

Regional Report NISN

Conferences and Workshops

The Nordic Irish Studies Network conference ‘Justice on the Island’ was hosted online by the outgoing NISN chair Anthony Johnson and team at Åbo Akademi in Finland on 6-7 May 2021 (having been postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic). The conference programme included presentations by 18 NISN members alongside invited lectures and readings by Adam Hanna (University College Cork, Ireland), David Toms (an Irish poet based in Oslo, Norway), and Colette Bryce (Northern Ireland), complemented by traditional (and less traditional) Irish music (Markus Lampela, Samppa Saarinen, Anthony Johnson).

The NISN general meeting was held during this year’s conference. This also involved the selection of a new Executive, with Anne Karhio (Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences) elected as NISN Chair, and Ciaran McDonough (University College Dublin) as NISN secretary.

The next NISN conference will be hosted in 2023 at the University of Iceland, under the auspices of the current NISN secretary Ciaran McDonough.

Irish Itinerary & EFACIS Engagement:

Two current NISN members will participate in this year’s EFACIS conference “Interfaces and Dialogues”, hosted by the Centre for Irish Studies at Charles University, Prague. Thomas Korthals will present on “Intercultural and interpersonal Exchanges in Hugo Hamilton's *The Island of Talking*”, and Seán Crosson on “Inter-Cultural Encounters and Dialogue in European Sport Cinema in *The Racer* (2020).

Long-term NISN member and former EFACIS president Seán Crosson has also been appointed as a general editor of *RISE*, the *Review of Irish Studies in Europe*.

Over the pandemic the *Nordic Irish Studies* journal (*NIS*) – affiliated to EFACIS – necessarily slowed down a little, but has now re-attained its usual levels of productivity and will be fielding a new themed volume this year, guest-edited by Anthony Johnson.

Centres in Irish Studies:

Work related to the field of Irish Studies has continued to take place in the existing centres for Irish Studies: Dalarna University Centre for Irish Studies (DUCIS) in Sweden, Agder Irish Network (AINE) in Norway, and Centre for Irish Studies, Aarhus (CISA) in Aarhus.

The organization at CISA is taking a break for the coming academic year, however individual events will continue to take place, and research continues for example in the ERC-funded project “Classical Influences and Irish Culture” under the leadership of Principal Investigator, Professor Isabelle Torrance. Information on talks and events on the project can be found at <https://clic.au.dk/>.

New Projects or Funding Ideas

See section on “Centres in Irish Studies” on “Classical Influences and Irish Culture” at CISA.

Miscellaneous Information

Our new NISN secretary Ciaran McDonough (currently based in University College Dublin, and a MSCA fellow at the University of Iceland) has been elected as one of the three editors in chief of *Studia Celtica Fennica*, the Yearbook of the Finnish Society of Celtic Studies (SFKS). And Cathryn McWilliams (University of South Eastern Norway), has been awarded a Doctorate at Åbo Akademi, Finland, for her thesis on the letters and legacy of Mary Ann McCracken (2021).

Selected recent and forthcoming publications, talks, and other contributions by NISN members:

- Charles I. Armstrong

“Ambivalent Déjà-vu: World War II in the Poetry of the Northern Irish Troubles”, *Memory Studies*, 14.1 (2021), pp. 68-79.

“Cornered: Intimate Relations in ‘The Words upon the Window-Pane’”, *International Yeats Studies*, 5.1 (2021), pp. 11- 5.

-----, with David Herbert, and Jan Erik Mustad, (eds.), *The Good Friday Agreement: Northern Irish Politics, Culture and Art after 1998* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

This autumn Charles Armstrong will also give a video talk on Seamus Heaney’s “Grauballe Man” at an event hosted by Adam Hanna at the Department of English, University College Cork.

- Seán Crosson

With Marcus Free, “‘This too shall pass’: Gaelic games, Irish media and the Covid-19 lockdown in Ireland” in Jörg Krieger, April Henning, Paul Dimeo, & Lindsay Parks Pieper (eds.), *Time Out: National Perspectives on Sport and the Covid-19 Lockdown* (Common Ground, 2021), pp. 297-312.

“Reflections on the European Sports Film: The Racer (2020)”, *Estudios Irlandeses*, 16 (2021), <https://www.estudiosirlandeses.org/reviews/reflections-on-the-european-sports-film-the-racer-2020/>.

Seán Crosson has also been appointed as a general editor of *RISE*.

- Hedda Friberg-Harnesk

“Waters, Islands, and Insular Minds: Connection and Division in Sebastian Barry's Sligo Novels” in Aurora Pineiro (ed.), *Rewriting Traditions: Contemporary Irish Fiction* (UNAM, 2021), pp. 131-139.

“‘High Stakes’ in the Symbolic Order: John Banville’s Love in the Wars Read through Jean Baudrillard”, in Laura P.Z. Izarra, Hedwig Schwall, Nicholas Taylor-Collins (eds.), “Word Upon World: Half a Century of John Banville’s Universes”, *ABEI Journal*, 22.1 (2020), pp. 75-84.

- Heidi Hansson

“Daughters, Death and Despair in Ethel Colburn Mayne’s Short Stories”, in Kathryn Laing, Sinéad Mooney, and Pilar Villar-Argaiz (eds.), *Irish Women Writers at the Turn of the Twentieth Century: Alternative Histories, New Narratives* (Edward Everett Root Publishers, 2020), pp. 127-141.

-----, with Fionna Barber, and Sara Dybris McQuaid (eds.), *Ireland and the North* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2019).

- Anthony Johnson

“From Dublin to London: Dermot O’Byrne, Arnold Bax, Pádraig Pearse, and the Music of Identity”, in *Movement and Change in Literature, Language, and Society*, ed. Joel Kuortti and Sirkku Ruokkeinen (Baden-Baden: Academia Verlag, 2020), pp. 109-29.

Over the coming year Anthony Johnson will also be guest editing a themed volume entitled *Justice on the Island* for the journal *Nordic Irish Studies*.

- Anne Karhio

“Ethics and Aesthetics of (Digital) Space: Institutions, Borders, and Transnational Frameworks of Digital Creative Practice in Ireland”, Scott Rettberg and Alexandra Saum-Pasqual (eds.), series ‘Electronic Literature as Digital Humanities’, *Electronic Book Review*, 4 October 2020. <https://electronicbookreview.com/essay/ethics-and-aesthetics-of-digital-space-institutions-borders-and-transnational-frameworks-of-digital-creative-practice-in-ireland/>.

“Between Aesthetics and Institutions: Irish Electronic Poetry”, in James O’Sullivan (ed.) *Contemporary Media Art in Ireland* (Anthem Press, 2021) pp. 29-52.

- Ciaran McDonough

Ed., with John Cunningham, *Galway: Hardiman & Beyond: Arts & Culture in Galway 1820-2020* (Arden, forthcoming August 2021).

Ciaran McDonough has also been elected as one of the three editors in chief of the journal *Studia Celtica Fennica*, The Yearbook of the Finnish Society of Celtic Studies (SFKS).

- Cathryn B. McWilliams

The Letters and Legacy of Mary Ann McCracken (1770-1866), Åbo Akademis förlag | Åbo Akademi University Press, Åbo, Finland, 2021.

- Ruben Moi

“Aesthetic Apprehension, Hauntology, and Just Literature”, in Lene M. Johannessen and Jena Habegger-Conti (eds.), *Aesthetic apprehensions: Silence and absence in false familiarities* (Lexington Books, 2021), pp. 127-143

Paul Muldoon and the Language of Poetry (Brill | Rodopi, 2020).

- Britta Olinder

“Women Writers of The Troubles”, *Nordic Journal of English Studies*, 19.5 (2020), pp.202–221.

- Joakin Wrethed

“Charles Maturin Revisited”, in Clive Book (ed.), *Palgrave Gothic* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2021).

“Irish History, Ethics, the *Alethic*, and *Mise En Abîme* in John Banville’s Fiction”, *HJEAS / Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*, 27.2 (2021, forthcoming).

- Carmen Zamorano Llena

Fictions of Migration in Contemporary Ireland and Britain (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

Anthony Johnson / Anne Karhio