



Spring '22

AHSS Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Arts,
Humanities and
Social Sciences

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Dean's Welcome

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter issue.

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to see the latest edition of the Faculty Newsletter, documenting such sustained excellence across our disciplines. The pandemic has continued to present challenges – it has remained as a persistent feature in the everyday of AHSS activities.

Nevertheless, our staff and students have shown remarkable resilience, fortitude and commitment, ensuring that the ship has been steered through another academic semester. I am very grateful, in particular, to all of our staff across the Faculty. Their professionalism, dedication and sense of service has ensured that our students can have the best possible campus experience in the circumstances. We have also achieved a lot of which we can be proud of in 2022.

The newsletter documents a rich mix of engagements and achievements. Our staff, for example, have been recognised through appointments to various national and international boards. They have also received awards, including a Grammy, and Royal Irish Academy and Fulbright awards. I am delighted also to see the Faculty continue to climb in global rankings. In broad subject areas, such as Social Science and Management and Arts and Humanities, UL is ranked at 290 and 356 respectively in the latest QS world rankings, which provides information on over 1,300 universities across the world. These figures are well above the institutional average. Disciplines in UL such as Law and English Language and Literature are ranked in the top 200, and Linguistics is placed in the top 300. More broadly, UL is ranked in the top 200 universities (from 1406 universities in 106 countries) in the latest Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which is the only global performance table that assesses universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Staff in AHSS contribute significantly to SDG engagements in UL.

Our sense of civic engagement remains very strong. It is exciting also to see the appointment of Dr. Sindy Joyce as a lecturer in Traveller Studies, and to see the contributions of staff to various Oireachtas Committees on gender equality, disability and the rights of children. Our research scholarship continues to flourish. Some of the reach and impact of the work of staff is documented in the newsletter. We have also had very significant funding successes in areas such as youth crime and Islamophobia. Our internationalisation agenda is being actively pursued, including Erasmus + projects, and engagements with Universidad Nacional De Colombia, SDUT, and the development of North-South partnerships.

I remain deeply impressed by the continued dynamism that is evident in the pursuit of knowledge and cultural exchanges in the Faculty, particularly in relation to the hosting of events and our range of seminars. These engagements also include workshops, concerts, poetry recitals, musical productions, and discussions on the war in Ukraine. Our students and recent graduates also continue to impress across a range of circuits including the Limerick Voice, the Bar Council of Ireland, Activist of the Year Awards, IRC funding successes and Glór Tíre awards. A special thank you to Oonagh Grace and Niamh Ryan 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 restful summer.

Warm regards,



Professor Shane Kilcommins
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

AHSS QS Subject Rankings

This year AHSS has seen improvement in the QS subject rankings. Arts and Humanities has risen from the 401-450 category to a place of 356. Social Science and Management, which contains some AHSS subject areas, has risen to 290 from 340 last year. In the individual subject areas, UL is now ranked in 15 discipline areas, with one discipline in the top 100 (Sports-related subjects) and four in the top 100-200 (including English Language and Literature and Law). Linguistics is ranked for the first time with a ranking of 251-300. The AHSS Rankings committee have approved a new process for rankings which should see further improvements across all disciplines over the next few years.

Staff Appointments to various boards

Congratulations to the following faculty staff for their appointment to the following boards:

Department of History:

- Dr. Breandan MacGabhann - New Editor of the journal *Irish Geography*
- Prof. Ciara Breathnach - board member, *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, RIA
- Dr. Cat Porter – board member, editorial board for the *Literary Geography: Theory and Practice book series* published by University of Wales Press
- Dr. Rachel Murphy – board member, *National Library of Ireland's Genealogy and Heraldry Committee*, a statutory committee of the National Library of Ireland Board.

Department of Sociology:

- Prof. Ross Macmillan - associate editor to *Discover Social Science and Health* (part of the Elsevier Nature series)

School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics:

- Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes - invited to join the *Editorial Board of the Journal of Sociolinguistics*



Minister McEntee launches the first accredited Irish Diploma for Registered Intermediaries at UL

The Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD recently announced the launch of a new programme at the University of Limerick to train Intermediaries who will help vulnerable people, including sexual abuse victims and children, when giving evidence in the justice system. The Professional Diploma in Intermediary Studies is a part-time course run over one year. The Registered Intermediary's role will be to assist in the communication process, whether between lawyers and witnesses during trial or earlier, during Garda interviews.

The diploma is an interfaculty postgraduate training programme which will qualify CORU-registered health and social care practitioners to work as registered intermediaries in the Irish justice system. Following best international guidelines, the programme is designed to include four modules, a combination of online and face-to-face tutorials, delivered across the School of Law and the School of Allied Health at UL and will ensure those who qualify have the competencies to provide intermediary interventions as part of all aspects of the legal process for both vulnerable witnesses and defendants in the context of Irish legislation. The project team who designed the programme include Dr. Aoife Gallagher, Dr. Aine Kearns, Dr. Alan Cusack and Prof. Sean Redmond. Places for academic year 2022/2023 are fully funded by the Department of Justice. Entry requirements include a minimum of a second-class honours primary degree (2.2) and three full years practice experience as a CORU-registered Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist or Social Worker in Ireland.

The application process is now open. For further details on how to apply see the UL webpage: [Intermediary Studies - Professional Diploma | UL - University of Limerick](#)



Grammy Award winner- Artist in residence, Rhiannon Giddens performance

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance was delighted to host a special performance by artist-in-residence Rhiannon Giddens and Grammy nominated multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi. Grammy Award winner, Rhiannon Giddens is currently Artistic Director of the world renowned Silkroad.

Silkroad creates music that engages difference, sparking cultural collaboration and high-quality arts education to help build a more hopeful and inclusive world .



The Meskell UL Fifty Poet in Residence: Dr. Emily Cullen

Dr. Emily Cullen is the Meskell UL-Fifty Poet in Residence. As a member of the Creative Writing team at the School of English, Irish and Communication, Emily's role is to teach Poetry on the MA in Creative Writing programme. To date, Emily devised a series of poetry seminars for all MA students on vital aspects of prosody and poetic technique that focused on: tone, voice, diction, line breaks, revision and preparing a manuscript for publication. She has advised Prof. Joseph O'Connor on the slight recalibration of the Grading and Feedback Rubric for the MA in Creative Writing so that it encompasses the writing of poetry.

As a former Director of Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Emily also assisted Prof. O'Connor with the curation of the poetry programme for the University's Creative Writing Festival, which took place from 20th-22nd May 2022. For Poetry Day, Emily also devised a series of 'Espresso Shots of Thought' – jolts of poetry and surprise – which are presented by the MA students, and available to enjoy on the [AHSS Youtube Channel](#).



Research Awards



AHSS Success in North South Research Awards

Congratulations to project lead Dr. Catherine Naughton (REPPP research group, School of Law) in partnership with Queens University Belfast for successfully being awarded €3.8 million in funding to establish an All-Ireland hub of excellence in Youth Justice examining youth work, trauma studies and community safety. This is a huge achievement in what was a highly competitive award, and demonstrates the international standing of UL in this field.

Dr Cat Porter awarded grant from the Royal Irish Academy

Dr. Cat Porter (Geography section, Department of History) has been awarded a grant from the Royal Irish Academy under the R.J. Hunter Research Bursary scheme, which provides funding for the direct costs of research on aspects of Ulster History during the period 1500-1800.

Her project is entitled 'From the plat to the field: a new view on the escheated maps of Ulster' respectively this year.





Dr. James Carr EU Commission funding award

Dr. James Carr has secured funding of almost €500,000 under the EU Commission's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values initiative (DG Justice and Consumers). The project, entitled Sustainable Alliances Against Anti-Muslim Hatred (SALAAM) will be led by Dr. Carr as PI and the University of Limerick as lead coordinating partner of a consortium that includes non-governmental community organisations: Doras, the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Irish Network Against Racism. SALAAM consortium partners will work with Muslim communities and Local Authorities in four Irish Cities in the context of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and related forthcoming legislative and policy changes. Initiatives that will be developed during SALAAM include: sustainable training programmes for Local Authority staff and Muslim communities; IT resources; supports for those who experience anti-Muslim racism; and public awareness campaigns, among others. The project will last for two years and started on March 1st.

Prof Benjamin Boon awarded the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Ireland

Prof. Benjamin Boone, has been awarded the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Ireland including the Fulbright Mary McPartlan Bursary, for the academic year 2022-2023. Ben is a person of prodigious talent, including as a composer and musician in classical and jazz genres, for which he has won numerous awards.

His work resonates really well with the ethos of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, particularly in the area of community engagement.

Ben comes to us from California State University Fresno.



Events



IRC Roundtable- International Crisis Intervention Teams and Community Safety Co-Response models in the Irish Jurisdiction

This event was funded by the Irish Research Council (IRC) and the Policing Authority under the New Foundations awards scheme which brings researchers and community organisations together to collaborate on projects that will have a tangible impact on societal and community issues. The attendees were addressed by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Mary Butler TD and Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Niall Collins TD. Superintendent Andrew Lacey who is the implementation team leader for Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) and Community Safety Co-Response Model in Ireland organised the event as the research awardee with the Irish Research Council.

The event included international collaborators, experts and practitioners in the field of crisis intervention and examined the compatibility of International Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) and Community Safety Co-Response Models in the Irish Jurisdiction. A ground-breaking co responder pilot is proposed to be rolled out in Limerick/Mid-West involving AGS & the HSE.



Representatives from the HSE (Health Service Executive), An Garda Síochána, The Policing Authority (CEO Ms Helen Hall & Chairperson Bob Collins), Police Scotland, Toronto Police, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Framingham PD Boston Massachusetts, University of Limerick, Department of Justice, Department of Health, Worcester State University and William James College Massachusetts attended.



Composition for Portia Coughlan play

The Irish World Academy's Chair of Performing Arts, Prof. Mel Mercier has returned to the National Theatre to compose the score for a new production of Marina Carr's Portia Coughlan. Directed by Caroline Byrne, the production stars the double Olivier Award winning, Tony-nominated, Ennis-born actress, Denise Gough, in the title role. Carr's 1996 play, one of the three that make up her Midlands trilogy, centres around Portia Coughlan who is haunted by the death of her twin brother, Gabriel, who drowned in the local Belmont river fifteen years previously, and who she hears calling to her. In his score, which is woven with the sounds of Irish Country and Western music, Count John McCormack and the Belmont River, Prof. Mercier also composes and conjures the voice of Gabriel as he calls to Portia from beyond the grave. Gabriel's sound is created by fusing together the voice of Cork boy soprano, Ethan Armitage, Irish World Academy tutor Kevin McNally's feedback guitar, the sonorites of Javanese gamelan gongs and Denise Gough's own recorded voice.

Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy Project

The MA in Classical String Performance at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in partnership with the Irish Chamber Orchestra proudly presents the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy Project in Concert Programme: Mozart Divertimento No. 3, Shostakovich Chamber Symphony and Bernstein's West Side Story.

The ICO Academy is a unique mix of Irish Chamber Orchestra principals, students from the MA in Classical String Performance at the University of Limerick and other conservatoires around the world. In addition to the energy already created by this mix, Diane Daly (Course Director for the MA in Classical String Performance) has added an innovative approach to rehearsing and performing classical repertoire. The result is multi-layered, multi-sensory performances that integrate light effects, movement and storytelling, bringing fresh energy and life to these great works.

UL Creative Writing Festival and Summer 2022

Projects




A highlight of early summer for all readers and book lovers, the UL CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL returns in May. Curated and directed by UL Chair of Creative Writing, Prof. Joseph O'Connor, author of *Star of the Sea* and *Shadowplay*, the Festival features 'a stellar line-up of international award-winning writers' (Irish Times): including Roddy Doyle, Kevin Barry, Lisa McInerney, Danielle McLaughlin, multiple award-winning UL Creative Writing lecturers Donal Ryan and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and Adjunct Professor Kit de Waal, Louise Kennedy, Sebastian Barry, poets Emily Cullen, Kayssie Kandiwa, Sean Hewitt, Rachael Hegarty, Jane Clarke, Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi and many more.

Also featured will be the launch of the 2022 edition of UL's literary journal *The Ogham Stone* and readings from our unique 'Creative Writers in the Community' module, led by Prof Eoin Devereux. All events are taking place in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. Full programme and booking details at <https://www.uch.ie/event/ul-creative-writing-festival/>

UL Creative Writing gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the IWAMD, Paddy and Darlene Meskell, O'Mahony's Booksellers, Bill and Denise Whelan, the University Concert Hall, and RTE Supporting the Arts. A major new six-part RTE television documentary, *The Liffey*, written by Joseph O'Connor, begins broadcast on Sunday May 15th. Donal Ryan's hotly anticipated and brilliant new novel *The Queen of Dirt Island* will be published in June, as will Sarah Moore Fitzgerald's novel *The Shark and the Scar*. Adjunct Prof Kit de Waal's stunning memoir *Without Warning and Only Sometimes: Scenes from an Unpredictable Childhood* will be published in August and has already secured a major UK newspaper serialisation deal.





Gender and Political Apology-When the Patriarchal State Says “Sorry”

Dr. Emma Dolan (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) launched her book 'Gender and Political Apology - When the Patriarchal State Says "Sorry"' virtually on 7th of April.

Rather than seeing political apologies as 'empty' or meaningless, Emma's book argues that they are ambivalent, 'excitable' gestures which recognise some victims of conflict-related sexual violence whilst obscuring others. Their 'usefulness' for the state and for victims is therefore contentious. More details on the book with Routledge are available [here](#).

Webinar event: What you need to know about Russia's war against Ukraine

A one hour lunchtime session about **the background of Russia's war against Ukraine** was held during the semester. There were short presentations by three UL experts and was followed by a discussion about the potential domino effects of the conflict, the threat of nuclear warfare and any other questions the audience had.

Presenters:

Prof. Jan Plamper (Dept. of History) revisited the late Soviet and post-Soviet treaties and verbal agreements regarding EU/NATO eastward expansion and discussed the uses and abuses of history in the conflict.

Prof. Neil Robinson (Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) discussed why and how Putin appeals to the public sentiment of "protecting Russians in the Near Abroad", and uses historical accounts of national sovereignty, separatism, and human rights to re-draw the map of the Russian Federation and fight against the European Union influence into the former Soviet space.

Dr. Anca Minescu (Dept. of Psychology) explained how people's ethnic and national identities shape their political behaviour, their protest and resistance to the current war in Ukraine, after the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the Euromaidan revolution of the Ukrainians, and more generally in the post-Soviet region.

Routledge Studies in Gender and Global Politics

GENDER AND POLITICAL APOLOGY

WHEN THE PATRIARCHAL STATE SAYS “SORRY”

Emma Dolan



Sports teams as sites for applied linguistic research

Sports teams represent a useful site for applied linguistic research because they provide a bounded situational and organisational context in which the same participants routinely take part in repetitive and predictable activities, towards a shared goal and in so doing construct a shared team identity that indexes micro and macro level ideologies and stereotypes. In this way, a sports team functions in much the same way as a workplace and we can thus understand research on language use in sport as falling under the broader area of language in the workplace research. However, there are certain elements that are unique to sports teams, such as the way in which players are socialised into the norms of the sports sub-culture which transcend an individual team, and how this intersects with macro identity constructs such as gender and ethnicity.

This research by Dr. Nick Wilson (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) reviews the history of linguistic research on sport and presents a summary of four research projects that the author has conducted on sports teams: 1) im(politeness) and leadership in a Scottish club rugby team; 2) leadership discourse and the construction of team identity in a New Zealand club rugby team; 3) scaffolding group communication skills development with Street Football Wales; and 4) injury stories and interaction in an Australian university rugby team. What unifies these projects is not just the sports domain, but the way in which communicative practices and ways of belonging are learned by new members as a form of socially situated learning.

Digital Technology in Schools

Research published by Dr. Ann Marcus-Quinn and Dr. Triona Hourigan was referenced by Deputy Bríd Smith in a Parliamentary Question relation (March 10th 2022). Deputy Smith asked the Minister for Education if she or her officials will consider a recently published study which highlights issues regarding device accessibility and best practice; if she will consider the findings in relation to ensuring schools have a coherent policy to ensure device access and equality; and if she will make a statement on the matter. The study is entitled Digital inclusion and accessibility considerations in digital teaching and learning materials for the second-level classroom published in the Irish Educational Studies Journal (Vol. 41).



Dr. Kathryn O'Sullivan gives evidence to UK's House of Commons on cohabitation law

Dr. Kathryn O'Sullivan, (School of Law) recently provided oral evidence to the House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee in the UK as part of its investigation into the rights of cohabiting partners.

The invitation to discuss the Irish experience of undertaking cohabitation law reform arose as the Committee investigate the equality issues around cohabitation, how cohabitation rights could be strengthened and what legal protection for cohabitants could look like and how this might be introduced.

A report on the issue is due for publication and presentation to the UK Parliament later this year.

Dr. Jennifer Schweppe appointed as an external expert to the 14-member Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime

Dr. Jennifer Schweppe (School of Law) was appointed as an external expert to the 14-member **Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Hate Crime (PC/ADI-CH)**.

The Committee is entrusted with the preparation of a new and comprehensive legal instrument on combating hate crime, building on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and drawing upon existing Council of Europe texts. At its first meeting, Jennifer was tasked with the responsibility of being the lead drafter of the legal instrument, the Recommendation on Combating Hate Crime.



Dr. Sorcha de Brún selected to sit on campus editorial committee for Council of European Studies publication at Columbia University

Course Director for the BA in European Studies and lecturer in Irish, Dr. Sorcha de Brún has been selected to sit on the campus editorial committee for EuropeNow at Columbia University. EuropeNow is the publication of the Council for European Studies and is a monthly journal featuring research, criticism and journalism, as well as translation, poetry, fiction, non-fiction and visual art.

The campus section of the journal focuses on bridging interdisciplinary research with teaching and learning, on exploring pedagogies that contribute to resolving the most pressing issues of our time, and highlighting pedagogies of educators and CES institutions alike.



Opening a Window to the Past

An open access online research guide, Opening a Window to the Past, designed to assist students and researchers at all levels with their research has been created by Dr. Kirsten Mulrennan (Special Collections and Archives) and Dr. Rachel Murphy (Department of History). Funded by the National Forum for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in Ireland, the online resource aims to build basic archival and information literacy skills and outline useful historical research methods, using three diaries as working examples. The diaries are held in the University of Limerick's Special Collections and Archives Department and have been fully digitised for inclusion in the University of Limerick's new Digital Library.

Opening a Window to the Past consists of five lessons which offer both a broad introduction to the work of the Special Collections and Archives Department and its collections, as well as specific research advice relating to historical research methods, archival diaries as sources for social history, and guidance relating to the reading and transcription of archival sources. It also includes an escape-room game.

It is hoped that, where relevant, lecturers will consider incorporating Opening a Window to the Past in their teaching. Opening a Window to the Past is located at:

<https://specialcollections.ul.ie/research-diaries/>



Visiting Erasmus Scholars - Actively Promoting Multilingual Practices in Schools – MaMLiSE Erasmus+ Project

The Faculty has welcomed two visiting scholars from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, Professor Anna Szczepaniak-Kozak and Professor Emilia Wąsikiewicz-Firlej for a three-month period as part of the Erasmus+ Majority and Minority Languages in Schools (MaMLiSE) project which also involves academics from universities in Greece and Germany as well as a UL team comprised of Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr Angela Farrell, Dr Mary Masterson, Lecturer in Education in EHS, and Michelle Daly, Associate Teacher, AHSS.



This MaMLiSE project is concerned with developing new educational approaches and resources to help promote multilingual practices in schools with a view to better addressing the needs of migrant pupils. It also seeks to exploit the new and exciting opportunities now arising for the promotion of majority, minority languages, and heritage languages in the European educational space as a result of the increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in schools. In so doing, this initiative actively supports the EU Commission policy of promoting M+ 2 (mother tongue + two additional languages) in schools, the current Irish government Languages Connect Strategy, and United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 which relates to widening access to high quality education, particularly for disadvantaged groups in society. UL will be the venue for a two-day project event in May 2022 to launch the next stage of the project, which will involve training in linguistically and culturally sensitive teaching for post-primary teachers in Limerick schools.



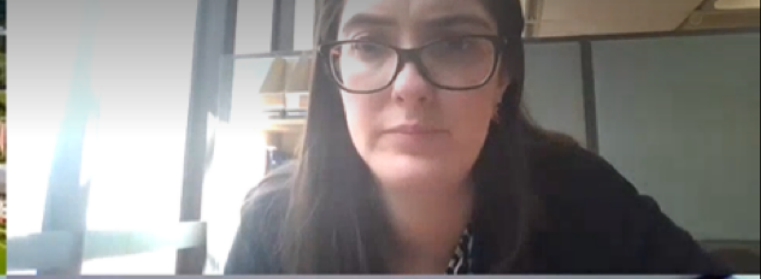
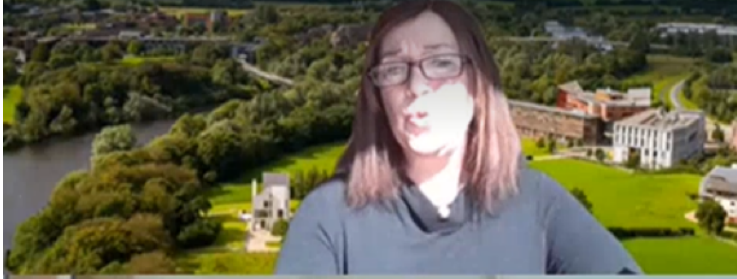
Virtual PhD Student Exchange: UL and St Mary's of the Woods College, Indiana

A series of virtual exchanges have taken place between PhD students from the Faculties of AHSS, EHS and KBS of the University of Limerick and PhD students from the Global Leadership Programme of St Mary's of the Woods College (SMWC), Indiana. The aim of the exchanges was to provide a space for PhD students to share insights and tips in relation to their PhD areas of study and to explore global themes and challenges of concern to young adults.

The initiative was led by Dr Angela Farrell, Assistant Dean International AHSS and Professor Kim LaComba, Director of the Global Leadership Programme at SMWC, and the following PhD students were involved: Michelle Daly, Robyn Cunneen, Sandrine Ndahiro, Mary Curtin, Josephine Atanga, Gail Flanagan, Leticia Scheidt representing UL and Lisa Thatcher, Shelby Kuhlman, Anne Colb, Trent Deckard, Elizabeth Yarw, Ashley Scoby representing SMWC. As a follow up, two of the SMWC members will take part in the International Study Abroad Summer School to be held at UL from May 23rd to June 15th, 2022.

All-Island Research Excellence Network (AIREN)

Associate Teacher, Michelle Daly of the TESOL/Linguistics section (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) represented the University of Limerick at the Ireland/UK Inter-University PhD Support Project Day, as part of the All-Island Research Excellence Network (AIREN), which was held online on March 9th, 2022. The following themes were discussed throughout the day by the various speakers: Developing a supportive research culture for PhD students, Researcher Communities of Practice, the role of research developers, with UL presenting on the UL/Ulster Collaborative PhD Writing Festival Initiative and Writing Retreat. This initiative involved a series of PhD writing retreats organised throughout the year to support the PhD writing process. Participants have included more than 300 PhD students from the institutions represented including students from the ISPhD Programme at UL.



Developing North/South Partnerships: UL and the Universidad Nacional de Colombia

In March 2022, the first intake of academics from the Universidad de Colombia (UNC) were welcomed by the Executive Dean Prof. Shane Kilcommins onto a bespoke Continuous Professional Development Programme in English medium instruction (EMI). This programme offers upskilling in English for research purposes and in professional spoken English for international academics and was designed to facilitate the transition to EMI in third level education in many parts of the world, which is a growing global phenomenon. This programme is the first in a series of bespoke offerings that have been developed by faculty in the TESOL/Linguistics Section of MLAL for universities in Latin America and China with a view to enhancing UL's international reach and reputation in this specialised area of pedagogy.

The EMI team is comprised of Dr Angela Farrell, Dr Catherine Martin and Michelle Daly and contributions to the EMI programme designed for the UNC academics were also made by Dr Marta Giralt (TESOL/Linguistics - MLAL) and Dr Silvia Bellini in the area of machine translation tools and skills development. The collaboration between UL and UNC has been a rich and rewarding experience for all involved, and it has created important opportunities for AHSS to build strategic and sustainable North/South partnerships and links with UNC going forward, in line with the UL@50 Strategic Internationalisation Policy and in support of UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 which is concerned with promoting North/South partnerships in education.



Postgraduate research activity update

As part of UL Research Week 2022 (April 25th-29th), Graduate & Professional Studies and the Postgraduate Students Union ran a competition for UL postgraduate researchers (PGR's) called 'Picture This!' The competition called on PGR's to submit a high resolution photo giving a visual perspective on their research. All eligible images were posted on social media (Instagram and Twitter), with the top fifteen entries chosen by public vote.

Among the 15 finalists were 4 AHSS postgraduate researchers

| Name | Affiliation | Supervisor | Title |
|------------------------|-------------|---|--|
| Clíodhna Condon | EIC | Dr. Carrie Griffin | Tudor/Lancaster/York Simplified Family Tree |
| Cormac Byrne | IWAMD | Dr. Sandra Joyce/ Dr. Mel Mercier | The Site of Knowledge Research in Action |
| Ikram Messaoudi | MLAL | Dr. Angela Farrell/ Dr. Nick Wilson | The Role of Supervisors' Feedback in Improving Students Thesis Writing |
| Michelle Daly | MLAL | Prof. Mairead Moriarty/ Dr. Angela Farrell | Strength lies in differences, not in similarities |

The final took place on Thursday 28 April 2022. Congratulations to Cormac Byrne, who came second in the competition for his entry 'The site of Knowledge Research in Action'.

Thesis-in-Three

Prof. Ann Ledwith, Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies, launched the Thesis-in-Three competition in February 2022. The AHSS Faculty heats took place in April where 10 AHSS postgraduate researchers presented their thesis in 3 minutes. Each participant explained their thesis in 3 minutes, using 3 slides. Participants gave an account of their research in bite-sized presentations, informing their fellow students, the wider UL campus community and the general public on their work.

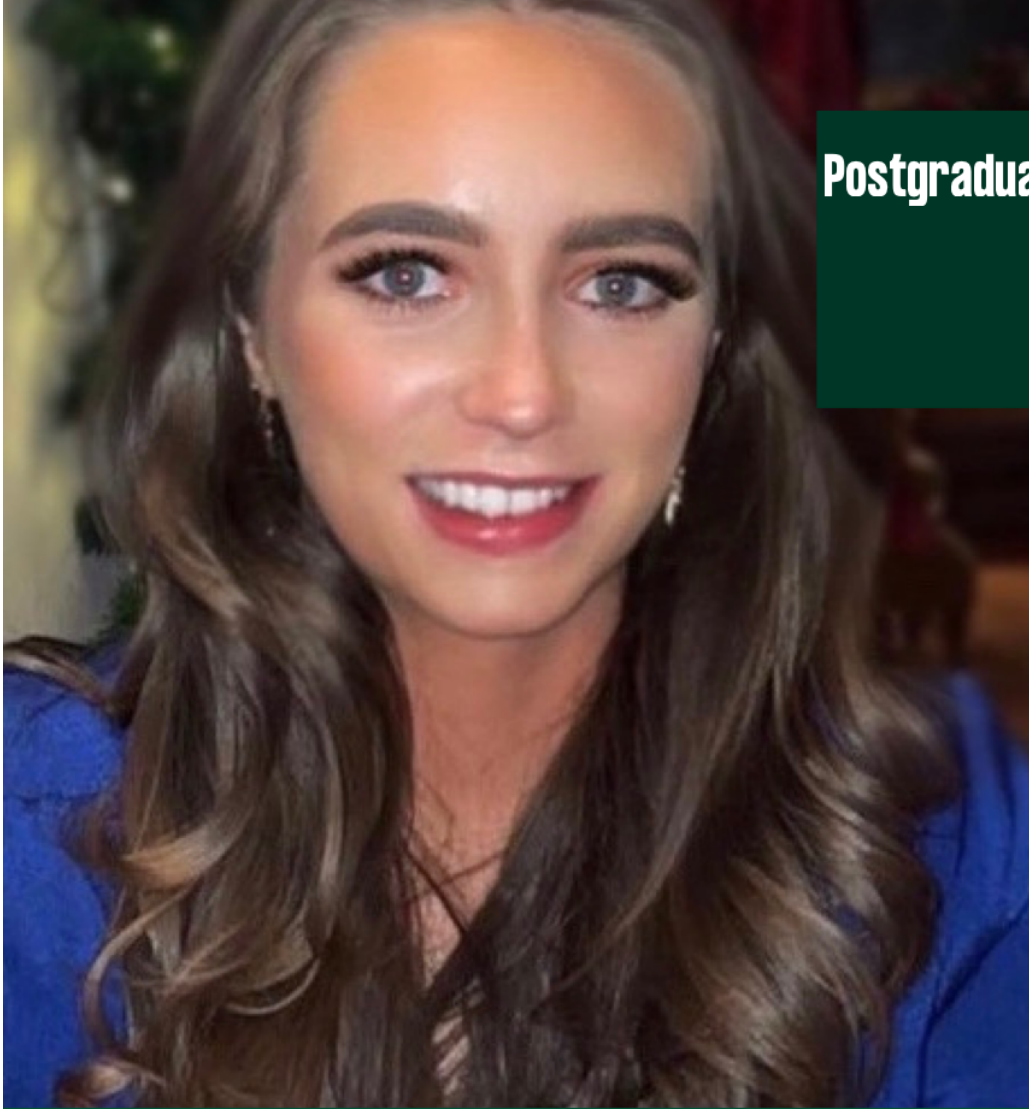
At the final, AHSS had great representation from within our postgraduate community (See entrants below).

| Name | Affiliation | Supervisor(s) | Title |
|-----------------|-------------|--|---|
| Clíodhna Condon | EIC | Dr. Carrie Griffin | 'The Representation of Royal Women in the Tudor Period' |
| Gail Flanagan | MLAL | Prof. Fiona Farr | 'Online Communication in the Irish Technology Sector' |
| Mark Ryan | MLAL | Prof. Mairead Moriarty | ' "I'm scared of saying the wrong thing" - An Investigation of Discursive Strategies and Implicit Homophobia' |
| Karen M. Pound | Law | Eoin Quill | Why should we be worried about the expansion of vicarious liability? |
| Mary Curtin | KBS/Law | Dr. Una Woods/Dr. Christine Cross/Dr. Caroline Murphy. | Farming and Female – Equality in Land Ownership |

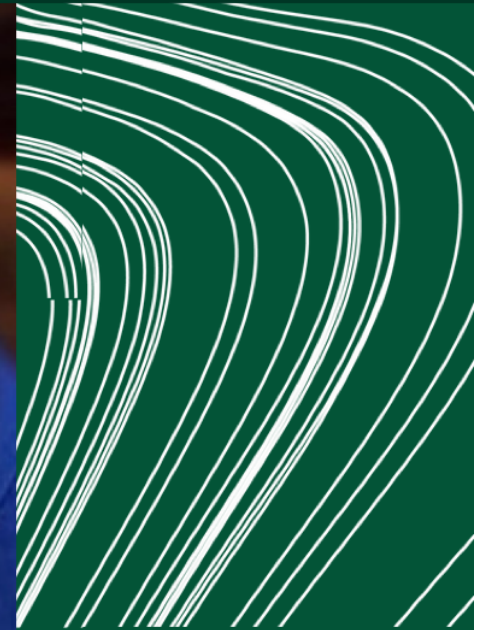
Overall Winner of the UL Thesis in Three competition: AHSS PhD student Mark Ryan



The winner of the UL Thesis in Three was announced on 28 April 2022. Congratulations to AHSS PhD student Mark Ryan who was the overall winner of the competition. Mark presented on the topic of homophobia with a presentation entitled: "I'm scared of saying the wrong thing" - An Investigation of Discursive Strategies and Implicit Homophobia. Mark will represent UL at the VITAE Three-Minute Thesis competition in July 2022.



Postgraduate Researcher profile:
Saoirse Enright
School of Law



Saoirse Enright is a second year PhD student in the School of Law. Saoirse is a first class honours Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws (General) graduate of the University of Limerick, having graduated in 2019 and 2020. During Saoirse's final year of study in the Law Plus programme, she received a scholarship from the University of Limerick, School of Law, and the Irish American Bar Association to extern in the Los Angeles Superior and Federal District Courts. This experience provoked Saoirse's interest in judicial decision-making and encouraged her to pursue a research topic for her master's dissertation on the role of the judge within the Supreme Court of Ireland. During her master's Saoirse received a competitive constitutional law scholarship from the University of Limerick, School of Law to continue this line of study at doctoral level under the supervision of Dr. Laura Cahillane.

Saoirse's PhD is an examination of the contribution of Mr Justice Brian Walsh to Irish constitutional jurisprudence. This project has allowed Saoirse to combine her love of Irish legal history, judging, legal biography, and constitutional jurisprudence. Saoirse is looking forward to interviewing a small number of significant individuals for her research in the coming months.

Postgraduate Researcher Profile:
El/len Reid–Buckley
(they/them)
Department of Sociology



Photo Credit: Neev Kennedy

El/len Reid-Buckley is a PhD Candidate in Sociology, working under the supervision of Dr. Carmen Kuhling and Dr. Jennifer Scheppe. Their research is concerned with gender and sexual identities, the politics of space, language and perception, epistemology and ethics, and practices of memorialization, remembrance, and archives. They also deal with these topics in their creative writing and artistic practices, which they have collaborated with several artists and writers including manky, William Keohane, and Pádraig Robinson.

Their current PhD thesis examines the spatialised sexual identity negotiations of bisexual+ individuals living in post-marriage equality Ireland. Their project is the first research to focus directly on the experiences of bisexual+ people in Ireland. El considers themselves to be a public sociologist and consistently tries to make their work accessible: whether it is publishing zines, speaking on podcasts, or working with youth groups, they are committed to advancing and improving knowledge around genders and sexualities to wide audiences around Ireland and further afield.

Outside of their PhD, they are a research assistant at the European Centre for the Study of Hate, working on digitally archiving Irish LGBTI+ activist narratives since 1972 with principal investigators, Dr. Jennifer Scheppe and Prof. Amanda Haynes. El also works with several community groups, including Ormston House, CATU, Trans Writers Union and ALLTAR. Overall, El's passion lies in bridging the gaps between art, academia, and activism.



Dr. Cindy Joyce appointed as Lecturer below the bar in Traveller Studies

Dr. Cindy Joyce, a member of the travelling community from Newcastle West, has become the University of Limerick's newest lecturer of Sociology. In January 2019, the Limerick woman became the first Irish Traveller to obtain a doctorate from an Irish university.

She is a Human Rights Defender, a member of President Michael D Higgins Council of State and also won the 2014 Traveller Pride Award for Education, her PhD title was *Mincéirs Siúladh: An ethnographic study of young Travellers' experiences of racism in urban space*.

This announcement comes following UL's plan to become the first Irish institute to offer a Traveller Studies research and teaching position. Many thanks to Prof. Ross MacMillan who led the proposal for strategic funding for this post.

Dr. Lydia Bracken addresses Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children, Disability, Equality, and Integration on Surrogacy

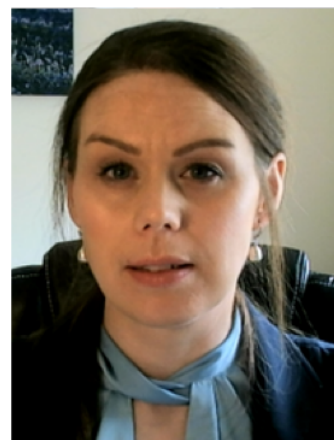
Dr. Lydia Bracken was invited to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the topic of 'Surrogacy – Rights of the Child in relation to Domestic and International Surrogacy' on 1 February 2022. In her submission, Dr. Bracken argued that surrogacy must be subject to specific legal regulation in order to comply with the best interests principle and that law, policy and practice in the area must be shaped by children's rights and research on children's experiences. It was submitted that regulation needs to ensure that the intending parents who care for the child from birth can both be recognised as legal parents; that the child's right to identity is safeguarded; and that the child does not experience discrimination due to the circumstances of their conception.

Dr. Bracken highlighted that there is a need to legislate for future surrogacy arrangements, but the law must also provide a mechanism to recognise the legal parentage of children who have already been born through surrogacy. In addition, Dr. Bracken submitted that regulation for both domestic and international surrogacy is required and that 'ignoring the reality of international surrogacy by not legislating for it leaves the door open to children's rights violations.'

Dr. Bracken also called for amendments to the Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 to ensure that children's rights are upheld in a consistent manner across all legislation on assisted human reproduction.



Dr Laura Cahillane addresses Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality



Dr. Laura Cahillane was invited to address the Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality on how the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly on the Constitution can be implemented. The Committee met in private session and Dr. Cahillane provided advice on the various options open to the committee in terms of potential constitutional amendments.

Dr. Cahillane previously worked with the Citizens' Assembly on the questions of equality, the woman in the home, and the definition of the family in the Constitution. It is hoped that a referendum will be held on these issues next year.



Promoting Inclusivity through Universal Design for Learning

A National Forum Seminar Series 2021/22 event on the topic of universal design for learning took place online convened by Dr. Lydia Bracken.

The seminar was titled 'Promoting Inclusivity through Universal Design for Learning (UDL)' and was delivered by Tracy Galvin, Educational Developer, Queen's University Belfast.

The seminar focused on universal design for learning (UDL) and discussed how UDL and accessibility compliment the wider context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There were also practical tips for embedding UDL and accessibility into course design, including advice for supporting the learner voice and discussion of the potential of UDL as a framework to promote inclusivity and accessibility in other areas of campus life beyond the classroom. A recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).



Graduate Diploma in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Following the successful launch of the Graduate Certificate in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in September 2021, the Faculty is delighted to announce the availability of a two-year Diploma in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for learners who wish to continue to advance their knowledge in this area. Applications are now open for the 2022 intake to both the Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. More information is available on the [programme website](#).



Students



Success for UL Law Student at Justice Week Interschool Debate

The School of Law was proud to be represented by law student Katherine Ahern, at the annual Justice Week Interschool Debate. Katherine succeeded as part of the winning team at the debate, hosted by The Bar Council of Ireland and was also singled out by the panel of prestigious judges as the recipient of the Best Speaker award. Justice Week is an annual joint awareness campaign of the legal professions across the four jurisdictions (Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, England & Wales).

It aims to promote an understanding and awareness of access to justice and the rule of law, particularly among young people. The theme for this year was 'Law and Technology' and students representing the Law Schools of UCD, UCC, UL, MU, NUIG, DCU, TCD and TU Dublin, appeared before the panel of judges to debate the motion; "This house believes that international human rights law and international humanitarian law provide adequate protections in respect of the use of autonomous weapons and systems in warfare."

The expert judging panel for the event comprised of The Hon. Ms. Justice Nuala Butler, Maura McNally SC, Chair of the Council of The Bar of Ireland, Mark de Blacam SC, Member of the Inner Bar and Dr Tom Clonan, Columnist and Security Analyst.



Limerick Voice 2022

The 15th edition of the award winning multimedia news project from AHSS journalism students focused on the theme of resilience. The multi-media news project involved 25 final year Journalism and New Media and Journalism Masters Students.

Over 250 stories were published across multi-media platforms; 23 podcasts were broadcast along with a number of TV and radio news bulletins. Limerick Voice Twitter platform had 263,300 impressions by April 2022. Limerick Voice 2022 was also published as a supplement to an edition of the Limerick Leader newspaper in April.





BA Voice Student wins TG4 Glór Tíre

Congratulations to Aisling Rafferty, student on the BA Voice who won the 2022 series of TG4 Glór Tíre - *country music competition*, under the mentorship of country music legend Mike Denver.

UL Language exchange Spring 2022

The first **Language Exchange** meeting in two years took place this week, with over 100 undergraduate and postgraduate students in attendance.

Thanks to the LLH team (Catherine Jeanneau, Anne Blondelle, Marta Cacciapaglia and Daria Samulewska).



PhD student Mamobo-Oghene Ogoro Wins 2021 Activist of the Year at Inaugural Black and Irish Awards



AHSS PhD student Mamobo-Oghene Ogoro has won the 2021 Inaugural Black and Irish awards activist of the year. More information on the awards ceremony can be found [here](#).

She was also named as one of the 50 Irish people to watch by the [Irish Independent](#).



UL success at the National Student Media (SMEDIA) Awards

UL journalism students have scooped two top titles at this year's National Student Media (SMEDIA) awards recently held in Dublin's Aviva Stadium. Limerick Voice, the multimedia news project produced by fourth year and MA journalism students, was named Website of the Year while the award for TV Production was won by the MA class for their Limerick Today news bulletin.

This is the third National Student Media Award for Limerick Voice, which has previously picked up awards for Newspaper of the Year and Best Layout and Design. The TV production of the year Award was awarded to the MA class for Limerick Today bulletin which was produced on March 22, 2022. It is the first time Journalism at UL have won in this category and is a clear vindication of significant investment in TV journalism in UL over the last number of years.

An Cumann Gaelach wins C&S award

A group of dedicated students came together to support, encourage, and promote the use of Irish on campus, and their efforts have been recognised by the UL community. Having created a welcoming and supportive environment for the language, the group won Best Improved Society at the annual UL Clubs & Societies awards ceremony in March 2022. They have also been recognised by Glór na nGael, who commended the committee on their achievements to support the Irish language, despite the challenges faced during Covid-19.

The society had the pleasure of meeting President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, at Ard-Fheis, Conradh na Gaeilge in February 2022 and got involved in campaigns with TD's in their local communities regarding Irish language rights and financial support from government. Aonad na Gaeilge, the Irish language centre at UL, regularly supports the society's activities and provides the use of Seomra na Gaeilge in the Languages Building for events. Tá an Cumann ag tnúth go mór leis an gcéad bhliain eile agus cuirfear fáilte chroíúil roimh bhail nua i gcónaí! Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ar Instagram [@cumann_gaelach_ol](https://www.instagram.com/cumann_gaelach_ol)





Our graduates

Irish World Academy of Music and Dance graduates establish successful band

IWAMD graduates Rebecca McCarthy Kent (fiddle, viola, keyboards), Aisling Lyon (harp, concertina), Sean Kelliher (guitar, banjo, mandolin) and Simon Pfisterer (uilleann pipes, whistle) are members of the four-piece "3 on the Bund" band who have established an international profile since meeting on the BA in Irish Traditional Music at the Academy. This dynamic band launched their new cd Frenzy at a concert in the Majestic Hotel Tramore Thursday 7 April before touring China, UK, France, and Germany.

Poetry reading: UL graduate William Keohane

The 24th of January 2022 saw the premiere of a two-part online broadcast of readings from the 2021 Poetry Ireland Introductions Series which took place in front of an intimate audience in the Smock Alley Theatre. Included among these poets was a recent graduate of our MA in Creative Writing programme, William Keohane. William also took part in the highly successful UL Arts Office project "Pocket Poems Posted" as part of National Poetry Day 2021.





Wishing you all a resftul Summer
from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



Newsletter compiled by Oonagh Grace and Niamh Ryan