

Regional Report IrEN

The Irish English Network (IrEN) is an international network of linguistic scholars interested in Irish English, the English spoken on the island of Ireland. The network aims to:

- promote linguistic research on Irish English within Irish English, within Irish Studies, and within the broader field of research on the varieties of English;
- provide a platform for scholars of Irish English to share current research and perspectives and to disseminate information on publications, courses of study, open scholarships, corpora of Irish English and useful resources;
- to facilitate scholarly exchange within and across disciplinary borders around the globe.

The Irish English Network (IrEN) is a member of the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies (EFACIS) since 2021.

Scholars in Irish English are invited to join the network. Membership is free of charge. All interested parties – whether scholars of Irish English or not – are invited to sign up for the Irish English Network newsletter and to use the contact address supplied to let us know of new publications, events or resources of interest. Optional reduced membership fee for EFACIS & subsequent benefit from EFACIS programmes & events & support initiatives is offered to members of IrEN.

Conferences and Workshops

Irish English meets Irish Studies (Carolina Amador-Moreno and Anne Barron). New Perspectives on Irish English 7. University College Cork, 8-10 June 2022.

Language use and identity construction: Irish English and Irish Studies. (Anne Barron and Carolina Amador-Moreno). EFACIS (European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies) Conference. Charles University, Prague, 1-4 September 2021.

'Speaking of talking, what if I went silent?' Irish English and Irish Studies. (Carolina Amador-Moreno and Anne Barron) 9th AEDEI (Spanish Association of Irish Studies) Conference, University of Vigo, 27-28 May 2021.

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

- The third EFACIS Roundtable Discussion, held on 14.10.21: organised by the Irish-English Network. The focus was present and potential future linguistic research on Irish English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzqDBHrbLBA> (Organisers: Anne Barron and Carolina Amador-Moreno; Host: Katharina Rennhak, president of EFACIS; Chair: Gerardine Meaney; Participants: Carolina Amador-Moreno, Anne Barron, Karen Corrigan, Raymond Hickey, Bettina Migge, Elaine Vaughan)
- Special Bloomsday podcast on Irish English and Nuala O'Connor's novel (*Nora*, 2021): <https://www.efacis.eu/podcast>

In this special Bloomsday podcast within the EFACIS podcast series, Carolina Amador-Moreno, from the University of Bergen, talks to Nuala O'Connor. They discuss the author's the research for her novel *Nora* (2021), her rewritings of Joyce's letters, her search for Nora Barnacle's voice, the difficulty of finding a balance between the flavour and

authenticity of a language and just too many convoluted constructions, the beauty of Irish prose and how it is perceived in the US, and the language of her childhood and how she co-opts it in her fiction as a way to honour that language and her parents. Nuala O'Connor also reads a short excerpt from her novel *Nora* and introduces us to her new project about a historic maverick woman from Cork.

New Centres:

Proposal from five of the members of the IrEN (Nancy Ávila-Ledesma, Ana María Terrazas-Calero, Cassandra Tully, Sara Díaz-Sierra, and David Sotoca-Fernández with support from Carolina Amador-Moreno) to set up a centre at the University of Extremadura, where they are all based.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

We are thinking of organising another Roundtable where Irish language and Irish English scholars will discuss language issues. The idea was presented at the New Perspectives on Irish English conference in Cork and two Irish language scholars so far have expressed an interest in participating.

There is also a firm commitment from IrEN to collaborate in future EFACIS conferences and PhD seminars.

Miscellaneous Information

The information we provide on the website is aimed at getting more Irish English scholars to engage with EFACIS: Traditionally the linguistics of Irish English has not played a very important role in EFACIS, the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies. One of the aims of the Irish English Network (IrEN) at irish-english.net is to change this and have Irish English research recognised and supported by EFACIS. Since late 2021, we have been recognised as an EFACIS affiliated organisation. Also, we are increasingly involved in EFACIS projects – the roundtable is one such event. Further initiatives are planned.

We would welcome any suggestions from EFACIS to engage with us too. A number of IrEN members have an interest in literature and there are many areas of linguistics that can be of interest to EFACIS scholars. Please contact us.