UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Athena SWAN
Gradam Cré-umha
CAIRT INSCNE

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EDI BULLETIN

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Welcome



Welcome to the May 2023 edition of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Bulletin. The EDI Bulletin is an initiative of the AHSS Athena SWAN EDI Committee. The objective of the Bulletin is to keep the AHSS faculty updated on the implementation of the faculty Athena SWAN Action Plan and related activities and to document and showcase recent EDI initiatives in the faculty.

This edition of the Bulletin contains a variety of contributions from staff and students. It features contributions relating to women's and gender history; the Irish World Music Café; cultural diversity; mental health; LGBTQI+ awareness training; music therapy; and a spotlight on accessibility, among other stories.

Previous issues of the bulletin can be accessed on the AHSS website.

Dr Lydia Bracken,
AHSS Assistant Dean Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



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Athena SWAN Update

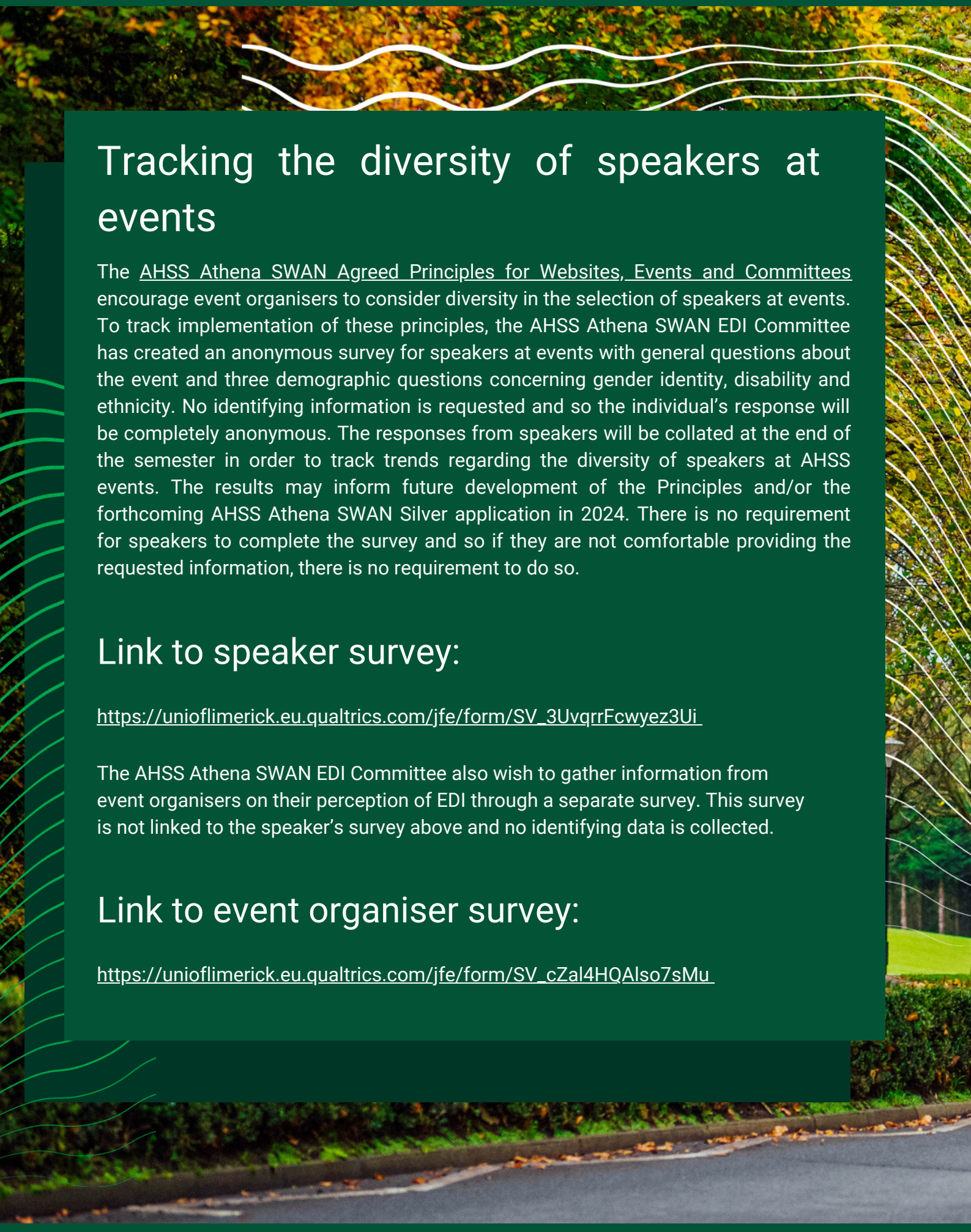
Institutional Silver Award

UL has become the first institution in the Irish Higher Education Sector to receive a prestigious Silver Athena Swan Institution Award. This success builds on UL's established commitment to advancing gender equality having become one of the first institutions in Ireland to achieve an Athena Swan Bronze Institution Award in 2015. The Silver award recognises the impact of the committed actions in previous submissions and a commitment to continued progress to address this area

AHSS Silver Application

AHSS was awarded a Bronze Athena SWAN award in 2020, which will be due for renewal in 2024. The Faculty will apply for renewal to a Silver award at that time. Work has now commenced on the Faculty's Silver application. As part of this, the AHSS Athena SWAN Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee has divided into a number of working groups to work on the application and will meet once a month until the submission deadline. Consultations will AHSS staff and students on the application will take place from Autumn 2023.





Tracking the diversity of speakers at events

The AHSS Athena SWAN Agreed Principles for Websites, Events and Committees encourage event organisers to consider diversity in the selection of speakers at events. To track implementation of these principles, the AHSS Athena SWAN EDI Committee has created an anonymous survey for speakers at events with general questions about the event and three demographic questions concerning gender identity, disability and ethnicity. No identifying information is requested and so the individual's response will be completely anonymous. The responses from speakers will be collated at the end of the semester in order to track trends regarding the diversity of speakers at AHSS events. The results may inform future development of the Principles and/or the forthcoming AHSS Athena SWAN Silver application in 2024. There is no requirement for speakers to complete the survey and so if they are not comfortable providing the requested information, there is no requirement to do so.

Link to speaker survey:

https://unioflimerick.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UvqrrFcwyez3Ui

The AHSS Athena SWAN EDI Committee also wish to gather information from event organisers on their perception of EDI through a separate survey. This survey is not linked to the speaker's survey above and no identifying data is collected.

Link to event organiser survey:

https://unioflimerick.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZal4HQAlso7sMu

Irish World Music Café



The Irish World Music cafe was delighted to be joined by Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Limerick for a few tunes at the University of Limerick City Campus. The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, in partnership with Doras Luimní, holds the Irish World Music Café in Limerick city as a social and cultural event where new migrants can meet other people living in Ireland. This pop-up cafe features free food and music, as well as an open mic for anyone wishing to offer a song, a poem, a piece of music or a dance. The cafes are an important part of research about the impact of music on the health and well-being of migrants, led by Professor Helen Phelan, the Director of the Irish World Academy, and Professor Anne MacFarlane, Chair of Primary Healthcare at the University. The sessions are led by musicians from the Irish World Academy, in particular Ewa Zak-Dyndal, a PhD Arts Practice student

Doras Luimní is an independent non-governmental organisation working to promote and protect the rights of migrants in Ireland, and their staff Ahmed Hassan and Serhii Korobtsov recognise how important music is for people's wellbeing and social inclusion in a new country. The cafés are a reminder that music is one of the most effective ways for human beings to connect with each other, and to celebrate both cultural differences and human similarities.

A History of Irish Women in 50 Objects

Dr Sindy Joyce's (Sociology) PhD thesis, 'Mincéirs Siúladh: An ethnographic study of young Travellers' experiences of racism in an Irish city' was featured in the Irish Times' 'A History of Irish Women in 50 Objects' to mark International Women's Day 2023. Dr Joyce's PhD thesis and 49 other objects were chosen by the newspaper as objects that 'tell just part of the colourful story of Irish women through the last several decades.'

UL Anti-Racism Month 2023

To mark Anti-Racism Month, the Ethnic Diversity Forum organised a series of events during the month of March, which were centred on a different core theme for each week of the month:
Week 1: Empathy Building
Week 2: Celebrating Culture
Week 3: Challenging Racism
Week 4: Pedagogies of Anti-Racism

A number of AHSS staff and students led and participated in events during the month. Congratulations to all involved in this important series of events!



Aibidil LADTA+/ ABC's of LGBTQ+

Reáchtáil Aonad na Gaeilge i gcomhpháirt le ShoutOut ceardlann idirghníomhach i Seomra na Gaeilge, Áras na dTeangacha ar an 14 Márta do bhaill foirne agus mic léinn. Thug an cheardlann seo blaiseadh de théarmaíocht, féiniúlachtaí agus comhghuallaíocht an phobail LADTA+. Rinneadh áisitheoireacht ar spás sábháilte a thabhairt do dhaoine chun ceisteanna a chur agus tugadh léargas mionsonraithe ar na bealaí éagsúla le meas comhionann a léiriú ar phobal LADTA+.

Aonad na Gaeilge in partnership with ShoutOut provided an interactive workshop for staff and students in Seomra na Gaeilge in the Languages Building on March 14th. This workshop offered an introduction to LGBTQ+ identity, terminology and allyship. A safe space was facilitated for attendees to raise questions and a detailed account was given on the various ways of providing equal respect to the LGBTQ+ community.



A New Agenda for Women's and Gender History in Ireland



On 25 April, Dr Bronagh Ann McShane (History) convened an online symposium on 'A New Agenda for Women's and Gender History in Ireland.' The event was organised in conjunction with the Limerick History Research Seminar organised the Departments of History, Mary Immaculate College and University of Limerick.
The online symposium marked the recent publication of the Irish Historical Studies, special issue, 'A New Agenda for Women's and Gender History in Ireland' It brought together a range of early career and established scholars from Ireland and internationally to discuss the current state and future of the study of women's and gender history. Details of the contributors can be accessed on the Eventbrite page.

'Woman in the Home' Provision

On Saturday 11 March 2023, an opinion piece written by Dr Laura Cahillane (Law) was published by the Irish Times explaining the background and context to the 'woman in the home' provision of the Constitution and outlining what it would mean if the government adopts the wording for reform recommended by the Citizens' Assembly and the Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality as part of a referendum on the provision. The article can be accessed at this link.

Women Writers-Mediators in the 20th Century: Michèle Causse, Feminist Translator

Dr Cecilia Benaglia (MLAL) has been awarded a Charlemont Grant from the Royal Irish Academy for her project titled 'Women Writers-Mediators in the 20th Century: Michèle Causse, Feminist Translator'. The grant will enable Dr Benaglia to visit the Swiss Literary Archives in Bern which host documents pertaining the works of Michèle Causse and Alice Ceresa, including their correspondence. This study is part of a broader research project exploring the transnational circulation of literary texts and discourses in the second half of the 20th century, with a focus on the female agents (writers, publishers, translators or critics of foreign literature) who made these transfers possible.



Image from Left to Right: Carl Corcoran, Lisa Kelly, Helen Rochford-Brennan, Carmel Geoghegan, Helena & Kevin Quaid, Nuala & Gerry Paley.

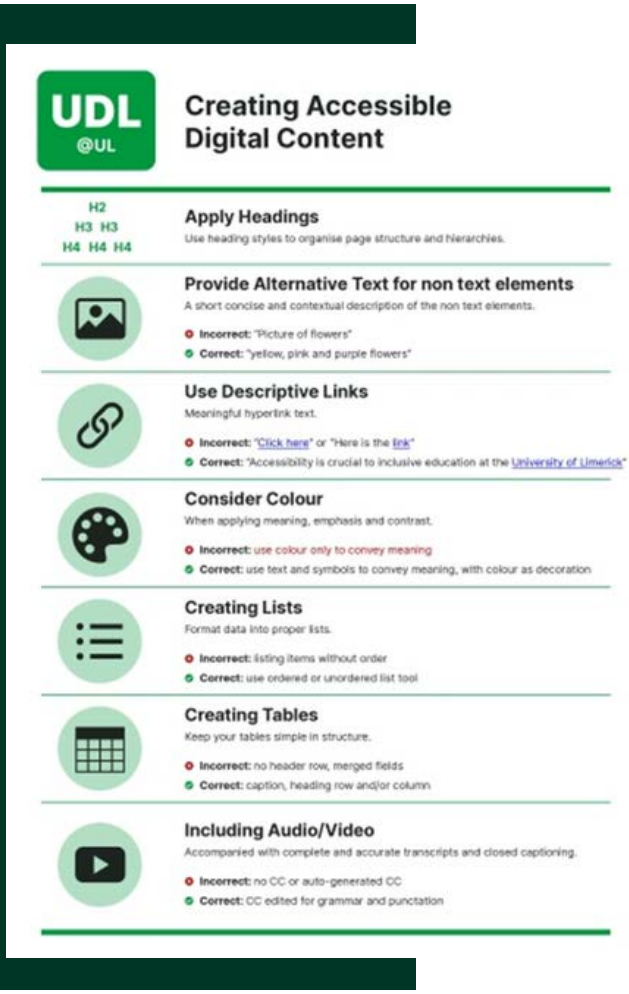
Irish World Academy Tower Seminar: 'We will tell everyone!' Learning About the Experience of Living With Dementia Through Song

On March 29th, a hybrid Tower Seminar took place at the Irish World Academy, and was livestreamed online for a wider audience, in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the HRI. At this event, a song written by a Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) group who have been collaborating with Lisa Kelly on her PhD research at the Academy on telehealth music therapy for people living with dementia and their supporters, was launched.

The group wrote a song about their experiences of living with dementia, facilitated by esteemed songwriter Carl Corcoran and Lisa Kelly, which was performed live on the day. Chaired by Prof Hilary Moss, the event included presentations from the PPI contributors, music therapists, eminent geriatrician Prof Desmond O'Neill, and was launched by Prof Anne MacFarlane.

Connections' Podcast

Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes, Centre for Applied Language Studies and School of Modern Languages and Applied Languages, recently participated in an episode of 'Connections', the new podcast series run by Suicide or Survive. Suicide or Survive (SOS) is 'a nationwide Irish charity focussed on breaking down the stigma associated with mental health issues and ensuring that those affected have access to quality recovery services that are right for the individual'. A key aim of SOS is to actively work for 'a society where people embrace their mental health wellness and those with difficulties are treated with dignity and respect'. SOS launched the Connections podcast to raise awareness of mental health and stigma and, in line with this, the topic of Helen's episode is 'language and stigma'. The podcast is run by Alice Hartigan, a graduate of UL's Graduate Certificate in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Alice took the 'Language and Inclusion in Organisations' module which Helen offers as part of the Certificate and based on her experience in the module Alice wanted to explore the role of language in creating or breaking down stigma in relation to mental health. In the episode Helen talks with Alice and Paula Lawlor (CEO of Suicide or Survive) about the positive and negative role of language in our lives and why the language we choose and use everyday matters. They also talk about how to be mindful of our language in relation to perpetuating stereotypes and stigmatization in relation to mental health. The episode is available here: Connections: Language and Stigma - Connections: Conversations Worth Having | Podcast on Spotify



Spotlight on Accessibility

The following resources created by UDL@UL provide helpful advice for creating accessible digital content. See the UDL@UL webpage for more information and resources.





Culture Shocked!: Launch of exhibition celebrating cultural diversity

CULTURE SHOCKED! is an exhibition comprising fifty original comic-style illustrations celebrating cultural diversity. The artworks depict authentic anecdotes of cultural misunderstandings with humour. The project is part of a series of events taking place around the campus as our institution marks its fiftieth anniversary.

The opening reception took place on 23 March 2023. Project Leader Dr Florence Le Baron-Earle, School of MLAL, explained how the exhibition came together with the collaboration of UL staff, students, and the wider community who shared anecdotes of cross-cultural encounters. She expressed her gratitude to all the people who contributed including the five illustrators - Julie Alquier, Megan Brophy, Edison Cai, Thomas Cunningham, and Lakeisha Lazo - the organising committee, Patricia Moriarty (UL Arts Officer) and Yvonne Davis (curator).

Dr Anca Minescu, Assistant Dean International, Faculty of EHS, congratulated everyone involved in bringing the intercultural project to fruition. She praised the team for their creative energy, seeing it as a true reflection of UL's spirit. She highlighted that the illustrations are fun but also have the academic rigour to be used for workshops raising cross-cultural awareness. The art gallery will be visited by local schools in the coming weeks as part of an outreach initiative facilitated by the Access Office.

CULTURE SHOCKED! has been made possible with the financial support of UL Visual Arts (Corporate Secretary's Office); University of Limerick Arts Office (Student Affairs Division); The School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics; the Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty Teaching Board; the ADI Internationalisation Fund; UL Global, and The Tell Your Own Story Project.

The CULTURE SHOCKED! exhibition is open to the public at the Bourne Vincent Gallery, Concert Hall, UL, until 30 June 2023.

