

Regional Report Low Countries – 2022-2023

Conferences and Workshops

Leuven Centre for Irish Studies:

17 November 2022: Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Experience of being a Mother, with Anne Enright and Lucy Caldwell, closed by a reading and Q&A; organised by Hedwig Schwall.

1-3 December 2022: International Conference on Irish Literature and Periodical Culture, with plenary speakers Frank Shovlin, Stephanie Rains and Fionnuala Dillane; editors Declan Meade and Liam Harrison; and writers, Nicole Flattery, Siobhan Campbell and Sean O'Reilly; organised by Elke D'hoker and Phyllis Boumans.

31 March 2023: LCIS lecture: Prof. Eve Patten – 'On Living in an Old Conflict: Northern Ireland, the Novel, and the Good Friday Agreement'

9 May 2023: LCIS Lecture: Prof. William Jenkins – Ireland's Great Famine and the North American Urban Frontier: The Case of Toronto, Canada, 1845-1852

Nijmegen Irish Studies Centre

27-28 June 2022: Heritages of Hunger lecture series. Hosted at Radboud University and Museum het Valkhof, Nijmegen. Hosted by EFACIS members Marguérite Corporaal and Lindsay Janssen. From the NWA-ORC Heritages of Hunger project.

10-13 January 2023: Cultural Representations of the Region. Hosted at RU and organised by EFACIS members Giulia Bruna, Marguérite Corporaal, Sophie van Os. From the NWO VICI project.

24-26 May 2023: Curating Difficult Pasts. Hosted at University of Amsterdam and Resistance Museum Amsterdam. Involvement by EFACIS members Marguérite Corporaal, Chris Cusack and Lindsay Janssen.

22-23 June 2023: annual SSNCI conference. Hosted at Radboud University and co-organised by Bruna, Corporaal, Cusack, Janssen and van Os.

Leiden University

Two events to mark the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland to the Netherlands:

- 25 November 2022: "Protecting the Peace Process in Post-Brexit Northern Ireland"
- 25 May 2023: The 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

LCIS/EFACIS Book Club, organised by Hedwig Schwall and Sien Deltour, with online visits from Kevin Barry, Deirdre Sullivan and Mary Morrissy and a hybrid session at the Irish College Leuven with LCIS writers-in-residence Jaki McCarrick and Mary O'Donnell. .

October 2022: Irish writers Mary O'Donnell and Jaki McCarrick took up a residency in the Irish College Leuven, a collaboration of LCIS, Dublin Unesco City of Literature, the Irish College Leuven and the EFACIS Irish Itinerary. The writers did readings for students in Leuven and Kortrijk as well as in the Brussels Embassy. They also made an appearance in the EFACIS book club. Mary O'Donnell also taught a creative writing class.

November 2022: Interview with Anne Enright and Lucy Caldwell, organised by Hedwig Schwall in collaboration with the Irish Itinerary, and official launch of the Anne Enright – Literature as Translation website. Both writers also visited the Brussels Embassy and Lucy Caldwell met with students from Kortrijk.

December 2022: Irish Itinerary readings by writers Sean O'Reilly and Nicole Flattery at International Conference on Irish Literature and Periodical Culture.

March 2023: Irish Itinerary visit of Jan Carson with readings/Q&A for students and wider public in Antwerp, Ghent, Leuven, Kortrijk and Nijmegen.

New Centres:

We're in conversation with Joost Augusteijn of Leiden University about setting up a new EFACIS Irish Studies Centre.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

Given the success of the Writer-in-residence, LCIS would also like to set up a scholar-in-residence scheme, through collaboration with ICL.