

What's the Story? Aon Scéal?

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Newsletter

Nuachtlitir Dhámh na nDán agus na nDaonnachtaí

Celebrating Success and Academic Excellence | December 2025



What's Inside?

Faculty Events

- Anrocomrairncisiumairne Launched in The Royal Irish Academy - 2
- Careers with Classics 2025 - 3
- Career Speed Networking Event - 3
- Medical Worlds Workshop - 4
- New Ogham in 3D Website Launched- 4
- Pulse of the Peatland - 5
- Society for the Study of Nineteenth-century Ireland Conference
- 18th- 19th June 2026 - 5
- Winter Gala Concert 2025 - 6

Recent and Upcoming Publications

- Book Review of Black Dragon: Afro Asian Performance and the Martial Arts Imagination - 7
- Conference Volumes on The Ulster Cycle of Tales and Cisalpine Celtic Literacy -7
- Des mots qui touchent. Gynécologie et obstétrique autrement / Words that Matter. Rethinking Obstetrics and Gynaecology - 8
- Dictatorship and Repressed Sexuality in Lemebel and Rivas' 'Blokes' - 8
- Essays on Music, Politics and Resistance - Sounding Empowerment - 9

- The Hospital in French and Francophone Cultures - 9
- Writing and Voicing Mothers and Motherhood: The Rise of the Maternal Narrative - 10

Research Successes

- Invited Guest Lecture at Trinity College Dublin on Bruce Lee and Cultural Representation - 11
- GRA Postgraduate Research Excellence Award - 11
- Nominations for The 5th Arqus Teaching Excellence Award -12
- Season Three of The Medieval Irish History Podcast - 12
- Yale University Symposium on Irish Studies - 12

Season's Greetings

- Christmas Message -13
- Arts and Minds 2026 - 13

New Submissions

- Help Shape The Next Edition - 14
- Acknowledgements - 14



Faculty Events

Highlights from recent and upcoming events across the Faculty, showcasing our thriving academic community.

Anrocomrairncicsiumairne Launched in The Royal Irish Academy

Prof. Deborah Hayden

On the 5th of November 2024, the team of the Maynooth-Glasgow research project OG(H)AM hosted a launch event in the Royal Irish Academy to celebrate the completion of the spectacular new artwork 'Anrocomrairncicsiumairne' by the talented scribal and graffiti artist and parchment-maker Thomas Keyes. This piece is the culmination of one strand of the project *_Ogham Palaeography+_*, which was supported by the award of an Impact and Engagement Grant from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The artwork is a contemporary illuminated version of the Old Irish *_Scholars' Primer_* (*_Auraicept na nÉces_*), contained in the fourteenth-century Book of Ballymote (Royal Irish Academy MS 23 P 12). Keyes's artwork is currently on display in the Reading Room of the Academy and a print will soon be hung in the Arts Building at Maynooth.



Careers with Classics 2025

Cosetta Cadau



On Wednesday the 17th of September, the fifth edition of Careers with Classics was hosted by the Department of Ancient Classics and the Employability Service in the Arts Annex. This initiative, designed to bridge the gap between third level institutions and secondary schools, was launched in 2021 with the goal of showcasing the broad range of professional paths that are open to a Classics graduate.

This year we welcomed Maynooth Classics graduates Niamh FitzGerald (Development and Alumni Office), Ruth O' Hara (MU Library) and Sean Hodgins (Goodbody), as well as international graduates Sarah Coviello (Russborough House) and Leonardo Biagini (National Library of Ireland), who shared their professional experience with pupils, teachers and guidance counsellors from Wexford CBS, Bremore Educate Together Balbriggan, and Loreto Abbey Secondary School only to name a few.

Career Speed Networking Event

Seamus O'Neill

On Tuesday November 18th, ten alumni from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities participated in a Career Speed Networking Event with 39 students, providing valuable career insights across a range of industries such as communications, media, marketing, journalism and the creative arts. This event was organised by the Careers and Employability Service, Development and Alumni Office and the THRIVE Initiative.

The event was a great success, increasing student's networking confidence by nearly 35%, communication skills by 14% and career clarity by 9%.

"I think this event was very successful! I would love to do it again." - MU student

Medical Worlds Workshop

Prof. Deborah Hayden

On 5-6 June 2025, the MU-based research project LEIGHEAS (_Language, Education and Medical Learning in the Premodern Gaelic World_) hosted a workshop at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge on the theme of 'Medical Words/Medical Worlds: Medical Language and its Contexts in the Medieval Latin West'. The workshop was co-organised by members of the project _A Chronology of the Medieval Irish Lexicon_ (based in Cambridge and Queen's University Belfast) and featured speakers from the UK, USA, Ireland, Italy and France. It was also the occasion for the launch of the volume _Medicine in the Medieval North Atlantic World. Vernacular Texts and Traditions_, edited by the LEIGHEAS PI Prof. Deborah Hayden (MU) and Dr Sarah Baccianti (National Museums NI) and recently published Open Access with Brepols.



New Ogham in 3D Website Launched

Prof. Deborah Hayden

On 12 November 2025, OG(H)AM project team (including Early Irish staff members Prof. David Stifter, Prof. Deborah Hayden, Dr Nora White and Dr Patricia O'Connor) launched the new 'Ogham in 3D' website at the Royal Irish Academy as part of the annual Teangeolaíocht na Gaeilge conference.

This was the culmination of 4 years of work to digitally document all c. 640 examples of ogham writing in all media, from its origin (probably in the fourth century CE) until the dawn of the modern revival c. 1850. Prof. Stifter and Prof. Hayden also co-authored a major article on the newly discovered 'Minchin Manuscript' in the National Library of Scotland, a 19th-century notebook written entirely in ogham; this was published Open Access in the 2025 volume of _Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Archaeology, Culture, History, Literature_.



Pulse of the Peatland

Dr Adrian Scahill



On Wednesday 8 December in the Aula Maxima, The Music Department's Artist in Residence Ruairí Glasheen hosted the culmination of the Pulse of the Peatland project—a relaxed, creative, and genuinely fun day of music-making, collaboration, and community engagement on campus. The event involved children, musicians and teachers from Music Generation Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath; St Mark's Special School Newbridge; Maynooth CCE; and the Music Department.

Pulse of the Peatland is an interdisciplinary arts project exploring the cultural, ecological, and musical heritage of Ireland's peatlands. As Artist in Residence, Ruairí Glasheen developed new music and film inspired by the landscape while working with local schools and groups to bring the stories and rhythms of the bog to life.

Society for the Study of Nineteenth-century Ireland Conference 18th- 19th June 2026

Dr Sarah Roddy and Dr Joe Curran

Dr Sarah Roddy and Dr Joe Curran will organise the SSNCI conference in Maynooth in June 2026, with the broadly defined theme 'Intimacies in nineteenth-century Ireland'. Submissions are welcome from disciplines across the Arts and Humanities. Keynote speakers are Professors Fionnuala Dillane (UCD), Marc Mulholland (Oxford) and Dr Leanne Calvert (Limerick).



Winter Gala Concert 2025

Dr. Michael Dawson

The Winter Gala Concert 2025 marked a successful and energetic start to the season for the 2025/2026 Maynooth University Chamber Choir, with two sold-out performances. Formed in October and comprising an equal mix of new and returning members, the choir prepared the programme in just two months. The concerts featured the choir's first collaboration with a School of Business programme and included the premiere of *Lámh agus Lámh* (text by Dubhán Ó Longáin, music by Seán Doherty).

The choir was delighted to welcome Maynooth University President, Professor Eeva Leinonen, and the performances were warmly received by the university community.





Recent and Upcoming Publications

A spotlight on the most recent and upcoming publications written and edited by our dedicated colleagues.

Book Review of *Black Dragon: Afro Asian Performance and the Martial Arts Imagination*

Joseph Clarke

Joseph published his first peer-reviewed book review in March 2025 in the *Asian Journal of Sport History and Culture*. The review examines *Black Dragon: Afro Asian Performance and the Martial Arts Imagination* by Prof. Zachary F. Price, focusing on Afro-Asian cultural exchange, performance, and the global circulation of martial arts imaginaries. This publication forms part of his PhD research in Chinese Studies at Maynooth University, which examines Bruce Lee's cultural, ideological, and transnational legacy through frameworks of cultural hegemony and representation.



Conference Volumes on The Ulster Cycle of Tales and Cisalpine Celtic Literacy

Department of Early Irish

In August 2025, two proceedings volumes of conferences held in Maynooth, and edited by staff of the Department of Early Irish, were published by curach bhán publishers:

Lára Ní Mhaoláin, David Stifter & Elizabeth Boyle (eds.), *Ulidia 5*. Papers from the fifth international conference on the Ulster cycle of tales. Maynooth 18–20 March 2016 [= Maynooth Medieval Irish Texts 7], Hagen/Westfalen: curach bhán publications 2025.

Corinna Salomon and David Stifter (eds.), *Cisalpine Celtic Literacy*. Proceedings of a Workshop, Maynooth 23–24 June 2022 [= Maynooth Studies in Celtic Linguistics 6], Hagen/Westfalen: curach bhán 2025.



Des mots qui touchent. Gynécologie et obstétrique autrement / Words that Matter. Rethinking Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Loïc Bourdeau

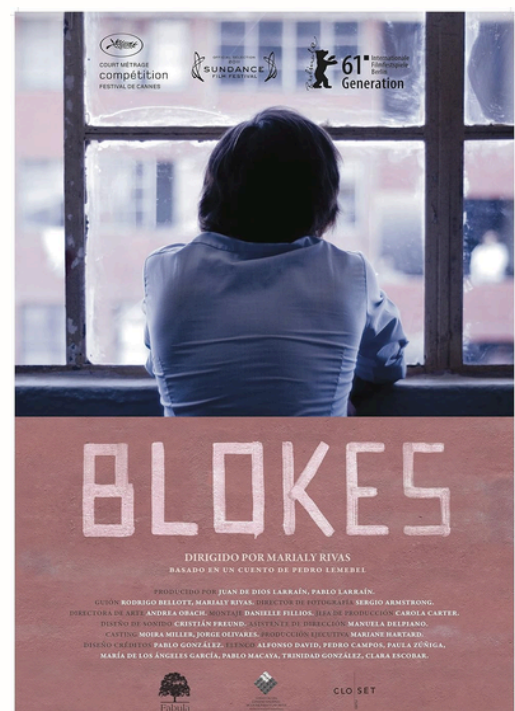
This new book at the intersection of non-fiction and research explores obstetric and gynaecological care through testimonies, literary narratives, and embodied voices, bringing narrative medicine into dialogue with gender studies and the medical humanities. The book is an invitation to practise care that is more attentive, more just, and more genuinely patient-led (with a foreword by French writer Camille Laurens). The work also connects to an ongoing collaboration with local artist Pauline Keena, including her Cork exhibition *The Paradise [mother unmothered]* and Bourdeau's accompanying public talk (available to read here): <https://backwaterartists.ie/the-paradise-mother-unmothered-exhibition-text-by-dr-loic-bourdeau/>. Keena's work will come to Maynooth for a special event in Semester 2.



Dictatorship and Repressed Sexuality in Lemebel and Rivas' 'Blokes'

Arcadio Bolaños Acevedo

Article published in Latin American Perspectives, a peer-reviewed academic journal of the University of California, Riverside.



Essays on Music, Politics and Resistance - Sounding Empowerment

Dr Adrian Scahill and
Dr Helen Lawlor (TUD)

A new edited collection, *Essays on Music, Politics and Resistance: Sounding Empowerment*, edited by Adrian Scahill and Helen Lawlor, has been published by Cambridge Scholars Press. It was launched by Professor Lonán Ó Briain (Nottingham University) at the ICTMD Ireland 20th Anniversary Symposium in MTU Cork on November 21. The book explores the relationship between music, power, and politics. Going beyond protest music, it reveals how music serves as a tool for empowerment and social justice, helping marginalized communities establish a voice, foster identity, and shape new political realities.



The Hospital in French and Francophone Cultures

Dr. Benjamin Dalton and
Dr. Áine Larkin

This edited collection, in preparation, explores the relationship between the hospital and contemporary French and Francophone thought, literature, film and visual art today, asking: How is the hospital represented in contemporary French and Francophone culture? How do contemporary engagements with the hospital differ from prior literary, filmic and philosophical inhabitations of clinical space? What dialogues exist between these philosophical and artistic engagements and architectural theories and hospital transformation projects? And further: how might philosophical and artistic engagements with the hospital dialogue productively and collaborate with such theories in a mutually transformative relationship, to help us to imagine, design, and construct the hospitals of the future?



Global Narratives of Motherhood

Julie Anne Rodgers, Eglė Kačkutė, Rūta Šlapkauskaitė

Julie Anne Rodgers (Maynooth University), with Eglė Kačkutė and Rūta Šlapkauskaitė (Vilnius University), guest-edited this special issue of Literatūra (Vol. 67 No. 4). The opening article frames the “maternal narrative” as a major contemporary literary and cultural development, sets out the issue’s core questions (voice, representation, and the realities of mothering across contexts), and situates the collection within the EU Horizon 2020 MotherNet Twinning project and its 2024 Vilnius conference. This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 952366.





Research Successes

Showcasing recent research achievements and awards from across the faculty.

Invited Guest Lecture at Trinity College Dublin on Bruce Lee and Cultural Representation

Joseph Clarke

Joseph has been invited to deliver a guest lecture at Trinity College Dublin in February on his doctoral research examining Bruce Lee's cultural and ideological legacy. The lecture explores questions of race, identity, cultural exchange, and representation across Chinese and Western contexts, drawing on theories of cultural hegemony and Orientalism. The event reflects ongoing research connections between Maynooth University and Trinity College Dublin and contributes to wider interdisciplinary discussions in film, performance, and Chinese Studies.



GRA Postgraduate Research Excellence Award

Benedetta D'Antuono



The Graduate Research Academy has awarded Benedetta D'Antuono (PhD Sean-Ghaeilge) a Postgraduate Research Excellence Award (Faculty of Arts and Humanities) for her "outstanding research achievements". Benedetta's research focuses on Irish translations of European romances in the mid fifteenth and early sixteenth century, and is supervised by Professor Deborah Hayden. Benedetta has also recently placed joint third in the Three Minute Thesis competition.

Nominations for The 5th Arqus Teaching Excellence Award

The Arqus Alliance is thrilled to announce the launch of the fifth Arqus Teaching Excellence Award competition. This award seeks to recognise educators who exemplify innovation and excellence in their pedagogical practices, fostering a culture of learning that transcends disciplinary boundaries and empowers students from diverse backgrounds to thrive in inclusive, community-based and dynamic learning environments. The submission deadline is January 15th 2026.



Season Three of The Medieval Irish History Podcast

Dr Niamh Wycherley and Tiago Veloso Silva

With over 132K listens worldwide, this increasingly popular podcast is back for a third season! Recent episodes shine a spotlight on exciting new research in the Faculty, including a prize-winning recent graduate from the Depts of History and English, Emily Little on Gráinne Ní Mháille, the Pirate Queen, and Postdoctoral fellow in the Dept of Early Irish, Dr Hannah Mac Auliffe on Samhain.

Also check out Dr Elizabeth Boyle on Poets in Ireland and Prof. Deborah Hayden tells us about her work on medieval medicine. Thank you to the Dept of Music, the Dept of Media Studies, and the AHI for use of recording facilities!

Yale University Symposium on Irish Studies

Dr Michael Cronin and Prof. Emer Nolan

Dr Michael Cronin and Prof Emer Nolan were speakers at a Yale symposium on Irish Studies on 14 November 2025. The topic was 'Passions and Convictions: Literature and Criticism in a Changing Ireland'.





Season's Greetings

Wishing you all a joyful
festive season!

Christmas Message

As the semester draws to a close, we would like to thank you all for your hard work, dedication and collaboration throughout the year. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas period, and successful year ahead. We would also like to draw your attention to the Arts and Minds Festival 2026, which will take place from the 7th - 9th of May 2026.





New Submissions

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please follow the details below.

Help Shape The Next Edition!

Do you have news you would like to share? If so, please submit it using the [Microsoft Teams form](#) on the FAH page. It is located on the right hand side of the Faculty Homepage, just below the “Contact Us” box. Alternatively, you can contact our new FAH Intern, Orlaith Kelly with any submissions or queries you may have at : orlaith.kelly@mu.ie .

We welcome all items, including new publications or creative outputs, upcoming events, awards, grants, project updates, CFPs, media features or community engagements. The submission deadline for our next edition is **February 19th, 2026**. We look forward to hearing about your achievements and successes in the coming year!

Acknowledgements

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thank you!