

Centre *news*

No. 13 April 2011

New Patrons



Mr Beat Loeliger (Swiss Ambassador), Dr Walter Hagg (Austrian Ambassador), Dr Gisela Holfter, Dr Joachim Fischer and Mr Busso von Alvensleben (German Ambassador), Plassey House, UL

The Ambassadors of Austria, Switzerland and Germany are now official patrons of the Centre for Irish-German Studies. The new patrons Dr Walter Hagg (Austrian Ambassador), Beat Loeliger (Swiss Ambassador) and Busso von Alvensleben (German Ambassador) were introduced at a reception on 25 November 2010 at the University of Limerick. The Centre looks forward to a continuation of our close links and productive cooperation with the three embassies.

New Adjunct Professor Eda Sagarra



The University of Limerick is delighted to welcome Professor Eda Sagarra as new Adjunct Professor of the Centre for Irish-German Studies. Even after her retirement from the Chair of German in Trinity College Professor Eda Sagarra's status as a leading scholar and authority on German literature, history and cultural studies remains undiminished. She was appointed Pro-Chancellor of Trinity College Dublin and Founding Chairman of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof. Sagarra presented her inaugural keynote lecture on 'The Federal Republic of Germany: a retrospective' as part of the international colloquium of the Centre which focused in particular on the teaching of GDR literature and took place on 28 and 29 March 2011. The colloquium involved speakers from Ireland, Germany, Britain and Northern Ireland (see below).

The Centre for Irish-German Studies is especially glad that Prof. Sagarra accepted the honorary position of Adjunct Professor as she has been long involved with the Centre's work since its very beginning in 1997.

Events since May 2010

The autumn lecture series of the Centre for Irish-German Studies, organised by Gisela Holfter, covered six different aspects of the relationship between Ireland and the German-speaking countries and cultures, both historical and contemporary. The series was supported by the German Embassy in Ireland.

Eva Gross and **Michael Kennedy** addressed the issue of German-speaking refugees who came to Northern Ireland between 1933 and 1945. Michael Kennedy's parents took in a child who came to Belfast via the "Kindertransport" in 1939. His multimedia presentation documented numerous deeply moving individual life stories, placing them into their historical context. Eva Gross was brought to Belfast from Kolberg (today: Kołobrzeg) on the Baltic Sea in 1936 because

her parents (her father was Jewish) wanted her to have access to education she could not get in Kolberg. In sharing their personal experiences they started the Centre's lecture series for autumn 2010 on 20 October.



Martti Steinke, Eva Gross and Michael Kennedy on Living Bridge, UL

The Swiss Ambassador to Ireland **H.E. Beat Loeliger** focussed on the relationship between Ireland and Switzerland in his lecture to fourth year students of German on 3 November. He paid particular attention to the process of political decision making and financial probity in Switzerland, a choice of topics not without topical relevance. The students present enjoyed ample opportunity to discuss cultural and linguistic characteristics of Switzerland.

The invitation to German-Iranian film-maker **Ali Samadi Ahadi** was made possible through the financial support of the UL Environmental Committee. His films were presented to an audience of over 100 people. *Salami Aleikum* (2009), a comedy which deals with East- and West-German cultural differences and stereotypes regarding foreigners in general as well as gender roles, was particularly successful with students of German. *Lost Children* (2004), on the other hand, concerned itself with the very serious topic of (former) child soldiers in Uganda and the difficulties in

reintegrating them into society. The screening of this documentary was followed by a discussion between Ahadi and **Dr Siobhan O'Connor** of Doras Luimní about the situation in Uganda, international aid and the difficulties asylum seekers encounter in Ireland and elsewhere. The film was shown in the context of a BA module on cultural awareness and sustainable education. Ethical questions regarding films and war as well as ways of helping the children and Ahadi's own personal background were discussed in subsequent smaller group tutorials. Ahadi also previewed his latest film *The Green Wave* (2010) to staff of the German Section. It was shown just a few days later at the Amsterdam Documentary Film Festival where it received standing ovations. One week after the Amsterdam success it was announced that *The Green Wave* was selected to be screened at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, as one of only 12 films selected from 796 international documentary submissions!

From 24 to 26 November 2010, **Prof. em. Ian Wallace** (Bath) taught the 8th Centre for Irish-German Studies Masterclass for Postgraduate Students at UL. The six participating PhD students enjoyed the supportive and inspiring one-to-one sessions with Ian who has been a particularly welcome visitor to UL's German section for many years.

On 25 November 2010, a new member to the Centre for Irish-German Studies, **Dr Jérôme aan de Wiel** (School of History, UCC) delivered a lecture on "Germany and Austria-Hungary's political interest in Ireland, 1900-1917". The lecture was an excerpt from his larger study *The Irish Factor, 1899-1919; Ireland's Strategic and Diplomatic Importance for Foreign Powers* (2008) which received much critical acclaim and was republished in paperback in 2010. The presentation was followed by a mulled wine reception during which the new Patrons were introduced (see above). The well attended event also featured the launch of external Centre member **Hermann Rasche's** (with **Harald Raykowski**) recently published *Literarischer Führer Irland* (Insel Verlag 2010).

On 25 February 2011 the Centre co-operated with the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies and the Centre for European studies hosting the Eighth Ralahine Utopian Studies Workshop entitled *Visions of Europe – Perspectives from Ireland and abroad*. The interdisciplinary workshop featured international experts including **Dr Fergal Lenehan** (Jena) who also joined the Centre recently as an external member.

Vorsprung durch Deutsch was the motto of the 10th Anniversary meeting of the Business German in Ireland Working Group at the German Embassy on 11 March, 2011. Hosted by the German Ambassador to Ireland, **H.E. Busso von Alvensleben**, the sessions addressed the question what new “need for German in Ireland” is arising in the present crisis situation and how the subject can be made more visible to potential students. The need for German in a business context in Ireland, the employers’ and graduates’ perspectives and finally the situation of current students in the current economic climate in Ireland were the topics discussed by participants hailing from the fields of politics, business, media and education. Organiser Gisela Holfter, the founder and chairperson of the group, expressed her delight with the interest the event had sparked among members of the public, as there were far more people interested in the event than the room could hold. Andreas Damm, another Centre member actively involved in the Business German group, recorded the event and a report by Mr Zingraf, First Secretary at the Embassy is available on the website of the German Embassy:

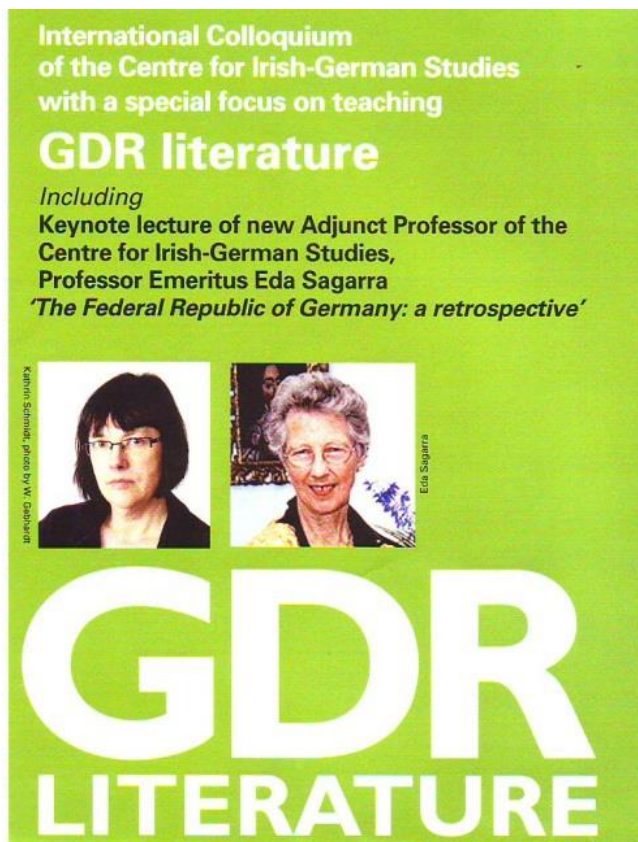
http://www.dublin.diplo.de/Vertretung/dublin/en/05/Business__German__Working__Group.html

Derek Scally, *Irish Times* correspondent in Berlin, who contributed to the Business German in Ireland colloquium, also came to Tralee and Limerick to talk about life in Berlin. His lecture in UL on 14 March was organised in conjunction with the Journalism Section and supported by the Teaching Fund of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Later that day, he introduced the showing of *Metropolis* at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. **Karin Fichtinger-Grohe**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Austrian Embassy, gave a paper on Austria and the EU on 31 March. Another speaker of the Business German event, **Angela Byrne** of Enterprise

Ireland, also came to UL and Mary Immaculate College and talked to students about the need for German on 4 April.

Kathrin Schmidt was the first DAAD writer-in-residence at the Centre for Irish-German Studies, thanks to a successful application by DAAD Lektor Andreas Damm and Gisela Holfter. A German Book Prize Winner and highly acknowledged author, Kathrin Schmidt gave two readings from her works at the Centre's international colloquium (see below) and discussed her prize-winning novel "Du stirbst nicht" ("You won't die") as well as her poetry with several classes during her stay from 20 March to 1 April 2011.

The Role of Literature in the GDR (and Ireland)

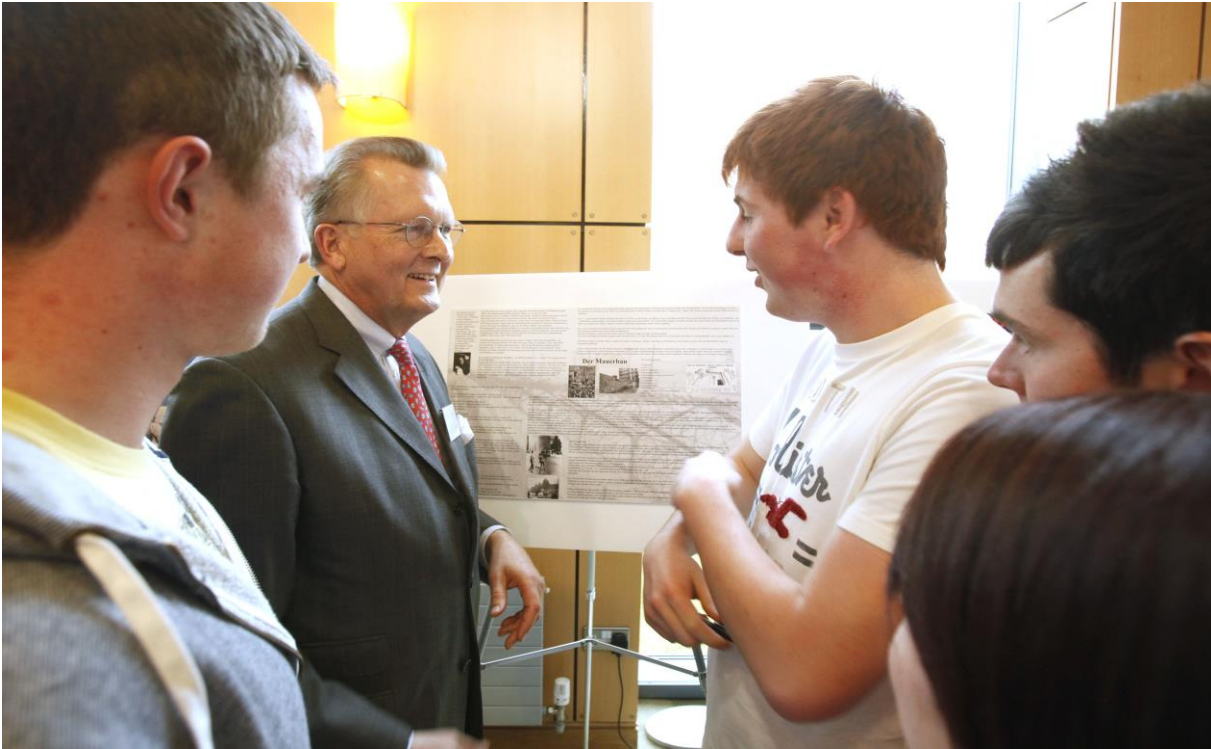


As a major event, the Centre for Irish-German Studies organized an International Colloquium with a special focus on the teaching of GDR literature. The two day event provided a platform for an exchange of views and experiences between authors, lecturers, students and teachers.

It started on 28 March with a keynote lecture by Prof. em. **Eda Sagarra**, her inaugural lecture as Adjunct Professor of the Centre for Irish German Studies on "The Federal Republic of Germany: a retrospective".

Prof. Sagarra's lecture was

followed by a roundtable discussion addressing the question of whether there is or has been "A special role for literature" in the GDR and in Ireland. Participants were German Book Prize winner **Kathrin Schmidt**, the writer **Frank Hörnigk** from Berlin, **Hugo Hamilton** (Dublin), **Carlo Gebler** (Enniskillen) and **Prof em. Ian Wallace** (Bath).



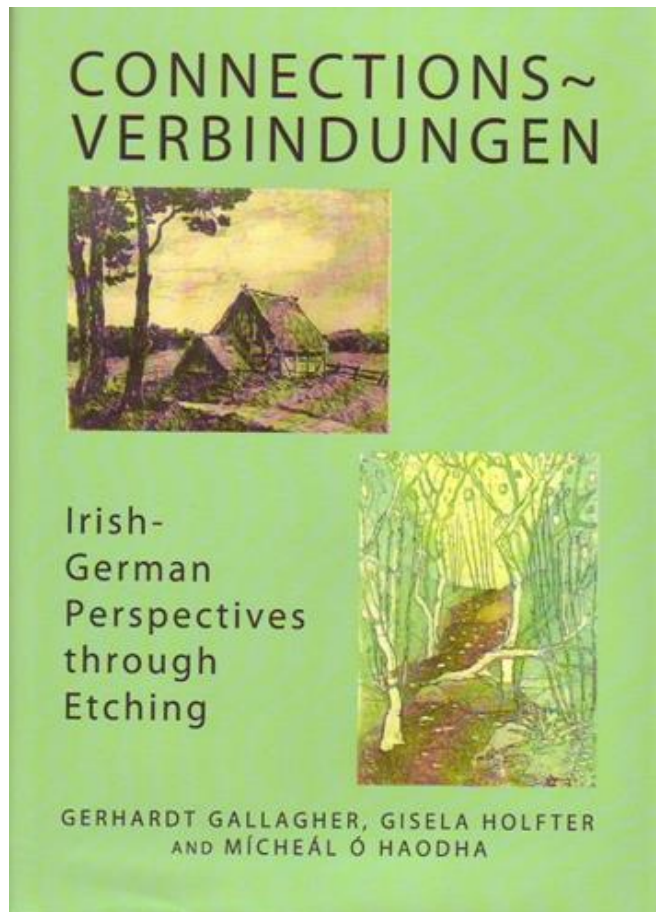
Mr Busso von Alvensleben discussing posters with first year students, a project supervised by Andreas Damm; photo by Don Moloney, Press 22

A poster presentation compiled by First Year Students of German in UL was praised by Vice-President Prof. Sarah Moore who welcomed all visitors to the conference. The German ambassador to Ireland, Busso von Alvensleben, launched the book *Connections – Verbindungen: Irish-German Perspectives through Etching* edited by Gerhardt Gallagher, Gisela Holfter and Mícheál Ó hAodha. Kathrin Schmidt also read from her novel *Du stirbst nicht* (“You won’t die”), 2009.

The second day of the Colloquium featured lectures by Irish, British and German scholars, including Marieke Krajenbrink, Katja Scholz and Andreas Damm (all UL), Therese and Frank Hörnigk from Berlin, Sabine Egger and Jeffrey Weiss from Mary Immaculate College Limerick, Ian Wallace (Bath), Annelie Eberhardt (Gesellschaft der Deutschlehrer Irlands) and Deirdre Byrnes (NUI, Galway). After a second reading by Kathrin Schmidt of a number of her poems, the focus of the event shifted to the benefit teachers can gain from GDR literature in the foreign language classroom. All teachers attending the Colloquium were provided with free teaching material from Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

The event was supported by the German Embassy, the DAAD, the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, the Institute for Knowledge in Society (ISKS) and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science at the University of Limerick.

Book launch



Gerhardt Gallagher, Gisela Holfter and Mícheál Ó hAodha, *Connections – Verbindungen: Irish-German Perspectives through Etching* was launched by the German Ambassador to Ireland H.E. Busso von Alvensleben on 28 March 2011, during the International Colloquium teaching GDR literature (see above).

When artist Gerhardt Gallagher came across a series of etchings by his German grandmother Margarethe, it led to a sequence of events culminating in an exhibition and eventually the publication of this book. Margarethe's artistic

career had been severely disrupted by two wars and Gerhardt conceived this project which would allow Margarethe's works to be exhibited in Ireland alongside his own.

Gisela Holfter and Mícheál Ó hAodha of the Glucksman Library, out of a strong personal interest in Gerhardt's works, brought the publication project to fruition. Together with Gerhardt they created this volume connecting Irish and German cultures through the work of two artists, a family history and the artistic links between two countries.



Mr Busso von Alvensleben, Dr Micheál Ó hAodha, Gerhardt Gallagher and Dr Gisela Holfter at the book launch of *Connections - Verbindungen*; photo by Eoin Stephenson

Upcoming Events

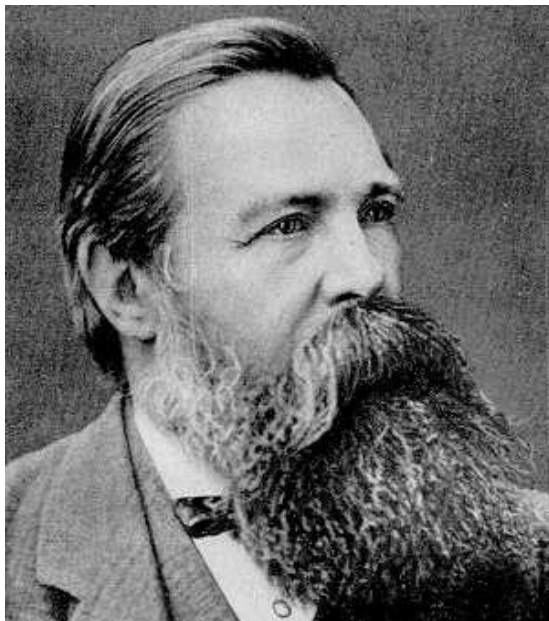
The 12th Conference in Irish-German Studies by the Centre for Irish-German Studies will be the first to take place outside the University of Limerick. Jointly organized by **Dr Joachim Fischer** and **Rolf Stehle**, Director of the Goethe-Institut, the two-day conference “Contemporary German-Irish cultural relations in a European Perspective: Exploring issues in cultural policy and practice” will mark the 50th birthday of the Goethe-Institut Irland and will take place on 6-7 May 2011 in the Goethe-Institut in 37, Merrion Square, Dublin. In the first session Max Fuchs and Andreas Wiesand will speak on German perspectives on external cultural policy. In the afternoon, Doris Pack, Katherine Watson and Horia-Roman Patapievici will cover the issue of culture and cultural policy within the EU, followed by a panel discussion in which Mary Cloake, Eugene Downes and Willie White will discuss Irish perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for cultural policy in times of economic crisis. On

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Saturday Joachim Fischer will present a retrospective on the Goethe-Institut in Ireland and Irish perceptions of Germany 1961 – 2011, Rolf Stehle will then talk about the aims and strategies of the Goethe-Institut Ireland today, Gisela Holfter will discuss the changes and continuities in the German image of Ireland 1961-2011 referring back to Heinrich Böll's *Irishes Tagebuch* (1957) while Claire O'Reilly will discuss German-Irish economic ties and their interdependence with the cultural sphere. The final session will be devoted to language teaching and language policy in Ireland with papers by Maeve Conrick (UCC) and Arnd Witte (NUI Maynooth). A concluding panel discussion chaired by Paul Michael Lützeler (St Louis) will address the question of what the future holds for *Germanistik* in Ireland.

A volume based on the papers delivered at the conference will be launched at the Official Function to mark 50 years Goethe-Institut Irland in October of this year.

11-12 August 2011: Friedrich Engels and Ireland



The 13th Conference in Irish-German Studies by the Centre for Irish-German Studies will also take place outside the University of Limerick - and indeed outside Ireland. Together with **Dr Jürgen Herres** (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science) and **Dr Eberhard Illner**, **Dr Gisela Holfter** will convene a special conference on Friedrich Engels' *Geschichte Irlands* ("The History of Ireland", 1869/70) in the broader context of German-Irish

relations in the 19th century.

During the 2-day conference, international academics will discuss the general relationship between the two countries in politics as well as in literature. Speakers include organisers Gisela Holfter and Jürgen Herres as well as Dan Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to Germany, who will speak about aspects of 19th century German-Irish

relations. Prof. em. Eoin Bourke (Galway/Berlin) will look at German travel accounts about Ireland whereas James M. Brophy (University of Delaware) will give a lecture about the reception of Daniel O’Connell in Catholic Germany during the *Vormärz*. A reception at the Irish Embassy will round up the first day.

On the second day Gisela Mettele (Jena) will look at Engels’ relationship with Mary and Lizzy Burns and Detlev Mares (Darmstadt) will speak on Ireland and the English workers’ and reform movement in the 19th century. Seán McConville (London) will discuss the situation of Irish political prisoners in Great Britain and Regina Roth (BBAW) Engel’s image of Ireland in his “History of the situation of the working classes in England” from 1845. Last but not least, co-organiser Eberhard Illner (Wuppertal) will address the economic relations and working conditions in Engel’s textile business in Manchester.

The conference is supported by the Irish Embassy in Berlin, the DAAD, the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the College of Humanities at the University of Limerick, and the Förderverein Historisches Zentrum Wuppertal.

Recent Publications

Books

S. Egger, *Dialog mit dem Fremden. Erinnerung an den “europäischen Osten” in der Lyrik Johannes Bobrowskis*. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2009..

G. Gallagher, G. Holfter and M. Ó hAodha, *Connections – Verbindungen: Irish-German Perspectives through Etching*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2011

H. Rasche, H. Raykowski, *Literarischer Führer Irland*, Berlin: Insel 2010.

Articles / Book chapters

P. Conlan, The Oireachtas in the EU and other international organisations, in: M. Manning, M. MacCartaighs (eds), *The Houses of the Oireachtas*, Dublin: Institute of Public Administration 2010, pp. 379-399.

- P. Conlan, J. Biggins, E. Fahey, C. Donnelly, Ireland: National Report, in Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias/Luis Ortiz Blanco (eds), *The Role of National Parliaments in the European Union*, Servicio de publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho Universidad Complutense, Madrid 2010, pp. 299-329, 312-317, 322-325.
- S. Ehrenreich, C. O'Reilly, Austauschforschung, in: G. Mehlhorn, C. Neveling, N. Schlüter, K. Schramm (eds), *Grenzen überschreiten: sprachlich-fachlich-kulturell. Dokumentation zum 23. Kongress für Fremdsprachendidaktik der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Fremdsprachenforschung (Beiträge zur Fremdsprachenforschung 11)*. Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Hohengehren 2010, pp. 300-303.
- J. Fischer, M. Schewe, Deutsch in Irland, in: H.-J. Krumm *et al.* (eds), *Deutsch als Fremd- und Zweitsprache. Ein internationales Handbuch*. Vol 2, Berlin, New York: De Gruyter Mouton 2010, pp. 1689- 93
- G. Holfter, Transitorische Identitäten – Anmerkungen zu Exil und Migration, in: Monika Unzeitig (ed.): *Grenzen überschreiten – transitorische Identitäten*, Bremen: edition lumière 2011, pp. 81-92.
- G. Holfter, Irish-German Art Relations, in G. Gallagher, G. Holfter, M OhAodha, *Irish-German Perspectives on Etching*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2011, pp. 1-9.
- H. Kelly-Holmes, The banks are just doing what has become normal now: Western banking discourse, continuity and change in the former GDR, *Off the Wall: Journal for East German Studies*, 2010: 1, pp. 2-15.
- F. Lenehan, From the Green Island, Review of: Christopher Sterzenbach, *Die deutsch-irischen Beziehungen während der Weimarer Republik, 1918-1933: Politik – Wirtschaft – Kultur*, in: *The Dublin Review of Books*, Issue 14, summer 2010, http://www.drb.ie/more_details/10-05-12/From_The_Green_Island.aspx.
- F. Lenehan, Revisiting the Habsburg Empire – Peter Glotz, attacking the Nation-State and a ‘Europe of Regions’, in: Matthias Middell and Ulf Engel (eds), *World Orders Re-visited*, Leipzig: Universitätsverlag 2010, pp. 95-108.
- C. O'Reilly, (2010) Review of: S. Ehrenreich, G. Woodman and M. Perrefort (eds.), *Auslandsaufenthalte in Schule und Studium*, Münster/New York/München: Waxmann 2008, pp. 640-643.

K. Vogt, G. Holfter and H. Rasche, Alighting in the Long Journey of Life – An ‘oral histories’ Migrationsprozesse untersuchen, in: *Unterricht Englisch*, no 110, March 2011, pp. 2-6.

Books due to be published in 2011

S. Egger, J. McDonagh (eds), *Polish-Irish Encounters in the New and Old Europe* (Reimagining Ireland). Oxford: Peter Lang.

F. Lenehan, *Europe of the Regions. The History of an idea in Germany, Britain and Ireland* (Irish-German Studies 6).

J. Fischer, R. Stehle (eds) *Contemporary German-Irish cultural relations in a European Perspective: Reflections on cultural policy and practice* (Irish-German Studies 7).

G. Holfter, *Heinrich Böll and Ireland*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Conference papers and seminars

P. Conlan, Free movement of persons and citizenship, Europäische Rechtsakademie Trier, Annual Seminar on EU Law 2010, 3 May 2010 and European constitutional law seminar, 17 June 2010.

P. Conlan, Introduction to the EU anti-discrimination legislation and definitions of key concepts: Direct discrimination; Indirect discrimination; Harassment, at: Europaeische Rechtsakademie in Trier, “Seminar on EU Anti-discrimination Law”, 21 February 2011.

S. Egger, CLIL in Higher Education: a Cross-Cultural Perspective (with P. Studer & A. Dillon). “LPLL 2009, Language Policy and Language Learning”, UL, 18-20 June 2009.

S. Egger, The Berlin Wall and its Fall from an Irish Point of View - Paul Durcan’s Poetry, “Twenty Years On: Remembering the GDR and Germany’s Unification Process”, University of Bath, 14-16 September 2009.

S. Egger, CLIL in ITE and attitudes to Primary classroom practice (with A. Dillon). CLIL 2010 In Pursuit of Excellence. University of Eichstätt, 30 September-2 October 2010.

- S. Egger, *Between Hölderlin and Heaney: Crossing Boundaries in Johannes Bobrowski's Poetry*. Arts Faculty Seminar Series, MIC, 9 November 2010. (Podcast, www.mic.ul.ie/afss/2010Series.htm)
- S. Egger, Johannes Bobrowski's Lyrik. "A special role for literature? Literatur in der DDR (und Irland)", University of Limerick, 28-29 March 2011.
- J. Fischer: *The Present crisis through German eyes. Confronting the Crisis*. ISKS Conversations series, University of Limerick, 13 April 2010.
- G. Holfter, *Nationale Erinnerungskulturen im Vergleich, 'Einheit und Vielfalt der Germanistik'* Vereinigung für Germanistik (IVG), Warsaw, Poland, 30 July – 7 August 2010
- G. Holfter, *Child refugees in Ireland 1933-45, Children and War: Past and Present*, University of Salzburg, Austria, 30 Sept. – 2 October 2010.
- M. Krajenbrink, *DDR Lyrik in Unterricht und Forschung – Beispiel die Niederlande*, "A special role for literature? Literatur in der DDR (und Irland)", UL, 28-29 March 2011.
- C. O'Reilly, L. Noonan, *Multilingual Individuals in a Multilingual Ireland? The Question of Learning Transfer from Germany's Immigration Experience*, "Multilingual Individuals and Multilingual Societies Conference", University of Hamburg, 5-8 October 2010.

Other news

Gisela Holfter was awarded a Martin Miller and Hannah Norbert-Miller Fellowship in Exile Studies at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. She will spend six weeks in London in May and June 2011 where she will give two lectures, one on 11 May and one on 12 May on her research. She was also awarded a DAAD scholarship for senior academics which she will take up later in 2011 when she will be hosted by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science in Berlin and the Centre for Anti-Semitism Research at the Technical University of Berlin. This will mark the beginning of her research leave during the academic year 2011/2012.

Ongoing PhD research projects

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).

Alice Mazurek (AHSS scholarship holder), „Die Erinnerung liebt das Versteckspiel der Kinder“ Der Erinnerungsprozess bei Günter Grass' *Beim Häuten der Zwiebel* (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, LLCC).

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

Martti Steinke (IRCHSS postgraduate scholar), German-speaking refugees in Northern Ireland 1933 to 1945 (G. Holfter).

Ongoing Research Projects

S. Egger, Images of "the European East" in contemporary German (and Irish) literature (book project).

J. Fischer, Germany as a Factor in Irish Modernisation Debates, 1916 – today: Closer to Boston than Berlin? (Manchester University Press).

G Holfter / H. Dickel (Wiesbaden), German-speaking Refugees in Ireland 1933-45 (supported by an IRCHSS Research Fellowship in 2006/7, also features in *Mosaic – a Celebration of Irish Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (2010) pp. 124-127).

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

F. Lenehan, Georges Chatterton-Hill: Life and Work.

J. aan de Wiel, "Ireland, East Germany and the Cold War, 1945-1990" (book project).

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