

Regional Report 2022-2023 Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia

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Conferences and Workshops

On 11 November 2022, the Prague Centre for Irish Studies hosted the **workshop** *Cultural Links between Irish and Scottish Gaelic* funded by the OP RDE project KREAS. The workshop was concluded by a public reading of contemporary prose and poetry in Irish and Scottish Gaelic with Czech translations featuring Peter Mackay, Alan Titley, and Christopher Whyte. The proceedings were published in a thematic issue of the journal *Litteraria Pragensia* and the translations will appear in a special issue of the literary magazine *Plav* in the near future.

On 23-24 June 2023, the Prague Centre hosted the **conference** *Brendan Behan at 100*. The conference was opened by Her Excellency Cliona Manahan, Irish Ambassador to the Czech Republic and featured keynotes by Deirdre McMahon and John Brannigan. The evening programme included a concert by the local band Conamara Chaos and the guests Matthew Sweney, David Livingstone and Jáchym Hájek, featuring some Behan household songs. The video footage of the concert will be available on the Centre's website soon.

On 10-14 July 2023, the Vienna Centre for Irish Studies held *The 4th Irish Studies & Cultural Theory Summer School*, with the theme "Irish Icons and Iconoclasts".

On 3 May, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Slovakia) organised the International Student **Forum** *Youth for Peace: The Voice of Peace Has Power*. The Forum was held online and featured various papers focusing on Northern Ireland by students from Trinity College Dublin.

On 20-23 September 2023, Idaho Museum of International Diaspora and Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica are holding the **conference** *Museums: The Future of Diaspora Engagement*. The conference will feature a section on the Irish diaspora.

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

Irish Itinerary Podcast

Nathalie Lamprecht (Prague) in conversation with Alan Gilsenan.

Irish Itinerary

A planned visit of Irish language poet Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh on 16-20 October. There will be a reading in Bratislava and a lecture and a reading (complemented by Czech translations) in Prague.

New Centres

Interest in Irish Studies is growing at the English department of Komenský University in Bratislava (Slovakia). Two members of the department, Prof. Alena Smiešková and Simona Bajáková (PhD student) plan to become individual members of EFACIS in the near future with prospects of establishing a proper centre.

Miscellaneous Information

On 13 October 2022, the Prague Centre held a **lecture** by Dr Caroline Magennis (University of Salford, Manchester) on “Acts of Casual Intimacy: Critical Bodies and Bodies of Criticism in Recent Northern Irish Fiction”.

On 24 October 2022 the Embassy of Ireland in the Czech Republic and the Prague Centre for Irish Studies presented a **programme** showcasing the work of the unique Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan. Following an introduction of the poet by Professor Nicholas Grene (Trinity College Dublin), the Director of the Centre, Darren McCreesh, shared the story of its development and talked about its programming and plans. The event featured discussion with the audience, followed by a reception.

On 13 December 2022, the Prague Centre held a **lecture** by poet and scholar Seán Hewitt (Trinity College Dublin) entitled “Mysticism, the Occult, and Synge’s *The Aran Islands*.” On the following day, Hewitt had a public reading accompanied by Czech translations by members, students and graduates of the centre. A video recording of the reading is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oezJBmCCPM&t=3s&ab_channel=CentreforIrishStudiesPrague

On 29 March 2023, the Prague Centre held a **lecture** by Dr Jessica Bundschuh (University of Stuttgart) entitled “The Mesh of Companion Species in Sara Baume’s A Line Made by Walking”.

On 17 April 2023, the Prague Centre organised an **Evening of Irish Culture**, featuring a concert of the local band Conamara Chaos, an Irish step dance performance by Andrej Mikulka and readings of Irish literature in translation by members and associates of the centre.

On 4 May 2023, the Prague Centre held a **lecture** by Dr Aidan O’Malley (University of Rijeka) on “Field Day and its Critical Legacy”.

Members of the Prague centre, Ondřej Pilný and Radvan Markus have recorded episodes for the newly established Cup of Tea **Podcast** run by the student association Schwa. They have presented on modern Irish drama and linguistic features of Irish respectively.

On 28 April 2023 the Vienna Centre held a lecture by renowned Irish poet Paul Muldoon, entitled “Poetry as a Performative Artform”.

On 15 March 2023, the department of English and American Studies at Komenský University in Bratislava organised a programme for St Patrick’s Day celebrations. The event was opened by the Irish ambassador to Slovakia and featured lectures and workshops on Irish history, language, literature and music.

On 17 April 2023, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica held a lecture by Dr Michael Geaney on Irish traditional song.

On 22-23 September 2023, the Prague Centre is holding *The 6th International Postgraduate Conference: Reading Ireland in the Twenty-First Century*. The conference will feature a Panel Session on Early Career Research and Career Building with Dr Deirdre Flynn (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick), Dr Petra Johana Poncarová (Charles University) and Prof Ondřej Pilný (Charles University).