

Regional Report 2022-2023 France

Conferences and Workshops

SOFEIR sponsored « Greening the Harp » conference 18-19 Nov. 2022, U. Sorbonne-Nouvelle. Org. Cliona Ni Riordain, Marion Naugrette-Fournier

SOFEIR organised its annual conference in Lille on March 10, 2023. The topic was: "The Presence of the Past: Problematising Temporalities in Irish Studies". Special guests were Zelig Asava, Jesse Jones, Mairead Enright. Org. H  l  ne Lecossois, Fiona McCann

SOFEIR sponsored "D  crire l'exclusion,   crire l'inclusion au XXI  me si  cle/Describing exclusion, writing inclusion in the 21st century » conference, 23-25 May 2023, Universit   Jean Moulin Lyon. Org. Marion Bourdeau, L  a Bouchard.

SOFEIR sponsored « Le renseignement britannique et l'Europe/British Information and Europe» Conference – U. Grenoble, June 20 2023, Org. Emilie Berthillot, Mona Parra.

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

Gerry Smyth, « Monsters, Mermaids and Myths: Legends from the Atlantic Community », 24 May 2023, Universit   Lyon III. Org. Marion Bourdeau, L  a Bouchard

Gerry Smyth, « Ballads, Planxties and M(o)ore: A Tour Through Irish Music », 26 May 2023, Universit   de Strasbourg. Org. Tim Heron

French Irish Studies itinerary" on "Borders" going on from October 2022 to October 2023. Speakers have been: Jennifer Todd, Richard English, Cathal McCall, Heather Laird, Adam Hanna, Nessa Cronin, Eunan O'Halpin visiting 12 French universities. Sponsored by a grant from Emigrant Support Programme from DFA (9.000  )

Sylvie Mikowski has presented Mary Morrissey during an EFACIS Book Club session. She has also been a member of the editorial board of RISE as reviews editor.

New Centres of Irish studies:

In France we have three kinds of structures centered around Irish Studies. We have the 40-year old SOFEIR which works as an association, or what is called a "scholars society". Its funding is provided by membership subscriptions. It includes 131 members most of whom hold teaching positions in universities around the country. Part of the current SOFEIR membership fees include membership to EFACIS.

The second structure: GIS E.I.R.E (Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique: Etudes Irlandaises: Réseaux et Enjeux), which was created only in 2018, is a network of universities (23 at the moment) which are tied by a convention-signed by the president of each university- and take part to the funding. The convention is renewed every three years and includes a scientific programme which is either renewed or prolonged from one convention to the other. The current convention runs from April 2023 to April 2026 and includes three different strands:

-Strand one: "Ireland in the World". Org. Anne Groutel (Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Grainne O'Keeffe (Rennes 2)

-Strand Two: "Environment and Ecology in Ireland". Org. Valérie Morrison (U. Montpellier) and Marie Mianowski (U. Grenoble-Alpes).

-Strand Three: "Ireland and Democracy". Org. Nathalie Sebbane (Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Marie-Violaine Louvet (U. Toulouse).

Different activities such as seminars, conferences and publications are organised by each strand. A blog has also been created by Strand Two.

There are no "centers of Irish Studies" as such in French universities as the government has forced research units to merge into larger units. However, there are ""historical" universities which still make place for Irish Studies:

-Sorbonne nouvelle: seminar "Irish Thursdays". Org. Cliona Ni Riordain Marion Naugrette and Fabrice Mourlon.

-Université Lille 2: seminar 'Irish Studies ». Org. Hélène Lecossois

-Université de Caen/Normandie. Org. Christophe Gillissen, Bertrand Cardin, Alexandra McLenennan.

Miscellaneous Information

1/Three SOFEIR members have defended their "habilitation à diriger des recherches=HDR" with a view to be appointed Professor:

-Nathalie Sebbane (research on Magdalene Laundries)

-Valérie Morrison (research on contemporary Irish visual arts)

-Claire Dubois (research on Irish pre-independence visual arts and Countess Markievicz)

2/Jan Carson was invited as writer in residence at Université de Lorraine from January to March 2023.

3/A new Irish consulate was inaugurated in Grenoble and celebrated St Brigid with the collaboration of the Universities of Grenoble and Lyon.

4/SOFEIR is proud to grant three scholarships to PhD students each year. The recipients in 2023 are:

-Mégane Maze

-Rhody-Ann Thorpe

-Sarah Levy-Valensi

For publications, please see the IASIL bibliography.