

AMERICAN CONFERENCE for IRISH STUDIES, INC.  
formerly AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES,  
FOUNDED 1962

## ACIS NEWSLETTER

Winter..... 2004

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### **NEW WESTERN INSTITUTE FOR IRISH STUDIES::**

The Western Regional branch of the ACIS in conjunction with the Irish Consul of San Francisco is pleased to announce that the Cultural Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Irish government has given an initial seed money grant for the development of a new Western Institute for Irish Studies.

The Western Institute of Irish Studies promises to fill a significant, existing gap in Irish Studies in the western region of the United States. As of now, there is no institute or center for Irish Studies of any kind west of the Mississippi.

By focusing attention upon the history, culture and accomplishments of the Irish in the American West and in Contemporary Ireland today, the institute will fulfill its objective of providing scholars and researchers of contemporary Ireland and of the Irish experience in the American West with both a place to study and to learn, utilizing innovative, cutting-edge technology to do so.

The idea of linking the American west and contemporary Ireland is one fraught with geographic complications. The American West by itself is a vast space. The Institute, therefore, will not be located in any one physical location. Doing so would inevitably serve that one location and one group of scholars and researchers quite well, but at the cost of alienating those who lack the resources necessary to travel to the institute in order to make use of its resources.

Thus, the founding board is determined to take advantage of modern technology in order to create what will be a virtual institute, one which would serve as a primary hub for a series of satellite programs throughout the western US and in Ireland. The Institute will avail itself of the most modern of Information Technologies which unite both the Western United States and modern Ireland -- Silicon Valley and the Silicon Isle -- to create an e-Institute, to be known as the Western Institute of Irish Studies.org

Satellite institutions across the Western US and in Ireland would have the benefits of all of the recourses a physical institute would typically provide but without the difficulty associated with travel to a remote location. Moreover, such a novel approach will allow a share in the ownership of the Institute to each and every existing institution, faculty, and studies program who wish to participate. For More information, or to get involved, contact Matthew Jockers at [mjockers@stanford.edu](mailto:mjockers@stanford.edu)

## CALLS FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCES

### ACIS at the MLA:

As always, ACIS will sponsor two sessions at the 2005 MLA convention. Please email ideas for session topics only (not paper topics at this time) to **Jose Lanters**, ACIS Literature Representative, by **January 1, 2005** at [lanters@uwm.edu](mailto:lanters@uwm.edu)"

### ACIS 2005 Conference:

"Ireland Beyond Borders" hopes to explore new conceptions of Ireland, Irishness, and Irish Studies that challenge the boundaries that politics, the academy, and culture have set for them. The theme is intentionally open-ended to comprise such topics as globalization, partition, the Internet age, gender and sexuality, critical race theory, popular culture, music, dance, the visual arts, contemporary literature, the Irish language, and Irish studies as an academic discipline; however, that list is not intended to be prescriptive or exclusive. Note that participants must be members of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Visit <http://www.acisweb.com> to become a member. We are no longer accepting submissions for the conference at this time. A tentative schedule will be posted on the ACIS web site later in the semester.

### Ireland's Great Hunger: Representation and Preservation:

Quinnipiac University will host its second major academic conference on Ireland's Great Hunger on *September 17, 2005*. The conference will be held in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition of Quinnipiac's unparalleled holdings of famine commemorative art. This artwork is part of the An Gorta Mor collection of documents, printed materials, paintings, and sculpture relating to the famine and its impact on Ireland and the world. It is showcased in the Lender Family Special Collection Room in Quinnipiac's Arnold Bernhard Library.

We invite submissions from scholars working on all dimensions of the Great Hunger. Particularly welcome are proposals that fit the themes of the conference. We are especially interested in: representations of the Great Hunger in art, language, literary and historical works, at commemorative sites, and in popular memory; papers on aspects of famine preservation, particularly the preservation of famine era records; issues of archival management, access, and funding; and other ways the famine has been preserved, culturally, intellectually, and biologically. Deadline for submissions is **March 15, 2005**.

Established and younger scholars are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals for individual papers and/or full sessions should include names of participants with a c.v. and 250-500 word summary of each paper. We anticipate publishing a selection of the papers in a volume that will be assembled subsequent to the conference. Funds will be available to reimburse some of the travel and lodging expenses of those delivering papers. Direct proposals or inquiries via post or email to David Valone, Director of Scholarly and Cultural Programs, The College of Liberal Arts, Mail Code CL-AC3, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT 06518. Phone 203-582-5269; fax 203-582-3471. [david.valone@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:david.valone@quinnipiac.edu)

### Edna O'Brien: A Reappraisal:

Proposals are invited for a one-day conference on *April 23, 2005*, which aims to elicit new readings of Edna O'Brien's work. In the wake of existing criticism, which has tended to regard O'Brien primarily in the light of feminist, Irish nationalist and religious discourses, we seek papers that reconsider Edna O'Brien's place in the canon, her work's participation in literary traditions, its interactions with contemporary fiction, its response to and presence in the work of other writers. Possible topics might include (but are not limited to): Edna O'Brien's reception in Ireland, Europe, and the USA; Edna O'Brien as playwright, screenwriter, memoirist, short-story writer, and "faction" writer; The English Edna O'Brien; O'Brien as "literary" or "popular" fiction writer; O'Brien and the canon; Comparative studies of O'Brien and other writers; O'Brien as literary influence; O'Brien and social change; Post-colonial O'Brien; O'Brien in translation and in an international context.

Plenary speakers: Professor Patricia Coughlan, Department of English, University College Cork; Dr Rebecca Pelan, Director of the Centre for Women's Studies, NUI Galway

Contact **Maureen O'Connor** Department of English, National University

of Galway, Galway, Ireland. [maureen.oconnor@nuigalway.ie](mailto:maureen.oconnor@nuigalway.ie)

### Eighteenth Century Ireland Society Annual Conference 2005: Brian Merriman in European Context:

2005 is the bicentenary of the death of the celebrated North Munster poet Brian Merriman (1749-1805), author of *Cúirt an Mhean-Oíche* (The Midnight Court). To mark the occasion, the Eighteenth Century Ireland Society Annual Conference will be organized in association with Cumann Merriman on *June 9-12, 2005*. The Conference will commemorate Brian Merriman and *The Midnight Court*, as well as exploring a broad range of eighteenth-century topics and issues. The following topics are particularly relevant to the conference theme: text, MSS, transmission, translation, reception of *The Midnight Court*; Utopian elements in the work of Merriman and his contemporaries; European and/or Enlightenment contexts to the work of Merriman, including the European education of the priesthood; local history of Clare/Limerick; folklore; gender, marriage and sexuality; religion and the status of priests in Ireland; illegitimacy and the status of children; the legal context. In addition to proposals on the conference theme, proposals relating to any aspect of Ireland in the long eighteenth century will be welcomed. Proposals of 100 words for a twenty-minute paper in English or Irish should be submitted to one of the following by **January 30, 2005**.

Contact **Dr Liam Chambers** Department of History, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. [Liam.Chambers@mic.ul.ie](mailto:Liam.Chambers@mic.ul.ie) or **Dr. Sean Patrick Donlan**, School of Law, University of Limerick. [Sean.Donlan@ul.ie](mailto:Sean.Donlan@ul.ie) Also See <http://www.ucc.ie/georgemoore/>

### Conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association:

The third annual conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association will be held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, site of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, on *September 30 - October 2, 2005*. The conference will feature plenary addresses by George Levine and by Mary Poovey. Jay Clayton, Linda Colley, Helena Michie, and Anthony Wohl will offer seminars on work in progress. In addition, and as a new conference development, Isobel Armstrong, Neil Hertz, and U. C. Knoepfelmacher will each conduct a master class on an assigned Victorian text. To participate in the conference, one must be a member of NAVSA.

NAVSA 2005 welcomes submission of paper proposals, for delivery as 20-minute conference talks, on any topic in Victorian literature, history, and culture, with a view to showcasing the best of current work in the intersecting fields that make up Victorian studies. Any topic of interest within the NAVSA compass is eligible.

Proposals, 2 pages in length (500 words) with a 1-page curriculum vitae, should be submitted electronically in attachment form to [submissions@navsa2005.org](mailto:submissions@navsa2005.org) by **February 1, 2005**.

Further information about NAVSA and the 2005 conference may be found at <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/navsa/>

### New Voices in Irish Criticism:

New Voices in Irish Criticism, Ireland's premier conference for postgraduate students in Irish studies, will be hosted by Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick *January 28th - 30th, 2005*, in association with the MIC Irish Studies Centre. Abstracts of no more than 150 words are requested on the theme of this year's conference, "Ireland in Theory."

This interdisciplinary conference invites papers on any aspect of Irish studies which incorporates a theoretical dimension. The growth of Irish studies in recent years has facilitated an engagement with contemporary postcolonial, feminist, post-structuralist and psychoanalytic theory. This year's conference will focus on these aspects of Irish literature, culture and history, calling on the forthcoming generation of Irish critics to expand on the established work in these areas at the juncture of critical theory and Irish studies.

The deadline for abstract submission is **December 1, 2004**. Submissions should be made by email to either: **Paula Murphy**, [paula.murphy@mic.ul.ie](mailto:paula.murphy@mic.ul.ie) or **Cathy McGlynn**, [catherine.mcglynn@mic.ul.ie](mailto:catherine.mcglynn@mic.ul.ie)

### Proposals for an organizations history:

The Fall Newsletter announced a call for proposals for an organizations history by November 1; there were no proposals. The Executive

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continues to solicit proposals for ACIS support of up to \$500 for conferences related to Irish studies; proposals can be made to the Executive through the President, John P. Harrington [harrj2@rpi.edu](mailto:harrj2@rpi.edu)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Social Thought and the Irish Question in the Nineteenth Century:

The "Social Thought and the Irish Question in the Nineteenth Century," conference will be held at Headfort House, Kells, Co. Meath, *Friday-Saturday, March 18-19th, 2005*. The conference will address in comparative perspective the way in which Ireland was analyzed by selected major nineteenth-century thinkers from outside the island; included will be the two themes of Celticism and Race. Thinkers and topics are: Why Ireland Mattered (David Fitzpatrick); Alexis de Tocqueville (Tom Garvin); John Stuart Mill (Graham Finlay); Sir Henry Maine (Séamas Ó Síocháin); Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (Chandana Mathur and Dermot Dix); James Anthony Froude (Ciaran Brady); Race (Peter Bowler); Celticism (George Watson); Overview (Peter Gray). Headfort House has been placed on the 2004-2005 World Monuments Fund watchlist of 100 significant architectural sites worldwide.

For Information see: [www.may.ie/academic/anthropology/AAI](http://www.may.ie/academic/anthropology/AAI) or contact the Department of Anthropology, NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, +353 1 7083984 or FAX +353 1 708 3570 [anthropology.office@may.ie](mailto:anthropology.office@may.ie)

### "Ireland in the Renaissance": An Interdisciplinary Conference:

Free and Open to the Public, program as Follows: PART I: ARCHEOLOGY, HISTORY AND MATERIAL CULTURE SESSION 1: Ulster: Joseph McLaughlin: "The Making of a Spenserian Network of Forts/Manors in Early 17th-Century Ulster"; Valerie McGowan-Doyle: "Attaining Shane O'Neill: Sir Henry Sidney's New Ireland" SESSION 2: Kilkenny: Paul Cockerham: "Renaissance Ideals in Irish Funeral Monuments"; Colm Lennon: "Pedagogy and Reform: Peter White's Influence on Irish Scholarship in the Renaissance" SESSION 3: The Archeology of Sidney and Spenser: Sharon Weadick: "Fortified Houses of the 16th and 17th Centuries: Their Design and Place in Time"; John Bradley: "The Sidney Stones: A Galling Experience for the Gael"; Eric Klingelhöfer: "Edmund Spenser at Kilcolman: The Archaeological Evidence" SESSION 4: Cartography: Nessa Cronin: "Desocialising Native Space: Renaissance Maps of the West of Ireland"; Jane Ruffino: "Plantation and Performance: Maps, Landscape and Social Identity in Renaissance Ireland"; Thomas Herron: "Richard Bartlett's Ulster Maps: A Reconsideration"

PART II: LITERATURE AND CEREMONY SESSION 5: Bardic Poetry and Shakespearean Drama: Salvador Ryan: "A Scriptural Stethoscope: The Pulse of Preachers and Poets in Late Medieval Ireland"; Stephen O'Neill: "1599: Drama, Nation and the Burden of War" SESSION 6: Neo-Latinity: Jason Harris: "The Idea of 'Nation' in Irish Renaissance Latin"; David Caulfield: "O'Sullivan Beare and the Scotie Debate" SESSION 7: Seventeenth-Century Narratives: Jean Bocharova: "The 'Barbarous Dispossessors' of Milton's History of Britain"; Dougal Shaw: "Restoration Through Ritual in Ireland: The Celebrations of 1661"; Naomi McAreavey: "Besieged Englishness: Women Writing During the Irish Rebellion of 1641"

The Conference will take place at the Helen Roe Theater, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin on *January 8, 2005*. Information: Michael Potterton [michael@discoveryprogramme.ie](mailto:michael@discoveryprogramme.ie) and/or Thomas Herron [therron@hsc.edu](mailto:therron@hsc.edu)

### Field Day Review:

The first issue of the "Field Day Review," a new annual journal edited by Seamus Deane and Breandán Mac Suibhne, will be published in Spring 2005 through the Keough Institute For Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame. It will contain an outstanding range of essays, essay-reviews, reviews, photo-essays and other features, almost all centered on various aspects of Irish political and literary culture, past and present. Subscription information will be available early in the New Year.

### MA in Cultural Theory and Textual Practice at the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies, College of Humanities, University of Limerick:

For the last three years, Ireland has topped the "Globalization Index."

What does globalization mean, culturally and in terms of identity? How does the globalized marketplace impact on local and national cultures and languages? Does it alter the roles of women and men in society? Does it modify, contort or lessen our sense of history? How do we envision political agency and social improvement in the midst of globalization and what are the cultural and textual practices which would set us on our way to achieving certain social and political visions and values? Are such ideals sustainable in the world today?

The new MA in Cultural Theory and Textual Practice provides students with the opportunity to engage critically and comparatively with these questions across cultures and societies. Drawing upon a range of cultural theories and methodologies, students address texts from traditional (literary, film and video, music and song) and new media practices. The MA's comparative and multidisciplinary focus enables students to benefit from the variety of research expertise offered by academic staff from across the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies (English, French, German, Irish, Japanese, Spanish). Students will also benefit from the program's affiliation with the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies, the Women's Studies Program, the Centre for Irish-German Studies, the Centre for European Studies and the Centre for Applied Language Studies. Upon completion of the program, interested students may apply to pursue a Ph.D. The MA consists of core and optional modules and requires the submission of a dissertation. Students may complete the course either full-time in one year or part-time in two years.

Core modules: Cultural Theory; Feminist Theory and Textual Practice; Textual Constructions of Cultural Identity; Utopian Theory & Texts. Optional modules: Cultural Constructions of the Past; Culture and the Market; Language and Culture; Philosophical Approaches to Gender.

Applications for the academic year 2005-2006 are now being accepted. If you have an honors degree in the humanities or approved equivalent and are interested in exploring the theory and practice of a variety of texts in a variety of social, linguistic, educational, economic and philosophical contexts, then we would be very interested in receiving your application. Applications are due on the second Friday of June 2005. In certain circumstances, and subject to places being available, late applications may be considered. Non-native speakers of English will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the language.

For further information about the MA in Cultural Theory and Textual Practice contact: Course Director, **Dr Marieke Krajenbrink** via email at [MACTTP@ul.ie](mailto:MACTTP@ul.ie). For information on graduate studies at the University of Limerick and to download course application forms, visit the webpage: [www.graduatestudies.ul.ie](http://www.graduatestudies.ul.ie)

### Reminder:

ACIS members are reminded that the committees announced in the Fall 2004 Newsletter have begun to collect information for reports at our meeting at Notre Dame in April. The committees and chairs are: Ad-Hoc committee on the Membership of the Executive Committee, Michael Patrick Gillespie [gillespiem@marquette.edu](mailto:gillespiem@marquette.edu) and Publications, Thomas Ihde [tihde@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:tihde@lehman.cuny.edu)

### The Directories of Dublin:

The Directories of Dublin have been brought together on microfilm for the very first time. This complete collection of surviving and rare directories - many of which are unique by definition - have taken many years to compile, and comprise of Almanacks and Directories from a number of libraries from the UK and Ireland.

The many uses made of Directories by the modern reader or genealogist has a tenuous relation to their original and intended purpose. Directories - common among all UK cities and large towns during the 18th century - were published to serve as a commercial inventory of traders and merchants within each province. They allowed trade activity to flourish and prosper by mapping, with remarkable precision, details of each commercial outfit, the nature of the commercial service and details of their proprietors. Of particular significance, directories also contain the names, occupations and addresses of all Dublin residents on an annual basis from 1729 to 1900, and list all the aristocratic Lords in England and Ireland.

For more information, contact **Todd Bludeau** at [praxesstodd@optonline.net](mailto:praxesstodd@optonline.net)

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**Troubling Images: Dramatic and Visual Representations of the Northern Ireland Conflict and Peace Process:**

Irish Studies Symposium at Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314, will host "Troubling Images: Dramatic and Visual Representations of the Northern Ireland Conflict and Peace Process" on Feb. 5, 2005. The speakers will include several ACIS members, notably Joan Fitzpatrick Dean on "Recent Northern Irish Theater: The Uses of History"; Charlotte Headrick on "Images of the Troubles: The Healing Vision of the Women"; and Trischa Goodnow on "The Troubles Written on the Walls: The Murals of Northern Ireland." In addition, there will be staged readings of scenes from several Northern Irish plays directed by Mark Duncan, Theater Professor at NSU, and a talk by Yvonne Murphy of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, on Troubled Images: Posters and Images of the Northern Ireland Conflict, which will be on display concurrently in the NSU Library. For further information contact James Doan, Humanities, NSU; 954-262-8207 [doan@nova.edu](mailto:doan@nova.edu)

**JOBS IN IRISH STUDIES**

**Program Coordinator, CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies:**

The position will require the individual to focus on the ongoing needs of the Institute as well as coordinate specific grant projects. Responsibilities will include grant identification, contact with granting agencies, grant writing, and submission; development of a bi-weekly lecture series, identify speakers, coordinating venues, and hosting events; archives development (experience required in book handling and preservation practices), editing the bi-annual speakers' brochure and the monthly in-house newsletter. The program coordinator will act as program manager of specific grant-funded projects. This will entail both coordinating awarded grants and actual work on the project at hand. Current grant proposals focus on brittle book preservation and providing in-service training to teachers in Great Irish Famine curricula.

See Details at <http://portal.cuny.edu>