

## **SOFEIR (French Society of Irish Studies) COUNTRY REPORT 2021-22**

Executive board: S. Mikowski (President); Marie Mianowski; H el ene Lecossois; Karin Fischer; Nathalie Sebbane; Tim Heron (Secretary); Charlotte Barcat (Treasurer)

The SOFEIR supported the following events:

### **1. Conferences, Symposia, Workshops**

- One-day Symposium "Novelty in Unionism and Loyalism", October 14, 2021, Universit e Gustave Eiffel.
- Conference "Celtic Myths and Folklore in the Anglophone World" Universit e de Toulon, November 18-19, 2021. Online video: <https://babel.univ-tln.fr/mythes-et-folklores-celtiques-dans-le-monde-anglophone>
- Conference: "Artistic practices in contemporary Arts in Ireland", Universit e Rennes 2, November 25, 2022.
- One-Day Symposium: "Linguistic and Cultural Landscape of Northern Ireland", Universit e de Strasbourg , March 11, 2022.
- One-Day Symposium « Crises and Re-invention of Political Parties » (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland), April 8, 2022, Universit e de Toulouse 2 Jean Jaur es.
- Conference "Euro-scepticism and Human Rights in the UK : 20 years after the Human Rights Act" , March 24-25, 2022, Facult e de Langues et Cultures Etrang eres , Universit e de Nantes.
- Conference "Ireland's Soft Power: Potential and Limitations", Paris Sorbonne-Nouvelle, June 10-11, 2022, with the support of the Irish Embassy in Paris.

### **2. Other activities:**

Jan Carson will be writer-in -residence at Universit e de Lorraine: from October 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. The programme is in progress, please write [ariel-presse-contact@univ-lorraine.fr](mailto:ariel-presse-contact@univ-lorraine.fr) if you have any suggestions or queries about the programme.

**Exhibition** 'Blazing a Trail: Lives and Legacies of Irish Diaspora Women', Universit e Rennes 2, March 8-31, 2022.

Irish Studies Running Seminars :

- ERIBIA, Universit e de Caen Normandie.
- S eminaire Aire Irlande, CECILLE, Universit e de Lille.
- Irish Thursdays, ERIN (Prismes) et CREW, Universit e Sorbonne-Nouvelle.

### **3. FUTURE SOFEIR ANNUAL CONFERENCES :**

- Lille 2023: convenors H el ene Lecossois, Fiona McCann, Claire Dubois, Emilie Berthillot, Helen Penet: Theme "The Presence of the Past"
- Grenoble-Chamb ery 2024 : Marie Mianowski, No emie Beck.

### **4. MEMBERS' PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS**

- Fr ed eric Armao: interview in newspaper *La R eforme*, interviews on Babylon Radio (internet website and Irish radio): Exp erience universitaire en Irlande (f evrier 2021), Saint Patrick et Saint Patrick's Day (mars 2021), Les quatre f etes celtico-irlandaises (mai 2021)

- Charlotte Barcat: Online Roundtable : "50 Years after Bloody Sunday: The Quest for Truth and Justice", Feb. 23 2022, Cardiff University.
- Laurent Colantonio, « Daniel O'Connell, le Libérateur de l'Irlande *Aujourd'hui l'histoire*, Radio-Canada, Feb.1, 2021, « La révolution irlandaise du début du XXe siècle », *Aujourd'hui l'histoire*, Radio-Canada, April 5, 2021, series of 5 broadcasts about Ireland for RTS Radio (Switzerland)
- Erick Falc'her Poyroux , *Siansach 32*, symphony for orchestra and Irish instruments, July 17, 2022, King John's Castle Limerick with Irish Chamber Orchestra, with the support of GIS EIRE, the French Embassy in Ireland, Limerick University, and Alliance française. [www.siansach32.net](http://www.siansach32.net)
- Christophe Gillissen, Interview on Brexit in « L'Histoire jugera », Radio Centre-Ville (Canada), March 22, 2021
- Timothy Heron, debate about film *Game of Truth* by Fabienne Lips-Dumas, Star Cinema, Strasbourg, Feb.24, 2022, interview on *Passage des arts*, France 2, about the Sex Pistols and the 1977 Queen's Jubilee, May 2022
- Fabrice Mourlon, interview Francetvinfo, Jan.29, RFI Jan.28, about Bloody Sunday 50th anniversary; interviews in *Le Figaro* and *Huffington Post*.
- Nathalie Sebbane, Launch of exhibition: « A Nation Under the Influence: Ireland at 100 », Centre Culturel Irlandais, Feb.2, 2022. Conversation with Northern Irish artists Alison Lowry et Jennifer Trouton.
- Sylvie Mikowski, Round Table with Frank Shovlin on the publication of *The Letters of John McGahern*, Centre Culturel Irlandais, May 11, 2022.

#### 5. SOFEIR BOOK CLUB:

- December 16, 2021 Hélène Lecossois presented her book *Performance, Modernity and the Plays of J. M. Synge*, Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- January 28, 2022, Bertrand Cardin presented his book : *Neil Jordan, Ecrivain-scénariste*, Presses Universitaires de Caen, 2021.
- March 4, 2022: Eric Falch'er-Poyroux presented his book: *Histoire sociale de la musique irlandaise - Du Dagda au DADGAD*, Peter Lang, 2018.

#### 6. "BORDERS" PROJECT sponsored by the Emigrant Support Programme-Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ireland :

- Rennes 2, 23/02+ Caen Normandie 24/02/ 2022  
Prof. Jennifer Todd, « Ethnicity, territory and transformation: Borders and boundaries in Ireland after Brexit ».
- CY Cergy Paris Université 7/04/ 2022+ Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, 8/04/2022  
Prof. Eunan O'Halpin, « Borders and minorities after the First World War: does the Irish experience tell us anything useful? »
- Université d'Angers + Université de Nantes, 16-17 May  
Mary C. Murphy, UCC, titre à confirmer
- Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, 5 May 2022 + Université de Strasbourg, 6 May 2022  
Adam Hanna, UCC, 'The Border' in Irish Literature: Vibrations, Shadows, Atmospheres'.

- Université de Perpignan, 16 November 2022 + Université de Toulouse 17 November 2022  
Cathal McCall, QUB, 'Irish Borders after Brexit'
- Université Lyon 3, 12/10/2022 + Université de Grenoble 13/10/2022  
Nessa Cronin, NUIG,
- Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle, 22 November + Université de Lille, 24 November  
Heather Laird, « Title to be confirmed »
- Université de Tours 24 November 2022+ Université d'Orléans 25 November 2022  
Richard English, Senator George Mitchell, QUB, 'The Irish Republican Army and the Irish Border'

## 7. SOFEIR SCHOLARSHIPS (2020-2022)

- *Hadrien Holstein*, « Militantisme post-conflituel, reconversion des anciens combattants et ancrage socio-territorial: les vétérans de l'IRA ». Dir. Nathalie Duclos, U. Tours et Paris-Nanterre. 500€
- Danièle Baraka, « La représentation de l'espace à travers le cinéma et la photographie irlandaise, des années du Tigre Celtique jusqu'à nos jours : émergence de contre-cartographies plurielles » Dir. Nathalie Martiniere et de Estelle Epinoux-Pougnant, U. de Limoges. 500€
- Jessica Perich-Carleton, "From Page to Stage: Directorial Innovations in Samuel Beckett Productions in the UK, Ireland and the USA, 1990-2010" Dir. Hélène Lecossois, U. de Lille. 500€
- The incipients of the 2022 scholarships will be announced in October 2022 during the AGM.

## 8. GIS E.I.R.E

GIS is a "Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique". It is an alliance of 24 French and Irish universities who commit themselves to finance the activities of the group, for a limited period decided by contract. The first contract ran from 2018 to 2020, was prolonged from 2020 to 2022. It has been decided that a third contract would be signed for a period going from 2023 to 2025. The contract also comprises a scientific programme. So far it was composed of two strands:

Strand One: Human Rights in Ireland

Strand Two: The Irish diaspora.

The new contract will be composed of Three Strands:

- Global Ireland
- Human Rights and Democracy in Ireland
- Sensory Ecologies: Environment, Materialities and Practices in Ireland

GIS organizes and finances conferences, symposia, and publications. It supported most of the events cited above.