

Centre news

No. 10 May 2008

Introduction

Welcome to a new season in Irish-German Studies. There are a number of books, international conferences, readings and other events to take note of. We are looking forward to seeing you then!

Events and Developments since November 2007

Fellowships and Awards

Dr Joachim Fischer was awarded one of the prestigious Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Science (IRCHSS) Senior Research Fellowship for 2008/2009 for his research on "The German Factor in Irish Modernisation Debates since 1922". The Centre for Irish-German Studies has a possibly unique track record in Ireland in this competition, as this is the third IRCHSS research fellowship to be awarded to a Centre member. Previous fellows were Dr Joachim Lerchenmueller and Dr Gisela Holfter.

Conference and Masterclass

Movens - Crossing cultural and aesthetic boundaries – international colloquium in Limerick, 8-11 November 2007 with seminars, workshops and 5th masterclasses for postgraduate students of the Centre

The 5th Masterclass for postgraduate students of the Centre broke new ground by extending the class for the first time to postgraduate students from partner universities within the *Movens* network (Sweden, Slovenia, Great Britain and Germany). The higher demand for facilitating professors was met by Prof Edgar Platen (Göteborg), Dr Robert Gillet (Queen Mary, London) and Prof Elisabeth Wäghall-Nivre (Stockholm), all of them participants in the network and contributors to the colloquium. The Limerick part of the *Movens* network is a project on Friedrich Engels and Ireland, supervised by Dr Gisela Holfter. The Masterclass project has gone through a review process by the Centre of Teaching and Learning in UL and has been judged a resounding success.

Swiss events

The Dept of German Studies at MIC (UL), in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland, Dublin, and Presence Switzerland hosted a **Swiss**

Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland 1
00353 (61) 20 -2395/-2354, Fax -2566, Gisela.Holfter@ul.ie or
Joachim.Fischer@ul.ie <http://www.ul.ie/~lcs/Irish-German/index.php>

Film Night on 21 November 2007, as part of MIC One-World-Week. The screening of *Die Vogelpredigt* (Engl. subtitles) by Swiss director Clemens Klopfenstein, was followed by a wine reception. This was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Counsellor Ernst Balzli of the Swiss Embassy and his wife Alice, who left Dublin for their next appointment in Istanbul, and to meet his successor, Ms. Bernadette Hunkeler Brown. Students enjoyed a taste of Swiss slam poetry during the performance of the young Berne poet **Jürg Halter** in MIC on 14 April 2008. Halter, whose first collection of poems, *Ich habe die Welt berührt*, was published in 2005 (Zurich: Ammann), has performed at international slam competitions and poetry festivals.

The focus of this year's **Swiss Day Colloquium**, held on 24 April 2008 at MIC was "**Minority cultures in Switzerland and Ireland**". The opening lecture on Romansh culture in Switzerland by the Romansh writer and academic Prof. Emerit. Iso Camartin (Zurich) was followed by papers from Dr Tadhg Ó hIfeárnáin (UL), Dr Joachim Fischer (UL), Dr Siobhán Donovan (UCD), Dr Tobias Theiler (UCD), Dr Manfred Schewe (UCC), Mr Jeffrey Weiß (MIC) and a roundtable debate on bilingualism and pluriculturality in Switzerland and Ireland. (The publication of papers with Peter Lang is in preparation.) In the evening, **Iso Camartin** read from his books *Bin ich Europäer? - Eine Tauglichkeitsprüfung* (Am I a European? – A Fitness Test) and *Die Geschichten des Herrn Casparis* (Herr Casparis' Stories) in the Millstream Common Room, UL. The events were organised by the Embassy of Switzerland Lektor Marcela Pozarek, supported by Dr Stefan Hajduk as the co-organiser of the Swiss Day Colloquium, in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland, Dublin, Presence Switzerland and the Centre for Irish-German Studies. See www.mic.ul.ie/german/events.htm for further details on all Swiss events.

Guest Lectures / Film Events/ Plays

Millstream Writers Series

Writer and actor **Peter Jankowski** read from his collection of autobiographical writings, *Myself Passing By* (2000) in the Millstream Common Room, UL, on 8 November. This event was organized jointly by the Centre, the Dept. of LCS and Campus Life Services, UL. Peter Jankowski also taught two classes to fourth year students of German.

2 Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland
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Irish-German Studies Spring Lecture Series (organized by Dr. G. Holfter)

On 7 March 2008 Prof. Liliane **Weissberg** (University of Pennsylvania) gave a lecture on “Hannah Arendt, Charlie Chaplin, and the Hidden Jewish Tradition”. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion; the audience included students of German, students of the MA programme in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and many staff members from UL and Mary Immaculate College.

His Excellency, the new Austrian Ambassador Dr Walter **Hagg**, spoke about “Österreichisch-irische Beziehungen und die aktuelle Situation in der EU” on 4 April 2008 in Plassey House. The fourth year students and staff as well as a member of the Russian Embassy enjoyed the insightful and clear lecture by the high-profile diplomat who in turn was very impressed by UL.

On 8 April 2008 the Centre in coordination with UL’s Women Studies group presented a lecture by Dr Susan **Cohen** on “German academic women refugees and the British Federation of University Women, 1933- 1943”. Dr Cohen is an Honorary Fellow at the Parkes Institute for Jewish/non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton.

On 11th April 2008 Austrian writer Doron **Rabinovici** and Prof Dr Konstanze **Fliedl** (supported by the Austrian Embassy and in cooperation with the Dept of LCS and the MA in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies) gave a reading/lecture. The lecture was enthusiastically received by the students of the German programme who seized the chance to ask Doron Rabinovici about his work and Professor Fliedl about the theoretical background to its possible interpretations.

Ireland tour of Friends of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation.

The Centre helped with the organisation of a trip of the Friends of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, from 28 April - 5 May 2008. Among the participants were high-ranking representatives from German economical and political life. They were greeted by Vice President Vincent Cunnane in UL and, after a guided tour of the campus, enjoyed Dr Gisela Holfter’s lecture on German-Irish Relations and the role of Heinrich Böll. Their tour followed the footsteps of Böll himself, starting in Dublin, passing along the Shannon, enjoying Limerick and especially Achill Island where the group took part in the annual Heinrich Böll Weekend.

Der Reigen by Arthur Schnitzler performed by the Galway Theater Group

On 16 April we had the opportunity to host a play performed by the Galway German Theatre Group. Most of the organisational work was done by the



current DAAD lector Tanja Hagedorn who deserves full credit for her commitment and enthusiasm. The play was preceded by a wine reception (with Austrian wine!), which added to the enjoyment of the event by the large audience.

Publications**Books**

S. Tebbutt / J. Fischer (eds): *Intercultural Connections within German and Irish Children’s Literature*. Trier: WVT (Irish-German Studies III) is with the publishers and due out next month.

T. M. Päßlow: *Faltenwürfe in Heinrich Bölls Irischem Tagebuch. Untersuchungen zu intertextuellen, poetologischen, stilistischen und thematischen Aspekten als Momente einer textimmanenten Strategie der Bedeutungsvervielfältigung*. Munich: iudicium 2008.

Articles/ Contributions to Books

Holfter, G., S. O’Connor, B. Schulz: The Experience of German-speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-1945, in: B. Farago, M. Sullivan (eds.): *Facing the Other*, Cambridge: CSP 2008, pp. 47-60.

Holfter, G. (with Katie James): Interview with Hugo Hamilton, *DAAD London news 13*, Spring 2008, pp. 2-3.

Representing the Centre

J. Fischer, Reflections on a Forgotten Donegal Writer: Baroness Tautphoeus (1807-1893). Northbound 3 – Germany and Ireland, a Case of Elective Affinities. University of Ulster, Belfast Campus, 4 April 2008 (invited speaker).

J. Fischer, invited participant in a panel discussion on travel writing, National Library of Ireland, 28 May 2008.

G. Holfter, An Introduction to Masterclasses, International colloquium *Movens* - Crossing cultural and aesthetic boundaries, Limerick, 8-11 November 2007.

G. Holfter, Intellectual Networks in the 19th century – Friedrich Engels and his ‘History of Ireland’, Royal Irish Academy conference IN/DIFFERENCE Limerick, 9-10 November 2007.

G. Holfter, New Routes to Postgraduate Education – Masterclasses for Postgraduate Students, Shannon Consortium Regional Teaching and Learning Series, University of Limerick, 16 April 2008 (invited lecture).



G. Holfter, Heinrich Bölls Verhältnis zur grünen Insel, Heinrich Böll Foundation Ireland Excursion, Limerick, 30 April 2008 (invited lecture).
 C. O'Reilly, German-Irish Relations in Literature and Media since the Fall of the Berlin Wall, Herder Institute University of Leipzig, April 2008.
 C. O'Reilly, The Celtic Tiger: Changes and Alterations in Irish Hetero- and Autostereotypes, Department of Anglo-American Studies, University of Leipzig, April 2008.
 C. O'Reilly, Germany's Immigration Past and Ireland's Immigration Present: the Multiculturalism Debate and Lessons to be Learnt, Royal Irish Academy conference IN/DIFFERENCE Limerick, 9-10 November 2007.

Coming up - events planned for spring 08

Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung, 30 May – 1 June 2008

From 30th May to 1st June the Centre for Irish-German Studies will be hosting the Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung (International Society for Exile Research) at the University of Limerick. This is the first time that the annual Exile Research symposium takes place in Ireland. This will also be the 10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies.

The Conference will start on Friday at 14.00 with a welcome by the President of the University of Limerick, Prof. Don Barry. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benz, President of the Society and Director of the Centre for Anti-Semitism Research, TU Berlin, will open the conference. The papers on Friday will all be in English and will concentrate on the Irish experience regarding the situation of German-speaking refugees in Ireland between 1933 and 1945, Irish migration in the 1950s and the contemporary situation. In the early evening a reading of George Clare's *The Last Waltz in Vienna* (possibly with the author himself) will round off the first day of the conference. Saturday will start at 9.00 with several papers on different aspect of migration. We are delighted to welcome Wolf Suschitzky from London who will give an introduction to his films *No Resting Place* (nominated for two BAFTA awards and praised for its portrayal of Travellers in Ireland) and *Cradle of Genius* on the Abbey Theatre, which will be shown at the end of the conference. The film evening is starting at 8pm and entrance is open to all and free. Conference fee: €20.

Speakers are coming from Germany, Austria, France and Ireland. The support of the Austrian Embassy and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and ISKS (Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society, University of Limerick, is gratefully acknowledged.

Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland 5
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2009 Conference of the Centre

To mark the tercentenary of the arrival of Palatine settlers in Co. Limerick the Centre will host a conference on the **Palatines in Ireland** on 4-5 September 2009. Among the speakers will be Dr Patrick O'Connor, author of *People Make Places: The Story of the Irish Palatines* (1989) who will also guide a field trip to the Palatine Museum in Rathkeale on the second day. For further information contact Dr Hermann Rasche (hermann.rasche@nuigalway.ie) or Dr Joachim Fischer.

Changing Horizons: Polish-Irish Encounters in the New and Old Europe

On 3-4 October 2008 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE), the Dept of German Studies and the Dept of English, MIC (UL) are hosting an interdisciplinary conference seeking to explore the cultural and social dimension of Polish-Irish relations in the present and the past. Keynote speakers: Prof. John Belchem (Liverpool); Dr. Tomasz Kamusella (TCD/Opole). Selected papers will be published in a volume of the *Reimagining Ireland* series by Peter Lang. For the CfP and further details visit <http://www.polishirishencounters.mic.ul.ie> or contact the organisers Dr Sabine Egger / Dr John McDonagh.

Concert with Clara Schumann songs

This event will be a unique opportunity to listen to Clara Schumann songs performed by Elisabeth Goell and accompanied on a piano that was made for and owned by Clara Schumann. For more than one-hundred years it was in Donegal. The concert is to take place 9 February 2009 in the City Gallery in Perry Square Limerick in cooperation with the Irish-German Centre, the Irish World Academy for Music and Dance and the Arts Office in Limerick.

Exhibition

You will have the opportunity to see a new exhibition in the Glucksman library beginning on the 2nd of October 2008 with works by Gerhardt Gallagher and the late Margarethe Gerhardt, a painter and print artist who lived and worked in Warnemünde. In this exhibition Margarethe Gerhardt's works comprise mainly hard ground etchings from the period prior to and after the First World War. Those of her Waterford born grandson Gerhardt Gallagher are contemporary, combining hard ground and aquatint. Shown together for the first time they represent a very special artistic link between Ireland and Germany through the generations. All are welcome to the opening of the exhibition on 2 October 2008 at 4pm.

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Ongoing Research Projects

G. Holfter / J. Fischer (eds.), Irish-German Biographies. WVT: Trier (Irish-German Studies IV) (expected to appear autumn/winter 2008)

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

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

N. O'Mahony / C. O'Reilly (eds.), Societies in Transition: Ireland, Germany and Irish-German Relations in Business and Society since 1989 (expected to appear autumn 2008)

Postgraduate research projects

Current research students

PhD

Siobhán O'Connor, MA (NUI Maynooth), 'Policy and Public Opinion towards German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-1945' (G. Holfter).

Bill O'Keefe, 'Literary Occupiers': A comparative study of the writers Heinrich Böll and Felix Hartlaub'. (G. Holfter).

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

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

Claudia Reese, MA (Wuppertal), 'Multicultural identity in contemporary Irish writing' (G. Holfter and T. O'Toole, English section, LCS).

MA by Research

Cornelia Wahly, 'Attitudes of Irish students of German at primary and secondary level toward the learning of German as a foreign language' (A. O'Keefe and S. Egger, MIC).

Emmanuelle Bossé, 'City of Shadows: Dark Myth of newly reunified Berlin in Die Schattenboxerin' (G. Holfter).

New postgraduates coming to Limerick in autumn 2008

Alice Mazurek, 'Dealing with the past - a comparison of selected works by Heinrich Böll (Billiards at Half Past Nine, Group Portrait With a Lady) and Günter Grass (Tin Drum and Dog Years) and their reception nationally and internationally' (G. Holfter and Prof V. Neuhaus, Köln).

Karen Rooney, 'The Irish Link - a comparative study of autobiographical writings by German-speaking refugees in Ireland 1933-45' (G. Holfter).



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