



# AHSS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017



Dr Mairead Moriarty, Tiffy Allen (Network Coordinator for City of Sanctuary Ireland), President of UL Dr Des Fitzgerald, and Donnah Vuma

## UL DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

The University of Limerick has been designated a University of Sanctuary in recognition of its initiatives welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into its University community.

AHSS Assistant Dean, International, Dr Mairead Moriarty, who led the University of Limerick Sanctuary steering committee, said: "The current refugee crisis tests the inner strength of our educational culture. At the University of Limerick we firmly believe that a University education should be a possibility for all. We have been committed to providing access to our University for people from all backgrounds and we are delighted to extend this to people currently living in Direct Provision through our announcement of 17 sanctuary scholarships".

Up to 17 scholarships are being made available to asylum seekers living in Direct Provision centres. From next year, refugees and asylum seekers currently in second-level education will also be eligible to apply for scholarships.

The award was officially presented to President of UL, Dr Des Fitzgerald at a special ceremony on United Nations World Refugee Day (Tuesday, June 20).

"In being designated as a University of Sanctuary, UL has committed to a three-year action plan to promote access and to

integrate those from a refugee and asylum background into third level education," Dr Fitzgerald stated. Dr Fitzgerald also outlined a number of initiatives run by the university which engage with people seeking sanctuary in Ireland.

As part of their UL Engage module, our MA in TESOL students, led by Dr Mairead Moriarty, spent a number of weeks delivering three separate English language courses to refugees and asylum seekers currently living in the Limerick region. On May 22nd, the Faculty held a graduation ceremony at UL for the participants, where our MA students presented their own students with certificates (pictured below).



**PAGE 2** FAREWELL TO  
OUR FACULTY DEAN,  
PROF. TOM LODGE



**PAGE 5** UL SCHOOL OF  
LAW WINS NATIONAL  
LAW SCHOOL OF THE  
YEAR AWARD



**PAGE 11** DEPT OF  
HISTORY LINKS WITH  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
UNIVERSITY IN INDIA



## FACULTY TEACHING BOARD FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Faculty in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences are invited to apply to the Faculty Teaching Board for staff development funding to enhance any aspect of teaching and learning. In line with priorities agreed by the Faculty Teaching Board, the Board particularly encourages on this occasion applications in the following area:

### 'UL: Beyond the Campus'

We encourage projects which involve local, regional, national and international communities. Projects in particular which focus on encouraging students to share their knowledge with different communities are welcomed. Sub-themes might include:

- **UL in the City/Region**
- **The City/ Region in the classroom**
- **Internationalising the classroom**

Other types of activities that have been funded in the past include the organisation of teaching related events (workshops, seminars, conferences etc), attendance at teaching-related events, investigations and evaluations of teaching practices and issues (feedback, attendance, engagement etc), and the development of teaching supports and resources.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://goo.gl/wljyEf> by Friday July 21 at 5pm.

## A THANK YOU TO OUR DEAN

Our Dean of AHSS, Prof. Tom Lodge's term finishes in August 2017. As this is our final newsletter before Tom completes his term, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank him for his leadership for the last 6 years.



Tom was appointed Dean in January 2011, and has overseen huge changes in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences. His key achievements include the introduction of Creative Writing with the appointments of Professors Joseph O'Connor and Giles Foden; the restructuring of the School of LLCC into two new Schools, Modern Languages & Applied Linguistics and Culture and Communication; and the creation of the new Bachelor of Arts programme in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College. To support research output, Tom introduced the Faculty Book Completion Award in 2011. Under Tom's leadership, the Faculty introduced the Student Ambassador scheme in 2015, as well as an increased social media and web presence.

Throughout his term as Dean, Tom has actively continued with his research in the area of African politics, most notably his involvement with the Irish aid-funded project UL HIV Policy Action, a collaborative partnership between a number of institutes of higher education in Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa and Ireland.

Tom has also continued his teaching for the Department of Politics and Public Administration, and his duties as course director for the MA in Peace and Development Studies. In this time, Tom has supervised 13 PhD candidates, 8 of whom have recently graduated.

In the Faculty Office, we have all been grateful for Tom's sterling support in terms of staff development. We will all miss Tom's gentle guidance and wish him a very productive and well-deserved sabbatical.



To contribute items for future newsletters, or to our Faculty blog  
[ahssresearch.wordpress.com](https://ahssresearch.wordpress.com)  
 please contact  
[jess.beeley@ul.ie](mailto:jess.beeley@ul.ie)

# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH



## 3RD ANNUAL AHSS POSTGRAD RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences held its third annual AHSS Postgraduate Research Conference in May 2017. The conference highlights the research of the Faculty's postgraduate students, and gives students the opportunity to present in a real conference environment.

The Postgraduate Research Conference is an important part of our students' overall academic training and is also an opportunity to share ideas and experiences across disciplines. In his opening address, Professor Eoin Devereux, Assistant Dean of Research spoke about the Faculty's commitment to the student experience. Each conference panel was chaired by a PhD student, and the day also featured a number of academic posters by our research students.

The winner of the Dean's Prize for Best Conference paper was Zach Roche, Department of Sociology, for his paper 'Left After Debt: Coping After the Crisis', examining the Insolvency Service of Ireland (ISI). Second place was awarded to Sean O'Connell, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics.

Congratulations also to Niall Curry, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, who won the Dean's Prize for Best Conference Poster. The runner up was Michelle Starr, Department of Sociology. Fourteen students presented their research throughout the day on a diverse range of subjects. The event was organised by Dr Niamh Lenahan, AHSS Graduate Centre.

## PHD COMMUNITY LIFE HACKS

The AHSS Postgraduate Research Community: Summer Seminar took place on 26th April in the Pavilion, UL. The second event in the series, the seminar was organised by AHSS postgraduate students: Niall Curry (Modern Languages & Applied Linguistics), Pam Wall (Culture & Communication) and Gerald Maher (History). The theme for the seminar was PhD life hacks: Conference preparation, academic presentations and training for PhD researchers. Speakers and topics included:

- **Dr. Caoilfhionn Ní Bheacháin** (KBS): raising academic profiles and developing research networks
- **Dr Darina Slattery** (School of Culture and Communication): conference presentations
- **Dr. Aoife Lenihan** (Regional Writing Centre): designing academic posters
- **Dr. Fintan Bracken** (Glucksman Library) highlighted the scope of training courses organised by the Library
- **Anne O'Dwyer** spoke about the courses arranged by the UL Graduate School, specifically those that concentrate on developing transferable skills.

Prof. Eoin Devereux (Assistant Dean of Research of AHSS), closed the seminar and offered some practical tips on how to deal with pressure, stress and the focus on individuality in PhD research and academia.

The seminar successfully allowed a community of researchers to form, and was well attended. It exemplified the desire for AHSS research students to build an open and fun community in which they can learn, share their travails, laugh and cry! The organisers would like to express their thanks to Dr Niamh Lenahan, AHSS Graduate Research Centre, and Prof. Eoin Devereux, who supported the event in terms of, its organisation, and funding, for the venue and refreshments provided.

**AHSS Postgraduate Research Community: Summer Seminar**  
 PhD life hacks: Conference preparation, academic presentations and training for PhD researchers

**Pavilion, Wednesday April 26th, 1:30- 4:30**  
A light lunch and refreshments will be provided at 1:30

A Lonely Road? Some Practical Tips on Completing the PhD  
**Prof Eoin Devereux**  
Assistant Dean Research, AHSS

Networking at Conferences with  
**Dr. Caoilfhionn Ní Bheacháin**  
Management and Marketing, KBS

Speaking at Conferences with  
**Dr. Darina Slattery**  
Technical Communication and Instructional Design, C&C

Creating Academic Posters with  
**Dr. Aoife Lenihan**  
Regional Writing Centre, CTL

Developing Academic Skills with  
**Dr. Fintan Bracken & Anne O'Dwyer**  
Glucksman Library & Graduate School

  


The event is free to attend and food and refreshments will be provided; please RSVP to [niamh.lenahan@ul.ie](mailto:niamh.lenahan@ul.ie) by 5pm on Monday 24 April  
 Event Organisers: Niall Curry, Pam Wall, Gerald Maher



## UL JOURNALISM STUDENTS IN GOOGLE FELLOWSHIP SUCCESS

Three UL Journalism students have secured highly competitive Google News Labs Fellowships in top media organisations in Ireland. Three out of five places on offer in nationwide in Irish newsrooms went to UL students. The students, Jennifer Purcell, Cillian Sherlock and Andrew Roberts, will complete eight-week placements at national media organisations, including The Irish Times, The Irish Independent and The Journal.ie. The UL students were chosen for the Google News Lab Fellowships from hundreds of applications from journalism students across Ireland.



## PROF. WHELAN BECOMES MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE RIA

Many congratulations to Associate Professor Bernadette Whelan MRIA, Department of History, University of Limerick, who has become a member of the Council of the Royal Irish Academy. The Royal Irish Academy/Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann champions research. It identifies and recognises Ireland's world class researchers. It supports scholarship and promotes awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. The Academy is run by a Council of its members. Membership is considered the highest Academic honour in Ireland.

## UL SCORES HAT-TRICK AT NATIONAL STUDENT MEDIA AWARDS



The University of Limerick scored a hat-trick at the 17th National Student Media Awards where three of its journalism students scooped top awards. Fourth year Journalism and New Media student, Jennifer Purcell was named Features Writer Of The Year - News & Current Affairs, for a number of stories she wrote

highlighting mental health issues. MA in Journalism and New Media Student, Andrew Roberts won the award for best Film Script of the Year for 'Egg Timer'. The People's Choice Awards was won by UL's campus newspaper An Focal whose editor is Journalism and New Media graduate, Paul Saunders.

## AWARDS



## UL SCHOOL OF LAW WINS LAW SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The School of Law at the University of Limerick was named the top law school in the country at the sixth annual AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards held in Dublin in May 2017.

The AIB Private Banking Irish Law Awards set out to identify, commend and publicise excellence and outstanding achievements in Irish law and recognise exemplary practices of leading law firms and teams right throughout the country.

RTÉ presenter Miriam O'Callaghan presented Professor Shane Kilcommins, head of the School of Law at UL (both pictured above), with the Law School of the Year Award at the ceremony.



## JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

In January, Barbara Geraghty, lecturer in Japanese in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the Japanese Foreign Ministry for her work in the promotion and teaching of Japanese language and culture since 2000. The Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs were present at the ceremony at Iveagh House in Dublin.



## RIA CHARLEMONT GRANT

Dr Mariano Paz (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, University of Limerick) was awarded a Charlemont Grant by the Royal Irish Academy. Mary E. Daly, President of the Academy presented the 2017 Charlemont scholars with their certificates in a ceremony on 9th March 2017. Dr Paz's award will allow him to travel to the University of South Florida Library, Tampa, USA, to research his project 'Dystopian short stories in Argentinean literature'.



## UL RESEARCHERS URGE FOR HATE CRIME LEGISLATION IN IRELAND

The Hate and Hostility Research Group (HHRG), as part of the National Steering Group Against Hate Crime, presented to politicians in the Houses of the Oireachtas in March on the need for, and form of, hate crime legislation in Ireland. Dr Amanda Haynes (Dept of Sociology) and Jennifer Schweppe (School of Law) of HHRG were invited by Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin to present on both the impacts of hate crime, as well as the manner in which the hate element of a crime is addressed in law currently.

Dr Amanda Haynes, drawing on international and Irish research findings, spoke of the manner in which hate crime impacts individuals and communities:

"Ethnic minorities, LGBT+ persons, people with disabilities and others who are subjected to hate crime are doubly victimised – first by the criminal act itself and secondly by the harm inflicted in the targeting of their identity. That targeting – often aggressively verbalised in the course of an assault, or inscribed on a home in spray paint – sends a message of rejection and a warning of the ongoing risk of repeat victimisation. Victims experience emotional and psychological distress as well as behavioural changes that can damage integration. As a society, we need to establish effective responses to both the collective problem of hate crime and the individual's experience of

hate motivated victimisation if we are to interrupt its message of rejection and replace it with one of solidarity."

**"When we legislate against hate crime, we are sending the message to society that we will not stand for this type of violent exclusion."**

Jennifer Schweppe of the HHRG observed that, currently, the hate element of a crime is often 'disappeared' through the criminal justice process, referring to research conducted by the HHRG and published in its Report, 'Out of the Shadows: Legislating for Hate Crime in Ireland'. She said that by legislating, we are sending an important message to victims, their communities and society as a whole:

"When we legislate against hate crime, we are sending the message to society that we will not stand for this type of violent exclusion. We are also sending a message to victims and their communities that they are valued and that we consider this behaviour reprehensible. As a society,

Ireland needs to take a stand against hate crime, making it clear that we will not tolerate this violent manifestation of prejudice. As one of the few EU or common law countries without hate crime legislation, we have an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions and introduce legislation which benefits from international experiences as well as being fit for purpose in an Irish context."

During the presentation, victims spoke eloquently and movingly about their experiences of homophobic, racist and anti-Muslim hate crime, describing how being a victim of this type of crime impacted their lives.

The event took place as part of the National Week of Action Against Hate Crime, during which the National Steering Group Against Hate Crime called for the Government to urgently legislate against hate crime. The Group, made up of 18 organisations which represent marginalised communities in Ireland, represents minority ethnic communities, Traveller communities, LGBT+ communities, older persons, disabled communities and other groups, as well as the HHRG, used the hashtag #DontHateLegislate, to promote the issue, which trended nationally on social media all week.

## 'JUDGES, POLITICS & THE IRISH CONSTITUTION' LAUNCHED AT THE RIA



The book 'Judges, Politics and the Irish Constitution' edited by Laura Cahillane, James Gallen (DCU) and Tom Hickey (DCU) was launched on 18th May in the Royal Irish Academy by Senator Michael McDowell. The book arose out of a conference organised by the editors in 2014 and it brings together academics and judges to consider ideas and arguments flowing from the often complex relationships between law and politics, adjudication and policy-making, and the judicial and political branches of government.

The book is dedicated to the memory of the late Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman, who also contributed a chapter to the volume, and a copy was presented to his widow Judge Yvonne Murphy on the night.

The launch was well attended by members of the superior courts, the president and vice-president of DCU, members of the legal professions and the academic community.

Senator McDowell praised the editors for bringing together such a distinguished collection and recommended it as essential reading.



## HISTORY STUDIES LAUNCH

Wednesday 19th April, saw the launch of Volume 17 of History Studies, the only history journal edited and published by post graduate students in Ireland.

## PUBLICATIONS



## JOINT BOOK LAUNCH

The School of Culture and Communication recently celebrated the launch of two new monographs by faculty in English: *Jane Austen and Performance* by Marina Cano and *Ghost Writing in Contemporary American Fiction* by David Coughlan, both published by Palgrave Macmillan. The books were launched by Dr Michael Griffin of UL and Prof. Graham Allen of UCC, respectively.

Dr Cano's book is the first exploration of the performative and theatrical force of Austen's work and its afterlife, from the nineteenth century to the present. It unearths new and little-known Austen materials (such as suffragette novels and school and amateur theatricals) and concludes with an examination of Austen fandom based on an online survey conducted by the author. Dr Griffin praised the ambitious scope of the study, in which each chapter teaches us something new about Austen's legacy.

Dr Coughlan's book is about the appearance of the spectre in American twentieth and twenty-first-century fiction. Its innovative structure has chapters on the work of five major US authors—Paul Auster, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Marilynne Robinson, and Philip Roth—alternating with shorter sections detailing the significance of the ghost in the philosophy of Jacques Derrida.

The launch was preceded by a poetry recital by Prof. Allen, reading from his two collections, *The One That Got Away* and *The Madhouse System*.





## GAELTACHT WEEKEND FOR FAMILIES

Following the pilot initiative last year, Aonad na Gaeilge, the Irish Language Centre at UL, teamed up with Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh and Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan, Nenagh to design a weekend programme of activities for families in the West Kerry Gaeltacht. Ghlac 17 dteaghlach ó thrí Ghaelscoil éagsúla agus ón bpobal Ollscoile féin páirt sa turas le linn na Cásca (21-23 Aibreán 2017).

A new language support series of blog articles targeting parents interested in using more Irish in the home environment was developed over the six week period leading up to the weekend. This aimed to increase awareness of resource material and networking opportunities for families with Irish. Useful phrases and vocabulary and snippets of local folklore were shared with participants on the Lónra blog also.

The official programme commenced with a singing workshop hosted by Mossie Scanlon, singer-in-residence at Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Throughout the weekend, parents and children enjoyed a variety of activities through Irish. The schedule of events for children included co-operative games; drama workshops; a hurling session with Diarmuid Lyng, TG4 commentator and former Wexford hurler; a trip to Mara Beo, the Dingle aquarium; and a session at An Falla Dreapadóireachta, the local climbing wall. The parents had an opportunity to attend language workshops at various levels and enjoyed a guided heritage walk in glorious weather. The seisiún ceoil was led by Jillian Ní Mháille, Aonad na Gaeilge an accomplished flute player.

Links with local Irish language planning initiatives co-ordinated by Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne such as Tús Maith were further nurtured by this joint programme. The language and cultural awareness of parents was heightened, while the children enjoyed occasions to interact through Irish with local children in the village playground. Aonad na Gaeilge and University of Limerick links with Gaelscoileanna were strengthened through this initiative and insights were gained into the general language support needs of parents with children in the Irish-medium sector. We, at Aonad na Gaeilge look forward to building on the 2017 programme and researching the language support needs of this target group further. Short accounts of the trip are available at Nenagh Guardian agus West Kerry Live - Corca Dhuibhne Beo.



## THE OGHAM STONE LAUNCHED AT DOOLIN WRITERS' WEEKEND

The 2017 edition of The Ogham Stone, the literary journal produced at the University of Limerick, was launched on 4th February at Doolin Writers' Weekend by new Arts Council Writer Fellow at UL, Julian Gough. Produced by the students on the MA in English and the MA in Creative Writing programmes, and supported by the School of Culture and Communication and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Ogham Stone is fast emerging as a distinctive and prestigious context for new writing in Ireland, even at a time when literary magazines and independent publishers are increasingly under threat.



## POSTGRAD RESEARCH TRIP IN AFRICA

At the end of February 2017, John Hogan, a PhD candidate in the Department of Politics and Public Administration, began a three and a half month field trip to South Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria as part of his PhD research, which is focused on the origins of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) of the African Union (AU). John's field trip was partially funded by the AHSS Research Board. Here he talks about his experience.

"The framework, which governs how the AU's 55 member states collectively respond to security threats on the continent, is one of the pillars of the organisation. Despite this, the origins of how the APSA was created have been the subject of little scholarly work, with most existing research focusing on its effectiveness, rather than the causal factors behind its institutional design.

"Although the policies that provide legal basis for the framework have been ratified by each AU member state, its creation was primarily guided by the governments of



South Africa and Nigeria, roughly between the years 2000 and 2004. During my time in both countries, I interviewed diplomats, military figures, academics, policy advisors and politicians – including former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo (pictured bottom left and right) – regarding their role in the evolution of the APSA. My visits to South Africa and Nigeria also facilitated my gaining access to important foreign policy archives, through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in the former and the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in the latter.

### I interviewed diplomats, military figures, academics, policy advisors and politicians

"The archives of the AU Commission are located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and contain a large selection of documents related to discussions, focused on continental security, that took place between member states of the newly formed AU shortly after the turn of the millennium. Because the archives are still a work in progress, much of the documentation contained there is only available in hard copy, meaning researchers have to travel to Ethiopia in order to obtain copies of relevant material.

"While in Addis Ababa, I was also able to conduct interviews with officials from the organisation, some of whom played a central role in inter-state discussions regarding the creation of the APSA. Other interviewees were more recent arrivals at the AU but are centrally involved today in utilising the APSA to try and achieve peace and stability on the African continent. Both groups of officials provided testimony which will make up a highly important component of my PhD dissertation."

Read more about John's research trip on his blog: [johnjhoganblog.wordpress.com](http://johnjhoganblog.wordpress.com)



## INTERNATIONAL LINKS



Muireann Prendergast, Joseph O'Connor & Nancy Avila-Ledesma

**President Higgins described Joseph O'Connor as “one of the great Irish diplomats of literature, renowned abroad and loved at home.”**

Palacio Segundo Cabo, CALS member and visiting PhD scholar to UL from Spain’s Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Nancy Avila-Ledesma, presented a paper entitled “Exile or safe haven? Exploring the language of emigration in nineteenth-century Irish emigrants’ personal correspondence.”

The keynote of the third day was given by Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Trinity College Dublin, and Chair of The Irish Research Council again at Palacio Segundo Cabo. On this final day also, CALS member from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, PhD student Muireann Prendergast presented her research: “The Southern Cross: A study of counter-discourse during Argentina’s last military dictatorship 1982-1983.”

On Saturday evening, the newly renovated, Romanesque style, city landmark of Teatro Martí, was host to a moving performance of Irish and Cuban musicians led by Liam O’ Maonlai for an audience including President Higgins and conference delegates which drew the truly memorable three days to a close.

## AHSS IN CUBA

The University of Limerick’s Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was strongly represented at the 2017 Society of Latin American Studies (SILAS) conference which took place in Havana, Cuba, from February 16 to 18 2017. The conference coincided with the first Irish presidential visit to Cuba and the Havana International Book Fair, which adopted an Irish theme this year to celebrate the arrival of President Higgins to the country.

The highlight of the first day of events was the President’s launch in Cuba of “Star of the Sea,” by Prof. Joseph O’Connor, UL’s Frank McCourt Chair of Creative Writing, in front of an audience that included some of Ireland’s best known writers as well as Cuban and Venezuelan diplomats. The launch took place at the historic El Morro fortress used by Che Guevara as his headquarters following the overthrow of the country’s Batista regime in 1959. With the publication of “Star of the Sea” in Havana, O’Connor became the first Irish writer to be published in Cuba in 50 years since James Joyce’s Ulysses.

On the second day of the conference, the keynote speech was given by President Higgins as patron of SILAS. Afterwards, at



Congratulations to Sarah Cusack, Katelyn Broderick, Sarah Delaney and Amy Browne from Scoil Íde agus Iosef who won a recent documentary competition held by the Department of History. Their winning 8-minute film was entitled ‘Women of the Rising: A Detailed Account of the Life of Countess Markievicz’ (1868-1927). Pictured above with Prof Anthony McElligott, Mr Liam Murphy (Principal, Scoil Íde agus Iosef), Dr Michael J. Griffin, Dr Vincent O’Connell, and Mr Shane Curtin (Scoil Íde agus Iosef).

# LINKS WITH INDIA

Dr Ciara Breathnach (Department of History) undertook a visit to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in March 2017 as a Visiting Fellow of the Centre for Historical Research. Whilst there, she organised a research slam where UL MA History of Family students interacted online with students from JNU. Here she talks about her time in India:

"I was really honored to deliver lectures on Professor Jyoti Atwal's Masters' level module Women in Ireland: Reforms, Movements and Revolutions (1840-1930) and a seminar based on my own research. To advance our aim of connectivity between UL/JNU we conducted a 'research slam', this is a pedagogical exercise whereby students are given 3 minutes to explain their research it is an effective time optimization tool. The slam was skillfully facilitated by Alan Hayes of UL's ITD.



Professor Atwal & Four Courts Press books

## INTERNATIONAL LINKS



Dr Ciara Breathnach

The classrooms at JNU are not networked so it posed some difficulties, none that were insurmountable and all was conducted in a great spirit of collaboration."

"The trip was hugely informative on so many levels and thanks to my amazing host, Professor Jyoti Atwal, I met fabulous people, ate wonderful food, attended even a wedding. I also visited some truly awesome UNESCO world Heritage sites including the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort at Agra."

"With thanks to Four Courts Press who generously donated books to the programme; Professor Bernadette Whelan, UL, who sent out some of her personal library; Alan Hayes of UL ITD and my wonderful students on the MA History of Family."



MA History students participating in Prof Atwal's Irish women's history module



## UL WELCOMES 900 DELEGATES TO ISB11 CONFERENCE

The University of Limerick hosted the 11th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB11) on 11-15th June 2017. ISB is the primary forum for scholarly exchange on all aspects of research on bilingualism and multilingualism, from the linguistic end of the field, including neuroscience and clinical therapies, through sociolinguistic approaches, politics and public policy to second and additional language acquisition. The conference convenes in alternate years and has been held across Europe, Asia and North America. This was the first time that it has come to Ireland.

The theme for ISB11 was 'Bilingualism, Multilingualism and the New Speaker', although all aspects of bilingual and multilingual research were present among the 900 delegates from 64 countries. The 'new speaker' is an emerging research paradigm that considers all aspects of the linguistic and sociolinguistic competences and practices of bilingual and multilingual speakers, particularly those who consistently use a language or languages in their personal or professional lives that was not the first language they spoke at home.

The scale of the conference was reflected in the work of 162 reviewers in the International Scientific Committee, who each reviewed between ten and twenty submissions. The work of 1,457 authors was presented at the conference where at least one of the original authors of each contribution presented the work in person. There were six plenary keynotes, delivered by Ana

Deumert (University of Cape Town), Alexandre Duchêne (University of Fribourg), Elizabeth Lanza (University of Oslo), Tina Hickey (University College Dublin), Lisa Lim (University of Hong Kong), and Jean-Marc Dewaele (Birbeck University of London) and seven invited colloquia panels, including eminent scholars from around the world who addressed key, cutting-edge aspects of multilingualism's research agenda. There were also 36 themed colloquia, 360 individual papers and 127 posters presented over the four days. About 20% of those attending were research students or very early stage scholars and the conference was able to award 41 bursaries for registration, accommodation and/or travel, designed to encourage participation from established and emerging scholars in countries with underdeveloped economies.

The conference was hugely successful on both intellectual and social levels and UL language research was showcased in all the available fora, underlining the international steering committee's decision to award the conference to UL because of the excellence of its standing in the field and its ability to efficiently organise such a large gathering. The conference benefitted from the way that the UL community contributed in many ways beyond presenting their research; students, administrative staff and the most junior to most senior academics chaired sessions, worked at the registration desks, helped steer participants through the campus and were attentive in every way to the hundreds of international visitors at all stages in their own careers. Visit [isb11.com](http://isb11.com).

## THANKS TO OUR 2016-17 STUDENT AMBASSADORS!

The AHSS Faculty Office were delighted to present our Student Ambassadors with certificates of appreciation for their work with us this year. Our Ambassadors have been working on a voluntary basis with the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, writing blog posts, helping at Open Days and posting on our Instagram and Twitter accounts. The Student Ambassador scheme was established by Jess Beeley, who asked our Ambassadors to give prospective students a taste of what life is like at UL. Visit our student blog at [studyartsul.com](http://studyartsul.com) to find out more about student life at the University of Limerick.



*Pictured above: Nadine Kimak (Erasmus), Aoife Martyn (Applied Languages), Jane Vaughan (English & History), Jantien Schoenmakers (MSAC), Anna Henderson (New Media & English), Jennifer Purcell (Journalism & New Media)*