

Members Only

July 2007

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New Members

We are pleased to announce the following new memberships to SILAS: Meldon J. Wolfgang III, Luke Baxter, Clóna Murphy, Inés Quercetti de Strano, Adrian Barclay, James O'Higgins-Norman, Mary Philomena Connatty, Michael Connaughton, Dan Leahy, Miguel Alexandre de Araujo Neto, Arthur Brown, Kate Hyland, Ken Ryan, Eamonn Wall, Maureen Murphy, Kristine Byron, Eilish Deady, Carolina Amador Moreno, Eoin Bassett, James Fogarty, Derrick Marcus, Alvaro Spratt and Juan Murray (Senior), Tony Phillips, Rebecca Breen, María Eugenia Cruset, Andrés Romera, Katharine West and Roberto Spratt (Student), Dermot Brangan, Michael Hoey and Philomena Murnaghan (Honorary). The Society has 117 Members. Please find attached an updated list.

Annual General Meeting 2007

This year's AGM was held on 28 June 2007 in Galway, during the SILAS conference. The Minutes are attached to this newsletter, including the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report.

Irish Latin American Research Fund: Grant Recipients 2007

The Society for Irish Latin American Studies is pleased to announce the grant recipients of a new completed cycle of the Irish Latin American Research Fund. These grants are awarded to exceptionally promising students, faculty members or independent scholars from all across universities and institutions in several countries.

New Irish Latin American Research Fund grant recipients:



Matthew Brown (University of Bristol, UK). 1,000 Euros.

Daniel O'Leary and José María Córdoba, 1828-1829. "I am enormously grateful for this grant which will enable me to consult local archives in Colombia for my research. The considerable archival resources in Colombia mean that there is plenty of scope for more research on the Irish there. The generosity of SILAS members and donors means that I can try to get to the bottom of some complex and confusing questions regarding the role of the Irish in Colombia in the first decades after Independence"



José Antonio Quintana García (Universidad de Ciego de Ávila, Cuba). 700 Euros. *James O'Kelly y Cuba: historias cruzadas (1868-1898).* "Estoy muy feliz con la obtención de la beca, pues me posibilitará consultar diarios de campaña, memorias de la guerra, la prensa española y de los insurrectos, entre otras fuentes que se hallan en el Archivo Nacional de Cuba y la Biblioteca Nacional José Martí. Así podré contribuir, mediante un acercamiento a la vida y obra de James O'Kelly, a los estudios del elemento irlandés en la formación de la nación cubana. Agradezco la generosidad de los integrantes de SILAS."

Selection Committee members found 'most of the projects very interesting and promising in terms of advancing this field, and it entailed a hard decision not to be able to support more of them' (Guillermo O'Donnell).

The Irish Latin American Research Fund is open to faculty, advanced university students, and independent scholars throughout the world. Applicants from previous academic years who were not awarded a grant may apply again and submit the same project in the future.

Selection Committee Members 2007:

Maureen Murphy (Chair): Interim Dean, School of Education and Allied Human Services at Hofstra University. Maureen Murphy has been a visiting fellow in the Humanities Institute, University College Dublin in Spring, 2005, and served on the selection committee for the

Senator George Mitchell Fellowships in 2004 and 2006. She has been the director of the Great Irish Famine Curriculum Project for the New York State Education Department, which won the Project Excellent Award for the National Council of the Social Studies in 2002. Murphy is the historian on the Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City New York. She is past president of the American Conference for Irish Studies and past chair of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures. Among her recent publications are editions of Asenath Nicholson's *Annals of the Famine in Ireland* (1998) and *Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger* (2003).

Piarras Mac Éinrí: Lecturer in the Department of Geography, University College Cork, and former director of the Irish Centre for Migration Studies. Piarras has a strong interest in the role of the voluntary sector in promoting the reception and integration of asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants and is involved in a number of organisations, including the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Integrating Ireland and Nasc, Cork's drop-in centre for migrants and refugees. He has lectured and published widely on contemporary migration issues in Ireland. He previously served with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, with postings in Brussels, Beirut (where he became acquainted with refugee issues at first hand) and Paris.

Guillermo O'Donnell: O'Donnell graduated in Law from the National University of Buenos Aires (1957). He holds a Masters degree (1971) and a PhD in Political Science (1982) from Yale University. He is the Helen Kellogg Professor of Government at the University of Notre Dame, and was Academic Director of the Kellogg Institute (1992-1997) of this University. He has been Simon Bolivar Distinguished Visiting Professor at Cambridge (2001-02), Senior Visiting Fellow in Politics at Nuffield College at Oxford (2003-2004), and since 1995 he is Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. O'Donnell was Vice President of the American Political Science Association (1999-2000) and President of the International Political Science Association (1988-1991). He has been fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and visiting professor of the Universities of California (Berkeley), Michigan (Ann Arbor) and São Paulo. He has also been Director of the Center of Studies on State and Society (CEDES) in Argentina, and senior researcher at the University Institute of Research of Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ) and the Brazilian Centre of Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP) of São Paulo, Brazil.

Donors List 2007:

Herman and Maria Ana Beuk

Nancy Connolly Freeman

Jim Geoghegan

Bill Mulligan

Peter Mulvany

Maureen Murphy

Edmundo Murray

Hugh and Margaret Ryan

Galway Conference, 27-30 June 2007

- Conference: “Adventurers, Emissaries and Settlers: Ireland and Latin America”
- Convenor: Society for Irish Latin American Studies (SILAS), in conjunction with the Fifth Galway Conference on Colonialism.
- Venue: Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway
- Dates: 27-30 June 2007
- Organisers: Claire Healy and Oliver Marshall
- Sponsors: Principal: Cultural Division, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Others: Brazilian Embassy to Ireland, Smurfit Kappa Group, and individual donors.

The Society for Irish Latin American Studies was founded in 2003 to promote the study of relations between Ireland and Latin American countries. Its range of interests includes the settlement, lives, and achievements of Irish emigrants to Latin America and their descendents, as well as the contemporary presence of Ireland in the life and culture of Latin America and the presence of Latin Americans in Ireland. As of 2007, there are over one hundred SILAS members in eleven countries in Europe and the Americas. Significant SILAS

activities include the online publication of *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America*, a successful grants programme, and participation in conferences.

The SILAS 2007 conference is the first ever forum to focus on relations between Ireland and Latin America. The 27 papers presented at this conference represent an accurate profile of the interests and approaches of those researching in this field. Not surprisingly, most of the papers were presented by historians or scholars focusing on history; only three fall into the domain of literature. Geography, linguistics, music, the arts, anthropology and other disciplines were absent from this conference, and we hope that on future occasions there will be representatives from these disciplines.

The significant dispersion of countries and cultures in Latin America provided a three-day panoramic tour covering Irish people and cultures in many countries and areas.

<u>Focus of Study</u>	<u># of Papers</u>
Argentina	8
Caribbean	7
Brazil	2
Colombia-Venezuela	2
Mexico	4
Peru	1
Uruguay	1
Latin America as region	1
Latin Americans in Ireland	1

This broad geographic span was further enhanced by the diversity of origins, experience, methodology and perspectives of the people who presented papers and of the audience, including seasoned and established researchers, graduate students and independent scholars from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Ireland, Spain, the UK, USA, the US Virgin Islands and Switzerland.

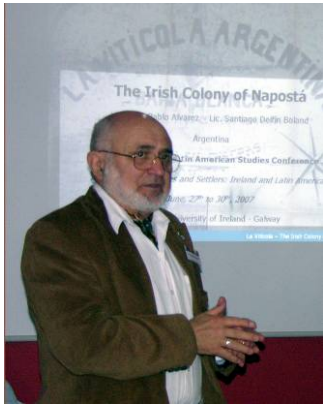
Furthermore, a common feature within the heterogeneity of these papers was the pioneering study of people, places and events, using newly discovered sources in non-traditional archives and collections, both in Europe and the Americas. For this reason, in most cases the papers revealed a status of ongoing research, a fact which allowed for very helpful

discussions and comparisons. With to the support of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, a book is being prepared with selected papers presented at this conference.

This first conference on Ireland-Latin America relations – indeed a historic undertaking – is an indication of the enthusiasm of both young and experienced specialists in the field, as well as of the institutional maturity of SILAS in organising academically-sound events.

Plans for a second conference in 2009 are under consideration, and a suitable location is being selected, probably in the Caribbean.

Photo Gallery



Santiago D. Boland, Argentina



Igor Pérez Tostado, Spain



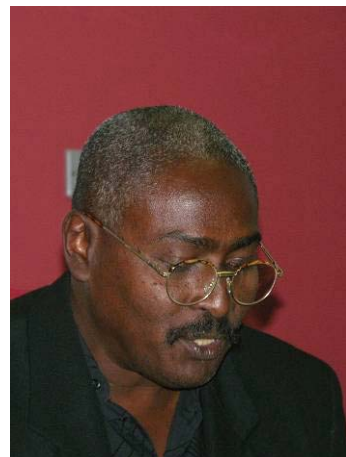
Lourdes De Ita, Mexico



Orla Power, Ireland



Oliver Marshall, UK



Félix Flores Varona, Cuba

