

# IASIL Japan Newsletter

2021 No. 2

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

September 2021

## 1. IASIL Japan Conference 2021

The IASIL Japan Conference 2021 will be held online in the form of a Zoom Meeting on Saturday 9 and 10 October, with the theme of 'Revolutions/Resolutions'. **Please go to our Conference website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>> and register by 30 September 2021. Access information and the Zoom meeting details will be sent to your registered email address no later than 4 October.** The conference programme and book of abstracts are downloadable from the IASIL Japan website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>>. We hope to meet you all online.

### About the Guest Speakers

**Matthew Campbell** has been Professor of Modern Literature at the [University of] York since 2011. He studied at Trinity College Dublin and Cambridge University Authors to which his criticism returns include Wordsworth, Moore, Tennyson, Browning, Mangan, Hopkins, Yeats, Joyce, Heaney and Muldoon.

Professor Campbell's *Irish Poetry Under the Union, 1801-1924* was published in 2013. He contributed the chapter on poetry from 1830-1890 in the *Cambridge History of Irish Literature*, and a chapter on 'Davis, Mangan, Ferguson' is in the first volume of the *Blackwell Companion to Irish Literature*.

As part of his ongoing work on a 'four-nations' British poetry inflected with Celticism, Professor Campbell gave the 2008 Warton Lecture on English Poetry to the British Academy, on 'Wordsworth and the Druids'. 'Recovering Ancient Ireland' has appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Irish Poetry*.

*Rhythm and Will in Victorian Poetry*, a study of prosody and agency in Tennyson, Browning, Hopkins and Hardy, was published in 1999, and he was the editor of the *Tennyson Research Bulletin* from 1999 to 2004. A chapter on the Victorian sonnet was published in 2011 in *The Cambridge Companion to the Sonnet*, and the chapter on 'Rhyme' in the *Oxford Handbook to Victorian Poetry* (2013).

Professor Campbell also writes on modern and contemporary poetry, and an edited collection, *The Cambridge Companion to Contemporary Irish Poetry* was published in 2003. He has written articles and reviews on contemporary Irish poetry, most notably on Paul Muldoon and Seamus Heaney, but also on war poetry and metaphor in the modern Irish poem. His next major project has been

commissioned by Cambridge University Press and is a *History of Irish Poetry from 1789 to the present day*. An edited volume *Irish Literature in Transition, 1830-1880* appeared in 2020.

**Leontia Flynn** is Reader at School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University, Belfast. She was born in County Down in 1974, and completed a PhD at Queen's University, Belfast. In 2001 she won an Eric Gregory Award. Her first collection, *These Days* (2004), won the Forward Poetry Prize (Best First Collection of the Year) in 2004, and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Poetry Award. In the same year, she was named as one of the Poetry Book Society's 'Next Generation' poets.

Three further collections of poetry have been published: *Drives* (2008); *Profit and Loss* (2011), a Poetry Book Society Choice; and *The Radio* (2017). *Profit and Loss* and *The Radio* were both shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize. She has also received the Rooney Prize for Irish Writing, a Major Individual Artist's Award from the Arts Council NI, The Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Prize for Irish Literature, the AWB Vincent Literary Award and The Irish Times Poetry Now Award. Her work has appeared in contemporary poetry journals, including *Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *Granta*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and *Poetry* (Chicago), and has been collected in anthologies of contemporary poetry, among others *The Penguin Book of Irish Poetry* (2010) and *Poesie Irlandais Contemporaine* (2013).

In her time as a Research Fellow at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University, Belfast, she published a monograph *Reading Medbh McGuckian* with Irish Academic Press, about trying to make sense of Northern Irish poet Medbh McGuckian in light of feminist theory. She also contributed a chapter on Medbh McGuckian to *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Poetry* (2010). She edited five issues of the poetry journal *The Yellow Nib* with Frank Ormsby.

In a 2008 review of *Drives* for *The Guardian*, Frances Leviston praises the "currents of difficult feeling, beneath the wise, glittering fronts of her poems."

## **2. Election of New Executive Committee Members**

The ballot counting was conducted and observed by the secretariat with Beverly Curran and Haruko Takakuwa serving as Election Officers, from 7 to 14 June in the form of e-mail discussion. The results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on 10 October during the online conference.

## **3. Payment of Annual Membership Fees**

If you have not already paid your membership fees for 2021, please do so by the end of September, as the journals will be distributed to paid-up members after the conference. This of course applies to non-paid fees for past years, as well. 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 <i>JIS</i>	¥7,000	Couple membership with <i>JIS</i>	¥10,000
Membership with <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥10,000	Couple membership with <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥13,000
Student with <i>JIS</i> *	¥5,000	*a copy of valid student ID should be provided annually	

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If you live abroad, you can use PayPal from April 2021. Please follow the instruction shown in the email send to you by Treasurer Hironao Kobayashi <treasurer@iasil.jp>. Or you can transfer your membership fee to the following account:

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**Account Name: IASIL Japan Treasurer Hironao Kobayashi**  
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The membership fee for overseas members does not include the transfer charge, so please make sure that the exact amount reaches us. 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 <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	Asia	Oceania, North America, Central America, Europe, Middle East	South America, Africa
<i>JIS</i>	¥ 750	¥ 1,000	¥ 1,300
<i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥ 1,500	¥ 2,000	¥ 2,600

#### 4. Report of IASIL 2021, University of Łódź, Poland

The IASIL 2021 Conference, postponed from last year because of the coronavirus, was held online from the **19-23, July 2021**, with the host venue the Faculty of Philology at the University of Łódź, Poland, conducting the conference through the medium of Microsoft Teams. The conference theme, ‘Creative Borders’, was rousingly established by the excellent keynote lecture, ‘Borderation: Fictions of the Northern Irish Border’ by Maud Ellmann of the University of Chicago.

The time difference between Japan and Poland, however, meant that it was difficult for Japanese members to attend panels and papers held later in the central European day, but the organizers had made sure that Japanese participants read their own papers at convenient times. So, in one of the first panels, ‘Tom Murphy in Translation’, Hiroko Mikami of Waseda University offered her observations on productions of Murphy in Japan, including an account of a wonderful amateur production of ‘The Gigli Concert’. Other participants in this illuminating panel included Beatriz Kopschitz Bastos, the chair of the session, who spoke of Murphy as adapted to Brazilian conditions, Zsuzsa Csikai of the University of Pécs, in Hungary, our host, Michal Lachman and Marianne Ni Chinneide of NUI Galway,

Ireland, who spoke about translating Murphy into Irish, and IASIL President, Ondrej Pilny (Charles University, Prague) who gave us insights into the difficulties of translating Murphy into Czech, a language with less variety in dialect than Murphy's plays demand. The panel was one of a number devoted to theatre, and one of the surprising features of this year's conference was the prominence of both papers and panel sessions devoted to theatre in its various forms, and from various perspectives. Perhaps the most enthusiastic reception was that given to Patrick Lonergan's 'Irish Theatres for the Anthropocene: Druid Theatre, Lady Gregory and Coole Park', a view of theatre from the long perspective of the Anthropocene and the challenging perspective of eco-criticism.

Another interesting feature of the conference was the prominence of 'Artists in Conversation' sessions, featuring practitioners in various fields discussing their work, including Enda Walsh, Caitríona O'Reilly, Siofra O'Donovan, Hugo Hamilton and Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi. Occasionally, technical difficulties with participants' wifi connections meant that these events didn't quite proceed according to plan, but the sessions were among the best-attended and appreciated of the conference. The conference ended with a provocative and informative panel entitled "Publishing in the 21st Century and Age of #MeToo" featuring Kate Costello-Sullivan and Deborah Manion of Syracuse UP, Jennika Baines (Indiana University Press), Emilie Pine, outgoing editor of the *IUR* and Donald E. Morse of the University of Debrecen.

Unfortunately, contributions from Japan were fewer this year than usual. In addition to Professor Mikami's contribution, Hiroko Ikeda gave a lively paper on Derek Mahon, Sweeney and Bashō in Mahon's *The Snow Party*, Andrew Fitzsimons spoke about Thomas Kinsella's poem 'Baggot Street Deserta', and in a session on 'Poetry and Art', Naoko Toraiwa, keeping to the theme of the conference, gave a paper on Sinéad Morrissey entitled 'Balancing on the Border.' It's a great pity we did not have more contributions and attendees from Japan, but the circumstances this year and last have been exceptional, and members have faced great personal and professional difficulties.

A final word must go to the organizers of the conference, Joanna Kruczkowska, Michal Lachman, Katarzyna Ojrzyńska, and Wit Pietrzak whose enormous efforts under very difficult conditions made this conference possible. Throughout the conference they were on hand to offer technical assistance and help to participants and attendees, and that the conference happened at all, but particularly that it went so well, is entirely down to their hard work, skill, talent, and patient attention.

Andrew Fitzsimons (Gakushuin University)

## **5. IASIL Annual Conference, 25-29 July 2022**

The IASIL conference will be hosted by The University of Limerick. 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.



**IASIL Japan**

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