

# IASIL Japan Newsletter

2019 No. 2

The Japan Branch of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

September 2019

## 1. IASIL Japan Conference 2019, Konan Women's University/Konan Gakuen Hirao Kinenkan

The IASIL Japan Conference 2019 will be held on Saturday 12 October at Konan Women's University and Sunday 13 October at Konan Gakuen Hirao Kinenkan, with the theme of 'Borderlands'. The programme, book of abstracts, campus map, and poster of the conference are downloadable from the IASIL Japan website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>>. Students and guests are welcome to attend. We hope to meet you all there. **As of 2017, we switched to online registration system. Please go to our Conference website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>> and register by 24 September 2019.**

### About the Guest Speakers

**Aileen Douglas** is Professor of English at Trinity College Dublin. Recent publications include *Work in Hand: Script, Print, and Writing, 1690-1840* (Oxford University Press, 2017), which deals with the interaction of manual writing and print. The book gives particular attention to the reproduction of script through printed engraving; to concepts of the copy and the autograph; and to constructions of the author. Currently she is working on issues relating to women and print in the long eighteenth-century with a particular focus on the Maria Edgeworth's writing for children. Forthcoming work includes 'The Province of Poetry: Women Poets in early Eighteenth-Century Ireland' (*Irish Literature in Transition*, Cambridge University Press, 2019). Her other publications include *Uneasy Sensations: Smollett and the Body* (Chicago, 1995); a co-edited volume of essays, *Locating Swift: Essays from Dublin on the 250th anniversary of the death of Jonathan Swift* (Four Courts, 1998); as well as a range of journal articles and book chapters on eighteenth-century fiction and print culture.

**Eoin McNamee** is from Killeel, County Down. He has published eight fictions, including *The Last of Deeds* (1989), *Love in History* (1992), *Resurrection Man* (1994), *The Blue Tango* (2001), *The Ultras* (2004), *12:23: Paris. 31st August* (2007), *Orchid Blue* (2010), *Blue Is the Night* (2014) and *The Vogue* (2018). *Resurrection Man* was made into a film in 1998, *The Blue Tango* was longlisted for the Booker Prize, and *Blue Is the Night* won the 2015 Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. He has also written the Navigator Trilogy, for children, *The Navigator* (2006), *City of Time* (2008), and *The Ring of Five* (2010). He lives in County Sligo, and will be taking up the position of Director of Creative Writing at the Oscar Wilde Centre, Trinity College Dublin, in September 2019.

## 2. New IASIL Executive Committee for 2019-2022

Rui Carvalho Homem, IASIL Returning Officer, reported in April that the nomination process for the IASIL Executive was complete, and that the list of duly nominated members for the period 2019-2022 is as follows:

Ondřej Pilný – Chairperson	Andrew Fitzsimons – Vice-Chairperson for Japan
Cormac O’Brien – Secretary	Naoko Toraiwa – Representative for Japan
Christina Morin - Treasurer	Toshiki Tatara – Representative for Japan
Rui Carvalho Homem - Returning Officer	Hironao Kobayashi – Representative for Japan

All positions were filled and were uncontested. Under the applicable regulations, an election was not necessary, and the nominations were validated at the AGM at Trinity College Dublin.

## 3. Payment of annual membership fees

If you have not already paid your membership fees for 2019, please do so by the end of September, as the journals will be distributed to paid-up members at the conference. This of course applies to non-paid fees for past years, as well. A Student membership fee (with JIS only) went into effect as of April 2018. If you are applying for a Student membership, please provide the office with a copy of a valid student ID with your payment.

Membership with JIS	¥7,000	Couple membership with JIS	¥10,000
Membership with JIS & IUR	¥10,000	Couple membership with JIS & IUR	¥13,000
Student with JIS*	¥5,000	*a copy of valid student ID should be provided annually	

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If you live abroad, please transfer your membership fee to the following account:

**Bank Name: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, LTD.**

**SWIFT CODE: BOTKJPJT**

**Branch Name: Kawagoe Branch (Branch No. 382)**

**Branch Address: 1-2-7 Shintomi-cho, Kawagoe City, Saitama Prefecture, 350-0043, Japan**

**Tel: +81 (0)49-222-2351**

**Account Name: IASIL Japan Treasurer Hironao Kobayashi**

**Account No: 0343056**

Please add the overseas postal charge to mail you the copies of *Journal of Irish Studies* and *Irish University Review* for which you have paid, according to the table below:

International postal rates for JIS & IUR	Asia	Oceania, North America, Central America, Europe, Middle East	South America, Africa
JIS	¥ 750	¥ 1,000	¥ 1,300
JIS & IUR	¥ 1,500	¥ 2,000	¥ 2,600

#### **4. Report of IASIL 2019, Trinity College Dublin**

The 50th-anniversary IASIL conference was held from the 22-26 July in Trinity College Dublin, the venue of the inaugural IASAIL conference with the theme of ‘The Critical Ground’.

The conference started with a fascinating lecture on contemporary Irish poetry by Matthew Campbell, and a thought-provoking panel where Angela Bourke, Patricia Coughlan, Michael Kenneally, Chris Morash and Shaun Richards looked back on 50 years of IASIL and Irish studies, during which time the association made the crucial decision of dropping ‘Anglo-’ from its name and acknowledging the plurality of Irish literatures, in particular recognizing the place of the Irish language in the story of literature in Ireland.

Indeed, the plurality of Irish literatures was one of the things that came through the conference, with a keynote lecture on Irish-language literary criticism by Máirín Nic Eoin, an Irish-language poetry reading by Biddy Jenkinson, Caitríona Ní Chléirchín and Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, and conference papers given in Irish. Most notably, the reading by a new generation of Irish poets with diverse backgrounds (Indian, Nigerian, Shona, and Traveller) chaired by Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi was eye-opening.

Other keynote lectures and events were suggestive of where Irish literatures stand now and questioned the ‘critical ground’: these included Nicholas Grene on the representation of rural Ireland in contemporary fiction, Helen Small on cynicism in academia, the discussion between John Banville and Fintan O’Toole, and the conversation with the directors of the Abbey. *Irish University Review* roundtables were scheduled during the week, discussing the direction of Irish literary studies and the journal itself (next year being its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary), and our chair Andrew Fitzsimons participated in one of them. There were also a variety of readings by Hugo Hamilton, Caitriona Lally, Kevin Power, Carlo Gébler, Moya Cannon and Leontia Flynn, as well as tours of the special-collections in Trinity and several book launches.

The number of delegates for the conference amounted to nearly 400, including those from IASIL Japan, Toshio Akai, Andrew Fitzsimons, Kiminori Fukaya, Chen-wei Han, Kaori Hirashige, Nao Igarashi, Youngmin Kim, Hironao Kobayashi, Li Yuan, Akiko Manabe, Hiroko Mikami, Nobue Miyake, Soichiro Onose, Fuyuji Taigawa, Toshiki Tatara, Naoko Toraiwa, Shotaro Yamauchi and myself. It was heartening to see younger members of IASIL Japan taking an active part in the conference, and I hope they will continue to do so making the most of our scholarship scheme. Despite the overwhelming number, the conference was run remarkably smoothly throughout the week and finished with a memorable closing reception at the City Hall, all thanks to the gracious hosting of the conference team lead by Tom Walker.

Haruko Takakuwa (Ochanomizu University)

## **5. IASIL Annual Conference, 20-24 July 2020**

The IASIL conference will be hosted by University of Łódź, Poland, next year with the theme of 'North and South: Creative Borders.' This will be the first IASIL conference in Poland and also mark 50th anniversary of *Irish University Review*. IASIL Japan continues to offer a scholarship for a postgraduate student to attend the IASIL conference. Details will be uploaded in November on our website.

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