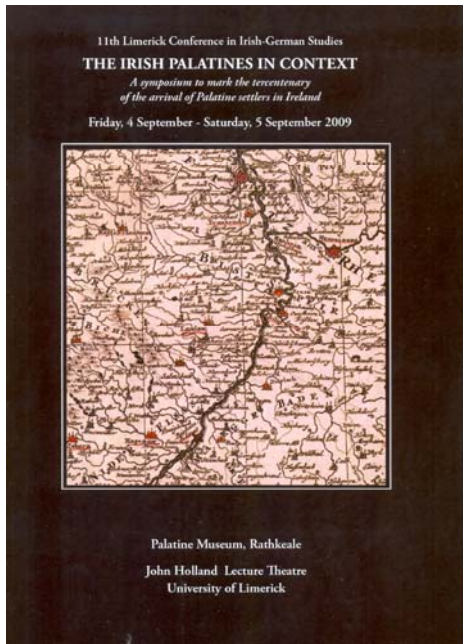


Centre news

No. 12 May 2010

Highlights

The Centre for Irish-German had another very busy year in 2009.



Among the highlights was a commemoration of the arrival of Palatines in Ireland 300 years ago in 1709.

Over 100 participants from Germany, England, Canada, Australia and of course Ireland attended the **11th conference in Irish-German Studies** "The Irish Palatines in Context" which took place at the Palatine Museum, Rathkeale and the University of Limerick on 4-5 September 2009.

Two volumes of the series *Irish-German Studies* appeared in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

The Centre welcomes three new members: **Dr Jerome aan de Wil**, Lecturer in Modern British and Irish History at the Universities of Reims and UCC, has joined the Centre with a research project in Irish-GDR relations. **Andreas Damm**, DAAD Lektor at the University of Limerick, is currently working on a PhD thesis on immigration to Ireland. **Dr Fergal Linehan**, Universität Leipzig, has recently completed his PhD thesis *Between Europe, Nation-State and Region – The Intellectual Reimagining of Space in Twentieth-Century Ireland, Britain and Germany*.

Dr Siobhan O'Connor was conferred with a PhD at the January 2010 graduation ceremony at the University of Limerick for her thesis on "Public Opinion on German-speaking Refugees in Ireland".

Masterclasses

Two Masterclasses for Postgraduate Students were organised by Dr Gisela Holfter. The sixth masterclass, with Prof. Christoph Houswitschka, Universität Bamberg, took place on 1 April 2009. Prof. Houswitschka also gave a paper at a seminar organised jointly by the Centre and the English section in UL about his special research area migration literature. The seventh masterclass (supported by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science) was given by Prof. Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa, NUI



Galway and Centre member Dr Sabine Egger (Mary Immaculate College, Limerick) on 13-14 November. A new feature at this masterclass was a workshop by Berlin writer Brigitte Burmeister which was attended by the German Ambassador Mr Busso von Alvensleben. Also new was the link between the masterclass and a postgraduate conference 'The Fall of the Berlin Wall Revisited' which took place at

Mary Immaculate College the next day and was organised by Jeffrey Weiss and Vera Sebold. The concept of Masterclasses as developed by the Centre has become a fixture within the Movens network of German scholars in Sweden, Slovenia, Ireland, Great Britain and Germany. The next conference of the network will take place in mid-May 2010 in Greifswald, Germany.

11th Limerick Conference in Irish-German Studies *The Irish Palatines in Context*. A symposium to mark the tercentenary of the arrival of Palatine settlers in Ireland. Palatine Museum, Rathkeale, and UL, 4-5 September 2009

The conference was organized in co-operation with the Palatine Society of Ireland and the 18th century Research Group in UL. With over 100 participants from Germany, England, Canada, Australia and Ireland, many of them of (Irish) Palatine extraction, the 11th conference in Irish-German Studies was a particularly successful event. It was opened by the German Ambassador, H.E. Busso von Alvensleben. Papers covered the 18th century social, political, cultural as well as literary contexts of this remarkable and unique instance of large scale emigration from Germany to Ireland.



The symposium ended with a reading of the first ever English translation of selected scenes from a 19th century German drama of the Palatine emigration to Ireland, *Die Pfälzer in Irland* by Paul Heyse. At the conference reception the German Ambassador launched vols. 3 and 4 of the Centre's book series *Irish-German Studies*.



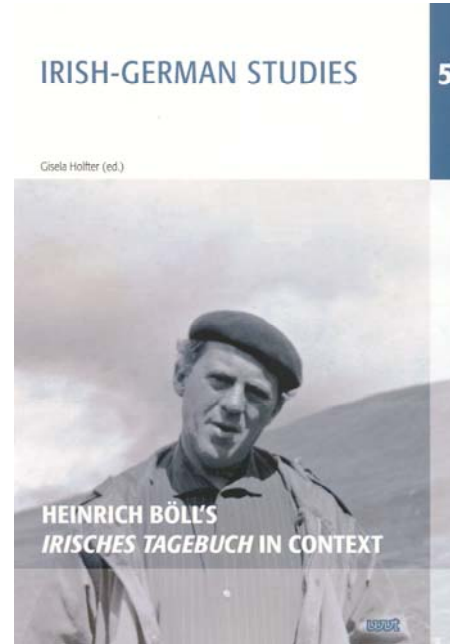
Book series *Irish-German Studies*

Two new volumes of our book series *Irish-German Studies* appeared recently. Volume 4, *Creative Influences – Selected Irish-German Biographies* contains biographical sketches of fifteen 19th and 20th century figures from the areas of music, literature, art, politics and business active at the interface Ireland and German, while volume 5, *Heinrich Böll's Irisches Tagebuch in Context* places Böll's classic in a wider literary and cultural context.



Irish-German Studies 5 was launched at the Heinrich Böll weekend on Achill Island, 30 April – 2 May 2010, by Minister of State Dr Martin Mansergh, TD. From left: John McHugh, H.E. Busso von Alvensleben, Sheila McHugh, Edward King, John F. Deane, Kathrin Schmidt, Hugo Hamilton, John Banville, Gisela Holfter, Rolf Stehle.

The German launch of *Heinrich Böll's Irisches Tagebuch in Context* took place at the Irish Embassy in Berlin on 12 May 2010, preceded by lectures on the subject by Gisela Holfter and René Böll. The book was launched by H. E. Dan Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to Germany.



Previously published within the series *Irish-German Studies*:

J. Fischer, P. Ó Dochartaigh and H. Kelly-Holmes (eds), *Yearbook of the Centre for Irish-German Studies 2001/2002*. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier 2004 (Irish-German Studies 1)

G. Holfter / H. W. Schmidt-Hannisa (eds), *German-Irish Encounters – Deutsch-irische Begegnungen*, Trier: WVT 2007, 280 pp (Irish German Studies 2)

S. Tebbutt / J. Fischer (eds): *Intercultural Connections within German and Irish Children's Literature*. Trier: WVT, 2008 (Irish-German Studies 3)

Other News and Activities

From 27 March-2 April 2010, Centre members *Alice Mazurek and Andreas Damm*, DAAD-Lektor at the University of Limerick, organised a **study trip to the city of Essen**, one of the Cultural Capitals of Europe 2010, for a group of UL students of German. The Irish students stayed with German students of the University Duisburg-Essen. Apart from a guided city tour and other cultural activities such as visits to coal mines, museums and a local brewery, the students also visited the city of Cologne. The study tour was a great success and some of the Irish students are already planning their next trip to Essen. The tour was a follow-up to a DAAD-sponsored study trip to Dresden and Leipzig last year, also organised by Andreas Damm.

PhD in Irish German Studies

Dr Siobhan O'Connor was conferred with a PhD at the January 2010 University of Limerick graduation ceremony. Her thesis on “Public Opinion on German-speaking Refugees in Ireland” was supervised by Dr Gisela Holfter. External Examiner was Professor Hamish Ritchie, Internal Examiner was Dr Joachim Fischer. She was joined at her graduation by her husband Brock, her son Ciaran and daughter Aisling.



Dr Joachim Fischer spent three months as **Visiting Fellow at the Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz**, March - May 2009. While in Germany he also participated in an Irish-language television programme on the Irish in Frankfurt which was first broadcast on TG4 on 3 November 2009 within the series *Thar Sáile*. In December 2009, he was nominated “**Leuphana International Lecturer**” by the University of Lüneburg. He spent a week at Lüneburg where he gave three seminars on Gaelic Autobiographies, The Irish image of Germany in the 20th

century, and Germany in contemporary Irish writing.

Dr Gisela Holfter was appointed **Member of the Advisory Board of the Research Centre for Germanic Connections with NZ and the Pacific** at Auckland University. She also organised the annual colloquium of the Business German in Ireland working group in Limerick on 13 March 2009 and the 2010 colloquium at the Goethe Institut Dublin on 5 March 2010. The group was founded nine years ago by Dr Holfter; its membership consists of lecturers of Business German from nearly all Irish universities and Institutes of Technology. The working group have recently been awarded the **Kuratorium Award of the German-Irish Chamber of Commerce**.

Recent Publications and Communications of Centre members

Books

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

- J. Fischer / G. Holfter (eds): *Creative Influences – Irish-German Biographies*. Trier: WVT, 2009 (Irish-German Studies 4).
- G. Holfter (ed.), *Heinrich Böll's Irisches Tagebuch in Context*. Trier: WVT 2010 (Irish-German Studies 5).
- Birgit Ryschka, *Constructing and Deconstructing National Identity – Dramatic Discourse in Tom Murphy's The Patriot Game and Felix Mitterer's In der Löwengrube*, Frankfurt et al: Peter Lang 2008.
- Niamh O'Mahony, Claire O'Reilly (eds): *Societies in Transition: Ireland, Germany and Irish-German Relations in Business and Society since 1989*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2009.

Articles / Book chapters

- G. Holfter / H. Rasche: 'John Hennig' in: *Dictionary of Irish Biographies*, volume, 4 G-J, edited by James McGuire and James Quinn, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2009, pp. 617-618.
- G. Holfter / H. Rasche: John Hennig (1911-1986) in: G. Holfter, J. Fischer (eds), *Creative Influences - German-Irish Biographies Irish German Studies 4*, Trier: WVT 2009, pp. 125-140.
- G. Holfter: 'Ein Fallbeispiel zur Rückkehrproblematik aus dem Exil – Ernst Lewy (1881-1966)' in: A. Goodbody et al (eds): *Dislocation and Reorientation*, Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi 2009, pp. 139-152.
- G. Holfter / H. Rasche, Paul Gottfried Johannes Hennig, in: *Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon*, vol 30, Herzberg: Traugott Bautz 2009, pp. 578-582.
- C. O'Reilly, G. Holfter: 'Changes and developments in Irish-German relations since 1989', in: Niamh O'Mahony, Claire O'Reilly (eds): *Societies in Transition: Ireland, Germany and Irish-German Relations in Business and Society since 1989*, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2009, pp. 169-184.
- C. O'Reilly, 'The Question of Identity in Ireland since 1989', in: N. O'Mahony / C. O'Reilly (eds.): *Societies in Transition: Ireland, Germany and Irish-German Relations since 1989*. Baden-Baden: Nomos 2009, pp. 43-64.
- C. O'Reilly, 'Reflecting on "Intercultural Anchored Inquiry" (IAI) as a Method for Third-Level Teachers of German in Ireland', in: F. Krobb / R. MagShamhráin / H.-W. Schmidt-Hannisa (eds), *Intercultural Encounters in the Classroom. Germanistik in Ireland: Yearbook of the Association of Third-Level Teachers of German in Ireland*, vol. 4, 2009, pp. 75-86.

Academic papers / Presentations

- J. Fischer, The Gaelic stage-German: Germany in contemporary Irish-language Culture. IASIL 2009, Glasgow, 27-31 July 2009
- J. Fischer, A Good Irish German: In praise of Hugo Hamilton's mother. The 'Good German' in Literature and Culture, Institute for Germanic and Romance Studies, 30 Sept.- 1 Oct. 2009
- J. Fischer, Gaelic Autobiographies, The Irish image of Germany in the 20th century, and on Germany in contemporary Irish writing. Lectures and seminars at the University of Lüneburg, December 2009

- J. Fischer, Politische und ökonomische Entwicklungen in den deutsch-irischen Beziehungen seit 1990 und ihr Einfluss auf die gegenseitigen Bilder: Spielt das alles eine Rolle für den Deutschunterricht? GDI Lehrerfortbildung, NUI Galway, 20 March 2010
- G. Holfter, Glaube und Kultur im Exilland Irland, Third international Feuchtwanger Conference, Institut für Zeitgeschichte, University of Vienna, Austria, 6.-9. May 2009
- G. Holfter, Exilforschung, 8. Nordisch-Baltisches Germanisten-treffen, Sigtuna/Stockholm, Sweden, 10-13 June 2009
- G. Holfter: Exilland Irland, Annual DAAD Lektorentreffen Cumberland Lodge, 10-11 December 2009
- G. Holfter, New Trends in Exile Studies, Queen's University Belfast 4. March 2010
- G. Holfter, Introduction to *Irland und seine Kinder/Children of Eire*, Stranger than Fiction Documentary Film Festival, Irish Film Institute, Dublin, 17 April 2010
- G. Holfter, Annemarie Böll Lecture, Heinrich Böll Weekend, 30. April – 2. May 2010, Achill Island
- G. Holfter, [Imagery and Sound in the Irish Journal, Heinrich Böll weekend, 30 April - 2 May 2010, Achill Island](#)
- G. Holfter, Heinrich Bölls *Irishes Tagebuch* im Kontext, Irish Embassy, Berlin (followed by German book launch of *Irish-German Studies 5* by H.E. Dan Mulhall), 12 May 2010
- G. Holfter, Emigranten als transitorische Identitäten, MOVENS – Grenzen überschreiten, Greifswald, Germany, 13-16 May 2010
- A. Mazurek, Ein Schnäppchen namens DDR (A bargain called GDR) – The Fall of the Berlin Wall in the work of Günter Grass, International Postgraduate Colloquium “The Fall of the Berlin Wall Revisited”, November 2009, Mary Immaculate College Limerick
- A. Mazurek, Heinrich Bölls *Billard um halb zehn* – Von Lämmern und Büffeln, Wendejahr 1959?, Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZIF), Bielefeld, Germany, 22-24 February 2010
- A. Mazurek, Intertextualität als Mittel zur Erstellung von Selbstbildern – eine Analyse von Günter Grass' *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* (MOVENS – Grenzen überschreiten – transitorische Identitäten), Greifswald, Germany, 13-16 May 2010
- C. O'Reilly, Verhandlungen im DaF Unterricht: Theorie und Praxis, Business German in Ireland Working Group – Annual Meeting and Colloquium, University of Limerick, March 2009
- C. O'Reilly, Touching Lives: The Legacies of Individual Encounters in Irish-German Relations Research. International Language Conference: Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Fremdsprachenforschung (DGFF), University of Leipzig, September-October 2009
- C. O'Reilly, Year Abroad: Returning (un-)changed? Curricular thoughts for BComm students going abroad to maximize their learning experience.

Business German in Ireland Working Group – Annual Meeting and Colloquium, Goethe Institut Dublin, March 2010

C. Reese, Changing the face of Irish autobiography: The Irish-German dimension in the writings of Hugo Hamilton. Poster at EFACIS 2009 “Ireland in/and Europe: Cross-Currents and Exchanges”, Vienna, 3-6 September 2009.

M. Steinke, Exilanten in Nordirland, Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung e.V. 2010, Deutsches Auswandererhaus Bremerhaven, 13. March 2010

Postgraduate research

Martti Steinke is a New Postgraduate student at the Centre. His PhD thesis deals with the reconstruction of the story of German-speaking refugees in Northern Ireland 1933 to 1945 and is supervised by Dr Gisela Holfter. Having graduated from the University of Bielefeld in 2008 with first-class BA and MA degrees in British and American Studies, German Studies and Educational Sciences, he is currently based in Belfast carrying out his research in the Public Records Office. In autumn 2009 Martti was awarded one of the prestigious IRCHSS scholarships. Congratulations!

Ongoing PhD research projects

Alice Mazurek, ‘Problematik der Erinnerung, Erinnerungs-konstruktion und Aufarbeitung der Vergangenheit in Günter Grass’ *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* sowie ein kritischer Vergleich der nationalen und internationalen Rezeption des Textes’ (G. Holfter).

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

Claudia Reese, ‘Multicultural Identity in Contemporary Irish Writing’ (G. Holfter and T. O’Toole, English section, LCS).

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

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

Ongoing Research Projects

J. Fischer, “Germany as a Factor in Irish Modernisation Debates, 1916 – today” (supported by an IRCHSS Senior Research Fellowship in 2008/9)

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

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

Coming up - Events planned for 2010-11

The German writer **Bernhard Schlink** is due to visit the University of Limerick to read from his works in Autumn 2010. (Further information: G. Holfter)

In May 2011 the Centre is co-organising a conference entitled “Contemporary German-Irish cultural relations in a European perspective” in cooperation with the Goethe Institut Dublin to mark the **50th birthday of the Goethe Institut** in Dublin in 1961. (Further information: J. Fischer)

In cooperation with the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science, the Centre is co-organising a **conference on Friedrich Engels and Ireland** in August 2011 in Berlin. (Further information: G. Holfter)

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- Order a copy of the 98/99, 99/00, 00/01 *Yearbooks* for €50
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