



AHSS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024





Take a Look

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Welcome to the AHSS Summer Faculty Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share the Summer edition of the Faculty Newsletter with you, documenting such sustained excellence across our disciplines. As we approach the end of the academic year, we should reflect on the productive and busy academic year we have had and celebrate all that we have achieved. The newsletter details a rich mix of engagements and achievements. Our staff have been recognised for their leadership in community and industry engagement, teaching excellence and research scholarship. This is evidenced through our faculty members' activities documented throughout this newsletter. Examples include our recent success in improved QS World University rankings in disciplines such as English Language and Literature, Performing Arts, and Modern Languages; our recent nominations at the Irish Law awards and the awarding of UL Citizens Assembly funding to colleagues, to name just a few.



Dr. Sandra Joyce
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,
Humanities and Social Sciences

Our sense of civic engagement remains very strong through our impactful research but also in our connections to local and national networks. Examples of impactful research initiatives include the continued success of the Greentown project; the publication of numerous journal articles and books exploring disciplines such as Criminal and Constitutional Law, Poetry, Music and History; and the continued engagement of our colleagues in European and International networks such as the UN Zero Conference and the Falling Walls Lab MSCA 2024. Our internationalisation activity is evident through engagement and participation in events encouraging partnerships on a local, national and international level. This includes a faculty delegation visit to Hong Kong and Hainan, China, the hosting of an Indonesian Embassy delegation to UL, celebration of the Lunar New Year and participation of faculty colleagues in the Education in Ireland and NAFSA recruitment events. These are all detailed in this newsletter.

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 wonderful events. These engagements consist of workshops, seminars, concerts, festivals, cultural exchanges and more. Examples include the landmark "House of Light" celebration which marked the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at University of Limerick. Other events included a successful information event on the recent referendum vote, a panel discussion event on the upcoming European elections and the Limerick Early Music Festival to name just a few.

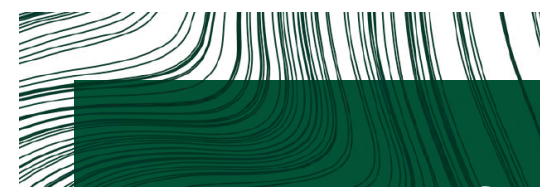
Our students also continue to impress across a range of pursuits, which include being recognised for their outstanding academic and creative achievements such as the launch of the Limerick Voice publication, continued success at the Student Media Awards, student engagement in sustainability and the production of the German play 'Biedermann und die Brandstifter', performed by 1st year students studying German. Our illustrious AHSS alumni featured in this newsletter continue to shine. Two of our postgraduate alumni, Mostafa Darwish (MA Journalism) and Alison Sweeney (MA Music Therapy) have been featured in a national marketing campaign which emphasises the benefit of completing a postgraduate degree in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and how they are contributing to wider society post graduation.

As a snapshot of time, I believe that this newsletter showcases the exceptional quality of our staff and students. I am extremely grateful to all who contributed to it, and especially to Oonagh Grace and Caoimhe O'Sullivan who worked so hard to put it together. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful Summer and would like to thank you very sincerely for your continued hard work and engagement.

Warm regards,

Dr Sandra Joyce

Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences





QS World University Ranking Success for AHSS

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences continues to enjoy success in improved QS University rankings in a range of disciplines. English Language and Literature at UL is now ranked 101 – 150 in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2024, up from 151 – 200 last year.

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is now ranked in the top 100 globally for performing arts in the QS World University Rankings 2024. The Irish World Academy has also been ranked as joint 2nd in Ireland.

Modern Languages jumped from position 301-320 last year to 201-250 this year. These improvements and high ranking is a testament to the hard work of colleagues, and the quality of research and teaching in these areas. Congratulations to all of colleagues involved in these disciplines. For more information see [Top Universities](#).



Mick Moloney posthumously conferred at ceremony in Irish World Academy of Music and Dance

An internationally acclaimed musician received a posthumous honorary doctorate award from University of Limerick. Michael (Mick) Moloney, who passed away in 2022, was a musician, academic, teacher and social activist and, for much of his life, one of the most influential Irish musicians in the United States. He was posthumously conferred with an honorary doctorate of letters by UL President, Prof. Kerstin Mey at a ceremony in UL. The Limerick born musician had a longstanding relationship with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at UL, where the ceremony featuring members of his family took place.

Alongside the Academy's founder, Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Mick shared a passion for nurturing emerging musicians and dancers, not only within the realm of traditional Irish music but also at the intersections of diverse musical traditions from around the globe. Mick was particularly influential in the development of the Academy's traditional music programmes, acting as one of the earliest international consultants for the MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance programme. He played an important part in many performance events at UL. His immense legacy as a musician, educator and social justice activist positions him as a global leader in inclusive music practices, a legacy that continues to grow through his students and creative collaborators around the world.

Irish Law Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Cahillane and Alex Casey (School of Law), who have both been named as finalists in the 2024 Irish Law Awards in the categories of Legal Educator of the Year and Law Student of the year.

The Irish Law Awards will take place at The Convention Centre Dublin (The CCD) on the 14th June. This annual event is designed to recognise excellence in the legal Profession of Ireland, commending the achievements of those working in the field.

Prof. Joseph O'Connor Artist in residence- Incontri Siena Festival

Prof. Joseph O'Connor accepted the role of 2024 Artist in Residence at the Incontri Siena Festival, Italy which runs from the 19th to the 27th of July.

The festival takes place at La Foce, Val D'Orcia, a place associated strongly with the literary and human rights work of the writer Iris Origo, who saved thousands from persecution during WW2.

Joseph's novel 'My Father's House' was published in Italy under the title 'La Casa Di Mio Padre' and was launched at the Irish embassy in Rome, Villa Spada al Janiculum, at the joint invitations of Ireland's ambassadors to Italy and to the Holy See.



Voting advice app wins UL Citizens' Assembly award

A voter engagement project led by Dr. Rory Costello, Department of Politics and Public Administration was chosen by members of the public as one of the three winners at this year's UL Citizens' Assembly, each receiving an award of €10,000. The project will develop the already well-established voting advice application WhichCandidate.ie for the upcoming European Parliament and Limerick mayoral elections, plus the next general election. The app allows people to compare their views on policy issues with those of the candidates running for election. In addition, the project will provide workshops on elections with community groups around Limerick and beyond. The goals of the project are to enhance public knowledge about policy issues and politics, increase turnout in elections, and foster greater connections between citizens and representatives. The project team includes Prof. Maura Adshead, Head of Community Engagement at UL, and Jackie Condon, a graduate of the Department's successful CWELL community development programme.



Greentown Project funding extension

The head of a unique University of Limerick-led research project into crime networks and young people has welcomed an extension of State funding for a further three years. Prof. Sean Redmond, Director of the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) in the School of Law, is principal investigator on the Greentown project, which has developed an innovative and bespoke intervention approach to breaking the link between criminals and the vulnerable young people. The programme not only aims to disrupt criminal networks in their recruitment of children into these networks but also offers an intensive programme to support children, young people and their families.

The extension of the programme for a further three years will reduce the influence of criminal networks on children at risk of involvement in crime and improve the likelihood of pro-social outcomes for children who are already involved in criminal networks. The Minister and the Minister of State at the Department of Justice intend that a plan will be developed to allow the learnings from Greentown to be mainstreamed into existing Youth Justice Projects and into Garda operational responses.

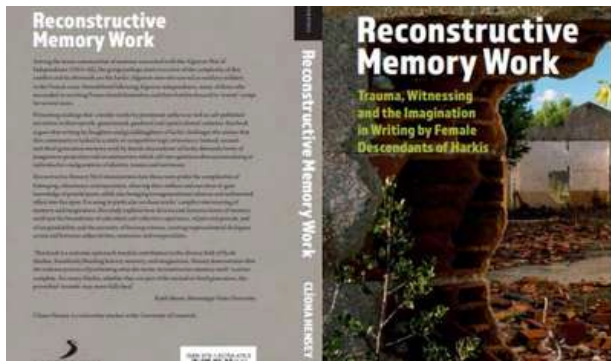
New Centre for Implementation Research

The Centre for Implementation Research is a new multi-disciplinary research centre based in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences which aims to enhance the adoption of evidence-based research, policies, programmes, and Professional practices by public entities, industry collaborators and other established partnerships.

The proposal for the new research centre was led by Prof. Seán Redmond (School of Law) and Prof. Alice Coffey (Department of Nursing and Midwifery).

Book publication

“Reconstructive Memory Work”



Dr. Cliona Hensey (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) recently published her first monograph with Liverpool University Press. The book, titled *Reconstructive Memory Work: Trauma, Witnessing and the Imagination in Writing by Female Descendants of Harkis*, explores literary works by daughters and granddaughters of harkis (Algerian men who served as auxiliary soldiers in the French army during the Algerian War). The works analysed aspects of memory, testimony and imagination to stage dialogues across and between generations, subjectivities and temporalities, within and beyond the context of the Algerian War. The book explores how second- and third-generation memory work by female descendants of harkis demands forms of imaginative projection and reconstruction which call into question traditional or unidimensional configurations of identity, trauma and testimony.

The book is part of a new Open Access initiative, Path to Open, which grants participating libraries unlimited access through JSTOR to high-quality monograph publications, and opens this access to the wider public three years after publication.

Music and the Mind - Podcast Launch

Music therapy staff were involved in a national launch of a new podcast entitled *Music and the Mind* in January 2024. Prof. Hilary Moss (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) and John McLoughlin (St. Patrick's Mental Health Service) spoke at the event which was launched at Smock Alley Theatre as part of the First Fortnight Arts and Mental Health Festival.

They outlined their practice as music therapists working in mental health settings and John reflected on his practice at St Patrick's Mental Health Service in Dublin. Prof. Moss spoke about music and brain chemistry and current research in the area. She focused on her research in the area of music and dementia, and the substantial international evidence of benefits for people with dementia and their care partners. She referred to research undertaken at UL on singing groups for people with dementia and their care partners; Mindful Music (an online programme for family care partners) and the link between music and movement for health, a collaborative research project led by Prof. Amanda Clifford and Prof Orfhlaith Ni Bhriain here at UL. She urged policy makers and healthcare managers to work towards 'a choir and a music therapist for every care home', as the benefits of music for people with dementia is so well evidenced and yet services are lacking.

The podcast *Music and the Mind* was created by musician Shane Mitchell from Irish folk band Dervish and psychologist Shane Martin, who explore the interaction between music and our minds. Produced by Amandine Passot Devine for 9AM productions. [Music and the Mind | Podcast on Spotify](#). Staff from Music Therapy at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance were delighted to participate and share their knowledge with listeners.

Dr. Ger Coffey appointed Editor, Irish Criminal Law Journal

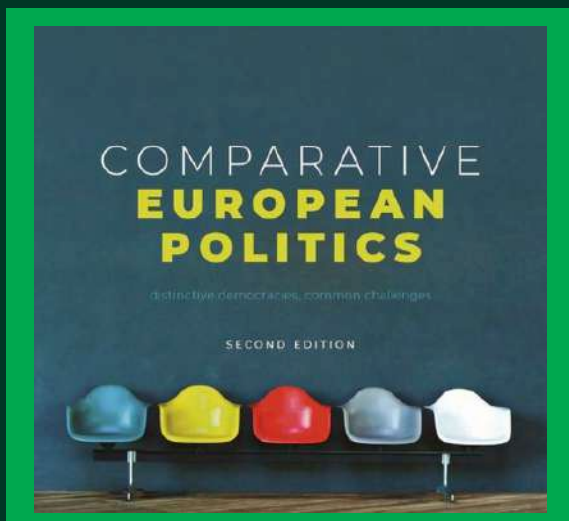
Dr. Ger Coffey, (School of Law) has been appointed editor of the Irish Criminal Law Journal and has overseen the publication of [2024] 34 ICLJ Issue 1. The Irish Criminal Law Journal is the principal refereed journal in Ireland published quarterly in print and online formats with scholarly articles on practical aspects of criminal law, cases and comments on the leading superior court decisions on criminal law, as well as evidence and procedure updates.

It carries authoritative and thought-provoking articles on all aspects of Irish criminal law and incisive commentaries on current developments in its field. While preserving the highest academic standards, the Journal also caters for the needs of those involved in the practice and administration of the law, and is frequently referred to by judges, practitioners, academics, criminal justice agencies and those involved in the practice, administration and study of criminal law. This engagement with external stakeholders serves to strengthen School of Law stakeholder connections.



Book publication “Comparative European Politics: distinctive democracies and common challenges”

The second edition of the book ‘Comparative European Politics: distinctive democracies, common challenges’, edited by Dr. Rory Costello and Prof. Neil Robinson (both from UL’s Department of Politics and Public Administration), has just been published by Oxford University Press.

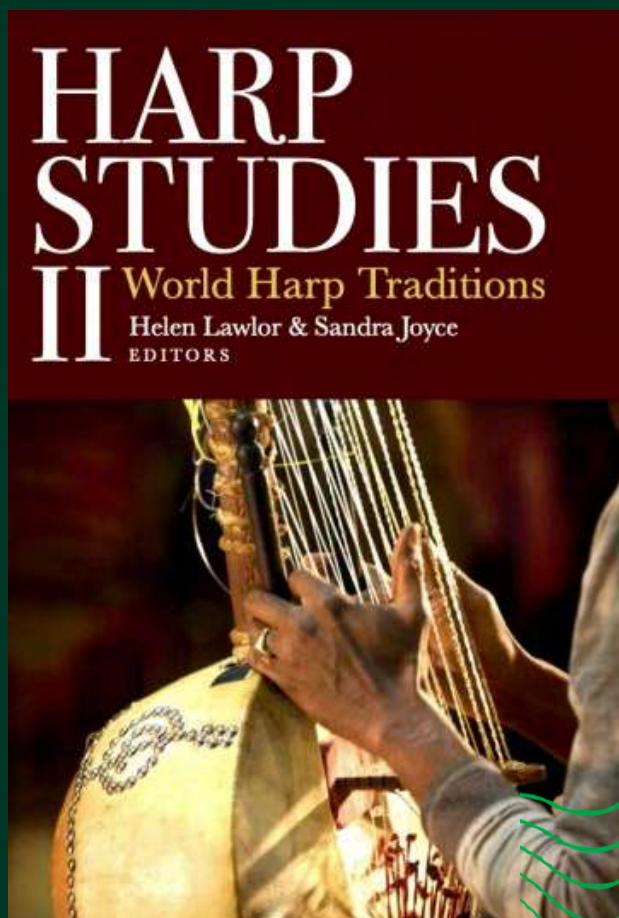


The book analyses contemporary politics in European countries, covering political behaviour, institutions, and current challenges facing European democracies. It features contributions from political scientists from across Europe and beyond, including two other UL colleagues, Dr. Conor Little and Prof. Owen Worth. The second edition is completely revised and updated, including a number of new chapters on topics such as climate politics and the growth of populism.

Launch of Harp Studies II: World Harp Traditions

Helen Lawlor (Lecturer in Music at TU Dublin) and Dr. Sandra Joyce (Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UL), co-editors, launched the 2nd volume in the Harp Studies series, *World Harp Traditions*, on the 4th of March at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. The launch featured performances by a number of the contributors to both volumes of *Harp Studies*, including Helen and Sandra, Paul Dooley, Cormac De Barra, Niall Keegan, the Cuisle Harp Ensemble directed by Fiana Ní Chonail, and a host of other performers.

Published by Four Courts Press, Dublin, this book situates harping activity as a vital aspect of music making in traditions around the world. Contributors include Helen Lawlor (TU Dublin); Dr. Sandra Joyce (UL); Dr. Niall Keegan (UL); Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh (MU); Helen Davies (ind.); Lia Lonnert (Linnaeus U.); Mary Louise O'Donnell (ind.); Cormac De Barra (DkIT); Catriona Cannon (NUIG); Tristan Le Govic (Rennes 2 U.); Joshua Dickson (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Paulla Ebron (Stanford U.); Rémy Jadinon (Royal Museum for Central Africa); Sylvie Le Bomin and Salomé Strauch (Musée de l'Homme); Lucie Rault (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle); Haley Hodson (ind.); Benjamin Fairfield (University of Hawai'i at Manoa); Suwichan Phattanaphraiwan (Bodhivijjalaya College); Susanne Fűrnis (CNRS. The National Center for Scientific Research); Lisbeth Ahlgren Jensen (ind.).²

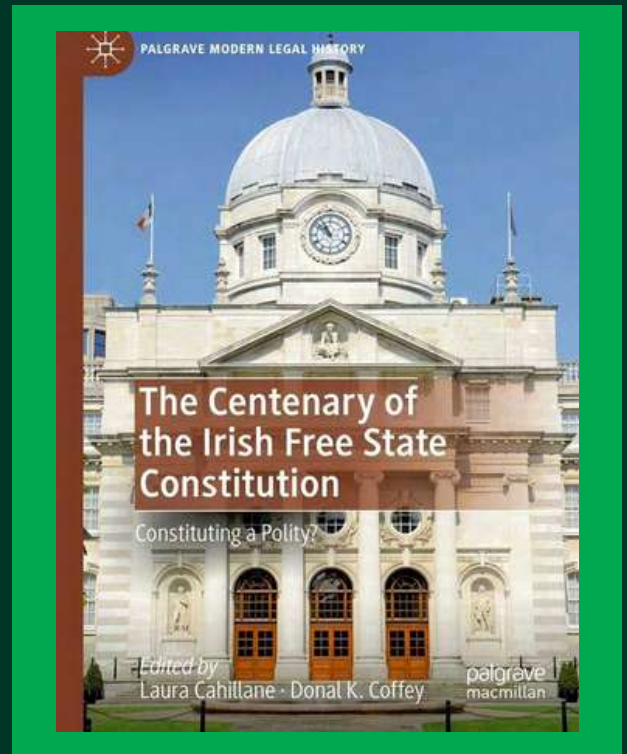


RTE Brainstorm article on a bespoke offence of domestic abuse in Irish Law

Dr. Susan Leahy (School of Law) recently wrote an article for the RTE Brainstorm platform detailing the need for a bespoke offence of domestic abuse in Irish Law. Whilst recent legislative developments including provisions for coercive control and stalking have strengthened criminal law in this area, incidences of domestic abuse and coercive control are still proving difficulty to investigate and prosecute. The article explores why a specific offence of domestic abuse in Irish law would support victims and enable effective investigation of this crime. You can read the full article on the [RTE Brainstorm platform](#).

Book Publication: “The Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution, Constituting a Polity?”

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Cahillane (School of Law) who, along with a colleague from NUI Maynooth, Dr. Donal K. Coffey, has just published an edited collection with Palgrave Macmillan entitled: ‘The Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution; Constituting a Polity?’ The book explores the role, development, and legacy of the first Constitution of independent Ireland and continues a recent trend of re-examination of this period in Irish history. It examines themes such as the establishment of institutions and the ideals of popular sovereignty and democracy. This book arose out of a conference organised by the editors in December 2022 to mark the Centenary of the Irish Free State Constitution.



The conference was held in the Shelbourne hotel, Dublin, where the Constitution was originally drafted. This was sponsored by the Courts Service, MUSSI, the Shelbourne, and the School of Law at the University of Limerick. The Conference was reported on in the Irish Times and RTE Radio and Morning Ireland held a special broadcast from the venue that morning to mark the event and included interviews with Laura and Donal. Contributors to the collection include academics, practitioners, and judges based in Ireland and beyond and the book also includes a foreword from the Chief Justice Donal O'Donnell.



Renaissance Society of America, Chicago 2024

Dr. Richard Kirwan (Department of History) presented a paper titled 'Contortions of the Convert: The Public and Private Self of Jacob Reihing (1579–1628)' at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Chicago on the 23rd of March.

This was part of an EMODIR (Early Modern Religious Dissents and Radicalism) research group panel on 'Clandestine Diversities: Dissembling and Dissenting in Early Modern Europe'. At the RSA, Dr. Kirwan also co-organised with Dr. Christa Lundberg (Cambridge) a roundtable discussion of the theme of 'Agency in the History of Universities'. This featured contributions from scholars from the universities of Limerick, Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, QUB and Utrecht.

Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin delivers lecture to Moate Historical Society



On the 12th of March, Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin (School of English, Irish, and Communication) gave a lecture entitled 'Place names in and around Moate' to Moate Historical Society. The paper discussed the origins, meaning and development of 20 place names in and around the town.

The society commented on the lecture: "As part of the Jeremiah Sheehan memorial lecture, Moate Museum and Historical Society would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Aengus Ó Fionnagáin for delivering an absolutely captivating lecture on "Place names in and around Moate". His professional insights into how the evolution of language intertwines with the narrative of our past left us all enlightened and inspired. Thank you for sharing your expertise and passion with us; it was truly a privilege to be part of such an enriching experience."

Dr. Carmel Hannon-Music Generation Project

Dr. Carmel Hannan, Associate Professor in Sociology, won a tender to supply research and data services for Music Generation, Ireland.

Music Generation is a national music education programme whose mission is to empower children and young people to realise their full potential through access to, and participation in, high quality performance music education.

This short-term project with UL involves the analysis of data from twenty-nine music partners and the production of a statistical report (total award value €30,000).



Poetry Day Ireland

-Dr. Emily Cullen

For Poetry Day Ireland, (25th of April), the poetry film of Dr. Emily Cullen's poem "I Am Sionann" was released. This poetry film, enabled by an Arts Council Agility award, was made in collaboration with poet and filmmaker, Luke Morgan and features Limerick actress, Johanne Webb. The theme music is Emily's original composition for the Irish harp, "The Stately Shannon".

Dr. Emily Cullen was also invited to write a reflection on poetry and politics as part of Poetry Day for the online platform "The Conversation". The article was entitled "Why reading and writing poems shouldn't be considered a luxury in troubling times" and can be accessed online via [the Conversation website.](#)



International Working-Class Story Festival

Prof. Eoin Devereux (Dept. of Sociology) showcased a new Video Poem at the International Working Class Festival on the 23rd of March. The event was broadcast in Australia, the USA and the UK. In a prelude, Eoin spoke about the growing failure of Sociology and Social Science to engage with working class experiences and how his focus has shifted to using more creative forms such as poetry and music to articulate the experiences associated with class stigma.

His talk was followed by a Video Poem of "Penny Boy" - originally published in 2022 as part of his curated broadsheet "April Is The Cruellest Month" - and the Video Poem is available on [Youtube](#) to view.

Zero Conference 2024

Dr. Ann Marcus-Quinn (School of English, Irish, and Communications) was invited to attend the Zero Project Conference at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria from the 21st to the 23rd of February. The conference is a showcase for innovation with sessions centred around the topics of Inclusive Education, and ICT. Dr. Marcus Quinn participated in the Accessible EU Workshop: ICT and Digital Transformation where invitees discussed the implications of the changing policy and legal frameworks on digital accessibility implementation. The recommendations from the conference will be submitted to the European Commission for consideration.

Falling Walls Lab Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions 2024

Dr. Sarah Josefine Schaefer (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) was selected by the European Commission to present her MSCA-funded research “Community, Identity and Diversity in German Youth Radio” at the prestigious Falling Walls Lab Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions 2024.

The Falling Walls Lab MSCA 2024 is a world-class pitch competition for early-career researchers “to present their solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of our time to peers, a high-calibre jury of experts from academia and business, and the general public” (Falling Walls Foundation). The competition was held as part of this year’s MSCA Conference on the 18th and 19th of April in Mons, Belgium.

[A recording of the conference and the competition including Sarah’s pitch “Breaking the Wall of Ethnic Diversity in Media” is available.](#)





House of Light: 30 Years of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance

A spectacular celebration of creative expression took place in February at University of Limerick. The festive event began a year of celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the internationally renowned Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. House of Light, the opening event of 'Academy 30: Fís and Fás/Vision and Growth', filled the campus with colour and sound. A procession across the Living Bridge featuring aerial dancers, an African drumming ensemble and Irish traditional music and dance was the centre piece of the event. The 350m-long steel bridge over the River Shannon that connects UL's Limerick and Clare campuses swayed as the spectacular musical and dance showcase took place.

The House of Light celebration coincided with the Celtic festival Imbolc, marking the return of light after the winter months, and was also a reference to architect Daniel Cordier's original vision for the Academy. Founded in 1994, the Academy has grown into an internationally recognised centre of innovative performing arts education, with around 2,500 graduates across three decades and over 300 current students from more than 50 countries. From undergraduate programmes to postdoctoral research, the Academy offers educational opportunities in Irish music and dance, classical music, contemporary dance, medieval chant, songwriting, ethnomusicology, ethnochoreology, festive arts, music therapy, music education and community music. It has also hosted more than 40 musicians, dancers and singers as artists-in-residence, with a parallel programme of artistic commissions resulting in new compositions, choreographies and art works.





Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

D'eagraigh Aonad na Gaeilge imeachtaí do mhic léinn, do bhaill foirne agus don phobal chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh ar an gcampus. I measc na n-imeachtaí, bhí léiriú scannáin i gcomhpháirt leis an gCeoláras, comhrá faoin nasc idir chúrsaí ailtireachta agus an Ghaeilge le mic léinn SAUL agus Tara Nic Gearailt (céimí), blascheardlanna do bhaill foirne le Pól Ó Flatharta & an Dr Sarah Ní Dhuinnín agus bhí aoichaint leis an Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam do mhic léinn iúrnáisiúnta faoi Naomh Pádraig.

Aonad na Gaeilge celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge on campus in March with a number of events for students, staff and members of the public. The programme included a film screening in association with UCH, a conversation on the links between architecture and the Irish language with SAUL students & recent graduate Tara Nic Gearailt, Irish language taster workshops for staff facilitated by Pól Ó Flatharta and Dr. Sarah Ní Dhuinnín and a talk by Dr. Karol Mullaney-Dignam, Department of History for international students on the origins and traditions of St. Patrick's Day.

RTÉ Brainstorm Article: Why everything you thought you knew about Peig Sayers is wrong

Dr. Sorcha de Brún, (School of English, Irish, and Communication) recently had an article published on the RTÉ Brainstorm platform entitled "Why everything you thought you knew about Peig Sayers is wrong." Dr. De Brún's article looks at the autobiography Peig: A Scéal Féin in a fresh light, showing that themes such as housing, work, class and gender are central to this Irish language autobiography.

The article explores how themes similar to those in Peig can be read in women's life stories of servitude and discrimination from around the world - from the Black community in North America, to China and Iran. Sorcha's article notes that the issues in Peig are as relevant for girls and women in Ireland in 2024 as they were in Peig's time. This article can be read on [RTÉ Brainstorm](#).





RTÉ Folk Awards

Students and graduates of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (IWAMD) at University of Limerick have been praised for “pushing boundaries” in the creative and performing arts, on foot of their success at the Sixth Annual RTÉ Folk Awards. The awards, which were broadcast live on RTÉ Radio 1, recognise the highest achievers in folk and traditional music in Ireland today. This year’s ceremony saw current AHSS students Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta (BA Irish Music) and her brother, Séamus (BA Applied Languages) scoop the Best Emerging Artist award in a category that also featured IWAMD graduate Sorcha Costello (MA Music Therapy). Caoimhe and Séamus follow in the footsteps of 2023 winner Cathal Ó Curráin, a graduate of the BA Irish Music. Caoimhe and Séamus walked away with a number of awards on the night, also claiming the top spot in the Best Traditional/Folk Track category for their song ‘Seán Gabha’, a collaboration as part of new supergroup Bláth na hÓige, which also features Cathal Ó Curráin. The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance was also represented at the event, with Artist-in-Residence Rhiannon Giddens in attendance to present the award for Best Folk Singer to Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin.



AHSS Careers

Evening

An information and careers evening for the faculty was held on the 15th of May. Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Sandra Joyce extended a warm welcome address to all. Attendees heard from a diverse selection of inspiring alumni employed in a wide variety of sectors.

They spoke warmly and passionately about their time in UL and applauded the level of support and guidance they received. Several graduates also mentioned the benefits of international experiences they had in UL and the flexibility they enjoy in careers opportunities having chosen to study under the umbrella of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.



Journalism for a Day

The Journalism for a Day event held on the 13th of March, provided prospective students with a practical insight into studying journalism and digital communications at UL. The day was set in UL's extensive facilities, including the radio studio and state of the art tv and podcast studio.

The structure of the day included students delivering pieces to camera, use of mojo and broadcast equipment as well as a tour of the facilities, including the newsroom. The Taster day allowed students to meet highly experienced academic staff who delivered mock lectures in their discipline. Students also met with current students and graduates to find out about their experiences and career opportunities post graduation.



Successful referendum information event

On the 21st of February, the School of Law and Department of Sociology hosted an open event to provide factual information on the recent referenda. The session was very well attended with over 100 participants comprising students, practitioners, staff members and the wider community. Speakers included members of the UL Student Law Society, retired Chief Justice Frank Clarke, Dr. Carmel Hannan and Dr. Laura Cahillane.



The event was preceded by riveting discussion, between speakers and the very engaged audience, which addressed many issues around the wording and implications of changes to the constitution. A recording of the event is available on the [School of Law YouTube channel](#).

TY Japan Quiz Night



On the 1st of February, over 80 transition year students participated in the Japan Quiz Night 2024. The event was streamed via Zoom as it was concurrently held at five different locations across the country, including the University of Limerick. UL hosted 20 students from Coláiste Muire (Ennis). The event was inaugurated by HE Ambassador Maruyama and was hosted by Dr. Erika Marcet, Head of the Japanese Section (MLAL). During the event, students partook in a quiz via Kahoot about Japanese language and culture, and the best five teams received wonderful prizes. The quiz was followed by a reception, where the TY students got to eat Japanese food from a local restaurant. This event was co-organised by the Japanese Section at the School of Modern Languages & Applied Linguistics and the Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI). The event was funded by PPLI, the Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan.

PPA Spring seminar series

As part of the Department of Politics and Public Administration (PPA) Spring 2024 Seminar Series, Prof. Gregor Gall (University of Leeds) gave a presentation on "Lessons of leadership from Mick Lynch, RMT union general secretary and 'working-class hero'". This talk was based on Prof. Gall's newly published book – Mick Lynch: The making of a working-class hero, which examines his role in accounting for these outcomes as the leader of the RMT union. It draws out conclusions about understanding the nature of power in the current political period, strategic planning and participative leadership. This event took place on the 14th of February.



Limerick Early Music Festival

Dr. Yonit Kosovske (Irish World Academy of Music and Dance) co-directed the Limerick Early Music Festival which took place from the 20th to the 23rd March. Spanning 1000 years of music, diverse cultures, and geographical areas from North Africa to Europe, this year's theme was JOURNEYS, celebrating music about travel, pilgrimage, and transformation in events at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Saint Joseph's Church, and the Milk Market.

The festival was pleased to welcome distinguished guests: HE The Ambassador of Morocco Dr Lahcen Mahraoui; Mr Gerald Mitchell, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick; Dr Loïc Guyon, Honorary Consul of France; and Mr Pat Breen, former Minister of State.

EP24: Community and Cohesion in the EU Panel discussion



On the 13th of May, Dr. Susan Leahy, School of Law and Prof. Joachim Fischer (Emeritus Jean Monnet Chair in European Cultural Studies, UL) participated in a panel discussion event which was held on campus at University of Limerick.

This event entitled EP Elections 2024: Community and Cohesion in the EU, discussed questions such as to what extent, do we in Ireland understand the European Parliament and the work it does (and does not do)? The panel also explored the idea of how we in Ireland see ourselves as part of the European Community and what are the barriers and opportunities to develop cohesion among EU countries and communities?

This event was supported by The Journal.ie and the School of English, Irish, and Communication at UL.



Athena Swan Committee Update

The AHSS Athena SWAN EDI committee with 25 members from across all departments have this semester been busy with preparations for the Athena Swan Silver application, which is due for submission in November 2024. Data collection for the application has been concluded, with a Faculty-wide staff survey held in March 2024, and staff focus groups conducted in May 2024. Four working groups are currently analysing the data and finalising drafts of the different sections of the application:



- (1) Students,
- (2) Academic and research staff,
- (3) Professional and managerial support staff, and
- (4) Culture, inclusion and belonging.

A fifth working group set up in May 2024 are tracking and evaluating progress and achievements resulting from Bronze actions, and are drafting a new Silver action plan for submission in November.

The Assistant Dean, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Dr. Maria Rieder, would like to sincerely thank all committee members for their hard and important work for the Faculty.

Equally, she thanks all staff who engaged with the data collection process through the survey and/or focus groups. The experiences, views, achievements and issues you shared will be worked into the application and will be at the core of the new action plan for an inclusive and equitable faculty.

Faculty of Kindness

A three-year Faculty of Kindness plan has been designed, which includes existing and expanded/new initiatives and working groups that will drive EDI in AHSS. The plan will be launched at this year's AHSS Staff Well-being day on the 5 June 2024.

A Faculty of Kindness is a Faculty which embraces a culture of care and compassion and embodies an attitude of welcome that facilitates strong human connections and feelings of belonging and wellbeing among our students and staff.

A Faculty of Kindness

- Creates caring classrooms and work spaces that foster belonging and combat social isolation;
- Creates a culture of affirmation;
- Creates safe spaces for open communication and dialogue between all members of the Faculty community;
- Takes different perspectives into account;
- Engages with the whole person, not just with the learner or colleague, but also with their social identities and emotional sides;
- Is trauma-informed: recognises that trauma is both real and pervasive, we can't know or assume which colleagues or students have been impacted by trauma and need to ensure that we are empathetic;
- Celebrates diversity, is curious about the stories of others;
- Eradicates stigma and cultivates inclusive thinking;
- Encourages being kind to ourselves and acting with empathy.

Kindness is a powerful agent for positive change and the kindness demonstrated in our Faculty will ripple out into our homes, the local community and the world our students go into. It will boost mental and physical health. Different practices, initiatives and projects will help on this journey. The Faculty of Kindness plan integrates existing Faculty working groups and initiatives in the area of EDI as well as Athena Swan related actions and it plans the implementation of these in a three year plan. The plan is organised into 4 Pillars and Work Packages that support these pillars:

1. Athena Swan
2. EDI pedagogies for student well-being, access and retention
3. Staff well-being
4. Outreach and community engagement





Faculty Visit to Hong Kong and Hainan China

The Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell travelled to Hong Kong and Hainan, China, from the 9th to the 16th of March with Course Directors from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, Dr. Grant McLay, Dr. Jenny Roche, Dr. Orfhlaith Ní Bhriain, and Yi Bao, China Engagement, UL Global. The UL delegation met with The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts on the 11th of March to explore partnership agreements.

The group then travelled to Hainan China to meet with representatives and prospective students from Hainan University to promote the new BA and MA Dance partnership programmes, which will have their first intake to the University of Limerick in September 2024.





Teaching technical communication in Kenya

Dr. Yvonne Cleary (School of English, Irish, and Communication) spent a week at Pwani University, Kenya from the 17th to the 24th February, supported by International Credit Mobility funding. Yvonne is collaborating with colleagues at the University of Applied Sciences, Karlsruhe, Germany, and at Pwani University, Kenya, to run the first year of a new Master's programme in Communication and Media at Pwani University. This programme, the first of its kind in Africa, was launched in Autumn 2023 following a successful pilot in 2022/23. The programme builds capacity and responds to societal needs in the field of technical communication. The project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst -- DAAD). The main objective of this trip was to teach on site in Kenya and to meet the current cohort of students in person. Teaching up to now has been online. A secondary objective was to continue curriculum development.



Yvonne also took part in a panel discussion and delivered a presentation about technical communication during an event to launch the Master's in Communication and Media for 2024/25.

UL Global Orientation Week

UL Global welcomed 488 new international students to the campus for the Spring 2024 semester. The 7-day Orientation programme commenced on Sunday 21st January with Shannon airport collections. A variety of workshops were offered over the week to help students adjust to the UL academic system and their new learning environment. As part of the UL Global Orientation Week Spring 2024, Michelle Daly, University Teacher, School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics delivered two talks to the incoming students in the Jean Monnet Theatre. Organised by Katherine Martin and Charlie Cunningham (Study Abroad, UL Global), Michelle's first talk on Thursday, 25 January, highlighted the TESOL practicum offered by the TESOL/Linguistics Section at the School of MLAL. Gaining practical teaching experience as part of the TESOL module is an attractive opportunity for many Study Abroad students who come to UL. This TESOL practicum involves trauma-informed teacher training, classroom observations and teaching learners from a displaced background at UL Access Campus in Roxboro. On Friday, 26 January Michelle presented a one-hour interactive intercultural workshop to Erasmus students. The aim of this workshop was to further develop students' intercultural awareness and competence and explore the challenges of adapting to a new cultural, social and academic environment. A very special thanks to the UL Global team for organising such a successful Spring 2024 Orientation Week to all incoming international students to UL. For further information, [see UL Global Orientation](#) and [UL Global Orientation schedule](#).



International Francophonie Day

On the 20th of March, (International Francophonie Day), The School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics (French Section) were delighted to welcome Mme Laëtitia Devaux, French translator of literary works by Irish authors such as Sally Rooney (Conversation with Friends) and Sebastian Barry (Old God's time) as well as many other English language authors including Zadie Smith (Feel Free).

Currently Translator in Residence in Trinity College's Translation Centre, Mme Devaux distilled the key to a 30-year long career as a successful literary translator to a room full of attentive and inquisitive students. She was very generous with her time, sharing useful tips and encouragements for all who have caught the translation bug. Many thanks to the French Embassy in Dublin for supporting this event.

Vernacular and 'Ethnic' Music in Higher Education: Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspectives Conference

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (IWAMD) at University of Limerick hosted an international cohort of music and dance researchers on the 9th of February. The conference, entitled Vernacular and 'Ethnic' Music in Higher Education: Colonial and Post-Colonial Perspectives, invited researchers to explore the way that traditional and folk music has become embedded in the work of higher education institutions in recent decades. Facilitated by Erasmus + funding, staff from IWAMD visited institutions in Ethiopia and Palestine in the summer of 2023 as part of a network and capacity building exercise, which has led to the conference. This free conference explored some of the difficult questions that have emerged from analyses of vernacular music through the lens of western art music. The extent to which western art music might be seen as a colonising force is central to the call for papers, and many of the papers address the specific ways in which post-colonial societies have developed and organised methods for teaching their own music. Selmawit Aragaw Erkihun, Associate Dean of Performing and Visual Arts at Addis Ababa University addressed the specific difficulties of fully establishing Ethiopian traditional music within western art and jazz performance programmes in her country. Meanwhile, Palestinian composer Jiries Boulata explored some of the challenges of 'translating' traditional Oriental music for western instruments. The academy also welcomed a delegation of Georgian academics, who discussed the way in which Georgian polyphonic singing, now recognised as a piece of intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, was treated under Soviet occupation.

Set against the backdrop of a sharp increase in conflicts around the world which can be viewed through a colonial lens, the conference shed light on the everyday work of academics and teachers on those societies. [Full programme and registration details,](#)



Visit to Universite de Franche Comte, Besancon, France

Eddie Keane (School of Law) was delighted to visit the Universite de Franche Comte in Besancon, France recently. The visit included presentations to the members of the law faculty, and staff of the International Education Office. Eddie also delivered lectures to local undergraduate and postgraduate students. This visit comes as UL recently signed an agreement for a new dual degree offered by both partner institutions, the [Bachelor of Laws in Common and Civil Law of which Eddie is the course director.](#)



This innovative programme will see its first intake in 2024. Students complete their first two years in UL studying common law and then spend their final two years at the Universite de Franche Comte where they will study civil law. Graduates will be well-equipped to work in legal environments in Ireland and abroad following this degree. Eddie's visit cements the good relationship enjoyed between the awarding institutions



Lunar New
Year 2024

Lunar New Year 2024

On the 8th of February UL Global hosted a celebratory event to mark Lunar New Year 2024. The campus community joined together to celebrate The Year of the Dragon.

From captivating music to mesmerising dance performances, tranquil Taichi demonstrations, Gu Qin melodies, and engaging cultural activities led by our talented UL students, this [recap video](#) captures the energy of this new year's celebration.

Education in Ireland virtual fair

Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell took part in an online live seminar on the 8th of February entitled "The significance of Arts & Humanities in today's world". The seminar was part of the Education in Ireland virtual fair, which allows students to chat with representatives of various Irish institutions.

Dr. Farrell shared insight into what makes Ireland the ideal place to study, she spoke about the various career options for Arts students and the practical skill sets they can achieve by studying Arts. She also spoke about the various offerings on our BA Arts programme. The event had over 60 attendees, Dr. Farrell was joined on the panel by D.r Colin Graham, Prof of English, and former Head of Department and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies, and Philosophy, Maynooth University.

Indonesian Embassy Delegation Visit to UL

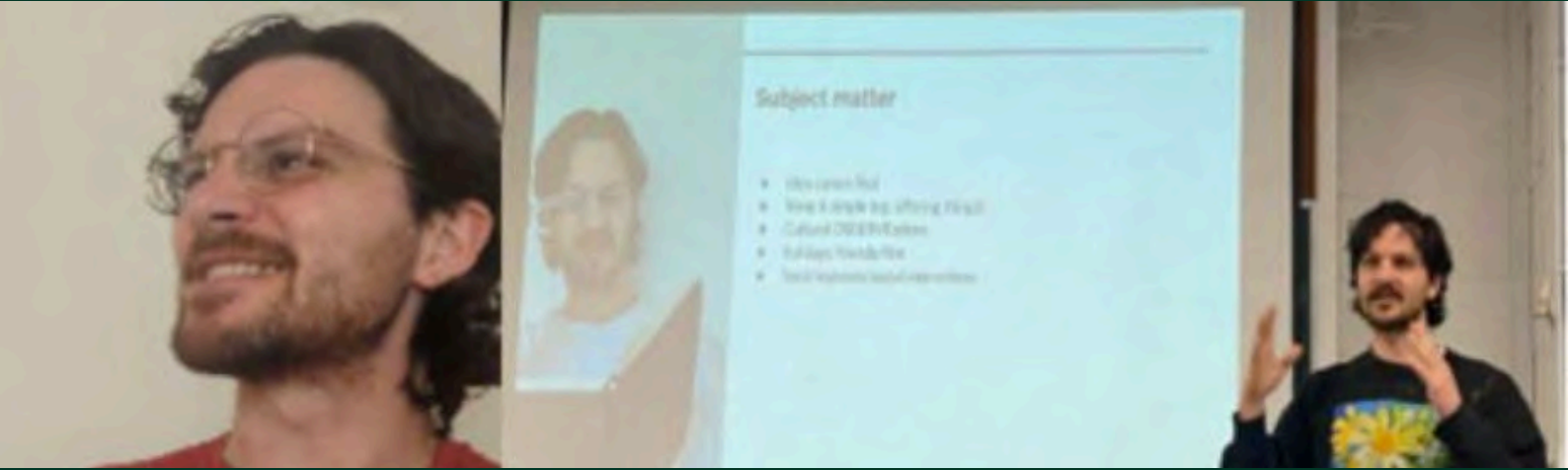


On the 26th of February, the Faculty hosted a visit to the UL Campus by a delegation from the Indonesian Embassy. The delegation included Mr. Khairul Munadi, Education and Cultural Attaché and Mr. Raksa Permana Ibrahim, Economic Affairs. As part of the visit, Dr. Angela Farrell hosted a lunch for the delegation, which was attended by Executive Dean Dr. Sandra Joyce, Caitriona Conway Interim Director UL Global, Katherine Martin Study Abroad Manager UL Global and James Sergeant Partnerships Officer UL Global. A representative group of the Indonesian ISPhD students and Dr. Niamh Lenahan AHSS Graduate Research Centre, were also in attendance.

The guests later enjoyed a special performance of Indonesian music in the gamelan tradition. The gamelan is from the Javanese tradition and features numerous beautiful, tuned bronze gongs and metallophones. The performance was led by Dr. Mathew Noone, Course Director of the BA in World Music accompanied by his BA World Music students.

European criminal justice research project

Dr. Ger Coffey, School of Law, has been invited by a European consortium to participate as national legal expert for Ireland to carry out research and to report on findings in Ireland in relation to the funded research project entitled “Exploratory study on possible lisbonisation of ex-third pillar acquis in the area of mutual recognition in criminal matters”, under the assignment of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST). The research project will involve the completion of a transposition/implementation table, crosschecking Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) jurisprudence with national legislation, and provision of relevant statistics and jurisprudence emanating from the Irish superior Courts on the seven interrelated Framework Decisions (European Arrest Warrant ('EAW'), Financial Penalties, Previous Convictions, Transfer of Prisoners, Probation and Alternative Sanctions, European Supervision Order ('ESO'), and Conflicts of Jurisdiction). The Final Report is expected to be submitted to the European Commission in Summer 2025.



Intercultural Episodes project

The Intercultural Episodes project hosted by Dr. Marta Giralt (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) in collaboration with Irish comedian Killian Sunderman, who created a series of sketches about intercultural encounters consisted of 9 videos that represent intercultural encounters involving different cultures and languages taught in the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics at University of Limerick. The videos are used as pedagogical tools in language-culture modules to show different cultural encounters in an engaging and motivating manner, bringing intercultural discovery, knowledge and reflection through humour.

The project was possible thanks to European Commission Project funds and The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Teaching Board. A big thank you to: Irish comedian Killian Sunderman, who created this series of sketches about intercultural encounters, The Centre for Irish-German Studies for their collaboration and support of the project, AHSS Faculty Marketing & Communications Officers for their involvement and support You can watch the videos in @ahssul or @killersundy Instagram accounts.

ConSIMium - a Council simulation experience

On the 8th and 9th of April, over 160 students met in Brussels to take part in ConSIMium. ConSIMium is a simulation experience which allows students to understand the roles of the member states. The simulation took place in the Council buildings' meeting rooms where ministers and EU leaders meet. Over the two days, teams of six students from 27 EU countries "stepped into the shoes" of national representatives and role played negotiations between the EU member states at different levels. Among those students were European Studies students from UL.

Prof Emeritus Joachim Fischer of University of Limerick was coordinator of the Irish team, and was also be accompanied by Dr Xosé Boan, Course Director, BA European Studies UL. For more information on this initiative, please consult the [ConSIMium website](#).



International conference: Crises in Ibero-American Graphic Narratives



Co-organised by Dr. Mariano Paz and Dr. Xosé P. Boán (Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics), the international conference Crises in Ibero-American Graphic Narratives: Utopia, Liminality & the Anthropocene took place in UL on the 2nd and 3rd of May and gathered scholars on graphic narratives and popular culture from universities in Argentina, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Spain, the UK and the US.

This conference explored how the graphic medium has engaged with narratives of crisis in the Ibero-American world including topics on personal, social, environmental and economic crises, as well as on migration, gender and utopian narratives. The conference was sponsored by the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies and funded by the European Union through the e-Cost action iConMICs; the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and the School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics. The conference was very successful in terms of the quality and variety of the papers, number of participants and audience. But the conference's highlight was the unanimously acclaimed panel by four excellent fourth-year MLAL students, who presented on politics, memory and gender in graphic narratives of Spain in the target language.

Annual General meeting of the Applied European Languages programme

Dr. Marta Giralt (School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics) hosted the annual general meeting of the Applied European Languages Programme in UL from the 9th to 11th of May. Delegates from 8 member universities attended the event. The current AEL project builds on a long tradition of over 30 years where a small number of higher education institutions collaborated beyond simple exchanges and offered their students the opportunity to visit three universities in the course of a four-year bachelor programme (which was called Applied Languages Europe - ALE), with three-degree certificates at the end. The students in the earlier ALE programme studied two languages (English and/or French and/or German and/or Spanish) as well as practice-oriented courses (typically business, economics, and law and/or translation). Students started and ended the four-year course at their home university and spent the middle years at two different universities abroad.

University of Limerick, which before 2019 had been more loosely associated with the project (and sent and received students in the early 2000s under this scheme), has become a full member of the project since 2020. The event was sponsored by the AHSS Internationalisation Fund.





Prof. Owen Worth Visits Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta & the University of Ghadja Mada, Indonesia.

Prof. Owen Worth (Department of Politics and Public Administration) visited Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta and the University of Ghadja Mada, Indonesia from the 13th to the 20th of May. The purpose of the visit was to develop closer links in the area of international politics. The University of Ghadja Mada is the second highest ranking university in Indonesia. The trip was funded by ICM, Erasmus Projects Office. During the visit, Prof. Worth gave 2 lectures at undergraduate and postgraduate level at Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. Discussions with the faculty of Social Science & Political Science included an engagement with the faculty on developing networks between the faculty and UL on a variety of areas of research which will benefit both parties as UL will gain much needed SE Asian networks. He also provided some consultancy for the establishment of a Politics programme at the faculty of Social Science & Political Science.

Prof. Worth delivered 5 lectures at the University of Ghadja Mada's faculty of Social Science & Political Science (including one webinar) in areas across International Relations/Development. More substantial dialogue took place around an exchange between UL and UGM's faculty of Social Science & Political Science and a possible partnership for the BA Global Politics. Owen also held a meeting with the The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) research centre where further collaborations were explored within PPA and the Peace and Development Centre.

NAFSA Conference 2024

Assistant Dean International AHSS, Dr. Angela Farrell attended the NAFSA conference which was held in New Orleans from the 28th to 31st of May. NAFSA the Association of International Educators is the world's largest association dedicated to international education and exchange.

The conference is the most diverse and comprehensive global event attended by professionals from across the field. Dr. Farrell met with representative from key target markets with a view to developing partnerships and increasing international student recruitment. The UL team which included the ADI AHSS and representatives from UL Global worked in conjunction with other Irish universities and Education in Ireland to promote Ireland as a destination for third level education.



Students



University of Limerick's Plassey Law Review

Circuit Court Judge Tom O'Donnell launched the latest edition of the Plassey Law Review at University of Limerick. His Honour Judge Tom O'Donnell was present at the UL School of Law to officially launch the fourth edition of the publication, which showcases the finest legal scholarship from students at UL and across Ireland. Founded on a commitment to excellence and innovation, the Plassey Law Review has emerged as a leading platform for legal discourse, providing a space for engagement with cutting-edge legal issues.

This latest edition reflects the depth and breadth of research and scholarship within University of Limerick's School of Law, as well as the broader legal community in Ireland. Among the notable contributions are papers on 'The Rise and Fall of An Bord Pleanála,' by Dublin City Council's Annette Cleary, examining the evolution and impact of Ireland's planning authority, and 'Measuring the Emotional Harm Caused by Online Bullying,' by University of Limerick's Dr Carol Lynch, focusing on the criminal legal response. The student editors of the Plassey Law Review emphasised the significance of the publication in fostering academic discourse and intellectual inquiry within the legal community. "We are immensely proud to present the fourth edition of the Plassey Law Review to the legal community," remarked co-editor and fourth year Bachelor of Laws (Law Plus) student Sonya San.

"This publication serves as a platform for students to showcase their research skills and engage with complex legal issues outside the classroom. We are confident that this edition will spark meaningful dialogue and contribute to the advancement of legal scholarship." Advancing their commitment to innovation, this year's edition includes a multimedia aspect to the journal.

Student Media Awards

University of Limerick journalism students scooped three awards at the National Student Media Awards. For the second time Limerick Voice, produced by Journalism students at UL, was named Newspaper of the Year 2024 and also won the award for Layout and Design of the Year 2024. Limerick Voice investigative reporter Gemma Good also won the prize for Journalism Relating to Health for her feature on Limerick Treaty Suicide Prevention. The National Student Media Awards (The SMEDIAS) is the largest competition of its kind in Ireland dedicated to recognising and celebrating the next generation of media talent. Presenting the award for Newspaper of the Year to the Limerick Voice team, Mark Hennessy Ireland and Britain Editor of The Irish Times, commended the journalism students for their “determined efforts to report the community around them.” The awards ceremony was held at the Mansion House in Dublin where a special tribute was also paid to Limerick Voice’s late Editor-In-Chief, Joe Drennan, who died tragically in a hit and run incident on October 13th last. There was a standing ovation after it was announced that from next year, the Journalism Relating to Road Safety Award would be renamed The Joe Drennan Award for Journalism Relating to Road Safety.



UL journalism students received 16 nominations at this year’s SMEDIAS. Joe Costigan, Digital Editor, spoke about the team’s Newspaper of the Year win: “We said before we even started working on the newspaper that we would dedicate it to Joe, so to have it recognised nationally at an awards ceremony that meant so much to him is incredible. It’s hard to explain how special it felt, it genuinely means the world to everyone on the team.”

Limerick Voice Launch and Irish Times Award Named in Honour of Joe Drennan

Journalism students at UL launched the print version of Limerick Voice on the 14th of March marking the culmination of their Limerick Voice project which also includes a digital edition also. At the event, Joe Drennan was honoured by his classmates and with the announcement that a competition in conjunction with the Irish Times would be named in his honour.



This award honours Joe, a fourth-year student who was tragically killed in October 2023. Joe had been the editor-in-chief of Limerick Voice at the time of his passing. Members of Joe’s family were present for the event and a piece written by his co-editor Molly Cantwell featured in the Irish Times.

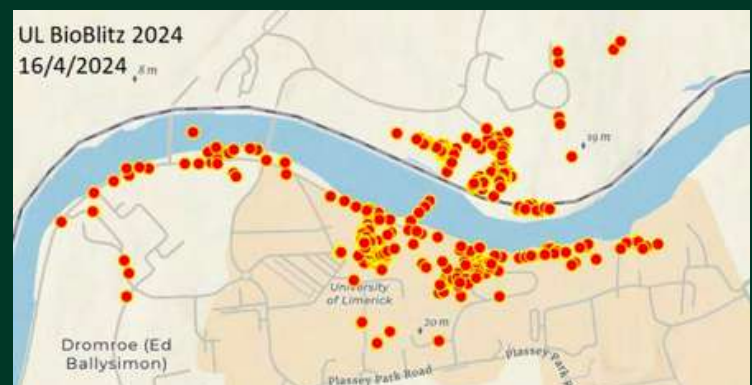
PwC Sustainability & Networking Event

Fourth-year students Zoe O'Neill, Oisín O'Sullivan and Elisa Pinesich (BA Applied Languages) and third-year student Ben Murphy (Bachelor of Business Studies), and Head of the Japanese Section, Dr. Erika Marcet, were invited to PwC (Dublin) for a business and networking seminar. The seminar, entitled "Sustainability - A driver for business growth" was organised by the Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce and the Ireland Japan Association. Students had the opportunity to meet and exchange information with senior business leaders with connections to both Ireland and Japan. Oisín said "Thank you to the organisers and the University of Limerick for this wonderful opportunity. I learned a lot about sustainability and I also got to meet and learn from industry leaders. This event also opened some doors to future job prospects."



UL BioBlitz 2024

UL BioBlitz 2024 took place on the 16th of April. Seventeen student citizen scientists from UL and TUD, supported by seven expert local ecologists, recorded 570+ (provisional results) wildlife species on campus. The top recorder prize (86 species) went to UL student James Organ, first-year PE and Geography. Two guided nature walks, an early morning bird walk and a lunchtime nature walk, allowed the wider campus community to learn more about biodiversity on campus. Everyone who visited UL for the first time and all of us who took part were greatly impressed and proud of our campus. UL BioBlitz 2024 was the brainchild of History PhD candidate and UL Environmental Society chairperson Rachel Beck and was supported by UL Environmental Committee staff members, Liz Gabbett (Geography section, Department of History) and Yvonne Ryan (Department of Chemical Sciences).



A&L Goodbody Moot Court Competition

The School of Law was delighted to once again hold the A & L Goodbody Moot Court Competition on the 23rd of March. The School of Law is committed to collaborating with employer partners to provide transformative experiential learning experiences for students and would like to express our gratitude to A & L Goodbody and Dr Stephen King in particular, for their support of this initiative.

Dr. King, a graduate of the Law School and a senior associate in ALG's Disputes & Investigations Group (currently seconded to Google as Head of Litigation and Regulatory), kindly agreed to judge the moot again this year and provided a challenging but fun experience for students! The worthy winners on the evening were Bevin Murphy and Tony Lee Donohue. The runners up were Katelyn O' Dea and Orla Danaher with Katelyn winning best speaker . Also pictured Dr King and Dr Eimear Spain.



German Play - Biedermann und die Brandstifter

The German Section of the School for Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics (MLAL) ran a German Play on 14 March in the Jonathan Swift Theatre. First year students performed "Beidermann und die Brandstifter" (Beidermann and the Arsonists) in German with English surtitles.

In a fire-plagued Swiss town, elite member Gottlieb Biedermann faces distrust and hatred. Two charming women prompt a desire for change. Will his newfound trust lead to redemption, or disaster?



Student Publication association regional awards



Journalism at UL students won three awards at the national Student Publication Association Regional Awards held in Dublin on the 2nd of February.

Limerick Voice won 'Best Digital' for their online and social media presence. Managing Editor Molly Cantwell received highly commended in the 'Outstanding Commitment' category for her dedication to the publication, while investigative reporter Gemma Good won 'Best Article' for her piece covering Limerick Treaty Suicide Prevention's work.

This is the second year Limerick Voice has been honoured by the SPA. Last year, the team took home the highly coveted 'Best Publication' award. As the UK and Ireland's largest student media association, the SPA's annual awards programme recognises the 'best work' carried out by student-run publications in eight different regions. The awards were contested by newspapers and platforms across Northern Ireland and the Republic.



Library and Languages: works in translation

The School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics (MLAL) in collaboration with UL Global and the UL Library offered a multilingual reading event during the UL Global Spring Festival.

On the 6th of March, MLAL students as well as international students shared extracts of their favourite work in their language. Brian Ronayne and Wiktorja Wojciechowska, 4th year BA Applied Languages students represented the School with a poem in Irish and a song in Polish. Catherine Jeanneau, Language Learning Hub Coordinator, co-presented the event with Ailish Larkin, UL library.



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Postgraduate research day

The Department of Politics & Public Administration (PPA) held the PPA Postgraduate Research Day on the 8th February. It included ten presentations across three research panels by PhD students, as well as workshops on publishing, writing funding applications, and post-PhD careers.

It provided an opportunity for students from PPA's PhD programmes and from the International Structured PhD to meet and discuss their research, and for them to discuss research with faculty and PPA alumni. Thanks to all who travelled for the Research Day, to faculty who contributed to panels, and to PhD students Safiye Ergun, Kevin Saudé, Ismahane Djeflal, Eimear Stewart-Dunne and Caroline Godard who co-organised the day.

Sociology Association of Ireland Postgraduate Conference

Dr. Amy Healy (Department of Sociology) hosted and co-organised the Sociology Association of Ireland's Postgraduate Conference at UL on the 24th of February. Twenty-six student delegates from ten higher education institutions across the island of Ireland participated. Dr. Healy and Prof. Amanda Haynes welcomed the delegates on behalf of UL, and Dr. James Carr provided a keynote for the event.

AHSS Postgraduate Researcher Publication- "Veld Fires"

Congratulations to AHSS Postgraduate researcher, Joseph Woods, a third year student with the School of English, Irish, and Communications where he is under the joint supervision of Prof. Joseph O'Connor and Dr. Yianna Liatsos. His area of research for his PhD is on the work of Burmese chronicler, Maurice Collis. Joseph published his book of poetry 'Veld Fires' recently with Dedalus Press. This is his fifth poetry collection and this edition reflects on his time in Zimbabwe.



AHSS Postgraduate Research Funding 2023-2024

Each year, bi-annually, the AHSS Graduate Research Centre sends out a call to postgraduate researchers to apply for funding to attend or present at conferences or to carry out fieldwork on their areas of research. This year's funding was used to support postgraduate researchers to present at Conferences in areas as;

- 'Celebrating ELT in Asia: Visions and Aspirations';
- 'Language, Gender, and Sexuality: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives', in the University of Helsinki in Finland;
- 'Future of Social Sciences and Humanities', held in Rome, Italy,
- 'The Annual Association for Business Communication (ABC) global conference' which was held in Denver, Colorado.

Fieldwork projects that were funded included

- Conducting 9 in-person interviews with EU practitioners in Brussels.

Marta Fortes Saez: Project VEMO-HIST Virtual Exchange: meeting new cultures and learning about their history and language with Artificial Intelligence



This study examines a Virtual Exchange (VE) among students from three different European universities: 26 from Business with Spanish at the University of Limerick, 65 from English Studies at the University of Valencia, and 34 from Public Relations at Cyprus University of Technology. The project was twofold: The Irish students were partnered with a group of Spanish students, while the Cypriot students were partnered with another group of Spanish students. In the first case, Irish and Spanish students collaborated using both English and Spanish as means of communication. The main task was to create a collaborative digital story about a historical figure or event related to their peers' target culture(s). To collect the necessary information, students utilized the AI app 'Hello History' to interview a prominent historical figure of their choice from the countries of their international peers. Examples of this were Irish students interviewing Reina Isabel and Spanish students interviewing the female pirate, Grace O'Malley. "Hello History" is a free phone-based app that enables users to converse with historical figures in different languages. Data was collected from participants' pre- and post-questionnaires, reflections, and interviews. It was subsequently analysed through a mixed-method approach to understanding the factors that contributed positively to the students' language and content learning while using AI technologies. Twenty-two students reported the usefulness of the app Hello History in developing a more formal grasp of the target languages (e.g., "usted" and Professional language necessary for business contexts and formal correspondence).

Additionally, "Hello History" helped students expand their vocabulary, increasing their confidence when using the foreign language. Furthermore, using Hello History improved their writing, spelling, and grammar, developed critical thinking, and deepened their understanding of their peers' history and culture, thus helping to develop intercultural competence. AI 'HelloHistory' serves as an overall valuable starting point for the VE project, although it is not the sole source of information. It acquaints students with historical figures from target countries and cultures. The use of AI in the project proved engaging and appealing, fostering cultural curiosity among the students. Further research will be conducted on the possibilities of AI for foreign language learning.

AHSS PhD Development

Series 2023/24

The AHSS Graduate Research Centre held workshops and seminars for postgraduate researchers in 2023/24. The series began in September 2023 with a workshop on Irish Research Council (IRC) Postgraduate Scholarship Application Training for prospective applicants. Students were informed how to prepare for an IRC application. Successful students and supervisors shared their expertise on the subject and a Gantt workshop and a workshop on Data Management also helped students with their preparation. Other workshops that followed included information sessions on Self Care: Managing Stress and workload while undertaking a PhD facilitated by Dr. Hilary Moss where students were provided with some simple self-care practices to incorporate into their daily work routine to assist with PhD stress and workload. A session was held on Preparing for a Viva Voce where the Assistant Dean Research AHSS, Dr. Christina Morin and Dr. Niamh Lenahan provided practical information on how to prepare for the viva. Students who had recently completed vivas also shared their personal experiences with their preparation, during and after their vivas. A practical workshop on How to use AI within the Classroom offered students the opportunity to engage in hands on activities using AI tools.

Using their own laptops, Dr. Maria Palomares shared tools with the students to help with research and teaching practices. Prof Eoin Devereux provided a workshop on The Three 'R's : Reviewer 2, Rejection and Resubmitting – How to Successfully Engage with Academic Publishers' where he provided the students with helpful information on how to get published. Students were asked to bring their own published materials and share their experiences in getting published and it was great to see where these students have already published in journals and RTE Brainstorm.

3 Minute Thesis

As part of UL Research Week, the 3-Minute Thesis and Picture This Finals took place on the 1st of May. Congratulations to all who participated in the 3-Minute Thesis and well done to Jacqueline Dwane, a postgraduate researcher with School of Law (REPPP) who represented the faculty in the finals.

AHSS had representations in the Picture This Finals and congratulations to our two winners from the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (IWAMD). First Place: Mathuriga Thevapalan (IWAMD) Title: 'Light in the Unfamiliar' The research explores improvisation within South Indian music as a non-native learner of the regional stringed instrument "vina". Mathuriga navigates through an unfamiliar culture, the vina becomes a guiding light and a lens through which insights are gained into the music and its tradition, thereby shedding light on the research inquiries.

2nd Runner Up - Sherli Novalinda (IWAMD) Title: 'Tale tale: Body as Living Archive' This research is titled "The Body Narrative in Indonesian Contemporary Dance," an Arts Practice investigation into the body as the legitimate owner of dance, where throughout its journey, the body often becomes a medium expressing something beyond itself. The research explores body memories related to traditional dance.



Postgraduate Stay Curious campaign features AHSS Alumni

The most recent iteration of the UL Postgraduate Stay Curious marketing campaign features two notable AHSS alumni: Mostafa Darwish (MA Journalism) and Alison Sweeney (MA Music Therapy).

A digital media campaign is currently running to promote #PostgradAtUL. Scheduled to coincide with the peak application period, various Stay Curious ads have been placed on several platforms in key locations such as:

- Digital audio/Spotify/music streaming, radio, and podcasts (including Blind Boy)
- Digital Display on Irish Times, Examiner.ie, BreakingNews.ie
- Sky Go
- Print advertisements in the Limerick Leader and Limerick Post
- Nationwide cinema promotion campaign
- Extensive Out of Home campaign across cities such as Limerick, Cork, and Galway to include 48 sheets (billboards), bus t-sides, bus shelters, digital retail (e.g., Barack Obama Plaza) and rail commuter digital pods (e.g., Heuston, Kent stations)
- HD tower ads in Shannon Airport arrivals and departures

You can view both Alison's and Mostafa's stories on the University of Limerick [YouTube channel playlist](#).

Alumni Spotlights

Jennifer Ryan

As part of our Alumni Spotlight series, we spoke to Limerick native Jennifer Ryan, about her experience completing her undergraduate degree in Law plus, and a master's in modern Irish. Jennifer chose UL due to the wide range of courses on offer, and to avail of the opportunity to go on both Erasmus and co-op. She went on Erasmus in Malta, and completed her co-op work placement at GECAS, working in a Maltese law firm before beginning an internship with Matheson upon graduation. Jennifer described how after this opportunity, she felt “very prepared for the workplace”. Jennifer completed her thesis looking at the effectiveness of legislation designed to support the Gaeltacht. This allowed her to combine her interests in both Law and Irish, and gave her an opportunity to work closely and learn from her lecturers. When asked how her career has benefitted from being a Gaeilgeoir, Jennifer described a work placement she received, spending two years working at Údarás na Gaeltachta in Dingle, County Kerry. Other experiences she has had include participating in two moot court competitions, one at the United Nations in Geneva and one in India. She is now training as a solicitor with Matheson, and is looking forward to qualifying as a solicitor next year. [The full interview is available on the AHSS newsfeed.](#)



Pat Dowling



Pat Dowling, native of West Limerick and Current Chief Executive of Clare County Council, reflected on his memories in UL studying European Studies from 1979 – 1983, specialising in public affairs.

Pat chose this course as he had a huge interest in humanities and the public sector, and felt that the European Studies course best aligned with these interests. Pat described the “invaluable experience” he gained in UL, including some experiences such as co-op in the United Nations in New York, and in the European Parliament in Luxembourg, as well as UL’S first-class tutors and vast array of courses and facilities.

Pat has worked in local government for the past 22 year. He was Deputy Chief Executive in Limerick City and County Council, before working as Chief Executive of Clare County Council. Prior to joining local government, he worked with Clare Youth Service, National Youth Council of Ireland, Macra na Feirme and Kildare LEADER programme. At national level, he is the Chair of Age Friendly Alliances and Chair of the Age Friendly National Advisory Group. [The full interview is available on the AHSS newsfeed.](#)



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**Wishing you all an
enjoyable summer.**

