



Centre news

No. 11 December 2008

*We wish you a very happy Christmas and an excellent start to 2009!
Our annual Christmas reception will take place on 17 December in the East Room, Plassey House, at 4pm. This year it will be a double function as it will also host the book launch of 'Europa ist nicht die Welt – (Post)Kolonialismus in Literatur und Geschichte der westdeutschen Nachkriegszeit' by Dr Monika Albrecht (German section, UL). It will be launched by Prof Florian Krobb, Maynooth. All welcome!*

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 here!

Irish-German book collection

Centre for Irish-German Studies Book and Material collection has moved! You can now find it in G2012 – just 2 floors above its former location.

Events and Developments since May 2008

10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies & Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung, 30 May – 1 June 2008

From 30 May to 1 June the Centre for Irish-German Studies hosted the Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung (International Society for Exile Research) at the University of Limerick. This was the first time that the annual Exile Research Symposium took place in Ireland. It was also the 10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies.

The conference started on Friday at 14:00 with a welcome by the President of the University of Limerick, Professor Don Barry. Wolfgang Benz, President of the Society and Director of the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung in Berlin, opened the conference. The papers on Friday by Gisela Holfter, Siobhán O'Connor, Piaras MacÉinrí, Breda Gray and Romana Kopeckova concentrated on the Irish experience, encompassing the situation of German-speaking refugees in Ireland between 1933 and 1945, Irish migration in the 1950s and the contemporary situation. An evening

reading of George Clare's *The Last Waltz in Vienna* by Eoin Bourke, followed by a wine reception with Austrian wine sponsored by the Austrian Embassy, rounded off the first day of the conference.

Saturday started with several talks on different aspects of migration. Among the speakers from Austria, Germany, Ireland and France were Patrick Farges, Birte Schulz, Nikola Herweg, Florian Müller, Marianne Windsperger and Tomasz Kamusella. Three films were shown – *Blind Eye*, presented by producer Mary Rose Doorly and on Saturday evening as a special highlight *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, introduced by Wolf Suschitzky, the acclaimed photographer and cinematographer from London. The screening was followed by a lively discussion between the audience and the filmmaker who had come to England in the 1930s as a refugee himself.

The conference, organised by Dr Gisela Holfter, brought together for the first time and in a very fruitful and interesting way traditional aspects of exile studies, the emerging field of exile research in Ireland with current trends and theories in migration studies.

Exhibition

From the 2nd to the 24th of October visitors to UL had the opportunity to see a new exhibition in the Glucksman Library of works by Gerhardt Gallagher and the late Margarethe Gerhardt, a painter and print artist who lived and worked in Warnemünde, Germany. In this exhibition Margarethe Gerhardt's works consisted mainly of 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. The exhibition was formally opened with introductory talks by the Limerick-based graphic artist David Lilburn and by Gerhardt Gallagher himself, and welcomed visitors from Dublin, Waterford and the Limerick region. The exhibition is now set to move to Germany. Plans are also under way to bring out a book.

3rd October - German Re-unification Day

In a joint venture of the Centre for Irish-German Studies with Doras Luimní, a Limerick organisation looking after refugees and asylum seekers, in the Granary City Library, Limerick, Dr Gisela Holfter and Dr Joachim Fischer gave talks on connections between Germany and the Limerick region,

followed by a reading from his latest novel *Disguise* by celebrated Irish-German author Hugo Hamilton and a reception.

Changing Horizons: Polish-Irish Encounters in the New and Old Europe
3rd-4th October

The Dept of German Studies and the Dept of English, Mary Immaculate College (UL) were hosting an interdisciplinary conference exploring the cultural and social dimensions of Polish-Irish relations, past and present. Ireland's recent exposure to large scale immigration has brought traditional markers of Irish identity into question. Existing analyses of this immigration have tended to focus on its economic impact. The conference looked at the cultural background, as well as social and cultural consequences of the largest single ethnic group to enter Ireland over the last ten years. These include the new image of Ireland as a country of immigration, but also a growing awareness of it being part of a new Europe which now stretches further east than before.

The event brought together scholars from Poland, Ireland, Great Britain, Germany and the United States. Selected papers will be published 2010 in a volume of the *Reimagining Ireland* series (Peter Lang). For further information visit www.polishirishencounters.mic.ul.ie. The conference was organised by Centre for Irish-German Studies member, Dr Sabine Egger, supported by Dr John McDonagh, MIC, the Polish Embassy, Dublin, Fáilte Ireland and the Centre for Irish-German Studies.

Lecture and reading on German-speaking refugees in Great Britain and Ireland by Dr Deborah Vietor-Engländer

In conjunction with the MA in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, UL, Dr Deborah Vietor-Engländer (Mannheim) gave two very moving and fascinating readings and lectures on 30 October 2008. Following a reading of her sister's diary that recalled the journey she made as one of the children who came to seek refuge in England via the *Kindertransport*, Deborah Vietor-Engländer talked about her own experiences of growing up in the exile community in England.

Publications

Books

S. Tebbutt / J. Fischer (eds): *Intercultural Connections within German and Irish Children's Literature*. Trier: WVT (Irish-German Studies III) 2008

Articles/ Contributions to Books

J. Fischer, Knowing your Grass from your elbow: Parameters of the reception of Günter Grass in Ireland. In: Hanjo Kesting (ed.), *Die Medien und Günter Grass*. Cologne: SH-Verlag, 2008, pp. 91-104.

G. Holfter, „Und es ist nicht gut für einen Autor über einen Gegenstand zu schreiben, den er zu sehr mag“ in Werner Jung, Jochen Schubert (eds): *Ich sammle Augenblicke Heinrich Böll 1917-1985*, Bielefeld: Aisthesis 2008, pp. 153-164.

G. Holfter, ‘Some facts and figures on German-speaking exiles in Ireland 1933-45’, in: Mathias Schulze et al, (eds) *German Diasporic Experiences: Identity, Migration, and Loss*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2008, pp. 181-192

G. Holfter, Siobhan O’Connor and Birte Schulz, ‘Resources Relating to German-speaking Refugees in Ireland’, in: *Refugee Archives – Theory and Practice - Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies 2008* , 2007/9 pp. 41-55.

G. Holfter, ‘Akademiker im irischen Exil: Professor Ernst Lewy’, in *German Life and Letters* 61/3, July 2008, pp. 361-385.

O’Connor, Siobhan, ‘,Alien family’: The impact of the Aliens Act 1935 and subsequent Orders on the family in Ireland, 1933-1945’, in: *History of the Family* 13 (2008), pp. 384-394.

Representing the Centre

J. Fischer and G. Holfter, “German-Irish connections in the Limerick region”, Limerick City Library, 3 October 2008.

G. Holfter, Exile in Ireland – an Overview, Emigration-Exile-Immigration-Re-migration, 10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies in cooperation with the Society for the Study of Exile, Limerick 30.05- 01.06. 2008.



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G. Holfter, IRCHSS Migration Research Clustering Event, DIT, Dublin
5.6.2008 (invited poster session).

G. Holfter, invited participant in a panel discussion on interreligious dialogue, Heinrich Böll Alumni Konferenz, Berlin, 10-11 October 2008.

G. Holfter (with C. O'Reilly), 'Intercultural Competence for Exchange Students – an Irish-German project', International Education Conference 'Moving beyond Mobility', Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 13-14 October 2008.

G. Holfter, Wissenstransfer und Interdisziplinarität im 19 Jahrhundert – Engels und Irland im Kontext der deutschen Irlandrezeption, international conference MOVENS – From Transgression to Dialogicity and Interculturality: Transformation of Literary and Cultural Paradigms, Ljubljana, Slovenia 20-23 November.

G. Holfter, S. O'Connor, B. Schulz, 'Ireland and its German-speaking exile diaspora', Neither here or there: Writing the Irish Diaspora, UL, 30.10-1.11. 2008.

S. O'Connor, Policy Development re Refugees from the 1930s until Today, 10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies in cooperation with the Society for the Study of Exile, Limerick 30.05- 01.06. 2008.

B. Schulz, Questions of Identity, 10th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies in cooperation with the Society for the Study of Exile, Limerick 30.05- 01.06. 2008.

Coming up - events planned for 2009

Concert with Clara Schumann songs

This event will be a unique opportunity to listen to Clara Schumann songs performed by Elisabeth Goell. She is accompanied on a piano that was made for and owned by Clara Schumann and has been in Co. Donegal for more than one hundred years. The concert which is to take place on 7 February 2009 in the City Gallery in Perry Square, Limerick is organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies in cooperation with the Irish World Academy for Music and Dance and the Arts Office in Limerick.



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Reading by Jürgen Lodemann

NUI Galway DAAD-writer-in-residence Jürgen Lodemann will be reading from his new novel *Paradies, irisch*, (Tübingen: Klöpfer und Meyer 2008). The event will take place between 10 - 19 February 2009. For specific date and time please see our webpage.

6th Masterclass for postgraduate students of the Centre for Irish-German Studies with Professor Christoph Houswitschka (Bamberg)

The masterclass will take place in UL in mid-March 2009, anyone interested please contact Dr Gisela Holfter

Lecture by Ingrid Wiltmann, (Wiesbaden), 2 April 2009

Editor of *Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland* (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp 1999) and *Lebensgeschichten aus Israel* (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp 1998)

11th Conference of the Centre – 300 years Palatines in Ireland – September 2009

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. The event will include a visit to the Palatine Museum in Rathkeale. Among the speakers will be Dr Patrick O'Connor, author of *People Make Places: The Story of the Irish Palatines* (1989). For further information contact Dr Joachim Fischer or Dr Hermann Rasche (hermann.rasche@nuigalway.ie).

Ongoing Research Projects

S. Egger / A. Dillon / M. Ni Neachtain: CLIL in Irish Primary Schools: A New Approach to the Development of Language and Intercultural Awareness? (part of a joint project with P. Studer (Zurich University of Applied Sciences) and R. MagShámhrain (UCC) on CLIL at primary, secondary and tertiary level)

J. Fischer, IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowship 2008/9: Germany as a Factor in Irish Modernisation Debates, 1916 – today

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

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

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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 spring 2009)

Postgraduate research projects

Current research students

PhD

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

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).

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

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

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'Keeffe and S. Egger, MIC).

Recently completed

MA by Research

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



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