Dear friends,

The Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation has enjoyed another year rich in events, achievements and new initiatives, but also in unprecedented challenges which have tested the mettle of our young institution.

We were delighted to learn in late 2019 that our MPhil in Literary Translation was awarded the prestigious ‘Postgraduate Course of the Year’ in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the gradireland Higher Education Awards. This is the top award for a postgraduate course in Ireland and is eloquent testimony to the hard work and innovative teaching practices of the Course Director, Dr James Hadley, and his colleagues.

In October, we hosted the first Translation Studies Network of Ireland conference which was attended by over 100 scholars from Ireland and abroad.

In early 2020, we launched our new French Visiting Translator Fellowship, a joint initiative with the Alliance Française and the French Embassy in Ireland. Award-winning French translator Mona de Pracontal was the first recipient of the Fellowship.

Mona was joined at the Centre by a second translator-in-residence, Anna-Nina Kroll, whose residency was jointly sponsored by Literature Ireland and the Centre. Anna-Nina Kroll is the German translator of the works of Donal Ryan and other Irish writers.

Alongside involvement in translation events to mark Culture Night and the European Day of Languages, we hosted an event celebrating a new translation by an Irish translator of work by the internationally renowned Mexican writer Juan Rulfo.

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 presented a particular challenge for our events-based programme. In response, we decided to dramatically increase our online offerings and this has proved very successful.

Our Book Club moved online in April and, in May, we hosted an online interview with writer and translator Alan Titley about his translation of The Dregs of the Day by Máirtín Ó Cadhain.

Our Translation Studies Reading Group also moved online and now attracts postgraduate students and academics from all over the world to its monthly meetings.

In June, the Centre presented a rare interview with John Banville, where he talked about translation and the influence of translated literature on his work.

In July, Peter Torberg, one of Germany’s most eminent translators from English, joined me for a conversation about his literary translation practice.

Throughout this difficult period, the aim of the Centre has been to maintain our imaginative and creative openness to the world’s languages and cultures, in a time when translated literature allows for possibilities of travel that are otherwise denied to us.

Professor Michael Cronin
Director

Inspiring Generations
The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin
**September 2019**

**Culture Night and ‘Hackathon’ at Trinity Long Room Hub**

For the second year running, we welcomed members of the public on Culture Night to celebrate Trinity’s special relationship with fantasy author, Terry Pratchett. Terry Pratchett was a prolific writer and satirist who wrote over 55 books, and his work has been translated into over 34 languages. Trinity College Library has a comprehensive collection of Pratchett’s work in English and in translation, which is currently being digitised.

Culture Night was followed by a ‘hackathon’ to which fans were invited to bring their laptops to tackle quantitative research on the publication history of Pratchett’s work around the world. The highlight of the day was an interview with Sir Terry’s literary agent, Colin Smythe, Trinity alumnus and publisher. Colin Smythe was awarded an honorary LL.D. from Trinity College Dublin in 1998.

*‘Translation Slam’ to celebrate European Day of Languages*

Also in September, we marked European Day of Languages, an annual event organised by the Council of Europe and the European Union to celebrate language learning and language diversity across Europe. Together with EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture), we invited translators Patrick Couton, Anikó Sohár, Piotr Cholewa and Mariá Ferrer – Terry Pratchett’s French, Hungarian, Polish and Spanish translators respectively – to Trinity for a discussion about how they had translated the famous *Discworld* novels. The event focused on the theme of humour, jokes and wordplay in the different languages.

This event was kindly supported by Trinity Long Room Hub, the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE), the Embassy of Poland, the Embassy of France, Alliance Française Dublin and Instituto Cervantes Dublin.

There will be more events in 2020: namely a Pratchett Project Conference from 17-18 September and an event on Culture Night, Friday 18 September.

These events are being run under the umbrella of The Pratchett Project, a multi-disciplinary, multi-university collaboration which recently expanded to include Trinity’s Institute of Neuroscience and Trinity’s Global Brain Health Institute. The aim of this collaboration is to drive ground-breaking interdisciplinary research into Alzheimer’s disease, the degenerative brain condition from which Sir Terry suffered. The Pratchett Project is led by Dr James Hadley. For more information about this important project, email thepratchettproject@gmail.com.
In 2018, we invited colleagues from across the island of Ireland to a meeting to discuss setting up a Translation Studies Network of Ireland. The aim of this network is to provide a supportive environment for scholars pursuing research topics in translation studies.

In October 2019, we were delighted to host the inaugural TSNI conference to a full house of practising translators and translation scholars from all over Ireland and further afield.

The conference explored the diversity of translation research in Ireland and looked at the scope for future research and collaboration.

Our keynote speaker was Dr Carol O’Sullivan, Trinity alumna and Senior Lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Bristol. She is also editor-in-chief of the prestigious journal *Translation Studies* and the author of many works on cinema and translation. Dr O’Sullivan gave a fascinating and very entertaining talk on audiovisual translation history, with particular reference to subtitling history in Ireland.

The next conference will be hosted by Queen’s University Belfast, date to be confirmed.
January 2020

Sara Baume in Conversation with France-Camus Pichon

French translator, France Camus-Pichon was Literature Ireland’s translator-in-residence in January, during which time she worked on her translation of Sara Baume’s second novel, A Line Made By Walking. France Camus-Pichon lives and works in Orléans, France. She is highly regarded as the translator of Ian McEwan’s work, including his novel On Chesil Beach, as well as works by Tom Rob Smith, Robin MacArthur, Richard Flanagan, Sophie Laguna, and others.

Camus-Pichon’s translation of Baume’s first novel – Spill Simmer Falter Wither (Dans la baie fauve) – won the Irish Francophonie Ambassadors’ Literary Award in 2019. This prize is awarded annually to an Irish work translated into French.

On 16 January, Sinéad Mac Aodha, Director of Literature Ireland, interviewed Sara and France about the relationship between translator and writer, and how this relationship evolves as author and translator work together on multiple projects.

February 2020

Translating Juan Rulfo

Juan Rulfo (1917–1986) was a Mexican novelist and short story writer, whose work had a profound influence on his contemporaries, including Gabriel García Márquez. His remarkable short story collection El Llano en llamas (1953) centres on life in rural Mexico after the revolution, and the 17 stories in this collection have become classics of Latin American literature.

Translator and Trinity graduate Stephen Beechinor came to the Centre to launch his new translation of El Llano in flames with Prof. Michael Cronin. Together, they discussed Rulfo’s influence as a writer, the motives and aims of this translation – the first complete translation into English outside the US – some translation issues and stylistic choices, the editorial process and small press publication.
In February, Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, the French Embassy in Ireland and the Alliance Française Dublin celebrated the launch of our inaugural French Visiting Translator Fellowship. A joint initiative, the purpose of this fellowship is to bring translators to Ireland who are translating Irish literature into French.

Our inaugural French Visiting Translator Fellow was Mona de Pracontal. Mona is an accomplished translator who has translated the work of many writers, including Gloria Steinem, William Burroughs, Frank Baum, Hanif Kureishi, Melvin Burgess, Cynan Jones and Conor O’Callaghan. She was awarded the Baudelaire Prize for literary translation in 2009 for her translation of *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and the ‘Prix de Traduction de la Fondation Irlandaise 2019’ for her translation of *Nothing on Earth*, by Conor O’Callaghan.

Mona de Pracontal spent just over six weeks at Trinity, during which time she worked on her translation of the novel, *Inch Levels* by Irish writer Neil Hegarty, for publication by Joëlle Losfeld at Gallimard. Mona’s residency was cut short by almost two weeks by the pandemic but, when her translation is published, she hopes to return to Dublin for a launch event at the Centre with Neil Hegarty.
2020 Translators-in-Residence at Literature Ireland and the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation

Together with our partner, Literature Ireland, we were delighted to be able to award two residencies in 2020 for German language literary translators. These were awarded for 8 weeks each, between January and May 2020. The generous bursaries cover accommodation, a dedicated workspace in our Centre, and travel and living expenses. In order to qualify, applicants were required to be translating a work of contemporary Irish literature into German, and to have a publishing contract for this translation.

The 2020 bursaries were awarded to translators Anna-Nina Kroll and Peter Torberg (see page 8).

Anna-Nina Kroll used her residency (January–March 2020) to work on her translation into German of *From a Low and Quiet Sea* by Donal Ryan, to be published by Diogenes, Zurich.

Irish writer Donal Ryan was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2013, and won the Guardian First Book award the same year. Anna-Nina Kroll has translated all of his work to date into German.

In February, we had a very enjoyable evening at the Centre, when both writer and translator were interviewed by literary translator Rachel McNicholl – an evening that included both reading and even singing from their work!
Congratulations to our Board member Hans-Christian Oeser who was awarded the prestigious Straelen Translation Prize in April 2020. The Straelen Translation Prize of €25,000 is awarded by the North Rhine Westfalia Art Foundation (Kunststiftung NRW), in cooperation with the European College of Translators, Straelen. The prize was awarded both for his outstanding translation into German of *Days without End* by Sebastian Barry and to honour his life’s work in translation.

Over the course of his career, Hans-Christian Oeser has been a great friend and champion of Irish literature in translation. In addition to translating some of the greats of British and American literature, he has translated the work of some of Ireland’s greatest writers, including Brendan Behan, Arthur Conan Doyle, Hugo Hamilton, Jennifer Johnston, Patrick McCabe, John McGahern, Eoin McNamee, John Montague, Peig Sayers, William Trevor and Oscar Wilde. Many of his translations have been supported by Literature Ireland over the years, including works by Sebastian Barry, Anne Enright, Maeve Brennan, Bernard MacLaverty, Michael Longley, Paul McVeigh, Claire Keegan and Colin Barrett.

Alan Titley

In May, we were honoured when translator and writer Prof. Alan Titley joined our book club online for an interview with Michael Cronin about his translation of *The Dregs of the Day* by Máirtín Ó Cadhain, published in 2019 by Yale University Press.

Alan Titley’s translation of this novella beautifully captures the despair and humour of the original and has brought this work to an English-speaking audience for the first time. Published just months before he died in 1970, Máirtín Ó Cadhain’s novella follows the story of a nameless civil servant, N., in the days immediately following the death of his wife. N. is a lost soul on a hopeless quest for salvation: he hates his job, his wife’s family and trusts no one and, in a cloud of grief, he wanders the streets in a futile search for salvation. *The Dregs of the Day* is a darkly humorous look at the widower’s attempts to arrange his wife’s funeral without money, a plan or anyone to turn to. With black humour sprinkled throughout, the book illustrates Ó Cadhain’s conviction that tragedy and comedy are inextricably linked.

Alan Titley is also the acclaimed translator of Ó Cadhain’s masterpiece, * Cré na Cille* (*The Dirty Dust*) which for many years was considered untranslatable.

To watch a recording of this event, click here.
June 2020

John Banville in Conversation

Distinguished novelist John Banville – one of Ireland’s greatest living writers – took part in an online conversation with Prof. Michael Cronin about the influence of European literature and languages on his writing.

John Banville has published seventeen novels and he has been awarded many prestigious literary prizes, including the Man Booker Prize, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Guardian Fiction Award, the Franz Kafka Prize, a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction and the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature. John is also well known for his crime fiction, published under the pseudonym Benjamin Black.

To listen to a recording of this event, click here.

Peter Torberg
Translator Peter Torberg was invited to be our second 2020 translator-in-residence co-hosted by Literature Ireland. Peter was due to spend eight weeks at Trinity from April-May 2020, to work on his translation of The Ghosts of Saturday Night by Adrian McKinty, for publication by Suhrkamp Berlin.

July 2020

On Translation, with Peter Torberg

Peter has an outstanding track record of translating literary works from English into German. He has translated hundreds of novels, short stories, essays, poems, radio plays, audio books, theatre plays and film scripts. Writers whose work he has translated include Paul Auster, Larry Beinhart, Michael Caine, Peter Carey, Jerom Charyn, Anita Desai, Garry Disher, Raymond Federman, William Golding, Christopher Hitchens, Rudyard Kipling, Deirdre Madden, Conon McPherson, Michael Ondaatje, David Peace, Richard Price, Ishmael Reed, Jim Thompson, Mark Twain, Eliot Weinberger, Irvine Welsh, Oscar Wilde, Tad Williams, Daniel Woodrell, and Bob Woodward.

Unfortunately, Peter’s residency had to be postponed due to the pandemic, but we were delighted when he agreed to take part in a webinar in July 2020 with Prof. Michael Cronin to discuss his long career as a translator and his approach to literary translation across a huge range of literary genres. Together with Literature Ireland, we look forward to welcoming Peter to the Centre in person, hopefully in 2021. To watch a recording of this event, click here.
In November, our MPhil in Literary Translation was awarded “Postgraduate Course of the Year in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences” at the gradireland Higher Education Awards. Congratulations go to Course Director, Dr James Hadley, and all the team.

This year, our MPhil students came from Brazil, Canada, China, Ireland, Poland, Spain and the US. Unfortunately, their time at Trinity was cut short by the pandemic, but teaching moved online successfully. Our 2019 students had a virtual graduation ceremony in April.

In June, the MPhil entered into a new partnership with The Pertinent Press, a publisher which offers current students and recent graduates the chance to work on translating book-length academic works from Italian and French.

Mohammad Aboomar joined the QuantiQual Project in July 2019, after undertaking his master’s degree in translation studies at Dublin City University, and then working as a terminologist on another project. Mohammad is an expert in digitising the historical texts which the project relies on for its analyses. He also has expertise in Arabic language and culture, as well as translation research, theory and practice.

Jan Buts joined the QuantiQual Project in November 2019, after completing his doctorate in Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University of Manchester. Jan’s doctoral research combined translation studies theory with digital humanities methodologies to track the evolution and contestation of concepts across time and space. In his work for the QuantiQual project, he draws on this specialist knowledge to create and apply new methodologies for the analysis of indirect translations.

Alberto Poncelas joined the QuantiQual Project in October 2019, after completing his doctorate in Computing at Dublin City University. Alberto’s doctoral research focuses on the training of machine translation systems, and his work on the QuantiQual project centres on his expertise in building and refining cutting-edge neural machine translation software which is capable of translating literary texts indirectly.
PhD programme at Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation

In the 2019-2020 academic year, we started building our doctoral research team. Trinity College has outstanding resources for PhD candidates in Translation Studies, including expertise in a wide range of languages and cultural contexts and a world-class library. Our full-time PhD programme takes four years to complete, during which time candidates work on their own projects, producing a piece of original research that makes a substantial contribution to what we know about translation. Trinity is the only university in Ireland that offers practice-based translation PhDs.

We are delighted to introduce the first members of our doctoral research team below:

Hannah Rice is a graduate of Maynooth University (BA and MA in Modern Irish), and Trinity College Dublin (M.Phil. in Literary Translation). She has taught Irish language and culture at Beijing Foreign Studies University and was a research assistant on an Irish-language online-learning project at Dublin City University.

Hannah’s doctoral research centres on the practice of literary self-translation in Ireland, largely between the Irish and English languages. The Irish language’s status as the first official language, as well as a minority language of the State, provides an invaluable study into the motivations for self-translation and the relationship between minority and majority languages and linguistic identity.

Danielle LeBlanc is researching literary translation in the context of French-Canadian minority communities, focusing specifically on Acadian translations between 1978 and 2020.

Danielle completed her MPhil at Trinity College in 2018, where the idea for her research originated. She tells us: “I am thrilled to return to Trinity for my PhD. While the pandemic has thwarted my immediate plans, the team at the Centre has been generous, flexible, and supportive to ensure as smooth a start to my PhD as possible. I look forward to being able to travel to Ireland to benefit from the contributions of fellow researchers and from TCLCT’s numerous partnerships and development opportunities.

Danielle has been generously funded by the Fondation Baxter & Alma Ricard.

John Gleeson completed our MPhil in 2019. His PhD research is focused on two Irish translators, Nicholas Madgett and John Sullivan, both Kerrymen, who worked for the French government during the tumultuous years of the French Revolution. They were committed republicans whose work as translators and interpreters also involved counter-espionage, intelligence and propaganda in the war between France and Britain. They promoted the ideals of the Revolution and provided linguistic support to Wolfe Tone in his efforts to persuade the French authorities to send an invasion force to overthrow British rule in Ireland. Sullivan accompanied General Humbert on his ill-fated expedition to Mayo in 1798 and miraculously escaped with his life.

Drawing principally from French archival sources, John’s research is tracking the journeys of the two translators, uncle and nephew, through the shifting sands of the French Revolution and examining their contribution to translation history.

Andrea Bergantino achieved a master’s degree cum laude in Modern Languages and Literatures (English and German) at the University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy. Both his undergraduate and postgraduate studies pivoted on literature and translation. After his MA, Andrea translated some chapters of a volume about Corpus Translation Studies into Italian, and worked as Italian language assistant at two secondary schools in Dublin.

Andrea’s PhD research is an interdisciplinary project focusing on literary representations of translation and translators. Andrea has been awarded the prestigious Rachel Thompson Ussher Fellowship by Trinity’s School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies.
Our book club meets once a month during term to discuss a piece of recently translated literature. New members are most welcome and you may participate as and when it suits. This year, we reviewed books translated from seven languages, with stories set in Argentina, Brazil, Congo-Brazzaville, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Oman, South Korea and Syria.

In April we went online for the first time and we will continue online for the foreseeable future, resuming on 20 October 2020. You can find the book titles for upcoming book clubs on our website, here.

**Book Club News**

**Celestial Bodies**
by Jokha Alharthi, translated from Arabic by Marilyn Booth

**Death is Hard Work**
by Khaled Khalifa, translated from Arabic by Leri Price

**The Eight Mountains**
by Paolo Cognetti, translated from Italian by Simon Carnell & Erica Segre

**At Dusk**
by Hwang Sok-yong, translated from Korean by Sora Kim-Russell

**Black Moses**
by Alain Mabanckou, translated from French by Helen Stevenson

**Resistance**
by Julián Fuks, translated from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn

**Go Went Gone**
by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated from German by Susan Bernofsky

**The Dregs of the Day**
by Máirtín Ó Cadhain, translated from Irish by Alan Titley

In April we went online for the first time and we will continue online for the foreseeable future, resuming on 20 October 2020. You can find the book titles for upcoming book clubs on our website, here.

**Upcoming events in 2020**

**Friday, 25 September**
5–6pm
**Edna O’Brien in Translation**

Please join us on 25 September – European Day of Languages – to celebrate the work of Edna O’Brien in translation. We will be joined by Edna O’Brien herself, and by four of her translators who will be discussing their translations of her most recent novel, *Girl*, into French, German, Italian and Spanish. This event is being organised with support from EUNIC, the Embassy of France in Ireland, Alliance Française Dublin, Instituto Cervantes Dublin, the Austrian Embassy Dublin, the Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland, Istituto Italiano di Cultura Dublin and the Goethe-Institut Dublin.

**Wednesday, 30 September**
5–6pm
**Eoin McNamee in Translation**

To celebrate International Translation Day on 30 September, we will be interviewing Irish writer Eoin McNamee and his German language translator, Hansjörg Schertenleib.

This event is being organised in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Dublin.

**Admission is free to both of these events. For more information and to book tickets, please click here.**
New! Become a Friend or Patron of Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation

Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation develops, promotes and supports literary and cultural translation through education, publication and partnership. Literary and cultural translation is at the core of our mission as we engage with all stages of the translating process, train student translators and provide resources and residencies for established translators and researchers.

The Centre is housed in a fine Georgian building facing Merrion Square. We are wholly reliant on funds raised from outside College to support our mission. Funds raised through our friendship programme will allow us to continue hosting our public outreach and literary translation events, and to develop our research and residency programmes.

If you enjoy our events and activities, would you consider becoming a Friend or Patron of the Centre, or perhaps giving a gift of ‘friendship’ to someone? We have a range of options available, each lasting 12 months. Friendship packages purchased now will be valid until for 15 months, until 31st December 2021.

### Bronze Friends, €100

Bronze Friends receive advance booking options for our events, a TCLCT tote bag and a printed copy of our annual Newsletter. You will also be offered the opportunity to join us at our annual Friends’ Lunch.

### Silver Friends, €250

Silver Friends receive advance booking options for our events, a TCLCT tote bag and a printed copy of our annual Newsletter. You will also receive a copy of each of our book club choices (6-8 books a year) and you will be offered the opportunity to join us at our annual Friends’ Lunch.

### Gold Friends, €500

Gold Friends receive advance booking options for all our events, a TCLCT tote bag, a printed copy of our annual Newsletter, and a copy of each of our book club choices (6-8 books a year). You will be offered two complimentary VIP tickets with reserved seating for our annual International Lecture and you will also receive a complimentary ticket to our annual Friends’ Lunch.

### Patrons, €1,000

Patrons receive advance booking options for all our events, a TCLCT tote bag, a copy of our annual Newsletter, and a copy of each of our book club choices (6-8 books a year). You will be offered two complimentary VIP tickets with reserved seating for our annual International Lecture and you will also receive two complimentary tickets for you and a guest to join us at our annual Friends’ Lunch. In addition, you will be offered the opportunity to host a private event or meeting once a year in one of our two beautiful Georgian reception rooms at 36 Fenian Street (subject to terms and conditions).

All Friends and Patrons will receive a dedicated Centre Friend Card. Your support will be formally acknowledged in a designated section on our website and any printed events programmes, subject to your permission.

If you would like more information on becoming a Friend or Patron of Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, please contact Eithne Bowen at littrans@tcd.ie

If you or your organisation are interested in sponsoring a scholarship in literary translation, a visiting translator residency, or translation events, please contact Sonya Perkins, Associate Director, Trinity Development and Alumni, Trinity College Dublin, email: perkinso@tcd.ie

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