

# IASIL Japan Newsletter

2023 No. 2

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

September 2023

## 1. IASIL Japan Conference 2023

The IASIL Japan Conference 2023 will be held at Ritsumeikan University, Kinugasa Campus, which is within a walking distance from Ryoan-ji (with its renown zen garden) and Kinkaku-ji (the Golden pavilion) on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**, with the theme of “**Evolutions/Dissolutions.**” The venue has excellent conference facilities.

**Please go to our Conference website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>> and register by the end of September 2023.** The conference programme and book of abstracts are downloadable from the IASIL Japan website <<http://iasil.jp/conference.html>>. Please note the following changes:

- **Optional packed lunch boxes are only available for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. Please book via registration form and pay in advance.** A variety of options for Saturday lunch is listed on the conference programme.
- **Please book for the Reception via registration form and pay in advance.**
- The Conference Reception will not deal with membership payments.

In light of the recent tourism boost in Kyoto, the members are advised to make their hotel bookings for the conference early. Hotels around JR Enmachi (円町) station, Nijojo (二条城), Doshisha University (同志社大学), Kyoto Gosho (京都御所) should be most convenient for the venue. It is also advisable to avoid areas near Shijo (四条) and JR Kyoto station (京都駅), because the route to the venue will be heavily congested. We hope to meet you all in Kyoto.

### About the Guest Speakers

**Anne Haverty** is an award winning novelist and poet. She was educated at Trinity College Dublin and the Sorbonne. Her first novel, *One Day As A Tiger*, won the Rooney Prize and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Book Awards.

*The Far Side Of A Kiss*, set in Hazlitt’s London of the 1820’s, was long listed for the Booker Prize. *The Free And Easy*, a novel about Celtic Tiger era Ireland, appeared in 2006. Her poetry collections are *The Beauty of the Moon* (a Poetry Book Society Recommendation) and *A Break In The Journey* (2018). Her biography of Constance Markievicz, *An Independent Life* was first published in 1989 and re-issued as *Irish Revolutionary* in a new edition in 2016.

She has written literary criticism and journalism for publications such as the TLS and The Irish Times, scripts for film and radio and co-directed the C4/RTE documentary, *The Whole World In His Hands*. Her work has been translated into several languages.

She has been a Visiting Professor at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan and at TCD, and she lives in Dublin. She is a member of Aosdána, and is its current Chair.

**Claire Connolly** is Professor of Modern English at University College Cork in Ireland. Her book *A Cultural History of the Irish Novel, 1790-1829* was awarded the Donald J. Murphy Prize by the American Conference for Irish Studies. With Marjorie Howes, she was General Editor of a new six volume series, *Irish Literature in Transition, 1700-2015* (Cambridge University Press, 2020); as well as editor for Volume 2 of the series, *Irish Literature in Transition, 1780-1830*.

She is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. She currently leads the ERDF-funded project, Ports, Past and Present (2019-2023), an interdisciplinary research project that joins the concerns of marine biology with those of cultural history. She sits on the board of the Irish Research Council and is a member of the Editorial Board for Cambridge Studies in Romanticism. Formerly a professor at Cardiff University, Claire Connolly has been a visiting professor in Irish Studies at Boston College (2002-3) and Concordia University, Montreal (Fall 2011). For 2018-19 she was Parnell Fellow in Irish Studies at Magdalene College Cambridge. For 2023-2024, she is Burns Visiting Scholar at Boston College.

## 2. Payment of Annual Fees

If you have not already paid your membership fees for the fiscal year of 2023 (April 2023-March 2024), please do so **by the end of September**, as *Journal of Irish Studies*, vol. 37 (and *IUR* for those subscribing) will be distributed to paid-up members at the conference. This of course applies to non-paid fees for past years, as well. Please note that the Conference Reception will not deal with membership payment transactions, and you are cordially requested to complete the payment in advance. 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 a valid student ID should be submitted at the beginning of every fiscal year

If you live abroad, you can use PayPal. Please follow the instruction shown in the email sent to you by Treasurer Tetsuko Nakamura [treasurer@iasil.jp](mailto:treasurer@iasil.jp) in April. Or you can transfer your membership fee to the following account:

Bank Name: MUFG Bank, Ltd.

SWIFT Code: BOTKJPJT (in 8 digits); BOTKJPJTXXX (in 11 digits)

Branch Name: Okurayama Branch (Branch No. 308)

Branch Address: 3-7-17 Shin-Yokohama, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture,  
222-0033, Japan

Tel: +81(0)45-475-3822

Account Name: IASIL Japan Treasurer Tetsuko Nakamura

Account No: 0688983 (Savings Account)

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 so that we can post you the copy/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>	¥ 850	¥ 1,000	¥ 1,300
<i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥ 1,500	¥ 2,000	¥ 2,600

**NB** Due to the rise in postage, the international postal rate for *JIS* to be sent to a member in Asia has become ¥850. If you wish to receive *Journal of Irish Studies*, vol. 37 (and *IUR* for those subscribing) at the annual conference in October 2023, please complete your payment **by the end of September 2023**.

### 3. Report of IASIL 2023 Conference, British University in Egypt

The IASIL 2023 Conference was held from 17th to 22nd July in Cairo, hosted by the British University in Egypt. The conference theme was “Sustainability,” one of the most critical issues today, and the conference organizing team proposed “to address artistic and critical engagements with climate change and the related issue of human agency specifically in regard to Irish literatures and literary studies . . . [and intended] to examine, in particular, how Irish writers have reflected on the relation between nature and humanity, and assess the critical frameworks current in Irish studies as well as their sustainability in the face of the present crisis.”

After heartfelt welcome messages by the Conference Convenor, Rania M. Rafik Khalil, Director of the Research Centre for Irish Studies and Prof. Shadia Fahim, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, a thoughtful speech by H.E. Nuala O’Brien, Ambassador of Ireland to Egypt was delivered. Referring to the rich body of literature of Ireland, she proposed the necessity of retaining optimistic views towards our future, believing the power of imagination of human beings. Following the opening ceremony, the first keynote speaker, Prof. Malcolm Sen of University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA, addressed the importance to examine the sustainability rhetoric not only in creative writings but also, rather even more, in the scientific and ideological languages (“The Sustainability Paradigm in Literature and Culture”).

The second day started with a provocative lecture, “Sustaining Activism: Questions and lessons from recent writing and performance” by a professor and an eminent writer Emilie Pine of University College Dublin, Ireland. Prof. Pine introduced the recent theatres and stories, based on actual experiences and performed by those who actually have been through those experiences and highlighted the remaining unsolved problems in the individual and personal level, after the Yes Equality campaign achieved historic progress in Marriage Equality in Ireland.

On Wednesday, Professor Ondřej Pilný of Charles University, Prague, gave the lecture titled “Art and Sustainance in the Work of Sara Baume,” which I missed. Our former president of IASIL must have given the audience the great chance to encounter Sara Baume’s stunning physical writing – physical in terms of human bodies echoing their physical environment – and his excellent analysis leading to the consideration of the task of art in the crisis of sustainability.

Olufemi Wuraola Majekodunmi, Irish Writer and Broadcaster, came last but, of course, not least, among the keynote addresses in Cairo. Ms. Majekodunmi’s “The modern Irish Reality” extended the issues on prejudice and national identity in Ireland, which her short film, “What does Irishness Look Like?” (2018) portrayed and examined. The provisional conclusion of her Cairo lecture was “I am a duality of identities like so many in modern Ireland, our origins and domicile is a part of us; recognition and understanding in this is key to sustaining this unique aspect of Irishness.”

The titles of panel sessions reflected the idea of “sustainability” was explored extensively. Not only environmental issues (“Nature and The Human,” “Ecology, Ecocriticism & Irish Literature,” “Climate Action and Nature,” etc.) but also language issues (“Translation(s) and Irish Literature,” “Publishing and Archiving Language,” “Linguistics & Sustainability”) were discussed. The most interesting aspect in this conference for myself is that, naturally, there were quite a few comparisons between Irish and Egyptian writings, focusing on political instabilities both countries have experienced and differences of traditional attitudes to animals.

Unfortunately, Japanese representation at the conference was sparse, due to the timing of the conference. Fuyuji Tanigawa’s paper, “Re-reading the Crane Bag: Book and Journal of Irish Studies and Field Day Pamphlets” considered part of conscious revision of Ireland’s national myth looking back from the state of Ireland today. My own paper discussed the idea of sustainability in Sinead Morrissey’s poems, focusing on her concrete poems.

The IASIL 2023 conference offered good music and dance performance on the opening gathering and the delegates were introduced to lively local markets and streets in the Wednesday afternoon. One day post-conference tour was organized on Friday, which took the delegates to various religious institutions, Muslim and Christian. Highlight of the cultural events was the Conference Gala Dinner: the venue was the Abdeen Palace, a 19th-century Cairo palace built by the king, Ahedive Ismail and served as Egypt’s seat of government from 1874 until July Revolution in 1952 and an excellent dinner was served accompanied with elegant Irish harp music.

Naoko Toraiwa (Meiji University)

#### **4. *Journal of Irish Studies*, Anniversary Issue**

In 2024, the *Journal of Irish Studies* will celebrate the 40th anniversary of IASIL Japan (1984-2024). Proposals for material for this special anniversary edition include:

- Bibliography of publications in Japan within the field of Irish Studies 2003-2023 (**NOT** limited to the *Journal of Irish Studies*) in English and in Japanese. All publications by IASIL Japan members may be included, regardless of where they were published.
- Reflections from original and long-standing members of IASIL Japan
- Photographs (from IASIL Japan conferences 1984-2024, etc.)

IASIL Japan members are encouraged to send any of the above material to the editor of the *Journal of Irish Studies* ([editor@iasil.jp](mailto:editor@iasil.jp)) before **25 April 2024**. All photographs should be sent as either JPEG or PDF (if scanned) files to the editor by email attachment. All publications for the bibliography should be in the following format (for consistency, we will follow the same format as the 1984-2003 bibliography):

Journal Articles:

**Name** (year of publication) 'title.' In Journal Title [vol:no], [pages].

*Example:*

**Abe Kazuko** (1994) 'The Poetry of Derek Mahon, 1962-1982.' In *Kasumigaoka Review* 1, 91-107.

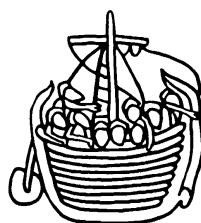
— (1994) 'Father-Son Relations in Brian Friel's "Philadelphia Here I Come!".' In *Éire* 14, 21-31.

## 5. Announcement: Seamus Heaney Award, Japan

Nominations, to be received by 30 November 2023, can be sent by email using the subject line "Seamus Heaney Award Japan Nomination" to: IASIL Japan Office: <[secretary@iasil.jp](mailto:secretary@iasil.jp)> or Embassy of Ireland, Japan: <[TokyoEmbassy@dfa.ie](mailto:TokyoEmbassy@dfa.ie)>. More information can be found on the IASIL Japan website: <http://iasil.jp/news/?p=795>.

## 6. IASIL Conference 2024 in Tokyo

IASIL Conference 2024 will be held at Gakushuin University from the 5<sup>th</sup> August to the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with the theme "Aftermaths." Further details will be announced at AGM and IASIL Japan website.



### IASIL Japan

c/o Yuri Yoshino

Department of English Language and Cultures, Faculty of Letters, Gakushuin University

1-5-1 Mejiro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-8588, Japan

Email: [secretary@iasil.jp](mailto:secretary@iasil.jp)