



# AHSS NEWSLETTER

# Summer 2021



**UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**Arts,  
Humanities and  
Social Sciences**



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June  
2021

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## Dean's Welcome

**Fáilte, welcome to our June 2021 Newsletter issue.**

Dear colleagues,

I am really pleased to introduce you to the latest edition of the Faculty Newsletter. I am very grateful to Oonagh Grace and Róna Gillespie for coordinating its production and for presenting us with such a splendid publication.

I should begin by acknowledging the outstanding work of all staff in managing the circumstances presented by Covid. It has been a challenging academic year, but their professionalism and dedication has ensured that the delivery of our programmes has continued, and to the usual high standards. Our students have also been very resilient and creative - with strong engagement with online delivery and virtual supervision in evidence.

The activities of our staff and students, which are so impressive in their reach, are detailed in the newsletter. It maps a rich mix of activities and engagements, including funding successes, teaching awards, artistic contributions, performances, the development of strategic partnerships, curriculum development, international recognition for the work of staff, and the exchange of ideas via a range of mediums, including book and article contributions, but also seminars, conferences, symposia and podcasts. It documents all kinds of engagements, befitting of a modern, externally focused community of scholars and professional support staff.

Many of these engagements and interactions demonstrate to me how our Faculty help to connect people, celebrate our cultures, foster creative and ethical thinking, challenge orthodoxy, and sustain (and re-imagine) our future. The activities documented in the newsletter are often consistent with and support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which are a blueprint for all of us to achieve a better and more sustainable future. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, discrimination, gender equality, environmental degradation, peace and justice, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities, quality education in communities, and developing partnerships in achieving these goals. Though only a snapshot in time, the Newsletter, I believe, evidences the exceptional quality of our staff and students.

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*

# Research



## FRAMES – a project Fostering Resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education Innovation

Frames is a newly awarded project within the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union in the specific area: KA226 - 'Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness' in response to the COVID-19 crisis. FRAMES aims to foster a harmonised implementation and accreditation of blended mobility among European Higher Education Institutions, making the European Higher Education Area more innovative and resilient. The project is funded by the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships Programme during the period March 2021 - February 2023.

The project is led by the Mediterranean UNIMED and involves two leading organisations in the Virtual Exchange field (UniCollaboration and the Sharing Perspective Foundation), three universities (Girona, Siena and Limerick) as well as some associated partners such as the Erasmus Students Network and the Network of Public Catalan Universities. Here, at the University of Limerick, the team is comprised of Dr. Marta Giralt, Prof. Mairead Moriarty and Ivanna D'Arcy, working very closely with UL Global.

# International Medical Humanities Conference

## hosted by University of Limerick, 15-17 June

FAHSS colleagues Prof. Ciara Breathnach and Dr. Rachel Murphy were delighted to host the Association for Medical Humanities at the University of Limerick from the 15th-17th of June. Prof. Kerstin Mey opened the conference and welcomed delegates from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, UK, and the USA. Over 100 papers covering a broad range of topics including literature, environmental health, performance, gender, history, philosophy, phenomenology, medical education, narrative medicine and arts in health were delivered. The medical student conference strand was organised by Department of History PhD students Ian Walsh, Stuart Clancy and Rafflesia Khan.

The keynote speakers were Prof. Rose Anne Kenny (TCD), Dr. Brandy Schillace (Editor in Chief of BMJ Medical Humanities) and Prof. Scott Podolsky (Harvard University). Their talks tackled critical aspects of medical and health humanities from the perspectives of healthy ageing, social justice and history of medicine. The conference included two roundtables: the first focused on publishing and offered practical guidance to all career stages, while the second roundtable was hosted by Dr. Marie Connolly, Director of Human Rights, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, UL. The discussion focused on the importance of clear public health messaging from the perspectives of psychiatrist Prof. Brendan Kelly (TCD), medical journalist June Shannon and two of our finest graduates Donnah Vuma (Direct Provision activist) and Dr. Sindy Joyce (UL sociology and Mincéir/Traveller right's activist).

The first evening saw IWAMD graduate and acclaimed singer-songwriter Emma Langford in conversation with Dr. Aileen Dillane. On the second evening, our multi-award-winning author and colleague Donal Ryan was in conversation with Prof. Sarah Moore. An enormous debt of gratitude goes to Deborah Tudge, Megan Tuite and the tech team at UL Events. The programme included non-traditional formats such as Rise and Shine Yoga with UL graduate and yoga teacher Naomi Sturdy and 'Lunch and Learn' events such as an introduction to Irish food history from award-winning chef and food historian, Áine Maguire.

The conference also hosted workshops including Pól Ó Flatharta (Aonad na Gaeilge) on Irish language and culture, Donal Ryan (School of English, Irish and Communication) on creative writing, and Dr. Rachel Murphy (Department of History) on Irish genealogy. Prof. Shane Kilcommins formally closed proceedings.

**Roundtable**  
Thursday 17 June, 1230-1330

**Clear Public Health Messaging**

- Dr Sindy Joyce
- Prof. Brendan Kelly
- June Shannon
- Donnah Vuma

Chair: Dr Marie Connolly, Director, Human Rights, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, University of Limerick

#AMH2021Ireland

**Public Health**

**AMH**  
ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL HUMANITIES

**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

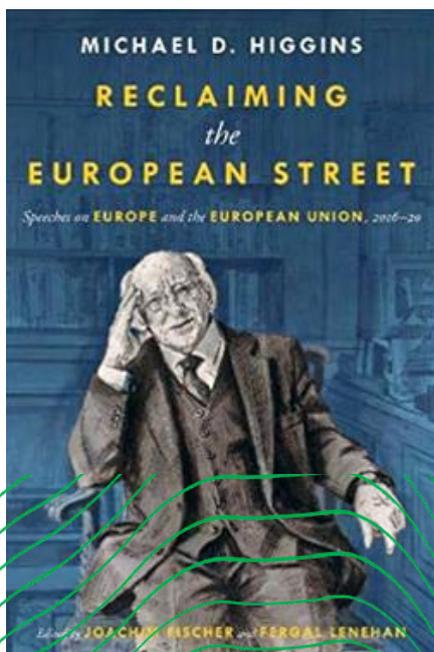
**UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK**  
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# Book Launch: President Michael D. Higgins' speeches on Europe and the European Union 2016-2020

Dr. Joachim Fischer and his co-editor Dr. Fergal Lenahan recently launched their book, *Michael D. Higgins, Reclaiming the European Street, Speeches on Europe and the European Union 2016-2020*, at the online opening event of the Cork World Book Festival on 20 April 2021.

The book depicts deep intellectual, ethical and philosophical reflections from President Michael D. Higgins on the E.U. President Higgins's speeches reflect his social-democratic perspective and are grouped under a number of headings addressing historical aspects, Social Europe, workers' rights, the state of democracy in the EU, the meaning of European citizenship, global inequalities and ecological issues. They also include texts exploring Irish links with other EU member states underlining the extent to which Ireland is – and wishes to be – an integral part of European culture.

Reclaiming the European Street is intended as an Irish contribution to the Europe-wide debate about the future of the European Union.



## Special Issue of Irish University Review on Elizabeth Bowen

Irish University Review 51.1 is a **special issue on Elizabeth Bowen's** writing and life, guest-edited by Dr. Tina O'Toole and Anna Teekell-Hays. Founded in 1970, **IUR** is the leading global journal of Irish literary studies, published by Edinburgh University Press; it is the journal of the International Association of the Study of Irish Literatures, the largest transnational professional association in the field. Elizabeth Bowen (1899-1973) is an important and prolific Irish author who published ten novels and seven short story collections, among a range of writing in other genres. This special issue contains nine essays by first-class scholars including Joseph Bristow, Patricia Coughlan, and Kelly Sullivan, with an introduction by Dr. Tina O'Toole. The array of material available to the editors and the degree of worldwide scholarly attention to the special issue is indicative of Bowen's literary reputation and the sustained scholarly interest in her work.

## Dr. Laura Cahillane: The ‘Woman in the Home’ provision and the Citizens’ Assembly

In February 2021, the Citizens’ Assembly met to consider Article 41.2 of the Constitution – the so-called ‘Woman in the Home’ provision. Dr. Laura Cahillane was invited to present her research on this topic to the Assembly and advise them on wording potential alternatives.

Dr. Cahillane initially began working on this issue in 2017 when her research into the historical origins of the provision and her analysis of the potential legal effect of the Article was published in the Dublin University Law Journal, and an opinion piece was also published by the Irish Times. She was subsequently invited to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice in 2018 when a referendum was proposed, and pre-legislative scrutiny was carried out. A decision on the referendum was not taken at the time. Ultimately, the issue was sent to the Citizens’ Assembly, which has now recommended that the provision be replaced with a version that would place a duty on the State to take reasonable measures to support care in the home.

Following Dr. Cahillane’s work with the Assembly, she was interviewed on Newstalk Breakfast and RTE Drivetime. She had an opinion piece published in the Irish Times, and her research was quoted in a number of articles in the Irish Times, the Irish Examiner and the Journal.ie. She also gave a keynote talk to the Irish Women’s Lawyers Association on the topic and was interviewed on Oireachtas TV. She looks forward to further engagement on this issue in the run-up to the promised referendum.



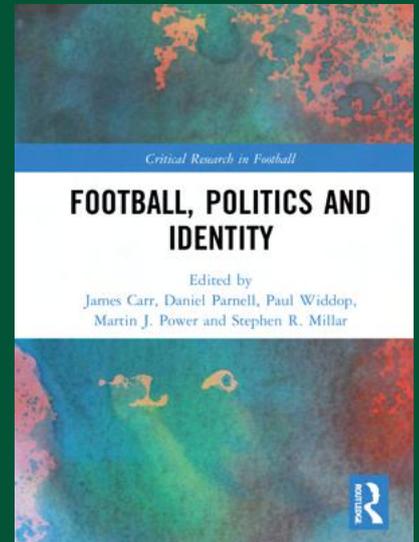


## Launch of book on Digital, Mobile and Open Learning

Dr. Ann Marcus-Quinn and Dr. Triona Hourigan have published their second Springer Handbook together. This latest book addresses the gap in the literature concerned with global case studies of successful Digital, Mobile and Open Education. The book shares experiences from international teaching and learning projects at all levels of education. It provides advice for future policy and investment in digital teaching and learning and Open Education projects. It also provides an expectation on the future capacity and sustainability of Open Education. The chapters in this publication reflect both top-down, and bottom-up approaches and are drawn from authentic contexts. As such, this publication presents concrete examples of good practice in this domain from around the world.

## Department of Sociology launch new co-edited book: Football, Politics and Identity

Dr. James Carr and Dr. Martin Power (Department of Sociology) recently published their new co-edited book, entitled Football, Politics, and Identity with



Routledge. The book presents a series of case studies showing how the lives and bodies of clubs, players and fans around the world are enmeshed with politics. Key themes explored include sectarianism, gender, migration, fan activism, and national identity. It draws on original research in countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, Poland, Mexico, Algeria, and Argentina and includes both historical and contemporary perspectives. This is the 2nd of two books that they were contracted to write with Routledge - Football and Popular Culture: Singing out from the Stands, was published last month.



# National Review of Risk Assessment practices with An Garda Síochána led by Dr. Alan Cusack

In June 2020, Dr. Alan Cusack was appointed to conduct a major national review of the An Garda Síochána Custody Record – Risk Assessment Form C.84(A) to identify areas for procedural reform and improvement in the treatment of vulnerable suspects and detainees in garda custody. The Human Rights Unit commissioned the review within An Garda Síochána as part of a wider, Government-led strategy to implement the

recommendations outlined in the report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland in 2018 (Government of Ireland, A Policing Service for the Future - Implementing the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, 2018).

In his review, Dr. Cusack proposed a series of reform measures that are aimed at elevating Irish police procedure in line with international best practice and human rights imperatives. At the time of writing, these reform proposals are under consideration by the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris, and it is expected that they will be implemented shortly. Further information about this review and the proposals contained therein can be found in a research paper entitled 'Effective Policing in the Community', which was delivered by Kate Mulkerrins, Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern and Superintendent Michael McNamara at the National Disability Authority National Conference 2021.



## Digital Approaches to Early Modern Studies Symposium Series

Centre for  
**Early Modern Studies**  
Limerick

The Centre for Early Modern Studies Limerick convened a Digital Approaches to Early Modern Studies symposium series in the Autumn semester of 2021. The series, organised by Dr. Richard Kirwan and Dr. Catherine Porter, featured individual sessions on network analysis and visualisation, the digital analysis of text, databases, and geographic information systems. The international programme of speakers included Ingeborg van Vugt, Kaspar Gubler, Evan Bourke, Paty Murrieta Flores, Huw Jones, Valeria Vitale, James Kelly, Graeme Kemp, Catherine Porter, Keith Lilley and Bart Holterman. Recordings of a selection of the papers are available on the Centre for Early Modern Studies [\*\*YouTube channel\*\*](#).

# The Meskell UL Fifty Poet in Residence at UL Creative Writing

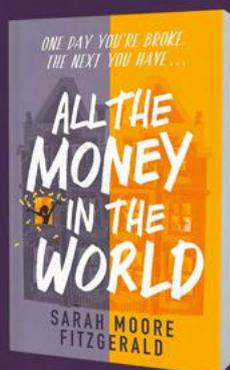
The UL Creative Writing section at the School of English, Irish and Communication is delighted to announce a new role which will be advertised in Autumn: the Meskell UL Fifty Poet in Residence at UL Creative Writing. This poet in residence is funded by a very generous gift from Limerick-American couple, Paddy and Darlene Meskell, the opportunity will bring a poet to UL Creative Writing for a year, annually.

## Book Launch: All the Money in the World

Prof. Sarah Moore Fitzgerald from the UL Creative Writing faculty in the School of English, Irish and Communication will be releasing her latest book 'All the money in the world' on the 8th July.

In a recent preview, the book has been described by the Sunday Independent as a “beautifully written....wonderful rags-to-riches novel” which explores privilege, class and Identity. Prof. Moore Fitzgerald’s previous books include The Apple Tart of Hope and A Strange Kind of Brave. Her work has been adapted for the stage, translated into over 18 different languages and shortlisted for several awards (including the Waterstones children's book Prize, Children's Books Ireland book of the year and the Irish Book Awards).

COMING  
8<sup>TH</sup> JULY





## Centre for the Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture

The Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster (PMPC@ul), through its 3 members, Dr. Aileen Dillane, Dr. Martin Power and Prof. Eoin Devereux, carved out a growing reputation for the cross-disciplinary study and analysis of popular music and popular culture at UL since 2009.

The recently approved Centre for the Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture (CSPMPC) builds on the work of the PMPC@UL research cluster. Housed in the Department of Sociology, the Centre consists of 11 UL based academics from Sociology, IWAMD, Creative Writing, Journalism, MLAL, English, and Psychology. A further 10 world-leading associate members, including Dr. Noel Hogan (The Cranberries), Dr. Marian Keyes, and Prof. Sarah Baker (Griffith University, Australia), will work with the Centre in an advisory capacity.

CSPMPC aims to examine Popular Music and Popular Culture in a globally diverse range of settings while paying close attention to the cultural industries and cultural practices in the university's immediate hinterland. This will build on our existing arrangement with the city of Limerick, which is undergoing significant levels of cultural, social and economic transformation.

CSPMPC will operate across multiple levels of orientation, with Centre members working on six research themes - Popular Music Heritage, the Popular Music Industry, Popular Music and Social Movements, Sport and/as Popular Culture, Media, Popular Culture and Representations, and Storytelling and Creativity. The Centre also intends to play a significant role in transforming learning at undergraduate and postgraduate levels by devising new and innovative research-led teaching programmes.

### Robert Mazza: Jerusalem Unplugged Podcast



Dr. Roberto Mazza produced high-quality content throughout the year on his podcast, Jerusalem Unplugged, available on Spotify and Apple podcast. Jerusalem Unplugged is the only podcast dedicated to Jerusalem, its history and its people. As part of the podcast series, Dr. Mazza has interviewed scholars, activists, politicians, journalists, religious men and women and those connected to Jerusalem. The focus of the podcast is to bring listeners closer to the city and the uncovering of an unknown Jerusalem.

## Republican Prisoner Letters handed over to Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, Department of History

Dr. Ruan O' Donnell featured in the Irish Times this year as 'tiny, handwritten letters composed by republican prisoners were handed over to him for further study in the Department of History at UL by Mr. Richard Behal, a member of Sinn Féin from 1957-1986.

The tiny, handwritten letters dating back to 1981 feature letters written by Republican prisoners on cigarette paper, toilet paper or tiny scraps from bibles. The documents include a poem by republican prisoner Bobby Sands entitled "The Greatest Hell", which has also been published by the Irish Times. Dr O'Donnell stated that the documents are "of considerable historical value".



medieval period, which aims to catalogue and describe all extant texts in English from the period 1300-1500. Carrie will use the funds to conduct library visits to the Wellcome and other libraries in the London area over the next year, continuing to work towards the completion of the Index building on work that she has already conducted with UL's Prof. Pierce Grace on Irish medical writing in English.



## Dr. Carrie Griffin awarded Neil Ker Memorial Fund, British Academy Award

Dr. Carrie Griffin (School of English, Irish and Communication and the Centre for Early Modern Studies, Limerick) was awarded a grant from the British Academy's Neil Ker Memorial Fund in January 2021. The fund is intended to promote the study of Western manuscripts, enabling investigation of their production, readership and use, in particular.

The grant was awarded to Carrie for her work on English manuscripts from the Middle Ages that are held in the Wellcome Historical Medical Library in London. She has been commissioned to compile a volume of the **Index of Middle English Prose**, a key reference work widely used by scholars of the



## Dr. Alan Cusack delivers plenary address at Irish Criminal Justice Agencies' Annual Conference

On Friday, 4 June 2021, Dr. Alan Cusack addressed Minister of State with responsibility for Law Reform, James Browne T.D, at the 7th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference.

The conference represented a collaboration between The Policing Authority (lead partner), The Department of Justice, The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), The Office of the DPP, Irish Prison Service, The Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, An Garda Síochána Inspectorate, The Courts Service, The Office of the Revenue Commissioner and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) . The theme for this year's conference was "Protecting the Human Rights of Vulnerable Suspects and Offenders: Defining, Identifying and Responding to Vulnerabilities" and it focused upon a range of important issues related to the identification and protection of vulnerable suspects and offenders within Ireland's criminal justice system.

Dr. Cusack's plenary address was entitled 'An Overview of the Legal Position of Vulnerable Suspects and Defendants in Ireland'. The paper drew upon a forthcoming publication for the US journal Policing: An International Journal and it considered the adequacy of existing evidential and procedural safeguards for protecting vulnerable suspects and defendants in Irish criminal proceedings. Prof. Gautam Gulati (School of Medicine, University of Limerick) also delivered a plenary address on the topic of the treatment of suspects with intellectual disabilities.

A full report from the conference, including excerpts from the plenary addresses, will be published shortly on the ACJRD website.



# Faculty News

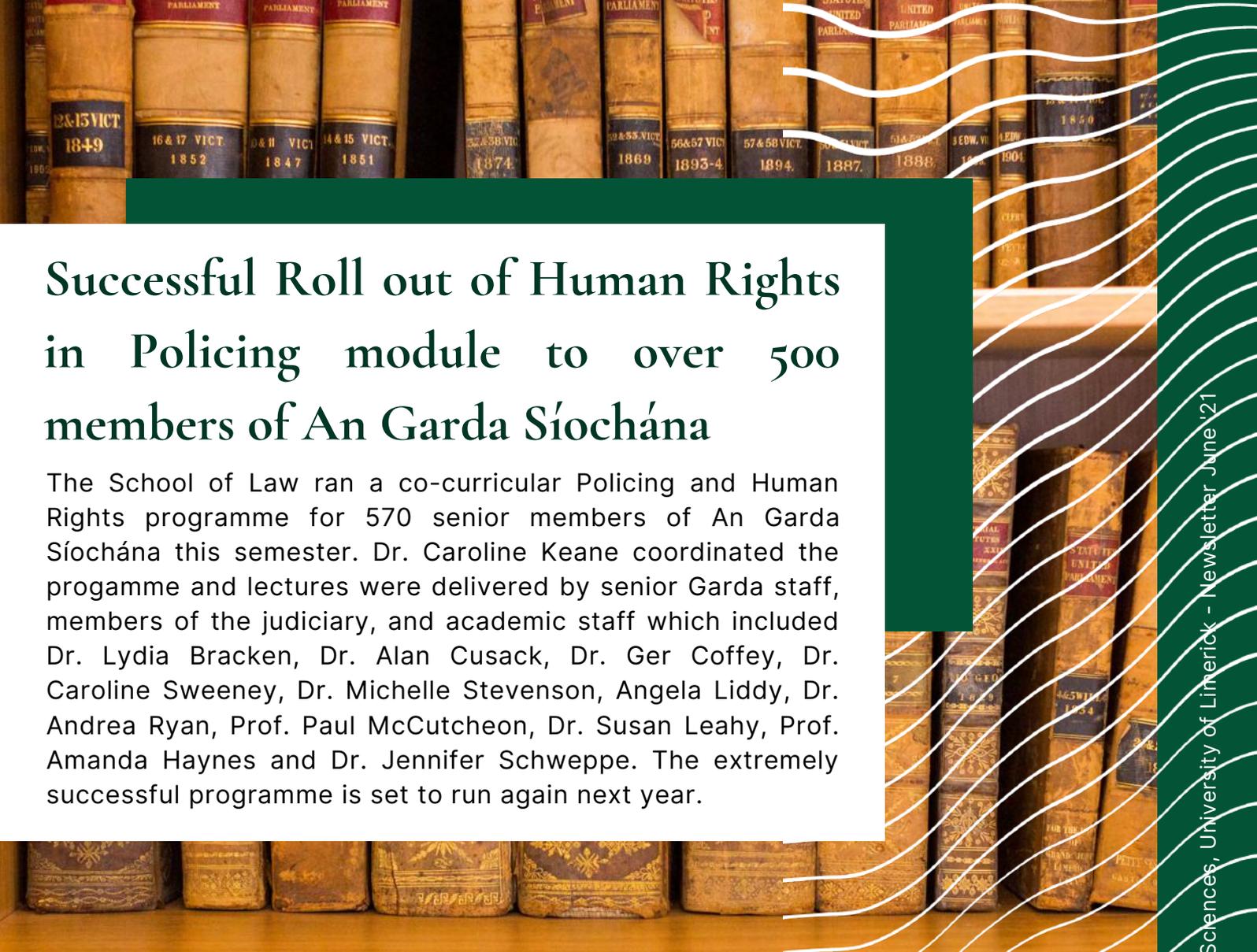


## School of Law and the Department of Justice launch research report to build effective relationships between youth justice workers and young people.

UL School of Law and the Department of Justice have launched a research report aimed at developing effective relationships between youth justice workers and young people. Minister of State at the Department of Justice, James Browne, TD officially launched the **report**, which was authored by independent consultants Deirdre Fullerton and Dr. John Bamber as well as Dr. Sean Redmond, the principal investigator for the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project, on the UL campus.

REPPP is a collaboration between the School of Law at University of Limerick and the Department of Justice aimed at improving the evidence base for youth crime policymaking. The report, 'Developing Effective Relationships Between Youth Justice Workers and Young People: A Synthesis of the Evidence', presents up-to-date scientific evidence of how to build purposeful relationships between youth justice workers and young people.

The REPPP project was originally conceived to improve the evidence base for decision making in the youth crime policy area. It produced the ground-breaking Greentown Project, which provided the first scientific evidence of the effects of crime networks in Ireland. Further studies took place in Bluetown and Redtown, with key findings revealing that approximately 1,000 children across the State were considered involved or at risk of being involved in crime networks with adults. The Greentown programme, which **won first prize at the European Crime Prevention Awards** in December of last year, received a further €4.2m funding last year to trial a programme for three years to intervene with children caught up in crime networks in two localities, known as Whitetown and Yellowtown.



## Successful Roll out of Human Rights in Policing module to over 500 members of An Garda Síochána

The School of Law ran a co-curricular Policing and Human Rights programme for 570 senior members of An Garda Síochána this semester. Dr. Caroline Keane coordinated the programme and lectures were delivered by senior Garda staff, members of the judiciary, and academic staff which included Dr. Lydia Bracken, Dr. Alan Cusack, Dr. Ger Coffey, Dr. Caroline Sweeney, Dr. Michelle Stevenson, Angela Liddy, Dr. Andrea Ryan, Prof. Paul McCutcheon, Dr. Susan Leahy, Prof. Amanda Haynes and Dr. Jennifer Schweppe. The extremely successful programme is set to run again next year.

## Launch of the new MA in Irish

The faculty was delighted to launch the new Masters of Arts in Irish. The virtual launch for the programme was held on the 21st of April 2021, led by Course Director, Dr. Gordon O'Riain, School of English, Irish and Communication. The MA in Irish can be taken on a full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 year) basis. As part of the programme, students will engage with modules on Irish language and explore literature of Classical Irish by close reading of selected texts as well as studying modern Irish literature in all its forms. Students will also have the opportunity to

engage in modules that are focussed on using Irish in a Multi-media context and translation. As part of the MA programme, students can also avail of an internship placement to further increase their career opportunities. Click [here](#) for further information on the MA programme.



 UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Scoil na Gaeilge, an Bhéarla,  
agus na Cumarsáide  
School of English, Irish,  
and Communication

**MA nua sa Ghaeilge**  
Seisiún eolais ar líne  
21 Aibreán, 12.00 - 12.45

# Dept. of Politics and Public Administration ranked top 150-200 in Global Subject rankings

The Department of Politics and Public Administration was ranked in the top 150-200 in the Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS). The 2021 GRAS contains rankings of universities in 54 subjects across Natural Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences. More than 1,800 out of 4,000 universities across 93 countries and regions are finally listed in the rankings. The index of international academic awards is based on Academic Excellence Survey (AES) conducted by ShanghaiRanking since 2017.



## Faculty programmes awarded Springboard funding

This year, UL has been funded for 15 out of the total 37 programmes submitted and awarded €1.6M+ for a total of 425 student places. AHSS colleagues in the School of Law, Professor Ray Friel (Professional Diploma in International Trade) and Dr Lydia Bracken (Graduate Certificate in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) were awarded Springboard funded places on their respective programmes this year.

Springboard+ is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.



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# Publication successes for New UL Medico-Legal Research Consortium

Last year witnessed the launch of a 'UL Medico-legal Research Consortium' - a dynamic research collaboration between Dr. Alan Cusack and Prof. Shane Kilcommins of the School of Law and Prof. Gautam Gulati and Prof. Colum Dunne of the School of Medicine at the University of Limerick. The consortium is currently acting as the academic partner for a series of major national research projects which are being carried out at the interface of policing and intellectual disability in collaboration with An Garda Síochána. These projects include:

- Drafting an easy-read Notice of Rights Form C.72(s) for suspects with intellectual disabilities in Ireland;
- Delivering a pilot disability awareness training programme for students on the BA in Applied Policing and MA in Serious Crime Investigation;
- Acting as research partner for the rollout of a Crisis Intervention Team on a pilot basis in Limerick city.

All of the above projects are being led by Professor Gautam Gulati and Dr. Alan Cusack in collaboration with a range of national and international experts based at the University of Oxford, Trinity College Dublin, National University of Ireland Galway and University College Cork.

At the time of writing, the early outputs from these projects have been published in a series of articles in the International Journal of Law and Psychiatry:

- Gautam Gulati, Alan Cusack, Shane Kilcommins and Colum Dunne (2020) 'Intellectual Disabilities in Irish Prisons: Could Article 13 of the UNCRPD Hold the Key?' International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 68, 101540.
- Gautam Gulati, Alan Cusack, Brendan Kelly, Shane Kilcommins and Colum Dunne (2020) 'Experiences of People with Intellectual Disabilities Encountering Law Enforcement Official as the Suspects of Crime – Anarrative Systematic Review' International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 71, 101609.
- Gautam Gulati, Brendan Kelly, Alan Cusack, Shane Kilcommins and Colum Dunne (2020) 'The Experience of Law Enforcement Officers Interfacing with Suspects who have an Intellectual Disability' International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 72, 101614.

The recently published articles can be accessed [here](#).

## Dr. Norah Burns appointed to the board of An Gaisce

Minister for Children and Equality, Roderic O'Gorman, has appointed Dr. Norah Burns (School of Law) to the board of An Gaisce, the President of Ireland's Volunteer Award. Gaisce or 'great achievement' is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and has been in existence since 1985. To date over 300,000 young people have participated in the Gaisce programme.



## Pioneering LLM/MA in Human Rights in Criminal Justice Online

The School of Law was delighted to have formally launched the LLM/MA in Human Rights in Criminal Justice online master's programme which is the first fully online masters of laws programme in Ireland. This fully online programme, which is ideally suitable for professionals with full-time work commitments, is designed to emphasize the inter-relationship between what has traditionally been taught as the two distinct disciplines of human rights and criminal justice. Covering key areas such as criminal justice and sentencing, penology and victimology and human rights, the programme aims to foster general and specific skills with respect to the modern criminal justice system both in Ireland and internationally.



Current students on the programme include criminal justice professionals employed as Irish Youth Justice workers with the Department of Justice and Equality and members of An Garda Síochána from various ranks who combine full-time work commitments with their part-time studies on the Level 9 masters programme. Students brought their practical knowledge and understanding of criminal justice to bear on their academic studies and deepened their understanding as demonstrated in their performances of understanding on the module assessment instruments. Our first cohort of students are due to graduate in Autumn 2021.

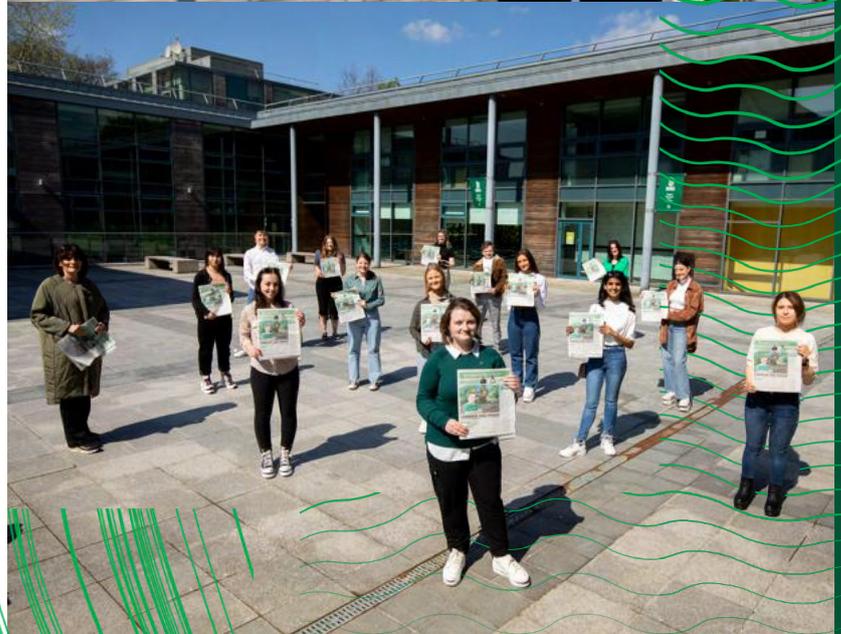
# Students



## Launch of the Limerick Voice

2021

The Limerick Voice publication, a multi-media news project involving 25 final year Journalism and New Media and Masters in Journalism Students in UL, had its most successful year to date despite students working remotely. Over 300 stories were published across multimedia platforms; 100 podcasts were broadcast along with several TV and radio news bulletins. The Limerick Voice Twitter platform had 165,000 Twitter impressions in April 2021. The project reached over 200,000 people on Facebook and over 335 hours of video reports were viewed.



## The Ogham Stone 2021



The 2021 issue of The Ogham Stone literary journal was published on the 14th of June 2021. Edited and compiled by students on the MA programmes in English and Creative Writing, and containing work by Lynn Caldwell, Marguerite Doyle, Alice Kinsella, Kolbe Riney, J.J. Steinfeld and UL writer in residence Kit de Waal, among others, the journal will be officially launched later this year. In addition, the journal features writing by current UL students Pippa Slattery and Deirdre Devally (both MA in Creative Writing) as well as recent UL alumni Calum Cole, Chris Gabryszewski, and Kevin O'Sullivan. This year's issue also features drama by Niall Carmody, whose winning play was selected by the editors following a competition. As well as being available in hard copy in bookstores across Ireland, The Ogham Stone 2021 can be purchased from international booksellers both as an ebook and as print on demand. Further details may be found on the website: [www.oghamstoneul.com](http://www.oghamstoneul.com).

## AHSS Student receives Fulbright Scholarship

An AHSS student, Emma Ní Bhroin, has been awarded a Fulbright Irish FLTA Award. Emma will teach Irish in a US university during AY 21-22. This is a prestigious award, normally given to students with an MA. See further local media reporting [here](#).

## MacCurtain/Cullen Prize awarded to UL Phd Student Helene Haak

Helene Haak, a PhD student in History recently won the MacCurtain/Cullen prize, for an essay entitled 'Concepts of Parenthood: mothers and fathers in the Irish Free State, 1922-1932'. The Women's History Association of Ireland's MacCurtain/Cullen essay prize is awarded annually for the best BA or MA research essay in Irish women's or gender history, to honour Margaret MacCurtain and Mary Cullen's outstanding contributions to Irish women's history.





## Success for UL at the Student Media Awards

A UL journalism student has won Journalist of the Year at the National Student Media Awards (Smedias) for the second year in a row. Egyptian-born Mostafa Darwish took home the top prize for his work focusing on the challenges facing asylum seekers living in Ireland. Mostafa is currently completing an MA in Journalism at the University of Limerick. He was among over 20 UL students shortlisted in the 2021 National Student Media Awards in what was a record number of nominations for UL journalism students. Final year journalism student Ivan Smyth from Galway was named Sports Writer of the Year.

Limerick Voice 2021 Editor, Christine Costello from Limerick, picked up the prize for Best Newspaper Layout and Design. This year's judges included award-winning director and screenwriter Robbie Walsh, social media star James Kavanagh and various editors and producers from Ireland's leading media organisations and high-profile presenters such as Angela Scanlon, Maura Derrane, Muireann O'Connell, and Richard Chambers.

## Rising Award at the HearSay International Audio Arts Festival

Niamh O'Brien, PhD Student at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance was joint winner of the Rising Award at the HearSay International Audio Arts Festival. Niamh is a harp player & singer from Co. Limerick. She is studying for a PhD in arts practice at UL, exploring place & community using music, audio narratives, and deep mapping.





# Trans Limerick Community founded by AHSS student

Trans Limerick Community (TLC) is a new peer support group for trans, non-binary, gender diverse and questioning adults based out of Limerick. TLC was founded by Creative Writing MA student Will Keohane, with the aim to provide a safe online community space to meet-up, chat, support each other and share information and resources.

The inaugural meeting and launch of TLC was a hugely successful and well-attended event, that helped to bring together the beautiful, bright diverse trans community in Limerick City and its surroundings. TLC look forward to joining and connecting with the vast network of peer-support groups in Ireland for trans, non-binary and gender diverse people in Ireland. At the launch of TLC, they were joined by Lilith Carroll and Noah Halpin from the Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI). TLC are delighted to be supported by TENI, and particularly want to acknowledge the work of Lilith in helping to establish the group. TLC is also supported by cultural and community resource centre, **Ormston House**. In-person meetings will be held at Ormston House later this year, in accordance with government guidelines.

TLC meetings currently take place online via Zoom. For details of future meetings, and to join the mailing list, please email: [translimerick@gmail.com](mailto:translimerick@gmail.com). Anyone who identifies as trans, non-binary, gender diverse or questioning is welcome to join, and participate in a way that is comfortable for them. For more details and regular updates, follow TLC on **Instagram & Twitter**.

## WriteAut Literature Competition

WriteAUT is a friendly competition between Irish (UL, TCD, NUIM, UCC, UCD) and British universities, and is organised annually by the OeAD (Austrian Exchange Service) lecturers. UL students have been very successful so far under the guidance of Natascha Guggi and once again this year a prize went to Limerick. A 3rd year Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics student Abaigéal Drummy came third in the audience favourite category. This was the only award to go to an Irish university this year. UL remains in the lead in the all-time ranking of the competition among Irish universities.



# Awards



## AHSS Teaching hero Award Nominations

The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the Union of Students in Ireland advised several staff in the Arts Humanities and Social Sciences faculty that they have been nominated as a Teaching Hero as part of the 2020 student-led Teaching Hero awards. This was a very strong endorsement of staff (25 nominations in total), particularly the commitment and sense of service to students by faculty in what has been a challenging academic year.

## UL Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching 2021: Dr. Hannah Fahey

Dr. Hannah Fahey, Course Director for BA Voice at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance will receive her certificate for the UL Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching 2021. Hannah is an academic, singer and voice educator and she has performed internationally as a soloist and ensemble singer in medieval, contemporary, and Irish music.





## Prof. Gisela Holfter awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz, the Federal Order of Merit of Germany

Prof. Gisela Holfter, Associate Professor in German and Director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, has been awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz, the Federal Order of Merit of Germany, for her long-standing and impactful work in Irish-German relations.

Prof. Holfter's work on Irish and German relations began 25 years ago when she came to Limerick to take up position in UL on St. Patrick's Day 1996. In 1997, she co-founded the Centre for Irish-German Studies (of which she is the current director) together with her colleague Dr. Joachim Fischer (who is now heading UL's Centre for European Studies).

Over the course of her career to date, Prof. Holfter has published 3 monographs, 18 (co-)edited books and over 60 refereed book chapters/journal articles. Most recently, she edited a volume on Irish-German diplomatic relations which features forewords by the Foreign Ministers of both Ireland and Germany. The subsequent event she organised in February 2021 attracted over 300 participants. Speakers included UL President Prof. Kerstin Mey; Niall Burgess, Secretary General Dept of Foreign Affairs; Miguel Berger, State Secretary of the German Federal Foreign Office; H.E. Deike Potzel, German Ambassador to Ireland and H.E. Dr Nicholas O'Brien, Irish Ambassador to Germany.

## Regional Teaching Excellence Award 2020/21: Dr. Luke Danagher shortlisted

Dr. Luke Danagher, School of Law, was recently shortlisted for the Regional Teaching Excellence Award 2020/21. The Regional Teaching Excellence Award is a collaborative process between UL, MIC, and LIT, which aims to showcase and champion outstanding practice in Higher Education teaching from across the Region.



# Events



## Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2021

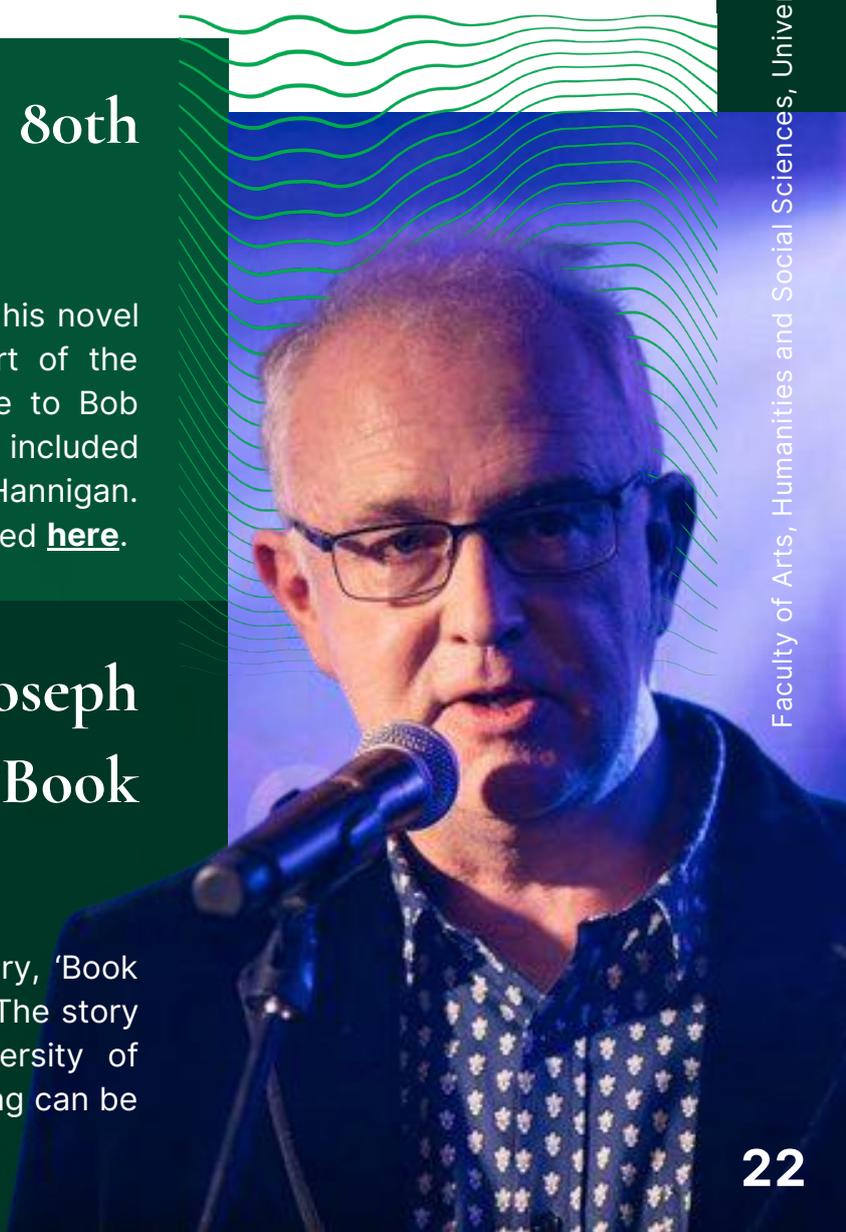
The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was delighted to participate in the **Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2021**. The Faculty ran a number engaging and informative virtual events throughout the week as part of the festival (Monday 24th May- Sunday 30th May). The events covered topics such as Politics, Brexit, the Law and consent, Representation and diversity in education in Ireland, Language taster sessions, events on historical research and much more. The festival included presentations by by Dr. Owen Worth, Dr. Joachim Fischer, Dr. Frank Haege, Prof. Helen Phelan, John Nutekpor, Dr. Rachel Murphy, Catherine Jeanneau, Dr. Richard Kirwan, Sojood Momani, Sandrine Ndahiro, Mamobo Ogoro, Dr. Karol Mullaney-Dignam, Dr. Laura Donnellan, Dr. Sandra Joyce, Dr. Una Woods, Dr. Yianna Liatsos, and Carl Corcoran.

### Other Voices Bob Dylan: 80th Birthday celebrations:

Prof. Joseph O'Connor read an extract from his novel 'Star of the Sea' and a new poem as part of the beautiful and uplifting 'Other Voices' tribute to Bob Dylan on his 80th birthday. Other performers included Loah, Paul Brady, Mick Flannery, and Lisa Hannigan. The recording of this celebration can be viewed [here](#).

### BBC 4 reading of Prof. Joseph O'Connor's short story "Book Club"

Prof. Joseph O'Connor had a new short story, 'Book Club', on BBC Radio 4, read by Aisling Bea. The story includes several scenes set on the University of Limerick campus. The recording of the reading can be heard [here](#).



# Undergraduate Careers Evening

Prospective students, parents, guardians & guidance counsellors from all over Ireland and further afield attended a Virtual Careers Evening on Tuesday 18th May focusing on undergraduate programmes offered by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

The evening was a success thanks to the contribution of our inspiring graduates and the support of members of faculty including Dr. Chris McNerney who hosted and Prof. Shane Kilcommins who extended a warm welcome address to all. Attendees heard from a diverse selection of inspiring alumni employed in a wide variety of sectors.

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

Moving this event to a virtual environment meant that attendees could hear from alumni based in far-flung locations including Germany & Bangladesh. It also made attendance easier for attendees who might not otherwise be able to come to Limerick for an event held in person.

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

**Undergraduate Careers Evening**  
FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

6pm  
Tuesday 18th May 2021

**Graduate Stories Live Q&A**

**Discover Career Pathways**

Prospective undergraduate students, parents, guardians and guidance counsellors are all invited to this live information session.

**REGISTER HERE**

- LM002 - Bachelor of Arts
- LM020 - BA Law and Accounting
- LM026 - BA Performing Arts
- LM028 - BA Criminal Justice
- LM029 - Bachelor of Laws (Law Plus)
- LM038 - BA Psychology and Sociology
- LM039 - BA Journalism and Digital Communication
- LM040 - BA European Studies
- LM044 - BA Applied Languages
- LM091 - BEd. Languages
- LM019 - BSc. Social Sciences (New Course 2021)

## Other virtual undergraduate events that occurred throughout 2021 included:

- Journalism Taster (Spring) 17th February
- Why NOW is a great time to study languages 24th March
- BA For A Day (Spring) 31st March
- AHSS TY Taster 21st March
- History @ UL 5th May
- BA Performing Arts – Student & Lecturer Q&A 10th May



## Carlow Arts Festival: Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre

Dr. Jennifer de Brún featured on the cover of the Irish Times with Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Artists-in-Residence Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre as they premiered their new show 'A Handful of Dreams' at the Carlow Arts Festival. It was one of the first public performances in Ireland following the easing of government restrictions.

## Centre for Peace, Development and Social Justice: An evening with Film Director Treasa O'Brien

The Centre for Peace, Development and Social Justice hosted an evening with Film Director, Treasa O'Brien. Treasa, who has directed films such as *Eat Your Children* and *N25*, was talking about her latest film, *Town of Strangers*, a documentary of the imagination set in Gort, Co. Galway.

Treasa discussed her work with Dr. Owen Worth in the context of how form and content are interwoven to express themes of empathy, community social justice, politics, migration and place making.



## Webinar Series: Intellectual Property Law in the 21st Century

The International Commercial and Economic Law Research Group – based in the School of Law – in conjunction with the Bernal Institute UL, convened a highly popular webinar series on 'Intellectual Property Law in the 21st Century' featuring leading national, and international, experts in the area.

The online series had a broad range of attendees from the worlds of science and engineering, as well as the legal profession.

## Four Families: A Series on LGBTI+ Parental Rights

Dr. Lydia Bracken recently participated in a webinar series on LGBTI+ parental rights hosted by Equality for Children and the OUTLaw Network. Lydia spoke as part of the third webinar in the series, 'Who's out? – Which LGBT+ parents cannot apply to get parental rights?'

A recording of the webinar is available [here](#).



## Leann na Gaeilge Seminar series

Léann na Gaeilge hosted a very successful series of interdisciplinary research seminars during the 2020/21 academic year, featuring papers from Dr. Ken Ó Donnchú (UCC), Dr. Eilís Ní Dheá (MIC), Dr. Sorcha de Brún (UL), Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin (UL), Dr. Síle de Cléir (UL), Dr. Síle Ní Choinceannain (UL), and Dr. Margaret McDermott, who brought the series to a close on May 14 with a fascinating talk on her PhD thesis on traditional prayers and sacred poetry, which she recently completed at the University of Ulster. The seminar series, traditionally held in Seomra na Gaeilge on campus, was moved online in September 2020 and it has attracted a large audience from throughout Ireland and the UK. Engagement from both speakers and attendees was excellent and made for a lively and informative series of events.



## The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention

The Irish World Academy, in association with Limerick City and County Council Arts Office, Creative Ireland and the Blas International Summer school were proud to present the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) which took place online from the 23rd -26th of June 2021. The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) is a cultural exchange and meeting place for artists, academics, and enthusiasts. At its heart, the convention brings together scholars, practitioners, teachers and other stakeholders to share ideas, practices, research and knowledge about the field of fiddle performance and related dance, from the cultures and diasporas of the North Atlantic region.

NAFCo presents a wealth of talent from both sides of the Atlantic including Frankie Gavin (Ireland), The Unthanks (England), Paddy Glackin (Ireland), Sven Ahlbäck (Sweden), Rhiannon Giddens (USA) and John Carty (Ireland). The showcase of fiddling and dancing was started by Aberdeen University's Elphinstone Institute in 2011 and has grown in size to include events in Ireland, Canada, and Scotland.



# International



## Celebrating Eid al-Fitr at the University of Limerick: A time for Celebration with our Algerian Colleagues

COVID-19 restrictions did not prevent the International Structured PhD FAHSS Cohort from celebrating Eid al-Fitr recently at the University of Limerick. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month-long period of fasting, prayer, reflection and community engagement and is one of the most anticipated Islamic holidays.

Both FAHSS staff and PhD students came together virtually to mark this special occasion on Wednesday, May 12th, 2021. Watch the full celebratory event [here](#). ISPhD student, Naima Manaa created an informative presentation in which she explains how the Muslim community worldwide celebrate Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr with specific distinctions given to the Algerian context in terms of traditions, recipes, music and more. To listen to Naima's presentation, click [here](#).

In celebration of Eid al-Fitr with the wider university community, a collaborative student-led newsletter was launched by Aine Proudfoot, UL Global and Michelle Daly, Intercultural Advocate ISPhD. The ISPhD cohort and other students submitted a broad array of enlightening contributions of how they united to celebrate the end of Ramadan at the University of Limerick. To read the newsletter, click [here](#).

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, small groups of people were able to meet. Well-known local Limerick photographer, Sean Shinnars, captured this evening of joy and festivity among the community of ISPhD students on campus at Thomond Village. The event was organised by Andrea La Touche, Postgraduate Students' Union President.



# New Appointment of Intercultural Advocate for ISPhD FAHSS Cohort

Michelle Daly, PhD researcher of intercultural awareness at the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, has recently been appointed as the Intercultural Advocate for the International Structured PhD FAHSS Cohort. This role was created by former Executive Dean FAHSS, Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes with the support of VP Global and Community Engagement, Prof. Máiréad Moriarty and the ISPhD Programme Director, Dr. Angela Farrell.

In this role, Michelle meets the students for consultation on a wide array of topics and advocates for them by liaising with the ISPhD Programme Director Dr. Angela Farrell, the Postgraduate Students' Union President Andrea La Touche, faculty, and support staff. This is with the aim of supporting the students' successful integration into university campus life and the local Limerick community.

Michelle has been instrumental in organising the ISPhD Intercultural Summer School in conjunction with Dr Angela Farrell and the MLAL Internationalisation committee. This four-day virtual event in June will feature workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers and student presentations on different aspects of Algerian and Irish culture. Both Irish and international PhD students are also invited to attend and will be facilitating some of the workshops.

The key themes for the ISPhD Intercultural Summer School are as follows:

- Self-empowerment
- Ireland: Past and Present
- Moving to a New Culture
- Communication Across Cultures
- ISPhD Supervisor Day

This event will create opportunities for shared cultural knowledge and discussion to enhance intercultural understanding and communication to support internationalisation as a key objective (Goal 3) of the UL@50 Strategic Plan 2019-2024.



# Irish World Academy of Music and Dance: **St Patrick's Day Fling**

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance went global and green virtually this year by hosting a St Patrick's Day Fling.

The special virtual experience of music, song and dance was performed at the University Concert Hall in UL for St Patrick's Day.

The unique concert featured performers from all over the world, including very special guest, Grammy-award winner Rhiannon Giddens. The Virtual St Patrick's Day Fling also featured the spectacular Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre who premiered their innovative triple aerial hoop system with their new Handful of Dreams performance. Renowned aerialists Aisling Ní Cheallaigh, Jenny Tufts, and Dr. Jennifer de Brún performed, together with talented students from the Academy's BA in Irish Music, BA in World Music, BA in Irish Dance, BA in Contemporary Dance, MA in Classical String Performance and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance.

This special event was a partnership between **UL Global**, the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University Concert Hall and Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council.



# Postgraduate Research



## AHSS Annual Postgraduate Conference

The AHSS Annual Postgraduate Conference took place on 27th and 28th May 2021 online. This 2-day event comprised of papers and posters featuring Humanities postgraduates from University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology. The online event allowed participants to develop their presentation skills and to share their research findings and methods with the postgraduate community and faculty.

The Assistant Dean, Research, Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann welcomed everyone online and was delighted that the collaboration between Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology continues. Executive Dean, Prof. Shane Kilcommins complemented the supports that had been put in place to facilitate the research students and create a vibrant community. He acknowledged the challenge for students in presenting a paper or poster at a conference. Papers and posters covered topics such as counter terrorism, LGBTI identities and experiences, the Trump era, visionary art, sports and sexual offending.

Postgraduate researchers and faculty were able to listen to papers and view the posters online. The postgraduate community chaired the sessions where they introduced the speakers and managed the Q&A sessions that followed. After each session, questions were posed and students entered into lively discussions on the topics presented. The Conference became a networking forum where students made connections through similar research areas.

The online forum was appreciated by the academic community and the activity on Twitter reflected the lively themes and discussions that took place over the two days. The event was organised by Dr. Niamh Lenahan and Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann and was supported by Jess Beeley and Róna Gillespie who helped with the Conference.

# Postgraduate researcher profile: Sujood Momani

Sujood has been a professional wedding photographer for over twelve years where she began to observe a shifting paradigm in the motivational significance behind photographs and photography. This for her, triggered a profound scepticism into the authenticity of images shared online and the impact influencers were having on public norms, societal values and behaviours. This generated a considerable amount of concern regarding Muslim women's identity negotiations and racial capitalist exploitations, prompting her decision to pursue this PhD research.

Sujood is now a fourth year PhD Candidate at the University of Limerick. Her PhD research offers new insights into the social media space and Muslim women. She evaluates how Muslim female influencers, who reside in the West, are visually negotiating their religiosity and identity using the online space, whilst taking into consideration objectifying colonialist brand collaborations. Her study explores how these visuals are received by social media followers in comparison to how they are initially intended.

Throughout her research, Sujood ensures that Muslim women's voices and self-representations are heard, seen and understood because for a long time, they have been silenced and misunderstood.

Born in Jordan, Sujood spent most of her life in the UK before relocating to Ireland where she embarked on this research. She now lives in Switzerland, but hoping to one day return to Ireland.



# Postgraduate researcher profile: Stu Clancy

Stu Clancy is a PhD candidate at the School of History and an Irish Research Council Laureate Scholar. Stu graduated from the University of Limerick with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Sociology in 2017. After finding a passion for history in his undergraduate degree, he completed his FYP on the Limerick District Lunatic Asylum. Following on from this, he completed an MA in the History of the Family in 2018. His MA thesis continued on from the groundwork of his FYP and examined ex-service patients in the Limerick District Lunatic Asylum. Stu's research area focuses on early twentieth-century social and medical history, with a focus on the history of psychiatry and institutions.

Stu is currently part of the Death and Burial Data: Ireland 1864-1922 project (DBDIrI), which is funded under the Irish Research Council Laureate Awards 2017/18. The project aims to apply computer science applications and new digital methods to civil registration data to create new knowledge. Stu is currently researching 'Tuberculosis, digital humanities and disease mapping, Ireland 1864-1922' as part of his PhD programme under the supervision of Prof. Ciara Breathnach. Stu's research uses death data from the General Registers Office to analyse and map the outbreak of disease in Limerick city at the beginning of the twentieth-century.

The PhD aims to look at disease from a social perspective and use tools such as digital mapping to provide new perspectives on the history of disease in Ireland.



# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



## AHSS Athena Swan Update

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 commits the faculty to implementing a four-year action plan to address the challenges identified during the self-assessment process.

Action 3.3 of the AHSS Athena SWAN Action Plan commits the Self-Assessment Team (SAT) to conducting annual attitudinal surveys with AHSS staff and students to regularly collect feedback and monitor progress as actions are implemented. In light of the changing environment created by the COVID 19 pandemic, the SAT committed to issuing the first surveys within the first year of the Bronze award.



A survey was issued to AHSS Staff in March 2021 in order to gather information on how staff are adjusting to remote working during the COVID 19 pandemic and to identify any supports that may be needed. A survey was also issued to undergraduate and postgraduate taught students enrolled on AHSS programmes. Summary results from both surveys and the AHSS faculty response to the issues identified can be found in the June edition of the **AHSS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Bulletin.**



## Universal Design for Learning in AHSS

As our classrooms and lecture theatres become increasingly diverse, our practices must also adapt to reflect the changing landscape of higher education. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an educational framework based on research in the learning sciences, which guides the development of flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual learning differences and cater for the wide range of diversity in our lecture rooms.

Several members of AHSS have completed the digital badge in UDL run by AHEAD in association with the National Forum. The Assistant Dean of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Lydia Bracken, along with the Faculty's Educational Technologist Jess Beeley created a monthly UDL coffee morning in AHSS. These coffee mornings begin with a practical demonstration on how UDL can be applied to teaching and learning, and an informal discussion after. Presentations by Jess, and Dr Darina Slattery (School of English, Irish, and Communication) have taken place so far, followed by a lively discussion.

Jess has also curated some resources on Universal Design for Learning which are available here: <https://ulcampus.sharepoint.com/sites/AHSS/learn/Universal%20Design%20for%20Learning%20UDL/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

The National Forum and AHEAD will be running a new iteration of their Digital Badge for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in October. This free CPD course will give you an introduction to the concept of Universal Design for Learning and invite you to review and update your own Teaching and Learning practice.

Further information is available: <https://opencourses.ie/event/online-course-udl-participant-facilitator-training/>

# Establishment of the European Centre for the Study of Hate

The European Centre for the Study of Hate was established and awarded Priority Research Centre status by the University of Limerick in 2020. Led by Prof. Amanda Haynes and Dr. Jennifer Schweppe, the Centre builds on the success of, and incorporates, the Hate and Hostility Research Group which has been the focal point for research on hate and hate crime on the island of Ireland since its establishment



in 2014. Membership of the Centre comes from three of the four faculties at UL, and it houses expertise in the areas of Sociology (Prof. Amanda Haynes and Dr. Martin J Power); Criminology (Prof. Ross Macmillan); Law (Dr. Jennifer Schweppe); Education (Dr. Aoife Neary); Psychology (Dr. Ronni Greenwood); Ethnomusicology (Dr. Aileen Dillane); and Business (Dr. Jean McCarthy).

The aim of the ECSH is to harness pan-sectoral and all-island expertise to understand hate and prejudice in its various manifestations and develop tools to combat hate. Its remit will include the full spectrum of bias-involved manifestations of hostility: extremism, populism, hate crime, hate speech, discrimination, and microaggressions. and their mobilisation against individuals due to their racialised identity, religion, sexuality, gender identity, or disability, as well as other commonly targeted identities.

The themes which focus the Centre's work are: European Understandings of Hate, Growing Up in an Inclusive Europe, Criminalising Hate, Populism, Politics, and Exclusion, Margins and Marginality. They are structured to establish unique research, teaching, supervision and training packages that will result in the dissemination of accessible, and digestible, world-leading research to an audience of knowledge users and generators.

The objectives of the ECSH are to:

- Develop new interdisciplinary and intersectional knowledge on hate;
- Share cross-sectoral expertise and equip policymakers with tools to combat hate;
- Raise public awareness and deepen public understanding of the determinants, realities and consequences of hate;
- Create a new generation of researchers expert in the field.

The Centre's objectives will be achieved through the coalescence of scholars, civil society actors, policymakers, activists and educators with the shared objective of combating prejudice on an all-island basis. The synthesis of cross-sectoral competencies, knowledge and experience will be directed towards the design of impactful policy and practice interventions.

For further details on the ECSH, see our website: [www.ul.ie/ecsh](http://www.ul.ie/ecsh).

# The Launch of Unapologetic - A New Multidisciplinary Magazine

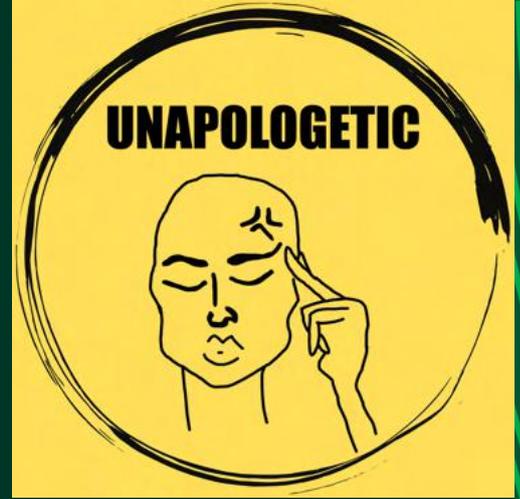
Unapologetic is a new magazine that seeks to bring together academics, artists, activists, writers, and creatives to capture a comprehensive view of the social issues facing contemporary Ireland. Unapologetic wishes to capture a historical moment in the era of BLM, Marriage Equality and Repeal the Eighth, as we move to a new definition of what it means to be Irish. Unapologetic will give people from minority and diverse backgrounds a space to be unapologetically themselves while simultaneously highlighting the social issues we see and experience in Irish society today. Your voice matters.

Unapologetic is about creating a space, a medium, and a community that works toward a vision of a better Ireland where academics, artists, activists, writers, and creatives can share their love for creativity as a form of social activism. This first issue of Unapologetic, called 'Change Makers' focuses on historical figures, moments, and aspirations that inform our understanding of contemporary Ireland. This interdisciplinary issue will be made accessible for all and should be of particular interest to those who see the power of writing as a form of activism.

The Co-founders and Co-Editors-in-Chief of Unapologetic are Sandrine Uwase Ndahiro, Gareth Brinn, and Prof. Margaret Harper. Sandrine is a PhD Candidate in the English section at the School of English, Irish and Communication, Gareth Brinn is a Master of Arts in Technical Communication and E-Learning student at the University of Limerick, and Prof. Margaret Harper is the Professor of Contemporary Writing in English at the University of Limerick.

Sandrine, Gareth, and Prof. Harper began the magazine for a multitude of reasons. Firstly, they saw an opportunity for a new space for young voices, emerging voices, and minority voices within the academic and literary spaces. Secondly, they want to showcase that not every opinion about Ireland's future must come from an academic or politician. They want to show that academics, artists, activists, and writers can exist in one space and build a comprehensive understanding of Ireland's future together.

Unapologetic's submission window is open until the 31st of July 2021 at 9pm. Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction or Academic Essays are to be between 800-1200 words. All works submitted will be peer-reviewed with one round of revisions. Unapologetic also accepts Poetry, Visual Art, Music, Photographs, and Audio. Full submission details are on the [website](#).



# Our Graduates

## Vicky Phelan, BA European Studies

As part of UL Alumni week, Executive Director of UL Alumni, Majella O'Connell interviewed the inspirational UL Alumna Vicky Phelan (BA European Studies). You can view the recording of this fascinating interview [here](#). Vicky Phelan graduated from UL in 1997 with a BA in European Studies. She went on to work in the University's International Education Division where she managed the Erasmus programmes.

Vicky is a high-profile campaigner, first as part of the CervicalCheck scandal in Ireland - which she exposed in 2018 by refusing to sign a confidentiality clause following a high-stakes court case - and more recently, she has become the voice of a new Dying with Dignity Bill, also here in Ireland. Vicky is currently based in the U.S. where she is participating in a one-year cancer trial.





## Alumni Week-School of Law

As part of the UL Alumni week which took place from the 10th to the 14th May 2021. The School of Law supported a number of interviews with UL Alumni speakers. UL alumna Prof. Brigid Laffan (Director Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies) spoke with the Head of the School of Law, Prof. Raymond Friel on the EU post-Brexit and the need for decision making reform. The recording of this interview can be viewed [here](#).

Prof. Friel also spoke with Laura Butler, a graduate of Law and European Studies and currently a partner in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Group at A&L Goodbody. Laura spoke about her career to date and shared her perspective on her experience of the legal profession and her time at UL. The recording of this interview can be viewed [here](#).

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Shane Kilcommins spoke with Maeve Lewis (BA European Studies '79), CEO of One in Four, an NGO in Ireland providing professional psychotherapy and advocacy services to men and women who have experienced child sexual abuse on the Victims of Crime and the rise of trauma-informed processes. The recording of the interview can be viewed [here](#).



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

**Wishing you all a safe  
and enjoyable summer.**

