

# THE POLITICS OF IRISH WRITING

Postgraduate Conference

Centre for Irish Studies, Faculty of Arts – Charles University Prague

18 – 19 September 2009

**Location:** Faculty of Arts (Filosofická fakulta) – main building, Palachovo náměstí 2, Prague 1, first floor, room 111 and 116

## PROGRAMME

### Friday 18th September

9.00 Opening address (Room 111)

**Ondřej Pilný** (Head of the Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures and Director of the Centre for Irish Studies, Charles University, Prague)

**Maciej Ruczaj** (Chair of the Organising Committee, Charles University, Prague)

#### **GUESTS OF HONOUR:**

**Brian McElduff** (First Secretary, Embassy of Ireland to the Czech Republic)

**James S. Rogers** (President, American Conference for Irish Studies)

9.30 – 11.30 Colonised Island, Decolonised Minds? (Room 111)

**Katrina Morgan** (University of Portsmouth) “English in taste, in words and intellect”: An Investigation into the Politics of the Irish National School Books

**Ciaran O’Neill** (University of Liverpool) Pearse, Parnell or the Priests? The Politics of Identity in the Irish Schoolboy Novel

**Giulia Bruna** (University College Dublin) “I like not lifting the rags from my mother country for to tickle the sentiments of Manchester”: Synge’s Subversive Practice in “In the Congested Districts”

**Christopher Collins** (Trinity College, Dublin) J.M. Synge and the Politics of Pre-Christian Ireland

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

**12:00 - 13:30 Crossing the Divide - Northern Irish Prose before the Troubles** (Room 111)

**Guy Woodward** (Trinity College Dublin) History, Nationalism, and *The Emperor of Ice Cream*

**David Jameson** (Trinity College Dublin) “Exogamous Bride” An Analysis of ‘Romance-Across-the-Divide’ in the Novels of Three Northern Ireland Writers

**Michaela Marková** (Charles University, Prague /Trinity College, Dublin) Topography of Urban Space in Janet McNeill’s Adult Fiction and Drama

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch break

**14:30 – 16:00 Trans-Cultural Translations** (Room 111)

**Kateřina Jenčová** (Charles University, Prague) Irish-Canadian Experience

**Caitriona Ní Chléirchín** (University College Dublin) Translation and the Voices of Contemporary Irish-language Poets in Irish Writing Today

**Debora Biancheri** (National University of Ireland, Galway) Irish Writing in Italy: Issues of Identity in Translation

**16:00 – 16:30** Coffee break

**16:30 – 18:30** (two parallel sessions)

**a) Faces of Irish Nationalism** (Room 111)

**Anna Pilz** (University of Liverpool) ‘Egypt for the Egyptians’, ‘Ireland for the Irish’: Lady Gregory, George Bernard Shaw and Anti-Colonialism

**Kati Nurmi** (University of Liverpool) Folklore, Nationalism and the Politics of National Identity in Ireland and Finland, 1880-1930

**Maciej Ruczaj** (Charles University, Prague) Liturgy and Revolution: Two Plays by Padraic Pearse and *Translatio Sacrii*

**Barry Sheils** (University of Warwick) From Dignity to Beauty: The Aesthetics of Irish Independence

**b) The Search for New Spaces - Contemporary Irish Prose** (Room 116)

**Sonia Howell** (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) From a Seamless Garment to Quilt of Many Patches: Irish History and Identity in the Novels of Sebastian Barry

**Gergely Kovács** (University of Debrecen) Space, Place, and Subjectivity in John Banville's *Ghosts* and John McGahern's *That They May Face the Rising Sun*

**Tea Raše** (University of Zagreb) C/Kynicism as a Way of Exploring Third Space in Philip Ó Ceallaigh's *Notes from a Turkish Whorehouse*

## **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**9:30 – 11:30** (two parallel sessions)

a) **Nightmarish Visions on Stage- Contemporary Irish Drama** (Room 111)

**Lilla Kolos** (University of Pécs) Inside-Out, Upside-Down: Reversals in *John Bull's Other Island* by George Bernard Shaw and *The Gigli Concert* by Tom Murphy

**Ester Žantovská** (Charles University, Prague) Shock, Gloom and Laughter: Contemporary Irish Black Comedy

**Hana Pavelková** (Charles University, Prague) Unreliable Storytellers on Stage: *Faith Healer*, *Not I* and *Baglady*

**Aoife Dempsey** (National University of Ireland, Galway) Is the Catalyst for Destruction Foreign or Female? An Exploration of Irish Adaptations of Euripides' *Medea*

b) **Dissecting Irish Classics (Yeats, Joyce, Beckett)** (Room 116)

**Adam Putz** (University of Warwick) Continental Thinking, Continental Living: W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, and the Cultural Politics of Appropriating Shakespeare

**David Vichnar** (Charles University) "Corrupt Paris, Virgin Dublin": Joyce's Tale of Two Cities

**Jared Lesser** (University of Otago) The Aesthetics of Impoverishment: Reading Body and Place in Joyce's Dublin

**Eoghan Smith** (NUI Maynooth) Art, Identity and Politics in Beckett and Banville

**11:30 - 12:00** Coffee break

**12:00 – 13:30 Between Home and Beyond the Sea - Contemporary Irish Poetry** (Room 111)

**Daniela Theinová** (Charles University, Prague) "Letting In the Light of Laughter": Traditional Iconic Images of the Feminized Land in the Hands of Contemporary Poets

**Eleanor Chatburn** (Durham University) “Echo-prolonging Poet”: The Politics of Intertextuality in the Poetry of Derek Mahon

**Maren Kratz** (University of Heidelberg) “The Canto of Ulysses”: Dante and Contemporary Irish Poetry

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch break

**14:30 - 16:00 Women Fiction: Revival and After** (Room 111)

**Whitney Standlee** (University of Liverpool) From Poetic Irishness to Prosaic Migrancy: Kathrine Tynan’s Novels and the Politics of Ireland’s “Long Gestation”, 1890-1916

**Margaret O’Neill** (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) “If I am Henrietta, then what is Henrietta?”: Desire, Femininity and Social Form in Elizabeth Bowen’s *The House in Paris*

**Theresa Wray** (Cardiff University) The Quest for Flora: Who Is She? Establishing One Woman’s Place in Mary Lavin’s *The Becker Wives*

**16:00-16:30** Coffee break

**16:30-18:00 Muses amidst Arms – Writers' Responses to the Northern Conflict** (Room 111)

**Niall Carson** (University of Liverpool) Seán O’Faolain, *The Bell* and Northern Ireland

**Radvan Markus** (Charles University, Prague) “The half-built, half-derelict house”: Interpretation of the 1798 Rebellion in Stewart Parker’s *Northern Star*

**Naomi Banks** (Durham University) “Adequate to our predicament”? In Search of a Northern Irish Political Elegy

**18:00** Closing remarks