

Regional Report 2023-2024 France

Conferences and Workshops

SOFEIR sponsored the conference “Life stories: writing the self and politics (20-21st centuries”, University of Lille, October 12-13, 2023

SOFEIR sponsored a one-day conference at the University of Rennes 2 on the “The Good Friday Agreement after 25 years: achievements, shortfalls and opportunities”, November 23, 2023. Org. Lesley Lelourec and Grainne O’Keeffe-Vigneron

SOFEIR sponsored a one-day conference on Jan Carson, at the Université de Lorraine

SOFEIR organised its annual conference at the University of Grenoble-Alpes on March 20-22, 2024. Theme: “Migrations.” Org. Marie Mianowski

SOFEIR sponsored a one-day conference on Irish Radicalism in April 2024

SOFEIR sponsored a one-day conference on the Troubles in Northern Ireland (Agrégation) at the University of Paris Nanterre, January 18, 2024, “Les chemins de l’engagement: vivre libre ou mourir?”. Org. Mathieu Ferradou and Céline Borello. Paper by Mathieu Ferradou, “The harp was mute at length for years’: tenter de vivre après l’échec du soulèvement irlandais de 1798”

SOFEIR sponsored a one-day conference on “Radicalism, radicalisation and de-radicalisation” at the Université de Lorraine on April 17, 2024. Co-organised by Karina Wendling, Vanessa Boulet ; Tim Heron ; Pauline Collombier, with Peter Gray (QUB) and Eugenio Biagini (Cambridge). ISLA Project (Irish Studies Lorraine Alsace).

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

“French Irish Studies itinerary” (Borders Project) with the support of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. A joint conference organised by the universities of Tours and Orléans on the IRA. A conference in Orléans, as part of the REMELICE seminar in 2023 on “Citoyenneté et Décentrement”. Guest speaker: Prof Richard English, QUB, “The Irish Republican Army and the Irish Border”.

Irish Studies scholars from France are also involved in the EFACIS Irish Itinerary Podcast and the EFACIS Book Club.

New Centres

In France we have three kinds of structures devoted to Irish Studies:

- We have the 40-year old SOFEIR which works as an association, or what is called a “scholars society”. Its funding is provided by membership subscriptions. It includes 146 members (up from 131 in 2023) most of whom hold teaching positions in universities around the country. Part of the current SOFEIR membership fees include membership to EFACIS.
- The second structure: GIS EIRE (Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique: Etudes Irlandaises: Réseaux et Enjeux), which was created only in 2018, is a network of universities (23 at the moment) which are tied by a convention-signed by the president of each university- and take part to the funding. The convention is renewed every three years and includes a scientific programme which is either renewed or prolonged from one convention to the other. The current convention runs from April 2023 to April 2026 and includes three different strands:
 - Strand one: “Ireland in the World”. Org. Anne Groutel (Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Grainne O’Keeffe (Rennes 2)
 - GIS EIRE seminar, “Rethinking Ireland’s place in the world. Old configurations, new realities.” October 19, 2023: Julien Guillaumond & Vanessa Boulet: “Voicing the Concerns of Cross-Border Workers in a Post-Brexit/Covid Ireland: the Example of the Cross-Border Workers' Coalition”). December 7, 2023: Claire Dubois, “Representations of the Irish Revolution in France”
 - Strand Two: “Environment and Ecology in Ireland.” Org. Valérie Morrison (U. Montpellier) and Marie Mianowski (U. Grenoble-Alpes).
 - GIS EIRE sponsored a one-day conference on “Art Activism & Ecoart Communities in Ireland” at the Maison de la Recherche de la Sorbonne Nouvelle. Org. Valérie Morrison, May 16, 2024.
 - Strand Three: “Ireland and Democracy”. Org. Nathalie Sebbane (Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Marie-Violaine Louvet (U. Toulouse).
 - GIS EIRE co-sponsored a one-day conference on “Radicalism, radicalisation and de-radicalisation” at the Université de Lorraine on April 17, 2024. Co-organized by Karina Wendling, Vanessa Boulet; Tim Heron; Pauline Collombier. With Peter Gray (QUB) and Eugenio Biagini (Cambridge). ISLA Project (Irish Studies Lorraine Alsace).
- The third structure is at university level. There are no autonomous “Centers of Irish Studies” as such in French universities as the government has forced research units to merge into larger units. However, there are “historical” universities which host regular Irish Studies events and promote Irish studies in their curricula:
 - Sorbonne nouvelle: seminar “Irish Thursdays.” Org. Marion Naugrette and Fabrice Murlon. Speakers in 2023-24: Ophélie Siméon, Marie-Violaine Louvet, Wesley Hutchinson, Patrick Mullen, Stephen Doyle, Chanté Mouton Kinyon, Juliette Agnès.
 - Université Lille 3: Aire Irlande seminar. Org. Hélène Lecossois. Speakers in 2023-24: Geraldine Vaughan, Síobhra Aiken, Clíona Ní Ríordáin, Karina Benazech Wendling, Claire Dubois, Bertrand Cardin.
 - Université de Caen/Normandie. ERIBIA Seminar. Org. Bertrand Cardin and Armelle Parey. Speakers in Irish Studies for 2024-25 include Jesse Patrick Harrington (Dublin

Institute for Advanced Studies), “St. Laurent d'Eu: A Medieval Irish Saint in Northern France” (mod. Alexandra Maclennan)

Miscellaneous Information

- The Northern Ireland conflict is on the Agrégation syllabus for 2024 and 2025
- Three SOFEIR members have defended their “Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR)” which qualifies them to apply for full Professorship positions:
 - Pauline Collombier, « Le nationalisme modéré irlandais à l'aune de nouveaux cadres : échelles, territoires, espaces ». Sponsor : Prof. Neil Davie
 - Marie-Violaine Louvet, « Identité postcoloniale et activisme transnational : les trajectoires d'un engagement irlandais face aux conflits internationaux (XXe et XXIe siècles) ». Sponsor : Prof. Nathalie Duclos
 - Alexandra Maclennan, « L'Unité de la création. Herméneutique de l'unité dans le monde culturel et catholique irlandais », Sponsor : Prof. Catherine Maignant

- For publications, please see the IASIL bibliography.