

2020

annual review



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
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.



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy

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Front cover: William C. Campbell Hon. MRIA delivering his Academy Discourse in 2017. Dr Campbell was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2015 for his work on Ivermectin which treats parasitic infestations and has spared the lives of millions of people from the devastating effects of river blindness. In 2020 the Academy published his memoir *Catching the worm*.



Mary Canning, President

January and February 2020 started out in Academy House with the regular programme of Discourses, lectures and policy workshops. The Academy's most prestigious award, the Cunningham Medal, was awarded in January to Nicholas Canny MRIA. Then in March, exactly at the time of an election of the new President, Officers and Council, Academy House closed as part of the national lockdown to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Academy members and staff immediately rose to this challenge in multiple and innovative ways. As the scale of the public health emergency confronting Ireland became increasingly clear, so did the need for expert and trustworthy information become more important. Many MRIAs contributed to the work of government committees and to communicating and explaining the emerging facts about the virus to the public.

Within the Academy, the IT team quickly responded to the closure of Academy House by ensuring that as much business as possible could move online, and the Administration team planned for the

virtual running of Membership events, the Stated General Meetings, all Council and Executive Committee meetings as well as Admittance Day. They kept members and the Executive Committee connected and answered calls for help with Microsoft Teams and Zoom patiently and efficiently.

As it became evident that the pandemic was not a short-term emergency but would last for months, plans were made for the virtual presentation of the Discourses and other Academy events. One positive outcome from moving the Academy's events online was that they attracted a greatly increased audience. The Hamilton lecture, delivered by Professor Terence Tao, attracted a worldwide audience and has been viewed approximately 7,900 times on our YouTube channel since. Similarly increases in attendees were noted for our series of Discourses, which included a panel discussion on the US Elections, 'Cultural heritage and recent armed conflicts' by Dr Mounir Bouchenaki and 'Astronomy and Poetry' by Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. John Bell Day also went virtual with our partners Queen's University Belfast hosting an unplugged student session and lecture on 'Quantum Reality' by Professor Vlatko Vedral FInstP. The 2020 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards, a joint initiative of the Royal Irish Academy and the American Chamber of

Commerce, Ireland, were also awarded virtually. The only 'offline' event took place in September, when Senior Vice President (SVP) Professor Gerry McKenna was able to attend a very small presentation of the Gold Medals to Professor Richard English and Professor Vincent Fusco in Queen's University Belfast.

The establishment of a new government Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in June 2020 was warmly welcomed by the Academy. In writing to the new minister, we emphasised our strong conviction that Irish government and society would greatly benefit from access to a fully independent science advice mechanism, including experts from the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences to provide objective analyses of scientific issues and associated policy challenges. The Research for Public Policy and Society series, which will be launched in collaboration with the Irish Research Council in early 2021, is designed to respond to the evolving policy environment by focusing on why evidence-based policy matters and on how to harness the diverse expertise of Ireland's researchers across all disciplines.

The Academy's committees continued their full programme of work throughout

the year and maintained the important scholarly focus in the humanities and social sciences and in scientific disciplines, including climate change, while maintaining international linkages with sister academies and associations.

The digital nature of all the Academy's research projects meant that work could continue with minimal interruption throughout 2020 and the Dictionary of Irish Biography commenced a project to move to an 'open access' model, making the entire corpus freely available to all users. The Academy also signed an agreement with IReL, the national e-resource consortium, which will enable a number of RIA journal articles to be published open access from 2021.

The Academy website and social media posts were invaluable in communicating all events to members and to the public. That this impressive work programme was achieved in a time of crisis is a tribute to the dedication of the staff led by the Executive Director and the senior management team. Staff members worked throughout the year to keep Academy House and the Library open whenever government regulations allowed and to keep our buildings secure when we were obliged to close.

I wish to acknowledge the continued financial support of the Department of Education and the HEA and to thank members, friends and corporate partners who have made generous donations to support the work of the Academy.

The strategic direction of the Academy was guided by the newly elected Council and undertaken with the work of the VP for Research, Professor Jane Conroy; VP for Diversity Professor Anita Maguire; VP Daniel Carey; Science Secretary Catherine Godson, PL&A Secretary Mary O'Dowd and Policy and International Secretary, Brian Norton. I thank them all for the commitment and contributions.

It was not a simple task to take over the leadership of the Academy just at the moment when the pandemic arrived. I could not have addressed the urgent day-to-day issues and decisions without the support of the SVP Professor Gerry McKenna, Secretary Professor Pat Shannon, Treasurer Professor Stephen Gardiner and Executive Director Dr Tony Gaynor.



Tony Gaynor, Executive Director

2020 was a very unusual year for the Royal Irish Academy. Closing the Academy doors to staff, members and the public in mid-March, was something that none of us could have envisaged at the start of the year.

Along with other public sector organisations across the country, the Academy has had to adapt to a new way of working. Council meetings, Discourses, committee meetings and all other engagements have been delivered virtually for the first time.

I would like to pay tribute to the extent to which colleagues within the Academy have responded to the challenge, adapting seamlessly to remote working and continuing to deliver on the Academy's agreed objectives for 2020.

The new way of working has created opportunities as well as challenges. The Academy has taken advantage of prioritising virtual delivery to engage with a wider audience than would have been possible through physical meetings and



events delivered in Academy buildings. We are determined to retain this increased accessibility to Academy events once the immediate challenge of the current pandemic has passed.

Despite the challenges we faced in 2020, great progress was made towards implementing our Strategic Plan, 2019-2023. The three main goals of the plan are to:

- **Serve Ireland** and the public good through the Academy's research and scholarly resources and by drawing on the knowledge and insight of its Members.
- **Represent Ireland** by engaging and leading in activities that strengthen international recognition of the Academy's scholarship.
- **Build a Modern Academy** by increasing diversity and providing new impetus to the life and work of the Academy.

A monitoring committee, comprising Academy staff and members, was established in 2020 to monitor and coordinate progress across the Academy towards realisation of the strategic implementation plan. Some highlights from the significant progress made in 2020 towards achievement of our strategic goals include:

- The development of a Celtic Academies alliance with sister academies in Scotland and Wales to cooperate on cross border issues. This resulted in a joint submission, with the Royal Society of Edinburgh, to the Irish Scottish Strategic Review.
- Strengthened collaboration with key stakeholders such as the Irish Research Council, the Irish Universities Association and the Technological Higher Education Association on policy issues related to higher education and research.
- A Covid-19 steering group was set up led by our SVP Gerry McKenna to coordinate the Academy's response to the challenges emerging from the pandemic. A series of webinar discussions, curated by the Academy's VP, Daniel Carey, on the emerging science of Covid-19 as well as on its possible social and economic impacts was launched and continued throughout the year with the participation of national and international experts.
- The establishment of the Higher Education Futures Taskforce with an all-island remit, which brings together representatives from key stakeholder organisations across the sector to examine a number of priority themes that will affect the higher education sector in the future.

- A series of articles commissioned from new members of the Academy as part of ‘Members’ Research Series’.
- The Academy’s research projects have continued to make excellent progress despite the difficulties associated with the pandemic. While maintaining momentum on their key objectives, each project has engaged in new outreach activities including a range of blog posts, online publications and increased collaborations as well as the promotion of a range of Academy educational resources for higher education and schools.
- The launch of the Grangegorman Histories project, which is a collaboration with Dublin City Council, the Grangegorman Development Agency, the HSE, local communities, the National Archives and TU Dublin. The project is a public history programme of research and shared discovery of the historic Grangegorman site.
- The publication of *Catching the Worm*, the memoir of Ireland’s Nobel Laureate, William Campbell, who played a crucial role in preventing river blindness. Other key publications were *Volume XII* of the Documents in Irish Foreign Policy series and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas *No 30, Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán*
- The completion of an organisational review of the Academy, which made a

number of recommendations that will assist in strengthening the Academy for the future.

2020 also brought changes in Academy staffing. We said goodbye to three well-loved colleagues who had given much of their working lives to the Academy – Siobhán Fitzpatrick, former Librarian, Rebecca Gageby, former Head of Programmes and Administration, and Paul Mitchell, former Services Officer. They will be sorely missed by all Academy staff, members and the public and we wish them well for the future. We also gained some new members of staff in 2020, including our new librarian, Barbara McCormack, who we look forward to working with in the years ahead.

While we face into an uncertain future, in terms of public health challenges, the Academy has shown that it has the capacity and appetite to adapt to new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working with colleagues to build on the progress made in 2020 to ensure that we continue to contribute effectively to Irish society and culture in 2021.



An appreciation of Peter Kennedy, PRIA 2017–20

Elected to
Membership
2004

Secretary
International
Relations
2012–16

President
2017–20

Mary Canning, President

Before his election as President in March 2017, Professor Peter Kennedy had already contributed widely to the Royal Irish Academy in a broad range of activities. As Policy and International Relations Secretary from 2012–16, he developed the Academy's links with international scientific bodies and other academies. He served on the board of ALLEA and was instrumental in extending the involvement of the Royal Irish Academy with EASAC.

During his time as Policy and International Relations Secretary, he was pivotal in the development of seminars and the publication of short policy papers that enabled the Academy to provide expert advice to government and society on a range of contemporary issues.

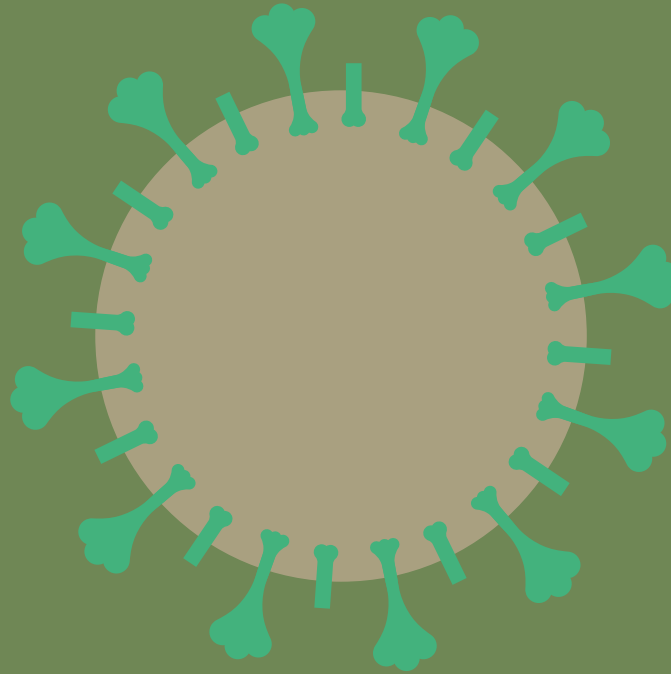
As President, Professor Kennedy dedicated himself to the Academy and ensured that research in the humanities and sciences was carried out to the highest scholarly and ethical standards. His strategic leadership

of the Academy during the three years of his tenure encouraged a range of vibrant public Discourses and stimulated many and varied lectures and publications. His emphasis on the importance of the north-south convening power of the Academy has strengthened our relationship with higher education institutions across the island of Ireland at a most crucial time in our history. During his tenure as President, Professor Kennedy also initiated governance and financial reforms which enabled the Academy to develop and maintain significant relationships with government departments and with our funders.

While holding down full-time university senior management, research and teaching responsibilities, Professor Kennedy was, nonetheless, always available to advise Academy staff, chair Council and other committee meetings and represent the Academy in a wide range of cultural and scientific meetings and occasions in Ireland and abroad.

Peter Kennedy, PRIA,
in the Members' Room of
the Royal Irish Academy.





Policy and International Relations

The national conversation around COVID-19: The contributions of Academy stakeholders

The pandemic has highlighted the fundamental importance of strong scientific-policy interfaces to enable clear communication of scientific advice and evidence to inform domestic and international policy decision-making. It has also demonstrated the need for scientific advice to consider multiple perspectives and sources of evidence in order to effectively contribute to policy discussion.

The Academy's series of webinars curated by the VP, Daniel Carey, NUIG, brought together stakeholders and experts to debate and discuss the impact and consequences of the

Events and Outputs

30 January 2020

RIA/British Council
in Ireland Race and
Ethnicity in Higher
Education symposium

31 Jan to 1 Feb 2020

RIA-British Academy
Knowledge Frontiers
symposium for early
career researchers in the
AHSS (2-day)

11 February 2020

'Making sense of
science for policy under
conditions of complexity
and uncertainty'
workshop

February 2020

Royal Irish Academy
**discussion paper on
science advice in Ireland
and Europe**

14 April 2020

The EU structural
and investment funds:
contribution to UK
research and investment:
**a briefing note by the
British Academy, Royal
Society of Edinburgh,
Learned Society of
Wales and the Royal
Irish Academy**

30 June 2020

Evidence-informed
policy making: the role
of higher education: a
webinar in collaboration
with IUA and THEA

1 July 2020

**Perspectives and
pathways in a time
of crisis 1: 'We are all
virologists now': the
science of COVID-19**

8 July 2020

**Perspectives and
pathways in a time
of crisis 2: Economic
crises past and present-
lessons for Irish policy**

15 July 2020

**Perspectives and
pathways in a time
of crisis 3: COVID-19:
Social justice, and
rebuilding Ireland**

4 Septemeber 2020

Webinar with science
advice for policy by
European academies
**'Transforming the
future of ageing'**

21 September 2020

**Perspectives and
pathways in a time
of crisis 4: Towards
a resilient higher
education system**

2 October 2020

**Perspectives and
pathways in a time of
crisis 5: Learning from
pandemics: a century of
experience**

7 October 2020

**Celtic Academies
Alliance roundtable**
with the Foundation for
Science and Technology:
Research funding and
collaboration across the
devolved administrations.

21 October 2020

Royal Irish Academy-
British Academy
roundtable on the
contribution and role of
the arts, humanities and
social sciences in science
advisory structures

24 November 2020

Webinar with ALLEA:
Can climate change ed-
ucation save the planet?
European perspectives

COVID-19 pandemic as they pertain to education, virology, past pandemics and social justice.

The Academy's **online repository** provides an overview of this series and other Academy-led contributions on this theme. Additionally, Dr Birgit Schippers, St Mary's University College Belfast, and Professor Fiona Regan, DCU were appointed to the Interacademy Partnership COVID-19 Advisory Group.

In a related initiative, a joint Academy and Irish Research Council project *Research for Public Policy and Society* will explore possible models for science-advisory structures to enhance Ireland's capacity to ingest and communicate science evidence across the full range of disciplines to inform policy discussion and will report in summer 2021.

In 2020 the Academy initiated a major new project chaired by the SVP, Gerry McKenna, to consider the future of higher education on the island of Ireland with a specific focus on the themes of future vision and value, equality, diversity and inclusion, research and innovation, future

models of practice and delivery, and region and place. Bringing together stakeholders from a diversity of higher education institutes on the island of Ireland the taskforce will report in summer 2021. The Academy continues to work closely with sister academies internationally through its membership of networks such as ALLEA, the European Academies Science Advisory Council, International Sciences Council, the InterAcademy Partnership, Seven Academies and the Celtic Academies Alliance. Initiatives in this field include joint workshop with the Horizon Europe funded *Science Advice for policy by European Academies* project on scientific advisory structures and on the future of ageing as well as participation in working groups by EASAC on the decarbonisation of buildings (working group co-chair: Brian Norton, Secretary for Policy and International Relations), by ALLEA on scientific disinformation (Dr Jane Suiter, DCU) and IAP projects on regenerative medicine, biosecurity and combating predatory academic journals and conferences (Fergal O'Brien MRIA; Bert Rima MRIA, and Diane Negra MRIA respective).

ARINS - Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South



The ARINS project was conceived in 2020 to bring together experts to provide evidence-based research and analysis on the most significant questions of policy and public debate facing the island of Ireland, north and south. The project will facilitate and disseminate research on the challenges and opportunities presented to the island in a post-Brexit context, with the intention of contributing to an informed public discourse.

The ARINS Project's founding partners are the Royal Irish Academy and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs.

Research questions to be explored range from constitutional and institutional issues, to options for economic, fiscal and social policy, to the accommodation of diverse cultures, identities and symbolism, to the impact of climate and contagion on cooperation

across jurisdictions. Relationships within Northern Ireland, on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain will all need consideration in such research.

Research on these matters is not intended to strengthen or weaken any particular conviction or aspiration, but rather to help create the conditions for better quality debate and decision-making. Regardless of their preferences, policymakers and the public in both jurisdictions should be well informed.

The Academy recognises the sensitivities around the very process of conducting such research but believes that the need to ensure that all eventualities are anticipated and researched, and that the ensuing debate is informed and comprehensive, takes primacy.

The research outputs of the project will commence in January 2021 and can be accessed at arinsproject.com



Publications

The Academy's publishing house had to adapt quickly to ensure that books, journal articles and research projects still reached their audience during the pandemic. Book launches moved online, and the loss of direct sales traditionally made at our events or in bookshops was balanced in part by growth in our online bookshop sales at a time when fulfilment was difficult because Academy House was shut.

As the publishing industry pivoted to respond, so too did we, accelerating free and open access to our publications where possible, and finding larger audiences in the process. Our exhibitions, such as *Judging Shaw* and *A history of Ireland in 100 words*, were reimaged online and we created a video series called '**Meet the authors**' to showcase their work.

Events

1 February 2020

Exhibition: 'A celebration of Irish women'

1–17 March 2020

Seachtain na Gaeilge - A history of Ireland in 100 words lamp post banner campaign

4 March 2020

A history of Ireland in 100 words authors in conversation with Alan Titley in Pearse Street Library

April–July 2020

Meet the authors video series

April–December 2020

Online exhibition: 'A history of Ireland in 10 words'

28 June 2020

William C. Campbell in conversation with Luke O'Neill and Claire O'Connell

28 June 2020

Online exhibition: 'Catching the worm'

July–Nov 2020

Online exhibition: 'Judging Shaw'

17 August 2020

Publication of *New Survey of Clare Island, vol. 9: Birds* as part of Heritage Week

2 September 2020

'A history of Ireland in 10 words' exhibition in dlr Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

24 September 2020

Talks and chat from the authors of *A history of Ireland in 100 words*

1 October 2020

'A history of Ireland in 10 words' exhibition in Linen Hall Library, Belfast

30 October 2020

Apple-tricks and Summer-set: Irish words and stories of Hallowe'en

2 November 2020

'Shaw talk: Shaw and legacy' Shaw Day panel discussion

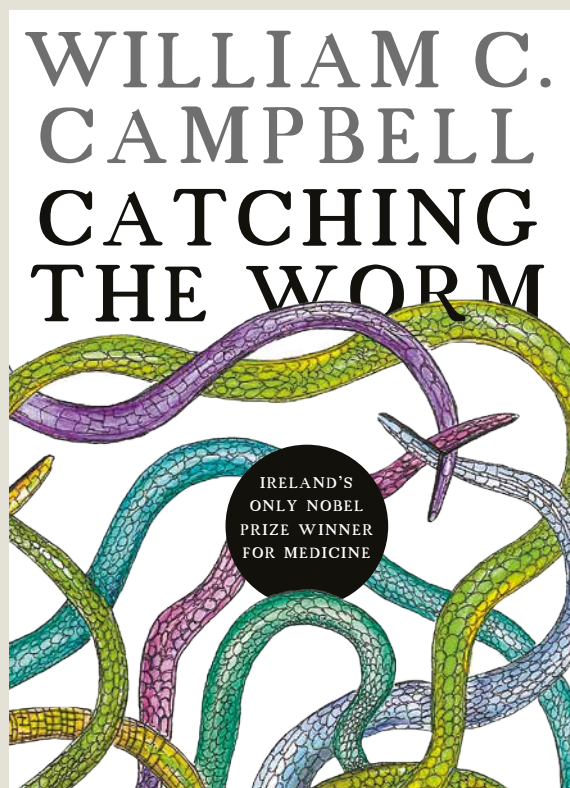
3 December 2020

Catching the Worm with William C. Campbell Dublin Book Festival Event

Our publications and research projects Grangegormán Histories, *Climate and society in Ireland*, New Survey of Clare Island, Volume 9 *Birds*, the ARINS initiative, Documents on Irish Foreign Policy Volume XII, *Dungarvan* and the pocket map for *Drogheda* are featured elsewhere in the review.

Catching the worm by William C. Campbell with Claire O'Connell

The quiet retirement of William C. Campbell Hon. MRIA changed abruptly when, at the age of 85, he won a Nobel Prize for his work on the discovery of the drug ivermectin. Ivermectin has transformed the lives of



millions who might have suffered from river blindness and is now being used in preventative treatments for Covid-19. When Campbell gave a Discourse at the Academy, the President at the time Peter Kennedy approached him about publishing his memoir with the Academy. Campbell collaborated with science writer and journalist Claire O'Connell to tell his story from his childhood in Donegal, to family life and scientific research in America, to the discovery of ivermectin and its global impact. *Catching the worm* was launched on 28 June 2020 and received extensive coverage, including in the RTÉ programme 'Future Island' and at the **Dublin Book Festival 2020**.

A history of Ireland in 100 words: impact

A history of Ireland in 100 words, which tells a history of Ireland by looking at the development of 100 medieval Irish words drawn from the Royal Irish Academy's *Dictionary of the Irish language*, was published in late 2019 and reprinted in 2020. The Academy collaborated with Dublin City Council to host a mobile exhibition in Pearse Street Library and present citywide banners (pictured on next page) displaying words from the book during Seachtain na Gaeilge (1–17 March). Later in the year cultural institutions such as the Linen Hall Library, the Lexicon Library (pictured on next page) and many others booked the exhibition and programmed events based around *A history of*



Ireland in 100 words. An **online exhibition** was created in response to the closure of institutions as a result of the pandemic.

In May 2020 the Academy signed an agreement with the Department of Foreign Affairs to enable the exhibition to travel the Mission network globally and be translated into local languages. In June 2020 the Academy participated in a collaboration with the authors in the British Academy summer showcase, **now delivered digitally via videos that examine words relating to travel and emigration**.

The project partnered with the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) to create the podcast series ‘**Spreading the Words**’, and bilingual education resources will be launched in April 2021. The authors secured a UK Arts and Humanities Research Council grant of £100,000 to increase the impact of this project and the Academy is delighted to be partnering with them in 2020 and 2021.

Journals

The Academy’s six journals publish original research. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* published a special issue on *Climate and Society in Ireland*, featured on page 47 of this *Review*. The Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South (ARINS) project will see the number of papers published annually in *Irish Studies in International Affairs* double, and the VP has written a report on page 15 on the significance

of this initiative. Mervyn O’Driscoll was appointed co-editor of the journal, with John Doyle taking over responsibility for the commissioning of ARINS papers.

Liam Breatnach retired after 32 years of excellent editorship of *Ériu* ensuring that what is a preeminent journal in the field continued to prosper and publish research of the best quality, and to the highest academic standard, in its yearly output. The Academy is deeply indebted to him. The inaugural editorial board of *Ériu* was appointed after an open call for members, and will be chaired by Damian MacManus, co-editor of *Ériu*.

Matthew Parkes, co-editor of the *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences* died suddenly in October of 2020. His contribution to the journal cannot be underestimated and plans are in place to mark his contribution in 2021.

Following the publication of Ireland’s third National Biodiversity Action Plan, there was recognition that greater engagement across society was needed in order to broaden the conversation on how to tackle biodiversity loss. This need was the impetus for Ireland’s first National Biodiversity Conference ‘New Horizons for Nature’, which was held in February 2019 and hosted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Irish Forum on Natural Capital. The content for the conference was built around three interconnecting themes: Engagement, Planning for the Future and Investing in Nature, and covered a wide range of



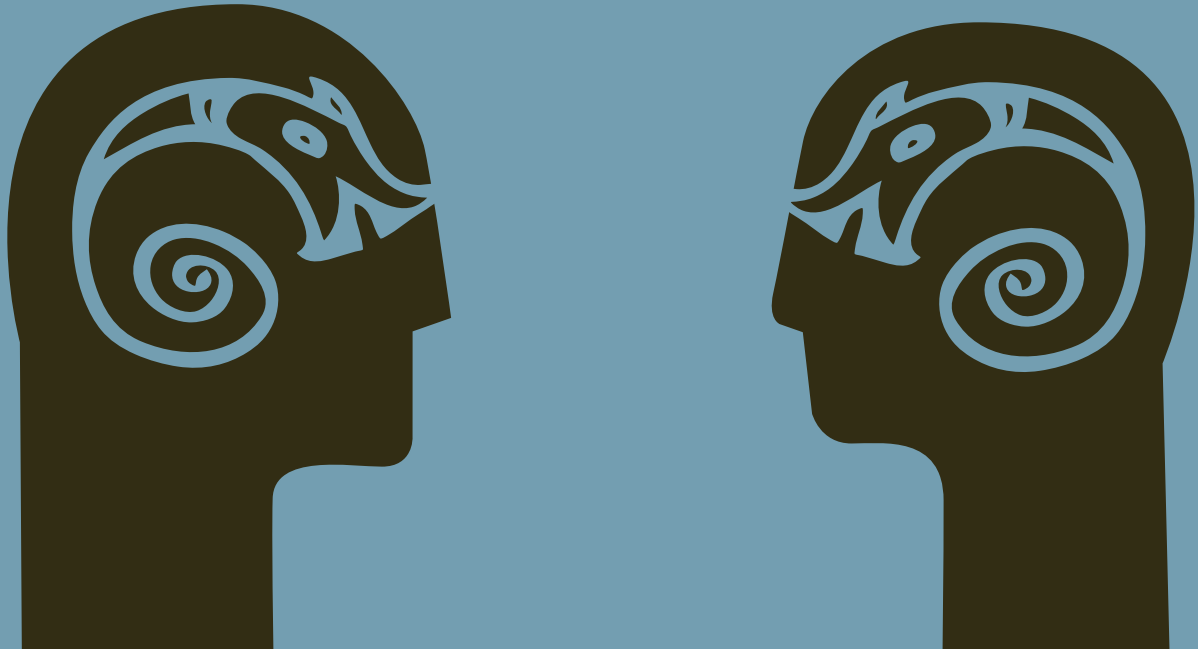
disciplines including ecology, environmental economics and social science. A special issue of *Biology and Environment* featuring papers that explore the themes of that conference was published in November **and made available as an open access resource** thanks to funding from the NPWS. These research papers synthesize an important body of information relevant to the protection and management of biodiversity within the human socio-economic arena and illustrate the reality and complexity of the challenges we face if we are to halt declines in biodiversity.

In December 2020 the Academy signed a three year Read and Publish agreement with **IREL**, the Irish e-resources licensing consortium for leading higher education institutions in Ireland. The agreement enables students, faculty and researchers at eight universities to gain access to the content in journals published by the Royal Irish Academy, including all articles dating back to 1787. In addition, articles by university-affiliated corresponding authors that are accepted for publication over these three years will be made open access immediately upon publication, broadening the reach and visibility of the journals.

Educational resources

In September 2020, the Royal Irish Academy launched an **educational resources** section on the website. The goal is to motivate and inspire primary, second and third level students on the island of Ireland. Rich resources are available, whether that is free access to *Art and Architecture of Ireland* and the Dictionary of Irish Biography online, or the curriculum-linked lesson plans that can be found on the pages for *A history of Ireland in 100 words*, *A history of Ireland in 100 objects*, *Judging Dev*, *Ireland 1922* (forthcoming), Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, or the Irish Historic Towns Atlas.





Membership

Members' Research Series

The Royal Irish Academy champions research in the Sciences and Humanities. We are an all-island independent forum of peer-elected experts who recognise world class researchers and champion Irish academic research. We support scholarship and promote awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. We believe that good research needs to be promoted, sustained and communicated.

In this series members talk about their research fields to raise awareness of their work, to facilitate collaboration within the wider academic community and to inform the public.

Events

15 January 2020

Members' seminar:
Christopher McCrudden
MRIA, 'Translating
dignity: the drafting of
the Preamble to the Irish
Constitution'

15 February 2020

Members' seminar: Michael
H.B. Hayes MRIA, 'Issues
around food in the future'

16 March 2020

Stated General Meeting

30 April 2020

Members' Research Series
— Paula J. Reimer MRIA,
radiocarbon expert

22 May 2020

Admittance Day –
29 new members admitted

10 June 2020

Members' Research Series
— Fergal O'Brien MRIA,
biomaterial researcher

6 July 2020

Members' Research
Series — Máirín Nic Eoin
MRIA, Irish language

11 August 2020

Members' Research
Series — Paul J. Devereux
MRIA, economist

4 September 2020

Members' Research
Series — Yvonne Buckley
MRIA, population
ecologist

28 September 2020

Members' Research Series
— Diane Negra MRIA,
film studies and screen
culture

12 October 2020

Members' Research Series
— Rob Kitchin MRIA,
geographer

30 October 2020

Members' Research Series
— Kathleen James-
Chakraborty MRIA,
architectural historian

24 November 2020

Members' Research Series
— Jennifer Todd MRIA,
political scientist

30 November 2020

Stated General Meeting

7 December 2020

Members' Research Series
— Richard Reilly MRIA,
neuroscientist

New members

Pavel Baranov

is professor of Biomolecular Informatics at University College Cork. He is best known for his discoveries relating to the natural diversity of genetic decoding, and for the development of computational resources for high-throughput data analysis of gene expression and protein synthesis.



Steven Bell

is professor of Physical Chemistry and head of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in Queen's University Belfast. He has made world-leading innovations in Raman spectroscopy. This has directly led to applications in forensic and materials science in areas such as DNA analysis, bacteria detection, foodstuff quality and illegal drug monitoring.



Niamh Brennan

is Michael MacCormac Professor of Management at University College Dublin and the founder/academic director of the UCD Centre for Corporate Governance. She has published extensively on corporate governance, finance and accounting. She is the first academic outside the UK to receive the British Accounting and Finance Association Distinguished Academic Award and to be inducted into the *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal* Hall of Fame.

David Collings

is professor of Human Resource Management at Dublin City University Business School. He is an influential leader and publisher on global staffing and talent management. He was named by *HR Magazine* as one of the 25 most influential international thinkers globally in the field of Human Resource Management in four consecutive years, from 2014 to 2017.



Marie Thérèse Cowan

is the director of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. She pioneered cross-border collaboration with the Geological Survey of Ireland on the multi award-winning Tellus geoscience programmes, to benefit the island's economy and research ecosystem. She masterminded a multilingual communications campaign for OneGeology, a flagship project for UNESCO's International Year of Planet Earth, which reached a global audience of 107 million. In addition, she piloted the MLA-Geoscientist Pairing Scheme in Northern Ireland.



Enrico dal Lago

is professor of History in the School of History and Philosophy at NUI Galway. He is a comparative historian who publishes on the history of the United States and of Italy. He specialises in the history of slavery, abolitionism, comparative nationalisms and the American Civil War. He is the author of five monographs. His most recent book is *Civil war and agrarian unrest* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).



J.C. Seamus Davis

is professor of Quantum Physics at University College Cork. He is a pioneer in the study of quantum phenomena in atomic and condensed matter, an area that is rapidly leading to quantum information theory. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, member of the US National Academy of Sciences and recipient of the 2016 Science Foundation Ireland St Patrick's Day Science Medal.

Chris Elliott

is professor of Food Safety at Queen's University Belfast. He leads the use of analytical methods to inform food authenticity, integrity and safety, and to prevent food fraud globally. He founded the Institute for Global Food Security; developed the 'Food Fortress' concept; led an independent government review of the UK food supply system; and was awarded an OBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2017.



Robert J. Forster

is director of the National Centre for Sensor Research and holds a personal chair in Physical Chemistry at Dublin City University. He has made pioneering contributions in the areas of ultrafast electrochemistry for molecular electronics, multimodal live-cell microscopy and ultrasensitive sensors for disease biomarkers. He has played a leading role in the delivery of strategic national research programmes.



Paul Michael Garrett

is senior lecturer in Social Work at NUI Galway. He is a leading international authority in the field of critical social theory, social work and social policy. His recent highly influential books include *Welfare words* (Sage, 2018) and *Social work and social theory* (Policy Press, 2013). He has authored six monographs and over one-hundred peer reviewed articles.



Cecily Kelleher,

principal of the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences at University College Dublin, is one of Ireland's most eminent and influential public health researchers. She has delivered breakthroughs in public health research and practice in areas such as cardiovascular disease, childhood obesity, traveller health, and the effects of smoking. She has also made significant contributions to the development of national public health policy.

Margaret Kelleher

is professor of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin. She is an internationally renowned scholar in Irish literature in English. She is the author of *The feminization of famine: expressions of the inexpressible?* (Duke University Press, 1997) and *The Maamtrasna murders: language, life and death in nineteenth-century Ireland* (UCD Press, 2018). She was also co-editor of the path-breaking two-volume *Cambridge history of Irish literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).



Deirdre Madden

is professor of Law at University College Cork. She is an internationally recognised expert in health law and bioethics. She has an extensive record of research and public service appointments and is currently deputy chair of the board of the Health Service Executive. She is the only Irish fellow of the Hastings Center in the US, one of the most prestigious bioethics and health policy institutes in the world.



Christopher Marsh

is professor of Cultural History at Queen's University Belfast. He is one of the world's leading scholars of the early-modern period. His major works include the pioneering and celebrated studies, *The family of love in English society, 1550–1630* (1994) and *Music and society in early modern England* (2013), both published by Cambridge University Press.



Frank McDermott

is professor of Geochemistry at University College Dublin. A leader internationally in the discipline of geochemistry, he has produced a large body of high-impact science with a particular focus on paleoanthropology and palaeoclimatology, delivering important insights into earth system challenges such as climate change and sustainability. He has also held key leadership positions in the national and international organisation of research in the geosciences.

Máire Ní Annracháin

is professor of Modern Irish at University College Dublin. She is a leading figure internationally in the areas of Modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic literature and culture. Her work has been ground-breaking in its development of a theoretical framework and literary-critical vocabulary for the study of Gaelic languages. Her publications have brought a transnational critical perspective to Modern Celtic Studies.



Fintan O'Toole

is respected internationally for his writing on politics, society and the arts. His journalism explores the systemic and cultural roots of political issues and is informed by his social-democratic values. The Academy has published his *Judging Shaw* (2017), *A history of Ireland in 100 objects* (2013) and *Modern Ireland in 100 artworks* (2016). In 2017 he was awarded the European Press Prize and the Orwell Prize for Journalism.



Nabeel Riza

is chair professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at University College Cork. He is internationally recognised for his contributions to research and education in photonics, particularly in fibre- and electro-optics. He invented a new imaging device, the CAOS camera, for which he received, in 2019, the Edwin H. Land Medal, awarded jointly by the International Optical Society and the International Society for Imaging Science and Technology.



Philipp Rosemann

is professor of Philosophy at Maynooth University. He has won recognition for his work at the intersection of the Christian tradition and contemporary thought. His publications include studies of Thomas Aquinas and Peter Lombard. His most recent book, *Charred root of meaning: continuity, transgression, and the other in Christian tradition* (Eerdmans Publishing, 2018) develops a philosophy of religion that is at once biblical and Foucauldian.

Afshin Samali

is professor of Cancer Biology and director of the Apoptosis Research Centre at NUI Galway, and an international leader in the field of endoplasmic reticulum stress and cell death signaling in cancer. He has received multiple prestigious funding awards and the NUI Galway President's Award for Research Excellence; he was elected to the European Cell Death Organisation Academy; and has founded three biotechnology companies.



Karen E. Till

is professor of Cultural Geography at Maynooth University. She is a leading international figure in the interdisciplinary field of Memory Studies. Her research focuses on explorations of place, memory and care and also involves collaborations with practising artists. Her publications include *The new Berlin: memory, politics, place* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005), *Mapping spectral traces* (Virginia Tech, 2010) and *The textures of place: exploring humanist geographies* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001).



Ben Tonra

is professor of International Relations at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations. His core research interests are European foreign, security and defence policy; Irish foreign policy; and international relations theory. He has published widely in these fields. He has served as chair of the Royal Irish Academy's Standing Committee on International Affairs and has led major EU funded Horizon 2020 projects.



Miles Turner

is professor of Plasma Physics in the School of Physical Sciences at Dublin City University. He is regarded as one of the leading low-temperature plasma physicists of his generation. Since the early 1990s, he has made a series of technical and academic contributions that are widely recognised as seminal. He was director of the SFI Strategic Cluster on Plasma Technology from 2008 to 2014.

Honorary Members

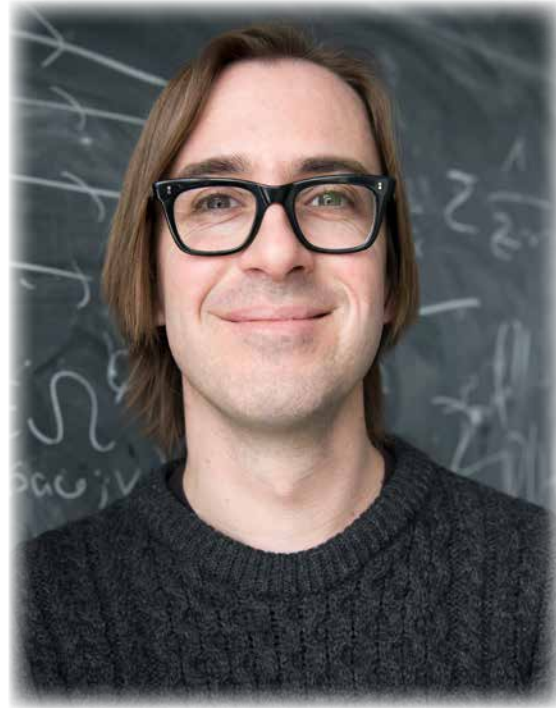
Janet Browne

is Aramont Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University. She is the world's leading scholar on Charles Darwin, and her two-volume biography on him has won wide acclaim. Her most recent book, *The quotable Darwin* (Princeton University Press, 2017), provides further compelling insights into the legendary naturalist's scholarship as well as his private life. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a corresponding fellow of the British Academy.



Kevin Costello

holds the Krembil William Rowan Hamilton Chair in Theoretical Physics at the Perimeter Institute, Canada. He is a leading mathematical physicist who, aside from his many papers, has published several books on mathematical aspects of quantum field theory. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2003, won the Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society in 2017, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 2018, and won the American Mathematical Society's 2020 Leonard Eisenbud Prize.



Katherine Fitzgerald

holds the Worcester Foundation Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She is one of the world's leading immunologists, working on innate immunity and host defence mechanisms against bacteria and viruses. She has won numerous awards for her work, including a MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health in the US, and the St Patrick's Day Medal from Science Foundation Ireland. She is also president of the International Cytokine and Interferon Society.



Christopher Hawkesworth

is a senior research fellow in the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol. He is among the world's leading geochemists and has played a key role in transforming geochemistry from a largely descriptive discipline in the 1960s to the quantitative science that it is now. He is a fellow of the Royal Society and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

David Hempton

is one of the world's most distinguished historians of religion. He is based at Harvard University, where he is the Alonzo L. McDonald Family Professor of Evangelical Theological Studies, the John Lord O'Brien Professor of Divinity, and the Dean of the Divinity School. His books have won numerous awards and include *Methodism and politics in British society 1750–1850* (Stanford University Press, 1984); *Methodism: empire of the spirit* (Yale University Press, 2005) and *The church in the long eighteenth century* (Tauris, 2011). His most recent book is *Secularization and religious innovation in the north Atlantic world* (Oxford, 2017).



Bereavements

Allen, Ingrid Victoria. MD, DSc, Dr Med Sci(hc). FRCPath, FMedSci. Professor Emerita of Neuropathology, QUB. Elected in 1993. Died 21 April 2020.

Bailyn, Bernard. AB(Williams College 1945), AM, PhD, LLD(Harvard 1947, 1953, 1999), LHD(Yale). University Professor, Harvard University. Elected in 2011. Died 7 August 2020. Honorary Member.

Boland, Eavan. BA(Dubl 1966), DLitt(Strathclyde 1997), DLitt(Colby 1997), DLitt(NUI 1997), DLitt(Holy Cross 2000), DLitt(Bowdoin 2004), LittD(Dubl 2004). Professor, Stanford. Elected in 2017. Died 27 April 2020. Honorary Member.

Clarke, Aidan. MA, PhD, LittD(hc Dubl), FTCD. Retired Professor of Modern History, TCD. On Council and in Office: 1985-89, SVF 1989-90, President 1990-93. Elected in 1982. Died 18 December 2020.

Coles, John Morton. BA(Toronto), MA(Cantab), PhD(Edin), PhD(hc Uppsala), ScD(Cantab), FBA. Professor of European Prehistory, University of Cambridge. Elected in 2005. Died 14 October 2020. Honorary Member.

Robinson, Timothy Drever. MA(Cantab 1959), Hon.LLD(NUI). Writer. Elected in 2010. Died 3 April 2020.

Froggatt, Peter. MB(1952), MD(Dubl 1957), PhD(QUB 1967), DSc(hc NUI), LLD(Dubl, hc QUB). Former President and Vice Chancellor, QUB. Elected in 1978. Died 3 May 2020.

Hardiman, Thomas P. BE, BSc, LLD(hc), DLitt(hc). Chairman Telegael Media Group, An Spidéal, Supervisory Board Member EU Japan Industrial Cooperation Centre, Tokyo. Elected in 1980. Died 2 May 2020.

O'Regan, Ronan Gerard. MB, BCh, BAO, BSc, PhD(Lond), MD. FRCPI. Emeritus Professor of Physiology and Histology, UCD. RIA representative to the Council of the Lister Institute for Preventative Medicine. Elected in 1990. Died 8 July 2020.

O'Sullivan, Denis Francis. BSc(NUI), PhD(Dubl 1966). FInstP, CPhys, FRAS. Emeritus Professor, DIAS. Elected in 2008. Died 27 February 2020.

Ó Madagáin, Breandán. BA, BD, PhD. Emeritus Professor of Irish, NUIG. On Council 1996-97. Elected in 1992. Died 9 January 2020.

Osborough, William Nial. LLB(QUB), LLM(New Orleans), MA(Dubl). Emeritus Professor of Law, UCD. Elected in 2003. Died 29 December 2020.

Sharpe, Richard. BA(Cantab 1977), MA(Cantab 1980), PhD(Cantab 1987). FBA. Professor of Diplomatic, Oxford. Elected in 2018. Died 22 March 2020. Honorary Member.

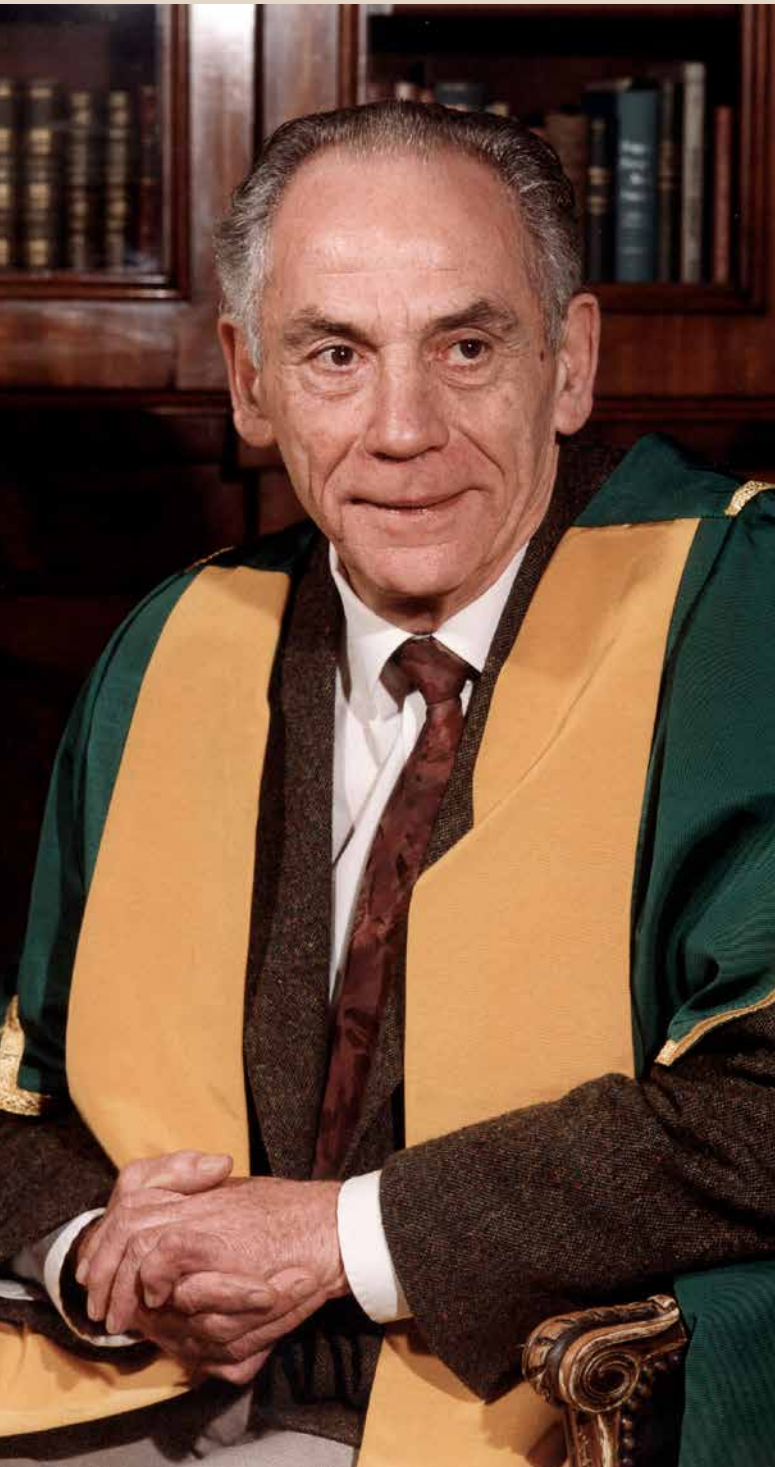
Walters, Harry Robert James. BA, PhD, MA(Cantab 1966, 1969 1977). CPhys, FInstP. Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, QUB. Elected in 2003. Died 6 September 2020.

Aidan Clarke PRIA, 1990-93

Nicholas Canny MRIA

Aidan Clarke, who died on 18 December 2020, and who served as President of the Royal Irish Academy 1990–93, had been an active supporter of the mission of the Academy long before his election as a member in 1982. The most critical early support, that went largely unacknowledged, came when he facilitated the publication in 1976 of the third volume of *A new history of Ireland: Early Modern Ireland, 1534–1691*, edited by T.W. Moody, F.X. Martin and F.J. Byrne (Oxford University Press, 1976). The ‘New history of Ireland’ undertaking was the brainchild of T.W. Moody, and was the largest project (generously supported by the state) that the Academy had in hand in those impoverished days. Moody had hoped to get the enterprise off to a quick start by drawing on the good will of historians of his own generation or slightly younger—including D.B. Quinn, G.A. Hayes McCoy, R. Dudley Edwards, Patrick Corish and J.G. Simms—to write a general narrative for the early modern volume. He expected their accounts to be based largely on work they had already done, and he intended to supplement this core narrative

with chapters on special topics that he proposed to commission from experts. Moody’s optimistic plan, and his hope of satisfying the government of his ability to deliver on time, came unstuck when R. Dudley Edwards, a former close associate of Moody, failed to present a general narrative treating of the period from 1603 to the outbreak of rebellion in 1641. To resolve this problem Moody enlisted support from Aidan Clarke, his colleague and former student, who had already established his reputation as an authority on this period with his first book, *The Old English in Ireland, 1625–42* (London 1966). Clarke rose brilliantly to the occasion both diplomatically by co-authoring a chapter with R. Dudley Edwards concerning the years 1603–23, and scholarly by composing three masterly chapters, for which he was sole author, dealing with the interlude from 1624–41. To these he appended an especially incisive specialist chapter entitled ‘The Irish Economy, 1600–60’. The totality of Clarke’s contribution amounted to over 200 pages of closely packed



prose that seemed sparkingly original compared with some other chapters in the same volume. In this regard, Clarke's contribution deserved to be published as a stand-alone monograph, and, considering the procedures that were followed with subsequent volumes in the NHI series, would certainly have earned him recognition as a joint editor. Such recognition was then apparently not on offer, and Clarke had to remain satisfied with the knowledge that his chapters stood out from most of the others. The benefit of this generosity to the Academy, and to Theo Moody, was that Clarke's assistance and the ensuing publication of volume three of the New history of Ireland, redeemed the reputation of the project and thus also of the Academy, in the eyes of the government of the day. It is little wonder that he was elected as a member of the Academy on first consideration in 1982.

At the same time Aidan Clarke had been a dedicated teacher and research supervisor in the History Department at Trinity where he also established an early reputation as an effective and personable administrator when he served as Registrar and then as Vice Provost to Bill Watts. It is unsurprising therefore that when Watts was serving his last year as President of the Academy he had Aidan Clarke as his Senior Vice President (1989–90) and

that Aidan succeeded him as President in 1990. During his three-year term Clarke strove to assign timelines to those involved with Academy projects. In this, he was especially concerned with the Dictionary of Irish Biography project that had been in embryo for some time and appeared to be stalled. Clarke had a personal interest in this project because as a historian he was influenced considerably by the method of Lewis Namier who believed that history is about people and the linkages and alliances they form. He recognised that such scholarship, which he himself exemplified in his second monograph, *Prelude to Restoration in Ireland: the end of Commonwealth, 1659–60* (Cambridge, 1999), required the assistance of a reliable biographical dictionary to aid scholars in identifying people, their lineages and their associations in past times. In order to advance this and other Academy projects Aidan Clarke established a President's Review Committee that reported in 1992. Following this inquisition, the Dictionary of Irish Biography was relaunched, this time with James McGuire and James Quinn as editors, and with firm guidelines as to standards and delivery dates. These latter, as it transpired, were adhered to, and one of my great pleasures as one of his successors as President of the Academy was to have been in post in 2009 when the first nine volumes were published together, and when Aidan Clarke was present to receive his due acclaim.

Once his term of office as Academy President had expired Aidan Clarke faded into the background but was always willing whenever he was called upon to offer advice and assistance with any problems that arose, especially those occasioned by inter-personal conflicts. His attention then shifted to the Trinity project dedicated to the digitisation of the 1641 depositions. This undertaking was spearheaded by Jane Ohlmeyer, his former student and his successor as the Erasmus Smith Professor of History. However it was Aidan Clarke who had explained, in three incisive papers, how the depositions had come to be collected and preserved and what were their strengths and limitations as a historical source. Moreover, while he rejoiced that the source had been made available to a global audience through the digitisation process he privately wanted to see them fully transcribed and published in print editions with a scholarly index. He had entered into a partnership with the Irish Manuscripts Commission to fulfil this dream and he was still actively engaged in this work, of which several volumes had been published, when he was overtaken by the illness that led to his death. We remember with gratitude the contribution of Aidan Clarke to scholarship and to the Academy and we offer condolences to his surviving children who have good reason to remember their father with pride.



Science Committees

There are five multidisciplinary committees under the Sciences umbrella.
These committees are

- Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee
- Engineering and Computer Science Committee
- Geoscience and Geographical Sciences Committee
- Life and Medical Sciences Committee
- Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences Committee

Events

6 July 2020

**The Kathleen Lonsdale
RIA Chemistry Prize**

16 October 2020

Hamilton Day 2020 with
Terence Tao sponsored by
Ibec

2020

Eight new blog posts to the
current **Climate Change
and Environmental
Sciences Committee
'Opinion series'**

June–October 2020

Climate Conversations
webinar series

2 November 2020

Computer profile series:
**'From a degree in
Computer Science to the
Oscars red carpet'**

17 December 2020

**Vaccine questions podcast
series:** COVID-19 vaccine
safety with Luke O'Neill
MRIA

93
volunteers
make up these
committees.

59%
of the committee
members are male

41%
are female

They drive the programme
of work in the Academy
and give of their time and
expertise freely to do so.



Climate Change

In 2020 the Academy's Climate Change and Environmental Sciences committee, International Relations, Future Earth Ireland, the Standing Committee for International Affairs and RIA Publications engaged with climate change environmental science and policy across a range of platforms and collaborations.

Members of the Academy's Committee for Climate Change and Environmental Sciences (CCES) added eight new blog posts to the current 'Opinion series', providing insight on topics relating to climate change and the environment by drawing on their expertise and experience in their given field and each article was also accompanied by a short author's interview. **Read the full series online.**

Events and Outputs

25 February 2020

A Tree Academy at the Academy

27 February 2020

'Insider perspectives on the 7 August 2019 approval session and key policy messages' by Dr Frank McGovern, Environmental Protection Agency and Dr Eamon Haughey, GMIT

29 April 2020

Annual conference: 'The global politics of climate emergency'

6 May 2020

Opinion series: Climate, food and health: Critical policy choices in the post- COVID-19 world

2 June 2020

Opinion series: Drought: a risk being overlooked in Ireland? by Dr Conor Murphy and Dr Simon Noone, Irish Climate Analysis and Research UnitS (ICARUS), Department of Geography, Maynooth University

22 June 2020

Opinion series: Climate Governance and Fundamental Rights before the Supreme Court by Dr Áine Ryall, Co-Director, Centre for Law and the Environment, School of Law, UCC

24 June 2020

Climate conversations: Fossil fuel lock in - How much value is at risk? with Dr Celine McInerney, UCC

21 July 2020

Opinion series: COVID-19 recovery and green growth: What is holding up implementation of the Paris Agreement? by Dr. Matthew Kennedy, Arup, Ireland and University College Cork (Tyndall National Institute)

29 July 2020

Climate conversations: Ireland's future climate projections with Dr Paul Nolan, ICHEC

14 August 2020

Opinion series: Old data to the rescue: recovering weather observations to shed light on our past and present climate by Ray McGrath, UCD

2 October 2020

Opinion series: Creating sustainable futures through a circular economy by Geraldine Ann Cusack, Sustainable Manufacturing, Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR)

02 October 2020

Climate conversations: 'The potential role of negative emissions technologies in Ireland' with Professor Barry McMullin

19 November 2020

Opinion series: Adapting to a changing climate: How can we build resilience? by Dr Olga M. Grant, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

The committee collaborated with the EPA, to launch a series of lunchtime research seminars, ‘Climate Conversations’. In each online ‘conversation’, policy makers and decision makers from the public and private sectors heard about recently published research on climate change in Ireland directly from researchers and were then able to ask questions and raise points in a discussion moderated by a committee member. Three seminars were held in 2020, with a further five scheduled for 2021.

Committee member, Professor Fiona Regan, Dublin City University, was successfully appointed to the InterAcademy Partnership COVID-19 Advisory Group in winter 2020, and committee members also peer reviewed international scientific reports for the Academy:

- IAP statement entitled ‘Protection of Marine Environment’.
- European Academies’ Science Advisory Council’s (EASAC) statement entitled ‘Towards a sustainable future: transformative change and post-Covid-19 priorities’.

Committee member Mike Jones MRIA, nominated to the EASAC Environment Steering Panel by the Academy in 2016, played a key role in the EASAC Perspective published in October 2020 entitled **‘Towards a sustainable future: transformative change and post-COVID-19 priorities.’**

The Royal Irish Academy is leading Ireland’s engagement with Future Earth* through a national committee known as **Future Earth Ireland**, which has a remit to:

- Act as a hub for coordinating efforts within the remit of Future Earth on the island of Ireland
- Build awareness of Future Earth amongst members, policy makers, funders and other stakeholders
- Develop synergies around Future Earth themes within Ireland for researchers and other stakeholders
- Identify potential sources of national and international funding for researchers in relation to Future Earth themes
- Coordinate activities across existing and proposed initiatives within universities and in other organisations

Future Earth Ireland were delighted to partner with Easy Treesie to host a Tree Academy at the Academy on 25 February 2020. Children from the Malahide and Portmarnock Educate Together primary school visited Academy House for a morning of training on how to be Climate Ambassadors for their generation. The event received coverage in *The Irish Times* and a short video of the day was created to record the events. To mark Earth Day 50 in April, members of Future Earth Ireland released a series of short videos featuring climate and

***Future Earth** is a major international research platform to advance Global Sustainability Science. It is the international hub tasked with coordinating new, interdisciplinary approaches to research on three themes: Dynamic planet, Global sustainable development and Transformations towards sustainability

sustainability experts reflecting on what the next 50 years might bring.

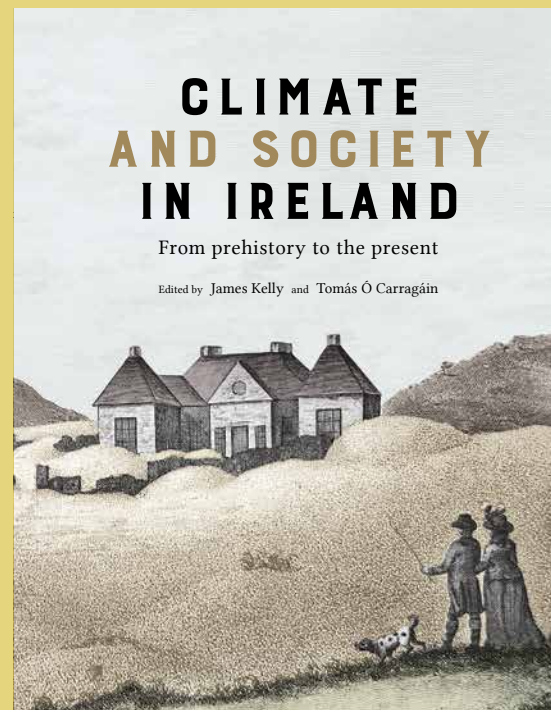
The Standing Committee for International Affairs' annual conference, 'The global politics of climate emergency' was held on 29 April 2020.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney T.D., addressed the conference with a **keynote lecture** in which he stated that he '*...want(s) to build on Ireland's reputation for excellence in international development, addressing issues of global concern and global security in our wider neighbourhood. That vision drives the Government's Global Ireland strategy, which aims to double Ireland's global influence by 2025.*' And that '*disruption today to mitigate climate change is an investment in a better future.*'

Mary Robinson MRIA dedicated her plenary lecture, '**The climate crisis requires a response based on justice**', to the late Eavan Boland MRIA. Mrs Robinson addressed inequality, social justice and transitioning for change to come back to climate crisis post COVID-19 'more resilient and more humane'. She identified that 'Our challenge is to build back better'.

Climate and society in Ireland is a collection of essays, commissioned by the editors of the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, that provides a multi-period, interdisciplinary perspective on one of the

most important challenges currently facing humanity. Combining syntheses of existing knowledge with new insights and approaches, contributors explore the varied environmental, climatic and social changes that occurred in Ireland from early prehistory to the early 21st century. The essays in the volume engage with a diversity of pertinent themes, including the impact of climate change on the earliest human settlement of Ireland; weather-related food scarcities during medieval times that led to violence and plague outbreaks; changing representations of weather in poetry written in Ireland between 1600 and 1820; and how Ireland is now on the threshold of taking the radical steps necessary to shed its 'climate laggard' status and embark on the road to a post-carbon society.





Humanities and Social Sciences Committees

There are five multidisciplinary committees and two standing committees under the Humanities and Social Sciences umbrella. These committees are

- Coiste Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus na gCultúr Ceilteach
- Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee
- Historical Studies Committee
- Social Sciences Committee
- Study of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication Committee
- Standing Committee for Archaeology
- Standing Committee for International Affairs

Events

19 February 2020

‘The three Aristotles of James Joyce’ by Fran O’Rourke, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, UCD. Followed by a recital of Irish songs from the works of James Joyce with accompaniment by guitarist John Feeley.

27 February 2020

‘Church of Ireland: Disestablishment and beyond’

29 April 2020

Annual International Affairs conference ‘The global politics of climate emergency’

8 July–18 December

‘Snap that: Life through the lens of Ireland’s 18- to 25-year-olds’

112
volunteers

make up these
committees.

50%

of the committee
members are male

50%

are female

They drive the programme
of work in the Academy
and give of their time and
expertise freely to do so.

Church of Ireland: Disestablishment and beyond

by Andrew Power

The Church Act, passed by the Parliament in Westminster in 1869, separated the Anglican Church in Ireland from the Church of England and from the state's political and funding institutions. The proceedings of a contemporaneous church convention claimed that the church was now 'free to shape her own future course'. The passing of the act was just the beginning of a process, which in the first instance took some eighteen months. However, in a broader sense the process of disestablishment, both in fact and in perception, has been a journey the church has been on ever since as it celebrates its place as both Anglican and Irish.

In February 2020, the Academy and the Church of Ireland co-host a conference commemorating the 150th anniversary of the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. The genesis of this conference was a request by the Most Reverend Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, to our President, Professor Peter Kennedy in early 2018. Having been considered and approved by the Academy, a steering committee was established to plan and organise the event. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the issues likely to be considered in any such conference the Academy drew on its broad discipline range with representatives from the Historical Studies Committee, the Social Sciences Committee and the Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee. This small team met regularly with representatives of



the Church of Ireland, and over several months developed the agenda, appointed session chairs and invited speakers.

The conference began with an introduction to the twin concepts of ‘Establishment’ and ‘Disestablishment’. The speakers then considered the consequences of disestablishment during the first hundred years, 1869–1969. The process of adaptation by the church to the social, political and cultural changes in Ireland was complex and included church life, church-state relations, the ecumenical landscape and the church’s relationships with wider Anglican Communion. Finally, future challenges—including the role of the church in education, health and Ireland’s increasingly secular society—were considered.

The **recorded conference** provided an occasion to briefly look back at the road travelled as well as an opportunity to consider the future. Perhaps there are lessons from the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland that Westminster may reflect on as, 150 years later, parliament in turn disestablishes itself from the European Union. If there is such a lesson perhaps it is this: whilst Westminster may feel free to shape their own future course, the strength and fellowship to be found in continued dialogue and cooperation is to be valued.

In conclusion I would just like to take the opportunity to thank the very fine committee assembled by the Academy to organise this event.





Grants and Awards

US Ireland Research Innovation Awards

The 2020 **US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards** took place on 10 December as a **special virtual event** with guest of honour Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris, T.D. (pictured at the event on page 54). Now in their sixth year, these awards are a joint initiative of the Royal Irish Academy and the American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland and they are sponsored by KPMG, Ulster Bank and media partner *The Irish Times*.

Events

28 January 2020

2020 Cunningham Medal presented to Nicholas Canny at a ceremony in Academy House

20 February 2020

Eoin O'Mahony Bursary Event

03 July 2020

Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize

14 September 2020

Academy Gold Medals were presented at private ceremony in Queen's University Belfast

29 September 2020

Michel Déon Prize **online award ceremony** and winner announcement

16 October 2020

Hamilton Prize in Mathematics awarded to the top mathematical students in their penultimate year of study as nominated by their university

20 October 2020

Hamilton Student Masterclass with Professor Terence Tao

10 December 2020

US Ireland Research Innovation Award ceremony online

2020 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards

Celebrating Global Innovation in Ireland | #AmChamRIA



AMERICAN
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
IRELAND



Royal Irish Academy

The winners of the **US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards** were:

- HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE/ RESEARCH CENTRE AWARD: Ulster University with Avellino
- INNOVATION IN TALENT DEVELOPMENT AWARD: Microsoft Dreamspace
- IRISH OPERATIONS OF A US MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANY AWARD: Boston Scientific Clonmel

Gold Medals

The **Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals** were presented to Richard English MRIA, professor of Politics and Vincent Fusco MRIA, professor of Electronic Engineering and Head of High Frequency Electronics Research at Queen's University Belfast to

honour their outstanding contributions to the Social Sciences and the Engineering Sciences, respectively.

The medals were presented by Professor Gerry McKenna, SVP, Royal Irish Academy with Professor Ian Greer, President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast at a private ceremony at Queen's University Belfast on Monday, 14 September, in line with public health guidelines.

The Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals, which are sponsored by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), recognise leading scholars in Ireland whose work has made an international impact, demonstrating the global reach and recognition of the exceptional quality of



‘The microwave wireless communications expertise developed here at Queen’s University Belfast is systemically important to modern life and working practices. It creates technologies that will make our daily digital interactions seamless by enabling future mobile phones, autonomous vehicles, and satellite communications.’

Vincent Fusco MRIA

‘I am extremely honoured to receive the RIA’s Gold Medal in the Social Sciences and I am very grateful to the Academy for this award. It’s a pleasure also to thank Queen’s University Belfast, where I’ve had the privilege of working for most of my academic career.’

Richard English MRIA



scholarship taking place on this island. The Gold Medals have become the ultimate accolade in scholarly achievement in Ireland.

Cunningham Medal

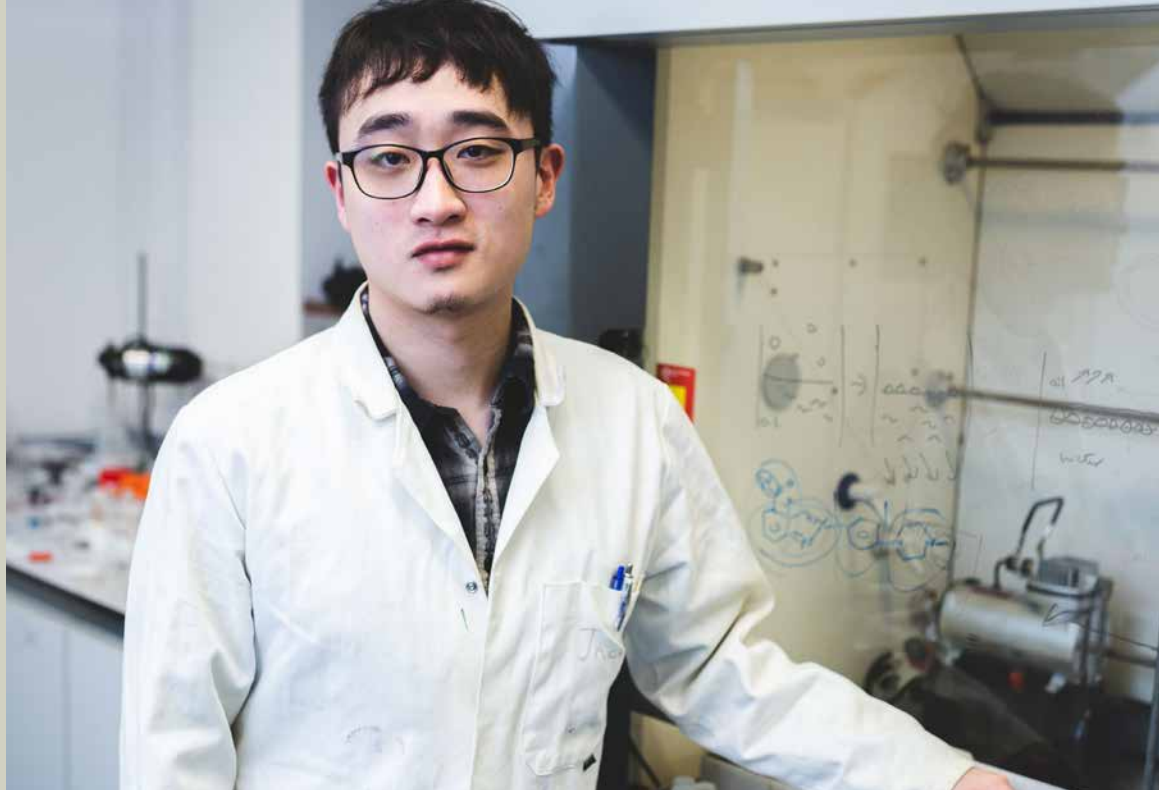
Nicholas Canny MRIA, distinguished historian and past President of the Academy, received the RIA's premier award, the Cunningham Medal, at a ceremony in Academy House on 28 January 2020.

Professor Canny is well known for his scholarship on both the history of Ireland and Atlantic history, and has also been an academic leader at the National University of Ireland, Galway where he was Vice President for Research, 2005–8. During this tenure he worked with his peers in six

other universities to have Humanities and Social Studies opened up to the possibilities of major funding under the government's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions scheme.

The Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize

The **Kathleen Lonsdale Chemistry Prize**, sponsored by Henkel, is awarded each year by the Royal Irish Academy for the most outstanding Irish PhD thesis in the area of the chemical sciences. Dr Yikai Xu, who completed his PhD thesis at Queen's University Belfast, was recognised for his revolutionary work in nanomaterials science and was awarded the 2020 prize in a virtual ceremony in July. As winner Dr Xu was also put



forward by the Royal Irish Academy to represent Ireland in the prestigious IUPAC-Solvay International Award for Young Chemists competition.

‘I first heard of the prize in my second year of my PhD and set myself a goal to work super hard and to see if I could actually get this. So, when I did it was like a dream come true.’

Dr Yikai Xu (pictured above), winner, Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize

The Hamilton Prize Winners

The Royal Irish Academy awarded the prestigious undergraduate Hamilton Prize to the top mathematical students in their penultimate year of study as nominated by their university. Irish Business and Employers Confederation (Ibec), who sponsor the RIA prize and Hamilton Day activities, see developing STEM talent as a key role in safeguarding Ireland’s economic future. The **online ceremony** took place to mark Hamilton Day, the anniversary of famed Irish scientist William Rowan Hamilton’s discovery of quaternions algebra on 16 October 1843. The virtual ceremony was attended by family and friends of the winners, as well as representatives from their university departments and members of the mathematics community in Ireland.



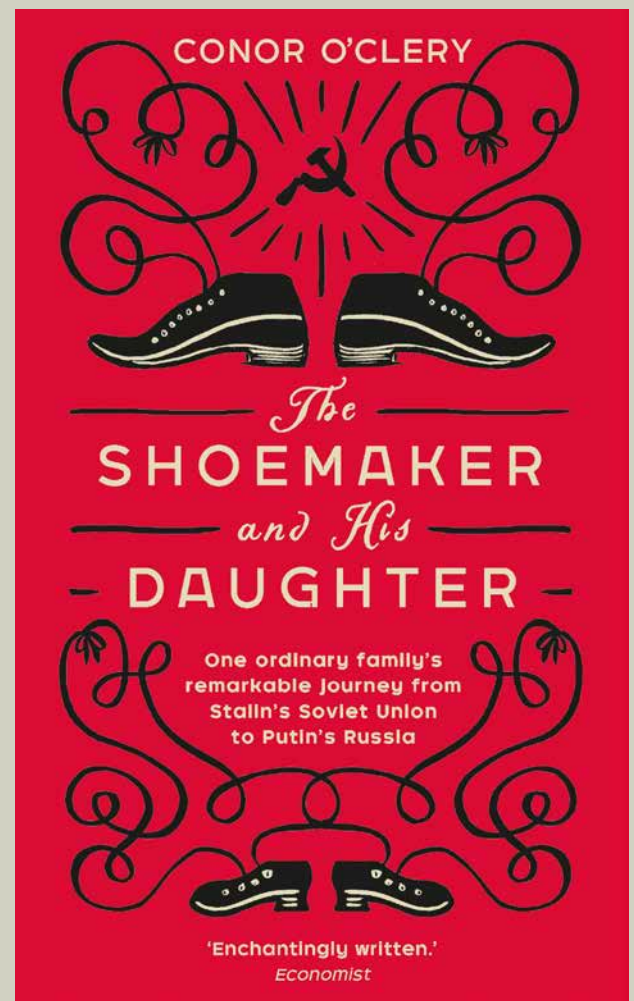
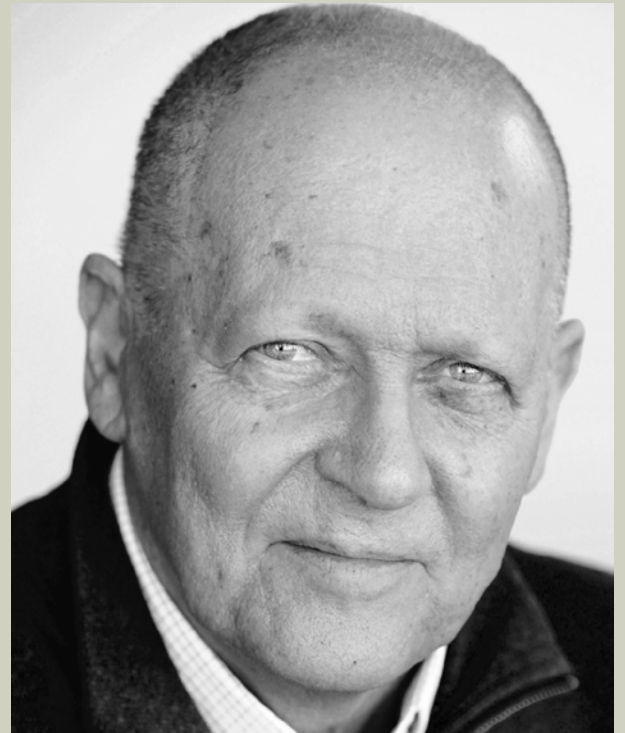
The 2020 Hamilton Prize winners are (from top left): Daniel Devine, Trinity College Dublin, Chuan En Lau, TU Dublin, Emily Gribbin, Queen's University Belfast, Mark Jennings, University College Dublin, David McMahon, University of Limerick, Peter Moody, Maynooth University, Oisín Morrison, NUI Galway, Diarmuid O'Donoghue, University College Cork, Ronan Smith, Dublin City University.

The RIA Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction

The 2020 prize was launched online in March and open to submissions from both publishers and the public. To reflect the work and interests of the French writer Michel Déon, who made Ireland his home from the 1970s until his death in 2016, the eligible categories for the prize were autobiography, biography, cultural studies, history, literary studies, philosophy and travel. Authors of any nationality currently living on the island of Ireland who had published a non-fiction book in the period August 2018 to April 2020 were eligible.

In May the judges chose six books from the submitted titles to make up the shortlist for the 2020 Michel Déon Prize, based on originality, quality of writing and contribution to knowledge and/or public debate:

- *Constellations* by Sinéad Gleeson (Picador Pan MacMillan)
- *Republic of shame* by Caelainn Hogan (Penguin Randomhouse)
- *The Maamtrasna murders: language, life and death in nineteenth-century Ireland* by Margaret Kelleher (UCD Press)
- *Minor monuments* by Ian Maleney (Tramp Press)
- *Twelve thousand days, a memoir of love and loss* by Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Blackstaff Press)
- *The shoemaker and his daughter* by Conor O'Clery (Penguin Randomhouse)



The winner was announced in September during an **online ceremony** attended by the shortlisted authors and guests. Conor O’Clery was announced as the winner of the €10,000 Michel Déon Prize, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, for his book *The shoemaker and his daughter* (Penguin Randomhouse), an epic story of one ordinary family, spanning the Second World War to the fall of the Soviet Union, taking in 80 years of Soviet and Russian history, from Stalin to Putin.

Both Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, TD and Chair of the Royal Irish Academy’s judging committee Professor Michael Cronin, congratulated the winner during the ceremony. Professor Cronin said ‘Conor’s book was masterfully written, cleverly and sensitively telling the story of the experiences of his wife Zhanna’s Armenian family and their memories, while exploring 80 years of Soviet history. Any of the outstanding shortlisted authors Sinéad Gleeson, Caelainn Hogan, Margaret Kelleher, Ian Maleney or Éilís Ní Dhuibhne would have been worthy winners.’

The Prize is awarded in France every second year by the Académie française. Conor O’Clery will also get the opportunity to give ‘The Michel Déon Lecture’ in France in 2021.

Nowlan Digitisation Grants

Kevin B. Nowlan (1921–2013) was a Dublin-born scholar who taught history at University

College Dublin, 1948–86. He was a founding member of many cultural associations, particularly those focused on architectural preservation.

Professor Nowlan was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1977 and served as Vice President, 1980–83 and 1985–89. Professor Nowlan left a generous bequest to the Academy which has funded several initiatives, including the launching of the **Kevin B. Nowlan Digitisation Grant scheme**. This scheme, which will fund digitisation in the disciplines of Archaeology and History will fund a number of projects up to the value of €10,000 each over the next two years.

The criteria for this scheme were developed with the help of an experienced and knowledgeable working group comprised of Mary O’Dowd (chair), James McGuire, Tom O’Connor, Bernadette Whelan and Peter Gray. The Nowlan Digitisation Grants aim to expand the range of digitised searchable historical sources available through open and free access to researchers.

In its first iteration the scheme welcomed proposals for the digitisation of a historical source or sources (including making it available online for research, study or education purposes) or the updating of existing digital historical resources to enable continued online public access for research, study or education purposes. As well as making the outputs of

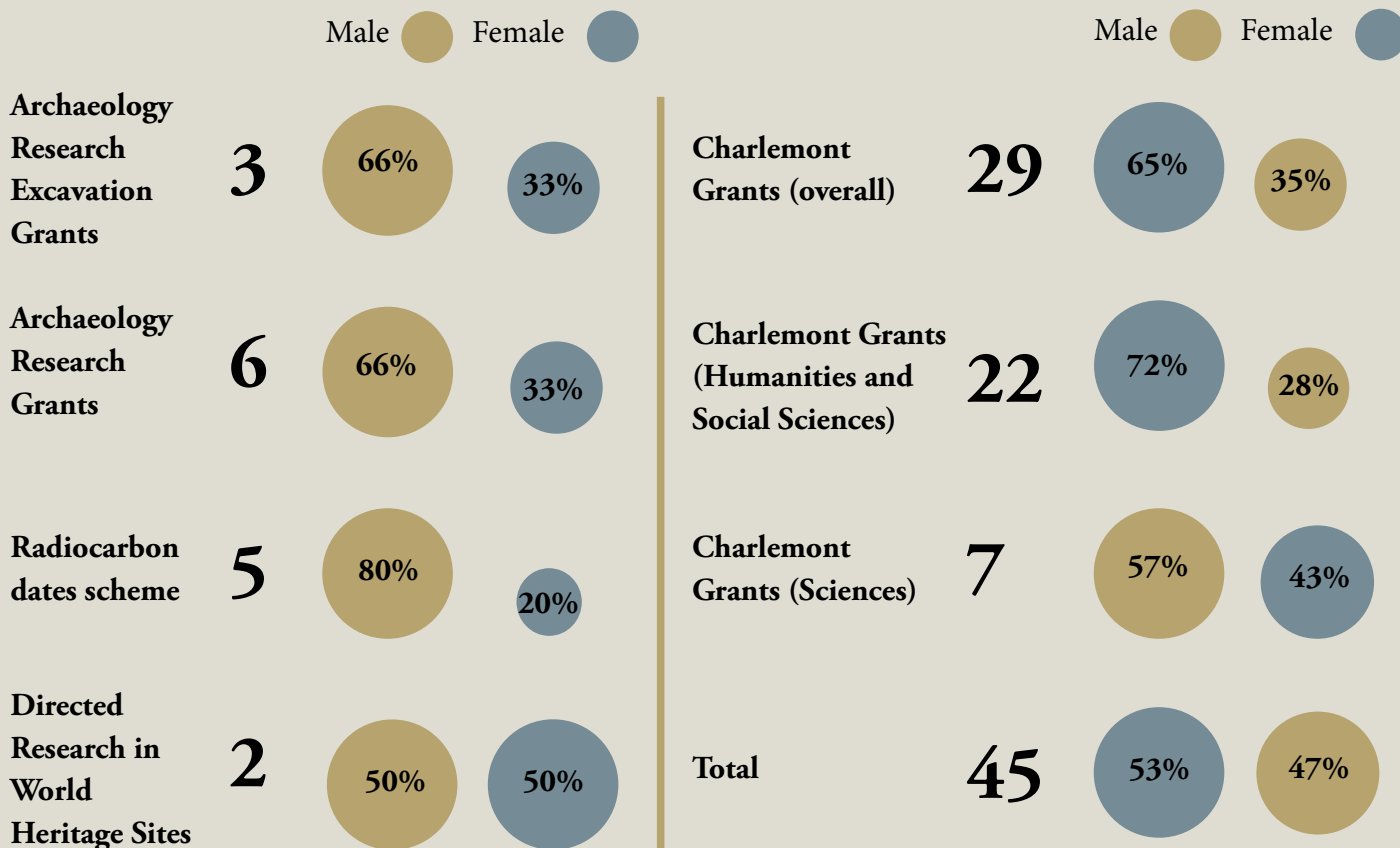
the project available online, all funded projects are also required to make their digital outputs and metadata available to the Royal Irish Academy for inclusion in the Digital Repository of Ireland in line with the Academy's focus on ensuring long-term preservation and access to digital collections.

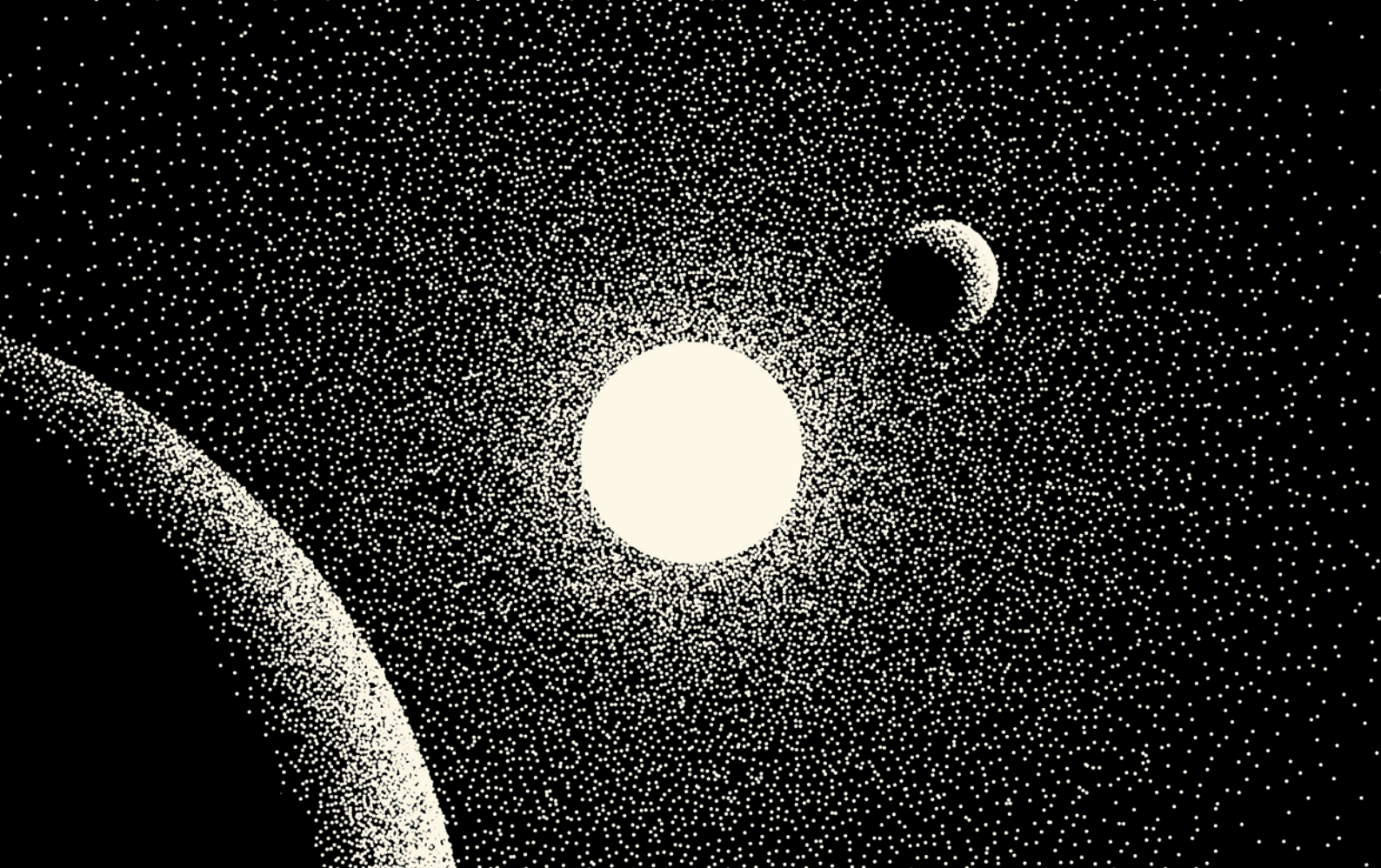
In 2020 the scheme was opened to third-level Irish history researchers who hold

a permanent or temporary contract that will not end during the course of the grant period. All applicants must be resident and working on the island of Ireland (including Northern Ireland).

In 2021 the scheme will welcome applications from researchers in the field of Irish archaeology in a similar manner.

Grants awarded in 2020





Public Engagement – Access to experts

The Royal Irish Academy has a proud tradition of inviting subject experts to speak to the public through the Academy's Discourse programme, annual events or through engagement with future generations through its masterclass programmes. This year the majority of these events were delivered online.

Discourses

Academy Discourses they are the oldest and most renowned series of talks in Ireland. The first Discourses were presented in 1786. Historically, Academy Discourses were the occasion reserved for the most distinguished academics to first reveal and discuss their work in public. We hold six Discourses each year. In the past few years, we have had Nobel prize winners,

Events

8 January 2020

Brendan O'Leary Hon.
MRIA, conversation event
in Benburb Priory, Co.
Tyrone

28 January 2020

**Election debate on
the Future Funding of
Higher Education and
Research in Ireland**, RIA
with IUA, THEA and USI

28 January 2020

**Academy Discourse
with Professor Michael
Peter Kennedy, PRIA
'Reflections on the role
of a learned Academy'**

13 February 2020

**Academy Discourse
with Philip Lane MRIA,
European Central Bank
in conversation with
Alan Barrett MRIA,
Director, ESRI**

29 May 2020

Women in Leadership
Online Masterclass with
Frances Fitzgerald

9 July 2020

Women in Leadership
Online Masterclass with
Rose Anne Kenny MRIA

26 August 2020

**Academy Discourse: a
panel discussion on the
US elections** with Aine
Lawlor, Broadcaster RTE
(chair); Desmond King
Hon. MRIA, University of
Oxford; David O'Sullivan,
former EU Ambassador
to USA; Bob Schmuyl,
University of Notre
Dame; Karlin Lillington,
journalist with *The Irish
Times*

3 September 2020

Women in Leadership
Online Masterclass with
Geraldine Byrne Nason
MRIA

16 October 2020

Fields medallist Professor
Terence Tao, University
of California Los Angeles
gave the public **Hamilton
Lecture 'the Cosmic
Distance Ladder'**

20 October 2020

Hamilton student
masterclass with Professor
Terence Tao

29 October 2020

**Academy Discourse with
Dr Mounier Bouchenaki
'Cultural heritage and
recent armed conflicts'**

4 November 2020

'Quantum Reality'
by Eminent physicist,
Professor Vlatko Vedral
FInstP

10 November 2020

**Academy Discourse
'Astronomy and Poetry'**
with Jocelyn Bell Burnell
Hon. MRIA

17 November 2020

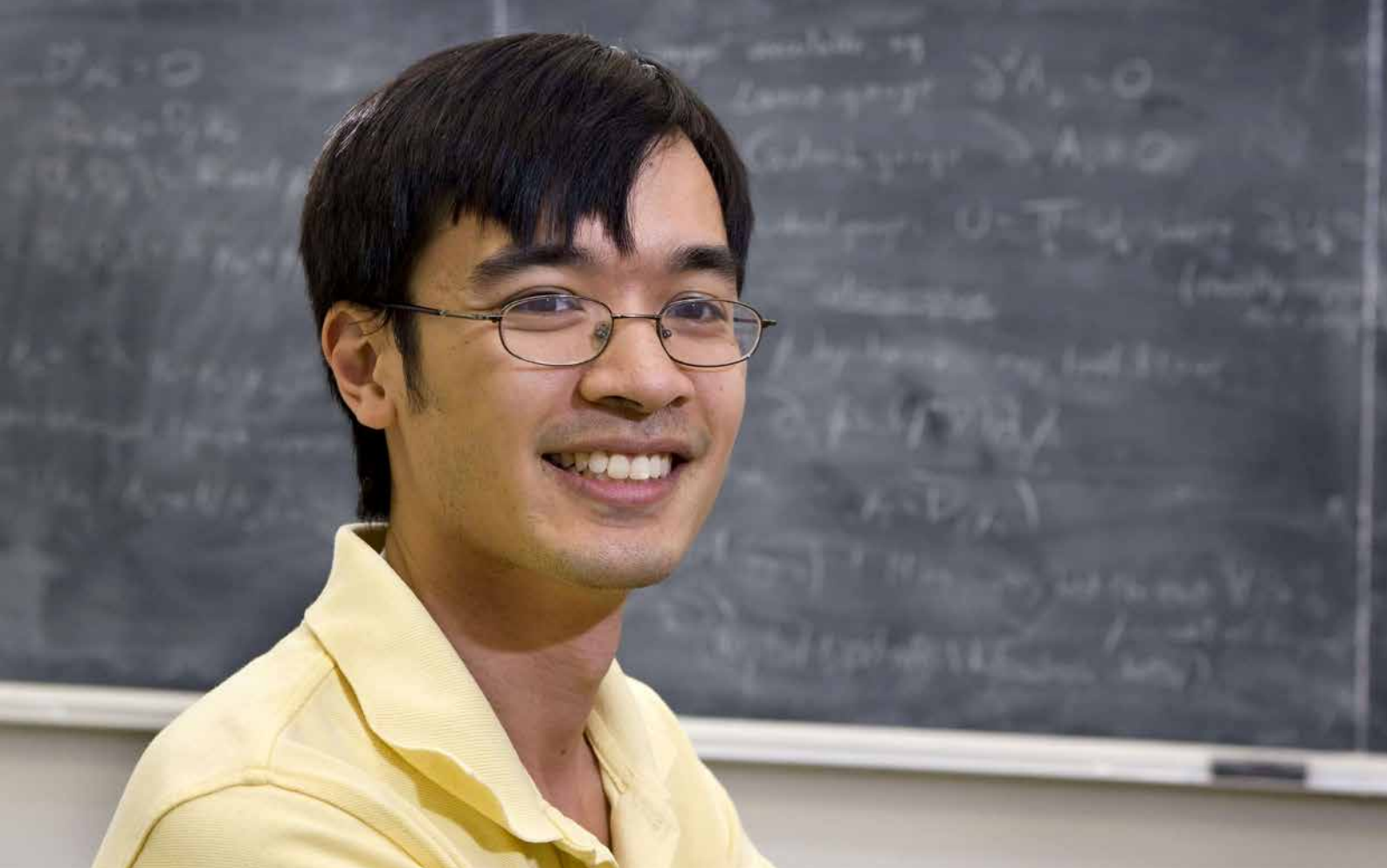
Women in Leadership
Online Masterclass with
Brian MacCraith MRIA

as well as internationally distinguished political figures, senior European public servants and internationally eminent scholars deliver a broad range of Discourses, most of which are available on the **Academy's website**.

During 2020, the Academy organised a wide range of Discourses, commencing with the Presidential Discourse from our outgoing President (Michael) Peter Kennedy MRIA in January. In February, a conversation style Discourse took place between Philip Lane MRIA, European Central Bank and Alan Barrett MRIA, ESRI. The ongoing pandemic saw the rescheduling of Dr Mounier Bouchenaki (pictured, top right) to October, which concluded the 2019/2020 programme. The 2020/21 programme commenced in August with a panel discussion on the topical US elections and Honorary Member Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell (pictured, right. Photograph courtesy of RSE) joined us in November for an interesting discussion linking astronomy and poetry.

Academy Discourses are kindly sponsored by Mason Hayes & Curran LLP





Hamilton Day 2020

On 16 October as part of the Academy's celebrations for Hamilton Day, the Hamilton lecture was delivered by Fields medallist Professor Terence Tao (pictured above) from his office in the University of California Los Angeles. He spoke not about his own research, but instead chose a topic that had interested him since childhood and which he felt was especially fitting for the occasion, namely 'the Cosmic Distance Ladder.'

'I think it's very fitting for the Hamilton lecture because Hamilton is best known for

his contributions to mathematics and physics but he was also the Royal Astronomer of Ireland and I would like to imagine that he viewed mathematics, physics, astronomy all as a unified whole and that's very much the theme of this of this talk about the distance ladder, which to me is this great story that's been going on across science and astronomy and mathematics for over 2,000 years.'

His presentation showed how human beings found their place in the Universe using mathematics, starting with the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle's discovery that the earth was round, and continuing right

through to how scientists today are mapping all of the observable universe.

Following his talk, Professor Tao engaged in discussion with a panel of top mathematicians from around the island of Ireland, answering questions on astronomy, maths teaching and research collaboration. The chair Professor Pauline Mellon also asked him questions sent in by the public, including some from pupils at Ardgillan Community College in north county Dublin.

Almost 1,000 people from all around Ireland and from over 25 other countries the globe

gathered online to watch the lecture, and a recording of the event on the Academy's YouTube channel has been viewed over 7,900 times.

Professor Tao also gave a Masterclass to the Hamilton prize winners and selection of PhD students from around Ireland. Participants had the opportunity to ask the world-renowned mathematician for advice. He spoke candidly, reflecting on his experiences and providing them with advice and encouragement to pursue their studies and research careers.

The Academy's Hamilton Day activities are sponsored by Ibec.



Women in Leadership Masterclass

The Academy runs a Women in Leadership masterclass series with the support of Accenture. In 2020 these masterclasses moved online and included participants from industry, academic and public bodies around Ireland. Our speakers for the 2020 series were:

- **Frances Fitzgerald**, Fine Gael MEP for Dublin City and County
- **Rose Anne Kenny** MRIA, professor of Medical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin

The cosmic distance ladder
4pm Friday 16 October
Register for free at ria.ie/events

Professor Terence Tao
University of California, Los Angeles

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY HAMILTON LECTURE 2020

Ibec For Irish Business
THE IRISH TIMES
RIA Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann Royal Irish Academy

- **Geraldine Byrne Nason** MRIA, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations in New York
- **Brian MacCraith** MRIA, former President of Dublin City University

These Women in Leadership masterclass sessions are an ideal opportunity to inspire, motivate and mentor the next generation of women leaders and work as a great networking opportunity for participants. In 2020 we introduced some gender diversity by inviting male participants to two of the masterclasses and also a male speaker to talk about the challenge of diversity and equality in more general terms.

The Women in Leadership masterclasses are sponsored by Accenture.

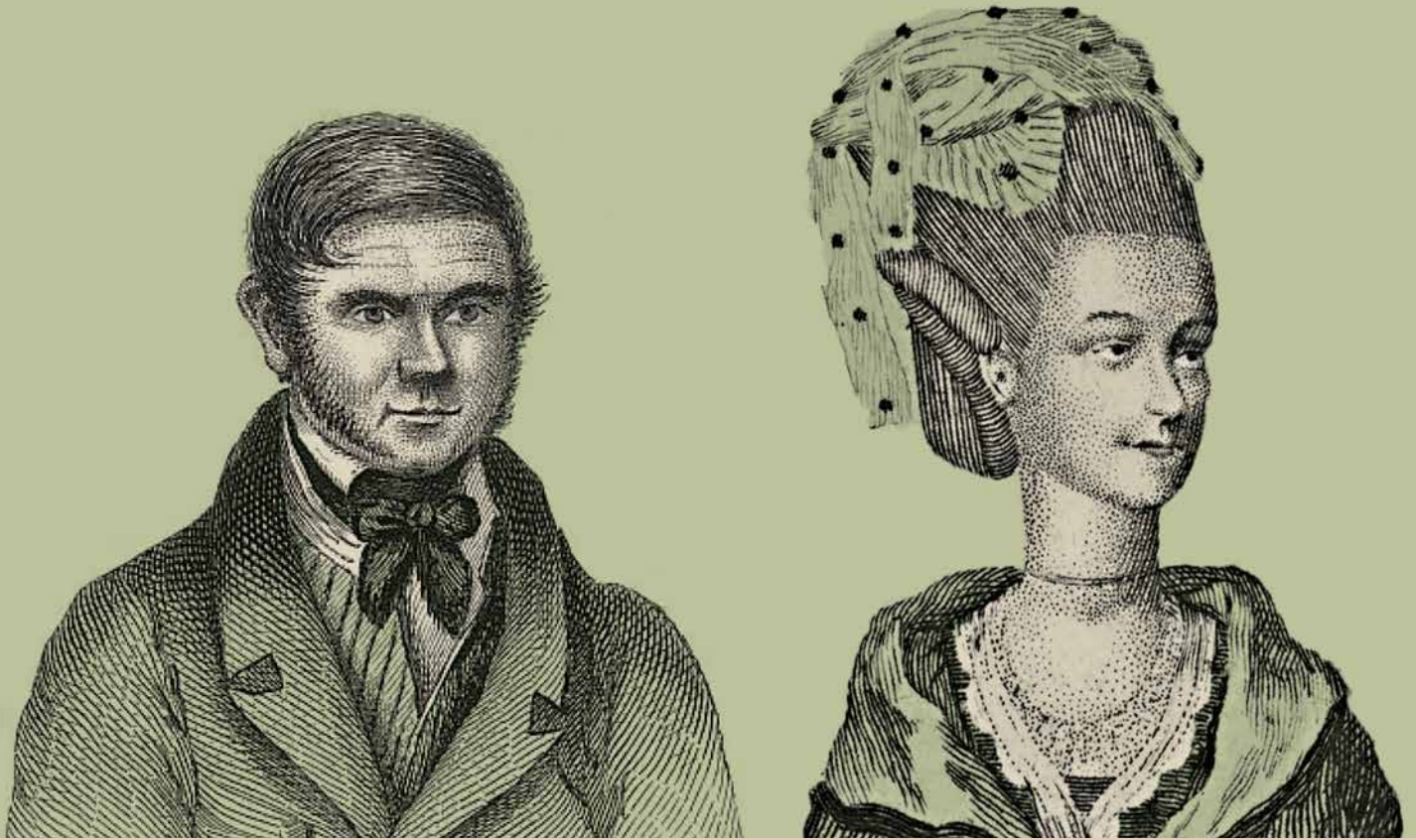
accenture

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 by which they can fulfil their greatest ambitions

like Bell did. Since November 2014 the RIA has worked with Queen's University Belfast to celebrate John Bell Day. On 4 November 2020 eminent physicist, Vlatko Vedral FInstP (pictured above), Professor of Quantum Information Science at University of Oxford gave the 2020 John Bell Day lecture on 'Quantum Reality' online. Earlier that day he gave students an exclusive 'unplugged' session entitled 'Quantum physics, life and the universe: In conversation with Professor Vlatko Vedral', where he spoke about his career and answered quantum physics-related questions.





Dictionary of Irish Biography

The *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (DIB) is Ireland's national biographical dictionary. The first nine volumes of the DIB were published in 2009, with a further two published in 2018; its online edition covers nearly 11,000 lives, in biographies ranging from 100 to 15,000 words. The DIB is considered an indispensable work of reference for scholars, journalists, broadcasters, genealogists, diplomats and the general reader interested in Ireland's past or in biography, and it is an educational resource of huge potential.

In 2020 the DIB undertook considerable digital outreach and commenced a major new project to make the full digital corpus freely available for the first time. Since its launch in 2009, the DIB has been available to libraries and other institutions to purchase through a

platform provided by Cambridge University Press, which also publishes the hard copy volumes. Work is now underway to move the DIB's digital corpus to a new website, allowing it to be managed by the Royal Irish Academy. As part of this, the DIB will be moving to an 'open access' model, making the entire corpus freely available to all users. It is the team's hope that the new website will launch in spring 2021.

The open access website project is part-funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with support from Dublin City Libraries Archives. Additional

support to sustain and develop the DIB's digital corpus will also be sought.

As well as the development of the new website, the DIB team has undertaken to contact as many of its 700-plus contributors as possible to alert them to the planned move to an open access model and invite them to submit corrections to their work. With the digital corpus being managed in-house for the first time, the team will be able to put more emphasis on revising and improving the corpus on an ongoing basis, as well as continuing to add new lives (notable people who have passed

Sophie Peirce-Evans and **Thomas Heazle Parke** from the DIB 'Explorers' series.
Opening image **Margaret Caroline Rudd** and **William Burke** from the DIB 'Rogues' series.



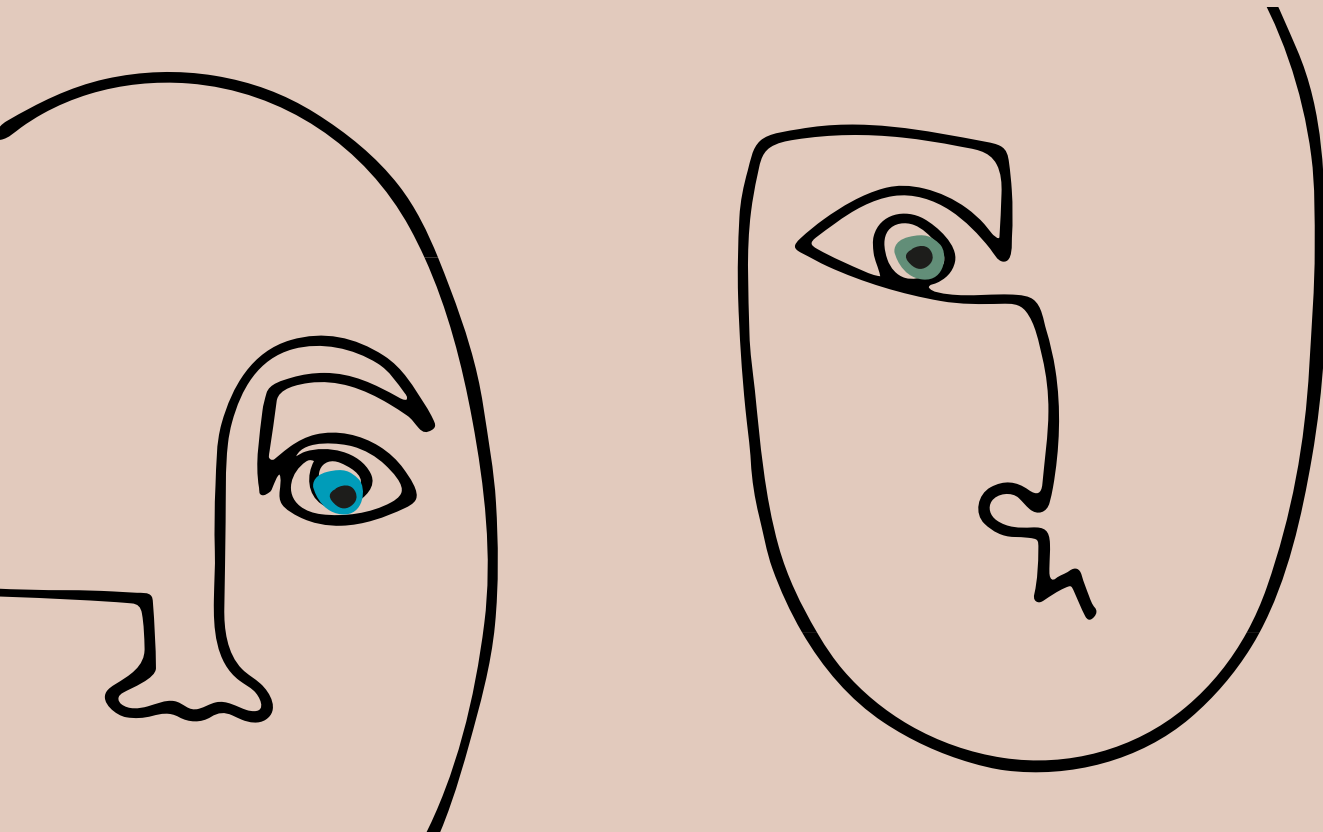
in recent years) and ‘missing persons’ (such as ‘forgotten’ figures who have gained new attention and analysis).

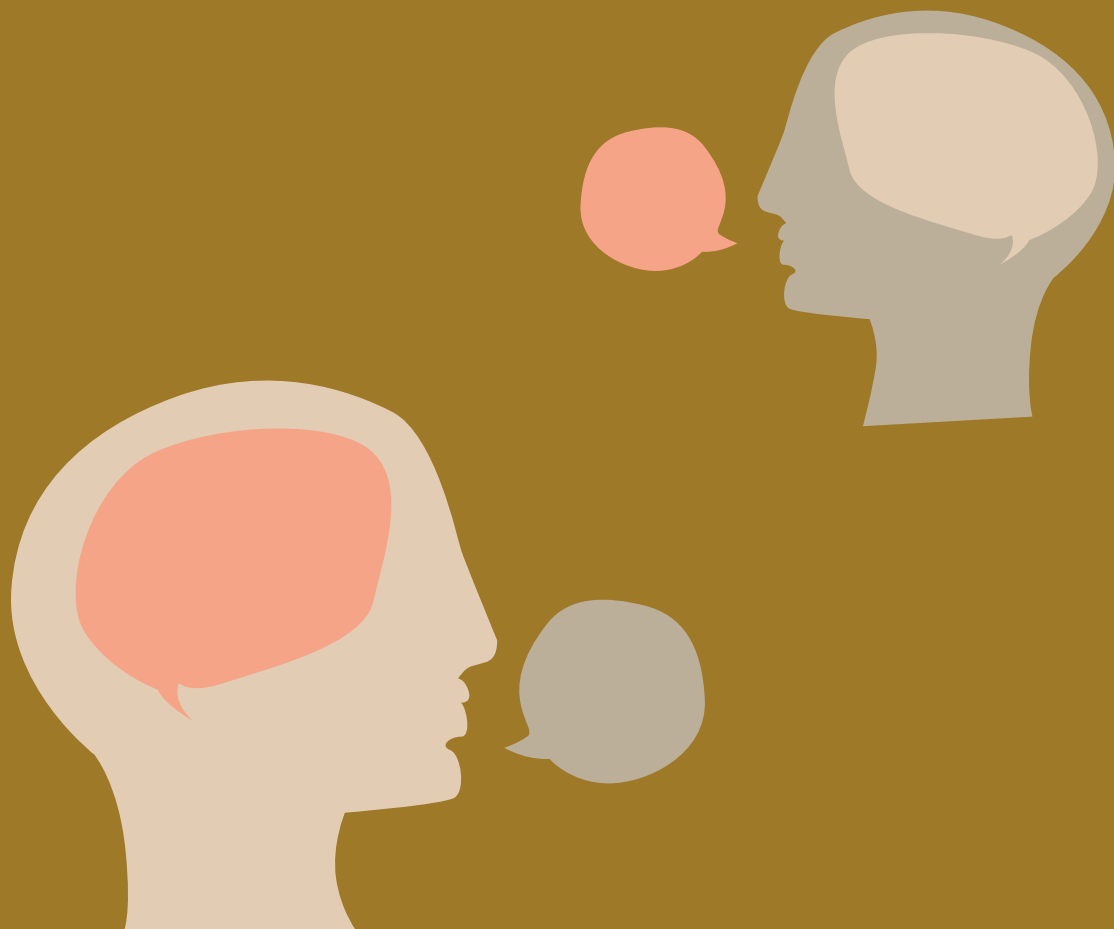
Throughout 2020 the DIB engaged in digital outreach partnerships and ran themed series of entries through the RIA website and social media. From August to November, the **RTÉ History website** published seventeen biographies of figures from the war of independence to the civil war period, garnering tens of thousands of views as well as a number of mentions on various RTÉ radio and television shows. Another outreach initiative in 2020 was with Decade of Centenaries, which drew from the DIB corpus for its ‘**Women on Wednesday**’ showcase of important female

figures who fought for political and social justice in the early twentieth century.

The DIB, as part of a suite of educational resources produced by RIA projects and publications teams, contributed a **Leaving Certificate resource** for students of history comprised of forty biographies of major Irish figures from Daniel O’Connell to Seamus Heaney.

As well as the anticipated launch of the new open access website in 2021, work is underway on two new thematic DIB print volumes on major Irish sporting figures and the contribution of Irish immigrants to American politics, society and culture.





Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources

As the Executive Director points out in his contribution, the Academy's research projects continued to make excellent progress during the first COVID-19 lockdown as well as subsequently. While maintaining momentum on their key objectives, which in the case of Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS) meant continuing to research and write dictionary entries, each project also engaged in new outreach activities in order to show that the buildings might be closed but the supply of knowledge to the public was being actively kept up in real time. The main DMLCS contribution was the publication on the Academy website of an informal, illustrated exposition showing 'How linguistics could help the historian'. The exposition, which we hoped would appeal to a multidisciplinary,

Events

10 Febraury 2020

'Haunting Vocabulary and Celtic Lexicography: Towards a Taxonomy of Ghost Words', *Studia Celtica Posnaniensia* 4 (2019), 44–58. Peer-reviewed article by Anthony Harvey

13 February 2020

'Medieval Ghost Words, Poltergeist Words, and Frankenstein Words in the Celtic-Latin Corpus', Early Irish and Celtic Studies Research Seminar, NUIM. Lecture by Anthony Harvey

12 March 2020

'St Patrick in the Digital Age', Inaugural St Patrick Symposium, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Lecture by Anthony Harvey

May to June 2020

How Linguistics Can Help the Historian.

Seven-part web-based exposition by Anthony Harvey

September 2020

4 x half-day online sessions of Scottish universities' Faclair na Gàidhlig Advisory Board. Attended, assisted and advised by Anthony Harvey and Charles Dillon

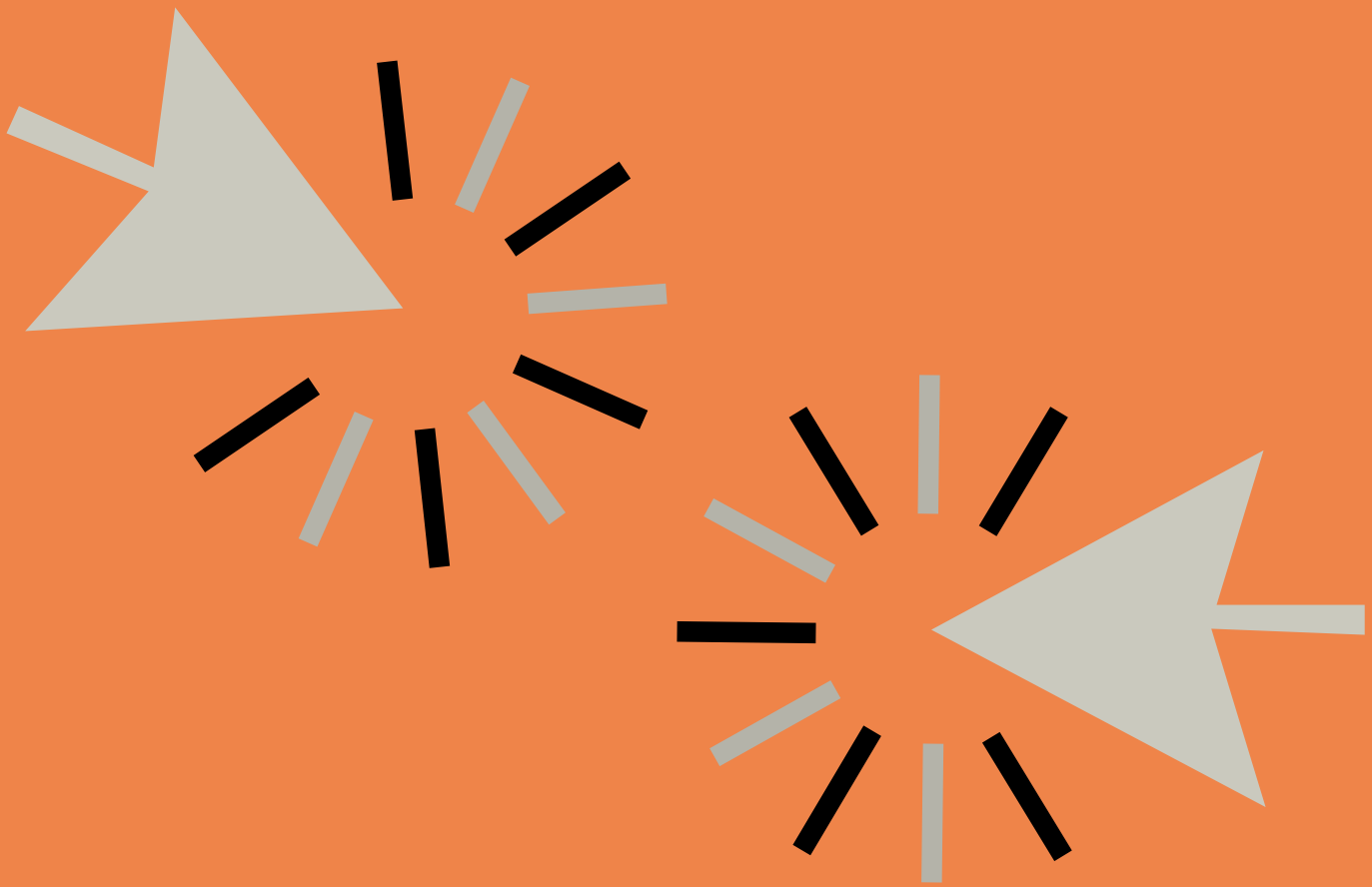
non-specialist audience during the rigours of the lockdown, was posted in seven ‘bite-sized chunks’ at weekly intervals during May and June 2020. The separate **digital instalments are still accessible** and their focus is the potential of linguistics scientifically to analyse not *what* is expressed in a historical document, but *how* it is expressed. In enabling such analysis, linguistic considerations frequently cast significant historical sidelights on the context in which a document was produced. In explaining the methods involved, the exposition challenges two widespread assumptions. The first is that linguistics has to be very technical and complicated (it does not), as well as boring (it need not be). The other assumption is the notion that linguistic reasoning can never really do more than suggest some conclusion—in contrast to supposedly more ‘scientific’ data (such as archaeological data), which are seen as definitive. Instead, what emerges overall is that linguistic evidence is just as objective and empirical, and sound arguments based on it just as scientific and rational, as the discovery of any physical artefact or the conclusions that may be drawn therefrom. The exposition illustrates this by looking at some specific and detailed examples relating

to early medieval Ireland, Britain and the Continent.

The exposition is divided into seven parts:

- Part I, ‘Introduction’ and ‘Calendrical confusion’;
- Part II, ‘Who was on the pig’s back?’ and ‘England divided’;
- Part III, ‘Curmudgeonly Carolingians’ and ‘The West-Brit syndrome twelve hundred years ago’;
- Part IV, ‘Battling Andrew fights on’, ‘The dangers of hyper-correction’ and ‘Medieval spin or modern?’;
- Part V, ‘Europe up in arms’, ‘Speaking peace’ and ‘Pentecostal inspiration?’;
- Part VI, ‘Yes, but how can we know?’, ‘Latin lives!’ and ‘It’s OK to say Celtic if that’s what you mean’; and
- Part VII, ‘It’s not just linguistic archaeology; there’s geology too’, ‘The Liscahane oghams’ and ‘Where does all this leave us?’.

Feedback indicates that the exposition was well received worldwide so, in collaboration with the Publications department, DMLCS has subsequently worked to adapt it for issue as a booklet that can be ordered via the **Academy website**.



Digital Repository of Ireland

Around the academic world, the sharp turn away from physical events in 2020—whether that be live lectures and seminars, one-on-one training, or participation in working groups and conferences—was accompanied by an increased demand for digital content, and an increased awareness of the importance of digital means for reaching existing and new audiences. As a trustworthy digital repository and research centre for best practice in digital archiving, preservation and discovery, Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) focused its 2020 activities in two directions: support for communities in building digital collections, and support for local and global efforts around COVID-19 research, archiving and research data management.

In the early days of working from home and pandemic restrictions in Ireland, the DRI published a statement titled ‘Playing our part.’ In this we outlined the ways we hoped to

Events

17–20 February 2020

15th International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC)

3 April 2020

Science communication for research data' session at the Research Data Alliance plenary (online)

28 April 2020

RDA Ireland Meet the Experts: Dr Conor O'Carroll - 'Open Science and its future – a European perspective'

1 May 2020

RDA Ireland Meet the Experts: Rebecca Grant – 'Research data in Ireland: from policy requirements to researcher incentives'

15 June 2020

Research Data Alliance webinars as part of the RDA Global Adoption week

16 June 2020

'The power of a photograph': Collecting and digital preservation in times of social change

25 June 2020

COVID-19 and contact tracing apps – What should Ireland do?

30 June 2020

Publication of RDA COVID-19 Recommendations and Guidelines on Data Sharing

9 July 2020

RDA Ireland Meet the Experts: Joanna Finegan and Maria Ryan—'Archiving the Irish web: saving Ireland's online record'

29 July 2020

RDA Ireland Meet the Experts: Natalie Harrower and Timea Biro – Data sharing for COVID-19 research: Recommendations and guidelines from the RDA COVID-19 working group

15–23 August 2020

Why digitally preserving cultural heritage data matters - Heritage Week 2020

10 September 2020

Amplifying change: A history of the Atlantic Philanthropies on the island of Ireland (Project Launch)

18 September 2020

Culture at risk: Digitally preserving the referendum on the 8th Amendment

22–24 September 2020

#WeMissIPRES online mini-conference in anticipation of the 2020 iPres conference in Beijing

29 September 2020

Using FAIR data from galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) sector

22 October 2020

Archival activism: Community-centred approaches to archives

29 October 2020

Publishing GLAM data as FAIR data

5 November 2020

International Digital Preservation Awards (DRI Director a judge)

09–12 November 2020

Citizen science/Community participation data session at RDA 16th Plenary Meeting

17 November 2020

DRI Members and Community Forum

18 November 2020

Natalie Harrower delivered keynote address 'Why should we care about FAIR?' at the 15th Munin Conference on Scholarly Publishing

18 November 2020

Community building session at 'Realising the European Open Science Cloud Conference'

2 December 2020

Collecting in a crisis: Rapid response web and social media archiving

17 December 2020

DRI and the European Common Culture Project: Sharing Irish Digital Data in a European Context

contribute to the global, every-disciplinary effort to combat COVID-19, alongside ways we could help our members and community to keep sharing ideas, collections and inspirations through **online formats**. Like many organisations at the time, we had ideas about how this part may play out, but we aimed to remain agile as the year progressed.

That agility led us to make some direct contributions to the COVID-19 research effort. DRI has been building support for Open Research and FAIR data management in Ireland steadily over the last number of years, increasing staff knowledge and building different components into repository workflows and architectures. We also continue to contribute to guidelines and policy nationally and internationally. Drawn in by our work with the Research Data Alliance (RDA), we helped to coordinate a massive global effort—involving over 600 participants—to author recommendations and guidelines on sharing COVID-19 research data across jurisdictions, disciplines and technologies. The **resulting document** will create efficiencies in the global research ecosystem and help to accelerate efforts to combat the pandemic, socially and scientifically. In a similar vein, earlier in the year we published a **report** by the ALLEA e-Humanities working group on sustainable and FAIR data sharing in the humanities, tailoring recommendations on data sharing to these disciplines. These documents are part of our larger commitment to open research, and

in line with that, in September we welcomed the new National Open Research Coordinator to the DRI team, who will work with the **National Open Research Forum (NORF)** on creating a road map for Open Research implementation in Ireland.

Alongside facilitating better data management for the research sector, DRI also concentrates on building sustainable digital collections that tell Irish stories, or stories about Ireland. This year we took a particular interest in community archives, reaching out to groups doing excellent work and hosting a series of webinars to highlight this activity. Our October event on Archival Activism, featuring the Black and Irish group, was a particular draw, attracting a large international audience of 200 attendees, and marked the third in our **collaborative series** with the National Archives of Ireland. Our final webinar of 2020 with the National Archives, **‘Collecting in a Crisis’**, focused on the timely topic of rapid response web and social media archiving and had 198 attendees from all over the world.

Speaking of audiences, as Ireland’s new aggregator to Europeana, DRI worked with a range of cultural institutions to send Irish content to Europe’s largest online archive. All told, we hosted or contributed to an online educational event roughly once a week throughout the year, keeping community connections alive. To this effect, we also launched our collaborative project **‘Amplifying change: a history of the Atlantic**

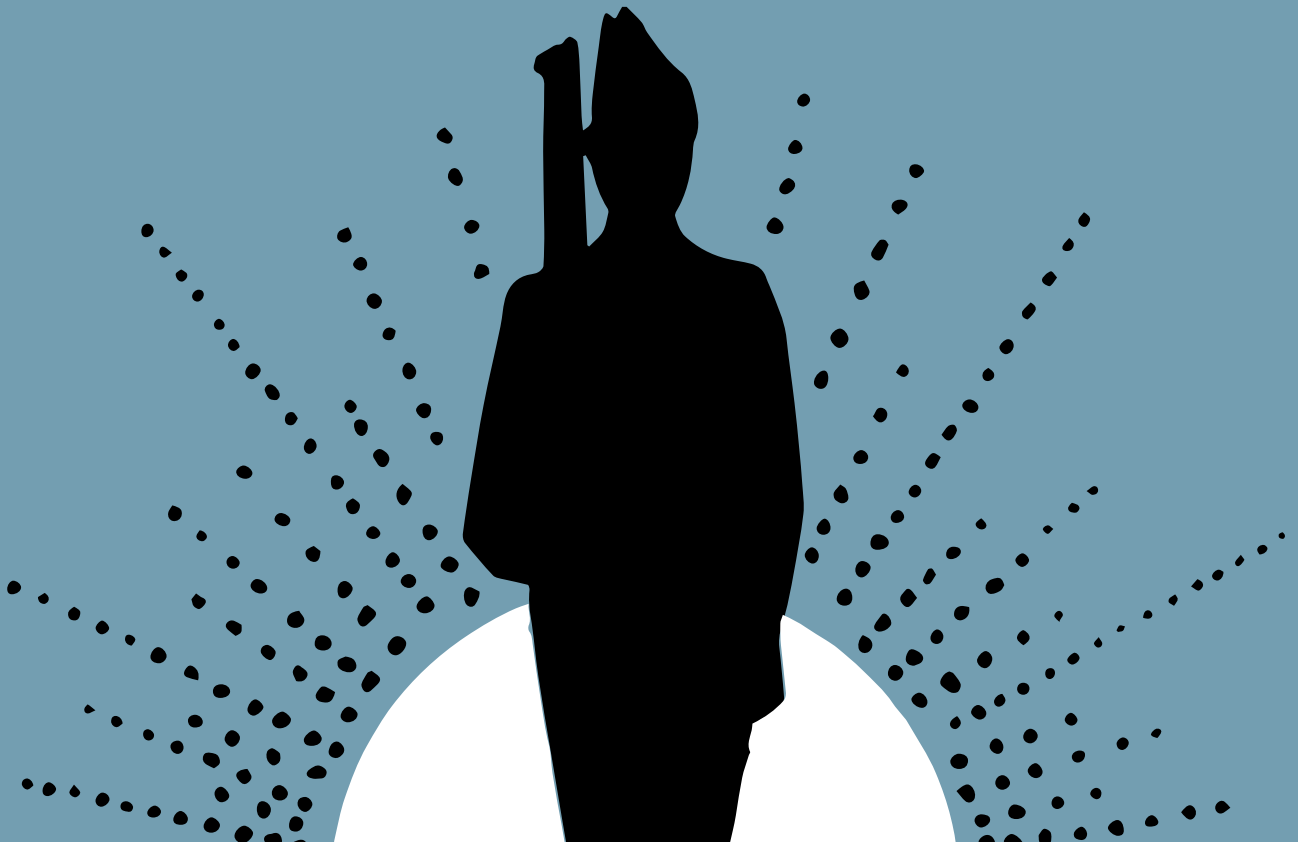


Group photo of 15th International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC) attendees at Croke Park, Dublin, February 2020.
Photo © Shanmugasundaram Venkataraman.

Philanthropies on the island of Ireland, via an online roundtable with speakers from across the island that addressed the history and achievements of human rights work. Shortly after the launch, the ‘Amplifying Change’ project was announced as one of three finalists for the prestigious National Archives (UK) Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy, which celebrates initiatives for their practical application of preservation tools to protect at-risk digital objects. The international panel of expert judges for the Digital Preservation Awards heralded the archive as ‘a watershed project, not just for the fully mature digital preservation tools and services which were deployed’, but also because it ‘shows that digital preservation is a viable proposition: and conversely, that data

loss is a choice’. The project makes openly available the Atlantic grant archives, and adds 40 new oral histories that tell the stories behind major social change work.

As the year drew to a close, and conscious of all the hard work happening despite the challenges of the pandemic, we decided to award our annual Community Archives Award to three very deserving local archives—The Elephant Collective, Dublin Ghost Signs and Dublin-based Community Films by Joe Lee—and look forward to making their collections more widely available and helping them to reach new audiences. 2020 has been a year that has shown more than ever how people can connect, learn, grow and create new knowledge when they have access to quality digital content.



Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

The twelfth volume of Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP), covering 11 October 1961 to 21 April 1965, was published in November 2020, and was **launched virtually** by Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in December 2020. The first volume since DIFP expanded to three full-time members of staff in 2019, it was completed on schedule in the uniquely challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DIFP publishes official archival material on Ireland's foreign relations, and the research and production of a DIFP volume operates on a two-year cycle. The first year is devoted

Events and Outputs

07 April 2020

Release of **online edition of *DIFP Vol. VIII (1945–1948)***

27 July 2020

“Mobilise the poets”: the origins of Irish cultural diplomacy’, by Dr John Gibney. Article in *The Irish Times*.

26 August 2020

Release of new documentary teaching resource for second-level history: **‘The Emergency: Ireland in a world at war, 1939–45’**, edited and compiled by Dr John Gibney (DIFP) and Dr Kate O’Malley (DIB).

30 September 2020

‘Treating shellshock and severed limbs: WWI veterans at Leopardstown and Blackrock hospitals’, by Dr Eoin Kinsella. Online talk for Dublin Festival of History.

Oct–Nov 2020

Launch of redesigned and expanded **DIFP website**, incorporating the contents of *DIFP Vols. I–IX* on open access basis.

23 November 2020

Publication of *DIFP Vol. XII (1961–1965)*

to archival research, and the second year devoted to publication. As it happens, 2020 was a production year, and the process of editing, proofing and annotating the final selection of documents for publication was successfully completed by remote working during and after the first 2020 lockdown.

DIFP XII covers the 1961 to 1965 Fianna Fáil administration of Seán Lemass. Lemass' ultimate foreign policy objective was Ireland's early membership of the European Economic Community (EEC). The slow and painstaking attempts to achieve that goal is the dominant theme in *DIFP XII*. Those attempts stalled following France's January 1963 veto of Britain's parallel EEC application.

The volume reveals the extent to which Lemass controlled Irish foreign policy. He often instructed Minister for External Affairs Frank Aiken on the direction foreign relations should take. Aiken remained focused on the UN, membership of which remained a focal point of Ireland's foreign policy. In December 1961 Ireland championed the passage through the General Assembly of a ground-breaking resolution promoting nuclear non-proliferation. In 1962 Ireland sat on the Security Council for a temporary term, which coincided with the Cuban Missile crisis. As the Defence Forces' difficult

deployment to Congo ended, in 1964 Irish soldiers joined the first units of UN peacekeepers deployed to Cyprus.

DIFP XII covers these major themes and others. It also includes documents on the June 1963 visit of President John F. Kennedy to Ireland, on early steps taken to create Ireland's development aid policy, and the opening of Irish missions in Nigeria and India, and even on how Ireland would respond to the outbreak of a third world war.

The early 1960s improvement in British-Irish relations receives considerable attention. *DIFP XII* includes a sequence of documents on the repatriation of the remains of the executed 1916 leader Roger Casement from Pentonville Prison, culminating in an eyewitness report of the exhumation. A significant foreign policy development coming into view as *DIFP XII* concludes is the improvement of the hitherto poor relationship with Northern Ireland as Lemass and Prime Minister of Northern Ireland Terence O'Neill met in early 1965 to seek common ground between Dublin and Belfast.

Irish policy makers had reason to be hopeful in 1965 that even if EEC membership remained out of reach, at least the traditionally difficult set of interlinked



Ireland's first resident diplomatic mission in Africa was to Nigeria, with an Irish embassy opening in Lagos in 1960. Here, Irish ambassador Eamonn Kennedy pays an official call on H.E. Sir Adesoji Aderemi, governor of Nigeria's Western Region, 17 January 1962 (National Archives of Ireland).

relations between Dublin and Belfast and London were improving. There was as yet little sign of the nascent pressures in Northern Ireland that were soon to place immense strain on these new directions; a theme that will loom large in future volumes of the DIFP series.

Extensive media coverage of *DIFP XII* included a **collaborative piece between DIFP and RTÉ Archives** linking some of the newly published

documents with archival footage from RTÉ. DIFP staff also contributed a short series of articles based on the volume to **RTÉ's Brainstorm platform** on the repatriation of the remains of Roger Casement, Anglo-Irish trade relations, how Ireland was affected by the Cold War between the superpowers, how Irish diplomats viewed the US in the 1960s and the volume was the subject of a special edition of **RTÉ's Brexit Republic podcast**, presented by Colm Ó Mongáin.

Corpas

Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge

The foundation of our Historical Dictionary of Modern Irish is nearing completion, as the content of our digital database of Irish texts written between 1600 and the present day has passed 85 million words. This pioneering database, almost 20 years in the making, contains all the representative evidence needed to achieve the long-held aim of producing the first historical dictionary for modern Irish, to add to the Academy's *Dictionary of the Irish Language based mainly on Old and Middle Irish Materials*, published in 1976. Methods and strategies for extracting the data efficiently and accurately, for the compilation of dictionary entries, are currently being devised and trialled.

Events

17 March 2020

Publication of Irish-language versions of three DIB lives; *Michael Collins, Ernest O'Malley, Maud Gonne McBride*, in collaboration with Fiontar-DCU, for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020

1 May 2020

Acht ós cinneambaint dom imtheacht 'mo dhíorfach – blogpost by Charles Dillon on hermits, hermitages and loneliness in Irish language and literature

20 April 2020

Dorothy Stopford Price, Dochtúir Contribution by Déirdre D'Auria to *Favourite Lives* series, in collaboration with The Dictionary of Irish Biography

15 August 2020

Siúlach Scéalach: Travelling with Micheál Ó Cléirigh 1627-1629 Online exhibition and StoryMap in collaboration with RIA Library, (Heritage Week)

16 October 2020

'Flash Fiction' i bhFoclóir Mháirtín Uí Chadhain – blogpost by Charles Dillon

28 October 2020

Publication online of headwords from *Foclóir Mháirtín Uí Chadhain*, in conjunction with Iontaobhas Uí Chadhain, Galway.

20 November 2020

Máirtín Ó Cadhain Foclóir/ Máirtín Ó Cadhain: Lexicographer – presentation in TCD Symposium 'Máirtín Ó Cadhain 2020' by Charles Dillon and Colm Ó Cuaig

25 November 2020

Nollaig, Craobh, Leabharlann: Podcast in conjunction with Museum of Literature Ireland on *History of Ireland in 100 Words* in collaboration with Cambridge University

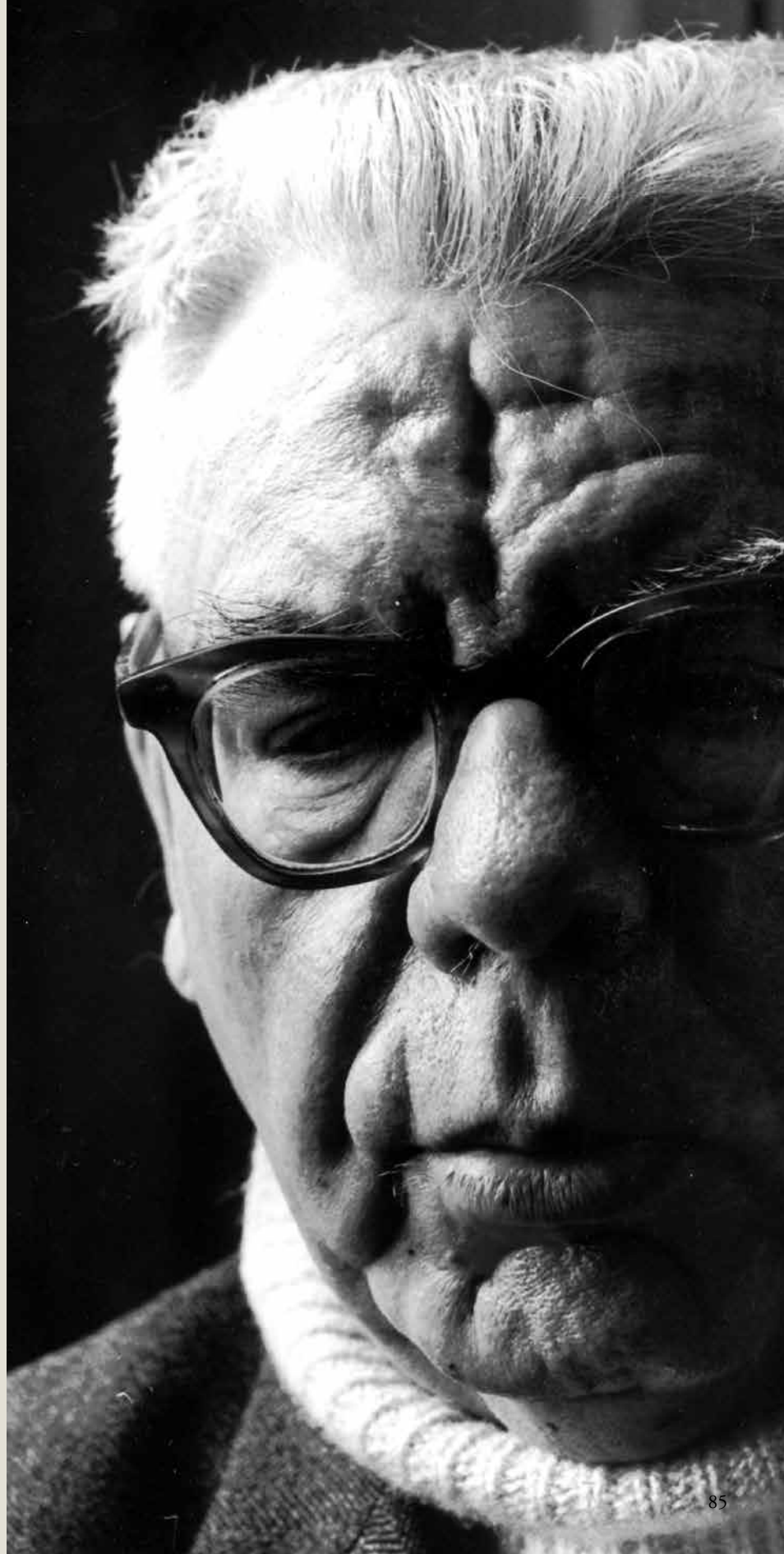
In addition to achieving this progress on the Academy's historical dictionary proper, the team marked the 50th anniversary of the death of the eminent author, activist and scholar Máirtín Ó Cadhain, with a project aiming to provide access for the first time to *Foclóir Uí Chadhain*, a dictionary he compiled of his native Irish dialect of Connemara. This vast unpublished work of lexicography, comprising over 1.1 million handwritten words of linguistic description and examples of word use, has been uncovered and edited by the Academy's research team and will be made available online. Ó Cadhain has enjoyed renewed fame in recent years with the translation to English of some of his most famous creative works, including the novel *Cré na Cille* for the first time, and the imminent publication of his lexicographical achievement will lend further critical insights into his writings. It is a unique glimpse into his world and serves as a linguistic time capsule for discovery of early twentieth-century rural Ireland before a time of societal change eliminated the conditions for much of the speech that he so richly observed around him. Ó Cadhain's dictionary will be made available both in modernised form and in a version preserving the original linguistic forms and spellings, thereby allowing multiple angles of access and research by historians, linguists, lecturers and teachers as well as interested readers. We wish to record our thanks to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and Iontaobhas Uí Chadhain for their support.

Ní fada anois go mbeidh bailchríoch curtha le dúshraith an Fhoclóra Stairiúil, óir tá breis agus 85 milliún focal curtha lenár mbunachar de théacsanna Gaeilge a scríobhadh ó 1600 anall. Tá an bunachar seo á réiteach le fada agus is údar mór sásaimh nach fada eile go mbeidh sé réidh, agus go mbeidh an fhianaise leordhóthanach ann ar an teanga stairiúil le gur féidir foclóir don Nua-Ghaeilge a tharraingt as. Beidh an saothar sin inchomparáide leis an *Dictionary of the Irish Language based mainly on Old and Middle Irish Materials* a d'fhoilsigh an tAcadamh in 1976. Is cóir anois díriú ar an bhfianaise sin a tharraingt as an mbunachar go héifeachtach slán, agus táthar ag ceapadh straitéisí lena dhéanamh sin i láthair na huaire.

Anuas ar an dul chun cinn seo a shlánú ó thaobh an fhoclóra stairiúil de, bhí foireann an tionscadail gafa chomh maith le comóradh a dhéanamh ar 50 bliain ó bhásaigh Máirtín Ó Cadhain, trína ollsaothar foclóireachta a chur ar fáil den chéad uair riamh. Réitigh Ó Cadhain foclóir dá chanúint féin, ina bhfuil breis agus 1.1 milliún focal de shainmhínithe agus de shamplaí úsáide nach bhfaca solas an lae riamh, agus tá an saothar sin le foilsiú anois ag an Acadamh ar líne. Cuirfear arís le clú an údair seo dá bharr, óir tá luach sa scríbhinn seo a théann thar a luach mar fhoclóir agus beidh léargas nua ar fáil do léitheoirí agus do lucht critice ar shaothar agus ar fhriotal Uí Chadhain. Tugtar léargas thairis sin ann ar an phobal a bhí thart timpeall air, pobal Gaeltachta thús na haoise

seo caite sular athraíodh dálaí sóisialta na tíre as éadan. Cuirfear *Foclóir Uí Chadhain* ar fáil ina dhá leagan, idir leagan a léiríonn litriú agus foirmeacha na lámhscríbhinne féin, agus leagan ina bhfuil athruithe agus leasuithe eagarthóireachta curtha i bhfeidhm ar an teanga. Is í an tsúil atá againn go mbeidh idir scoláirí oilte agus an pobal i gcoitinne in ann sult a bhaint as an fhoilseachán nua seo dá réir. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán Cumarsáide, agus le hIontaobhas Uí Chadhain, as a dtacaíocht fhlaithiúil sa tionscadal seo.

Máirtín Ó Cadhain, 1906–70 (reproduced by kind permission of Iontaobhas Uí Chadhain)





Grangegorman Histories

Grangegorman Histories is a new Academy research project and a public history project of Dublin City Council, Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA), Health Service Executive (HSE), Local Communities, National Archives, Royal Irish Academy and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). The Grangegorman Development Agency and the Royal Irish Academy will lead a programme of research and shared discovery to deliver a diverse programme of events, publications and learning opportunities created to uncover the eventful history of the site and surrounding communities.

Grangegorman is located on Dublin's northside, between the suburbs of Phibsborough and Stoneybatter. Over the past 250 years, it has been the site of a workhouse, a prison and a large mental health facility and now it is to be integrated into the city as a health and education campus as the site for the new TU Dublin city campus.

The project aims to stimulate awareness of the multifaceted histories of the Grangegorman area and will support the creation of an ambitious, wide-ranging and challenging programme that will benefit local, national and international stakeholders.

The Grangegorman Histories Programme will engage with the history of the site from three perspectives: People, Places and Practices and the project will be comprehensive, relevant, respectful, transformative, pluralist, accessible and inspirational.

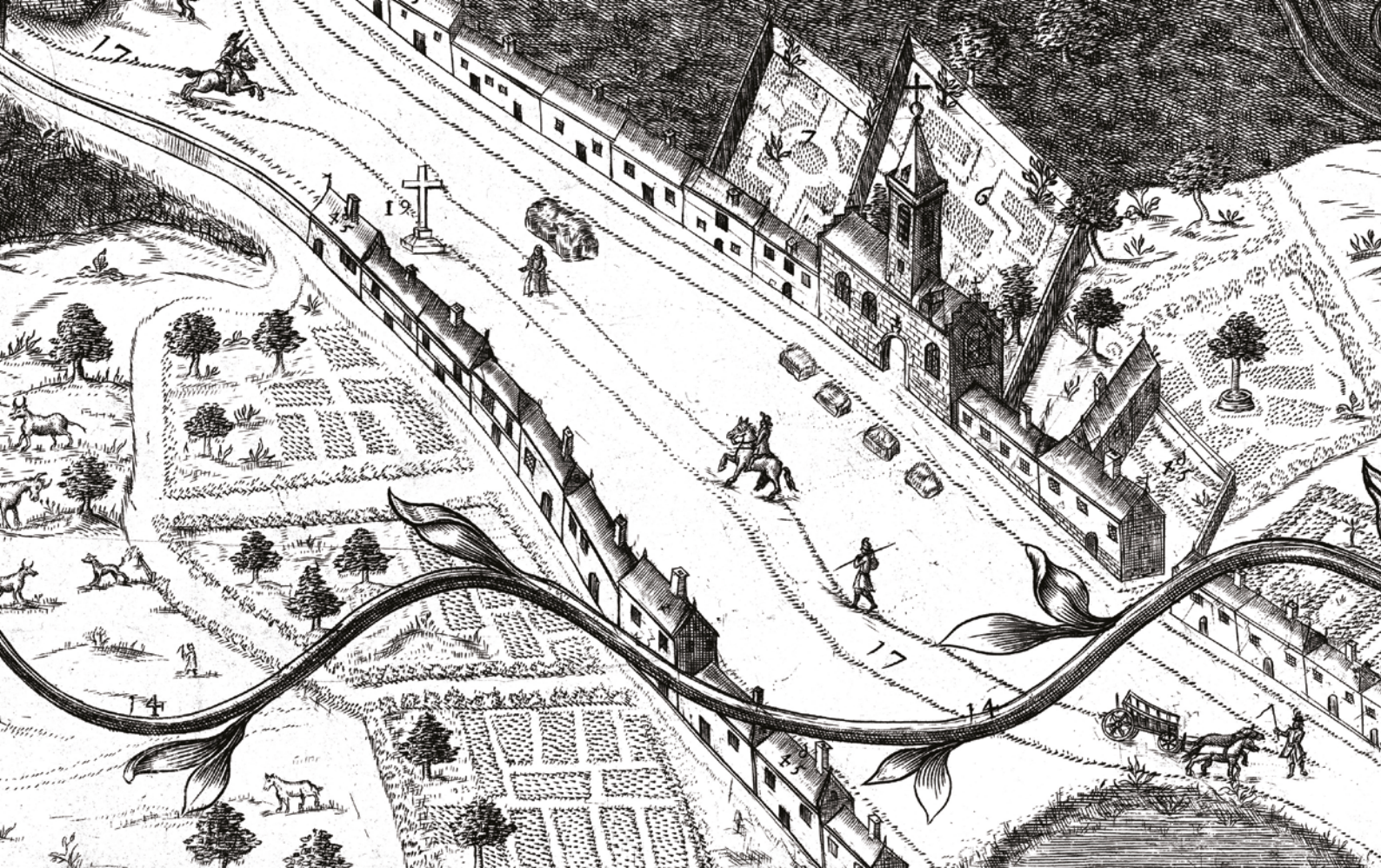
The Grangegorman Histories Expert Working Group, Chaired by Dr Philip Cohen, has been appointed to realise this programme. In June this year, the project launched its foundation document and project website. The foundation document details the strategic approach, governance structure and implementation plan for the project. Despite

the public health restrictions resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic, the programme of activities has continued online with panel discussion events presented for Culture Night (**'Uncovering Grangegorman Histories'**) and the Dublin Festival of History (**'Institutional experience of the 'Spanish' flu and Covid-19 in Ireland'**) and the establishment of a pilot phase for the oral history project, focusing on capturing the recollections of the retired staff members of the former St Brendan's Hospital, synonymous with the site.

More events, research and local engagement are planned for 2021, including the publication by the Academy of Professor Brendan Kelly's book *Grangegorman histories: inside the asylum*.

For more information on Grangegorman Histories visit **grangegormanhistories.ie**





Irish Historic Towns Atlas

The aim of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) is to trace the development and built form of our urban centres. The core work involves an intense programme of research, editing, cartography and production, the results of which are published in print as atlas fascicles or folders (IHTA, nos 1–30) and as digital editions (**IHTA Online**). The intention of this resource is to provide a platform for future research for a variety of users, from citizen to planner, to scholar and teacher from all levels of education. Its remit ranges from providing access to local source material, to facilitating broader comparisons nationally and internationally—the Irish project is part of a wider **European scheme** with over 560 towns covered across nineteen countries, where the IHTA is considered a model. Alongside its core work, the IHTA produce ancillary publications (e.g. the Dublin suburbs series, pocket

Events

13 February 2020

Galway Archaeology Spring Lecture series — lecture ‘Back to the future: Renaissance Galway in the mid-seventeenth century’ by Paul Walsh, author of *Renaissance Galway*.

24 February 2020

Newstalk ‘Talking History’ — radio interview by Patrick Geoghegan with Paul Walsh, author of *Renaissance Galway*.

20 March 2020

IHTA Online — Release of IHTA no. 27, Youghal by David Kelly and Tadhg O’Keeffe.

20 April 2020

Oireachtas Library Treasures series — **online video** ‘Maps!’ with Sarah Gearty discussing John Speed’s 1610 map of Leinster and the Railway Commission Maps from 1836–7.

29 April 2020

Historical Ontology of Urban Space, Polish Academy of Sciences — online conference paper ‘Reading urban topographies: examples from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas’ by Sarah Gearty and Rachel Murphy.

April–June 2020

Town-Type series — **online essays on Monastic, Viking, Anglo-Norman, early modern, plantation, Gaelic, eighteenth and nineteenth-**

century towns by Anngret Simms, Howard Clarke, Michael Potterton, Raymond Gillespie, Colm Lennon and Jacinta Prunty.

12–17 July 2020

Heritage Northern Ireland and British Council Festival of Archaeology — online campaign with samples from the IHTA of ‘People and Places’, ‘Life and Death’, ‘Rivers and Bogs’, ‘Health and Medicine’ by Jennifer Moore.

18 August 2020

Digital Atlas of Dungarvan released for Heritage Week. Digital Atlas, tutorials, **StoryMap available**

18 September 2020

Culture Night — **online exhibition ‘Vignettes from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas’** by Jennifer Moore.

30 September 2020

Dublin Festival of History — **online illustrated lecture**, ‘Dublin 1847: maps and themes’ by Frank Cullen.

6 October 2020

RIA Educational Resources series — ‘IHTA in third-level education: printed and pdfs’ by Ruth McManus.

12 October 2020

RIA Educational Resources series – ‘IHTA in third-level education: digital mapping’ by Rachel Murphy.

24 October 2020

International Literature Festival Dublin, Unfolding Maps series, dedicated to Tim Robinson MRIA — ‘Expressing landscape: mapping Dublin’, film and in conversation (with Vincent Woods) by Sarah Gearty.

17 November 2020

Online lecture in honour of John Andrews MRIA, **‘Man, maps and map history’** by Arnold Horner.

26 November 2020

Explore Your Archives week — online lecture ‘Exploring the land indexes at the Registry of Deeds’ by IHTA Dublin author Rob Goodbody with the Property Registration Authority.

2 December 2020

Publication of IHTA, no. 30, Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán by John Martin.

3 December 2020

Online release of **IHTA, no. 30, Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán** — illustrated lecture by author John Martin followed by interview with William Fraher.

15 December 2020

Publication of *Drogheda c. 1180 to c. 1900: from fortified borough to industrial port town* by Ned Mc Hugh.



maps, *Maps and texts* series, *Renaissance Galway* [author Paul Walsh pictured above], *John Rocque's Dublin* and *Dublin 1847*), develop interactive digital atlases and run a significant programme of engagement including an annual seminar. Overseen by a board of honorary academic editors, the IHTA network draws together researchers from different backgrounds (history, geography, archaeology, architecture) and institutions, and feeds back into Irish life by recording and connecting the built heritage for an increasing number of towns.

The focus of 2020 was the town of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. Several years of

research by author John Martin (pictured on next page with Jennifer Moore, IHTA in Dungarvan), a retired town planner with a long family association with the town, came to fruition with the publication of IHTA, no. 30, *Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán* in October. Pages of maps, views and photographs take the reader from the earliest depictions of Dungarvan (late seventeenth century) up to the present day. A specially commissioned reconstruction map of the town, digitised from mid-nineteenth-century town plans, and a range of thematic maps illustrate in detail aspects of the town's character. Alongside the visual record, readers are introduced to



the history of Dungarvan in an essay that looks at how the town has been shaped through the centuries. Accompanying this, are an extensive gazetteer of over 1,300 sites arranged in thematic sections and a comprehensive bibliography.

‘The built-up area of Dungarvan has greatly expanded over the past fifty years, but the historic street pattern remains evident within the urban core. The conversion of the disused but scenic 46 km rail line from Waterford as a cycle and pedestrian Greenway in 2017 has energised the local economy ... There is a growing

appreciation of the links between past, present and future, as evidenced by the presence of a vibrant local museum and by the role of heritage within the tourism sector. Dungarvan enters a new decade that is replete with possibility.’

John Martin, author, IHTA, no. 30
Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán.

Earlier in the year and spurred on by lockdown, energy was channelled into the preparation of the **Digital Atlas of Dungarvan**, which was released as part of National Heritage Week on 18 August. This

digital version is an interactive map created using Arc GIS Online and is based on the original research and cartography carried out by the IHTA team. Freely available and accessible online, the Digital Atlas of Dungarvan provides layers of historic maps that show how the town has changed over time, with detailed historical information on c. 650 individual sites incorporated. A Story Map introduces and explains the Digital Atlas using a series tutorial videos that encourage users to explore the full potential of the resource, particularly for

teachers and students at all levels. The value of the atlas goes well beyond the classroom, however, as noted by Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer, in the *Dungarvan Observer*:

‘As we look to preparing a new Development Plan for Waterford City and County in 2020 the launch of the Historic Towns Atlas for Dungarvan reminds us of the importance of understanding the evolution of a townscape and the influences of land

Grattan Square, Dungarvan, looking north-west, c. 1900 (Lawrence Collection, National Library of Ireland).
Reproduced as Plate 5, in IHTA, no. 30, *Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán*.





New Survey of Clare Island

The ninth volume in the **New Survey of Clare Island** series focuses on the birds of Clare Island and was released on 17 August as part of Heritage Week.

The book invites readers to explore Clare Island's avifauna, including the seabirds, land birds and waterbirds (Puffins, pictured above. Ringed plover and wren pictured on next page. Photographs by R. Mills), and to investigate the curious absence of breeding rooks from the island. This volume features a systematic list comprised of records of bird sightings that stretch from 1887 to 2018. The result of almost 20 years of fieldwork, it is an invaluable source for future monitoring of birds on Clare Island and beyond.



several times by the late Major Robert F. Ruttledge. The current 'Birds' volume focuses exclusively on Clare Island and applies modern methods of census.

The New Survey of Clare Island is a unique multidisciplinary project, the overall aim being to assess the environmental changes that have taken place over the last hundred years on Clare Island. Together with Robert Lloyd Praeger's first Clare Island Survey, the New Survey provides an invaluable body of research informing future conservation of natural and built heritage of Ireland and Europe.

The first Clare Island Survey of 1909–11 was the most ambitious natural history project ever undertaken in Ireland and the first major biological survey of a specific area carried out in the world. The 'Birds' paper included in that survey was written by Richard J. Ussher and was based on fieldwork conducted on the island between 1909 and 1911. Ussher's 'Aves' paper, however, also summarised details of the avifauna of a wider area in the west of Ireland—mainly the Counties of Galway and Mayo—a theme that was revisited





Library

Creative women of Ireland

From lesser-known artists to well-established writers, this fascinating exhibition focused on creative Irish women, including Sophia Rosamond Praeger, Eileen Barnes, Mary Fitzpatrick and Katharine Tynan. It explored the background and achievements of these women, drawing mainly on material from the Academy archives but also from the extensive print collections in the RIA Library. Originally scheduled to run from 9 March until 23 December at Academy House, the exhibition is now **available online** on our new digital collections webpage.

Events

13 January 2020

‘The Books of Knockninny: manuscripts, culture and society in 18th-century Fermanagh’
an exhibition to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the compilation of the ‘Book of Knockninny’.

Jan–Feb 2020

Library exhibition: ‘Discovering Thomas Moore: Ireland in nineteenth-century Europe’ in collaboration with Queen’s University Belfast.

29 January 2020

Lunchtime lecture: ‘Séamus Mág Uidhir and the Book(s) of Knockninny’ by Dr Nollaig Ó Muraíle MRIA

5 February 2020

Lunchtime lecture: “‘Me Guidhir Fhear-manach’: text and context’ by Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, DCU

26 February 2020

Lunchtime lecture: ‘An English take on an Irish character: John Henry Newman’s Irish printing-type’ by Dr Dermot McGuinne

9 March 2020

26 April 2020 (online)
‘Creative women of Ireland: artists and women from the archives’

11 March 2020

Lunchtime lecture: ‘Nuala and her sisters: the daughters of Aodh Ó Domhnaill and An Iníon Dubh’ by Dr Pádraig Ó Macháin, Professor of Modern Irish, UCC

28 April 2020

Online exhibition: ‘Prodigies of learning: Academy women in the nineteenth century’

20 June 2020

Online exhibition: ‘Aon Amharc ar Éirinn: Gaelic families and their manuscripts’.

15 August 2020

Online exhibition for Heritage Week: ‘Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library’.

15 August 2020

Online interactive exhibitions for Heritage Week: **‘Síúlach scéalach - Travelling with Mí-cheál Ó Cléirigh 1627–1629’**; **‘Síúlach scéalach: Ag taisteal le Mícheál Ó Cléirigh 1627–1629’**

15 August 2020

Online exhibition for Heritage Week: **‘Cairns, cromlechs and castles: Antiquarian sketches and drawings from the Royal Irish Academy Library’s collections’**

7 September 2020

Online interactive Story Map for Dublin Festival of History: **‘Surveying Dublin. Discover the nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey Letters and drawings of Dublin’.**

7 September 2020

Online illustrated talk by Dr Bernadette Cunningham: **‘Stories of St James’s Gate - the gate, not the brewery’** For the Dublin Festival of History

7 September 2020

Online illustrated talk by Lars Nooij: **“‘Made in Tallaght’’: An investigation of the origins of the early medieval Irish manuscript known as the Stowe Missal’.** For the Dublin Festival of History

18 September 2020

Virtual tour of Academy House. For Culture Night.

21–29 November 2020

Explore Your Archive 2020

Sophia Rosamond Praeger

(1867–1954) was a sculptor, illustrator, botanical artist (opening image and this page) and poet from Holywood, Co. Down. She studied at the Government School of Art in Belfast before enrolling at the Slade School of Art in London where she won numerous prizes and scholarships. Her work was exhibited widely in Dublin, Belfast, London, Paris and Brussels. Praeger was a member of the Guild of Irish Art Workers, an honorary member of the Royal Hibernian Academy and president of the Royal Ulster Academy from 1941–3. She advocated for women's rights and illustrated cards and posters for women's suffrage groups in Ireland and England. The Praeger Collection in the RIA Library features a photograph of Sophia Rosamond Praeger at Slieve Glah in Co. Cavan, taken by Robert J. Welch in June 1896. This photograph encapsulates Praeger's love of nature that was shared by her brother Robert, who collaborated with her on two books: *Open-air studies in botany*, printed in London in 1897, and *Weeds: simple lessons for children*, printed in Cambridge in 1913. Praeger went on to illustrate a wide range of children's books, the most well-known of which was *The young stamp*

collectors. She was also a very talented sculptor, working in plaster, marble, bronze, terracotta and stone.

Eileen Elizabeth Janet

Barnes (1876–1956) was born in Great Britain Street (now Parnell Street) in Dublin to Edwin and Elizabeth (née McKay) Barnes. She was educated at the Rutland School for Girls and later at the Dublin Metropolitan School





of Art. Barnes worked for the National Museum of Ireland for over forty years and was involved in making models, restoring artefacts and illustrating antiquities. She was commissioned by many institutions throughout her career including the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Renowned illuminating artist **Mary Fitzpatrick** (1860–1937) studied Celtic design and the art and script of old Irish manuscripts, which strongly influenced her work (detail above). Fitzpatrick established a business in the early 1890s at Clonliffe Road in Dublin and enjoyed many years of success, designing highly decorative addresses to important figures in society. One of these addresses, donated to the Academy by the Trustees of All Hallows College, Dublin, was presented to the Rev. Nicholas Donnelly DD, an auxiliary bishop of Dublin, on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his ordination in 1908.

Mia Cranwill (1880–1972) was born in Drumcondra, Dublin and moved to Manchester with her family in about 1895, where she later studied at the Manchester School of Art. Returning to Dublin in 1917

she began designing and crafting jewellery with Celtic motifs at her studio on Suffolk Street. Cranwill received commissions from various supporters including members of the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan. In 1924 she was commissioned to design the Senate Casket by Alice Stopford Green as a gift to the first Senate of the Irish Free State. It was presented to the Academy in 1936 by a resolution of the Senate at its last meeting.

Katharine Tynan Hinkson (1859–1931) was a Dublin-born novelist, poet and journalist who worked with W.B. Yeats to produce a compilation of Young Ireland poems, including her own poem ‘Papist and puritan’. The Academy Library holds a small collection of forty-eight letters received by Tynan in the period 1901–17, from individuals such as Lady Grosvenor and George Wyndham.

The final woman featured in the online exhibition is Lady Sydney Morgan (c.1783–1859), who was famous for her popular novel *The wild Irish girl*. The Academy holds a portrait of Lady Sydney Morgan that was bequeathed by Sir Charles W. Dilke in 1911.



This important exhibition continued the theme of women's history, which was the focus of the Library's exhibition and lecture series in 2018–19.

Digital collections

A number of new online exhibitions were curated for National Heritage Week, including 'Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library' and 'Cairns, cromlechs and castles: Antiquarian sketches and drawings from the Royal Irish Academy Library's collections' (pictured above). The Library also collaborated with Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge on the development of an interactive online exhibition 'Ag taisteal le

Mícheál Ó Cléirigh 1627–1629 / Travelling with Mícheál Ó Cléirigh 1627–1629', bringing to life the work of a seventeenth-century scribe who travelled extensively, in arduous circumstances, to consult precious Gaelic manuscript sources, now preserved in the Royal Irish Academy, UCD, the Royal Library, Brussels and other institutions.

As part of the Dublin Festival of History, the Library created an online interactive exhibition on Ordnance Survey letters and drawings relating to Dublin and held two online illustrated talks: 'Stories of St James's Gate' by Dr Bernadette Cunningham, and 'Made in Tallaght: An investigation of the origins of the early medieval Irish

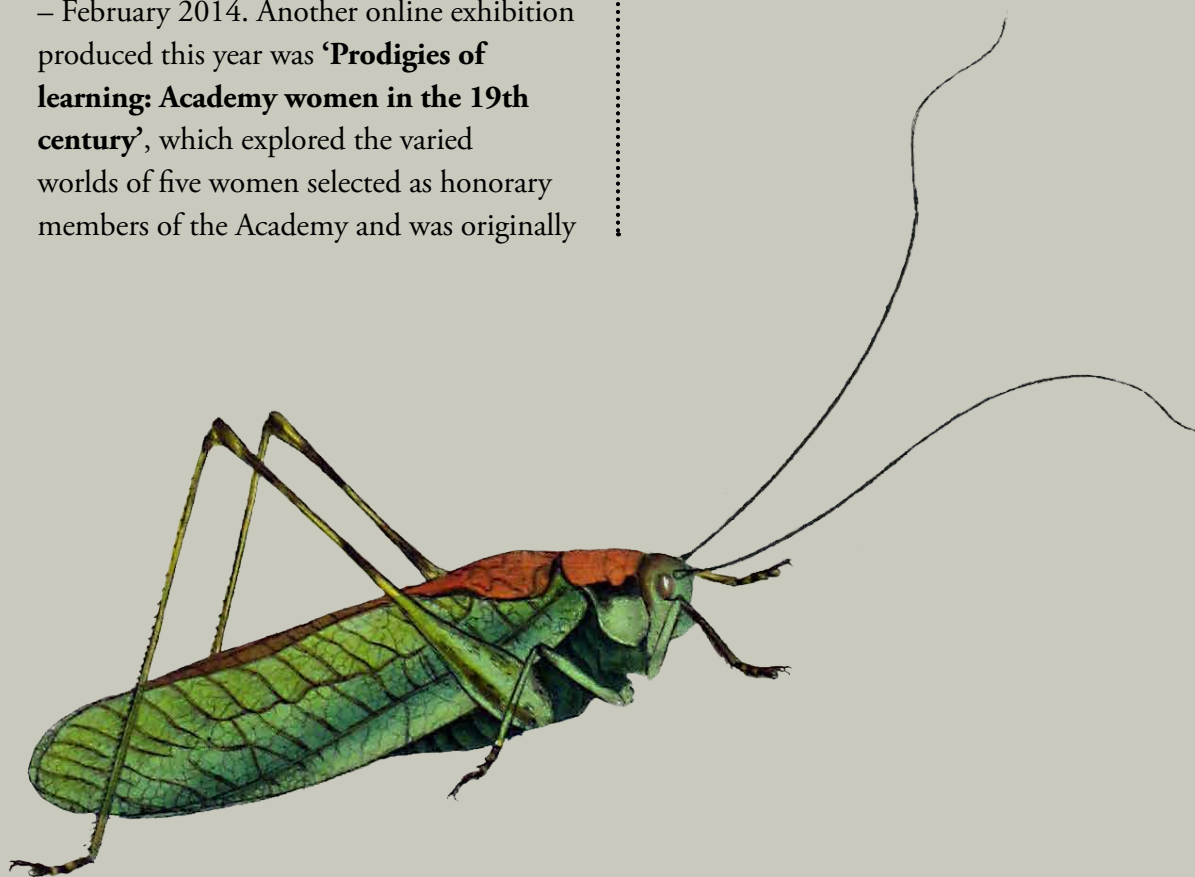
manuscript known as the Stowe Missal' by Lars Nooij, Maynooth University. On 18 September, the Library celebrated Culture Night by presenting a virtual tour of Academy House, which included an overview of the history of the building, the RIA and the Library collections.

Many of the late medieval and early modern Irish manuscripts preserved in the Academy Library were long associated with learned families in Gaelic Ireland. This year we launched an online exhibition to explore the role and impact of these families on the Gaelic manuscript tradition. The exhibition '**Aon amharc ar Éirinn: Gaelic families and their manuscripts**' was originally on display in Academy House from July 2013 – February 2014. Another online exhibition produced this year was '**Prodigies of learning: Academy women in the 19th century**', which explored the varied worlds of five women selected as honorary members of the Academy and was originally

displayed in Academy House in 2018–19. The Library website was redesigned to showcase these new digital initiatives, and extensive material was added to the Special Collections webpage.

Exhibition Loans

The Library's copy of Edward Donovan's *An epitome of the natural history of the insects of China* (detail below), published in London in 1798, was featured in the 'Drawn from nature: Irish botanical art' exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland in July and August. This illustrated book, containing fifty hand-coloured plates, was from the library of Cynthia Longfield Roberts, acquired by donation in 1979.



Vellum manuscript RIA 23 Q 6 was on display in Galway City Museum as part of the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture programme of events. The exhibition explored the cultural, intellectual and physical environment of the schools of higher learning in premodern Gaelic Ireland. The manuscript was displayed with a medieval manuscript from the British Library (MS Egerton 88). The two manuscripts originally formed one manuscript that was written in the 1560s by Donal O'Davoren (Ó Duibhdabhoireann) and his students.

Discoverability

The Library engaged in an exciting collaboration to facilitate the discoverability of its collections of antiquarian watercolours. Twenty-three sketches from the Gabriel Beranger collection (pictured on next page) are now available on Watercolourworld.org, a not-for-profit UK trust-based foundation dedicated to enabling the discoverability of pre-1900 watercolours and making them freely available online. We hope to continue this collaboration in the future with the further ingest of relevant Academy collections.

The Library continued to host the Irish History Online database, the national bibliography for Irish history, which is published as an open access resource, free to users worldwide.

Two Academy manuscripts were imaged by Irish Script on Screen in January 2020 and were published online in May and June respectively. MS 24 P 23 is among the earliest known copies of the full version of Keating's *Foras feasa ar Éirinn*, comprising 414 pages and transcribed by at least three different hands, and MS 23 O 19 is a paper manuscript undertaken by Iollan mac Torna mic Muiris Uí Mhaolchonaire.

The Library continues its partnership with Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge and the Tyndall Institute at UCC on the 'Inks and Skins' project to explore the materiality of the late-medieval Gaelic vernacular manuscript (1100–1600). XRF spectroscopic analysis on the Book of Uí Mhaine (RIA MS D ii 1) took place in August and December 2020.

We also continued our involvement with the 'Beyond 2022' project, which aims to reconstitute the lost archive of the Public Records Office. Six volumes of Ordnance Survey manuscripts are now available to view on the [project website](#). More than twenty-five additional volumes from the Library have been imaged by the project and will be made available in due course.

The Library is also participating in two projects jointly funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Irish Research Council (IRC) as part of the UK-Ireland Collaboration in Digital Humanities Networking programme. The

first project is the Digital Edgeworth Network, which is a collaboration between UCC, the University of Oxford and the National Library of Ireland to explore and analyse the manuscript archive of the celebrated author Maria Edgeworth (1768–1849). The second project is a Digital Framework for the Medieval Gaelic World, led by Maynooth University and Queens University Belfast, to explore the impact of digitisation on manuscript access and research.

New Librarian

Our esteemed colleague Siobhán Fitzpatrick retired as Librarian in early April after a career at the Academy that spanned several decades. Siobhán worked tirelessly during this time to preserve and care for the collections while also making them open and accessible to readers. The new Librarian, Barbara McCormack, took up the post in April 2020.

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The Library is grateful to Irish Historical Studies Publications for providing sponsorship for the maintenance of Irish History Online.

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