

EFACIS Regional Report on Irish Studies Activities in Germany

(July 2021 – June 2022)

compiled by Katharina Rennhak

Conferences and Workshops

October 2021:

“The Irish Free State – 100 Years Later”, Conference at the University of Leipzig, Institut für Sorabistik. Also see: <https://eriuleipzig.wordpress.com/2021/09/22/100-jahre-irischer-freistaat/>

November 2021:

Study Day “Journeys Across the Waves: Discovering Irish Identities”, Irish Studies Würzburg/JMU in cooperation with University College Cork. Also see: <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/journeys-across-the-waves-discovering-irish-identity/>. A videocast is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNfQVjdsfJM&ab_channel=ISW%C3%9C-IrishStudiesW%C3%BCrzburg.

December 2021:

Workshop “Environmental Humanities and Irish Studies”, Irish Studies Würzburg/JMU in cooperation with Dr. Maureen O’Connor (UCC). Also see: <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/workshop-environmental-humanities-irish-studies-2/>. A videocast is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNfQVjdsfJM&ab_channel=ISW%C3%9C-IrishStudiesW%C3%BCrzburg.

May 2022:

Academic Conference “Posthuman Encounters: Desires, Fears, and the Uncanny”, organised by Jana-Katharina Burnikel and Joachim Frenk, Saarbrücken Centre of Irish Studies (some papers touched on Irish texts, both historical and contemporary). Proceedings will be published in 2023.

June 2022:

International Symposium “Irish Border Narratives”, organised by Sandra Heinen, Lance Pettitt, and Katharina Rennhak, EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies in Wuppertal, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland (ESP Irish Studies). Also see: <https://irishstudies.uni-wuppertal.de/de/events/conferences/irish-border-narratives/>

“Woche der Europäischen Minderheitensprachen”, University of Leipzig, Institut für Sorabistik. (Also see: <https://www.philol.uni-leipzig.de/sorabistik/aktuelles/artikel/woche-der-europaeischen-minderheitensprachen-2022-06-21>)

July 2022:

Symposium "History in Stories: The Irish Past and the Challenges of the Present", organised by Prof. Maria Eisenmann and Prof. Ina Bergmann, Irish Studies Würzburg (ISWÜ/JMW), funded by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland (ESP Irish

Studies). Also see: <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/history-in-stories-the-irish-past-and-the-challenges-of-the-present/>. A videocast will be available soon on the ISWÜ YouTube channel.

Guest Lectures

EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies Saarbrücken:

May 2022: Prof. em. John Roe (University of York), talk on the late work of Irish Nobel Prize poet W.B. Yeats (research colloquium, Prof. Frenk) and introductory lecture on the works of James Joyce in Prof. Frenk's lecture course

July 2022: Sven Kretschmar (President of the German-Irish Society Saarland), "Becoming a Scene in a Novel: The Irish Short Story in the 20th and 21st Century" (research colloquium, Prof. Frenk)

Irish Studies Würzburg:

November 2021: Dr. Niamh NicGhabhann (University of Limerick) "Religious Spaces in Transition: Changing Uses and Possible Futures for Religious Architectural Heritage in Ireland"

Prof. Philip Coleman (Trinity College Dublin) "Feline Form: From Black Minnaloushe to Henry Pussycat"

January 2022: Prof. Dr. Lance Pettitt (University of Wuppertal, Visiting Professor in Irish studies), "Irish Cinema: A (Short) Screen History"

April 2022: Inaugural Annual John Millington Synge Lecture: Prof. Patrick Lonergan (NUI Galway), "Re-reading J. M. Synge in an Era of Climate Crisis". Also see: <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/inaugural-john-millington-synges-lecture/>. A videocast is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37uav9xP-JA&ab_channel=ISWÜ-IrishStudiesWürzburg.

June 2022: Prof. Dr. Raymond Hickey (University of Duisburg-Essen) "Examining 'Bad Data': Ego Documents in the History of English"

EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies Wuppertal:

May 2022: Michael G. Cronin (NUI Maynooth), "Historical Consciousness and Literary Style in James Plunket's *Strumpet City* and Jamie O'Neill's *At Swim Two Boys* (Prof. Heinen, Prof. Rennhak, Prof. Spengler in cooperation with the Centre of Narrative Research)

July 2022: Peter Kuch (University of Otago, NZ), "'Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better' The Bundjalung text of *Waiting for Godot*: Australian Cultural Olympics, 1997" (Prof. Heinen in cooperation with the Centre of Narrative Research)

EFACIS Irish Itinerary Engagement

January 2022: Michael Hughes on the Digital Itinerary at the EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies in Wuppertal

June 2022: Adam Wyeth on tour with stops at the EFACIS Centres of Irish Studies in Saarbrücken and Tübingen as well as the University of Leipzig.

Oisín Kearney at the EFACIS Centres of Irish Studies in Wuppertal, as part of the International Symposium “Irish Border Narratives”

Irish Itinerary Podcast

Mary Morrissy in conversation with Alessandra Boller, EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies in Siegen (26 May 2022)

Michael Hughes in conversation with Caroline Lusin; University of Mannheim (24 February 2022)

Lenny Abrahamson in conversation with Lance Pettitt, Visiting Professor at the EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies at the University of Wuppertal (13 January 2022)

Stephen Sexton in Conversation with Jessica Bundschuh, University of Stuttgart (16 December 2021)

New Centres

No new EFACIS centres were established in 2021/22. However, some very remarkable Irish Studies activities were initiated at the Universities of Flensburg (Prof. Dr. Michelle Witen) and Leipzig (Prof. Dr. Sabine Asmus and Prof. Dr. Ralf Haekel). Prof. Dr. Caroline Lusin (University of Mannheim) and Dr. Jessica Bundschuh (University of Stuttgart) have also become involved with EFACIS activities. We are confident that new EFACIS Centres will be founded at some of these German universities in the near future.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

The EFACIS Centres of Irish Studies in Saarbrücken and Tübingen are currently considering options of organizing creative writing workshop with Adam Wyeth.

In June 2022, Consul General Anne-Marie Flynn, Prof. Frenk and Sven Kretzschmar discussed possible cooperation projects between the Consulate General in Frankfurt and friends of Ireland in the Saarland. The dialogue is ongoing.

Miscellaneous Information

October 2021–March 2022: Dr. Lance Pettitt is the inaugural **Travelling Visiting Professor in Irish Studies** at the University of **Wuppertal**. This visiting professorship for Irish Studies is a joint initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland (ESP Irish Studies), the Irish Embassy in Berlin and the University of Wuppertal.

Since March 2022: Finding Commission for the Travelling Visiting Professor in Irish Studies at the University of **Tübingen** (October 2022–March 2023). This visiting professorship for Irish Studies is a joint initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland (ESP Irish Studies), the Irish Embassy in Berlin and the University of Tübingen.

Other

February 2022: British Council Literature Seminar (Berlin); Public Reading by Glenn Patterson chaired by Prof. Felix Sprang (EFACIS Centre Siegen)

On 31st March 2022, Prof. Frenk and Sven Kretzschmar were part of a delegation welcoming the Irish Consul General Anne-Marie Flynn at the Universität des Saarlandes. On 11th May, Prof. Frenk and Mr. Kretzschmar followed an invitation to a luncheon with Dr. Nicholas O’Brien, Ambassador of Ireland to Germany, and Ms. Anne-Marie Flynn, Consul General of Ireland in Frankfurt am Main.

EFACIS members were also invited to give lectures in academic and non-academic contexts: April 2022: Prof. Rennhak (Wuppertal), "Geschichte Irlands: Ein kulturgeschichtlicher Überblick," Monheimer Europawochen Irland (27.03.-9.04.2022); July 2022: Dr. Boller (Siegen), "Communities and / in Post-Celtic Tiger Migration Narratives," at the University of Paderborn within the framework of Dr. Sara Strauß' EU-funded project "Ireland, Europe and Brexit: Cultural Discourses on European Community".

On 25 June 2022, Prof. Michelle Witen organized a belated Bloomsday celebration at the Europa-Universität Flensburg, featuring sketches from Ulysses, a culinary odyssey through each episode of the novel, and live music. The event was attended by approximately 100 members of the university and the wider public.