

Regional Report 2023-2024 IrEn

Conferences and Workshops

The **8th conference on New Perspectives in Irish English** took place in Cáceres, at the Universidad de Extremadura, between the 16th and the 18th of May, 2024. The programme, available from the Centre of Irish Studies in Cáceres website: <https://ciscaceres.weebly.com/npie-8.html>, included a variety of papers dealing with issues related to the English spoken in Ireland. The organising committee had the support of the Irish Embassy in Madrid. The Department of English, the Vicerrectorado de Extensión Cultural at the University of Extremadura, and the Diputación de Cáceres also supported the event. We are grateful to all these institutions for the funding provided, and for their presence at the opening ceremony.

A tribute was paid to IrE Network member **Prof. Markku Filppula**, who sadly passed away only a few weeks before the conference was held. Professor Filppula's contribution to our knowledge of Irish English is an important legacy to the field.

A number of books were also launched during the conference:

Hickey, R. (Ed.) (2024) *The Oxford Handbook of Irish English*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

O'Dwyer, F. (2021) *Linguistic Variation and Social Practices of Normative Masculinity Authority and Multifunctional Humour in a Dublin Sports Club*. New York: Routledge.

Schweinberger, M. and P. Ronan (2024), *Socio-Pragmatic Variation in Ireland Using Pragmatic Variation to Construct Social Identities*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Tully, C. (2024) *Masculinity and Identity in Irish Literature Heroes, Lads, and Fathers*. New York: Routledge.

The **22nd AEDEI Conference took place at the University of Alcalá de Henares** (Madrid), between 29th and 31st May 2024. Under the term "Ethics", the 22nd International AEDEI Conference welcomed participants interested in engaging in the discussion of the multifarious meaning of such strongly weighted concept. Arguing that ethics frees us from one-dimensional, straightforward interpretations in the way it embraces a plurality of meanings that underline the multidimensional quality of experience, this conference critically addressed such issues. The approaches were to be interdisciplinary, covering any field of Irish Studies from an ethical lens, and IrE Network members Carolina Amador-Moreno, David Sotoca-Fernández and Shane Walshe presented papers at different panels.

A memorial session on Hildegard Tristram was held by Gisbert Hemprich (University of Bonn), Erich Poppe (University of Marburg), and IrE Network member Patricia Ronan (TU University Dortmund) on 6.5.24 in the context of the **Celtic Studies Online Research Seminar** organised by Elena Parina (University of Bonn) and Alderik Blom (University of Marburg).

The Irish Embassy in Berlin hosted a **meeting of Irish Studies scholars** on Friday 10th November 2023. The meeting brought together academics and researchers working on the study of Irish literature,

language, linguistics, culture, and society in order to facilitate networking and exploring of opportunities for collaboration. The morning sessions presented an opportunity to discuss the state of Irish Studies in Germany and neighbouring countries, as well as funding opportunities available from the Government of Ireland (e.g Emigrant Support Funding) and other funding sources. The afternoon had time for 1-2 panel discussions with contributions from members of the IrE Network. The meeting concluded with a public lecture by IrE Network member Raymond Hickey and drinks reception at the Embassy.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

There is a firm commitment from IrEN to collaborate in future EFACIS activities, including 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 and vice versa: Traditionally the linguistics of Irish English has not played a very important role in the field of Irish Studies in general. One of the aims of the Irish English Network (IrEN) at irish-english.net is to improve this and have Irish English research recognised and supported by Irish Studies scholars. Since late 2021, we have been part of EFACIS. Also, we are increasingly involved in EFACIS projects. Further initiatives will be 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.