

Annual Review 2023



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy



About the Royal Irish Academy

The Royal Irish Academy, founded in 1785, is Ireland's leading body of experts supporting and promoting the sciences and humanities. As an all-island independent forum of peer-elected experts we recognise world-class researchers and scholars, and champion Irish academic research.

We make a significant contribution to public debate and policy formation on issues in science, technology and culture. We bring together academia, government and industry to address issues of mutual interest by providing an independent forum.

We lead important national research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage.

We represent the world of Irish learning internationally, have a unique globally recognised library and are a leading academic publisher.

ria.ie

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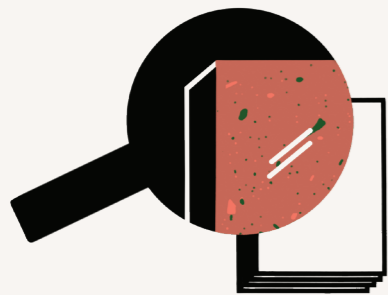
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2023 at a glance

Library and Publications

The Academy manages eight academic research programmes at the leading edge of scholarship in their respective disciplines. Academy projects work with areas in which the Academy Library and its collections are exceptionally rich, including Irish

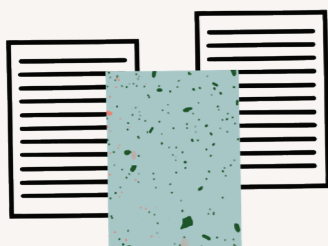
language and literature, linguistics, the history and culture of Ireland and archaeology. The Academy also publishes books aimed at communicating scholarly material to a wider public, as well as landmark series, scholarly books and journals.



Library
Welcomed 2,500+ readers and visitors

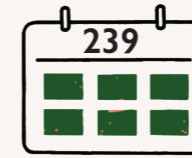


Publications
Published 6 books, working with 59 authors, editors and contributors

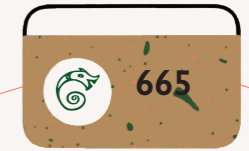


Academic Journals
81 research articles published

Our year in numbers



Years of representing academic excellence on the island of Ireland



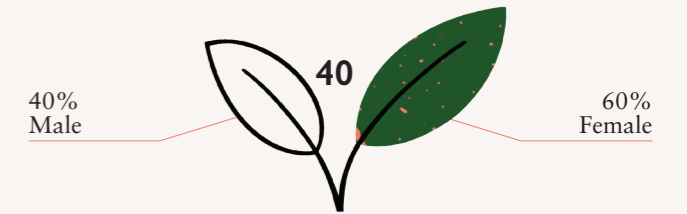
98 Honorary 567 Ordinary

Total number of Members



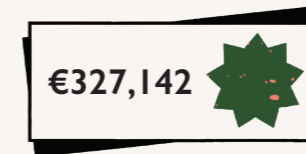
46% Male 54% Female

New Members (MRIA and Hon. MRIA) admitted



40% Male 60% Female

Young Academy Ireland members inducted



Research grants awarded



Grant awardees



Awards and prizes given this year



Followers across RIA social channels



All-island policy events



Visitors on Culture Night



Bookings for RIA events



Unique visits to www.ria.ie

Research Programmes



ARINS: Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South
16 articles, 13 blogs, 11 podcasts released this year



Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources
1,524 dictionary entries completed and peer reviewed this year (constituting the whole of the letter P)



Dictionary of Irish Biography
74 new and updated entries published this year; totalling 10,829 lives



Grangegorman Histories
The Asylum Workshop play was brought back by popular demand with 11 sold out nights and 880 theatre-goers



Documents on Irish Foreign Policy
'On an equal footing with all' exhibition traveled nationally (Laois and Dublin) and internationally (Geneva and New York)



Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge
90 million words in Corpas Stairiúil na Gaeilge



Digital Repository of Ireland
27 new collections published this year, totalling 157 collections now digitally preserved and accessible



Irish Historic Towns Atlas
Digital Atlas of Cork/Corcaigh published, covering 6,235 urban site histories

Connect with us

The Academy has an active presence across all the major social networks, sharing updates in real time about the work of our programmes and research projects. Find all of our social accounts below and follow us to be kept up to date with the latest news!



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Royal Irish Academy Library

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ARINS: Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South

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Young Academy Ireland

✕ YoungAcademyIrl
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Digital Repository of Ireland

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 dri_ireland
 /digitalrepositoryireland

Dictionary of Irish Biography

✕ DIB_RIA

Irish Historic Towns Atlas

✕ IHTA_RIA
 /IHTARIA

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

✕ DIFP_RIA

Foclóir na Gaeilge

✕ Focloir_RIA

George Eogan's Excavations at Knowth

/RIAKnowthExcavations

President's Foreword

A dhaoine uaisle agus a chairde,

In March 2023 I was privileged to be elected as the 58th President of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). On behalf of the Members, I would like to thank the outgoing President Dr Mary Canning for her dedicated service to the Academy.

Throughout the pages of this Annual Review, you will see the breadth and depth of work undertaken across the Academy by departments, research programmes, multidisciplinary committees, members and staff.

In April, as one of my first official duties, I launched the Young Academy Ireland and welcomed the 40 incoming members at a ceremony in the RIA. It was a significant milestone and a historic day, as supporting the next generation of academics and researchers—the leaders of tomorrow—is a core commitment for the Academy. It is important that scholars, researchers and professionals who are at an early stage of their career path are given not just a voice but a unique platform in which to exercise that voice. I look forward to seeing the collaborative programme of work they develop over their remaining term of office.

The Academy's Discourse Series explored a diverse range of topics that ranged from the importance of women in politics, and the universal significance of the Nobel Prize in Literature, to presenting climate solutions through cancer treatment technologies. We were honoured to host Irish and international public figures who are leading discussions on these and other significant topics. I would urge members,

their research groups and colleagues as well as members of the public to support our Discourse Series by attending these talks in person. Since their inception in 1786, Discourses have been and will continue to be a key feature of the Academy.

The Higher Education Futures taskforce continued its all-island programme of work through the delivery of cross-border workshops in partnership with the John and Pat Hume Foundation in Derry. We further strengthened our relationships with our sister academies in the Celtic Academies Alliance, and Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan visited the Learned Society of Wales in the summer.

The RIA Library's programme of cultural exhibitions included collaborations with An Post, the Royal Dublin Society, University of Galway, National Library of Ireland, University College Cork and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Heritage Week in August, Culture Night in September and our Festive Evening in December are highlights in the Academy's calendar, providing an opportunity for staff across programmes to welcome members and the public to the Academy to learn about our historic collections and the work that we do. For Culture Night, organised by the Library, we welcomed over 850 visitors to the Academy.

The ARINS programme continued its independent and non-partisan analysis and research on constitutional, institutional and policy options for Ireland, north and south. This was achieved through a series of talks and debates as well as the publication of the results of two polls examining

voters' attitudes to a united Ireland (conducted simultaneously in Northern Ireland and the Republic) in *The Irish Times*.

Our publications department produced a catalogue of significant publications this year including *Asylum: Inside Grangegorman* by Professor Brendan Kelly, an output of the Grangegorman Histories research programme, a collaboration with Grangegorman Development Agency. This important book was sensitively illustrated by our Graphic Design Manager, Fidelma Slattery. Our December Discourse paid tribute to this publication by hosting a conversation between Professor Kelly and Catriona Crowe MRIA, to discuss mental health services in Ireland today and to consider if we have progressed or regressed beyond Grangegorman.

Throughout the year, the Academy strengthened and deepened its relationship with other higher education organisations. I am grateful for the contribution of MRIA representatives, for chairing discussions earlier this year with a view to ensuring there are no adverse unintended consequences for the research community with the development of the new research funding agency that will be created when Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC) amalgamate in 2024. In May the Academy responded to the Research and Innovation Bill 2023 and in November, Jane Ohlmeyer MRIA, Noel Lowndes MRIA, John Cryan MRIA and Jennifer Kenneally (Senior Policy and International Relations Manager) and I met with Philip Nolan MRIA, Director General of SFI to discuss the Academy's view of the development of the new research

funding agency Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the advice, work and support of the officers: Senior Vice-President, Imelda Maher MRIA; Secretary, Mary O'Dowd MRIA; Treasurer, Mary Kelly MRIA; Science Secretary, Catherine Godson MRIA; PL&A Secretary, Daniel Carey MRIA and Policy and International Relations Secretary, Brian Norton MRIA and all Council members for their time, inputs and expertise. I thank the Executive Director, Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan, and Academy staff for their professionalism and hard work on behalf of the Members. I look forward to the new year and will strive to do my best to represent the Academy in 2024!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



Professor Pat Guiry



Executive Director's Foreword

A chairde,

I am pleased to present the Annual Review for 2023, detailing the wide range of work taking place across the Royal Irish Academy, including celebrating and rewarding excellence in the humanities, sciences and social sciences in Ireland; organising conferences and seminars to foster reasoned debate about some of the biggest challenges facing Irish society; the provision of financial support in the form of over 60 grants to aid researchers working in the humanities and STEM fields as well as the publication of six journals and a diverse range of books aimed at communicating scholarly material to the wider public. As we reflect on the past year, our commitment to advancing knowledge and promoting excellence in the sciences and humanities, and social sciences has never been more evident.

In May an exciting new initiative, the Young Academy Ireland (YAI), was launched. I was delighted to welcome 40 inaugural YAI members to the Academy for their induction day. The creation of an all-island interdisciplinary Young Academy was a key strategic priority in our Strategic Plan (2019–23) and I look forward to YAI members' contributions to the RIA's multidisciplinary programme of work over the next number of years.

I was grateful for opportunities to further deepen relationships with our colleagues in the Celtic Academies Alliance by participating in several inter-academy meetings over the past twelve months. Positive steps were made at these meetings, with the shared aim of facilitating international co-operation and harnessing the multidisciplinary

expertise and experience of their fellows and our members. We continue to interact and exchange ideas with sister academies across the globe and our active involvement with European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA), the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) as well as the global Inter Academy Partnership (IAP) has enriched our own understanding as we, in turn, contribute to a shared international pool of knowledge. The challenges facing societies are increasingly complex and interconnected, requiring collaborative efforts that transcend borders. The strategic focus of the Academy's all-island programme of work was directed by representatives of the North-South Standing Committee, and through the activities of our Policy and International Relations department, which delivered a series of collaborative Higher Education Futures events in Derry.

As the RIA's Strategic Plan (2019–23) comes to an end, good progress has been made toward achieving our objectives. This year we embarked upon a review to assess our achievements and to map the direction of travel for the next four years. As we navigate the complexities of the challenges facing society, the RIA will seek to continue to champion excellence in research and scholarship, foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and a pursuit of knowledge that contributes to well-being for Ireland and its people.

This edition of the Annual Review is the inaugural bilingual version of this report, now available in both Irish and English. Under the amended provisions of the Official Languages Act, the RIA has reviewed its approach to the representation

of the Irish language in its public-facing spaces and activities. As an institution that supports the discussion and exchange of opinions and ideas on contemporary Irish culture and heritage, the RIA is committed to highlighting and facilitating the use of the Irish language in its activities.

Sustainability continues to be a core focus of the Academy's activities, and the following pages of this review detail the RIA's sustainability targets and achievements to date. I am grateful for the expertise and contributions of our Net Zero Working Group, chaired by RIA's VP for Sustainability and Engagement, David Farrell. In Spring we invited colleagues to form a Green Team, and the response was enthusiastic. Thanks to their efforts, the Academy was awarded a Bronze Smarter Travel Mark in September by the National Transport Authority. This award signifies the RIA's commitment to putting measures in place that support sustainable and active commuting, and further Smarter Travel actions.

The Academy remains committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity amongst its membership, staff, Academy grantees, invited panels and speakers. This is a continual process that recognises that inviting different voices and viewpoints leverages knowledge and experience of a broader cross section of society, allowing the RIA to embed inclusivity into its culture.

It has been a busy and rewarding year for the Royal Irish Academy and I am grateful for the commitment and collegiality of the staff across the Academy. I thank the President, the Executive Committee and Council for their guidance and



support and the many individuals across our various committees who give of their time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Siobhán O'Sullivan

Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan

Mary Canning: An appreciation

The presidency of Dr Mary Canning (2020–23) was both progressive and substantial, enhancing the Academy's profile and reputation with the academic community, policy makers and the general public. Yet it had the most inauspicious beginning. Mary became President on 16 March 2020, the day after the Irish government introduced the first COVID-19 lockdown of public places. This resulted in 19 Dawson Street being closed for meetings for two years, with all RIA business having to be conducted online.

Mary and the senior team adjusted rapidly to the new situation. She was determined from the outset that the Academy should bring its unique expertise to bear in tackling the challenges posed by the pandemic and that it should also take a more proactive role in policy formulation and analysis.

A COVID-19 taskforce was established, which oversaw the production of a number of scientific position papers. Also, a webinar series was introduced to enhance public awareness of the pandemic based on scientific facts. All these measures were highly effective.

Equally ambitious, a Higher Education Futures Taskforce was established to develop a vision for higher education across the island up to 2035. Informed by recommendations and analysis provided by over 100 organisations, stakeholders, interested parties and individuals in response to an extensive consultation exercise, the taskforce produced five papers on the future of higher education in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Reflecting her commitment to diversity, Mary commissioned an independent review of processes and procedures to ensure that Academy membership reflected the range of excellence, in particular gender diversity, within the pool of potential new members. The key recommendations were endorsed by the membership and are now part of the operating procedures for membership.

Another major achievement was her support in the development of the Young Academy Ireland (YAI). Additionally, the Academy, with Mary's imprimatur, produced several major policy position papers on topics including academic freedom, North-South student mobility, climate change and biodiversity, science advice for public policy, the position of Chief Scientist in Ireland, support for the humanities and involvement of the UK in Horizon Europe.



All of the above were accomplished with the calm dignity and personal authority that Mary brought to the presidency. Her term was highly significant and resulted in a more visible and influential Academy with innovations that will endure for years to come. Most importantly, she promoted collegiality among the membership and with and among Academy staff. For this and all the other achievements under her leadership we should all be very grateful.

Gerry McKenna MRIA
Senior Vice President (2020–23)

Sustainability



The RIA strives to deliver its mission in an environmentally conscious and sustainable manner. Some of our sustainability achievements of the past year are outlined below.

Green Team

In March the RIA Green Team met for the first time. The team consists of eight staff members from across different departments and programmes, all of whom are interested in achieving positive environmental change. The Green Team has run staff events, rolled out training on energy efficiency for staff, developed awareness-raising initiatives and taken on projects identified as priorities for the Academy by the team and wider staff.

Smarter Travel Mark

The Green Team organised the Academy's application to the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark award scheme. This is the new three-tier certification that recognises organisations that support active and sustainable transport. We are delighted to have been among the first organisations in Ireland to be awarded the Smarter Travel Mark in September. We achieved the bronze mark, which indicates we are an organisation that has basic measures in place; we intend to explore achieving a silver level in the future.

Public Sector Climate Action Mandate

The RIA as a public body must comply with the measures in the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate. This year we nominated a Climate and Sustainability Champion, Síle Lane, who chairs the Green Team and coordinates the Academy's reporting under the mandate. The Academy submitted two Public Sector Climate Action Roadmaps to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Higher Education Authority in March and September. These set out how we plan to meet energy and sustainability targets for the public sector, and we will report on our progress annually.

Emissions reporting

The Academy is subject to some ambitious targets around energy use. As a public body we are striving to achieve 51% reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions and improve our energy efficiency by 50% by 2030. In 2022 the Academy's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions were 59,720kgCO₂. This is a decrease from the baseline, but we need to continue to reduce energy-related emissions to hit the 2030 target of 29,586kgCO₂ and we are actively working on this. In 2023 we organised the first energy audit of the Dawson Street buildings and worked with the OPW to install a more efficient boiler.

The RIA is compliant with [Circular 1/2020: Procedures for Offsetting the Emissions Associated with Official Air Travel](#).



The RIA Green Team: (L-R) Ailbhe Rogers (Library), Hugh Shiels (Facilities), Síle Lane (Membership), Zoë Coleman (Communications and Events), Maura Ní Chearbhaill (Webmaster), Aifric Downey (Publications), Anahi Sandoval (Reception).

Net Zero commitment

The Academy intends not just to comply with legislation but has ambitions to go beyond compliance. At the invitation of the British Academy, we joined a group of European Academies in a pledge to become a net zero greenhouse gas emitting organisation by 2050. The RIA has established a Net Zero Working Group, which includes MRIsAs, members of our multidisciplinary committees and the executive, to lead out on this ambition.

Future Earth Ireland

Future Earth is a global network of scientists, researchers and innovators collaborating for a more sustainable planet. The RIA has now completed its second term as the national adhering body for Future Earth Global. The Academy will not instigate a third term of the working group at this time and would like to offer its sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who has been involved in Future Earth Ireland since its inception.



Executive Director Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan, Hugh Shiels (Facilities), Síle Lane (Chair, RIA Green Team), Siobhán Hamilton (Smarter Travel Programme Manager, National Transport Authority), and Aifric Downey (Publications) accepting the Bronze Smarter Travel Mark.

Multidisciplinary Committees



Exploring climate change and culture and heritage

Science Committees

The Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committees organised a one-day conference in June to explore the solutions needed to protect Ireland's culture and heritage from the impacts of climate change.

Changing climates, extreme weather events and rising sea levels will impact on the culture and heritage of Ireland in many ways. This multidisciplinary conference brought together climate and heritage researchers and practitioners to explore these impacts and to discuss solutions.

The conference opened with a review of the national and EU-wide situation with regards to research on and mitigations for the impact of climate change on heritage. Attendees heard that the EU and Irish government have action plans for protecting aspects of Ireland's heritage, and that the research area of climate change and heritage is relatively new.

There was a series of case study presentations on areas of relevance to Ireland including the impacts of climate change on coastal heritage, the historic built environment, archaeological heritage, waterways, language, cultural heritage and biodiversity.

Themes that emerged during the day and that may become research priorities included:

- The impact of climate change: predicting and assessing the impacts of climate change on and through culture and heritage
- Protecting heritage: opportunities for climate mitigation, protection and adaptation strategies, and sustainable development
- Accepting loss: coming to terms with the fact that some heritage may not be able to be saved for future generations

It was a stimulating day with wonderful presentations from passionate researchers. The audience included researchers as well as practitioners from local authorities, architects, planners and representatives of cultural institutions and community representatives from local creative and heritage groups, local environmental groups and citizen scientists.



This conference was organised by the Climate Change and Environmental Sciences multidisciplinary committee and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The programme of speakers is available to [download from the RIA website](#).

Sign languages on the island of Ireland: recognition and human rights

Humanities and Social Sciences Committees

A key focus of the Humanities and Social Sciences committees has been diversifying the audiences that come through the doors of the Academy, while also addressing issues of concern within academic disciplines and wider society. In recent years a number of events have succeeded in doing this very well; notably [Rethinking educational disadvantage](#) (Social Sciences Committee, October 2022) and [Human \(in\)security in an unsettled world](#) (Standing Committee for International Affairs, May 2023). A constituency that had never been represented with a dedicated event before this year was the d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) community.

The Committee for Languages, Literatures, Culture and Communication's conference, 'Sign languages on the island of Ireland: recognition and human rights' (February) brought together policy makers, academics, community leaders and civil servants to evaluate and benchmark how the principles enshrined in legislation recognising sign languages

translate into practice. Speakers included Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights Equality Commission; Geraldine McGahey, the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland; Dr Markku Jokinen, former President of the World Federation of the Deaf and Senator Mark Daly.

Facilitating the audience of d/Deaf, Hard of Hearing and hearing people were three teams of sign language interpreters (Irish Sign Language, British Sign Language and International Sign), DeafBlind interpreters and a live captioning team. With this range of interpreters, presenters gave papers in three signed languages and two spoken languages (English and Irish).

Panellists and audience members discussed areas where gaps in legislation or implementation remain, e.g. the lack of legislation recognising British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language in Northern Ireland; the lack of an access to work fund to support deaf people and employers;

the under-employment of deaf people who are signers; the barriers to participation in cultural and political life; the barriers to some professional pathways for deaf people (e.g. healthcare roles); the lack of reference to the supports that DeafBlind people require (e.g. guide-interpreters) in the Irish Sign Language Act and funding that follows recognition of such needs.

The conference concluded with an exploration of creative and cultural outputs from Lianne Quigley and Amanda Coogan, and a performance from the Dublin Theatre for the Deaf/SignON Project.

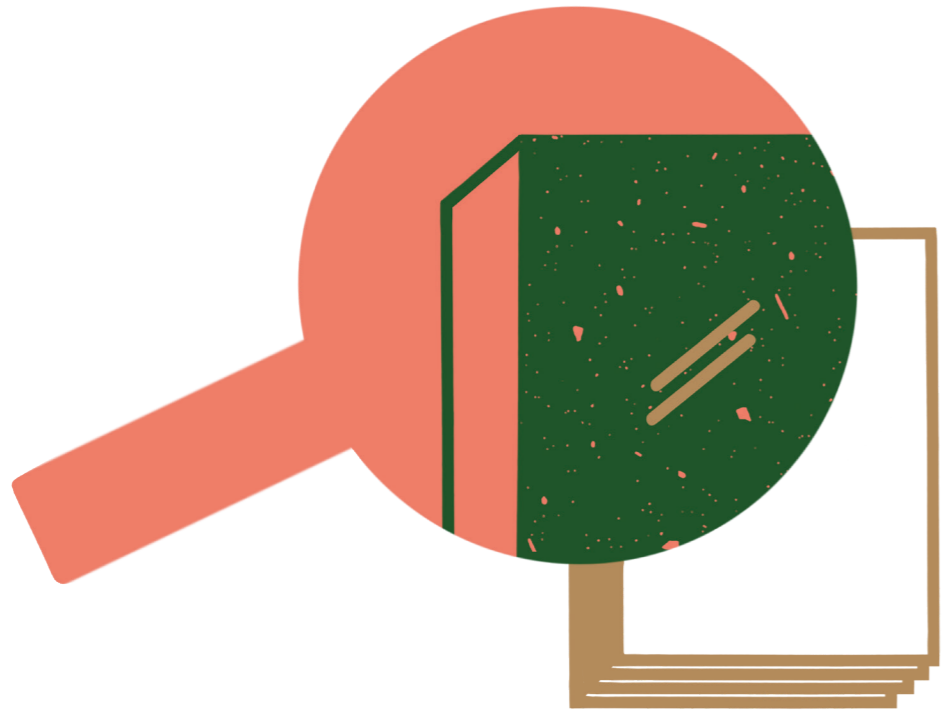
[A full report including recommendations](#) from the conference is available on the RIA website.



Above: Student volunteers from TCD's Deaf Studies programme: (L-R): Sarah Kelly, Ciara Flatley, Nicole Stephens, Erika Jeffers, Gillian Boate, Elizabeth McGinn, Ciara McGeough, Keira O'Connell and Shonagh Bowe.

Below: A performance of *As you like it* by William Shakespeare by the Dublin Theatre for the Deaf SignON Project.

Library



Acquisitions

The RIA Library is at the heart of the Academy, and we care for over 150,000 items. Our collections include unique manuscripts, archives, printed items, drawings, photographs and ephemera. We regularly add to our collections through donation and purchase.

This year we acquired several important items, most notably a collection of artefacts associated with the Irish entomologist and independent scientist *Cynthia Longfield* (1896–1991), including a pocket mirror, butterfly net and portable insect cage which were donated by Caitriona Nic Mhuiris. We also received a collection of papers and a portrait related to Joseph Cooper Walker (c.1762–1810), who was a founding member of the Academy, from Richard Garrett Walker. Joe Walsh from Cahir, Co. Tipperary donated a geometry textbook compiled by a hedge school master in the nineteenth-century and Mary Davies donated a presentation copy of the *Atlas of Ireland*, once owned by the late John Andrews, cartographic historian and geographer.



Cynthia Longfield Roberts on Narborough Island, Galapagos Archipelago holding up a marine iguana by the tail. (RIA A034 Photo vol II)



Ephemera from the Cynthia Longfield (Caitriona Nic Mhuiris) Collection.

Exhibitions

This year's exhibition programme featured collaborations with An Post Museum & Archive, University of Galway (UOG), Royal Dublin Society (RDS), and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

A bilingual exhibition on the legacy of Irish language scholar [Professor Tomás Ó Máille](#), curated by Dr Deirdre Ní Chonghaile from New York University, was on display in the Academy's Meeting Room from February until April. *Culture and citizenship* featured a collection of documents connected to the [Doegen Records Scheme](#) which aimed to capture phonetic recordings of Irish speech between 1928 and 1931.

Window on the Irish soul was an exhibition between the RIA Library and An Post Museum & Archive to celebrate 100 years of Irish stamps with material from the heritage collections of both institutions. The exhibition, which ran from May until August, featured the world's first stamp album – a unique collection of Irish revenue stamps now held in the Library's collection.

Forming part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Ireland's accession to the EU this year, the bilingual exhibition *Ireland and the birth of Europe*, ran from September to October and was co-curated by Dr Damian Bracken (University College Cork) and Dr Angela Byrne (DFA).

In November the Library collaborated with the RDS Library & Archives on an exhibition commemorating one of the largest international events held in Ireland – [the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1853](#).



Right: The first stamp to be issued, on 6 December 1922, was James Ingram's twopenny green map of Ireland stamp, which remained current for nearly 50 years.

Left: Commemorative stamps like this one, designed to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Irish Academy, served as an important way to represent Ireland internationally. (Courtesy of An Post Museum & Archive)



Tomás Ó Máille (1880–1938),
Irish linguist and scholar.
(Courtesy of University of Galway)

Caring for collections

One of our preservation priorities this year was a series of several hundred lantern slides from the [Robert Lloyd Praeger \(1865–1953\)](#) collection. Lantern slides were commonly used in the fields of natural history and sciences because they allowed for the sharing of images of specimens and scientific findings with large audiences. The slides formed part of the Praeger collection, which was acquired by the Library in 1952. Library Assistant Rebecca Cairns transferred this collection from its original wooden carrying cases to archival-grade boxes and enclosures after cataloguing and digitising the contents. She also developed guidelines for handling, processing and digitising lantern slides and [wrote a blog about her work on this project](#). Other collections currently being digitised or rehoused include lantern slides from the Cynthia Longfield collection.



A lantern slide from the Robert Lloyd Praeger (1865–1953) collection.

Research

Inks & Skins Project

We extended our participation agreement with the [Inks & Skins project](#) which is funded by the Irish Research Council through an Advanced Laureate Award. The project uses scientific methodologies combined with palaeography and codicology to investigate the materiality of the vernacular Gaelic manuscript during the period 1000–1600 (the vellum period).

UCD School of History and UCD Archives

At the beginning of the year we collaborated with the UCD School of History and UCD Archives on a project to increase access to our archival holdings. Students from the Archives and Records Management MA worked on the papers, letters and literary remains of Charles Vallancey (d. 1812), the letters and papers of Caesar Litton Falkiner (1863–1908), the archives of the Ouzel Galley and miscellaneous letters and documents collected by Charles Haliday (c. 1789–1866). The work of the students featured in a series of guest posts on [our library blog](#).

Conference on the Leabhar Breac

We delivered a two-day conference on the Leabhar Breac/Speckled Book in collaboration with Maynooth University (MU) and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) in April. This conference explored the historical, ecclesiastical, literary and illustrative aspects of the largest Irish vellum manuscript created by one scribe.

Virtual Records Treasury of Ireland (VRTI)

The Library entered into a new memorandum of understanding with the VRTI project which will enable the digitisation of manuscripts from the Haliday and Stowe collections. Head Librarian Barbara McCormack was also invited to join a network of library partners associated with the project and an advisory panel for the next phase of the VRTI.

OS200: Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage

We also signed a memorandum of understanding and participation agreement with the OS200 project which will increase access to our Ordnance Survey Archive through a freely accessible online resource for academic and public use.

HER-ald: HER archives, literature, documents

We organised a one-day seminar in December to discover, discuss and disseminate women's archival collections.

All papers presented at the seminar can be watched back on the [RIA YouTube channel](#).

Publications



Staff and volunteers

We welcomed Emma Rothwell to the team as Assistant Librarian in September.

Eimear Kane joined us as an archives volunteer and completed descriptive catalogues for two portfolios of archaeological drawings, sketches and rubbings and a collection of unbound deeds related to the Sandford Family of Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

Faye Harrington, a second-year undergraduate student in History and Politics (MU) joined us for six weeks as part of the Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research (SPUR). Faye worked on the Irish History Online (IHO) project where she contributed to the continued growth of bibliographic records on Irish history.

Donors and funding

The Library acknowledges all individuals and institutions for their support of our collections and connected activities, including P. Donlon MRIA and multiple anonymous donors.

The Library also acknowledges the sponsorship of the following events:

- The Fifth Irish Manuscripts Conference (sponsored by DIAS School of Celtic Studies and MU)
- Maintenance of Irish History Online (sponsored by Irish Historical Studies Publications)
- HER-ald seminar (sponsored by Mná100, An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media)

Lessons on life from death in prehistoric Ireland

'In reality, death is just as constant and central to society as life, and that has been the way over the 10,000 years of definite human presence on the island of Ireland.'

With the exception of archaeologists, most people today are probably unaware of the rich and varied evidence we have in Ireland for the complex ways in which the living of prehistory—a span of almost eight-and-a-half thousand years, from when the earliest human communities settled on the island to the era of literate history—responded to death, or for how people thought about and constructed formal social relationships with the dead.

In *Death in Irish prehistory*, Gabriel Cooney MRIA brings us through the extensive and diverse record of mortuary practice that we have for the period from 8000 BC to AD 400. He considers the treatment of people when they died, the complexity of their mortuary rites, their deposition and burial and the character and diversity of the evidence we recover from their graves or other resting places.

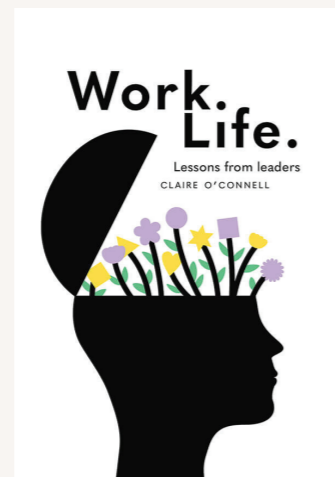
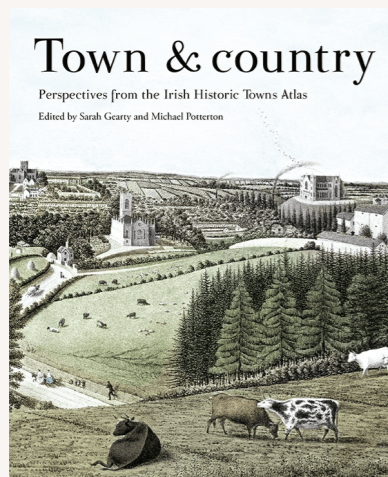
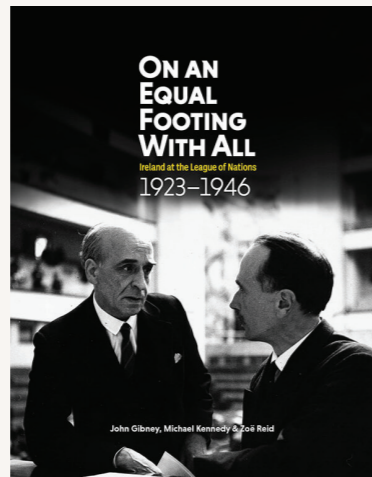
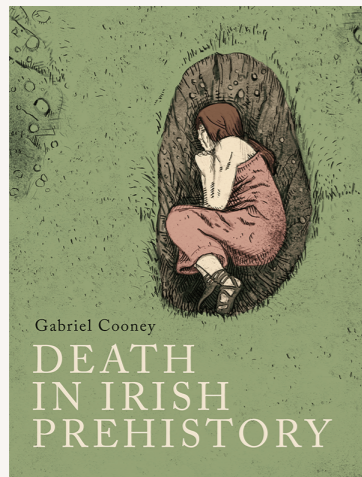
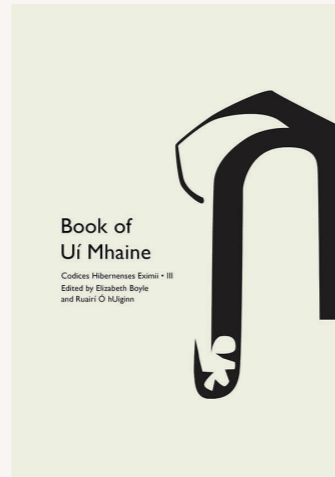
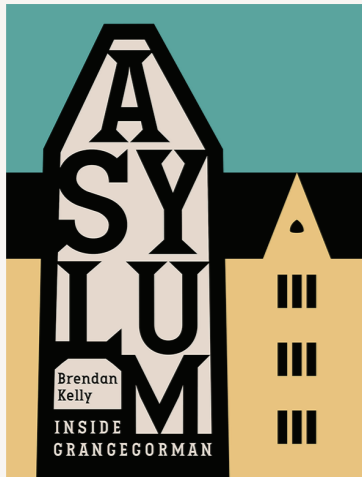
He offers a detailed understanding and narrative of prehistoric death—and life—in Ireland. This narrative, accompanied by evocative illustrations by Conor McHale, contends that the surviving physical evidence of the people who inhabited our island throughout prehistory, and what this evidence reveals of how they were treated in death, provides us with important insights on life.

Death in Irish prehistory is available to [purchase directly from the RIA website](#).

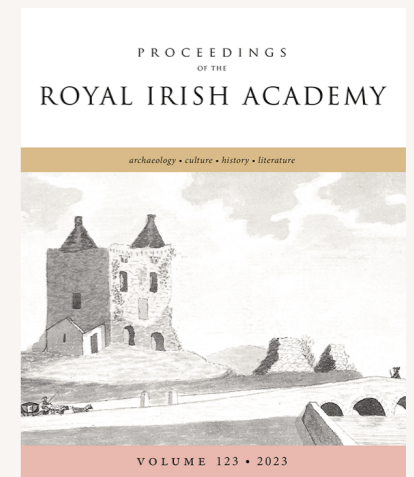
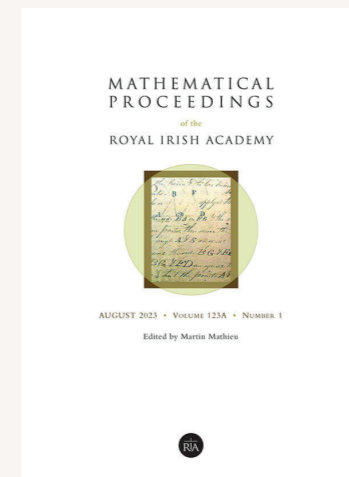
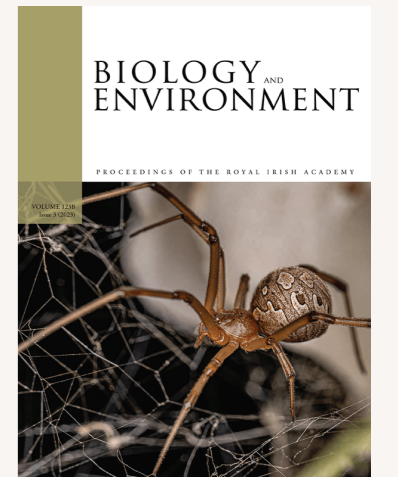
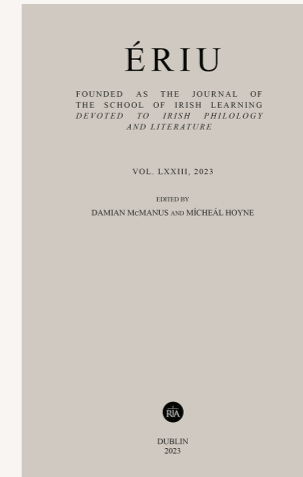
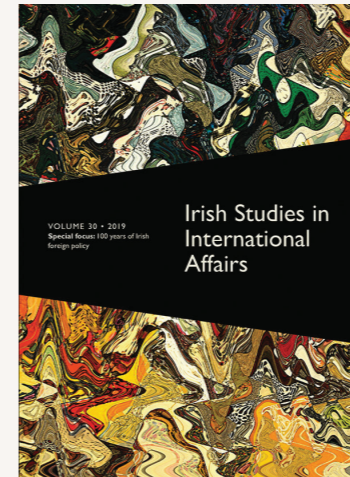


Lessons on life from death in prehistoric Ireland
 Illustrations by Conor McHale

Books



Journals



Launch of the first digital Directory of Irish Publishers

The first digital Directory of Irish Publishers was launched on Bloomsday (16 June) by [PublishOA.ie](https://publishoa.ie). The directory is the first digital all-island map of the Irish publishing landscape, listing over 180 active book and journal publishers. From Belfast to Bantry and from Dublin to the Atlantic island of Inis Treabhair, Irish publishers are active as never before.

PublishOA.ie is the research consortium conducting an all-island feasibility study into creating a comprehensive Open Access digital infrastructure designed to meet the needs of authors, readers, publishers and funders in Irish scholarly publishing. The research consortium has ten partners and is co-led by the RIA and the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute.

The Directory reveals the wide range of Irish publishing, including fiction and non-fiction, scholarly, reference, professional, Irish language, children's, lifestyle, culture and more.

'We welcome the Directory of Irish publishers as a valuable step in creating a national response to the open access publishing revolution and to supporting Irish research scholarship into the future.'

*(Professor Eve Patten,
Trinity College Dublin)*



Ruth Hegarty (Managing Editor, Publications), Lucy Hogan (Project Manager, PublishOA) presenting at the launch.

Journals

New deep sea octopus species found in the Atlantic

This text was originally published in the editorial of [Biology and Environment](#), volume 123B, issue 1.

It is often difficult to distinguish between different species based on morphological attributes alone because these can vary both environmentally and developmentally. In recent years DNA barcoding has been used extensively to distinguish between many problematic species. This approach relies on the use of short segments of the genome of a species as a species identifier, in a similar way to the UPC product codes that can be scanned at the local supermarket. Comparison with barcodes from known species can be used as identifiers. Barcodes without a match are added to the database and can be used to identify closely related species.

This is the approach that Taite *et al.* use in their article in *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* to distinguish between deep sea octopods belonging to the genera *Muusoctopus* and *Bathypolypus*, which are known for their high degree of morphological plasticity and where the number of species is still uncertain. Based on 298 specimens collected on deep water cruises and associated surveys between 2005–19, the authors identified nine deep sea octopod species and provide new information on the distribution of the two genera in the Northeast Atlantic. Five species were assigned to the genus *Bathypolypus*, three species were assigned to the genus *Muusoctopus*, and the final species was deemed to be a newly identified species. This research not only improves our understanding of the systematics of deep-sea octopods; it should also contribute to a better understanding of evolutionary relationships among the cephalopods.

The article [DNA barcoding reveals unexpected diversity of deep-sea octopuses in the Northeast Atlantic](#), by M. Taite, L. Dillon, J.M. Strugnell, J. Drewery and A.L. Allcock, is available open access. Open access funding for this was provided by IReL. You can learn more about and subscribe or submit research to *Biology and Environment* on the [RIA website](#).



New deep sea octopus species found in the Atlantic

Research Programmes



Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South (ARINS)

The ARINS programme publishes evidence-based research and analysis on the most significant questions of policy and public debate facing the island of Ireland, north and south.

Two polls, conducted simultaneously in Northern Ireland and the Republic, commissioned by ARINS and *The Irish Times* and carried out by the market research firm IPSOS, examined voters' attitudes to a possible united Ireland and referendums on the issue. A [follow-up poll on attitudes to symbols and identity](#) was carried out during the summer and published in *The Irish Times* on 2 December.

Dr Shelley Deane of the University of Notre Dame was appointed an editor of *Irish Studies in International Affairs* with special responsibility for ARINS papers, joining Prof. John Doyle

and Dr Mervyn O'Driscoll. Fifteen open access articles on a range of topics including human rights, education, cooperation in the arts, land law, economics, subventions, health, gender and equality were published. [A monthly blog and podcast](#) expand the reach of that research and allow for non-academic voices to be given a platform.

A collaboration with QUB resulted in a series of events on British-Irish identity, with speakers including Dame Arlene Foster, Doug Beattie, Bertie Ahern, Clare Hanna and Lord David Weir.

ARINS hosted *The Irish Times* semi-final debates which saw students debating thorny issues such as 'This House believes that to achieve a united Ireland Amhrán na bhFiann would have to go'. The German Embassy and the Mayor of Leipzig joined with MU to work with ARINS to deliver a conference and papers on the lessons that can be learned from German reunification. In 2024 there

are plans to continue this collaboration and commission a comparative study of the capacity of second cities to innovate, looking at Cork, Derry and Leipzig.

A repository of British and Irish Treaties, Documents and Agreements has been created with Pembroke College Oxford's Quill Writing Peace project. The 30th anniversary of the Downing Street Declaration was marked with the launch of linked open access resources by Seán Ó hUiginn, Máire Geoghegan Quinn and Sir Jonathan Stephens.

The key challenge for ARINS in 2024 is to develop robust research which is trusted and accessible to all.

All project reports, blogs and podcasts can be accessed at www.arinsproject.com

ARINS is an initiative of the RIA with the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the Keough School of Global Affairs, at the University of Notre Dame.



Above: Conversations on Britishness and Irishness, with Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach (1997–2008) and former leader of the Fianna Fáil Party (1994–2008); Arlene Foster, former First Minister of Northern Ireland (2016–17 and 2020–21) and former Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (2015–21), chaired by William Crawley (BBC) on 31 January at the Great Hall, Queen's University Belfast.

Below: The Irish Times Debates Winners: (L–R): Liam Boyce (University of Galway's Lit & Deb Society), Pat Leahy (Political Editor, *The Irish Times*), Jack Cummins and Adrienne Ward (UCD's Literary and Historical Society).



Dictionary of Irish Biography

The Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) is Ireland's national biographical dictionary, and is freely available in an open access database. It tells the island's life story through the biographies of prominent men and women born in Ireland, north and south, based at home and overseas, and the noteworthy Irish careers of those born outside Ireland.

Featuring comprehensive, scholarly biographies encompassing every sphere of human activity, the DIB is an indispensable work of reference for scholars, students, journalists, broadcasters, genealogists, diplomats and general readers interested in Ireland's past, or in the art of biography and life writing. First published in both hard copy and online in 2009 and updated twice yearly, the DIB now features nearly 11,000 lives.

New lives added to the DIB

Two substantial updates were published in April and September of this year, consisting of 74 biographical entries drawn from a mixture of the recently deceased and 'missing persons'—figures previously overlooked but who have been the subject of recent research. Three of the entries were substantial revisions of previously published biographies, updated to take account of details, newly emerged information and recently published scholarship. Our 2023 entries included no less than three former Northern Ireland secretaries of state (Roy Mason, Patrick Mayhew and Jim Prior), as well as politicians Joan Burke and James Molyneux, artists Basil Blackshaw and Thurloe Conolly, footballer Molly Seaton, executioner Elizabeth Sugrue, broadcaster Derek Davis, writer Juanita Casey and vivandière Bridget Diver.

We hosted a workshop in the RIA on 24 March, which examined ways in which early modern women might be better represented within our corpus. The workshop was the latest step in an ongoing collaboration between the DIB and scholars of early modern Ireland, and we were very pleased to publish five new entries that are the first fruits of this collaboration: poet Lady Hester Pulter (1605–78), educationist Dorothy Moore (1612/13–64), and members of the Boyle family: Margaret Boyle (1623–89), Elizabeth Boyle (1613–91) and Alice Barry (1608–67).

While most of the entries were researched and written by the DIB team, we also published contributions from external contributors, to whom we are very grateful for giving us their time and expertise.

The Jim Doherty Big Band on RTÉ's 'Jazz workshop' (August 1971).
Courtesy of RTÉ Archives.



New Blog Series

In July we launched a [new blog series](#), with recent posts covering the history of Irish Jazz, the origins of the Irish Defence Forces' legal branch, the contribution of Irish women to the natural sciences in the nineteenth century, the civil service 'mandarins' who have shaped the state's financial policies, and the DIB's contribution to the [MACMORRIS research project](#). New posts are published every month.

Research Collaborations

In addition to providing a substantial part of the MACMORRIS project's underlying data, we continue to collaborate with other research partners. During the summer the DIB's managing editor, Dr Eoin Kinsella, joined the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland's key partners' advisory panel. As part of our ongoing link with [Ainm.ie](#), the national database of Irish-language biographies, we have posted crosslinks to the 469 lives that had an entry in both databases.

www.dib.ie



From top, L-R: Ann Lovett, Tony Fenton, Juanita Casey, Austin Darragh, Nellie Bushell, Derek Davis, Ma Copley and Basil Blackshaw.
Images courtesy of RTÉ Archives, Sheba Tobias, Abbey Theatre Archive, the Blackshaw estate, and public domain.



Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources

The 27th International Congress of Celtic Studies, a scholarly convention held every four years, met at the University of Utrecht in July. It provided an opportunity for the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS) team to present their research to the wider scholarly community and to draw international attention to its activities.

DMLCS Editor Dr Anthony Harvey presented a paper ‘Steadying one boat from another: the lexicographical challenge of a bilingual glossary’, in addition to chairing a session of the Congress. His paper highlighted attempts to crack the puzzles of a particular, often corrupt fifteenth-century list of words in Latin that is glossed in Irish, the only certainty being that whatever a given pair of words meant, the medieval author of the glossary thought that both meant the same thing. Dr Harvey proposed several definitions that will require lexicographers of early Irish to revisit a number of words, such as the *luach leasa*, once understood as a ‘fee paid to someone who undertakes some

transaction on one’s behalf’, offered as a translation of Latin *praesumptivum*. In fact the Victorian editor of the glossary had altered the Latin word from an original *pseumeticum*, a late spelling of *psimithium*, and Dr Harvey realised that *luach* was a miscopying of *luadi*: both the Latin and the Irish actually meant ‘white lead’ (as a cosmetic).

Dr Joseph Flahive, DMLCS Assistant Editor, presented ‘Early Irish loanwords into Latin: shedding some *Blaqth*’. This paper examined the surprisingly small number of such borrowings that the DMLCS programme has identified during its lexicographical investigations and explored the reasons that prompted medieval Irish authors to dip into their vernacular—or to avoid doing so. The research found that nearly half of these Latinised words were ranks or titles such as *tigernus* (< Old-Irish *tigern*, modern



Dr Joseph Flahive (DMLCS), Pádraic Moran (University of Galway), Jean Rittmueller (University of Memphis) and Érin Nic Coinnigh (University of Galway) at the 27th International Congress of Celtic Studies.

tiarna) used alongside *princeps*, ‘prince, ruler’ to denote the head of a medieval Gaelic lordship; and the Latin forms *comorbanus* and *conuerbius* from *comarbbae*, ‘an ecclesiastical successor, coarb’. On the other hand, ignorance of an item of standard Latin vocabulary could prompt a new coinage from Latin or Greek roots, but almost never the borrowing of an Irish word.

Opening a roundtable discussion workshop titled ‘Landscape and the natural environment in Irish storytelling culture: between spatial theory and ecocriticism’, Dr Flahive’s presentation

‘Place-names in Hiberno-Latin hagiography: an ecological approach’ examined the issue of how to render place-names when writing in a foreign language: does one translate the meaning, or leave it as a proper name in its original form? Authors’ different approaches to this unavoidable choice can reveal what they wished to tell their readers about the landscapes of their environment.

The International Congress provides an opportunity for interaction between Celtic-Latin Studies and the study of Celtic languages and literatures, as well as of history and archaeology. Celtic Latinity is a field that lacks formal representation in the university system, and DMLCS’s perspective is therefore increasingly seen to be indispensable.

Dr Anthony Harvey at the 27th International Congress of Celtic Studies



Digital Repository of Ireland

As a trusted digital repository (TDR) for Ireland's cultural heritage digital data, the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) is committed to broadening access to culture. Making cultural heritage available for future generations is a major public policy goal in the European Union. 3D technologies offer unprecedented opportunities to advance this objective, widening access to culture, supporting digital preservation and fostering the reuse of Europe's cultural assets.

In 2023, we made significant advancements to the Repository to improve 3D viewing capabilities and advance collective efforts to preserve 3D models of cultural heritage sites and historic buildings for sustained access. The Repository now handles embedded 3D files in a range of seven formats (FBX, OBJ, STL, GLB, GLTF, PLY and DAE) with proficiency, providing an immersive experience for users. DRI's technical team is continuing to work closely with our members to augment user experience when accessing and viewing 3D objects.

DRI will further support the preservation of high-quality 3D digital assets through our participation in Twin it! 3D for Europe's Culture, a campaign led by the European Commission and the Europeana Initiative, under the auspices of the ongoing Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, and the upcoming Spanish and Belgian Presidencies. This campaign aims to accelerate 3D data in the common European Data Space for cultural heritage by inviting each one of the 27 EU Ministries of Culture to submit one 3D digitised heritage asset to the data space. The selected asset can be deemed at

risk, among the most physically visited monuments, buildings and sites, or belong to a category with a low level of digitisation.

DRI preserved our first 3D data object in 2020—a 3D face shield designed by DRI Software Engineer Mashal Ahmad. This timely object was preserved during the pandemic when tech groups were coming together as a community to use 3D printing of face shields to address the worldwide shortage of protective equipment for healthcare professionals.

The advancements we have since made to the Repository have allowed us to work with our members to begin preserving a variety of different 3D file formats with the potential for reuse in diverse domains such as education, sustainable tourism and the cultural creative sectors.

DRI's participation in 'Twin it!' represents a unique opportunity to showcase Ireland's rich and diverse cultural heritage to a wider European audience. DRI is excited to support collective efforts to preserve 3D cultural heritage data so that it can be accessed, enjoyed and reused by researchers and members of the public now and in the future.

www.dri.ie



Above: Detail of the Monasterboice (South) High Cross in 3D image format.

Below: Staff from The Discovery Programme with a 3D printer, demonstrating 3D printing at Culture Night.

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

This year began with two launches: Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP) contributed to the fiftieth anniversary of Irish EEC/EU membership in 2023 by developing the exhibition *Into Europe: Ireland and the EU*, curated by Dr Miriam Nyhan Grey, which toured nationally and internationally. The exhibition was launched in Iveagh House in January by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin, who also launched *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy Vol. XIII: 1965–1969* in Iveagh House later that month.

Volumes in the DIFP series are published every two years. In the DIFP production schedule, 2023 was a research year. We focussed on examining and selecting documents for potential publication in the fourteenth volume in the series. DIFP is physically based in the National Archives (which is one of the three partners in the research programme), as the archival collections that provide most of the material published in the series are held there. These are the archives of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of the Taoiseach, released to the National Archives under the ‘thirty-year rule’. They are augmented by material from other collections, such as the personal papers of key political figures held in UCD Archives. DIFP XIV, due for publication in 2024, will cover 1969 to 1973; the final years of Jack Lynch’s Fianna Fáil government, which encompass the early years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland and Ireland’s successful application to join the EEC.

Alongside conducting research for DIFP XIV, in 2023 DIFP staff members also co-curated a major international exhibition on Irish membership of the League of Nations presented by the National Archives in partnership with the RIA (DIFP) and the DFA. The exhibition, entitled *On an equal footing with all: Ireland at the League of Nations 1923 to 1946* marked the end of the state’s ‘Decade of Centenaries’. The League of Nations was the first state-level international political organisation. Established after the First World War, it was an attempt to prevent another devastating global conflict. Ireland joined the League in 1923 and remained a member until the League’s dissolution in 1946. It was the forerunner of the United Nations, which took over many of the institutions and responsibilities of the League.

The exhibition was presented at the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois and the Dublin Festival of History, as well as at the United Nations Office at Geneva (the Palais des Nations, formerly the headquarters of the League of Nations) and UN Headquarters in New York. *The accompanying book of the same name* by the exhibition curators (Dr John Gibney and Dr Michael Kennedy of DIFP, and Zoë Reid of the National Archives) was published by the RIA on behalf of the National Archives and launched in New York and Dublin in the Autumn.

Ireland’s activities at the League can also be explored via the earlier volumes of the DIFP series, available to read on an open access basis at www.difp.ie.



Above: Opening of *On an equal footing* exhibition at the United Nations Office in Geneva, September.

Below: (L–R): Dr Kate O’Malley (Assistant Editor, DIFP); Ms Orlaith McBride (Director, National Archives); Dr Michael Kennedy (Executive Editor, DIFP); An Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Dr Mary Canning (President, RIA); Dr John Gibney (Assistant Editor, DIFP); Bernadette Whelan MRIA; and John Paul Kavanagh (DFA), pictured at the launch of Vol. XIII in Iveagh House, Dublin (Image courtesy of DFA).

Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge

Throughout 2023, Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge (FNG) staff worked on the main objective for the year, namely the drafting to completion of sample dictionary entries. This was achieved through engagement with the Editorial Working Group. Feedback from the group has been collated and analysed on these entries which represent the first derived from the total evidential base for the historical language—our digital corpus of Irish which contains over 90 million words in digital searchable format, which was over twenty years in the making. This corpus, while being continually refined, will be the source for all lexicographic output in the future of the research programme. Planning has been continuing for the next phase of the programme, which will see the publication of entries on historical principles, which represents another huge milestone in the output of the Academy's research on the Irish language.

Scholars of linguistics from far and near gathered in the Academy in June for an international conference on the linguistics of the Gaelic languages (Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Manx). The two-day event, over the course of which 18 papers were read, was organised by FNG, with the support of Coiste Léann na Gaeilge and funding from Foras na Gaeilge (Colm Cille scheme for Irish-Scottish collaboration). A prize was awarded at the end of proceedings to Liam Lonergan of TCD who was judged to have given the best contribution for an early-career scholar. The culmination of this vibrant event came with Alasdair Whyte, a traditional Gaelic singer from Mull, singing three songs in the Academy's Meeting Room for conference attendees.



Alasdair Whyte, a traditional Gaelic singer from Mull, closed out the conference on the linguistics of the Gaelic languages.

Grangegorman Histories

The Asylum Workshop, a new documentary play by playwright Colin Murphy was written for the final-year students of the B.A. (Hons) in Drama (Performance) at Technological University Dublin (TUD) Conservatoire and focused on the history of the Grangegorman psychiatric hospital in Dublin's north inner city. While the site is being redeveloped as a health and education campus, for nearly 200 years it was a formidable institution behind stone walls: an aspirational place of asylum and the treatment of mental illness, but also a place of medical mistreatment and traumatic incarceration.

Drawing on extensive use of the hospital archives, *The Asylum Workshop* wove together verbatim letters and testaments from patients and families, reports from doctors and nurses, and expert analysis from historians and psychiatrists. Colin Murphy framed these materials as questions about the relationship between the hospital and Irish society's values and priorities in the twentieth century, while also juxtaposing the site's complicated past as a hospital, housing patients and its present incarnation as a university pursuing knowledge.

The play was revived for eleven performances in June, following the success of an initial four performances in December 2022. The entire run was sold out and the play received much media attention, including interviews on the Ryan Tubridy Show, the Pat Kenny Show, and a feature in *The Irish Times*. The text of *The Asylum Workshop* was published by Bloomsbury to coincide with the June production of the play in the TU Dublin Black Box Theatre at Grangegorman. This publicity and publication, plus the performances themselves, helped raise the profile of the project and greatly increased interest in its ongoing activities.

Grangegorman Histories is a public history project of Dublin City Council, Grangegorman Development Agency, Health Service Executive, Local Communities, National Archives of Ireland, Royal Irish Academy and TU Dublin. The project aims to uncover, catalogue and commemorate the histories of the Grangegorman area.



Final-year Drama students at TU Dublin Conservatoire performing *The Asylum Workshop* by Colin Murphy (Image courtesy of Karl Hussey).

Irish Historic Towns Atlas

The *Digital Atlas of Cork/Corcaigh* is an interactive map that invites online visitors to discover the city of Cork in a new way by exploring early maps of different dates and detailed historical information and is [freely available to browse online](#). It is based on research carried out for Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), no. 31, Cork/Corcaigh by H.B. Clarke and Máire Ní Laoi, which will be published by the RIA in association with Cork City Council in May 2024.

The initiative came from the IHTA's Digital Working Group and is part of a project called 'Placing our heritage: creating the digital atlas of the city of Cork', which was supported under the Heritage Council Stewardship Fund 2023. It builds on ongoing work that integrates IHTA research and mapping using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology—digital atlases of Derry~Londonderry (2013), Galway (2017) and Dungarvan (2020) are already available, with Cork now offering the most functionality to date. Another pioneering aspect of the atlas is its preservation and accessibility as a collection with the Digital Repository of Ireland.

The atlas has been created using ESRI's ArcGIS Experience Builder. It includes 6,235 topographical features of Cork city's history, which have been mapped by theme (e.g. religion, education, defence, manufacturing). Information on individual sites is available by searching and via pop-up boxes, where critical dates and references are supplied. By using the site and date filters, it is possible to select and view features associated with a snapshot in time.

Accompanying this, layers of maps may be switched on and off. Key to this aspect of the digital atlas is a specially digitised map designed by IHTA, which depicts Cork city in detail from the mid-nineteenth century (1842). Ordnance Survey map layers provide the present-day plan, with earlier versions from 1842. A special feature is accessible for the first time to the original large-scale town plans that were drawn by the Ordnance Survey (1842) and Valuation Office (1852–64), the originals of which are held in the National Archives of Ireland.



Launch of *Town and Country*, (L–R): Vanessa Harding (Professor Emeritus, Birkbeck, chair Historic Towns Trust), Pat Guiry PRIA, Executive Director Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan), Howard Clarke MRIA, Dr Michael Potterton (MU, Chair of IHTA Editorial Board), Dr Ruth McManus (DCU and IHTA Editorial Board), Sarah Gearty, (Cartographic and Managing Editor, IHTA).

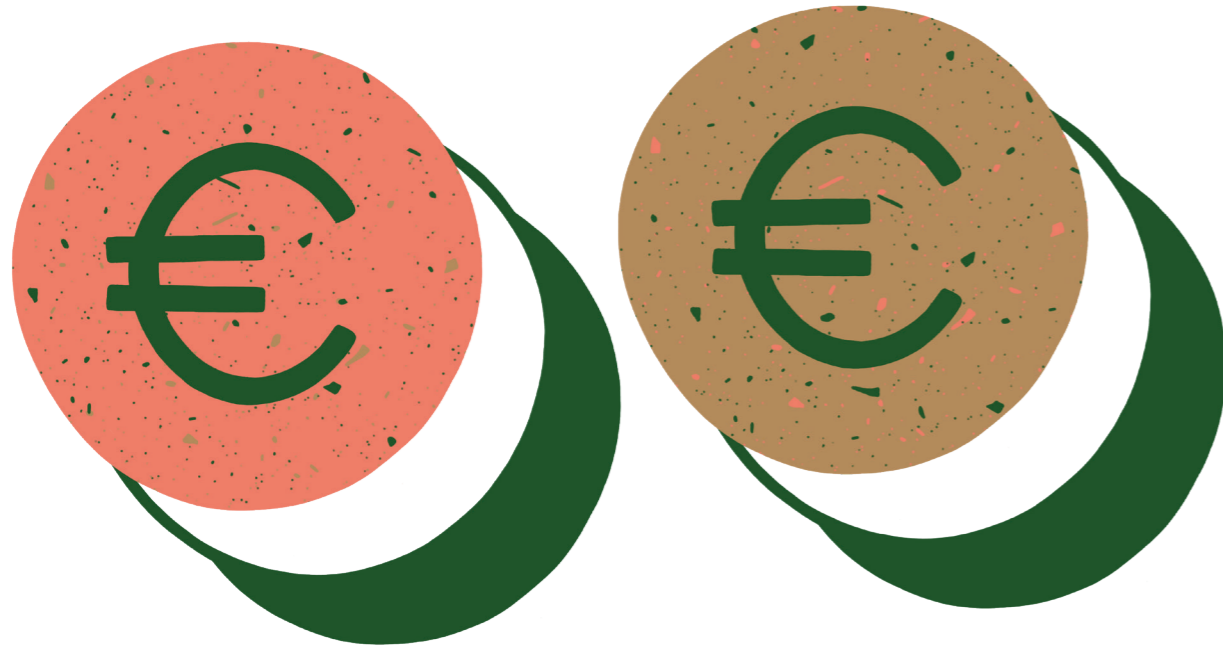
To mark Heritage Week, the IHTA team worked with Cork-based Framework Films on a [short film about the project](#), to show people what they can look forward to and expect from the new atlas of Cork city, in its print and digital forms. A flavour from behind-the-scenes of the making of this video and the data entry involved in the creation of the digital atlas can be garnered from a blog written by this year's Maynooth University SPUR student Aoife Murphy, [who describes her work experience with the IHTA](#).

Alongside the digital atlas, highlights of the year included the publication in October of [Town and country: perspectives from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas](#), edited by Sarah Gearty and Michael Potterton; a lecture given by Howard Clarke MRIA in November on 'Mapping places, mapping people: Dublin and Dubliners' perspectives', and a series of successful Heritage Week walking tours in Dublin city and suburbs. Meanwhile, IHTA researchers continued work on future atlases of Irish towns and cities as well as on Dublin's suburbs.



Dublin Suburbs walking tour of Clontarf, led by Colm Lennon MRIA.

Grants and Awards



Grants

Archaeology Research

Excavation Grants

3 Grants / €45,330 Granted

Archaeology Research Grants

6 Grants / €20,483 Granted

Directed Research in

World Heritage Sites

4 Grants / €29,034 Granted

Radiocarbon Dates Scheme

3 Grants

Archaeology Legacy

Grants Scheme

2 Grants / €59,241 Granted

Charlemont Grants (overall)

16 Grants / €34,863 Granted

Ireland Scotland Bilateral Grants

1 Grant / €14,436 Granted

Nowlan Digitisation Grants

4 Grants / €39,215 Granted

Hunter Research Bursaries

2 Grants / €4,540 Granted

Decade of Centenaries Bursaries

20 Grants / €80,000 Granted

Total

61 Grants

€327,142 Granted

Archaeology Legacy Grants

The Archaeology Legacy Grants scheme was established in 2021, thanks to funding made available from the National Monuments Service, to aid in the completion of post-excavation research for RIA funded Archaeological Research Excavations whose funding ended at least five years ago.

The Standing Committee for Archaeology has been instrumental in creating and developing this scheme and over the past two years this scheme has enabled researchers to advance and complete several projects related to a number of excavations of both national and international importance. In some cases, new researchers have come forward to continue work originally taken on by earlier archaeologists and have been funded to carry out significant post-excavation assessment, conservation work, publication and dissemination and completion of projects including archiving and accession of project records.

The projects are:

- Rathgall, Co. Wicklow
- Knockroe, Co. Kilkenny
- Ballyglass, Co. Mayo
- Eagle's Nest, Lambay, Co. Dublin
- Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath
- Knocknarae, Co. Sligo

The scheme will continue to fund a number of suitable projects on an annual basis.

Rathgall, Co Wicklow: Joanna Brück MRIA

This project completes the preparation for publication of a monograph that presents in detail the results of Barry Raftery MRIA's landmark excavations at Rathgall, a multivallate hillfort and centre of activity of regional and superregional importance from the Neolithic to the post Medieval period, comprehensively detailing the stratigraphy of the site and the artefactual and landscape evidence. The book *A hillfort through time: Excavations at Rathgall, Co. Wicklow*, by Katharina Becker and Raftery draws on and presents the expertise of a wide range of specialists and aims to strike a balance between presenting Raftery's original account with insights derived from new work. It presents new models and significant data on life in Ireland in the Bronze Age, as well as during the early and later medieval periods.



Finds from the excavations at Rathgall, Co. Wicklow.

Moynagh Lough: Dr Michael Potterton

This project aims to see that the Moynagh Lough excavation led by Dr John Bradley is fully published and that the archive and artefacts are transferred to the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). The Moynagh Lough site is known for its remarkable medieval finds, but it also displays evidence of occupation as far back as the Mesolithic. The most recent round of funding has allowed post-excavation analysis of faunal remains, botanical remains and leather as well as the digitisation of plans and section drawings, illustration of finds and the scanning of all hard-copy drawings, photographs and slides.

Ballyglass: Dr Jessica Smyth

Ballyglass is a well-known and highly significant Early Neolithic site, comprising a large timber house and, immediately overlying this, a dual court tomb. It was excavated in 1969–71 by Dr Seán Ó Nualláin, but the excavation report was never fully published. This project was funded to prepare and list artefacts and ecofacts to enable their accession to NMI; digitise site notebooks, slides and photographs; prepare paper and digital archive for accession to National Monuments Service; and edit and finalise the text of a site monograph for submission to a publisher. The work will be published in summer 2024.



Excavations at Ballyglass, Co. Mayo.



Incised artefact from Moynagh Lough excavation, Co. Meath.

Cunningham Medal

Dame Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Hon. MRIA was awarded the 2023 Cunningham Medal

The Cunningham Medal, which dates back to 1796 and is awarded every three years, is the Academy's premier award. The 2023 Cunningham Medal was presented at a ceremony on 28 February to Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Honorary MRIA, in recognition of her research, wide contribution to academia, public engagement and her international leadership in science.

Dame Burnell is currently Chancellor of the University of Dundee and was previously a Pro Vice Chancellor of Trinity College Dublin. She holds numerous Honorary Doctorates and was elected as an Honorary Member of the Academy in 2012. In November 1967 as a postgraduate at Cambridge she discovered the first pulsars, previously unknown objects in the universe. Throughout her long and productive life, Jocelyn Bell Burnell has truly embodied the aims of the RIA in promoting academic excellence, independence and academic freedom.

The full award ceremony can be watched back on the [RIA YouTube channel](#).



Dame Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Hon. MRIA, holding her Cunningham Medal.

Gold Medals

The RIA Gold Medals recognise and celebrate researchers in Ireland making an international impact and shaping their field. The medals aim to identify and recognise inspirational figures to celebrate the achievements of higher education in Ireland and to inspire future generations. Since 2005, 32 Gold Medals have been awarded.

On 7 March, Jane Ohlmeyer MRIA and Jonathan N. Coleman MRIA were awarded the 2023 RIA Gold Medals, in the Humanities, and in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences respectively, at a ceremony in the Academy.

The ceremony was hosted by then President Mary Canning and the medals were presented by Senator Malcom Byrne. The 2023 RIA Gold Medals were sponsored by AIB.

In accepting his medal, Jonathan N. Coleman MRIA acknowledged the contributions of his students and colleagues to his work: 'I am absolutely delighted to receive the RIA Gold Medal, it's always nice to have your work recognised and this is recognition for the hard work put in by many research students and postdocs over the last fifteen years. Without them, it would be impossible to do research at all.'

Jane Ohlmeyer MRIA accepted her award stating: 'It is a great honour to receive this medal from the Academy, awarded by my fellow scholars, in recognition of a career devoted to developing new frontiers of scholarship and presenting fresh ways of understanding Ireland, our history and culture, and our relationship with the rest of the world. This award also recognises the vital importance of basic frontier research and the critical role that the humanities play in the world today.'



Executive Director Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan, Mary Canning PRIA, Jonathan N. Coleman MRIA, Jane Ohlmeyer MRIA, Provost Linda Doyle MRIA (TCD) and Orla Sheils (Vice Provost, Chief Academic Officer, TCD).



2023 RIA Gold Medals recipients, Jonathan N. Coleman MRIA and Jane Ohlmeyer MRIA.

Kathleen Lonsdale Chemistry Prize

The 2023 Kathleen Lonsdale Prize was awarded to Dr Chunchun Li for her research into understanding and controlling the surface properties of nanomaterials. Dr Li, a recent PhD graduate of Queen's University Belfast, was awarded the prestigious prize at a ceremony in the Academy on 11 May. The prize is named in honour of the famous Irish X-ray crystallographer Kathleen Lonsdale. The RIA works each year with the expert members of the Physical, Chemistry and Mathematical Committee to select a winner based on the most outstanding Irish PhD thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences.

Dr Li's PhD research focused on understanding and controlling the surface properties of nanomaterials. Understanding how the surfaces of nanomaterials interact with the environment and chemical substances in the environment is key to designing nanomaterials for use in applications such as sensing and catalysis. The principal technique Dr Li used to understand and control nanosurfaces was surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS), which can give useful information on interactions on nanomaterials' surfaces. Dr Li showed that the nanomaterials she developed could be used for SERS sensing for pollutants, pharmaceuticals and illegal drugs. The new discoveries in her research allowed her to build sensors with enormously enhanced performance for therapeutic monitoring

of anticancer drugs. The technique is suitable for a wide variety of monitoring applications for *in situ* water, environmental and biological analysis.

I am very excited and honoured to receive the prestigious Kathleen Lonsdale Prize from the Royal Irish Academy. I first heard of the prize in the second year of my PhD. At the time I also learnt about Dr Kathleen Lonsdale, who became one of my inspirations as a woman in science. Therefore, being awarded this prize is extremely special to me, since it is not only a testament to my efforts during my PhD but also a huge confidence boost for me to continue to pursue even bigger goals in my research in the future.

The prize, kindly sponsored by Henkel, includes an award of €2,000. Dr Li was also nominated by the Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences Committee to compete amongst the top young chemists in the world in the IUPAC-SOLVAY International Award for Young Chemists.



Dr Chunchun Li, 2023 Kathleen Lonsdale Prize winner.

Hamilton Day

Hamilton Day commemorates a ground-breaking discovery by one of Ireland's most famous scientists. On 16 October 1843, William Rowan Hamilton discovered quaternion algebra while walking along the Royal Canal from Dunsink Observatory to the RIA. He was so excited by his discovery that he scratched his equation on the wall of Broome Bridge, Cabra.

The RIA celebrates Hamilton Day by awarding the prestigious Hamilton Prize to the most gifted third level mathematics students in Ireland and by hosting the Hamilton Lecture, which is delivered by an internationally renowned speaker.

Hamilton Day 2022

The 2022 Hamilton lecture and award ceremony were rescheduled from 16 October 2022 to 1 March 2023.

The RIA invited Professor Avi Wigderson, (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA), to deliver the 2022 RIA Hamilton Lecture on 'Cryptography: secrets and lies, knowledge and trust.' For his virtual lecture Professor Wigderson presented a survey of some of the mathematical and computational ideas, definitions and assumptions that underlie privacy and security of the Internet and electronic commerce.

An in-person award ceremony was held in the Academy on the same day to mark the achievements of the students who received the 2022 Hamilton Prize. These students also participated in a masterclass facilitated remotely by Professor Wigderson.

Hamilton Day 2023

The Academy was delighted to welcome Field's Medal-winning mathematician, Professor Wendelin Werner (University of Cambridge), to deliver the 2023 Hamilton Lecture on 16 October.

Professor Werner also facilitated a masterclass, kindly hosted in Ibec's head office, with the nine undergraduate winners of the Hamilton Prize for mathematics.

That same evening the prize ceremony took place in the Academy. The event was attended by the winners' family and friends, representatives from their university departments and members of the mathematics community in Ireland.

The day's celebrations concluded with the Hamilton Lecture, 'How surprisingly intricate are random structures?', delivered by Professor Werner to a packed Meeting Room in the Academy.

The RIA Hamilton Prize and Hamilton Day activities are generously sponsored by Ibec.



Professor Wendelin Werner (University of Cambridge) delivering the 2023 Hamilton Day Lecture.



Above: 2022 Hamilton Prize winners: Tiernan Brosnan (UL), Ryan Elwood-Clarke (QUB), Laura Hayes (UCC), James Francis Hayes (University of Galway), Ryan McGowan (TCD), Olivia McLoughlin (DCU), Kituru Ndee (TUD), Ellen O'Carroll (UCD) and Jordan Rossiter (MU) with Mary Canning, former RIA president.

Below: 2023 Hamilton Prize winners: Ryan Brady (QUB), Matthew Byrne (MU), Edward Clarke (TCD), Thomas Patrick Connolly (UCC), TJ Griffin (DCU), Dmytro Lyubka (University of Galway), Peter Meehan (UL), Elaine Pidgeon (UCD) and Dara Vince (TUD) with Pat Guiry PRIA.

Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction

The Michel Déon Prize was founded in 2018 in memory of the French writer Michel Déon (1919–2016), who made the west of Ireland his home. It is a joint prize awarded in alternate years by the RIA in Ireland (funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs) and the Académie française in France. The winning author receives a prize of €10,000 and the honour of visiting the other country to deliver the Michel Déon Lecture the following year. The purpose of the prize is to honour the life of Déon by continuing his work in supporting and championing writing and sustaining his legacy by celebrating the richness and diversity of cultural experience in Europe.

French winner's event

In April we welcomed French writer and journalist—and recipient of the 2021 Michel Déon Prize, awarded by the Académie française—François Cérésa, to the Academy. French writer and member of the Académie française, Chantal Thomas, introduced Mr Cérésa, who was joined in conversation with Mary Gallagher MRJA, Professor of French and Francophone Studies at UCD. Their conversation explored the focus of Mr Cérésa's body of work (over 40 novels) as well as his perspective and experience as a writer and journalist. The bilingual conversation in the Academy was jointly hosted by the RIA and the French Embassy in Ireland.

Irish winner's event

On the evening of 28 November at the Irish Embassy in Paris, RIA Michel Déon Prize winners Conor O'Clery (2020) and Sally Hayden (2022) participated in a conversation facilitated by Michael Cronin MRJA. Among the audience was the Irish Ambassador to France, H.E. Niall Burgess, delegations from the Académie Française and RIA, Michel Déon's daughter Alice, colleagues, friends and family.

In a captivating conversation both Sally and Conor discussed the topics of their books, touching on common themes of trauma, dignity, agency and connectivity.

On 30 November the Académie française officially awarded their prize to Pierre Adrian. We look forward to welcoming Mr Adrian to the Academy in 2024.



(L–R): Conor O'Clery, Imelda Maher MRJA (Senior Vice-President, RIA), Vincent Guérend (French Ambassador to Ireland), Sally Hayden, Catherine Gagneux (French honorary consul to Galway and Connacht), Stephanie Muchint (Embassy of France in Ireland), Mary Gallagher MRJA, François Cérésa, Théophile Munyangeyo and Chantal Thomas (Académie française) at the RIA in April.



Conor O'Clery, Michael Cronin and Sally Hayden at the Embassy of Ireland, Paris in November.

Policy and International Relations



The RIA's Policy and International Relations department has had a busy year working on an Irish Research Council (IRC) funded regional development project, overseeing relations with sister academies and international bodies as well as advocating for the Higher Education sector on a national level.

The RIA has been particularly engaged in monitoring the development of the new research funding agency when Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the IRC amalgamate and in February, the Secretary for Policy and International Relations, Brian Norton MRIA, chaired a roundtable discussion with representatives of RIA's multidisciplinary committees to gather their views on the desired principles to inform the establishment of the new agency: Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland. These views, along with views gathered by the Policy Oversight Group and stakeholder meetings, were shared with the

relevant policymakers and regular updates on the progress of the agency were sought. In November, Pat Guiry PRIA, and a team of representatives met with Philip Nolan MRIA, Director General of SFI, to further discuss the composition and governance of the new agency with a view to ensuring there are no adverse unintended consequences for the research community.

Earlier this year, the British Academy (BA) and RIA collaborated to deliver a two-day knowledge frontiers workshop for early career researchers in London on the theme of 'The Future'. Following a competitive application process, 32 early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences from Ireland and the UK attended the symposium for an intensive discussion and the opportunity to compete for BA seed funding to support UK-Irish research collaborations. Nine multi-partner seed funding applications were successful.

The Higher Education Futures work that largely took place during COVID has continued to reap benefits and garner interest from stakeholders. On 21 February, Gerry McKenna MRIA, attended and presented on the Academy's statement on North-South student mobility to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. In the Spring and Autumn, the RIA joined with the John and Pat Hume Foundation to deliver day-long workshops in Derry. They gathered a wide range of stakeholders and facilitated panel and table discussions on strengthening Higher Education and research provision in the North-west of the island.

In March, the RIA partnered with Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) to host a discussion panel titled 'Why do we need public trust in times of crisis?' in UCD. This resulted in an excellent discussion around trust in science and public bodies and how to improve trust levels in the future.

In Autumn, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) co-hosted a webinar with the RIA, chaired by Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan. The webinar 'Promoting ethics and integrity in scientific research and practice' was the inaugural event in a series IAP is organising with the expressed aim of promoting inter-academy connections and engagement.

The Academy extends its congratulations to Brian Norton MRIA, who was elected as a Vice-President of European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) at the end of the year. We also thank all MRIAs and academics who represented the Academy on numerous international working groups and committees and attended international meetings.



Political and Civic Fellows associated with the Centre of Peace and Democracy NI paid a visit to the Academy in January.



Strengthening the regional impact of higher education in the Northwest panel discussion with Paul Bartholomew (Vice-Chancellor of Ulster University), John Darcy (Open University Director, Ireland) and John Daly (Senior Economist, Northern and Western Regional Assembly) chaired by Orla Flynn (President of Atlantic Technical University) at The Playhouse, Derry in May.

Young Academy Ireland



Young Academy Ireland (YAI) was launched in April by the RIA. It is an all-island, interdisciplinary organisation of early career researchers and innovators that aims to bring together individuals who will work collaboratively for the benefit of society.

Young academies provide a multidisciplinary platform that allows their members to exchange diverse views and experiences, to contribute effectively to the development of all-island research and cultural life, to ensure that early career researchers and innovators are adequately represented and actively participate in discussions that address global issues. This year, YAI was supported by Accenture.

YAI consists of 40 members from 12 organisations across the island of Ireland. The successful candidates (60% female, 40% male) included researchers, academics, scientists, innovators, clinicians, economists and professionals who have each made a significant contribution to their field and beyond their individual disciplines.

Elections

YAI elected ten members to their Executive Committee, which serves as the representative body of YAI and reports to the Royal Irish Academy. The committee's role is to consult with members, represent consensus and prepare proposals for the YAI members within the General Assembly. The committee promotes co-operation across and within relevant scholarly disciplines on issues of topical interest, on an all-island basis.

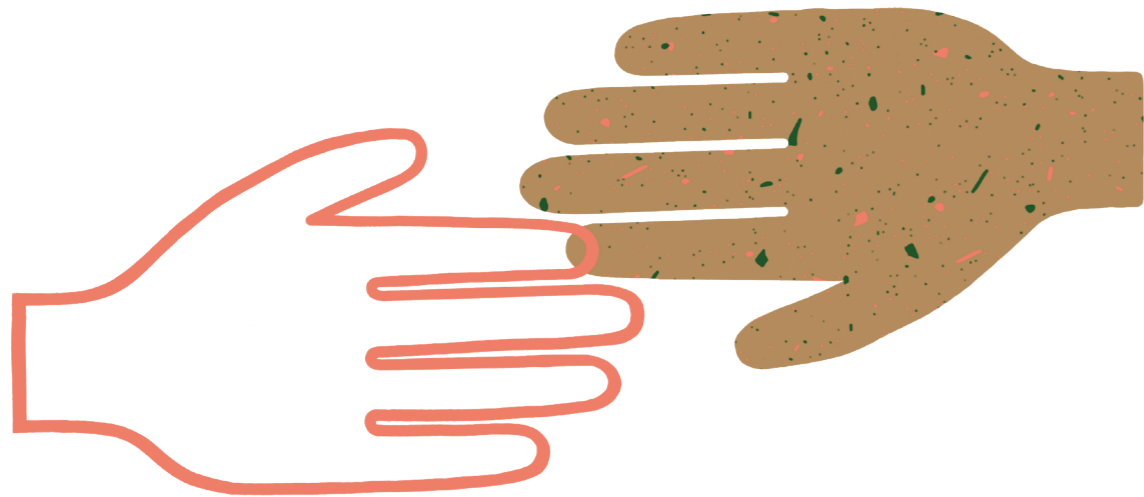
Professional development

YAI members have participated in many professional development opportunities throughout the year, including networking, attending EU level workshops, sitting on Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) and UK Young Academy assessment panels. The RIA's Publications department have established a publishing clinic which will be made available to all YAI members in early 2024. Led by its Commissioning Editor, Gillian Fitzgerald-Kelly, the clinic will provide an inclusive environment through mentoring and hands on feedback which will help to bring their work, pitches and proposals to the best possible standard, with a view to seeing their work published.



Above: Stefan Müller of YAI.
Below: (L-R) Dr Deirdre Flynn (Mary Immaculate College), Dr Abdollah Malekjafarian (UCD), Dr Lisa van der Werff (DCU) and Dr Johanna Vos (TCD).

Public Engagement: Access to experts



Discourse Series

We invited ten international speakers to participate in the Academy's Discourse Series over the course of this year. These public talks explored a diverse range of topics including: women in politics, reflections on Ireland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, international literature and the Nobel Prize, technological innovations in cancer treatment presenting climate solutions and the history of psychiatry and institutionalisation in Ireland.

Mary Canning, former RIA president, delivered her Presidential Discourse on the topic of 'The Critical University' on 28 February, with a response from Brian MacCraith MRIA.

On 30 March, Áine Lawlor (RTÉ) chaired the panel discussion 'Why are there so few women political leaders?', with speakers Professor Yvonne Galligan (Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, TU Dublin), Baroness Ruth Davidson (Former leader of the Scottish

Conservatives), Professor Emerita Monica McWilliams (Ulster University) and Tarja Halonen (President of Finland, 2000 to 2012).

Philp Nolan MRIA (Director-General, Science Foundation Ireland) delivered the Discourse: 'There's so much to know': Post-pandemic reflections on the human thirst for knowledge and its value and utility' on 10 May, with a response from Hannah McGee MRIA.

Anders Olsson, (Chair of the Nobel Committee, The Swedish Academy) delivered a Discourse on 'The Nobel Prize and the Idea of the Universal', with a response from Anne Fuchs MRIA on 17 October.

Professor Naomi Halas (Director, Smalley-Curl Institute, Rice University) delivered the Discourse: 'Light illuminates innovation in medicine and climate solutions', with a response from Brian Norton MRIA on 16 November.

On 13 December, Professor Brendan Kelly (Professor of Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin; Consultant Psychiatrist, Tallaght University Hospital) was joined in conversation by Catriona Crowe MRIA to discuss 'Grangeegorman: From the era of neglect to the era of the asylum – and back?', following the recent publication of 'Asylum: Inside Grangeegorman'.

Recordings of all the 2019–23 Discourse Series are available to watch on the [RIA YouTube channel](#).

Presidential Discourse: The Critical University
with Mary Canning, former RIA president.

Grangeegorman: From the Era of Neglect to the Era of the Asylum – and Back?
with Professor Brendan Kelly.



Why are there so few women political leaders?
with Professor Yvonne Galligan, Baroness Ruth Davidson, Professor Emerita Monica McWilliams and Tarja Halonen.

Members' Research Series

The Members' Research Series reinforces the RIA's Strategic Plan (2019–23) to support scholarship and promote awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. In this blog series, members talk about their research fields in order to raise awareness of their work and to facilitate collaboration within the wider academic community. The blogs are written in a format that aims to inform non-specialist readers about new advances in a number of interesting fields.

Many thanks to all our contributors this year. Any members who wish to contribute to the series should contact communications@ria.ie

Read the full series online at www.ria.ie/members-research-series.

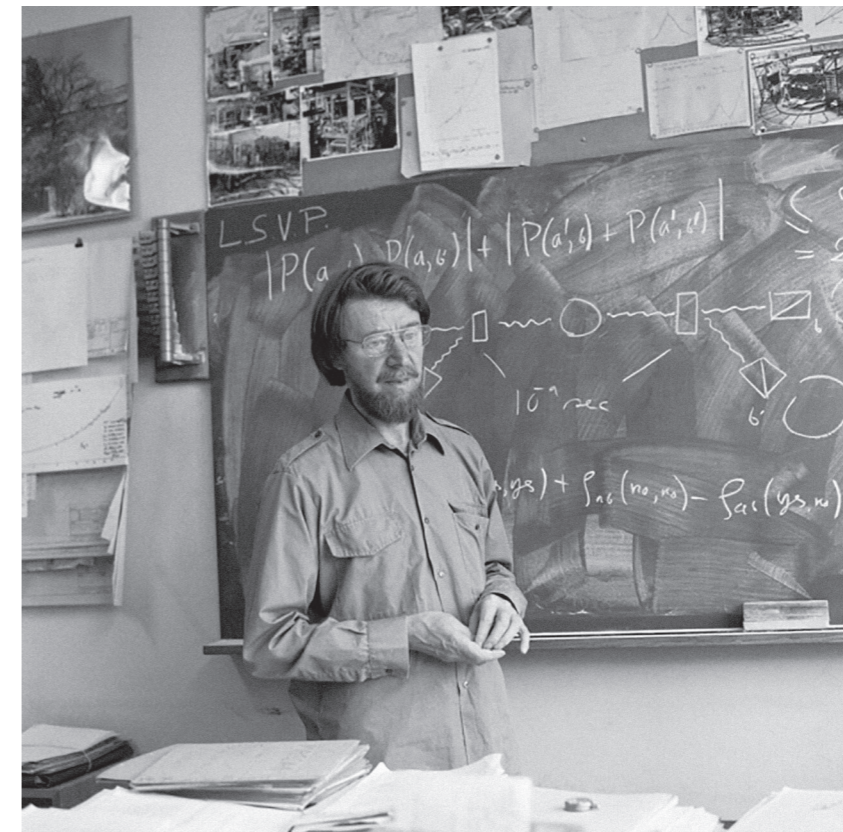


Anne Magurran, Hon. MRIA, Ecologist
 David Stifter MRIA, Professor of Old and Middle Irish
 Desmond J. Tobin MRIA, Skin Scientist
 Enrico Dal Lago MRIA, Historian
 Gladys Ganiel MRIA, Sociologist of Religion
 Janice Carruthers MRIA, Linguist
 Kath Browne MRIA, Geographer
 Margaret Kelleher MRIA, Professor of Literature
 Niamh Brennan MRIA, Professor of management
 Nabeel Agha Riza MRIA, Inventor
 Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin MRIA, Historian

John Bell Day

Since November 2014, the RIA has worked with Queen's University Belfast's Chief Executives' Club and School of Mathematics and Physics to celebrate John Bell Day. On 4 November 1964 John Bell (1928–90) from Tate's Avenue, Belfast, changed the world of science by laying the foundation stone for quantum computing with his quantum theory. We want to make John Bell a role model for the young people of Northern Ireland, to inspire them to see education and science as a route through which they can fulfil their greatest ambitions as Bell did.

This year's guest speaker was Professor Hendrik Ulbricht, Professor of Physics at the University of Southampton. His virtual lecture was titled 'Testing the foundations of quantum mechanics with levitated mechanical systems'.

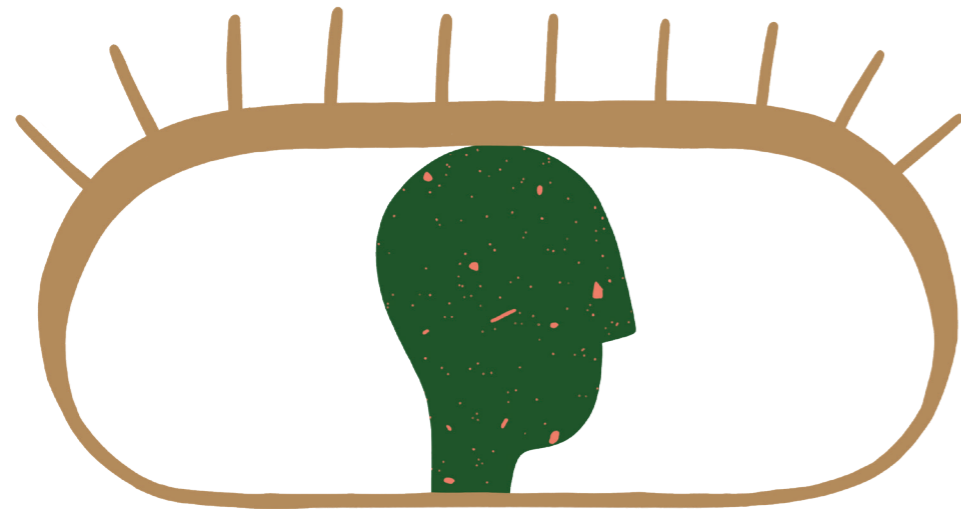


John Stewart Bell (1928–1990) at CERN, June 1982.



Professor Hendrik Ulbricht,
 Professor of Physics at the
 University of Southampton.

Membership Updates



Honorary Members

Polite Literature and Antiquities



GRÁINNE DE BÚRCA is the Florence Ellinwood Allen Professor of Law at New York University Law School, and director of their Hauser Global Law School and Jean Monnet Centre. Her scholarship intersects three related fields: EU law, constitutional law and human rights law. She is the author of the 2021 monograph, *Reframing human rights law in a turbulent era*. In September 2023 she assumed the chair in Comparative Constitutional Law at the European University Institute.



PATRICK GRIFFIN is Madden-Hennebry Professor of History and director of the Keough-Naughton Institute at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of several books exploring revolution and rebellion, migration, colonisation and violence in North America. His distinctions include being elected as Harmsworth Professor of American history at Oxford, 2021–2. Patrick was a founding member and is current chair of the Academy's programme, Analysing and researching Ireland north and south (ARINS).



MÁIRE NÍ MHAONAIGH is professor of Celtic and Medieval Studies at the University of Cambridge, and a fellow of St John's College. She is a pioneer in the interdisciplinary study of medieval Irish literature, language and history, and a leading expert on early Irish, British and Scandinavian relations. She currently holds a five-year Leverhulme Trust award for a seminal study of place in early Irish literature.

Science



RUDOLF KRKA is professor of Analytical Chemistry and head of the Institute of Bioanalytics at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and jointly appointed professor at Queen's University Belfast. He has received twelve scientific awards, including the Fritz Pregl Medal, and is author or co-author of more than 460 SCI publications, which have over 20,000 citations. Krska is the world's most cited author in the area of mycotoxins, and he and his team have provided important evidence on the formation of masked mycotoxins in cereals.



TIM PALMER is a Royal Society Research Professor in Climate Physics at the University of Oxford. He pioneered the now standard use of probabilistic ensemble techniques in weather and climate modelling. Among many other honours achieved, he is an international member of the US National Academy of Sciences and of the Accademia dei Lincei, and a fellow of the Royal Society.



GORDON WALLACE is director of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute at the University of Wollongong. He is the recipient of several awards and distinctions, including the 2017 New South Wales Scientist of the Year, and has been appointed an officer of the Order of Australia. He has long-standing collaborations with researchers at Dublin City University and Trinity College Dublin and serves on the advisory board for the Science Foundation Ireland-funded centre, 'iForm'.

New Members

Polite Literature and Antiquities



JOANNA BRÜCK is full professor in the School of Archaeology at University College Dublin. Her publications range from the interpretation of aDNA to the archaeology of the Irish Revolutionary period. She is particularly interested in theories of personhood and identity in European prehistory and in revolutionary ontologies of Bronze Age Britain and Ireland. She leads a €2.5-million European Research Council project on human–animal relations in Bronze Age Europe.



RAFFAELLA FOLLI is research professor of Linguistics and former provost of the Jordanstown and Belfast campuses at Ulster University. Following post-doctoral awards at Cambridge and Arizona, she led the foundation of the Ulster Centre on Multilingualism as an outreach consultation centre for parents, practitioners and therapists. She has published extensively in the top journals in her field and received funding from several major research councils for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



KATY HAYWARD is professor of Political Sociology at Queen's University Belfast, where she is also co-director of the Centre for International Borders Research. She is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, an Eisenhower Fellow and an incoming Europe's Futures Fellow. She was awarded a Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize for her work on improving public understanding of the impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland.



RÓISÍN HEALY is senior lecturer in History at the University of Galway. She has published on modern German, Irish and Polish history. She has helped forge a comparative history of colonialism in Europe by comparing British rule in Ireland with Prussian rule in Poland. She has received funding from the Fulbright Commission, the Irish Research Council and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



LINDA HOGAN is professor of Ecumenics at Trinity College Dublin. She is a distinguished scholar, and an internationally recognised leader in the field of social and political ethics. Known for her ground-breaking non-foundationalist ethics of human rights, Professor Hogan was awarded a doctorate *honoris causa* from Regis College, University of Toronto, for her outstanding contribution to the ethics of human dignity, conscience and rights.



HELEN KELLY-HOLMES is full professor of Applied Languages at the University of Limerick. Her work as a sociolinguist, and an international leader in analysing multilingual media communication has made a major contribution in expanding the scope of language policy research. She is adjunct professor at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, and editor of Palgrave's influential Language and Globalisation series.



FIONA MAGOWAN is professor of Anthropology at Queen's University Belfast. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork across a global range of settings, her research in ethnomusicology, religion, gender, arts and performance is internationally esteemed. Her world-leading 2016 book, *Christianity, conflict, and renewal in Australia and the Pacific*, is an original and significant contribution to understanding Aboriginal Christianity.



DANNY MCCOY is chief executive officer of Ibec, a post he has held since 2009. He has been a leading public intellectual in Irish economic and social life over the past 25 years. He has held various roles at the Central Bank of Ireland, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the National Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Taxation, the national training agency FÁS and the National Competitiveness Council. He has held lecturing posts at Dublin City University, University College London, University of Oxford and Trinity College Dublin.



MONICA MCWILLIAMS is emeritus professor of Women's Studies at the University of Ulster. She is a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement on behalf of the Women's Coalition and former chief commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. She is a distinguished contributor to human rights organisations and initiatives internationally, and has worked to advance peace and equality in a courageous, reflective and scholarly way throughout her career.



ANDREW MURPHY is the 1867 professor of English Literature and a fellow of Trinity College Dublin. His monumental *Shakespeare in print* (2nd edition 2021) established him as a leading Shakespearean scholar of his generation. He has explored cultural contexts for book history in *Shakespeare for the people* (2008) and *Ireland, reading and cultural nationalism* (2018). He is an honorary professor at the University of St Andrews.



MAGGIE O'NEILL is a professor of Sociology and Criminology at University College Cork and director of UCC Futures – Collective Social Futures. She has made ground-breaking academic contributions to understanding forced migration, sex work and sexual exploitation and to developing participatory arts-based methodologies and has actively contributed to policy formation. Her most recent books include *Criminal women* (2022), *Prostitution and feminism* (2000), *Imaginative criminology: of spaces past, present and future* (2021) and *Walking methods: research on the move* (2019).



DIANE URQUHART, chair of Gender History at Queen's University Belfast, is a trailblazing historian of gender and of Irish Unionism, whose work is highly respected for its rigorous and trustworthy archival research. Her publications include *Women in Ulster politics* (2000) and *Irish divorce: a history* (2020).

Science


LOUISE ALLCOCK is professor of Zoology at University of Galway. She is a world leader in the systematics and biogeography of molluscs, with a focus on octopuses and deep-sea biota, and uses her broad knowledge to advocate for ocean conservation. She has brought her passion to public attention via television, radio and beautifully illustrated books on ocean life. Louise has contributed actively to equality and diversity throughout her professional life.



SIOBHÁN CLARKE is the chair professor of Software Systems at Trinity College Dublin. Her expertise is in middleware models for ensuring spatio/temporal resilience of software service provisioning in dynamic environments, where both service producers and consumers may be mobile. She has published widely on this topic in the top journals in the field. She was recently appointed to the editorial board of the *Communications of the Association of Computing Machinery*.



ANDREW COOPER is professor of Coastal Studies at Ulster University. He is among the world's leading coastal researchers. An independent review put him in the world's top ten coastal management researchers, and another placed him in the top one percent of the world's geoscientists. His research into coastal response to climate change and appropriate human adaptation has resulted in over 300 publications and over 11,000 citations.



FENGZHOU FANG, full professor in precision manufacturing at University College Dublin and director of the UCD Centre of Micro/Nano Manufacturing Technology, is a globally recognised leader in manufacturing research and education. Throughout his career, he has sought to deliver both scientific excellence and industrial impact, supporting new product and process development and innovation for industry, particularly in medical devices and optical systems manufacturing.



JOHN LAFFEY is professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at the School of Medicine of the University of Galway, where he is also director of clinical research. His research is focused on acute respiratory distress syndrome and sepsis. A major focus of his work is on the therapeutic potential of cell therapies and the effects of carbon dioxide in the critically ill.



CHRIS LYNCH is consultant and professor of Restorative Dentistry at University College Cork and dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Chris has been editor-in-chief of *Journal of Dentistry* since 2011. His own research publications have made significant international impact in how new dentists are trained, which in turn, has placed positive pressure on changing patterns of dental care. In 2020 he was appointed one of Ireland's inaugural National Teaching and Research fellows by the National Forum for Teaching and Learning.



MIKE LYONS is a professor in Physical Chemistry and a senior fellow of Trinity College Dublin, where he is the head of the School of Chemistry. He has an international reputation for research in interfacial electrochemistry, particularly for combining experiment and theoretical modelling. He has made seminal contributions to understanding electrochemical water splitting, magneto-electrochemistry and modified electrodes.



JAMES O'DONNELL is full professor of Vascular Biology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and St James's Hospital. He is a clinician scientist and an international opinion leader in the field of haematology. He has made research discoveries on the aetiology of blood disorders that have impacted on improving the health and well-being of people in Ireland and globally.



SINÉAD RYAN holds a chair of Theoretical High Energy Physics at the School of Mathematics, Trinity College Dublin. She is a world leader in Lattice Quantum Field Theory, making important contributions to our understanding of quantum chromodynamics—the theory of the strong nuclear force. Her work explores the nature and structure of matter, including in the extreme conditions of the early universe.



JOHN WALSH is professor of Structural Geology in the School of Earth Sciences, University College Dublin. He is an international authority on geological faults and fractures and founding director (2015–18) of the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (iCRAG). He has received numerous awards, including the 2017 Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in Environmental Sciences and Geosciences and the 2017 Geological Society William Smith Medal.

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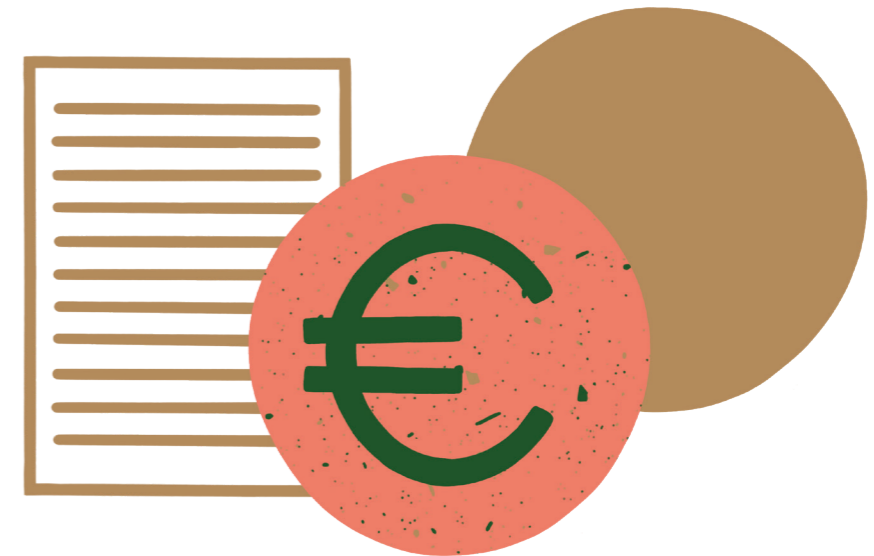
GEARÓID S. MAC EOIN, BA, MA(NUI), DPhil(Bonn). Emeritus Professor of Old and Middle Irish and Celtic Philology, University of Galway. Elected in 1975.

JOHN MCCLOSKEY, BSc, PGCD, PhD. Chair in Natural Hazards Science, Edinburgh. Elected in 2012.

THOMAS BRIAN HAMILTON MCMURRY, MA, PhD, ScD(Dubl). Retired Professor of Organic Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin. Elected in 1959.

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The Academy would like to express its sincere thanks to the following Members and individuals who lent us their support in 2023.

David Coleman MRIA; Peter Coxon MRIA; Catherine Day MRIA; John Dillon MRIA; Andrew Mayes MRIA; John McGilp MRIA; Brian Norton MRIA; Seán Ó'Coileáin MRIA; Mr Brad Sharek

The Academy also acknowledges the support of those donors who wished to remain anonymous.

Summary of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Income	€	Direct Expenditure	€
Oireachtas Grants		Staff costs	
Grant-in-aid	3,967,000	Supplementary Pensions	82,870
Public Sector Pension payment	235,033	Admin Pensions	109,393
Pension Lump Sum Funding	183,021	Admin Salaries/Project Salaries	1,651,237
Funding re Pension Windup Irish Life	166,946	FNG Salaries/Pensions	510,786
Dept of the Gaeltacht	179,518	Celtic Latin Dictionary Salaries/Pensions	122,372
DRI CORE HEA Income	-	Irish Historic Towns Salaries	172,301
DIFP Income	-	Dictionary of Irish Biography Salaries/Pensions	504,517
Other Exchequer Funding	20,371	Library Salaries/Pensions	428,752
		Publications Salaries	381,003
Funding and Other Income		Accommodation and establishment	
Irish Humanities Alliance		Fuel & light	40,528
Sale of Publications	229,260	Furniture, Equipment & Household	31,125
Sale of Proceedings	44,093	Rent	49,500
Sundry Income	10,863	General Insurances	19,409
Sponsorship Income	-	FNG Non Pay	43,578
Overhead Income	75,177		
Members subscriptions	61,313	General administration	
Room Rental	50,157	Advertising	-
Total Income	5,222,753	Audit Fees	38,112
		Bank Interest & Charges	14,165
		Financial/Actuarial Fees	49,172
		Information Technology	171,024
		Legal Fees	5,681
		Miscellaneous	16,410
		Other Professional Fees	20,834
		Postage and telephone	36,546
		Printing Administrative	2,071
		Stationery & Office equipment	7,093
		Training & Consultancy	38,296
		Publication costs	
		Contributors Fees	-
		Publication Costs (Projects)	-
		Publications Other (CORE)	211,902
		Conference and meeting expenses	
		Conference Expenses	12,984
		Travel & Subsistence	15,165
		Hospitality	5,344
		Irish Historic Towns Non Pay	709
		Dictionary of Irish Biography Non pay	240
		DMCLS	307
		Book purchases	
		Library/Other book purchases	37,716
		International subscriptions	
		Subscriptions to Intl. Organisations	35,847
		Grants and awards	
		Awards/Grants paid	3,500
		International Exchanges & Fellowships account	52,437
		Total Expenditure	4,922,924
Income			5,222,753
Expenditure			4,922,924
Addition to Revenue Reserve			299,830

Summary of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Income and Expenditure	2022 (€)	2021 (€)	Statement of Financial Position	2022 (€)	2021 (€)
Income			Fixed Assets		
State grants	6,506,317	5,416,651	Property, plant & equipment	69,177	28,263
Other grants	567,259	327,660	Heritage assets	32,500	32,500
Other income	418,611	492,238	Funds and projects financial assets	4,622,884	5,161,096
Deferred pension funding	690,000	778,000			
	8,182,187	7,014,549		4,724,561	5,221,859
Expenditure			Current Assets		
Staff costs	5,911,660	5,431,943	Inventory	142,604	186,928
Accommodation and establishment	151,681	189,924	Receivables	72,138	73,648
General administration	407,075	442,818	Cash at bank and in hand	5,878,838	3,885,786
Publication costs	275,052	200,388		6,093,580	4,146,362
Conference and meeting expenses	148,042	39,371			
Grants and awards	784,547	329,951	Current liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)		
Book purchases and international subscriptions	62,931	61,376	Payables	(464,962)	(432,728)
Depreciation	18,266	16,079	Deferred income	(4,971,241)	(3,427,162)
	7,759,254	6,711,850		(5,436,203)	(3,859,890)
Operating surplus for the year	422,933	302,699	Net current assets	657,377	286,472
			Total assets less current liabilities before pensions	5,381,938	5,508,331
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	(549,326)	524,734			
Transfer to Capital Account	(40,914)	(6,443)	Deferred pension funding	19,309,000	31,483,000
Transfer from/(to)			Pension Liabilities	(19,309,000)	(31,483,000)
Endowment Funds	267,880	(389,093)	Net assets	5,381,938	5,508,331
Transfer from					
Restricted Reserves	8,634	60,094	Financed by:		
Surplus for the year	109,207	491,991	Capital account	69,177	28,263
			Endowment Funds – Expendable	2,625,578	2,893,458
			Endowment Funds – Permanent	32,500	32,500
			Restricted Reserve	336,795	345,249
			Income and expenditure account	2,317,888	2,208,681
				5,381,938	5,508,331

The Academy's financial statements have been prepared under the accruals method of accounting, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention, except for income from the Oireachtas Grant, which is accounted for on a receipts basis. Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.

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**Contact Karen Muldowney in confidence:
k.muldowney@ria.ie**

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