

Regional Report 2024-2025 Spain

- The annual 23rd AEDEI International Conference for Irish Studies will be held in Huelva on 28-30 May 2025, organised by Auxiliadora Pérez Vides and Jose Carregal Romero, under the title of “The uses and abuses of Irishness”. The following plenary speakers and keynote writers have been confirmed: Prof. Katherine O'Donnell (University College Dublin), Prof. Sylvie Mikowski (Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne), Catherine Dunne (writer) and Louise Walsh (writer and director). As an Association we are very grateful to the extraordinary support we receive from the Irish Embassy in Spain, brilliantly represented by Ambassador Frank Smyth, who has, no doubt, strongly committed himself to the flourishing of Irish Studies in our country
- During this last year, *Estudios Irlandeses*, the scholarly journal of AEDEI, has published its regular issue (issue 20: <https://www.estudiosirlandeses.org/issue/issue-20/>) in March 2025. Since its foundation in 2005, the recognition of the high standard of the journal has significantly increased. Awarded with the FECYT quality seal for excellence in scientific journals, recently renewed in 2023, it is indexed in the following directories and databases: Scopus, Emerging Sources Citation Index, MLA, DOAJ, Academic Search Premier, Directory of Open Access Journals, MIAR, ERIHPlus, Latindex and Dialnet. The General Editor is Margarita Estévez-Saá, and Managing Editors are José Carregal-Romero, Alfred Markey, and Noemí Pereira-Ares.
- A great scholar and writer, a professor at University College Cork, and a most dear friend of AEDEI, Eibhear Walshe, sadly passed away. His words still resonate in *Estudios Irlandeses*, Issue 15 *Estudios Irlandeses*, Issue 20, 2025, pp.286-314 ISSN 1699-311X. 290 (2020), in an interview carried out by Pilar Villar Argáiz: “‘Stretching the Imagination into another World’: An Interview with Eibhear Walshe”.
- AEDEI members are also very active in their own individual centers in Spain: The Amergin University Institute of Research in Irish Studies (University of A Coruña); The Irish Studies Circle at the University of Granada; The Centre for Irish Studies in Cáceres; the Centre for Irish Studies Banna/Bond (which includes the universities of Burgos, Deusto, La Rioja and Zaragoza); the Centre for Irish Studies “Alka-Éire” (University of Alcalá); WAÉIRE, Irish Studies in the West of Andalusia (comprising 4 different institutions, University of Córdoba, University of Huelva, University Pablo de Olavide

and University of Seville); the Hispano-Irish Association in Valladolid; and The Irish Basque Association Lagun Cara. As an Association, we also have very strong ties with The James Joyce Spanish Association, chaired by Juan Ignacio Oliva.

- The numerous activities organised by these centres - including conferences, seminars, lectures, literary readings, interviews, publications, historical re-enactments, festivals, etc., organised by these entities all over Spain in 2024-2025 - clearly show the vitality of Irish Studies in our country, a place in which not only national, but also international scholars, artists, musicians, writers love gathering to celebrate the richness of Irish history, culture, literature, cinema, art, music and dancing. These academic events happening in Spain on the field of Irish Studies include the following, in alphabetical order of venue (many of these activities were partially funded by EFACIS through the program of the Irish Itinerary):
 - Basque country. Basque Country. In the Basque Country, the Irish Studies Centre in the University of Vitoria, Eusk-Cara, collaborated with the II edition of the Tartalo Symposium which took place from 4th to 10th November 2024. Sheila Armstrong and Jan Carson were its guest writers.
 - Cáceres. From 20th to 22nd September 2024, a new edition of the Cáceres Irish Fleadh took place. It celebrated its 20th anniversary. The uilleann piper John McSherry played at it for the satisfaction of the attendants, who could also enjoy sessions of Irish traditional music and workshops on Irish dance and on how to play the fiddle, the uilleann pipes or the bodhrán among other Irish instruments. On 17 March 2025, The Centre for Irish Studies in Cáceres organised the *I Jornada de Difusión de la Cultura Irlandesa de la UEx* at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (Universidad de Extremadura, Cáceres). While the Center has carried out workshops at different high schools throughout Cáceres for several years, for the first time ever, they hosted 70 students from 4 high schools at the University to partake in their special St Patrick's Day celebration.
 - Granada: On 14 November 2024, The Circle of Irish Studies at the University of Granada paid a tribute to Edna O'Brien with the literary activity "Reading from *The Country Girls* by Edna O'Brien". The reading was carried out in English, Irish and Spanish. Meant to celebrate the life and work of one of Ireland's leading female writers, it was held at one of the most genuine Irish Pubs in Granada, Daly's. On 28 January 2025-1 February 2025, the Granada Circle for Irish Studies organised the VIII International Seminar of Irish Studies. This 8th edition was celebrated on occasion of St. Brigid's. Among the

numerous talks and activities that took place, we would like to draw your attention to some of them: the launch of the critically acclaimed Yeats Sisters Exhibition by the Irish Ambassador to Spain, literary readings by renowned Irish authors Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Deirdre Sullivan (sponsored by the EFACIS Irish Itinerary), and numerous sessions with the recognised traditional musicians Louise Mulcahy, Matt Cranitch, Caoimhe and Éimhear Flannery. They also organised various workshops on Irish dance and Irish language, and a musical-dancing performance by the UGR Ceili Band in Granada.

- Málaga. The Centre for Ibero-American and Transatlantic Studies FGUMA-UMA, via the María Zambrano Centre for Transatlantic Studies of the University of Málaga, called for a new edition of the Spanish-Irish Award of the Aula María Zambrano de Estudios Transatlánticos with the aim of encouraging research on the relations between both countries.
- La Rioja. Various events were organised by the Centre of Irish Studies Banna/Bond, led by Melania Terrazas Gallego. With the support of the EFACIS Irish Itinerary 2024, the Centre for Irish Studies Banna/Bond hosted the “VIII International Seminar on Halloween: Posthuman Intersections in Irish Literature” at the University of La Rioja from 28 to 29 October 2024. Attendants could enjoy a reading by and interview with the Irish writer Naoise Dolan and lectures by Michael G. Cronin (Maynooth University, Ireland), Alicia Muro Llorente (University of La Rioja), María Jesús Lorenzo Modia (University of A Coruña) and Margarita Estévez-Saá (University of Santiago de Compostela). It was coordinated by Melania Terrazas Gallego. Banna/Bond also offered an International Seminar “The Transforming Power of Irish Literature” at the University of Burgos, again with the support of EFACIS Irish Itinerary. Organised by María Amor Barros and held from 30th to 31st October, it offered readings, discussions and workshops with Irish writer Naoise Dolan. Colum McCann’s and Roddy Doyle’s works were also explored for teaching purposes.
- Valladolid. On 13 September 2024, the Hispano-Irish Association, with Carlos Burgos acting as its President, together with Valladolid City Council, organised the I International Encounter of Spanish-Irish Associations – more than twenty-five associations from Ireland, Portugal, the United States and different Spanish provinces gathered there to talk about the Camino de Santiago that begins in Dublin, Saint Patrick’s festivals, the death of Red Hugh, the Irish Colleges in Spain and many more things – and participate in the historical re-enactment of Irish Prince Red Hugh O’Donnell’s Funeral, which was a delight for the thousands of people who could witness it. Within the context of this event, the following day, the writer Pedro Luis Chinchilla gave the

talk “Los prisioneros de la Armada en Irlanda” – “The prisoners of the Armada in Ireland”.

- Vigo. As part of the research project INTRUTHS 2: “Articulations of Individual and Communal Vulnerabilities in Contemporary Irish Writing”, led by Teresa Caneda, activities (in-person and online) were presented at the University of Vigo on 31 October and 7 November 2024. Alfred Markey (University of León) and the Irish writers Evelyn Conlon and Éilís Ní Dhuibhne were in its programme.
- On 16 June 2025, Bloomsday was celebrated worldwide and, obviously, Spain was no exception.
- In 2024, Spanish Scholars have presented their work on Irish Studies not only at academic events carried out in Spain, but also at international conferences hosted beyond our borders by highly prestigious entities covering this field of research such as EFACIS and IASIL to mention but two umbrella ones. Some of these scholars have received academic recognition through awards. AEDEI funded research in the field of Irish Studies in Spain through scholarships, which were possible thanks to the support of the “Emigrant Support Programme” of the Government of Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland in Madrid. One was granted to María Elena Jaime de Pablos, to carry out a post-doctoral/senior research project, and two to Noelia Carmona Rivero and Muriel Domínguez Viso respectively to complete their doctoral projects. Research on Irish Studies has grown enormously in the last decades both in quantitative and qualitative terms thanks to different generations of academics who devote themselves entirely and passionately to this wonderful area of expertise.