

## Regional Report 2021/2022: Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia

Radvan Markus

### **Conferences and Workshops**

The Prague Centre for Irish Studies hosted the **EFACIS conference** *Interfaces and Dialogues* (1-4 September 2021). Due to the still uncertain pandemic situation, the conference took place online. The conference featured keynote lectures by Gavan Titley, Louis de Paor and Mary McAuliffe, poetry readings by Ailbhe Darcy, Louis de Paor and Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, a concert of Kateřina García and Liam Ó Maonlaí, a roundtable in Irish documentary cinema with Pat Collins, Alan Gilsean and Gillian Marsh, and a plenary conversation with Lian Bell and Maeve Stone. Recordings of selected events are available here: <https://irish.ff.cuni.cz/en/2021/06/30/efacis-2021-conference-interfaces-and-dialogues/>

On 15 October 2021, members of the Prague Centre held a **workshop** on Irish literature at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, where courses of Irish Studies and the Irish language are on offer.

On 20-24 June, the Prague Centre organized an **intensive course** of Old Irish, taught by Dr Ken Ó Donnchú (UCC). The course was attended by students of miscellaneous departments of Charles University, exchange students as well as members of the general public.

On 5 May 2022, Prof. Lillis Ó Laoire (NUI Galway) gave a **lecture**, “Excellent in...both music and words” - Ceol An Chainte: The Music of the Irish Keen” at Charles University, Prague.

In March 2022, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica held a public **lecture** on the significance of St. Patrick’s day by Criostóir Ó Loingsigh (UCC).

On 07 April 2022 the Vienna Centre for Irish Studies had the honour to welcome his excellency, President Michael D. Higgins, for a **guest lecture**. The lecture has been recorded and is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNqv5AnspuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNqv5AnspuU;); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QByb-bpp69s>

### **Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:**

#### Irish Itinerary Podcast

Radvan Markus (Prague) in conversation with Kateřina García.

#### EFACIS Roundtable Discussions

2nd EFACIS Roundtable Discussion: Launch of *Irish Studies in Europe*, Volume 10, *Stage Irish: Performance, Identity, Cultural Circulation*, co-hosted by the Centre for Irish Studies, Vienna. The book was edited by Paul Fagan, Tamara Radak and Dieter Fuchs.

4th EFACIS Roundtable Discussion: Launch of *Review of Irish Studies in Europe 4.2* chaired by Daniela Theinová (Prague).

5th EFACIS Roundtable Discussion: The Irish Language and Literature in Europe  
organised by Radvan Markus (Prague)

### Translation Project

Students of the Prague Centre for Irish Studies are taking part in the **Anne Enright translation project** while Ondřej Pilný, Daniela Theinová and Mariana Machová act as reviewers of translations into Czech.

Recently, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica has joined the project, with Anna Slatinská acting as reviewer of translations into Slovak.

### **Miscellaneous Information**

On 2 May 2022, the Prague Centre organized an **Evening of Irish Culture**, featuring a concert of the acclaimed sean-nós singer Lillis Ó Laoire, readings of Irish literature in translation and a concert of the local band Conamara Chaos. Ó Laoire's performance has been recorded and is available here: <https://irish.ff.cuni.cz/en/2022/05/08/irish-culture-night-3-may-kampus-hybernska/>

The Prague Centre has collaborated on the **Narrative 4** project, coordinated in the Czech Republic by the DOX Contemporary Arts Centre in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland in Prague. The launch of the project took place on 4 February 2022 at the Dox Contemporary Art centre.

Ondřej Pilný (Centre for Irish Studies, Prague) has devised and presented a **short video programme** to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ulysses. The programme pays tribute to translator Aloys Skoumal (1904–1988), sharing the story of how he rendered the novel into Czech at a time of robust communist censorship. It is part of the Ulysses100 project developed by the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in partnership with the Government of Ireland. The programme is available here: <https://irish.ff.cuni.cz/en/2022/06/15/ulysses-100-a-tribute-to-alloys-skoumal/>

On 15 November 2021, the Department of English and American Studies at Palacký University, Olomouc, organized an **Irish Evening**, featuring a reading by Irish writer Martina Devlin as well as a concert.

In May 2022 Dieter Fuchs (Vienna) contributed to an Irish Studies-related **city walk**.

In June 2022 Tamara Radak (Vienna) contributed to the Vienna **Bloomsday event** organised by the Embassy of Ireland, Austria.