



# Winter '21

## AHSS Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Arts,  
Humanities and  
Social Sciences

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# Dean's Welcome

## Welcome to our December 2021 Newsletter issue.

Dear colleagues,

We have continued to face many challenges due to the pandemic this year, both as a faculty and as a University but despite this, staff and students have worked hard and shown exemplary resilience and fortitude in meeting and rising above these challenges.

I am very grateful to all of our staff across the Faculty. Their professionalism and dedication has ensured that our students can have the best possible campus experience in the circumstances. We have also achieved a lot which we can be proud of in 2021.

The newsletter documents a rich mix of engagements and achievements. Our staff, for example, have been recognised through engagements with German President, Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and His Excellency, Mr. Mohammed Belaoura, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Our staff also continue to be recognised on the international stage with awards such as the Eva Lassman, Take Action Against Hate award, the European Language Label award and the awarding of the Prix Jean Monnet Award for literature to our colleague Donal Ryan.

Their research scholarship is both rich and diverse in its reach, revealing the immense curiosity of our talented scholars and their commitment to critical engagement and knowledge expansion. In this newsletter, we document some examples relating to French Studies, Grooming offences, the Media and Poverty, LGBTI+ parent families and the study of Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe. We have also had very significant funding successes in areas such as German-Irish studies and the study of the well-being of adolescents and young adults during the pandemic. Colleagues have also been recognised for their mentorship and support of our rich and diverse faculty research community with the awarding of IRC Research Ally Prizes to Prof. Ciara Breathnach, Dr. John Lombard and Dr. Hilary Moss.

I am also very impressed by the energy and dynamism that is generated around knowledge exchange, particularly in relation to the hosting of events conferences and seminars. Some of the events featured in this newsletter include the 18th International Conference in Irish German Studies and the Judicial Conduct in Ireland event.

Our students and recent graduates also continue to impress. The singer/songwriter Emma Langford (Graduate, MA Songwriting) has been longlisted for this year's Grammy Awards. Mostafa Darwish (Graduate, MA Journalism) has also been recognised for his outstanding investigative journalism work detailing deaths in direct provision by winning the Newsbrands Ireland award in the investigative journalism category.

A special thank you to Oonagh Grace and Torin McGlynn for coordinating the production of the Newsletter, and for presenting us with such a splendid publication. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,

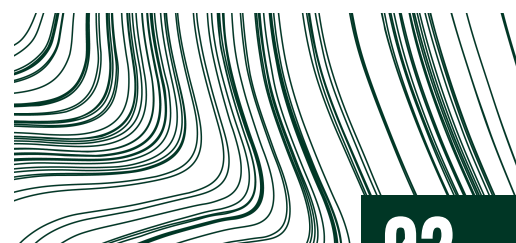
*Professor Shane Kilcommins*

*Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*



**Professor Shane Kilcommins**

*Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,  
Humanities and Social Sciences*





# Faculty news

## State visit of German president Frank–Walter Steinmeier to Ireland

On the 29th of November 2021, President of Ireland Michael D Higgins, First Lady Sabina Higgins, German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and First Lady of Germany, Elke Büdenbender made a state visit to the UL campus. During the visit, President Steinmeier and his wife engaged with the Centre for Irish German studies. They got an insight into the many facets and the richness of the Irish-German book collection, especially the recent addition of the Gottschalk collection in the Special Collections of the Glucksman Library, and then discussed the future of Europe and Europe's contribution to social justice in the world with UL students (a wonderful engagement with the next generation and especially appropriate at a university where European Studies have been taught from the beginning) before gaining insights into hurling at the UL Sports complex.

## Erasmus K2 MaMLiSE Project

As part of Erasmus+ K2 MaMLiSE Project to develop new educational approaches for migrant education, an interdisciplinary team comprising of Dr. Angela Farrell (ADI AHSS), Dr. Mary Masterson (Lecturer, EHS), Michelle Daly (PhD Scholar/Intercultural Advocate), and Andrea La Touche (TESOL Teacher and EAL School Tutor), in conjunction with academics and teachers from partner institutions in Poland, Greece and Germany spent a week at the Intercultural School of Ioannina in north-western Greece to undertake a needs analysis, and develop teaching materials and resources for the school to better address the social, cultural, educational and psychological needs of children from a refugee background.



The UL team will host European partners on the MaMLiSE Project in May 2022. This project aligns with UL's commitment to achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 which relates to widening access to education particularly for disadvantaged groups in society.



# Human Rights in Policing module: Garda Graduation Ceremony

A Garda Graduation Ceremony took place in October with more than 200 Garda personnel from across the Dublin region being conferred with their certificates of completion of the online Human Rights in Policing module by Commissioner Drew Harris at Westmanstown, Dublin. Over 550 Garda members and Garda civilian staff across various ranks and grades have successfully completed the level 8 micro-credential module, with a further 1,000 or so undertaking it this academic year. Congratulations to all of the staff involved in the School of Law - Dr. Alan Cusack, Dr. Lydia Bracken, Dr. Ger Coffey, Prof. Paul McCutcheon, Dr. Andrea Ryan, Angela Liddy, Josephine Conway, Dr. Susan Leahy, Dr. Michelle Stevenson, Dr. Jennifer Schweppe, and Prof. Amanda Haynes (Dept. of Sociology).



## Presentation of hate crime research to Oireachtas Joint Committee

Prof. Amanda Haynes (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Jennifer Schweppe (School of Law), co-directors of the European Centre for the Study of Hate at University of Limerick (UL), appeared before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice. They were invited to speak to the Committee on the General Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Hate Crime) Bill 2021 based on their expertise in this area, and extensive experience researching how hate crimes manifest in Ireland and are addressed through the Irish criminal justice process. Their research work was also reported in the Irish Times, particularly their study which found that just 13.5 per cent of the public would be very comfortable or comfortable living beside someone convicted of vandalism. However, that number was halved to just 7.7 per cent when the vandalism in question was linked to hate crime. Their findings reflect the potential power of hate crime-specific laws



# Every Child a Reader initiative

Prof. Sarah Moore (School of English, Irish, and Communication) in collaboration with Children's Books Ireland, RTÉ, and Scoil Chroí Íosa, Galway, has accepted the invitation to act as adviser and 'champion of reading' for an exciting national project entitled Every Child A Reader. Scoil Chroí Íosa is an inclusive and diverse school with one quarter of its students from the travelling community, and another fifty percent with parents whose first language is not English.

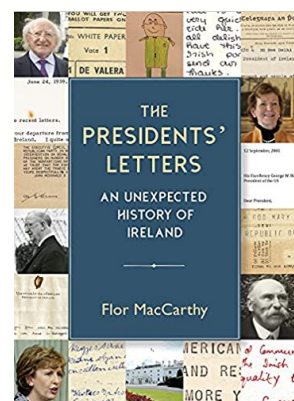


Their success in being one of four schools selected to be involved in the project marks the next step in their quest to become a template for inclusion, wellbeing, and educational achievement. Sarah will be working with teachers and students to support and develop a reading culture among students and their families. This connection with the school will also provide scope to involve UL Creative Writing MA students in key aspects of this project as part of their Community Module. Over the coming three years, Sarah will be dedicating one day a month to this work, and RTÉ, as a key partner will make a documentary focused on the impact of Every Child A Reader in the school and its community.

## The Presidents' Letters

A book, **The Presidents' Letters**, edited by Flor McCarthy, has just been published by New Island Press, with chapter introductions by various writers. Prof. Joseph O'Connor introduces the chapter entitled 'The Áras and the Arts'. The accompanying words from President Michael D Higgins at the inception of the project speaks of the value of literary festivals and the contribution of our colleagues in Creative Writing: 'Such gatherings of Ireland's writing community remind us of the sense of care and sharing that exists amongst Ireland's writers; of the support that is always forthcoming, the wisdom that is there to be passed from one generation of writers to the next. Festivals enable each generation to represent and capture their own unique moment in Ireland's ever-changing landscape, as they make their individual contribution to our great literary legacy'.

Filming recently finished in Kildare and Dublin on 'The Liffey', a six-part television documentary for RTÉ 1, written by Prof. Joseph O'Connor. The series will commence broadcasting in January 2022.







## School of Law 50 for 50 scholarship

The School of Law and UL Foundation have secured the first 50 for 50 scholarship from Matheson law firm. Matheson is one of the leading law firms in Ireland and is based in Dublin. The Law School's relationship with Matheson has been growing in recent years where they run a novel educational programme for students in the School, in the area of Company law.

The scholarship will be worth in excess of €5000 with details to be finalised over the coming weeks. Congratulations to Sarah Hartnett and Harvey Duthie of UL Foundation and Prof. Ray Friel and Sinead Eaton (School of Law) for all their work in securing this important scholarship.

## International Women's Forum Visit

Members of the International Women's Forum visited the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance on the 5th of November 2021 and were treated to performances by students from the BA World Music, BA Irish Music, MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance and PhD Arts Practice, with Dr Kathleen Turner and Prof Mel Mercier also performing.



## TY Taster Day

On Tuesday 7th December 2021, Transition Year students from around the country joined our Virtual AHSS TY Taster Day. Over 2,000 students registered and despite some school closures due to the storm weather warnings, many still joined from home. Attendees were given the opportunity to sample taster lectures and engage in live sessions including a Q&A with current students. The hope is that exposure to our programmes and disciplines will broaden their horizons and raise aspirations for further studies under the banner of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in the future.





## National Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education Project

Dr. Sandra Joyce (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) has been appointed as the UL Institutional Project Lead for the National Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education Project.

The aim of the project is to put in place a consistent and coherent approach to recognition of prior learning (RPL) within and across the 19 publicly-funded higher education institutions participating in the project. The project is funded under the HEA's Human Capital Initiative Pillar 3 (Innovation & Agility), which seeks to promote innovative and responsive models of programme delivery, and to enable the higher education system to respond rapidly to changes in both skills requirements and technology. The project is a four-year collaboration incorporating the Technological Higher Education Association, Irish Universities Association and the Technological University, Dublin.

The project's vision is that RPL becomes an integral part of the higher education system. Readily accessible RPL services, underpinned by a learner-centred National Framework, will guide HEIs to practice agile, consistent, transparent, user-friendly, efficient and quality-assured RPL aligned to their missions and strategies. This joined-up sectoral approach, underpinned by extensive engagement with enterprise and proactive promotion of RPL opportunities at national and local level, will assist 6,000 admissions on the basis of RPL annually by the end of project.

## CPERN Network event and Dr Owen Worth appointed to the International Advisory board of the Global Political Economy Journal

The Critical Political Economy Research Network (CPERN) of the European Sociological Association is to have its mid-term workshop at the University of Limerick on July 22-23rd, 2022 around the theme 'Critical Political Economy for a new Global Political Economy'. The workshop should have been held in Limerick two years ago but was moved online due to COVID. The conference will be led by Dr Owen Worth, (Head of the Dept. of Politics and Public Administration), who is on the executive board for the network. He is also on the Executive Committee of the Conference of Socialist Economists (CSE) and has been Managing Editor of his long-standing journal *Capital & Class* for around a decade. THE CSE will be sponsoring certain events at the workshop.

Dr Worth has also recently been invited on to the international advisory board of the new journal *Global Political Economy*, which is set to be launched next year and published by Bristol University Press.





# Awards



## Bronze Athena SWAN Award Ceremony

UL President, Prof. Kerstin Mey formally presented the Athena SWAN awards achieved by UL departments and faculties in 2020 and 2021 on Thursday 31st October 2021. As part of this, AHSS was presented with the Bronze Athena SWAN award.

The official Advance HE awards ceremony for the 2020 and 2021 award recipients were postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic and took place as a one-hour virtual showcase event which featured an address from the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD. Congratulations to Dr. Lydia Bracken and Prof. Helen Kelly Holmes for their leadership, and the SAT team for all their work in securing this award for the faculty.

## Josephine Conway receives award for work on Policing and Human Rights online module

Josephine Conway, a senior administrator in the School of Law, was honoured with an award at a recent An Garda Síochána graduation ceremony in Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Cork. The award was presented to Josephine on the basis of her outstanding work in managing the online delivery of the Policing and Human Rights module which will be taken by 1,500 Garda staff over a three semester period. Josephine is pictured with the award, alongside Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern.





# Eva Lassman, Take Action Against Hate Award

Prof. Amanda Haynes (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Jennifer Schweppe (School of Law) recently accepted the Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Award by Gonzaga University in Washington State, on behalf the European Centre for the Study of Hate at UL, of which they are co-directors.

In the citation for the award, the judging panel said the centre was nominated for this award “in recognition of its commitment to understanding and countering hatred on an individual, community and global scale”.

The institution’s work, including research, policy and practice, was hailed as evident through such initiatives as the Call it Out campaign, engagement with the Coalition Against Hate Crime Ireland, and publications such as the Alternative Report on Hate Crimes and Related Issues.



## Jean Monnet Prize for Literature Award Ceremony: Donal Ryan

Donal Ryan, author and lecturer in Creative Writing, UL has become the first Irish writer to win the Prix Jean Monnet for European Literature for his work ‘From a Low and Quiet Sea’, published in 2018 and translated into French.

Donal received his prize at the European Literature Festival in Cognac, France, on November 20th 2021. The writer Gérard de Cortanze, president of the jury for the Prix Jean Monnet, said he wanted to “distinguish a young author considered to be one of the great revelations of Irish literature but also worldwide”.





## Virtual Exchange Project wins European Language Label Award 2021

ERASMUS SPEAKS, the Transnational Virtual Exchange Project (TEP) between the University of Limerick and five European partner Universities have won the European Language Label Award 2021. A ceremony was held online on 11 November 2021 and was opened by Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The Award coordinated by the European Commission recognises innovative approaches to language learning.

The project was initiated in Autumn 2020 to provide third-year students with a virtual alternative to Erasmus mobility after it was cancelled due to Covid-19 emergency travel restrictions. Students from a number of disciplines (Applied Languages, Arts, European Studies, Business) learning either French, Spanish, German or English took part in the project.

The jury commended the project for enhancing the communication between Irish and European students in their Erasmus+ destinations: "The scale of this project is admirable. To have 600 students involved in language learning and in a linguistic exchange programme with students in 4 countries is a huge logistic achievement. Even though the complications of a physical exchange were removed from the project, there were new hurdles to negotiate, as students and staff upskilled in the use of digital technologies".

### The ERASMUS SPEAKS UL Team:

The UL team of coordinators who implemented ERASMUS SPEAKS was comprised of: (top from left to right) Dr Veronica O'Regan, Dr Marie-Thérèse Batardière, (centre) Dr Florence Le Baron-Earle, (bottom left to right) Natascha Guggi and Dr Marta Giralt.





# Events




## The Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy project

MA Classical String performance students, guest conservatoire students and ICO principals recently gave an outstanding performance to staff, students and external guests as part of the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy Project which was directed by Diane Daly (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance). Diane has been a member of the ICO since 1998 and has toured the world with many prestigious ensembles including the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. In other genres she has performed alongside and recorded with Sir Paul McCartney, Rod Stewart, The Corrs, Bono, Shania Twain, Katie Melua and plays in her own gypsy jazz trio. The concert programme featured the 3rd of Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dance Suite (1932), and Bartok's vibrant colourful Divertimento for Strings (1939). In keeping with the ethos of the ICO Academy projects, the performance focussed on enhancing the performance experience for both performers and audience. This project is part of the MA programme in Classical String Performance and is funded by the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL.






## FRAMES Masterclass

The FRAMES (Fostering resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education innovation) Masterclass took place recently highlighting the opportunities that Virtual Exchange (VE) can offer us and our students.

It illustrated what Virtual Exchange is and how partner HEIs can benefit from integrating and implementing VE successfully. Colleagues involved in the FRAMES project from the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics highlighted the potential, the progress made to date, and the links made to internationalisation and the SDGs. Congratulations to Dr Marta Giralt for organising the event.



Fostering resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education innovation



**CHALLENGES**


1) design and implement blended mobility schemes that are inclusive and intercultural, and

2) integrate and accredit blended mobility activities as a stable component of the academic offer

**AIM**

FRAMES foster an harmonised implementation and accreditation of blended mobility among European HEIs

**ASSOCIATED:** ESN, ALF, ACUP, Limerick Doras



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

**Duration:** 2 years (Mar-21 Feb-23)

**OUTPUTS**

**01** Scenarios

**02** Online training

**03** Toolkit

**04** Strategic framework

**TRAININGS**

18-Oct 14-Nov 21: Pilot Training

May 22: Open Training

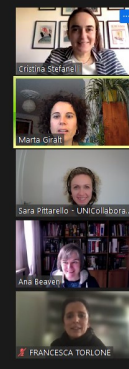
**EVENTS**

10 Dec 21: Launch event (online)

Feb 23: Final Event in Rome

[www.frames-project.eu](http://www.frames-project.eu)

[@framestweets](https://twitter.com/framestweets)







## 18th International Conference in Irish German Studies

The Centre for Irish-German Studies co-hosted the 18th International Conference in Irish-German Studies in November. The Conference entitled “Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships – Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships” (4th and 5th November 2021) was co-organised with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Ulster University and the Centre for European Studies at UL.

Among the speakers were Prof. Katharina Rennhak (Wuppertal), Prof. Nicola McLelland (Nottingham), Prof. Pól O Dochartaigh (NUI Galway), Dr. Marieke Krajenbrink (UL), Dr. Paul Gillespie (UCD/Irish Times), Dr. Marius Guderjan (Centre for British Studies, HU Berlin), Prof. Oran Doyle (TCD); Prof. John Coakley (QUB), Prof. Mary Murphy (UCC), Dr. Joachim Fischer (UL); Prof. Edward Moxon-Browne (Emeritus Professor European Studies, UL), Tony Connelly (RTÉ, Brussels) and Prof. John O'Brennan (Maynooth University).

## Judicial Conduct in Ireland A: Framework fit for purpose event

The School of Law, UL, together with the School of Law, NUIG and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Whitaker Institute and School of Law, hosted a conference entitled “Judicial Conduct in Ireland: A Framework Fit for Purpose?” which took place on 22 October, 2021.

Speakers included: The Hon Mr. Justice Frank Clarke, Chief Justice of Ireland, Ms. Doireann Ansbro, ICCL, Dr. Brian Barry, Technological University Dublin, Mr. Raymond Byrne, Former Commissioner Law Reform Commission, Adjunct Full Professor UCD, Dr. Laura Cahillane, UL, Eunice Collins, University of Oxford, Prof. Daniela Cavallini, University of Bologna, Dr. David Fennelly, TCD, Caoimhe Kiernan, Technological University Dublin, Dr. Patrick O'Brien, Oxford Brooks University, Prof. Colin Scott, UCD, Dr. Sophie Turenne, University of Cambridge, Silvio R. Vinceti, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Congratulations to Dr. Laura Cahillane on organising such a wonderful event.



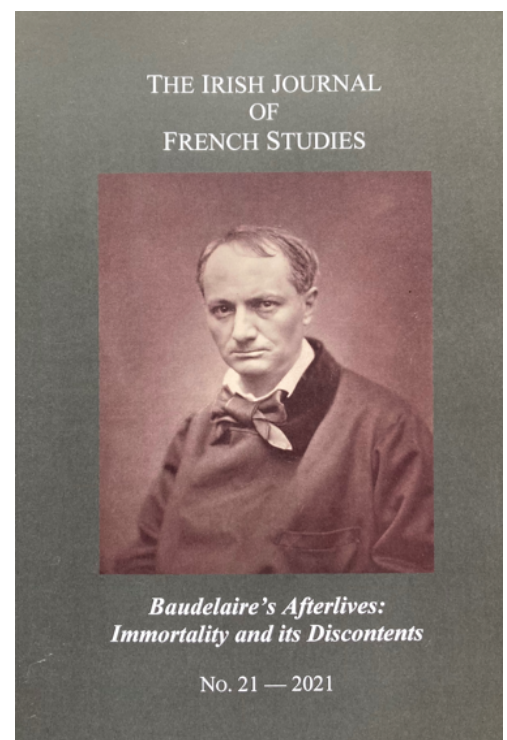


## Research funding award: Study of well-being of adolescents and early adults during the pandemic

Prof. Ross Macmillan and Dr. Carmel Hannon (Dept. of Sociology) have been approved for funding of €250,000 by the Health Research Board of the HSE. The project is a study of developmental trajectories of psychological well-being among adolescents and early adults in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent social restrictions.

## New edition of Irish Journal of French Studies

A new issue of the Irish Journal of French Studies (IJFrS) launched this October 2021, featuring a thematic section titled 'Baudelaire's Afterlives: Immortality and its Discontents'. The issue focuses on the major literary, cultural, and theoretical impact of Charles Baudelaire the French poet and critic, the bicentenary of whose birth occurs this year. This international peer-reviewed journal, published on the Ingenta Connect platform by the Association des Études Françaises et Francophones d'Irlande (ADEFFI), showcases the important role of the Irish French and Francophone Studies community in the global development of this multi- and inter-disciplinary research field. Fully digitised since 2016, with issues becoming Open Access two years after publication, the journal has built up a significant body of high-quality scholarship in both French and English over the 21 years of its existence. The new issue of the IJFrS, along with the full archive of the journal, is available [HERE](#). Congratulations to Dr. Michael G. Kelly (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) who is the general editor of the journal.





# FestiVersities: European Music, Public Spaces and Cultural Diversity

Dr. Aileen Dillane and Dr. Sarah Raine from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance recently presented on their ongoing research for the FestiVersities project on European Music Festivals at the 12th Music Business Conference in Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Their joint paper was entitled "Sustainable and Adaptable Popular Music Industries: Doing Music Ethnography During and Post-Covid 19".

Aileen also participated as a Senior Respondent in the Young Scholars Network to doctoral students in Cultural Studies, Ethnomusicology, and Sociology for students engaged in different approaches of music research.



## Effectively Communicating the Written Assignment Brief: Comprehensiveness and Conciseness

Dr. Elaine Walsh (School of English, Irish, and Communication) presented her work titled, Effectively Communicating the Written Assignment Brief: Comprehensiveness and Conciseness, at the 20th European Conference on e-Learning; a Virtual Conference Supported by University of Applied Sciences HTW Berlin, Germany (28-30 October 2021).

This international conference had participants from 36 countries including for example Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Norway, India, Russia, and South Africa. Elaine's paper discussed a key finding from her Ph.D. study that set out to explore how written assignment briefs affect students' understanding of the requirements of assessment, and students' potential to perform effectively. The findings of this research will be valuable to academics and instructional designers involved in designing assessment documentation or planning an assessment strategy. The AHSS Faculty Research Committee provided funding to attend this conference.







## Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster receives formal research centre status

The Popular Music and Popular Culture Research Cluster has been granted formal Research Centre Status by UL. The Centre for The Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture is co-directed by Dr Aileen Dillane, Dr Martin J Power and Prof Eoin Devereux and will build on the team's considerable achievements over the last decade. The new centre brings together faculty expertise from our schools and departments including colleagues from Sociolinguistics, Creative Writing, Journalism, Languages, Cultural Studies and Popular Music. It also includes faculty from Psychology and the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. In addition to some major names from the International academic field, its external board includes authors Marian Keyes, Prof Kit De Waal and Dr Noel Hogan guitarist and songwriter with The Cranberries. The co-directors of CSPMPC have built on the wide range of activities initiated by their original research cluster including a book series with Rowman and Littlefield International on popular music(s) and high-profile symposia on artists such as David Bowie, Joy Division and Morrissey as well as thematic events focused on the Songs of Social Protest and the Riot Girl movement. The new centre will be formally launched at the start of next semester and have an exciting line up of seminars and workshops reflecting faculty expertise.

## David Bowie's Irish links: Music, Art, Literature and Tipperary

An analysis by Prof Eoin Devereux (Dept. of Sociology) of David Bowie's connections with Ireland and the impact of these on his life and work was published on RTÉ.ie as part of RTÉ Brainstorm.

It offers a fascinating insight into the influence of Ireland and Irish artists on Bowie's career and can be read in full at the link [here](#).





# Dr. Darina Slattery: IEEE Professional Communication Conference (ProComm)

Dr. Darina Slattery (School of English, Irish, and Communication) presented at the IEEE Professional Communication Conference (ProComm), her paper was titled 'Universal Design for Learning in Blended and Fully Online Courses'. Darina is the current President of the IEEE Professional Communication Society, which runs the international ProComm conference and publishes the IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication journal and the Wiley/ IEEE PCS book series. The ProComm conference will return to the University of Limerick in July 2022. Call for papers can be submitted [here](#).



## Allingham Literary Festival Flash Fiction

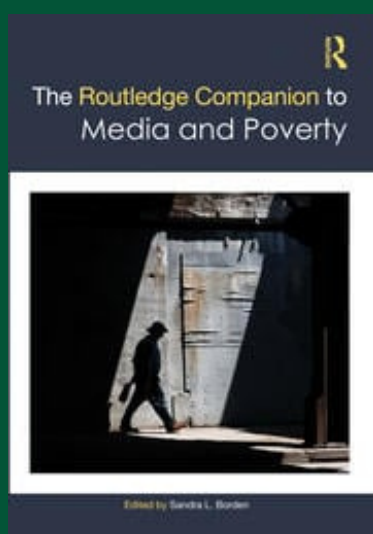
Congratulations to Dr. Carrie Griffin (School of English, Irish and Communication). Her recent work was shortlisted for the Allingham Literary Festival Flash Fiction prize for a piece called 'The Roses'. The Festival is designed to recognise and reward talented writers who, in the footsteps of William Allingham, seek to share their work.

## REPPP Team research on grooming offences

The work of the REPPP team was discussed recently in the Irish Examiner in relation to a new offence of grooming, as provided for in a Bill published in 2020. The proposed new offence is set to complement ongoing work by Prof Redmond and his REPPP team to develop programmes to intervene with attempts by crime networks to recruit children. A link to the piece is can be viewed [here](#).



## Chapter contribution: The Routledge Companion to Media and Poverty

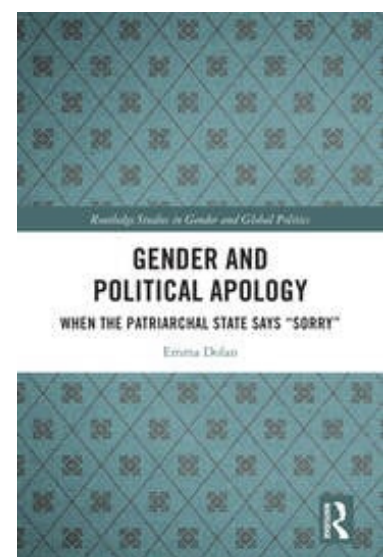


Prof. Eoin Devereux, (Dept. of Sociology and Centre for the Study of Popular Music and Popular Culture, UL) contributed a chapter to a major new collection of essays which examines media coverage of poverty. Eoin's chapter Not Just For Christmas is published in Media and Poverty, edited by Sandra Borden (Routledge, New York) and examines how media organizations represent the growing problem of Homelessness. His chapter argues that far from holding truth to power, the practices engaged in by news organisations serves to perpetuate rather than challenge homelessness.

## New Publication: Gender and Political Apology– Dr. Emma Dolan (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration)

This book provides a much-needed Feminist reading to the increasingly important and frequent practice of political apology. Engaging in depth with two cases of interstate apologies for conflict-related sexual violence – Japan's apologies for the South Korean "comfort women" and US apologies for the Abu Ghraib scandal – the author argues that political apologies are particularly "excitable" or uncontrollable forms of speech which are composed of and rearticulate historically constituted gender norms. In doing so, political apologies work to recognise and make visible particular gendered victims whilst simultaneously obscuring others. Through the concept of "legitimate victimhood", the author examines the performative ways in which political apologies (re)negotiate and (re)make embodied gendered identities.

Ultimately, she argues that the ambivalent form of recognition offered by the performance of official apologies in these cases resulted in numerous unintended consequences, including opportunities for victims to demonstrate linguistic agencies. Political apologies for conflict-related sexual violence can therefore – indirectly – empower the gendered victims addressed.



## Cultures of Learning in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Dr. Richard Kirwan (Department of History, UL) and Dr. Liam Chambers (Department of History, MIC) convened a Centre for Early Modern Studies online series on Cultures of Learning in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe in Autumn Semester 2021. The first symposium on the theme of 'Scholarly Virtues and Vices' featured papers from Karen Hollewand (Utrecht), Sari Kivistö (Tampere) and Hannah Skoda (Oxford). The second symposium on 'Female Religious Cultures of Learning' incorporated papers from Cormac Begadon (Durham), Jaime Goodrich (Wayne State University) and Tonya J. Moutray (Russell Sage College, Troy NY). The final symposium on 'Knowledge, Learning and Student Notebooks' featured papers from Alexandra Baneu (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca), Maximilian Schuh (Freie Universität Berlin) and Raf van Rooy (Oslo/KU Leuven). Recordings of the papers are available on the CEMS YouTube channel.





## Dr. Lydia Bracken's report on LGBTI+ Parent Families in Ireland

Dr. Lydia Bracken's (Assistant Dean of Equality, Diversity and Inclusions, AHSS) report on LGBTI+ Parent Families in Ireland: Legal Recognition of Parent-Child Relationships was launched on the 22nd November 2021. The report is supported by the Irish Research Council New Foundations Scheme. It was launched as part of a webinar on the topic.

## Third Annual Irish Supreme Court Review Conference

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Cahillane and Dr. Eoin Quill (School of Law, UL) who both presented at the Third Annual Irish Supreme Court Review Conference. Dr. Cahillane presented on, 'Damache v Minister for Justice and the Inexorable March of Fair Procedures', and Dr. Quill presented on, 'Cantrell v AIB'. This event considers the major cases decided by the Supreme Court in the previous year, with the papers from the conference being published by Clarus Press in the third volume of the Irish Supreme Court Review journal in early 2022.



## DAAD funding success: Promoting German Studies in the UK and Ireland.

Congratulations to Prof. Gisela Holfter, Dr. Marieke Krajenbrink (Modern Language and Applied Linguistics) and Dr. Joe Twist (UCD) - joint chairs of the German Studies Association of Ireland, and Dr. Michaela Schrage-Frueh (NUI Galway) - Deputy Chair of the Business German in Ireland Working Group, for securing DAAD funding to promote German Studies in the UK and Ireland. The Project is entitled: "Exploring the past, enhancing the current position, and working towards 250 years of German Studies in Ireland".





## Faculty recipients of IRC Research Ally Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Hilary Moss (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance), Dr. Ciara Breathnach (Department of History) and Dr. John Lombard (School of Law) who were all recipients of individual IRC Research Ally Prizes. According to the IRC website, the Irish Research Council inaugural Research Ally Prizes were announced recently, as part of the Researcher of the Year Awards 2021. The Research Ally Prizes are a new national award category celebrating the role of mentors, supervisors, research officers and support staff in supporting and sustaining the Irish research community. 72 Research Allies were nominated by students and staff from across the Irish higher education and research system.

Research Allies are committed to supporting researchers across all career levels. They are an encouraging and instructive presence in academia, offering the practical and professional guidance, personal contact and wider networks that are key to academic fulfilment and success. They help to maintain a positive research environment that is free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

## Claire Ryan appointed Projects and Research Support Officer

Claire Ryan has moved into the role of Projects and Research Support Officer. Claire is working on developing and implementing processes around research funding applications and post award support in AHSS.

Please get in touch with [claire.ryan@ul.ie](mailto:claire.ryan@ul.ie) to discuss your experiences and research support needs.





## Visit of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Algeria

On Wednesday, 3rd November 2021, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Belaoura, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria made a visit to the University of Limerick. His Excellency met with UL President Prof. Kerstin Mey in Plassey House and then attended the Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship Group cultural event in the Kemmy Business School which included presentations from ISPhD students, music and poetry performances and also a touching tribute to our cherished student Chahrazed Chami.

## UL International PHD Bridging programme

A new UL International PhD Bridging programme has been designed by faculty in TESOL/Linguistics in conjunction with GPS and UL Global. The first intake onto the programme is a group of 19 students from universities in Indonesia who arrived in Limerick on the 29th of November 2021. Their stay is eight weeks in duration, and during this time, the students will develop their academic and general English, intercultural knowledge, and prepare for PhD study. The programme involves a series of workshops and meetings with ADRs to guide them as they prepare their PhD applications, and to help them to identify a PhD supervisor. The students will return to Indonesia at the end of January and develop their research proposals with a view to returning to UL in September 2022 to start their research.





# Postgraduate research



## Postgraduate research activity update

On 19 November 2021, as part of the AHSS Professional Development Programme for AHSS postgraduate researchers, a lunchtime seminar was organised by Dr. Niamh Lenahan. At the 'Welcome Back and Induction Seminar', Executive Dean AHSS, Prof. Shane Kilcommins spoke to the participants and drawing on his own experiences of undertaking a PhD, he emphasised how resilience and work ethic would ensure that students undertaking a PhD, would see their study to completion. **Dr. Chris Fitzgerald** gave an insight into publishing possibilities from a postgraduate student's perspective. He noted that publishing signifies your contribution into a research community.

**Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann** welcomed all the newly registered PhDs to the AHSS research community and emphasised the importance of engaging and keeping in touch with the AHSS PhD community through attendance at the many organised events. **Dr. Niamh Lenahan** outlined her role as Research Co-ordinator and highlighted the range of supports provided to them such as the calendar of PhD Development Seminar series, financial supports and access to a vibrant research community.

**Michelle Daly** and **Robyn Cunneen**, both postgraduate researchers gave an overview of their involvement in two projects, the **Limerick Irish Algerian Friendship group (LIAF)** and the **Tell Your Own Story (TYOS)** and informed attendees they would welcome new members. These presentations gave an indication of how the AHSS postgraduate community are supportive of multicultural projects, their engagement with Limerick city events and are involved in media campaigns promoting diversity.

**Pattie Punch**, AHSS Librarian introduced herself to the AHSS community. Pattie noted there are lots of supports available to the postgraduate community within UL and encouraged the students to keep in contact with her. She stated that students undertaking a PhD must have good organisational skills and work practices to help them during their PhD journey.






## Postgraduate Researcher profile: **Bláithín O'Shea**

Bláithín O'Shea is a 3rd year PhD student in the School of Law. Bláithín graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Law Plus (LLB) from UL in 2017 and later obtained a First Class Honours in her Masters of Law (LLM) from UCD in 2019. During her Master's, Bláithín developed an interest in human rights law. She was particularly interested in human rights from a criminal justice perspective as well as human rights in the contexts of persons with disabilities. In September 2019, under the supervision of Dr Alan Cusack and Dr Susan Leahy, Bláithín began her doctoral studies in UL. The early stages of her PhD focussed on understanding how persons with intellectual disabilities experience the criminal justice system. It was quickly realised through research that persons with intellectual disabilities are over-represented in the prison population and evidence shows there is little to no emphasis on rehabilitating these persons to allow them to re-integrate effectively back into society. Bláithín's PhD takes a socio-legal approach to investigate whether the principle of prison as a last resort would be a suitable model for persons with intellectual disabilities. Her thesis examines this principle from both a pre-conviction lens (i.e. diversion) and post-conviction lens (i.e. the use of non-custodial sanctions). It is hoped that through this research, recommendations can be formulated to promote changes in policy and practice that will bolster the rights and outcomes for persons with intellectual disabilities in the Irish criminal justice system.



A portrait of Sean O'Rourke, a young man with short brown hair and light eyes, wearing a white shirt, a dark patterned vest, and a red patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a light grey gradient.

## Postgraduate Researcher Profile – Sean O'Rourke

Sean is a third year PhD student in the School of English, Irish, and Communication working in the field of Irish Gothic studies. His interest in the Irish Gothic began as an undergraduate studying 19th century Irish writing for his undergraduate thesis. After working as a computer and ESL teacher at a community centre in Houston, Texas, work that underlined the importance of community and the ways in which communities often neglect the vulnerable, that interest evolved further through a Fulbright grant to study 19th century Irish writing at University College Cork. He became especially interested in the 19th century Irish gothicist Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, whose work powerfully questions the validity and efficacy of authority and even of particular understandings of reality held in common among community members. Encountering Dr Tina Morin during his MA led him to UL as an ideal place to continue researching Le Fanu.

His current dissertation deals with this topic, exploring Le Fanu's depictions of how communities build coherent schemes of reality, how those visions of reality can be vitally flawed and oppressive, and how such a reality can be undermined. As such, Le Fanu's fiction can be understood to powerfully and viscerally comment on his own historical moment, where paradigms of scientific and socio-political reality were under threat, and our own. Sean hopes his thesis can support the capacity of Irish Gothic literature to comment on the flawed social structures we uphold in our own communities and the conditions under which those might be challenged and deteriorated.



# Samhain presentations of research

The Irish World Academy is home to over 40 postgraduate research students, the vast majority of whom engage in PhD research. Some researchers are completing projects with traditional, text-based outputs, while others are registered on the PhD in Arts Practice. While students on the PhD in Arts Practice produce text-based research outputs, their work specifically includes aspects of practice. The work of both groups of researchers reflects the whole range of expertise represented in the Academy and beyond. Once a year, the work of this exceptionally rich research community is showcased in a series known as Samhain.

This year presentations occurred online from the 1st - 4th of November 2021

## AHSS Professional Development Series – December 2021 hosted by the AHSS Graduate Research Centre

Elaine Kiely, Careers Advisor, Cooperative Education and Careers Division helped students to understand and recognise their own skills and competencies. Taking time to reflect and document the skills students accumulate during the time in UL is extremely important. Students should practice how to verbalise their skills by 'telling your research story' and to write down their skills, create a system to store and update this information. Think of this process as a 'self-audit'. It is important to think ahead and look at current career opportunities, look at job advertisements, this can inform students on the requirements that will assist their future careers. Elaine provided links to sites to assist students with planning and developing transferable skills.

Dr. Niamh Nic Ghabhann spoke about Understanding Research Impact and its importance in terms of pursuing funding opportunities and securing future careers. As well as considering options within their own research, Dr. Nic Ghabhann encouraged students to seek out interdisciplinary projects and to learn from these. Students who wish to apply for funding will be required to include evidence of their research and be able to highlight their research impact. Students were encouraged to look at Research Excellent Framework (REF), a research measuring tool as well as other useful resources such as Shape-ID. Dr. Nic Ghabhann encouraged students to get better at communicating the full range of AHSS Research Impacts and to think about other ways of communicating their research beyond publications such as through films, performances, exhibitions, and media platforms. These different examples may assist in opening up new options and avenues for postgraduates in future pathways in both academia and beyond academia.





## Traveller Community Scholarship

The [University of Limerick Foundation](#) has awarded a Traveller Community Scholarship to Irish comedian and presenter, Martin “Beanz” Warde, to complete an MA in Journalism at the University of Limerick. Speaking about the award, Martin said: “I’m delighted to have been awarded this scholarship, as I feel that it’s important for Irish media to be more diverse, drawing on marginalised voices in order to more accurately report on news. Up until now, all journalist perspectives about have been from outside the Travelling Community, so hopefully my vantage point as a Traveller will help to remedy this.”

Dr Fergal Quinn, Course Director of the MA in Journalism, said: “Martin is the first person from the Traveller Community to have applied for our MA in Journalism since its inception, and that in itself is indicative of the access and cultural issues that inhibit participation by the Traveller community in the media. His regular, high quality, multimedia output and commitment to doing journalism make him a very worthy recipient of this scholarship”.

## EDI World Cafe

An online ‘EDI World Café’ took place in the faculty on 8 December 2021, organised by Dr Lydia Bracken, (Assistant Dean Equality Diversity and Inclusion) and facilitated by Dr Chris McNerney, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, with assistance provided by Oonagh Grace, Katie Mcauliffe, Claire Ryan and Caroline Harrington.

The world café was a structured conversational process for knowledge sharing on equality diversity and inclusion (EDI) priorities in AHSS. As part of the session, participants were presented with questions about EDI and engaged in open discussions with colleagues in breakout rooms. The key conversation points were documented, and the identified priorities will inform future planning for EDI initiatives in the faculty. This will include updating the AHSS Athena SWAN action plan to reflect broader EDI priorities in line with the expanded Athena SWAN Ireland Charter; informing the development of the AHSS EDI Strategy; and feeding into the next iteration of UL’s Equality and Human Rights





# Communication across Cultures and the Climate Movements



Arts students in AHSS are participating in the programme Cultural Encounters to discuss and contribute to the ongoing conversation about climate change. This programme is based on Virtual Exchange and is embedded in the broadening module Communication across Cultures, which is offered by the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics.

Communication across Cultures strongly aligns with the UL strategic goal of internationalisation, which among other objectives, aims at 'Embedding global perspectives into the curriculum, fostering cross-cultural competencies' (University of Limerick, Strategic Plan 2019-2024, p. 24.). This course offers to students an opportunity to engage in learning about language and intercultural communication and brings an inclusive internationalisation experience to those who do not have the possibility to study abroad.

The module brings the concept of intercultural learning to life in a way that is engaging and allows students to critically evaluate the importance of culture and language in intercultural communication. The first part of the course explores views of identity, culture, and intercultural communication including the role of language. Students reflect on their own cultural identities and how these might have informed their interpretations of the "other". The second part of the course is the practical part when the students engage in Virtual Exchanges, which provide them with the opportunity to achieve some of the learning outcomes, i.e. demonstrate and practise skills of intercultural communicative competence, cultural awareness and intercultural awareness and/or embrace with a deeper understanding of people from different cultural backgrounds in real life situations. The Virtual Exchange programme is provided by the non-profit organization [Sharing Perspectives Foundation](#). Their programme Cultural Encounters, initiate, stimulate and facilitate international and intercultural dialogue and collaboration to foster skills, knowledge and open attitudes among students, in this case through Virtual Exchanges. Participants in the online exchanges come from around Europe and South Mediterranean countries who engage in on-line facilitated dialogue sessions to discuss the topic of climate movement.



# Gorm Media: This is 'Them' online series

From 25 October to 22 November 2021, Gorm Media presented This is "Them", an online series that sees through the lens of people from 5 different backgrounds in Ireland, taking place across 5 weeks on YouTube Premiere.

Gorm Media is an impact focused digital media company that curates common ground through conversations that matter. Their mission is to spark a movement of unity and shared understanding through high quality digital media that captures the nuances, stories and experiences of our community.

In a new innovative approach to digital media, This is "Them" takes 16 Gen Zs and Millennials aged 18-35 from various communities 'answered the questions you've always wanted to ask'. Shot in the Belltable Hub in Limerick City from the 25th of October 2021 to 22nd November 2021, Gorm delivered the online series to debunk stereotypes, answer awkward questions and add nuance to the experiences of young Autistic Women, Afro-Irish People, Muslim Women, Bi-racial people and Queer Men.

Streaming free on [YouTube Premiere](#), those within and outside these community groups are encouraged to join in understanding the experience of those taking part in the series and ask more questions. Gorm believes that in open communication, transformation can happen if we see each other for who we all fundamentally are, humans worthy of dignity and respect.

To produce this pilot, Gorm has partnered with Klink Studios and was partially funded by the UL Foundation Social Innovation Award.

Speaking about the pilot, Mamobo Ogoro, Founder of Gorm Media said "We are so excited to finally release our long-awaited pilot project. As a social psychologist, a lot of the work I do engages with diverse communities however I saw a gap in the intercultural/intergroup engagement in Ireland. Therefore, with a breath of curiosity, conversation and creativity, This is "Them" highlights a fresh, fun, diverse, accessible, and exciting way to engage with the Ireland of today, and show that there is always more to "Them"."



## Workshop on Easy-Read Notice of Rights for Vulnerable Suspects

On Friday, 1 October 2021, Prof Gautam Gulati from the School of Medicine and Dr Alan Cusack from the School of Law, at the University of Limerick convened, and led, a landmark focus group aimed at informing the design of an Easy-Read Notice of Rights Form for vulnerable suspects.

The session was conducted with colleagues at University College Cork, National University of Ireland, Galway and the University of Cambridge and it was attended by national and international experts in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, law, policing and speech and language therapy. Representatives from national disability bodies also attended the Focus Group and, perhaps most importantly, three active members from An Garda Síochána attended the online seminar thereby providing important operational input into the design, layout and content of the proposed new Easy-Read Notice of Rights Form.

Drawing upon the findings of this Focus Group, a revised Easy-Read Notice of Rights will now be prepared. This new document will then be reviewed by persons with lived experience of intellectual disability to get further feedback on its accessibility. It is hoped that the final format of the document will be presented to An Garda Síochána in the coming months.

The development of an Easy-Read Notice of Rights can be viewed as an important step in the direction of meeting Ireland's obligations under UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Convention on Human Rights. It also ensures that Ireland, through the research activism of the University of Limerick, is progressing #SDG16 Peace and Justice.

# Students

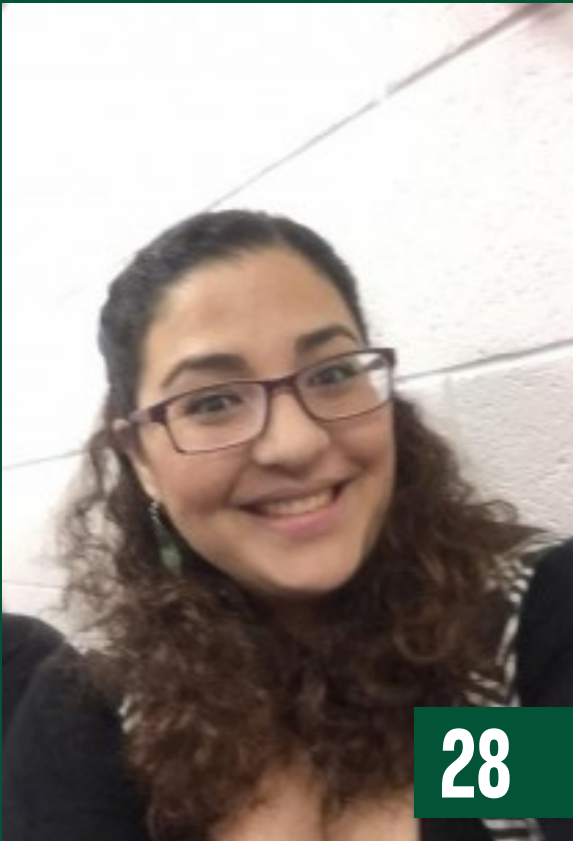


## Student Emma Sexton wins 2021 Moxon–Brown prize for best FYP: BA European Studies

Congratulations to Emma Sexton on winning the 2021 Moxon-Browne Prize for the best Final Year Project submitted by a student of the BA in European Studies this year. The Prize consisting of a scroll and an airline voucher to help with future travels in Europe was announced at the first meeting with the new first year students of the BA European Studies. In attendance was the prize sponsor Prof. Emeritus Edward Moxon-Browne, FYP supervisor Dr. Liam Murray, and BA European Studies Course Director, Dr Sorcha de Brún. Emma represented Ireland from the 29 September – 4 October 2021 at the European Championships in Bruges. She is also continuing her studies with UL on the new MA in European Studies.

## GOI Post–Doctoral Research Scholarship: Dr. Hala Jaber

Congratulations to Dr Hala Jaber, who has been awarded a prestigious GOI postdoctoral research scholarship. Dr Jaber's postdoctoral project, "Music on the Move: Music as a Tool of Social Inclusion in the Context of Post-Conflict Migration" will form part of the work of the PART-IM (Participatory and Arts-Based Methods Involving Migrants in Health Research) research cluster led by Prof Helen Phelan and supported by the Health Research Institute. Further information available [here](#).







## Practice-based learning for the History Department's MA Students

This semester nineteen postgraduate students have been studying towards the 'Linking Families to Communities' module. The course, led by Dr. Rachel Murphy, incorporates practice-based learning, students' assignments being designed to contribute to an academic project: Death and Burial Data: Ireland 1864-1922. Across the course of the semester students have been undertaking research to uncover the stories of people who died in Dublin in 1911. These individual stories were then written up as blog posts and will be published on the project website in early 2022.

Students worked with records relating to one of the poorest areas of south Dublin city where many of the inhabitants lived in crowded tenement buildings and unsanitary conditions, often leading to sickness and disease. To contextualise these studies, in Week 7, Dr. Rachel Murphy and Stuart Clancy (IRC Laureate Scholar) led the students on a field trip to Dublin. In the morning students were given a tour of Glasnevin Cemetery. After this they visited two indoor exhibitions: 'Extra-ordinary Lives' which centres on the stories of some of those who were laid to rest in Glasnevin, and 'Cities of the Dead' an interactive exhibition that examines funeral traditions across different geographies and time-periods.

In the afternoon students visited the award-winning 14 Henrietta Street Museum, a former tenement building located in Dublin's northside near to the King's Inns and Registry of Deeds. They saw how No. 14 had transformed from an elite Georgian townhouse to an overcrowded tenement housing more than one hundred people by the time of the 1911 census. Students were able to observe the living conditions that families would have experienced in the tenements; in many cases one family occupied a single room.

In Week 12, the postgraduates attended a Transcribathon. During the 3-hour session, they worked in teams to transcribe historical death records from the 1911 census and enter the information into an app that has been developed for the Death and Burial Data project in collaboration with Prof. Tiziana Margaria and her team at LERO. The class was joined by Dr. Ciara Breathnach and the three IRC laureate scholars Ian Walsh, Rafflesia Khan and Stuart Clancy, as well as Enda O'Shea from LERO. Once the students have completed the work the data from the transcribed records will be mapped using GIS to analyse deaths in Dublin during 1911 from a spatial perspective.





# Aoibhinn Béithe an Scoláire: An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta 2021

Bhuail roinnt mhac léinn ón Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge Fheidhmeach, Aonad na Gaeilge agus scata mac léinn MA as Léann na Gaeilge an bóthar ó dheas i mí na Samhna seo imithe tharainn le géabh a thabhairt ar Ghaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne, le páirt a ghlacadh sa bhFéile Bheag Filíochta. Ócáid bhliantúil atá sa bhFéile, agus ainm in airde uirthi i bhféilire Ealaíona na Gaolainne. Bhailigh na mic léinn agus muintir na háite le chéile mar aon leis na léachtóirí Sorcha de Brún, Dubhán Ó Longáin agus John Prendergast chun freastal ar sheoladh leabhair, ar léamhanna filíochta, ar shiúlóidí liteartha, agus ar cheardlann filíochta. Cuireadh clabhsúr ar an bhFéile oíche Dé Sathairn i dTigh Uí Chatháin ar an mBuailtín, teach tábhairne cáiliúil Bhaile an Fhéirtéaraigh a bhfuil clú air mar bhaile don chlub amhránaíochta 'Siar Ó Thuaidh', ardán don sean-nós agus teampall d'ealaíona comhaimseartha na Gaeltachta. Bhain na rannpháirtithe súp as an bhFéile, agus chuir criú TG4 a bhí i mbun scannánaíochta sa dúthaigh leis an mbús. Go deimhin, bhí na cluasa ar bior nuair a chuir Dubhán Ó Longáin dán dá chuid i láthair oíche Dé hAoine i dTigh Bhric Bhaile an Reannaigh. Go mbeire Ollscoil Luimnigh beo ag an bhFéile arís!



## Student Francis Donnelly wins Scholarship for Study in Japan

Francis Donnelly, a third year Applied Languages student, has been awarded the 2021 Dr and Mrs Ushioda Scholarship organised by the Ireland Japan Association.

The Dr and Mrs Ushioda Scholarship was established in 2019 by the Ireland Japan Association in commemoration of the Ushiodas' work in the development of the association and in promoting deeper relationships between Ireland and Japan. The scholarship is awarded to students of the University of Limerick or Dublin City University who are going to study in Japan.





# The Publication of Unapologetic

On the 20th of October 2021, Unapologetic magazine was published online on [www.unapologeticmag.net](http://www.unapologeticmag.net). The founders of magazine, Gareth Brinn, Sandrine Ndahiro, and Professor Harper asked the contributors to reflect on the theme of 'Change Makers'. Each reader engaged with the theme in a unique manner. There are topics that discuss the Black and Irish identity, Queer issues, Migration, Direct Provision, and many more interesting topics. There are no two pieces of work within this magazine that are the same. Gareth, Sandrine, and Professor Harper set out with the goal of bringing together academics, artists, activists, and creatives. This issue meets this goal as there are academic papers, personal essays, poetry, and Fiction/Non-Fiction.



Also, there is a multitude of visual work throughout the issue that also explore the theme of Change Makers. Two of the founders, Gareth Brinn and Sandrine Ndahiro also contributed two pieces to the magazine. Gareth wrote a personal essay entitled 'What if?' and Sandrine Ndahiro wrote an academic paper entitled 'Racial Issues in the Irish Context'. This issue is truly a reflection of contemporary Irish society and the issues that Irish society faces today.

This issue was truly a group effort. Gareth, Sandrine, and Professor Harper would like to thank the Assistant Editors Bríd, Fiona, and Chloe. They worked with us throughout the entirety of the process and helped shape the magazine into what it is today. We also want to thank the Board, which consisted of academics, artists, activists, and creatives. The Board included following members of UL staff and Alumni: Professor Eoin Devereux, Dr James Carr, Dr Aileen Dillane, and Dr Alena Kiel. We will forever be grateful for their support and guidance.

We also want to thank our web developer, Anthony Carey. Anthony Carey, a final year student in Product Design, designed the magazine and the website which houses the magazine. Without Anthony, this magazine simply would not exist. If you would like to follow our magazine, we are on Twitter ([@unapologetic111](https://twitter.com/unapologetic111)), Instagram ([unapologetic\\_mag](https://www.instagram.com/unapologetic_mag)), and we have our website ([www.unapologeticmag.net](http://www.unapologeticmag.net)).

Unapologetic acknowledges the financial support of Irish Aid, awarded through the STAND Ideas Collective Program.

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## Undergraduate History Students' Field Trip to Galway

Dr. David Fleming and Dr. Sean Whitney led a second-year early modern history class to Galway city in Week 10. Using the wonderful seventeenth-century pictorial map of Galway city, reproduced by the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project of the Royal Irish Academy, students identified what remains of early modern Galway, particularly its defensive walls, town houses and towers, church and port. Students grappled with the symbolism of early modern material culture, drawing from their learning in class.

## Creating our future consultation

Students on the AH4005 Introduction to Public Humanities module contributed their ideas and research questions to the national 'Creating Our Future' consultation. 'Introduction to Public Humanities' is a module that encourages students to draw connections between their core critical, creative, and interpretative skills as arts and humanities students with the key 'wicked problems' and research challenges facing the contemporary world. In order to explore how arts and humanities researchers, educators, and practitioners are engaging with grand research challenges such as the Sustainable Development Goals, students explore a number of 'Humanities in Action' case studies. These range from the 'Mothers of Invention' climate podcast by comedian Maeve Higgins and former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, to the 'The Second Hand of the Clock' (2017), a Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust commission by Tom Flanagan and visual artist Marielle MacLeman.

While this module is delivered online, students worked together in groups to design an interdisciplinary research project, and these were submitted to the 'Creating Our Future' research consultation. Rebecca Wilson from Science Foundation Ireland joined our virtual lecture sessions to brief the students on the consultation where she let them students know that their contributions would be part of the overall report presented to government, and which will have an impact on the future research funding landscape. Many thanks to Rebecca Wilson for engaging with our module, as well as Dr Jessica Brown (forum coordinator on the module), and all the guest lecturers and speakers who contribute to the module each year.







# Our graduates

## Emma Langford Longlisted for Grammy Awards

Limerick folk singer and MA Songwriting graduate Emma Langford has made the longlist for the 64th Grammy Awards in two categories, Album of the Year and Song of the Year.

Langford released her now Grammy-contesting album 'Sowing Acorns' in September 2020 to critical acclaim, with 'The Winding Way Down to Kells Bay' and 'Birdsong' becoming fast favourites amongst old and new fans alike.

## MA Journalism graduate Mostafa Darwish receives award for investigative Journalism work

Mostafa Darwish, UL MA Journalism Graduate and reporter with the Irish Examiner won an award in the investigative journalism category at the Newsbrands Ireland Journalism awards, for his investigative special report into deaths in direct provision in Ireland.

Read Mostafa's winning entry [here](#).





A photograph of a person standing in a snowy landscape. The person is in the foreground, facing the camera, and appears to be wearing a dark, possibly wet, garment. Snow is falling around them. In the background, a child in a red jacket and dark pants is walking away from the camera. The scene is set in a park-like area with a wooden fence and trees in the distance.

***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and  
a prosperous New Year***

***from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences***