



The American Conference for Irish Studies

An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánach do Léann na hÉireann

Fall 2009 Newsletter

President
James Rogers
jrogers@stthomas.edu

Vice President
Sean Farrell
sfarrel1@niu.edu

International Treasurer
Daire Keogh,
daire.keogh@spd.dcu.ie

Treasurer
Nicholas Wolf
nwolf2@gmu.edu

Secretary
Michael de Nie
mdenie@westga.edu

Past President and International
Representative
Jose Lanfers
lanfers@uwm.edu

Celtic Studies Representative
Thomas Finan
tjfinan@mindspring.com

Graduate Student Representative
John Malloy
john.malloy@marquette.edu

Midwest Representative
Sandra Pearce
pearces@mnstate.edu

Arts Representative
Donna Potts
dlpotts@ksu.edu

New England Representative
Sally Sommers Smith
ssommers@bu.edu

Mid-Atlantic Representative
Kate Costello-Sullivan
sullivkp@lemoyne.edu

History Representative
Ryan Dye
dyeryand@sau.edu

Social Science Representative
Brigittine French
frenchb@grinnell.edu

Western Representative
Kathleen Heininge
kheininge@georgefox.edu

Literature Representative
Karen Steele
k.steele@tcu.edu

Irish Language Representative
Nancy Stenson
stenson@umn.edu

Newsletter Editor
Jill Brady Hampton
Jillh@usca.edu

2010 ACIS Conference

"Ireland: Then and Now"

The 2010 national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies will be held on 5 – 8 May 2010 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA. There will be an opening reception on Wednesday evening, May 5th, and concurrent panels will begin on Thursday morning, May 6th. The announced theme is intended to encourage a broad range of paper topics. Papers are welcome on any Irish Studies topic, including traditional concerns of the discipline and evolving areas of interest in the visual, literary, and interdisciplinary areas. We welcome proposals for individual papers, which, if accepted, will be placed within a relevant panel. Proposals for panels are especially welcome, and panels have been proposed on Reassessing Diasporic Studies within Irish Studies and Reassessing Irish Historiography. Additional papers are welcome on such topics as evolving literary and visual arts movements, the culture and literature of Northern Ireland, and other related topics. Plenary speakers confirmed to date are Dean John Harrington (Fordham University), Dr. James Smith (Boston College), and Author Moya Cannon. U.S. carriers offer frequent flights to State College, PA. Further details will be posted as they become available. A conference website is also under development. Due Date for Conference Paper Proposals: Tuesday, 24 November 2009. Please send your 250 word (or less) abstract to Dr. Tramble T. Turner at ttt3@psu.edu. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 215 868.5848 (mobile), 215 881.7532 (office), or via e-mail at ttt3@psu.edu.

Dr. Tramble T. Turner
Associate Professor of English
Penn State Abington
1600 Woodland Rd. Abington, PA 19001

Dean John Harrington



Dr. James Smith



Author Moya Cannon



Book Prize Recipients 2008



James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences

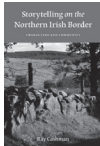
David A. Wilson. *Thomas D'Arcy McGee Volume 1: Passion, Reason, and Politics, 1825-1857*. McGill-Queen's University Press.



Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture
Harry White. *Music and the Irish Literary Imagination*. Oxford University Press.



Duais Leabhar Taighde na Bliana Fhoras na Gaeilge/
ACIS Award for Books in the Irish Language
Máiréad Ní Chinnéide. *An Damer: Stair Amharclainne*. Gael-Linn Publisher



Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book
Ray Cashman. *Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border: Characters and Community*. Indiana University Press.



Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature
Ronald Schuchard. *The Last Minstrels: Yeats and the Revival of the Bardic Arts*. Oxford University Press.

Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation
Nicholas Wolf. *Language Change and the Evolution of Religion, Community, and Culture in Ireland, 1800-1900*. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Call for Book Prize Submissions

The American Conference for Irish Studies sponsors five prizes annually for books on Irish subjects, open to books published worldwide (and a sixth prize for the year's outstanding dissertation).

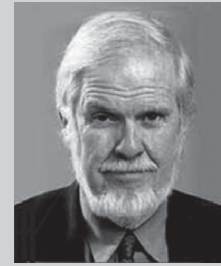
- James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences
- Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture
- Duais Leabhar Taighde na Bliana Fhoras na Gaeilge/ACIS Award for Books in the Irish Language
- Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book
- Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature
- Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation

The prize-winning books will be announced in Spring 2010 and awarded at the ACIS business meeting, where the selection committee's encomium is read. Each prize also carries a cash award of \$500.

In addition, ACIS announces the awards in its Newsletter, received by all members; with a display ad in the Irish Literary Supplement; on its website at <http://www.acisweb.com/info.php?type=main>; and in press releases to Irish Studies journals and list serves.

ACIS History

Past ACIS president, James MacKillop (1995-97), reports continued progress in writing the



commissioned history of this organization. The voluminous but disorderly archives at Boston College yield immense data, but many questions call for more personal recollections. To help the work move, he

would like more answers to the following three questions:

1. Details on any credit courses in Irish studies before 1975.
2. Reports on issues that have caused contentious discussions during sessions at national or regional ACIS meetings.
3. Further nominations for the 100 Best Books in Irish Studies written by ACIS Members, American or Canadian.

Send notes or other suggestions to Jim at mackillj@yahoo.com or via snail mail at 6240 The Hamlet, Jamesville, NY 13078

ELIGIBILITY

All books submitted for the next round of awards must have a publication date of 2009. Anyone, including the author, may submit books for consideration. ACIS members who wish to nominate a book should contact the relevant committee chair, who will then contact the publisher. Edited collections; fiction; poetry; and anthologies of literature are not eligible.

Copies of the books nominated must be sent to each of the members of the appropriate committee (see below) by 10 February 2010. Overseas publishers in particular should be aware that the February 10 deadline for a postmark is firm.

No book may compete for more than one of the three disciplinary prizes (Donnelly, Durkan, Rhodes), but an author's first scholarly monograph (or collection of original essays) may be submitted to the Murphy prize committee in addition to one of the three disciplinary committees. Authors may contact the committee chair to determine whether their book has been submitted for a prize. Prize chairs may choose to reassign entered works.

Committees will be in place by November and announced on the ACIS website. Please do not send copies of books to ACIS officers. For more information contact the chair of the Book Prize Committee, Sean Farrell (sfarrel1@niu.edu) and/or the relevant specific book prize committee chair.

Calls For Papers

Canadian Association for Irish Studies CAIS: 19-22 May 2010

Call for Proposals by 15 January 2010

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

"Ireland and its Discontents Success and Failure in Modern Ireland"

"Anyone who is failing at one thing," psychoanalyst Adam Phillips has suggested, "is always succeeding at another." We invite proposals for papers interrogating the relationship between success and failure in modern and contemporary Ireland, as reflected in its politics, its economic policies, its literature, and its popular culture. The Celtic Tiger is one obvious recent example of a 'success' narrative that was intimately linked to a series of failures on the part of Irish society to safeguard its more vulnerable communities. With the recent publication of the "Ryan Report," to cite another example, it is clear that the success of the Catholic Church in exerting its power over Ireland's educational and reformatory institutions came at the price of a failure to guarantee the safety and welfare of Ireland's youth. By the same token, it might be argued that Fianna Fáil's longtime political success depended on the failure to engage with the 'National Question,' i.e., Partition and Northern Ireland. Success and failure, as manifested in language revival policies, in gender-related issues, in the lives of prominent public figures, and the reality and perceptions of the Irish diaspora, including the Irish in Canada, are also topics worthy of consideration. We welcome papers that address other topics and proposals for special panels.

Please send proposals including contact information (250 words) by e-mail to: Pádraig Ó Siadhail, D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3H 3C3 (padraig.osiadhail@smu.ca)

ACIS Southern Regional Conference: March 4-7, 2010

Call for Proposals by November 6, 2009

Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina

"Crafting Infinity: Struggle and Rebirth"

Ireland's geographical, literary, historic, and artistic symbols and boundaries, like the Celtic knot or the Connemara coast, are immeasurable and have been described as representations of infinity, hence the theme of the 2010 conference. We welcome both paper and panel proposals of 250 words (to be sent as Word attachments) that deal with the conference theme, as well as other aspects of Irish Studies.

Please send proposals to Dr. Rory Cornish (cornishr@winthrop.edu) by November 6, 2009. Contact Rory Cornish/ History Department, Winthrop University/ Rock Hill, South Carolina 29733/ cornishr@winthrop.edu

Mary Immaculate College Limerick: An Interdisciplinary Conference, 18-19 June 2010

Call for Proposals by 15 February 2010

"Ireland and Ecocriticism"

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Ireland is a land of pastoral greenery, but its landscape is an arguably 'unnatural' construct, a topography shaped by a history of conflict and suffering. Gerry Smyth asserted in 2000 that 'Irish Studies and ecocriticism ... have a lot to say to each other', yet despite the centrality of the land to Irish identity at home and abroad, ecocriticism remains largely absent from Irish Studies in Ireland.

One explanation for reluctance to engage with this theoretical practice may be the long history of the country's conflicted, traumatized relation to the land, its often reductive figuration as 'nature', and one aim of this conference will be to examine this critical recalcitrance, when the land and the landscape feature in a vast range of cultural productions in Ireland, from folklore and music, to poetry and painting.

The longstanding tension in Western society between 'nature' and 'culture' has unique implications for the social and political framing of the natural world in an Irish context. This fraught and complicated relationship urgently requires interrogation in an age of rapid climate change, when, for example, a country as wet as Ireland faces a water crisis.

Proposals are welcome from across the disciplines, including environmental studies, anthropology, journalism, migration studies, history, geography, urban planning, music, literary studies, art history, folklore studies, archaeology, education, architecture, women's studies, philosophy, theology, cultural studies, sociology, film and media studies, and colonial/postcolonial studies.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Plantation and settlement; Irish ecofeminism; The simianised Irish; Paddy's pig and animal rights; Folklore and fairytales; Traditional music; Irish-language texts; the nature of translation; translating nature; Meat-eating and national identity; 'Oriental' Ireland and theosophy; Colonial/postcolonial perspectives on representations of the natural; Agrarian movements and utopian communities; Ruins and landscape; Landscape and national character; Gendering the landscape; the 'Celtic Tiger', late capital, and the death of nature Tourism and the heritage industry; the visual arts, past and present; the Catholic Church and the 'natural' Diaspora and nostalgia; Landscape-based worship: holy wells, patterns, and pilgrimages.

Send proposals (of no more than 500 words) to Maureen O'Connor, Department of English Language and Literature, Mary Immaculate College Limerick maureen.oconnor@mic.ul.ie

ACIS Newsletter

University of South Carolina Aiken
471 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801

Director of Irish Studies Program

<http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/irishstudies/>

Villanova University seeks a Director for its Irish Studies Program at the level of advanced assistant professor or higher, beginning in Fall 2010. Academic field is open, but because of the program's strong ties to Irish literature, candidates should have an excellent knowledge of the Irish literary world. The director will hold an appointment in the appropriate academic department. Candidates should have the appropriate terminal degree or a record of distinguished professional activity, as well as administrative experience and a history of excellent publication and teaching. Along with administration and scholarship, responsibilities include a teaching schedule that depends on qualifications.

Apply for the position, and to see a full job description, please go to <https://jobs.villanova.edu/>. Some elements of the application, including its initial steps, must be done electronically. The deadline for applications is Oct. 12, 2009.

In case of questions, please contact Prof. Evan Radcliffe, Chair of Irish Studies Search

Committee, English Dept., Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19085-1699, or evan.radcliffe@villanova.edu.

Villanova University is a Catholic university sponsored by the Augustinian order. An AA/EEO employer, Villanova seeks a diverse faculty committed to scholarship, service, and especially teaching, who understand, respect, and can contribute to the University's mission and values.

ACIS Joins Facebook

ACIS now has a facebook presence thanks to Sean Farrell. Professor Farrell reports that for those of us addicted to this most self indulgent of habits, we only need to search for the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Newsletter Editor

The ACIS Newsletter appears three times per year, in September, December, and March. Deadlines for submissions are August 15, November 15, and February 15. Please send material to Jill Brady Hampton, your friendly newsletter editor, via email: Jillh@usca.edu. Thanks!

The American Conference for Irish Studies reminds its friends that annual dues are essential to the organization.

ACIS dues now run through the calendar year; single-year memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. One-year memberships are \$30 for individuals and \$15 for students.

To join, go to the ACIS website at <http://www.acisweb.com/index.php> and click on "Join ACIS" at the bottom of the page. You may pay by credit card though a secure PayPal account, or print out a form and mail your dues to Nicholas Wolf, ACIS Treasurer, Department of History, George Mason University, Fairfax VA 22030 E-mail: nwolf2@gmu.edu

Web Master

Phillip Barron
pbarron@nicomediadesigns.com