

• FÁILTE, BIENVENIDOS, WELCOME •

We are happy to welcome you to the latest issue of the Newsletter of the Society for Irish Latin American Studies (Sociedad de estudios de Irlanda y Latinoamérica). This newsletter is for members and interested others of SILAS. The aim is to provide SILAS related news every few months or so. As you will see from the information in this newsletter, there have been a lot of developments recently in the Society, and an effort is underway to get the Society back to its former vibrancy. If you have relevant items you would like included in the Autumn Newsletter, please send them to Cliona Murphy at cmurphy@csub.edu



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A Message from SILAS President Margaret Brehony

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 2013 AGM on November 30, 2013. I look forward to working with the new executive committee to continue the exciting work of SILAS over the next two years. The committee is greatly encouraged by the energetic participation and enthusiasm of the membership for building on work done by previous SILAS executive committees.

The new committee is composed of the members listed below this message, who will serve until 2015.

Huge thanks are due to the outgoing committee for their hard work in successfully steering SILAS through a time of transition. It is important to acknowledge the major achievements of the last three years since the wonderful 2011 conference organized by Jean-Philippe in Dublin. The highlights included:

- A very successful conference in Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina (with special thanks to Maria Graciela Eliggi and her team). See report on page 5 for more.
- The completion of three journal issues with a fourth due out in June 2014 (edited by Cliona Murphy, with guest editor Margaret Brehony)
- Development of a new website thanks to webmaster Phillip Baron, who has been recently complemented by SILAS executive committee member S.C. Gooch.
- The agreement by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, to become patron of SILAS thanks to the initiative of our own President Margaret Brehony.
- SILAS is indebted to Andres Romera for his careful administration of the accounts and the membership. Though Andres is entitled to retire, it is recognized by all that his contribution to SILAS will be sorely missed!

Plans are underway for **the 2015 SILAS conference in Cork, Ireland**. The exact date in the summer has not been set yet, but as soon as there are firm details members will be informed.

The committee will continue to develop the journal, the database of archives, and the network of members. With more paid-up members we will be in a better position to reinstate the **Irish Latin American Research Fund** to support future research.

Webmaster Phillip Baron continues to manage both the SILAS website and the production of the journal. The SILAS journal, *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* and the SILAS databases are now open access, and do not require a password.

Warm regards,
Margaret Brehony

Executive Committee 2013-2015

President: Margaret Brehony (Independent Scholar, NUI, Galway, Ireland)

Secretary: Gabriela McEvoy (Lebanon Valley College, Pennsylvania, USA)

Treasurer: Derrick Marcus (Brazil, originally from Cork, Ireland)

Assistant Treasurer: Gera Burton (University of Missouri, USA)

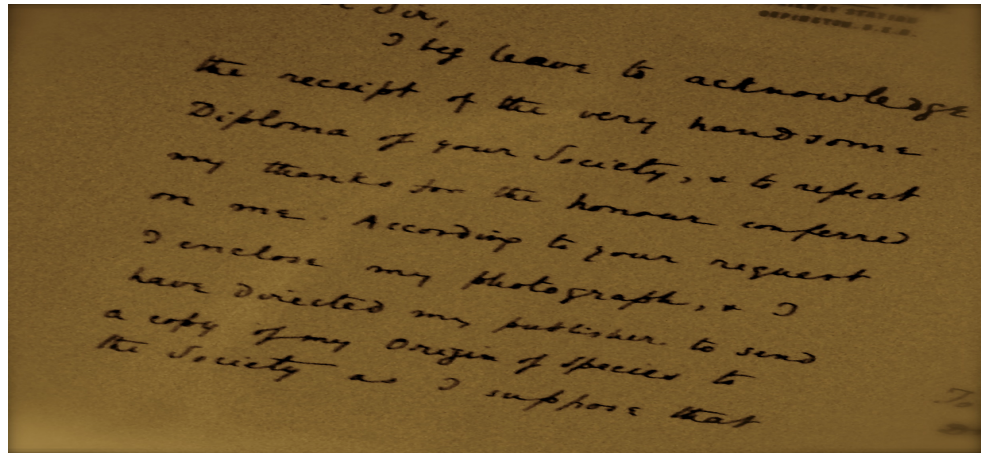
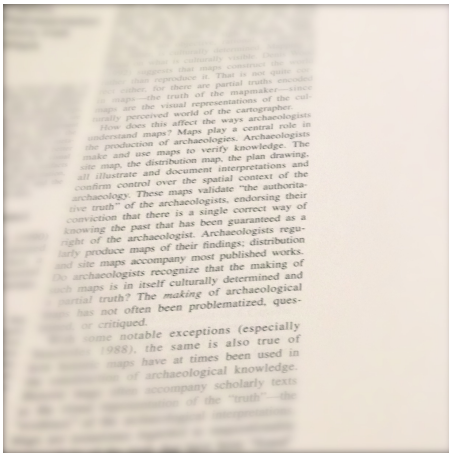
Web Liaison: S.C. Gooch (Purdue University, Indiana, USA)

Editor of *IMSLA* and Newsletter: Cliona Murphy (California State University, Bakersfield, USA)

Director: Jean-Philippe Imbert (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Director: Laura Izarra (Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil)

Director: Maria Graciela Eliggi (Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina)



Journal News

Irish Migration Studies in Latin America

Over the last two years SILAS's journal, *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* (IMSLA), has built up a large international editorial board, and all articles are sent out for peer review. The journal will appear annually until individuals are available to edit it more frequently. A special issue on archives will appear in June.

Archives Issue

The editorial team for the archives issue are Cliona Murphy, Editor-in-Chief; Margaret Brehony, guest editor, Dennise Bentle, Editorial Associate, and Phillip Baron, Production Editor. Articles will appear on archives of Irish interest in Peru, Spain and Cuba and the issue will have contributions from Margaret Brehony, Gabriela McEvoy, Ciaran O'Scea, and Igor Perez Tostado.

Travel issue

Contributions are now invited for the 2014/15 Special Issue of *IMSLA*, guest-edited by Dr.

Sinéad Wall, University of Westminster, and Dr. Laura Izarra, University of São Paulo. The theme will be: "Travel Writing: Encounters within and through Irish and Latin American Spaces." The deadline for articles is September 30, 2014. The guest-editors' call for submissions follows:

Ireland and Latin America share experiences of colonization which were to some extent aided by travel accounts from the early 1600s through to the 1900s, many of which were concerned with either military fortifications or commercial matters. Just as the 'New World' had become a zone to be exploited for its natural wealth, by the mid nineteenth century travel writing about Ireland had become a means of expressing British anxiety about the island. After the famine period of 1845 to 1852 Ireland became a place to be exploited by potential property investors as well as by writers hoping to make money out of the sometimes harrowing descriptions of poverty and hunger.

This Special Issue of *IMSLA* seeks to engage with writings about Ireland and/or Latin America which offer different interdisciplinary perspectives from which to reconsider colonial encounters as well as texts which address the various effects, including psychic effects, provoked by the changing cultural formations of the late twentieth/early twenty-first centuries. These encounters might be framed within or going beyond what Mary Louise Pratt denotes as ‘contact zones’ — i.e. ‘social spaces where disparate cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other’, or what Avtar Brah defines as ‘diaspora space’, that which ‘marks the intersectionality of contemporary conditions of transmigration of people, capital, commodities and culture’ — including not only Latin American spaces but Irish spaces also. Therefore, the present issue on Travel Writing aims to consider narratives which could be read against various theoretical frameworks from various fields of knowledge such as history, sociology, anthropology, literature, linguistics among others, in order to highlight different experiences of power relations and cultural practices. We invite papers which interrogate travel between Ireland and Latin America and which examine alternative discourses of travel, whether in an Imperial or contemporary context. All articles will be subject to peer review and must conform to the Contributors Guidelines of the journal, which can be accessed at: <http://goo.gl/SzdJuL>

Articles should not be longer than 5,000 words, including references and notes. Suggested articles include, but are not limited to:

- Historical or fictional accounts, diaries and reports (official or private) by missionaries, soldiers, diplomats, entrepreneurs among others
- Encounters between Ireland and Latin America
- Irish Migration, exile or diasporic writing about Latin America and vice versa
- Irish/Latin American Interpretation and reinterpretation of travel writing
- Writing at the margins
- Women writing and gendered spaces
- Postmodern and virtual travels
- Transnational writings

For consideration, please submit articles (as an attached Word document) via email with the subject line “IMSLA Special Issue” by 30 September 2014 to Laura Izarra: lizarra@usp.br

2014/15 Special Issue of
IMSLA
“Travel Writing: Encounters
within and through Irish and
Latin American Spaces”
**DEADLINE: 30 September
2014**

SILAS conference in Argentina, August 2013

Report by Jean-Philippe Imbert

The IV Congreso Internacional de la Sociedad de Estudios Irlandeses y Latinoamericanos (SILAS) happened in conjunction with the VIII Simposio de Estudios Irlandeses en Sudamérica (ABEI), in Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina (UNLPam). Organised locally by Dr. Maria Graciela Eliggi, with Dr. Cliona Murphy (SILAS) and Dr. Laura Izarra (ABEI), the conference took place from August 13 to August 15. The title of the conference was “*El Arte del Movimiento y la Transformación: Irlanda y las Américas Mirando al Futuro*”.

There were 28 papers, which dealt with Ireland and Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Spain, and the USA. Papers belonged to the fields of Business Studies, Film Studies, Gender Studies, Histories, Literature, Sociology, and Sexuality Studies.



There were also three plenary sessions, one dealing with women and Irish Studies, one with bardic poetry, and one with Irish immigration to the US; as well as an interview with filmmaker Thaddeus O’Sullivan following a screening of one of his films; and an interviewed dialogue between Irish writer Hugo Hamilton and Argentinean writer Juan Jose Delaney. Along with that, 15 posters were presented by postgraduate students of the UNLPam, at dedicated times during the conference.

The conference program can be accessed online at this address:

<http://goo.gl/6Pyvvi>

A video of the conference can be seen at this link (about 5 minutes, 20 seconds into the video)

<http://goo.gl/SFHtYV>

Profiles of Two New SILAS Members

New membership is essential to the future existence and vibrancy of SILAS. The newsletter will attempt to have profiles of two to three members per issue. Two of our newer members are profiled below. Welcome to Steve from the United States and Juan Manuel from Argentina.

S.C. Gooch (Steve) is a doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature at Purdue University. He is currently finishing his dissertation, which investigates the development of modernity in Argentina, outlining a process that draws from, rejects, and reconfigures Spanish colonial thinking; Enlightenment ideals; sciences disseminated from Europe; and the special relationship with the British Empire. This is part of a larger interest in the transnational study of the cultural receptions, influences, and impacts of historical philosophy and science in both formal and informal empire. His work addresses marginal spaces, diasporas, and borders, often looking at travel narratives, scientific texts, and fiction. Steve served as co-editor of the *Forum for World Literature Studies* special issue on Comics and Animation, and has served as the Web Editor for Purdue's *Sycamore Review*.

Steve also holds a master's degree in playwriting, and has written two award winning plays. His other scholarly interests include comics and graphic narratives; cartography and mapping; and digital humanities, especially open content/access/source projects. He has been lucky enough to study in both Scotland and Argentina, and serve as the Teaching Assistant for Purdue's Global Studies in London program.

In his free time, Steve enjoys cooking and travel. He also likes biking and walking around Oklahoma City.

He currently teaches World Literature and Composition in the English Department of Oklahoma City University, and is honored to be a new member of SILAS and the executive board.

Juan Manuel Rizzo is an economist, professor, and writer from Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied Economics at the University of Buenos Aires. He is a candidate for a Master's Degree in International Economic Relations at the University of Buenos Aires and has also done postgraduate studies on International Conflict at the National University of La Plata.

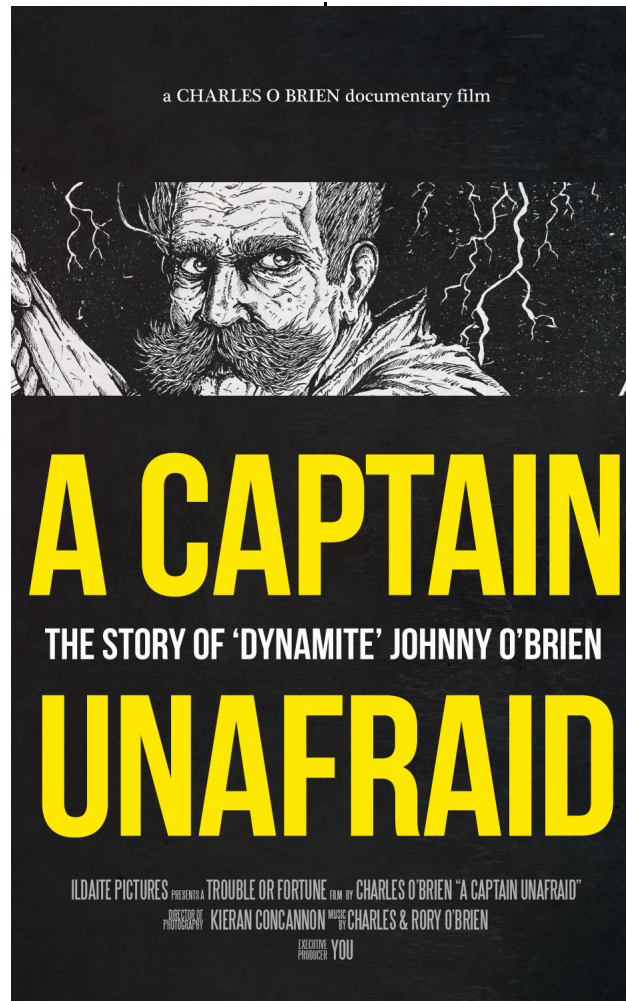
Juan Manuel currently works as an economic analyst at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Argentina and as a professor of several subjects related to economics and international relations in both public and private institutions. He previously worked as a consultant at the Ministry of Economy and then as an economic advisor at the National Congress. He has published books on economics and literature, as well as research papers on international relations.

Juan Manuel's papers "Is it time for a referendum on a united Ireland?" (2013), and "Northern Ireland or the north of Ireland? Some thoughts on the partition of Ireland and its consequences" (2012) were published by the Group for Contemporary International Studies (GEIC – *Grupo de Estudios Internacionales Contemporáneos*), based in the city of Córdoba, Argentina. In 2011 he published "Easter Sunday at the north", a travel diary of Ireland and Northern Ireland, included in his book of short stories, *Relatos de un tiempo anterior y posterior al olvido*.

He has been a member of SILAS since 2013 and is interested in the study of the independence process of Ireland, the Northern Ireland conflict, cross-border cooperation and the processes of economic and political integration.

New Documentary Film about Johnny Dynamite

A Captain Unafraid is a documentary film by Charles O' Brien that will chart the life and times of "Dynamite" Johnny O' Brien, a nineteenth-century seafarer and adventurer. Johnny was most well known for his filibustering trips to Cuba that helped set freedom's flame alight "in the dark days of the insurrection," that insurrection being the final and decisive Cuban War of Independence. Charles has been in contact with Johnny's great-granddaughters since 2011, when he interviewed them at their home in Arkansas, in the U.S. They are fully behind the documentary, and may even travel to Cuba when the Cuban portion of the filming is being done. The film will be shot in Ireland, Cuba, and New York. Though Johnny was born in New York, his parents hailed from Longford, Ireland. The film will be funded through the crowd-funding platform **Indiegogo**. The Indiegogo campaign will run until the 23th of May.



The above information was submitted to this newsletter by Charles O' Brien who is a musician and writer of songs. He is from Killarney, Ireland. He is currently working on an album of songs concerning the Irish in Latin-America entitled—"Hy Brazil-Songs of The Irish In Latin America." The completion of that album is planned to coincide with the screening of *A Captain Unafraid*, in the first months of 2015.

The Indiegogo campaign can be found at:

<http://igg.me/at/AcaptainUnafraid>

For more information on the film visit the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ACaptainUnafraid>

A Call for Help from *Breac Archives* at the University of Notre Dame



The *Breac* website announces:

“ We are excited to announce a forthcoming initiative from the Breac project called *Breac Archives* (<http://breac.nd.edu/articles/archives/>), a secure digital repository designed and maintained by Irish Studies and Digital Humanities specialists at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to ensuring the long-term preservation, accessibility, and usability of material featured on the *Breac* website, our goal as Senior Editors of *Breac Archives* is to look outwards. To this end, as part of the *Breac Archives* project, we are compiling a bibliography of works of **criticism / commentary / scholarship** relating to Irish history, culture, and society from across all disciplines. In designing this bibliography, our aim is to provide a fully searchable, open-access resource which records all forms of scholarship relating to Ireland and Irish Studies. Phase one of this project consists of the gathering of content for the archive and in this, we need your help. Using the links listed below, we invite you to send us the bibliographical details of any of your previous, current, or forthcoming scholarly work that you would like to be included in the bibliography. Alternatively, you can send the details of your publications via email to archive@breac.org. We welcome work in all formats, including but not limited to books, book chapters, journal articles, digital projects, and audio/visual recordings. If you have any questions concerning the forms or this project more generally, please contact us at archive@breac.org. ”

Membership

The executive committee of SILAS wishes to extend a very warm welcome to new members who joined in 2013. If you are receiving this newsletter and you are not a paying member of this society, please consider joining the society. Become part of a wide network of scholars, researchers and a diverse multi-lingual community of people interested in the subject of Irish connections with Latin America, Iberia, the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking North America. Join the society at <http://www.irlandeses.org/joinnow.htm> and encourage others to join.

Benefits of membership with SILAS include occasional newsletters, e-letters with updates on events, calls for papers, new publications, news on grants/fellowships and new resources, free subscription to the journal, as well as access to a wide range of databases of information on individual Irish migrants in different Latin American countries (such as passenger lists, census information, newspaper reports and more).

We would like to revive the travel and research grant program at some stage in the future. For that we need funds and more members. We also need funds to maintain our website and promote our conferences. If you have any opinions about raising the fees, fundraising or outreach for new members, please respond to this newsletter.

Membership fees are payable annually in January and ensure that you are fully subscribed for the calendar year, but members may join or renew any time throughout the year.

Payment may be made through PayPal by accessing the SILAS Web site at:

<http://www.irlandeses.org/joinnow.htm>

Student Member: EUR 10.00 per year (USD \$15.00/GBP £10.00)

Senior Member: EUR 20.00 per year (USD \$30.00/GBP £20.00)