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Centre for Irish-German Studies

## Centre *news*

No. 18 September 2015



(on photo: Dr Deirdre Byrnes, NUI Galway, organiser; Dr Georg Krawietz, DAAD London; H.E. Matthias Höpfner, German Ambassador; Dr Jean Conacher (UL, organiser), Prof Tom Lodge (Dean AHSS) and Dr Gisela Holfter (Centre for Irish-German Studies, UL, organiser), 7 November 2014.

On 7 and 8 November 2014, the **15th Conference in Irish-German Studies** was held at the University of Limerick in conjunction with the DAAD. The conference entitled "25 Jahre Mauerfall - Reflections on GDR literature, its legacy and connections between the GDR and Ireland" was organised by academics from NUI Galway und the University of Limerick. Over the course of two days some seventy participants enjoyed presentations from Irish, German and British academics on GDR literature as well as on cultural, historical and media links between the GDR and Ireland.



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The conference was the second DAAD Alumni Conference organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies; DAAD Director Dr Georg Krawietz (London) opened the conference. The new German Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Matthias Höpfner, also addressed the conference. In addition to the stimulating papers and discussions, highlights included readings by acclaimed German authors Kathrin Schmidt (recipient of the German Book Prize, 2009) and Katja Lange-Müller (recipient of the Kleistpreis, 2013) and Derek Scally's launch of Jérôme aan de Wiel, *East German Intelligence and Ireland*, 1949-90; Espionage, Terrorism & Diplomacy. A selection of papers from the conference will be published in two volumes by Deirdre Byrnes, Jean Conacher and Gisela Holfter, the conference organisers.

Colloquium of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the Royal Irish Academy: "Reception of Refugees in Ireland – Legacy and Lessons"



Less than two weeks after our 15<sup>th</sup> conference, a colloquium on the reception of refugees was organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the Royal Irish Academy on 19 November 2014. The event which was supported by the Irish Research Council, looked at historical, political, cultural and literary aspects of refugees in Ireland. Speakers included Prof Bryan Fanning (UCD); Dr Gisela Holfter (UL); Dr Mark Maguire (NUI Maynooth); and Dr Siobhán O'Connor (Ennis CDP and formerly Doras Luimní). A roundtable discussion also featured Sue Conlan (CEO, Irish Refugee Council, Dublin). The colloquium was followed by the launch of the book

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*The Irish Context of 'Kristallnacht': Refugees and Helpers*, edited by Gisela Holfter (Irish-German Studies 8, Trier: WVT 2014). H.E. Thomas Nader, the Austrian Ambassador to Ireland, and H.E. Matthias Höpfner, the German Ambassador to Ireland, addressed the participants.

### Mulled Wine Reception in December

On 11 December 2014 the annual Mulled Wine Reception took place in Plassey House, this time in cooperation with the Irish Palatine Association. Rathkeale. It included short presentations of books published by members of the Centre for Irish-German Studies in 2014 and early 2015. Among the speakers were Prof. Eda Sagarra (TCD), Prof. Meg Harper (UL), Prof. Edward Moxon-Browne (UL), Dr Hermann Rasche (NUI Galway) and Dr Joachim Fischer (UL, Centre for Irish-German Studies). Books presented were: Fergal Lenehan, Intellectuals and Europe: Imagining a Europe of the Regions in Twentieth Century Germany, Britain and Ireland. (Irish-German Studies 7), Trier: WVT, 2014; Gisela Holfter (ed.), The Irish Context of 'Kristallnacht' - Refugees and Helpers. (Irish-German Studies 8), Trier: VWT, 2014; Sabine Egger (ed.), Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies (Irish-German Studies 9). Trier: WVT, 2015; Claire O'Reilly and Veronica O'Regan (eds), Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception. Baden Baden: Nomos, 2014; Jérôme aan de Wiel, East German Intelligence and Ireland, 1949-90; Espionage, Terrorism & Diplomacy. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014.

### Launch of *Cultural/Literary Translators*. Selected Irish-German Biographies II at conference on Translation in Ireland in NUI Galway, February 2015.

Edited by Dr Sabine Egger (Department of German Studies/Irish Centre of Transnational Studies, MIC), with contributions by Irish and international academics from various disciplines, professional translators, editors and writers, the volume contains biographical

sketches of thirteen 20th century translators and cultural figures, whose work and lives have been of significance to Irish-German cultural relations.

The book was launched by Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh (Registrar & Deputy President, NUIG) to conclude the IRC funded conference on "Word-Bridges: Translation in Ireland 1700-1900". Professor Ó Dochartaigh praised the publication, highlighting its value both as a work of reference for students and researchers and for a broader readership: "The book contains a number of fascinating life-stories, many of which are little known to Irish and German-speaking readers. It opens new perspectives on Irish-German cultural relations through a wider understanding of translation as a cultural performance. The volume brings these stories to life, making them accessible, while showing a high level of scholarship. Published by WVT as part of the book series Irish-German Studies, under the auspices of the Centre for Irish-German Studies at the University of Limerick, this demonstrates yet again the standing of Limerick as an international centre of excellence in transnational studies. I am delighted to have the opportunity to launch the book here in Galway this evening, not only because of my own academic interest in the area, but also to further strengthen academic links between NUIG and UL and MIC in Limerick."

### Judith Hermann in UL in March 2015

Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics and member of the Centre for German-Irish Studies) organised a highly successful stay of acclaimed German writer Judith Hermann as DAAD writer-in-residence. She revealed that the house in which her last book is set is actually in Limerick.

### Women and Ageing conference

From 20-22 May 2015, the University of Limerick hosted an international, interdisciplinary conference on "Women and Ageing: New Cultural and Critical Perspectives", organised by Dr Cathy McGlynn, Dr Maggie O'Neill (School of Culture and Communication) and Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh. 70 delegates from 16 different countries presented academic papers from a range of

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perspectives including cultural and literary studies, media studies and sociology and they also shared their personal experiences and stories of ageing. Some highlights of the three-day conference included a public talk by leading feminist Germaine Greer; a poetry reading by Northern Irish poet Medbh McGuckian, organised in conjunction with the Centre for German-Irish Studies; two keynote lectures presented by Professor Margaret Mills Harper (UL) and Dr Patricia Moran (UL); and a Roundtable chaired by Dr Tina O'Toole (UL), featuring a diverse range of speakers, including Dr Gisela Holfter (UL), Sue George, Professor Billy O'Connor (UL), Catherine Marshall (IMMA) and Dr Ailbhe Smyth.

The event received generous support from a variety of institutions, including the Irish Research Council under the "New Foundations" scheme; Fáilte Ireland; the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; the Centre for Irish-German Studies; Gender ARC; the School of Culture and Communication and the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics.

"Der Blick zurück – Literarische Grenzüberschreitungen in die Vergangenheit" (Looking Back – Literary Constructions of the Past), *Movens* Colloquium in Limerick May 2015



This conference took place at the University of Limerick on 28-30 May 2015 and was organised by Dr Gisela Holfter in cooperation with the Centre for Irish-German Studies, centre member Dr

Marieke Krajenbrink (UL) and former centre member Dr Monika Albrecht (Vechta) also contributed. Academics from five European countries (Ireland, Great Britain, Sweden, Slovenia and Germany) came together for this 3-day conference on German literature from medieval to contemporary times. The conference also included a reading by German author Renate Ahrens (who presented her current novel-in-progress "Fragen an die Nacht", the story of three generations of a Jewish family in Dublin) on 29 May and a masterclass for PhD students from UL on 30 May, conducted by Prof Dr Almut Hille, Göttingen/Berlin and Dr Robert Gillett, Reader in German at Queen Mary, University of London. The Movens network was founded in 2005 in Sweden. UL is one of the founding members. The concept of PhD Masterclasses was pioneered at the Centre for Irish-German Studies and has been a feature of the conferences since its first meeting in 2007. The event was supported by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the German Embassy, which also invited the delegates to a reception after the reading, with Cultural Attaché Barbara Schmidt in attendance.

### **International Literature Festival Dublin 2015**

An event on 'New Writing in German', chaired by Gisela Holfter, took place in Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, on 17 May 2015 with Swiss author Christian Kracht (who just returned from the Heinrich Böll Cottage on Achill), Austrian author Clemens Setz and German author Carmen Stephan, as part of this year's Dublin International Literature Festival. The event was presented in association with the Austrian Embassy Dublin, the Goethe-Institut Irland and the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland.

### RTÉ Lyric Fm Interval Talk "Writing Home – Felix Mendelssohn and His Letters"

Joachim Fischer featured as the voice of Felix Mendelssohn in the RTÉ Lyric Fm production "Writing Home: Felix Mendelssohn and His Letters". The interval programme formed part of a live broadcast of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* from the National Concert Hall

on Friday, 22 May 2015 within the Lyric Fm series *The Lyric Concert with Paul Herriott*.

### Joachim Gauck on 3 day state visit in Ireland

German president Joachim Gauck came to Ireland on an official state visit between 13-15 July 2015. Dr Joachim Fischer and Dr Gisela Holfter were honoured to be invited by Irish president Michael D. Higgins to the state banquet hosted in Áras an Uachtaráin on the first evening. The following day in Dublin included a reception in Farmleigh House. On his last day, President Gauck received an Honorary Doctorate from NUI Galway.

### Centre involved in successful ERAMUS+ bid

The Centre for Irish-German Studies is one of nine European partners in a 3 year ERAMUS+ project, named "CONNECT 2.0 - Intercultural Learning Network 4 Europe" which is led by a German team. Responsible on the Limerick side is Dr Gisela Holfter. The overall grant is about 0.35 million euro; UL's share is in the region of  $\notin$  30,000.

### Visit by a group of deputies from the *Landtag* Sachsen-Anhalt (Sachsen-Anhalt state parliament) in Ireland in July 2015

The *Ältestenrat* (senate) of the Sachsen-Anhalt *Landtag* (state parliament) visited Ireland on a fact-finding mission in early July. The group visited Dublin and the west of Ireland. On 6 July, Dr Joachim Fischer gave a presentation to the visitors in the residence of the German Ambassador in Dublin entitled "*Beyond the Pale*: deutsch-irische Anmerkungen zur Gegenwart aus nicht-Dubliner Perspektive".

### Invited presentation on MA in Irish-German Studies at IVG, Shanghai, China

Dr Gisela Holfter was invited to present a paper on the MA in Irish-German Studies at the world congress in German Studies that takes place every five years and was hosted by Tongji University, Shanghai, 23-31 August 2015. The session, on 'Germanistische Qualifikationen weltweit – Curricular und Berufsbilder von AuslandsgermanistInnen', was the only one sponsored by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

# Bandit Film Production Generate the State – The Story of the Shannon Scheme

Dr Joachim Fischer was academic consultant and features in the latest production by the independent film company Bandit Film, *Generate the State*, which tells the story of the Shannon scheme in Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare. The hour-long film was launched at the Galway Film Fleadh, 7-12 July 2015, and will be screened on TG4 later this year.



## Recent Publications (not including the five books mentioned above)

Sabine Egger, Elizabeth Shaw (1920-1992): The Irish Caricaturist who Left Her Mark on East German Children's Literature. In Sabine Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies II*, Irish-German Studies 9, WVT: Trier 2015, 71-94.

Sabine Egger, Introduction: On Cultural and Literary Translators. In S. Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies II*, Irish-German Studies 9, WVT: Trier 2015, 1-12.

Joachim Fischer, German Culture in Denis Johnston's (1901-1984) Life and Work: A Synopsis. In S. Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators* – *Selected Irish-German Biographies II*, Irish-German Studies 9, WVT: Trier 2015, 31-51.

Gisela Holfter (with Horst Dickel), Everyday Life of German-Speaking Refugees in Wartime Ireland. In *The Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Studies*, Vol. 14/2015, 107-130.

Gisela Holfter, Ludwig Hopf. In Ian Wallace (ed.), *Voices in Exile*, Amsterdamer Beiträge zur Germanistik, Leiden/Boston: Brill/Rodopi 2015, 113-140.

Gisela Holfter, Annemarie Böll (1910-2004): Outside the Limelight. In S. Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies II*, Irish-German Studies 9, WVT: Trier 2015, 143-157.

Gisela Holfter, Introduction. In Gisela Holfter (ed.), *The Irish Context of Kristallnacht. Refugees and Helpers*, Trier: VWT 2014, 15-20.

Gisela Holfter, Reisende Europäer vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg - oder: Irland, eine Zeitreise 100 Jahre zurück. In Linda Karlsson Hammarfelt and Edgar Platen (eds), *Der reisende Europäer*, Munich: Iudicium 2014, 75-90.

Fergal Lenehan, Irish-German Interconnections in Popular Culture. In C. O'Reilly and V. O'Regan (eds), *Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2014, 181-200.

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Fergal Lenehan, "I am aware you don't speak German – yet". Depicting Germans on Irish Television. In Frauke Hofmeister and Dietmar Böhnke (eds), *Kulturkontake Cultures in Contact*, Leipzig: Edition Hamouda 2014, 133-144.

Fergal Lenehan, Singing in the Rain: The Irish-Themed Musical and Schlager's Hibernian Moment. In Barry Monahan (ed.), *Ireland and Cinema: Culture and Contexts*, London: Palgrave Macmillan 2015, 149-157.

Veronica O'Regan, German Media Perceptions of Ireland since the Bailout. In C. O'Reilly and V. O'Regan (eds), *Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2014, 147-179.

Claire O'Reilly and Veronica O'Regan, Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception. In C. O'Reilly and V. O'Regan (eds), *Ireland and the Irish in Germany: Reception and Perception*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2014, 13-28.

Claire O'Reilly, Teaching for Understanding the Year Abroad: Thoughts on Fostering the Reflective Learner. In *Mountain Rise: The International Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, Vol 8/2 2014: 1-23.

Claire O'Reilly, As Time Goes By: Some Thoughts on the Year Abroad as a Vehicle of Kulturkontakt. In: Frauke Hofmeister and Dietmar Böhnke (eds.), *Kulturkontakte – Cultures in Contact. Essays for Joachim Schwend*, Leipzig: Edition Hamouda 2014, 46-61.

Claire O'Reilly, Author, Activist and Anglo-Irish Émigré: The Life and Work of Christabel Bielenberg. In S. Egger (ed.), *Cultural/Literary Translators – Selected Irish-German Biographies II*, Irish-German Studies 9, WVT: Trier 2015, 53-70.

Michaela Schrage-Früh, Foreigners Within: Identity, Belonging and the Migrant Other in Barry McCrea's The First Verse and Sean O'Reilly's The Swing of Things. In Katherina Dodou and John Lynch (eds), *The Leaving of Ireland*, New York et al.: Peter Lang 2015, 121-141.

### **Selected Papers and Presentations**

Patricia Conlan (with D. Walker, J. Gelabert and J. Clifford), "All for one, and that is me" – Euro crisis and national interests, neo-liberalism and unrestrained multinationals versus the European idea: solidarity and integration. 25th Freudenstadt Symposium, Europe preparing for the future: Tying things together. 3-5 July 2015.

Joachim Fischer, The GDR through Irish eyes: An ideology-critical reading of two recent Irish novels. 25 Jahre Mauerfall - Reflections on GDR literature, its legacy and connections between the GDR and Ireland. University of Limerick, 7-8 November 2014.

Joachim Fischer, 18th and 19th century translations in Ireland: The German dimension. *Word-Bridges: Translation in Ireland 1700-1900*. NUI Galway, 20 February 2015.

Joachim Fischer, The Life and Travels of Maria Frances Dickson: A forgotten 19<sup>th</sup> century writer. Thomond Archaeological Society, 23 February 2015.

Joachim Fischer, Irish-German connections and mutual images. ERASMUS Teaching Exchange Universität Duisburg-Essen, May 2015.

Joachim Fischer, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Kilkee: The life and travels of Maria Frances Dickson (1809-1885). Kilkee Historical Society, 15 July 2015.

Gisela Holfter, Deutsch-irische Beziehungen im Unterricht. *GDI -Annual Conference of German teachers in Ireland: Lernen fürs Leben und nicht für die Schule*. University of Limerick, 10 May 2014.

Gisela Holfter, Vom Suchen und Finden von Transiträumen - zur Theorie und Praxis von Forschungsprojekten im Kontext der Reise-Exil- und Migrationsliteratur. Keynote lecture. *Begegnungen in Transiträumen GiG-Intercultural German Studies Annual Symposium*. Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, 29 May - 1 June 2014.

Gisela Hofter, German-Speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945, invited lecture. *The Emergency: Ireland in Wartime*. Moore Institute, NUI Galway, 27-28 June 2014.

Gisela Holfter, Marginal Voices - Woman in Irish Exile. *Exile and Gender, Triennial International Conference of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Studies.* Institute of Modern Languages Research, University of London, 17-19 September 2014.

Gisela Holfter, Some Aspects of the Reception of Ireland in the GDR – and Vice Versa. 25 Jahre Mauerfall – Reflections on GDR Literature, Its Legacy and Connections between the GDR and Ireland. UL, 7-8 November 2014.

Gisela Holfter, Experiences of German-Speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-45. *Colloquium on the Reception of Refugees in Ireland: Legacy and Lessons*. Royal Irish Academy Dublin, 19 November 2014.

Gisela Holfter, Einige einleitende Überlegungen zum Blick zurück. *Movens Konferenz: Looking Back – Literary Constructions of the Past.* University of Limerick, 28-30 May 2015.

Gisela Holfter, Germanistik mit Bindestrich – der MA in Irish-German Studies. XIII Kongress der Internationalen Vereinigung für Germanistik, Germanistik zwischen Tradition und Innovation. Tongji University, Shanghai, China, 23-31 August 2015.

Fergal Lenehan, Elizabeth Shaw: A Belfast woman at the centre of GDR children's culture. 25 Jahre Mauerfall – Reflections on GDR Literature, Its Legacy and Connections between the GDR and Ireland. University of Limerick, 7-8 November 2014.

Claire, O'Reilly, Teaching and Learning Interculturalism in the Third Level Classroom [Poster Presentation]. *Inaugural European Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning*. University College Cork, 8-9 Juni 2015.

Claire O'Reilly, From Myth to Reality: Year Abroad Experiences of Past Students and Implications for Teaching and Learning Initiatives. 'The Language Experience Abroad', Funded by The National Forum for

Centre for Irish-German Studies

Teaching & Learning Disciplinary Network and jointly organized by IoTs Languages Network & One Voice for Languages. Filmbase, Dublin, 6 June 2015.

Claire, O'Reilly, Writing Women's Lives: Christabel Bielenberg (1909-2003) - Author, Activist and Anglo-Irish Emigré to Ireland. *Life Writing Research Conference - Writing Women's Lives*. Bath Spa University, Bath, 25-26 April 2015.

Claire O'Reilly and Siobhan Mortell, Erfahrungen mit dem Auslandsjahr: Praxis und Forschung. *Business German in Ireland Working Group (BuGi) Annual Symposium*. Hosted by the Goethe Institut, Dublin, 6 March 2015.

Claire O'Reilly, Teaching and Learning Considerations for the Year Abroad: Research-Led Suggestions for the Classroom at 3rd Level. Internationalisation: Myths, Realities, Challenges and Opportunities, Dublin Institute of Technology. Dublin, 29-30 September 2014.

Michaela Schrage-Früh, Reflections of the GDR in Hugo Hamilton's Fiction. 25 Jahre Mauerfall – Reflections on GDR Literature, Its Legacy and Connections between the GDR and Ireland. University of Limerick, 7-8 November 2014.

Michaela Schrage-Früh, Consumerism, Crime and Gender in Recent Irish Crime Fiction. *Consuming Crime*. University of Limerick, 26-27 June 2015.

### **Centre for Irish-German Studies book collection**

Many publishers have responded positively to our recent call for copies of publications to be added to our Centre for Irish-German Studies book collection. We want to thank the LIT Verlag, Sammlung Luchterhand, Books on Demand, Herder, Piper, C.H. Beck, Ch. Links, Reclam, Reiselyrik Verlag, Europäischer Universitätsverlag, Frankfurter Verlagsgruppe and ARKA Verlag

Also, with the help of a number of people our books are now accessible via the UL library catalogue. Thanks to all involved, especially Justine Bennett!

### DAAD Visiting Researcher: Dr Sandra Ballweg



Dr Sandra Ballweg was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a three month stay in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics from April to June 2015. Dr. Ballweg is a senior research associate at the Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Section for Multilingualism, at Darmstadt

University of Technology, Germany. She holds a PhD in second language acquisition with her PhD research focussing on the use of writing portfolios in foreign language instruction. She is the author of *Portfolioarbeit im Fremdsprachenunterricht* (2015) and co-author of *Wie lernt man die Fremdsprache Deutsch?* (2013). During her stay, she was working on a project on the negotiation of linguistic identity in multilingual families in Germany.

### **Upcoming Events**

### AGS Conference 2015 at MIC, UL

Organized by Dr Christiane Schönfeld, the 2015 AGS (Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland) takes place in Mary Immaculate College (University of Limerick), 2-4 September 2015. The lead panel for the conference will be 'Adaptation'. Together with the Austrian Embassy, the Centre for Irish-German Studies will host a wine reception in Plassey House, UL, on Thursday, 3 September, before the delegates can enjoy their dinner in the UL Pavilion.

### Culture Night, 18 September 2015

The Centre for Irish-German Studies will participate in the country-wide Culture Night on 18 September, offering short papers on the Limerick angle of selected Irish-German encounters. University of Limerick, 18 September 6-7pm, Kemmy Business School building KB118, no entrance fee, all welcome.

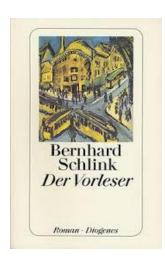
Another event with an Irish-German dimension is prepared by Jan Frohburg (School of Architecture at UL & Centre for Irish-German

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Studies) and Dave Lilburn (designer, UL), who collaborate on a public art project called "You are here...". It involves a site-integrated sculptural installation in Tuam, Co. Galway and takes the ancient Irish Tuam chair as its starting point. Tuam is the only place where this particular type of chair is still made today. It is rooted in the rural origins of the town and has ties to local craft tradition. By installing small-scale sculptural objects and through map-making this art project aims to represent Tuam back to itself. – The project is unveiled at the Tuam Public Library on Culture Night, 18 September, 4–8pm. All welcome!

### **Bernhard Schlink comes to UL in October 2015**



winning Award German author Bernhard Schlink (whose novel TheReader. published in 1995 in German and in 1997 translated in English, was turned into an Oscar winning movie), has agreed to come to UL for a long awaited reading in October 2015.The precise date will be advertised in

The Reader



Bernhard Schlink Author of Flighti of Lose Torgeneration income, people will be reading and maineling over Seminod Schlick's. The Rodie' Descriptional

early September. For more info contact <u>Gisela.Holfter@ul.ie</u>.

### Trilingual Reading with Nadja Küchenmeister, Gabriel Rosenstock and Hans-Christian Oeser in November 2015

Award winning translator Hans-Christian Oeser, German poet Nadja Küchenmeister and Irish poet Gabriel Rosenstock will come to UL to give a trilingual reading which will take place on 25 November 2015. The event is supported by the Goethe-Institut. More info <u>Gisela.Holfter@ul.ie</u>.

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