

# Centre *news*

No. 14      October 2012

## Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter!

The time since our last newsletter in May 2011 has been a particularly busy and exciting one. This edition will reflect this. We will introduce you to some of our new members, keep you informed of past and future events, tell you about exciting new endeavours such as the MA in Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick, bring in a new feature on personal Irish-German encounters (“Looking back”) and also ask you for your support, especially for our postgraduate students (please see back page).

## New Members

We are happy to welcome a number of valued colleagues from the University of Limerick from a range of disciplines as members of the Centre for Irish-German Studies: PD Dr Monika Albrecht (Comparative Literature), Dr Sinead Crowe (German), Dr Sean Donlan (Law), Dr David Fleming (History), Jan Frohburg (Architecture), Dr Alistair Malcolm (History), Prof Tony McElligott (History). We introduce some of them more extensively in the following paragraphs. The others will feature in the next newsletter.

**Dr Monika Albrecht** received her doctorate at the University of Münster, Germany, and her Habilitation in 2009 at the University of Salzburg, Austria. Her second monograph “Europa ist nicht die Welt’: (Post)Kolonialismus in Literatur und Geschichte der westdeutschen Nachkriegszeit” appeared in 2008 at Aisthesis Publishing House. She is a member of the research network “Postkoloniale Studien in der Germanistik” funded by the German Research Council. Her current research comprises several papers that aim to clarify the question of a postcolonial Germany and focuses on a project on the perception of minorities in literature and film by German-born writers and directors. Together with Dr Gisela Holfter and Dr Godela Weiss-Sussex (London/Cambridge) she is organising a joint conference of the Centre for Irish-German Studies

and the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, in February 2014.

**Dr Sinéad Crowe** is a Teaching Assistant in German at the University of Limerick. She completed her PhD on contemporary German theatre at Trinity College Dublin in 2008 and has also taught German at Queen's University Belfast. Her first book, *Religion in Contemporary German Drama*, will be published by Camden House in 2013. Her current research focuses on aging in German culture and literature and she is the organiser of the upcoming colloquium on 'Aging in German and Irish Society and Culture' on 7 November 2012 (for more info on this see upcoming events).

**Dr David Fleming** is a lecturer in UL's Department of History. Following his undergraduate degree in Limerick he went to Oxford for his MA and PhD. His research interests include early modern Ireland; history of localities; *political, social and cultural aspects of eighteenth-century Ireland*. He will shortly publish a piece in an edited collection on the Taaffe family, Catholic nobles resident in the Hapsburg (Austrian) Empire in the eighteenth century. His paper traces the development of the family's Irish ancestral estates in Sligo.

**Dr Michaela Schrage-Frueh** studied English, German and American literature at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (1992-1999) and at University College Galway (1994-95). In 2003 she received her doctorate in English Literature for a thesis on contemporary Irish women's poetry (*Emerging Identities: Myth, Nation and Gender in the Poetry of Eavan Boland, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Medbh McGuckian*. Trier: WVT, 2004). From 2001 to 2012 she was lecturer in the Department of English and Linguistics in Mainz and also taught classes at the Waterford Institute for Technology, the University of Koblenz-Landau and the University of Duisburg-Essen. Since September 2012 she is UL's DAAD-Lektor. Her research interests are varied, but mostly focus on contemporary Irish poetry and fiction and she has published widely in this area.

## New Advisory Board

We have received the support of a number of senior colleagues who agreed to become members of a new Advisory Board and welcome Prof Meg Harper (Glucksman Chair in English), Dr Huw Lewis (Dean Graduate Studies), Prof Mary O'Sullivan (Dean, Education and Health Sciences) and Prof Dermot Walsh (Centre for Criminal Justice, AHSS). It is anticipated that this board will be further extended externally over the next year and that the Advisory Board together with the Patrons of the Centre, the Ambassadors of Austria, Germany and Switzerland will advise the Centre for Irish-German Studies on direction and policy matters.

## Events since May 2011

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference in Irish-German Studies** by the Centre for Irish-German Studies was the first to take place outside the University of Limerick. Jointly organized by **Dr Joachim Fischer** and **Rolf Stehle**, Director of the Goethe-Institut, the two-day conference “Contemporary German-Irish Cultural Relations in a European Perspective: Exploring issues in cultural policy and practice” marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Goethe-Institut Irland and took place on 6-7 May 2011 in the Goethe-Institut in 37, Merrion Square, Dublin. It was formally opened by the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairí Quinn, T.D. and the German Ambassador Busso von Alvensleben.

The keynote lecture was given by renowned Germanist Paul Michael Lützeler of Washington University, St. Louis, who addressed the European and American dream as seen by literary writers. In the first session, Max Fuchs and Andreas Wiesand spoke on German perspectives on external cultural policy. In the afternoon, Doris Pack, Katherine Watson and Horia-Roman Patapievici covered the issue of culture and cultural policy within the EU, followed by a panel discussion in which Mary Cloake, Eugene Downes, Catherine Morris and Willie White discussed Irish perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for cultural policy in times of economic crisis. On Saturday, Joachim Fischer started the day with a retrospective on the Goethe-Institut in Ireland and Irish perceptions of Germany 1961 – 2011, Rolf Stehle then talked about the aims and strategies of

the Goethe-Institut Irland today. Gisela Holfter discussed the changes and continuities in the German image of Ireland 1961-2011 that followed Heinrich Böll's seminal *Irishes Tagebuch* (1957), while Claire O'Reilly viewed German-Irish economic ties and their interdependence with the cultural sphere. The final session was devoted to language teaching and language policy in Ireland with papers by Maeve Conrick (UCC) and Arnd Witte (NUI Maynooth). A concluding panel discussion chaired by Andreas Hoeschen (DAAD, London) addressed the question of what the future holds for *Germanistik* in Ireland.

The proceedings of the conference were published in the sixth volume of *Irish-German Studies*. 'Contemporary German-Irish Cultural Relations in a European Perspective – Exploring Issues in Cultural Policy and Practice' was launched at the June 2012 function to mark the departure of **Rolf Stehle** after his time at the helm of the Goethe-Institut Irland after a very productive and fruitful time in Dublin. We wish him well for his new position as Director of the Goethe Institut in Kuala Lumpur and welcome his successor Mechtild Manus.

### Centre activities in Berlin

Three months later, the Centre moved not only out of Limerick for its next conference but out of Ireland. A joint conference at the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science (BBAW) with UL's Centre for Irish-German Studies attracted an audience of over 120 people on 11 and 12 August 2011. The topic of the **13<sup>th</sup> Conference in Irish-German Studies** was Friedrich Engels' attempt to write a history of Ireland. He only finished two chapters but in the course of his research he filled more than 600 pages (mostly unpublished) with notes from over 150 books and manuscripts. What is also little known is that he even learned Irish and married an Irish woman. Conference organisers **Dr Jürgen Herres** (BBAW) and **Dr Gisela Holfter** (Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick) brought together ten speakers looking at different aspects of Engels' (and Marx's) engagement with Ireland and the Irish cause. The Irish Embassy, conveniently located just across from the Academy of Sciences, invited all participants to a convivial evening reception. Irish Ambassador in Berlin **Dan Mulhall** had also contributed to the

conference with a lively paper. In fact, he has a personal link to the University of Limerick, having lectured here and at UCC before starting his diplomatic career.

The conference was widely reported upon in a number of top German media outlets, including daily newspapers such as the *Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung*, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and a report and interview on *Deutschlandradio*, adding to the Centre's presence internationally.



Picture (left to right) of the ten speakers at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference in Irish-German Studies: Dr Regine Roth (BBAW), Professor Sean McGonville (Queen Mary, London), Emeritus Professor Eoin Bourke (Galway), Dr Eberhard Illner (Wuppertal), Professor James Brophy (Univ Delaware), Professor Gisela Mettele (Jena), Professor Detlev Mares (Darmstadt), Dr Jürgen Herres (BBAW), Dr Gisela Holfter (UL) and H.E. Dan Mulhall (Irish Ambassador to Germany) in the Einstein Hall in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences.

Due to the great success of the conference, Gisela Holfter and Jürgen Herres were invited to be guest editors of the distinguished *Marx-Engels Jahrbuch 2011*. All speakers contributed with extended and reworked papers and the Yearbook appeared on time in June 2012 with the focus on Engels and German-Irish relations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Also in Berlin, Gisela Holfter's monograph *Heinrich Böll and Ireland*, which was published in November 2011, was launched at a memorable event in the Irish Embassy on 26 January, just five days after a glowing review by John F. Deane in the *Irish Times*. The oversubscribed evening at the Irish Embassy included a showing of Böll's film *Irland und seine Kinder* and was attended by members of the Finance Committee of Dáil Éireann who happened to be in Berlin for discussions with their German counterparts. There could be no more appropriate setting for the Irish launch of the book than the Heinrich Böll weekend at Achill in early May and this time it was the new German Ambassador Dr Eckhard Lübke who presented the book with a very insightful speech (see also [http://www.dublin.diplo.de/Vertretung/dublin/en/\\_events/2012/Boell\\_2012\\_Rede.html](http://www.dublin.diplo.de/Vertretung/dublin/en/_events/2012/Boell_2012_Rede.html)). Furthermore, the RTE 1 programme *Arts tonight* with Vincent Woods on 30 April 2012 was entirely dedicated to the topic (you can listen to the podcast on [pod-v-300412artstonightpart1-pid0-1701144\\_audio.mp3](http://www.rte.ie/podcasts/300412artstonightpart1-pid0-1701144_audio.mp3) and [pod-v-300412artstonightpart2new-pid0-1701216\\_audio.mp3](http://www.rte.ie/podcasts/300412artstonightpart2new-pid0-1701216_audio.mp3))

## Successful start of new MA in Irish-German Studies

The new MA in Irish-German Studies is a unique one-year programme harnessing particular strengths in UL while combining with complementary existing MA programmes in Ireland, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It aims to attract highly qualified students who will benefit from a strongly interdisciplinary and internationally focussed academic programme and enables them to work and research in international contexts. All participating exchange programmes for the second semester have been chosen in order to provide students with expertise interrelated with and complementary to their studies in UL in semester one, giving students the chance to specialise in areas of their choice.

In accordance with the University's strategic plan, the programme will encourage and support the internationalisation of postgraduate studies. While students from the German-speaking countries will benefit from UL's strategic alliance with NUI Galway, a study abroad period at either Berlin, Bern, Jena, Lüneburg or Vienna is

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incorporated for postgraduates from Irish universities and non-German-speaking countries. The first cohort consists of students not only from Germany and Ireland but also Poland and Bulgaria.

Special thanks are due to **Dr Beate Schuler** and **Professor Dr h. c. Reinhold Würth** and the **Swiss Embassy** in Ireland who generously supported the endeavour and provided bursaries for fee waivers and/ or supported the lecture series.

## Looking back

*By Dr. Frank-Raymund Richter, Uhldingen-Mühlhofen*

**Hamburg, June 1972.**

I had just passed my first state examination – subjects English and German – and was very pleased with myself until my Professor told me: ‘I know you want to write a PhD thesis on H.G. Wells and his Fascist leanings. A very interesting idea, but I suggest that you first bring your English up to standard’. I should tell you that I had a secondary schooling in the classical humanities, i.e. I had a sound knowledge of Latin and Greek, but my English was fairly poor and my French was hardly existing, *but* I had taken my *Abitur*, my A-levels, and the *Abitur* qualified me for the general higher education.

**Belfast, October 1972.**

I arrived in Belfast to ‘bring my English up to standard’. I came as a DAAD-Lektor to Queen’s University of Belfast. And why did I go there? Because I was in a hurry, and nobody else felt like going to Belfast in those days. Professor Ron Finch, Head of the Department of German, was delighted to have a new lektor and I and my wife Elke, who had reluctantly left our digs in Hamburg, moved into Mount Charles no. 12, a proper lodging reserved for members of the university staff. My first impression of the German Department: What a cute little place! Accommodated in a beautifully old-fashioned Victorian terraced building, stairs creaking, bay windows letting in the light generously. If we Germans had not already developed the concept of ‘*Gemütlichkeit*’ here was a place of inspiration. And of course, Professor Finch was teaching German and Swedish – unfortunately no Russian, otherwise the classical set-up of a German Department at a British University in those days would have been complete. I loved that place.

The staff was fairly mixed. Apart from me there were two Germans, two Ulstermen, and two Englishmen, who could be subdivided into two categories: Birmingham and Oxford. What struck me were three things:

a) Belfast being a hostile place as far as public life like theatres, cinemas or pubs were concerned provoked an intensive private social life amongst the University staff, and the staff of the German department seemed to me like a big family, but as far as teaching or researching was concerned, everybody at the German department worked on their own.

b) In Hamburg in those days there was a great unrest sweeping across the campus and the current structures were fanatically questioned, whereas in Belfast the students' study programs and their academic life seemed to be clearly arranged and generally accepted. In Germany the first (and sometimes the second) semester was considered to be a first approach, where you had to learn the ropes. Tutors or guidance councillors were unknown, whereas in Belfast you had a very effective safety net. The student-lecturer ratio at the German Department was ideal. And what is more: In the humanities all students had at school studied the same authors and the same texts. My wife, who took the A-level in English at the School of Commerce in Belfast prior to taking up her studies in Cork, knew all the important facts about Milton, John Donne or Jane Austen and when she studied English at UCC she had no problems in following the lectures.

c) When I was offered to write an MA-thesis, I accepted at once, and I appreciated the freedom I had when planning my project on the "Danzig Saga" of Günter Grass. And when both my supervisor and the head of the department agreed that the project was worth being changed into a PhD-Thesis, I was delighted, but looking back I regret that there were no opportunities to discuss the basic approach or selected aspects in a continuous colloquium.

**My first impression of Belfast:** 'What a city. I do not even want to be buried here.' But it took just a few weeks to discover its hidden treasures. There was the off-licence in University Road, completely boarded up, its archaic wooden flooring creaking, from the Dickensian twilight ancient Mr. Trevor appeared. When I with my outlandish accent diffidently asked for a bottle of Port Wine to my

surprise I was offered to try a sample. I nipped carefully. Wow, what a wine! “Just hammer it down”, shouted Mr. Trevor cheerfully, “enjoy the dry finish.” Oh my, it was the best port I had ever tried. “How much is it”? I wanted to know and learned that this Port was not for sale. What a pity I could not have seen my face. This was l’art pour l’art at its finest and I learned my first lesson: The Irish, may they be from Ulster or the Republic, always have a sense for the unsuspected.

In those days Ulster was, as it was euphemistically called, a troubled area. I clearly remember the day when on a sunny Sunday we wanted to have an outing to Antrim Coast with our Mini Cooper, which still carried its North German registration plate. We joyfully manoeuvred the car through Ballymena, when we were suddenly caught in a hail of bottles, cobble stones and what have you. Rioters, RUC and the British soldiers were as surprised as we were when we showed up. A British soldier who had been stationed in Munsterlager in North Germany recognised our registration number and opened the barricade for us. I suppose hardly had we left the scene, the barrage of bottles, cobble stone and rubber bullets exploded again – but we did not look back.

### **Cork October 1974**

What a change. No checkpoints, no police who jumped at you when you were leaving the city centre with a newly bought and wrapped up scissor jack under your arm. No fear when entering a pub, a cinema or a theatre. After we had passed the intimidating checkpoint at Newry, we went without stop through Dublin straight to Cork. Instead of Guinness (“The Curse of England”), creamy Murphy’s in the pub. Instead of a local professor at the German Department, a native from Switzerland. Professor Schäublin, his senior lecturer from Hamburg and I, we constituted the staff of the German Department. Like in Belfast the department was housed in a three storied building of a highly private nature outside the campus - in contrast to the modern and functional science complex, which towered high above the campus.

Like at QUB I was in charge of the linguistic training of the first and second year students and of a course in modern German literature. Basically my life as a lektor (or as a foreign demonstrator, as it was

then called in the Republic), had not changed dramatically. What had changed were three things.

a) The Belfast drawl was replaced by the Irish brogue and I learned to love the Cork variation much better than the one of the Dubs or of, shall we say, the lads of Ballymagowan in Donegal. From then on I did not watch a film but a fil-um, the way the magic number of 'thirteen' was pronounced took me by complete surprise and the flow of the words, their intonation, was simply seductive. The brogue was one reason why I fell straight in love with Cork.

b) Another reason was the students. And this was not so, because they were mainly girls, but because they were so keen on completing their German. And they offered trustfully their linguistic experiments. I still remember how bemused I was when reading Anne Butler's essay. "Das Leben ist wie eine Granate". What did she mean? I asked her and she was surprised. "Well," she said, "life is like a pomegranate, isn't it?" Of course I agreed.

c) We had already realized that the moral standards in the Republic were different from those in Germany. When Elke at the age of 31 went to the GP to ask for the Pill he looked at her thoughtfully and then pronounced: "I suppose at your age you know what you are doing." But this was just child's play. Elke, with the German Abitur and the Belfast A-level took up her studies of English and German at UCC and life became more complicated, because we decided to have a baby. Our first child was born in early October 1976 in St. Finbarr's Hospital and thus we called him Holger Finbarr.

When organising her honours courses still in hospital Elke noticed that most of the English and German honour lectures were held at the same time due to a change in the English department.

The head of the English Department told Elke that as a married woman who now was also responsible for a child her studies wouldn't be that important to her, would they, and to illustrate his point he added that the wife of one of his lecturers – she had a temporary appointment – was better qualified than her husband who held a full lectureship, but "mind you, I would never offer her a permanent position." Still he agreed that the various lecturers of the English department gave Elke some tutorials and she passed her BA Honours in 1977.

d) A lot of representatives of the German culture passed through Cork. Some I remember with great pleasure, others still give me the creeps. There was the cultural attaché from the German embassy in Dublin. He immediately took charge of the department and wanted to know why I had ordered books by Günter Wallraff and Franz Josef Degenhardt for the German Department. “There surely exists more appropriate literature to represent Germany”.

I could have kissed Professor Schäublin when he crossed himself after the departure of the attaché and admitted there were times when he was glad that he was no German. But our Swiss professor would not have appreciated the kiss.

On the other side there were Wolfgang Hildesheimer, Jürg Federspiel, Heinz Ludwig Arnold and of course the poet Peter Huchel, a tragic figure, who confessed that after his move from East to West he had exchanged the dictatorship of the Party with that of the publisher.

### **The Return**

After five years we returned to Germany. What did we take with us from Ireland? My English



was up to standard, Elke had her BA Hon (which was then not recognized in Germany), I had my PhD (which was recognized after I had filled in a complicated form and paid 65 Deutschmarks), and of course our son Holger Finbarr.

What we still dream of: The pint of Murphy’s after a dive off Kilkee, the soft rain soaking gently your leather jacket, a professor’s car with its moss having settled comfortably behind the rusty head lights, a night in a pub in Carrick/Donegal, where ancient Mr Jones, accompanied by his daughter on the piano, played on his fiddle for us German guests an Irish reel. It took us a while till we discovered its “German” nature. Being played as an Irish reel ‘Under the Double Eagle’, the Austrian military march was stripped of all its martial pomp and glory and was turned into a piece of music full of life.

## Recent Publications

### Books

J. Fischer, R. Stehle (eds) *Contemporary German-Irish Cultural Relations in a European Perspective: Reflections on cultural policy and practice* (*Irish-German Studies* 6). Trier: WVT 2012.

G. Holfter, *Heinrich Böll and Ireland*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2011 (& paperback 2012).

Sabine Egger, John McDonagh (eds), *Polish-Irish Encounters in the New and Old Europe* (Reimagining Ireland series). Oxford: Peter Lang 2011.

J. Herres, G. Holfter, guest editor of the *Marx-Engels Jahrbuch 2011* (on Friedrich Engels 'Geschichte Irlands' (1869/1870) im Kontext der deutsch-irischen Beziehungen im 19. Jahrhundert).

### Selected articles / book chapters

M. Albrecht, 'Postcolonialism and migration into Germany's colonial past', in: *German Life and Letters* 65/3 (2012).

T. Päßlow and B. Schulz, Accurative stress and the development of a bicultural identity in Hugo Hamilton's *Nazi Christmas*, in *Litteratur och Språk*, no 6, 2010, pp. 58-80.

### Books due to be published in 2013

F. Lenehan, *Europe of the Regions. The History of an Idea in Germany, Britain and Ireland* (*Irish-German Studies* 7).

S. Egger (ed.), *Irish-German Biographies II – Translating Cultures* (*Irish-German Studies* 8).

## Coming up – dates for your calendar

### Lecture series of the Centre Autumn 2012 in UL

**11.10.2012 H.E. Beat Loeliger (Swiss Ambassador)**

Swiss-Irish relations (*in German*), 1pm in B1005A, Main Building

**18.10.2012 Prof Eda Sagarra (Trinity College Dublin)**

Aspects of historic and literary Austrian-Irish relations, 1pm in B1005A, Main Building, UL

**1.11.2012 Gabrielle Alioth (Terminfeckin / Zurich - supported by Pro Helvetia and the Swiss Embassy) & Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh (UL)**

Historical and current literary influences on images, 1pm in B1005A, Main Building, UL

**8.11.2012 H.E. Sean O'hUiginn (Dublin, former Irish Ambassador to Germany, Italy and the USA) tbc**

Linguistic, social and intercultural questions in bilateral relations, 1pm in B1005A , Main Building, UL

**15.11.2012 Jan Frohburg (UL Architecture) & Dr Gareth Cox (Head of Music, MIC)**

Cultural connections between Ireland and the German-speaking countries in arts, music and architecture (*first part in German* ) 1pm in B1005A, Main Building, UL

**29.11.2012 Professor Eoin Bourke (Galway/Berlin)**

Aspects of Irish-German relations past and present, focussing on German travel descriptions of Ireland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 3pm in B1005A, Main Building, UL  
followed by

**2012 Mulled Wine Reception of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, 29.11.2012** With a presentation of the main book publications in Irish-German Studies in 2011/2012, 5-7pm East Room, Plassey House, with Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan T.D.

**Colloquium 'Ageing in German and Irish Culture'**

7. November, 15:00-18:00, Wood Room, Plassey House

Organised by **Dr Sinead Crowe**

Speakers include Patricia Conboy (Dublin, Director of Older and Bolder); Prof Desmond O'Neill (Tallaght Hospital, Consultant Physician in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine); Dr Sinead Crowe (UL); Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh (UL) and Prof Billy O'Connor (Medical School, UL). All welcome!

## Looking towards 2013

German writer **Annette Pehnt** will read in Limerick 28.2. & 1.3.2013 thanks to the collaboration with NUI Galway and the DAAD writer-in-residence programme.

Swiss writer **Hansjörg Schertenleib** plans to come to Limerick in mid-March 2013 (supported by Pro Helvetia/Swiss Embassy).

## Other news

**Joachim Fischer**, co-founder and joint director of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, has been granted a well deserved sabbatical for 2012/2013. He will concentrate on his project on the German factor in Irish modernisation debates. Gisela Holfter is now left in charge of the Centre and glad to have the support of old and new members of the Centre.

Our DAAD Lektor **Andreas Damm** is returning to Germany. Just like Frank-Raymund Richter in the new “Looking back” column, he and his wife Marietheres will return with an addition to the family, young Helena. They will all be very much missed in Limerick.

Our UCC member of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, **Dr Claire O'Reilly** also had a baby girl, congratulations, Claire and Tom!

**Gisela Holfter** was appointed member of the P.E.N. Zentrum deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland (Exil PEN). Current president is the distinguished German writer Günter Kunert, secretary is Swiss-Irish writer Gabrielle Alioth.

**Jürgen Gottschalk** of the deutsch-irische Gesellschaft Würzburg enthralled students with his talks on early German-Irish connections on 20/21 September 2012. His plans to donate his extensive collection of German material on Ireland to the Centre book collection are gratefully noted.

Speakers from Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden and the UK contributed to a joint colloquium on help organisations for refugees 1933-1945 organised by the Centre and the **Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung** on 17 August 2012 at the TU Berlin.

## PhD Graduation

Congratulations to **Alice Mazurek** (AHSS scholarship holder) who successfully defended her PhD thesis on „Die Erinnerung liebt das Versteckspiel der Kinder“ – Der Erinnerungsprozess bei Günter

Grass' *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* and graduated in August 2011. The thesis was supervised by Dr. Gisela Holfter, internal examiner was Dr Marieke Krajenbrink and external examiner was Professor Edgar Platen (Göteborg, Sweden).

## Ongoing PhD research projects

**Dorothea Depner**, 'Beyond Nostalgia: Germany in Cultural Memory Constructions and Self-Representation in the Works of Christabel Bielenberg, Francis Stuart and Hugo Hamilton' (TCD; joint external supervisor J. Fischer).

**Antoinette McNamara**, 'Nazi-Children as Victims? Developments in the Representation of the Past in Recent German-speaking Literature' (M. Krajenbrink).

**Claudia Reese**, 'Multicultural Identity in Contemporary Irish Writing' (G. Holfter and T. O'Toole, English section, LLCC).

**Birte Schulz**, 'Questions of Identity – German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-1945' (G. Holfter).

**Martti Steinke** (IRCHSS postgraduate scholar), German-speaking refugees in Northern Ireland 1933 to 1945 (G. Holfter).

**Sara Eriksson**, *Tagebücher im Internetzeitalter – Medientheorie und autobiographisches Schreiben* (Universitet Stockholm, joint external supervisor G. Holfter).

## Selection of ongoing research projects

S. Egger, Images of "the European East" in contemporary German (and Irish) literature (book project).

J. Fischer, *Germany as a Factor in Irish Modernisation Debates, 1916–today: Closer to Boston than Berlin?* (Manchester Univ. Press).

G Holfter / H. Dickel (Wiesbaden), *German-speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-45*

G. Holfter / J. Herres (BBAW, Berlin), *Friedrich Engels and Ireland*.

F. Lenehan, *Georges Chatterton-Hill: Life and Work*.

J. aan de Wiel, "Ireland, East Germany and the Cold War, 1945-1990" (book project).

## Join us - Become a Friend and Supporter of the Centre for Irish - German Studies!

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