference paper as well as constructing an academic CV in preparation for job applications as well as applying for research funding opportunities.

The afternoon session was delivered jointly by Dr Niamh Nic Ghabhann and Dr Niamh Lenahan. Postgraduate researchers who registered within the last year were welcomed into the AHSS postgraduate community and informed on services available to them. This informal session began with tea/coffee and pastries and proved to be a good forum also for new entrants to meet with other postgraduates who are beginning on their research journeys together.

The events were organised by Dr Niamh Lenahan, keep an eye out for [future events](#) for postgraduate researchers!

### POSTGRADUATE PROFILE

## MAMOBO OGORO



Mamobo Ogoro is the first Sanctuary PhD Fellow at the University of Limerick. Born in Nigeria, but raised in Ireland since the age of 3, Mamobo's multicultural upbringing has paved the way for her research, in which her interests include multicultural identities, discrimination, integration, inclusivity & diversity.

Trained as a social psychologist with a keen interest in multicultural identities and racism, Mamobo now is using the social psychological knowledge gained from both her undergraduate and Masters degrees to apply it to her PhD.

Her work now involves analyzing the discursive techniques used in establishing in-groups and out-groups in terms of cultural identity, race and ethnicity in Irish discourse. Likewise, she aims to study discourse around individuals from a scale of individuals in the Irish asylum seeking process to non-white Irish born citizens and analyse the inclusive and exclusive linguistic strategies used to portray and frame their cultural/ethnic/racial identities as well as their belonging in Irish society.

## MARK RYAN

### PHD CANDIDATE IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Mark Ryan is a PhD Candidate in the field of Applied Linguistics, as well as a tutor in Linguistics and Sociolinguistics.

His research aims to create a language policy and programme, which can be implemented in various contexts (e.g. domestic, schools, businesses), aimed at mitigating the harmful effects of heteronormative ideologies and implicit homophobia and discrimination in language.

Mark's research is under the supervision of Dr Máiréad Moriarty, Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics and Assistant Dean International.

"My interest in this field has personal origins. Growing up as someone who didn't fit the traditional societal mould of masculinity, a question I was repeatedly asked was, "why do you sound so gay?", so when I took a Sociolinguistics module in my first year of University I thought, "Here's my chance to find out what's going on!" This led to me conduct a Conversation Analysis for my Final Year Project of my BA in Applied Languages, and to pursue my studies at Master's level.

"Gradually, this concern with linguistic indices of sexuality gave way to, in my opinion, the more pressing issues of the underlying ideology behind that initial question and why it even matters in the first place? As such, my MA thesis examined the representation of queer people in newspaper articles at the time of the Marriage Equality Referendum of May 2015. The aim of this was to reveal the role of language



in the discursive construction of stereotypes and the reproduction of harmful ideologies affecting LGBTQ+ people nationwide. Having identified how this discrimination occurs in Ireland, I felt compelled to take the next step in UL towards counteracting it.

**"It will be designed to promote inclusivity and awareness."**

"The purpose of my PhD research is to enact tangible change and mitigate the harmful effects of heteronormative ideologies and implicit homophobia and discrimination in language. Language policy is one mechanism by which dominant groups establish hegemony in language use. It will not be designed to prohibit certain linguistic practices, rather, taking Cooper's definition of language planning as, "deliberate attempts to influence the linguistic behaviour of others", will be designed to promote inclusivity and awareness.

"It is my hope that my research will equip teachers in schools, parents of LGBTQ+ children, and companies who are conscious of inclusivity with the knowledge to promote diversity and to speak of matters of sexuality and gender in an informed and non-discriminatory manner."

**Why did you choose to do your PhD at UL?**

"Over the course of my studies at UL, I developed an **encouraging network, comprising of teachers and fellow students**. Returning to UL affords me the opportunity to preserve and foster as these relationships which have been enriching thus far. My supervisors and teachers have always encouraged me and equipped me with the tools to engage with my particular research interests in a meaningful way - this is invaluable in my opinion.

"The University of Limerick also boasts an **excellent postgraduate research community**. Many colleagues of mine have become good friends, and with all the courses and training programmes on offer, someone new to the world of academia will soon feel at home.

"Another reason I chose the University of Limerick is because the campus **offers many opportunities for PhD students to maintain a healthy work-life balance** - something I've learned is an absolute must when undertaking a PhD!"

**Do you have any advice for someone thinking of doing a PhD?**

"If you're thinking of doing a PhD, make it a reflection of who you are and your interests. Research is so much easier when you enjoy reading (and there is a lot of reading) about your specific topic. If you have any questions about the day-to-day of doing a PhD, talk to current students and get them to share their experiences. Finally, don't be scared of it - you are able!"

## ENGLISH, IRISH AND COMMUNICATION LAUNCH OF LIMERICK VOICE 2019

**Congratulations to our fourth year and MA students of Journalism at University of Limerick, who have launched the 2019 edition of Limerick Voice newspaper.**

The award winning newspaper was published in December with the Limerick Leader. Limerick Voice is a multi-media news project taught as part of the BA and MA in Journalism programmes in UL. The project has been shortlisted for many national media awards and last year the Voice was named Newspaper of the Year at the National Student Media Awards. The paper also won the prize for Best Layout and Design at this year's awards.

Speaking at the launch of Limerick Voice 2019 newspaper at UL this Thursday, editor Nicole Glennon said the mission statement for this year's project was to "inform, engage and inspire the people of Limerick" with thought-provoking and innovative content across a range of media platforms.

"As a young team, we've endeavoured to highlight the issues facing our generation that we feel haven't been given the coverage they deserve. Stories cover the growing issue of anti-anxiety drug abuse among young people in the city, to young local women selling explicit content on social platforms and the appalling length of time young local transgender people are waiting for treatment," she added.

The power of community spirit is also celebrated with four pages dedicated to stories about people and projects in Limerick's regeneration areas.

The website [limerickvoice.com](http://limerickvoice.com) has been live since September, covering daily breaking news and sports

stories and the project has been active across social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The team also produced two weekly podcasts on Spotify.

Speaking at the launch of Limerick Voice, Professor Helen Kelly Holmes, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at UL, said: "Once again, I am so impressed by the standard and quality of Limerick Voice. The students produce this in a real-time, high pressure environment. The experience gained through producing Limerick Voice is one of the reasons that our graduates are work-ready and take up leading positions in local, national and international media. I would like to thank Kathryn Hayes and all of the Journalism staff for their time and dedication

and all the media outlets that support and cooperate with us in delivering our Journalism programmes, in particular the Limerick Leader without whom the publication of Limerick Voice would not be possible."

UL Course Director in Journalism and New Media, Kathryn Hayes, who oversaw the production of the paper, said the experience of

working on Limerick Voice provides vital real life experience for students.

"Experiential learning is a key element of our journalism teaching in UL and working on Limerick Voice enables students to get first hand experience of reporting across all digital platforms producing valuable news content for multi-platform use. This year the team produced the largest newspaper to date and at 48 pages this was a massive achievement. We are particularly grateful to the Limerick Leader newspaper for their continued support of this project."

**"The experience gained through producing Limerick Voice is one of the reasons that our graduates are work-ready"**



## GAISCE THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD



### GOLD GAISCE AWARD FOR UL ARTS STUDENT

Congratulations to our first year Arts student Lorcán Tuohy-Donnelly, who was awarded a Gold Gaisce Award by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Gaisce - The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25, which can enhance confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical, community and team challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential.

As part of his award, Lorcán built on his SCUBA diving skills; and walked the Grand Canal way, an 80-kilometre journey which he completed in four days, camping and staying in self-catering accommodation. Lorcán volunteered as a Safer Internet Day Ambassador with Webwise, the

Irish Internet Safety Agency. Through this work, Lorcán wanted to promote online safety education programmes in local schools to avoid bullying, blackmail and extortion. He also worked on a project by Dúchas.ie to transcribe a collection of folklore stories compiled by schoolchildren last century in Ireland.

He said of the award: "Gaisce helped me personally quite a lot to keep up with things that I enjoy. Study for a lot of students is quite overwhelming. The gold helped because it gave me distractions and time off from my study. It gave me confidence."

The award runs in the family as Lorcán's mother Sinéad received her Gold Gaisce Award 23 years ago from President Mary Robinson.

### SCHOOL OF LAW

### NIALL COSGRAVE MEMORIAL PRIZE



The School of Law held an event to commemorate Garda Niall Cosgrave who was a member of the inaugural class to take the BA in Applied Policing and Criminal Justice at UL, commencing in September 2017.

Sadly Niall passed away last October. As one of the pioneers on the programme, it is fitting that he is remembered for his contribution. Commencing this year, the best overall student on the programme will be awarded the 'The Niall Cosgrave Memorial Prize in Applied Policing and Criminal Justice', a prize sponsored by the Garda Representative Association. Members of Niall's family were also presented with a Certificate of Attendance.

# OUR GRADUATES



## ALAN OWENS

**BA IN EUROPEAN STUDIES, 2004**

Alan Owens recently joined University of Limerick as Communications Officer. He graduated from UL in 2004 from the BA in European Studies, and spent a year working as a German translator in Thomson Scientific. After a year of travel around the world, he returned to UL in 2006 and did a Masters in History.

An award-winning journalist and editor with the Limerick Leader newspaper, Alan has significant experience at local, regional and national level and was a regular contributor to radio throughout his career. He most recently held the position of Assistant Editor at the Limerick Leader. Alan talked to us about his time at UL:

### Why did you choose your course at UL?

I was keen on an arts degree as I wanted to do something that was broad and varied and not prescriptive to one defined route of employment. I was particularly keen on the continental focus of European Studies. I had a keen interest in history, politics, law and languages – all of

which I studied during the four years at undergraduate level. I was also very drawn to the idea of doing an Erasmus semester abroad.

### What did you like best about your time at UL?

I loved the broad nature of the course. That it also included people from so many different courses studying together across different modules – ie from HPSS, Law and Accounting etc all under the arts banner, depending on subject, meant great variety. I was also in awe of the campus and still am. There are great memories around every corner. I am from Limerick and had spent time on the campus before I started in first year, but not to any great extent. So it was a wonderful learning curve. In time, the stints off campus during co-op and Erasmus were among the many highlights – as was returning to what is the most beautiful campus in Ireland.

### In what way did your course prepare you for your career?

I think having a broad knowledge of a lot of different sectors meant I was equipped to take on board information and assimilate it and distil it for what I needed it for – and still do. I learned everything from philosophy to law, history to German literature and more. It was the best kind of grounding in the humanities – all of which are applicable and vital in the world of communications.

### Any advice for school leavers?

Don't assume that the first course of action you take on leaving school will lead to your final destination. If you already know what you want to do, fine, go ahead and pursue it. If you don't, spend some time figuring it out and trying different things. When you do start study or your career, listen, take notes, work hard and have fun. The people around you are experts in their field; soak up their experience and utilise it in the best way you can. And write everything down – you never know when you might need that piece of information again.



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