

Regional Report 2023-2024 NISN

Anne Karhio, NISN President, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences

Conferences and Workshops

Conferences

In October 2023, NISN board members Joakim Wrethed and Charles I. Armstrong organised the conference "Yeats and Elevation: The Nobel Prize Centenary Conference 2023", co-hosted by the International Yeats Society and the English Department at Stockholm University, Sweden. Yeats scholars and academics from around the world participated in the three-day conference, with keynote lectures by Professor Roy Foster (University of Oxford), Professor Margaret Harper (University of Limerick), Professor Marjorie Howes (Boston College), and Professor Paul Muldoon (Princeton University). The conference also featured a strong contribution from NISN members, with presentations by Anne Karhio, Anthony Johnson, Britta Olinder, and Charika Swanepoel.

No NISN conference was organised during the academic year 2023-2024, however, we are already planning for the next NISN conference, to be held in 2025 in Uppsala, Sweden. Importantly, this will be the 25th anniversary of NISN conferences, the first of which was also held in Uppsala in year 2000. The next EFACIS conference will also take place in the Nordic region in 2025, and will be hosted by NISN board member Anthony Johnson and Åbo Akademi University in 2025.

Other talks and events

At the University of Aarhus, Denmark, CISA (Centre for Irish Studies in Aarhus) hosted a number of talks related to Irish literature and culture during the past academic year, and CISA members also presented on their research at events elsewhere. On 12 March 2024, Dr. Ciarán Rua O'Neill of CISA talked about "John Hogan and International Sculptors in Rome, 1824-49" at the workshop "Crossroads: Italy and Ireland and the Grand Tour" at University College Dublin.

In May, Dr. Felix Levin gave a presentation at the XVIII International Symposium of Societas Celtologica Nordica at the University of Oslo (29-30 May). His talk was titled "The Irish perspective on Britain in the 17th century: Geoffrey Keating's Foras Feasa ar Éirinn and John Lynch's Cambrensis Eversus".

Other Irish Studies -related talks at the University of Aarhus included "Catullus in Irish Poetry after 1960" by Stephen Harrison (Oxford University) on 9 February 2024 and "Petitions, Pamphleteering, and Thomas Paine: The International Networks of the Exiled United Irishmen, 1798-1800" on 8 December 2023 by Dr. Muiris MacGiollaíbhú (Purdue University, Honors College).

Professor Isabelle Torrance of CISA will give the Margaret Heavey Memorial Lecture 2024 of University of Galway Classics, on 15 October 2024. The lecture will focus on "A Trip to the Moon: Lucian, Irish Satire and Migration History".

On 15 April 2024, NISN secretary and board member Dr. Ciaran McDonough from the University of Iceland gave the keynote lecture at the 15th Bergen International Postgraduate Symposium in Old Norse Studies, where she talked about "The Nineteenth-Century Translation of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature and the Politics of Language". Ciaran also participated in the Oslo Symposium

of Societas Celtologica Nordica, focusing on the recirculation of Early Irish land law in the 19th century at this same event.

In Norway, author and NISN member David Toms from the Irish Embassy in Oslo talked about Irish writing and his own work at the Blúiríní series of Literature Ireland (see video at https://x.com/Lit_Ireland/status/1709176285572833538). In March, David participated in the "Can we imagine history?" panel in Belfast (see <https://imaginebelfast.com/event/can-we-imagine-history-historians-and-writers-in-conversation/>).

NISN President Anne Karhio (Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences) participated in a roundtable discussion on "Technology, Literature, and Culture", organised by SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics at an event focusing on the contributions to a collection of essays with the same title at Museum of Literature Ireland on 8 November 2023. A recording of the roundtable discussion and keynote lecture by Dr. Kathryn Conrad can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/live/YxB1SFl66wl>.

On June 18th, the Irish Embassy hosted an Oslo Bloomsday event in Café Mir, Oslo, where Barry Sheehan from TU Dublin gave a talk titled "James Joyce: His Norwegian Connections" and also talked about his creative project "Ulysses 21k", which approaches Joyce's *Ulysses* through running in Dublin, tracing the novel's key routes and locations in the city. The talk is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xWN7tLFT6c>. The Stockholm Bloomsday event, organised by The James Joyce Society of Sweden and Finland, was held on June 16th at Rönells Antikvariat in Stockholm (<https://www.bloomsdayfestival.ie/international/bloomsday-in-stockholm/>).

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

NISN President Anne Karhio from the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences will organise a session on network technologies and Irish culture (with focus on El Putnam's publication on the topic) at the 7th PhD seminar in Irish Studies in Leuven in August 2024.

New Centres:

No new Irish Studies centres have been launched in the Nordic region in the past year. CISA in Aarhus continues to host research and scholarship on Irish literature and culture, and in Norway Anne Karhio and the Irish Embassy in Oslo have discussed the possibility to establish a more visible and focused Irish Studies presence in Norway, whether as a centre, a wider research group partially funded by the embassy, or a series of events. These discussions are ongoing, and more information will be available as more detailed plans exist.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

A new Irish Studies research project has been started at CISA in Aarhus, as the centre welcomed a new Marie Curie research fellow, Feliks Levin, in September 2023. Dr. Levin's project on Early Modern Irish Identities researches the significance of Greek and Roman sources on the intersection of Irish identities and political thought in historical writing, with a focus on the works of John Lynch and Geoffrey Keating. Dr. Levin collaborates with the ERC-funded project, Classical Influences and Irish Culture, also hosted at CISA, and directed by Isabelle Torrance.

The possibility of organising a Norwegian research group or network with Irish Studies focus and funding from the Irish Embassy in Oslo is currently being discussed in Norway, however there are not yet specific details on scope or specific activities.

Miscellaneous Information

The journal Nordic Irish Studies is currently searching for a new institutional host as its former editors Billy Gray and Carmen Zamorano Llena at Dalarna University, Sweden, are passing on these duties to a new editorial team. The work is ongoing and details will be made available as soon as possible.

The NISN website has been revived but is still under revision. This also involves the question of whether the NIS journal website could be merged with the organisation's main website.