

## Regional Report 2023-2024 Low Countries

### Conferences and Workshops

#### Leuven Centre for Irish Studies:

12-14 June 2024: International Conference 'Irish Literature and the Global Marketplace', organised by Yen-Chi Wu and Elke D'hoker; Irish College Leuven. Keynote speakers: Prof. Joe Cleary (Yale University), Prof. Claire Connolly (University College Cork), Dr. Christina Morin (University of Limerick). Guest writers: Lisa McInerney and Eimear Ryan.

LCIS lectures in Irish Studies:

- 29 January 2024, 12.30-2 pm, LETT. 03.15: Prof. Aurora Piñeiro (National Autonomous University of Mexico), "An Authorial Labyrinth: The Novels by Banville, Black and Several Other Twins (2020-2023),
- 13 February, 4-5.30 pm, MSI 01.16: Prof. Eibhear Walshe (University College Cork), "Adventurers in A Strange Land, Bowen, England and Modernism"
- 14 February, 4-5.30 pm, Jos-Cretenzaal: Prof. William Murphy (Dublin City University), "'Another beautiful day': a TB patient's diary, Dublin, 1942"
- 6 May, 5 pm, Irish College Leuven: Prof. Laura P.Z. Izarra (University of São Paulo, Brazil), 'Contesting Narratives: The Amazon Journal of Roger Casement'

26 April 2024: reading and Q&A with Irish authors Claire Kilroy and Audrey Magee, in collaboration with the Leuven Book festival, Druk in Leuven.

#### Nijmegen Irish Studies Centre

22-23 June 2023: annual SSNCI conference. Hosted at Radboud University and co-organised by EFACIS members Giulia Bruna, Marguérite Corporaal, Chris Cusack, Lyndsey Janssen and Sophie van Os. The conference theme was Colonising and Decolonising the Irish Nineteenth Century. Keynotes were given by Tim McMahon (Marquette), Sarah Roddy (Maynooth), Shahmima Akhtar (Royal Holloway, University of London) and writer Cauvery Madhavan.

The conference also saw the opening of the exhibition Travelling Regions, curated by Giulia Bruna, Marguérite Corporaal and Ruud van den Heuvel, at Radboud's University Library— in the presence of Ambassador of Ireland to the Netherlands Brendan Rogers.

### Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement

EFACIS Book Club, organised by LCIS member Hedwig Schwall and Sien Deltour, with online visits from authors (Nuala O'Connor, Sheila Armstrong, Pat Boran and Colin Walsh) and introductions by EFACIS scholars Marie Gemrichová, Marisol Morales, Fiona McCann, Katharina Rennhak and Hedwig Schwall.

October 2023: Irish writers Pat Boran and Sheila Armstrong took up a residency in the Irish College Leuven, a collaboration of LCIS, Dublin Unesco City of Literature, the Irish College Leuven and the EFACIS Irish Itinerary. The writers did readings for students in Leuven and Kortrijk as well as in the Brussels Embassy. They also made an appearance in the EFACIS book club and taught a creative writing class.

March 2024: Irish Itinerary visit of Wendy Erskine with readings/Q&A for students and wider public in Antwerp, Ghent, Leuven, Kortrijk and Nijmegen.

26 Aug 2024 – 30 Aug 2024: 8th EFACIS PhD seminar in Irish Studies hosted by LCIS in the Irish College. Plenary speakers: Lucy Collins (UCD), Alexandra Maclennan (Uinversité de Caen), Ciaran O'Neill (TCD), and Peter Shirlow (University of Liverpool). Workshops by Hedwig Schwall, Asier Altuna, Elke D'hoker, Joris Vandendriessche, Silvana Mandolessi, Riona Ní Fhrighil and Anne Karhio.

### **New Centres**

We are in conversation with Joost Augusteijn of Leiden University about setting up a new EFACIS Irish Studies Centre.

### **New Projects or Funding Ideas**

Following the success of the Writer-in-residence scheme – which sadly received no funding from Dublin Unesco City of Literature in 2024 - LCIS has set up a visiting scholars scheme, which gives two Irish Studies Scholars the opportunity to stay in the Irish College for a month, both in November/December and in January/February. The scholars can use KU Leuven research facilities and meet up with LCIS and KU Leuven scholars. They also give an LCIS lecture towards the end of their stay.

Mathilde Roza and Marguérite Corporaal were awarded a PhD position funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO (2023 round, Promoties in de Geesteswetenschappen) for the project “Vestigingskolonialisme door minderheden: Ierse vrouwelijke auteurs aan de Noord-Amerikaanse frontier” (Settler colonialism by minorities: Irish women writers at the North-American frontier). The project will be conducted by Marije van Lankveld, and will start on 1 September 2024.