

Regional Report 2024-2025 Czech Republic, Slovakia

Conferences and Workshops

On 19-20 September 2025, the Prague Centre for Irish Studies, under the aegis of EFACIS, is hosting “Voices from the Margin: Ireland Seen and Unseen”, the 7th International Postgraduate Conference in Irish Studies.

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement

Irish Itinerary

A visit of poet **William Keohane** in March/April 2025. A performance and discussion in Prague on 31 March was followed by performance and talk on 2 April in Vienna.

A visit of writer **Jan Carson** in April 2025 co-organised by the Centre for Irish Studies, Prague, and the English Department at the Technical University in Liberec. A reading in Liberec on 28 April followed by a lecture on “Northern Irish Literature” on 29 April and a Creative Writing workshop on 30 April. The visit was a part of an **Irish Festival** organised by the English Department at the Technical University of Liberec, which also featured a lecture by HE Alan Gibbons, the Ambassador of Ireland to the Czech Republic, a talk on literary translations of Irish works by Hana Zahradníková, a film screening, and other events.

Guest Lectures

On 16 October 2024, the English Department at the Technical University of Liberec held a **guest lecture** by HE Alan Gibbons, Ambassador of Ireland to the Czech Republic. The lecture was part of the International Day organised by the university.

On 22 October 2024, the Prague Centre for Irish Studies held a **guest lecture** by Ola Majekodunmi on “The Future & Irishness”.

On 5 December 2024, the department of British and American Studies at Komenský University in Bratislava held a **guest lecture** by HE Dermot McGauran, Ambassador of Ireland to the Slovak Republic, titled “Ireland and the Birth of Europe”.

On 19 February 2025, the department of British and American Studies at Komenský University in Bratislava held a **guest lecture** by Michaela Čaňková on the works of Claire Keegan, titled “Blazing a Trail, Irish Women’s Fight for Rights”.

On 3 March 2025, the Department of British and American Studies at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, officially opened an Irish section of the department library. The event was attended by HE Alan Gibbons, Ambassador of Ireland to the Czech Republic. The event was followed by a **guest lecture** by Dr Radvan Markus on “The Theme of Freedom in 20th-Century Irish-language Prose”.

On 30 April 2025, the Prague Centre for Irish Studies held a **guest lecture** by Prof Peter Gray, Queen’s University Belfast, on the fate of Ulster radicalism after 1798.

Miscellaneous Information

On 24 October 2024, the Irish Embassy in Prague and the publishing house Argo launched the Czech translation of Seosamh Mac Grianna’s *Mo Bhealach Féin* by Dr Radvan Markus.

On 4 March, the English Department at the Technical University of Liberec held a **didactic workshop** by Michaela Čaňková on Belfast and contemporary Northern Irish literatures.

On 14 March 2025, the Centre for Irish Studies, Prague, organised **St Patrick’s day celebrations**, featuring the launch of a new issue of the literary magazine *Plav*, focused on Northern Irish poetry, a reading from the forthcoming Czech translation of Brian Merriman’s *Cúirt an Mheán-oíche* and a concert by the local band Conamara Chaos.

On 19 March 2025, the department of British and American Studies at Komenský University in Bratislava organised a **public screening** of the Irish-language film *Kneecap*.

On 14 May 2025, the Prague Centre for Irish studies held a public Q&A session with poet and playwright Vincent Woods.