

Regional Report 2023-2024 Germany

Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops

24-26 Sept. 2023 “Irish Communities in a Glocal Context: Literary and Cultural Narratives”, Section at the Annual Conference of the German Association for the Study of English (Anglistikverband), University of Siegen, organised by Alessandra Boller (University of Siegen) and Sara Strauß (Paderborn University).

10 Nov. 2023: The Second Irish Studies Conference in the Embassy of Berlin

8 Nov. 2023: Inauguration of the EUF Centre for Irish Studies, Europa-Universität Flensburg, with spotlight lectures and round tables; <https://www.uni-flensburg.de?54872>

8-9 Dec. 2023: “Radio & Sound in Irish Poetry”, workshop led by Alex Alonso, Helen Cullen and Scott Helen Cullen’s, University of Stuttgart; part of a ‘[Sensing Irish Literature](#)’ Faculty Project (funded through the University of Stuttgart [School for Talents](#)).

21-23 Feb. 2024: “The Animal in Ireland, Real and Imagined”, Symposium, ISWÜ, Würzburg. See: <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/symposium-the-animal-in-ireland-real-and-imagined/>. Videocasts:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMMmnl_MpCs&list=PLkTxGAsAVzJlgBEJ2Z6Hs7MpOKYohWzt

3-6 June 2024: The Second Week of European Minority Languages with workshops on Irish and Irish dancing as well as Celtic films, Leipzig University, <https://www.philol.uni-leipzig.de/sorabistik/forschung/forschungsstelle-fuer-minderheitensprachen>

6 June 2024: “When Poems and History Rhyme: The Politics and Poets of the Irish Poetic Tradition”, workshop with Dr. Brian Ó Conchubhair (University of Notre Dame) and Samuel K. Fisher (Catholic University of America), ISWÜ, Würzburg, <https://www.phil.uni-wuerzburg.de/irish-studies/aktuelles/single/news/iswue-workshop-06-june/>, videocast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqANHo_Xyh0.

28-29 June 2024: “Irish Performance Poetry”, workshop led by two poets from Cork: Jim Crickard and Daragh Fleming, University of Stuttgart; part of a ‘[Sensing Irish Literature](#)’ Faculty Project (funded through the University of Stuttgart [School for Talents](#)).

Guest Lectures and Roundtable Discussions

Maureen O’Connor (University College Cork/University of Würzburg), “Irish First-Wave Feminists and the Redefinition of Sex”, Irish Studies Day, 22 Nov. 2023, EFACIS Centre for Irish Studies, University of Wuppertal.

Maureen O’Connor (University College Cork/University of Würzburg), “Haunted Nature in the Fiction of Edna O’Brien”, 30 November 2023. Videocast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxku1-uAWI0>.

Maureen O’Connor (University College Cork/University of Würzburg), “Form and Anthropocenic Grief in Claire-Louise Bennet’s *Pond*”, 01 March 01, 2024, ISWÜ Würzburg.

Anne Fogarty (University College Dublin), “Inventing Modernism: Synge, Joyce and Ibsen”, [Annual J. M. Synge Lecture, 16 April 2024](#), ISWÜ, Würzburg.

“Culture Ireland Poetry Jukebox Visiting Poet Lectures”: Six visiting poets – Paul Maddern, Linda McKenna, Scott McKendry, Charles Lang, Sacha White, Susannah Dickey – who feature on the Ambiguities Curation of the Poetry Jukebox (see Miscellaneous Information) give guest lectures and workshops at the University of Stuttgart, April and May 2024, co-financed by the Program for Art in Public Spaces from the City of Stuttgart.

Joanne Cusack (Maynooth University), “Understanding the Experiences of Women in Irish Traditional Music”, 28 May 2024, ISWÜ, Würzburg.

Joanne Cusack (Maynooth University), “Activism, Research & Musicianship: Women and Irish Traditional Music”, 29 May 2024, ISWÜ, Würzburg.

Author Readings, Interviews and other Cultural Events:

Dec. 2023: Helen Cullen on the EFACIS Irish Itinerary with stops at the EFACIS Centres of Irish Studies in Siegen, Stuttgart, and Wuppertal as well as in Dortmund.

Jan. 2024: Jan Carson on the EFACIS Irish Itinerary with stops at the EUF Centre for Irish Studies, Europa-Universität Flensburg, as well as in Hamburg and Kiel.

March 2024: EFACIS Irish Itinerary Podcast (episode 49, March 2024): Scott McKendry in conversation with Alex Alonso and Jessica Bundschuh; <https://www.efacis.eu/podcast>

May/June 2024: “Radio Recordings of Visiting Irish Poets”, two interviews between Susannah Dickey and Sacha White and University of Stuttgart translators Sui Lung and and Nina Günther, HORADS 88,6 broadcast studio at Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart, 16 May 2024; broadcast on HORADS, 28 May and 1 June 2024: uploaded to the HORADS blog, archived on the School for Talents Faculty Project Sensing Sound in Liteature website and to a Soundcloud podcast for the Ambiguities/Ambiguitäten curation of the Poetry Jukebox, ‘Ecologies of Sound.’

June 2024: Jessica Traynor and Stephen Sexton, poetry reading at the SWANE Café, Wuppertal (11 June) and “On Craft, Inspiration and Obsessions”, workshop at the University of Wuppertal (12 June).

Interview with [Fada is Fairsing](#) on Raidió na Life about the opportunities to learn Irish in Leipzig as well as the extra curricular activities available, organised by the student society, ERIU.

Miscellaneous Events and Information

October 2022–March 2023: Dr. Maureen O’Connor is the TRAVELLING VISITING PROFESSOR IN IRISH STUDIES at Julius-Maximilians Universität Würzburg. 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 Universities of the Saarland, Tübingen, Würzburg and Wuppertal. In the winter semester 2023/24, the University of the Saarland will host the Travelling Visiting Professor in Irish Studies.

The English-speaking THEATRE GROUP “DESPERATE THESPIANS” (Marcel Hartwig and Nadine Sucharda) performed Conor McPherson’s *The Weir* at the Kulturhaus LYZ in Siegen, Germany (October 2023) and at the University of Siegen’s partner university in Maynooth (November 2023). A theatre

group from Maynooth University will visit Siegen in October 2024 for a joint performance at Kulturhaus LYZ.

“Into Europe: IRELAND AND THE EU, 1973-2023”, 22 Nov. 2023, EXHIBITION launched by the Consul at the Embassy of Ireland in Berlin, Sarah Dooley, EFACIS Centre of Irish Studies, University of Wuppertal.

Launch of *PERSPECTIVES ON THE IRISH BORDER*, vol 6.2 of *Review of Irish Studies in Europe*, edited by Sandra Heinen, Sylvie Mikowski, Lance Pettitt and Katharina Rennhak, 6 Dec. 2023, [10th EFACIS Roundtable Discussion](#).

2 February – 24 June 2024: launch of the bilingual (English / German) “FIRST IRISH POETRY JUKEBOX in Germany” at a ribbon-cutting event with the Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Dr. Wolfgang Haefele in attendance. The Poetry Jukebox remained on the downtown campus of Universität Stuttgart until the end of June 2024. Through the non-profit arts organisation Quotidian, Belfast poet Maria McManus, Artistic Director and founder of Quotidian, commissioned and curated ‘Ambiguities’ by tasking twenty poets from Ireland and Northern Ireland to project their vision 100 years into the future; this Poetry Jukebox project arises out of a partnership with the Department of English Literatures and Cultures at University of Stuttgart, Poetry Ireland, and the Irish Embassy in Berlin through their Zeitgeistirland24 initiative. The German translations of the Irish poems remain available on the Ambiguitäten Soundcloud curation.

TWO TENORS AT TWILIGHT: JAMES JOYCE AND MUSIC, 17 June 2024, Glasgow; performance and lecture linked to International James Joyce Symposium, co-organized and presented by Michelle Witen; <https://www.gla.ac.uk/events/listings/index.html/event/13507>

IRISH STUDIES AND CULTURAL THEORY SUMMER SCHOOL, 14-20 July 2024, EUF Centre for Irish Studies, Europa-Universität Flensburg; programme and poster can be found here: <https://www.uni-flensburg.de?55878>

Ongoing IRISH CLASSES Keltische Studien (Celtic Studies) 1-6 comprising of language, literature, history, linguistics, and Old Irish, Institute for Minority Languages, Leipzig University.

Involvement in the PHŌNĒ, a minority language theatre project at Leipzig University where scenes from a play in Ladin was translated to Irish and shown in Galway, <https://phone.rml-theatre.eu/>

Participation of members of Leipzig University (Minority Languages) in *TestU*, a European project aims to provide online teaching material for some minor languages, including Irish (and Welsh and Lower Sorbian, <https://www.philol.uni-leipzig.de/sorabistik/forschung>).

A weekly language café / conversation circle led by an Erasmus student from UC as part of the “Arqus Sprachencafé”, Leipzig University, summer semester 2023/24 ([see here](#)).

New Centres

The EUF Centre for Irish Studies (Europa-Universität Flensburg) opened in September 2023 and had its inaugural event on November 8, 2023, chair: Michelle Witen; <https://www.uni-flensburg.de?54630>

Since winter 2023, the University of Stuttgart has become an EFACIS Irish Studies Centre, chair: Jessica Bundschuh: <https://www.efacis.eu/centre/irish-studies-university-stuttgart>

New Projects or Funding Ideas:

As part of the upcoming project 'Sensing Sight in Irish Literature' (October 2024 – July 2025) two poets, Belfast-based Bebe Ashley and Dublin-based Christodoulos Makris, will visit Stuttgart to make Braille poems and explore sight and sightlessness in Irish literary texts. Makris is the curator of the ongoing exhibit 'Is this a Poem?' at the Museum of Literature Ireland in Dublin that explores the parameters of a multi-dimensional poetic medium of Irish poets. It would be quite enriching to bring the exhibit 'Is this a poem?' (which could travel after its time at the Museum of Literature Ireland) to Germany (and potentially to other locales in continental Europe), in case EFACIS would have any interest in supporting such a project.