



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

# Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation Newsletter 2020–2021

Dear friends,

The last year has been a year like no other. Our building in 36 Fenian Street has lain empty and silent. The Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation, however, rose to the challenge by moving all our events and activities online and, in the process, reached new audiences all over the world. Two highlights were our interview with Edna O'Brien and her translators and a conversation with the translation scholar Lawrence Venuti, events which were watched by several hundred people across the globe. From translating medieval Japanese poetry to exploring the role of machine translation in literature to teasing out the origins and impact of Penguin Russian Classics, the year has been rich in encounters with translators, scholars, publishers and all who cherish the vital role of translation in sustaining the vitality of the world's literatures.

We were delighted to be able to announce the appointment of the distinguished poet and translator Peter Sirr as Adjunct Professor based in the Centre. Peter (second from top) who has lectured for many years on the MPhil in Literary Translation will bring a wealth of experience to this position. Our partner Literature Ireland launched a new podcast series earlier this year to give voice to the experiences of translators of Irish literature and continues to champion the cause of Irish literature in translation both at home and abroad. Our Book Club attracted its largest

number of participants ever this year and a particularly memorable evening was hosted by Prof. Cormac Ó Cuilleain who was joined by Jenny McPhee to discuss her translation of *Family Lexicon* by Natalia Ginzburg.

During a year of lockdowns and restrictions it was heartening to witness at so many of our events the joy and pleasure that literature in translation brings to many people in different parts of the world. As we gradually return to a version of normality, the Centre will continue to advocate for the centrality of literary translation to flourishing literatures and cultures. Through a mixture of online and offline events, we will build on the community of interest in translation and translators and showcase the rich diversity of writing across the languages of the world. As our building begins to slowly come to life again with the voices of students, translators, writers and scholars, we invite you to join us for another year of events and activities celebrating the invaluable art of translation.

This Newsletter gives an overview of the events we held during the last year: to review a recording of any of these, please click on its title which will take you to our YouTube channel.

**Professor Michael Cronin**  
Director



**Inspiring Generations**

The Campaign for Trinity College Dublin

September 2020

## Edna O’Brien in Translation



On 25 September 2020, European Day of Languages, we marked the start of the new academic year with an event celebrating the work of **Edna O’Brien** in translation. We were honoured to be joined by Edna O’Brien, who spoke eloquently about the ‘noble act’ of translation and her on-going debt to her many translators around the world. She also read an excerpt from her most recent novel, *Girl*.

O’Brien’s German, Italian and Spanish translators – **Kathrin Razum**, **Giovanna Granato** and **Ana Mata Buil** – then joined a discussion about the challenges they faced translating *Girl* into their respective languages. We were also joined by **Sabine Wespieser**, Edna O’Brien’s long time publisher in France. The discussion was moderated by Dr **Rosie Lavan** of Trinity’s School of English.

This event was kindly supported by EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture), 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 Ireland.



Edna O’Brien



Rosie Lavan



Kathrin Razum



Giovanna Granato



Ana Mata Buil



Sabine Wespieser  
© Marco Castro

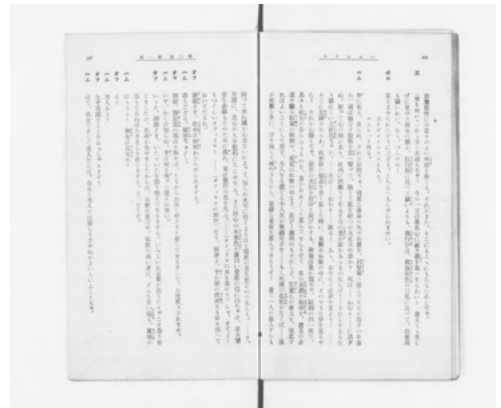
October-November 2020

## Translating Shakespeare into Japanese

**Tsubouchi Shoyo** (1859-1935), usually known by his pen name Shoyo, was a distinguished playwright, novelist, critic and translator. He was the first person to translate the complete works of William Shakespeare into Japanese. When he was born at the end of the Edo era, Dutch – not English – was the main language of communication between Japan and the outside world. The Japanese language was divided between the classical written style of an educated elite and the range of dialects spoken by the majority of the population. Shoyo's Shakespeare translations, which were published as bestsellers in the 1910s and 1920s, exemplify the remarkable unification of the spoken and written styles achieved over his lifetime.



Daniel Gallimore



**Daniel Gallimore** has been Professor of English at Kwansai Gakuin University since 2011, where he specialises in the teaching of Shakespeare. He is an active translator of contemporary Japanese drama and Japanese Shakespeare adaptations. Joining us from Japan, he gave a fascinating talk about Shoyo's work translating Shakespeare into Japanese.

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## A conversation with Danish translator, Misha Hoekstra



Jordan Barger



Misha Hoekstra

Award-winning translator **Misha Hoekstra** joined us from Denmark for a lunchtime reading and discussion about his latest translation from Danish, *New Passengers* by Tine Høeg. Misha was in conversation with American translator **Jordan Barger**. Tine Høeg's novel won an English Pen Award and the Bogforum's Debutantpris, awarded each year for the best literary debut published in Denmark. Misha Hoekstra has translated many Danish authors, including Hans Christian Andersen and Maren Uthaug. In 2017, he received the Danish Translation Prize, and his translation of Dorthe Nors's *Mirror, Shoulder, Signal* was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize.

December 2020

## Publish or Perish? Reflections of an editor, referee and author



Roberto A. Valdeón

**Roberto A. Valdeón** gave a most informative talk on publishing in translation studies, focussing on what he has in the past called the “publish fast or perish” policy and how this affects the relationship between editors, referees and authors. He looked at how the “publish or perish” policy is implemented in different parts of the world, and discussed recent recommendations for the humanities and the social sciences. He discussed some of the challenges for authors and the evolution in publishing that he has witnessed over the last decade.

Roberto A. Valdeón is Editor-in-Chief of *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice* and General Editor of the Benjamins Translation Library. He is the author of *Translation and the Spanish Empire in the Americas* (2014) and recently co-edited the *Routledge Handbook of Spanish Translation Studies*. He referees on a regular basis for major periodicals. He is currently Professor of English Studies at the University of Oviedo, Spain.

February 2021

## A Gap in the Clouds: Translating Medieval Japanese Poetry Today



James Hadley



Nell Regan



Pat Boran



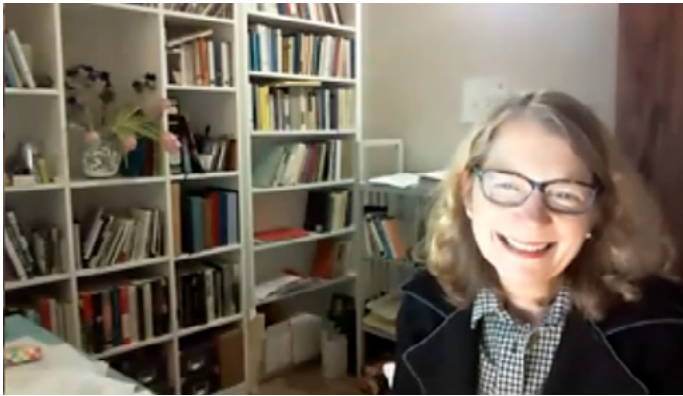
The *Ogura Hyakunin Isshu*, Ogura’s 100 poems by 100 poets, is one of the most important poetry collections in Japan. Compiled ca.1235 by Fujiwara no Teika, the poems date from the 800s onwards and its poets include emperors and empresses, courtiers and high priests, ladies-in-waiting and soldier-calligraphers. The 100 poems in the collection are *tanka*, 31 syllable poems traditionally written in a single unbroken line. Each *tanka* is a mental snapshot of a scene, filled with symbolism and layers of interpretation. This beautiful edition published by Dedalus Press sets out the poems in their English translation, accompanied by the original poems in Japanese calligraphy.

*A Gap in the Clouds* is a collaboration between **James Hadley**, Ussher Assistant Professor in Literary Translation at Trinity College, and poet **Nell Regan**. It combines scholarly research to understand the historical and cultural context of medieval Japan, with the poetic mastery necessary to allow each text to be appreciated as a poem in its own right in English. James and Nell were interviewed by the book’s editor, **Pat Boran** of Dedalus Press, about the background to the collection and how they translated the poems together. They also read some of their favourite poems from the collection.

## Family Lexicon by Natalia Ginzburg



Cormac Ó Cuilleain



Jenny McPhee



Our book club reviewed a new (2018) translation by **Jenny McPhee** of *Family Lexicon* by Natalia Ginzburg. The book was introduced by Prof. **Cormac Ó Cuilleain**, translator, writer and former Head of Italian at Trinity College Dublin, and we were joined by translator Jenny McPhee. Jenny is a

widely-published novelist and translator: in addition to Ginzburg, she has translated works by Primo Levi, Anna Maria Ortese, Curzio Malaparte, Paolo Maurensig, and Pope John Paul II. An administrator and faculty member at NYU, she has taught at Princeton and the European School of Literary Translation.

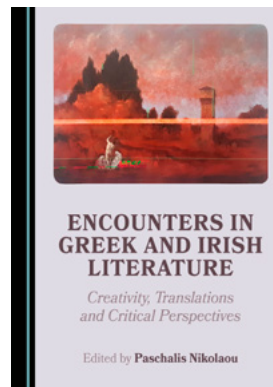
## Encounters in Greek and Irish Literature



Paschalis Nikolaou



Deirdre Madden



Editor **Paschalis Nikolaou** and writer **Deirdre Madden** joined us for a discussion about Nikolaou's new book, *Encounters in Greek and Irish Literature*, which explores interactions between these two linguistic and cultural traditions, as well as the role that translation plays as an integral part of this dialogue. Paschalis Nikolaou is Assistant Professor in Literary Translation at the

Ionian University, Corfu. Deirdre Madden has published nine novels and three novels for children, and her work has been translated into several languages. She teaches Creative Writing on the MPhil programme at Trinity's Oscar Wilde Centre for Irish Writing.

March 2021

## Spotlight on the Irish Short Story



Mike McCormack



Sinéad Gleeson



Wendy Erskine

In March, **Literature Ireland** hosted a discussion on *The Irish Short Story: A Long, Proud and Evolving Tradition*. **Martin Doyle**, Books Editor at the *Irish Times*, interviewed writers **Sinéad Gleeson**, **Wendy Erskine** and **Mike**

**McCormack**, and together they explored the flexibility of the genre and the role that the short story and anthologies play in their creative lives. A recording is available on Literature Ireland's YouTube channel.

## 'Talking Translations' podcast series



Michelle Gallen



Clara Ministral

**Literature Ireland** began its 'Talking Translations' podcast series in Spring 2020 as a way to bring Irish writing to listeners across the globe. Each episode features an Irish writer reading their own work, followed by a translator reading a newly-commissioned translation of the same piece. The latest episode features **Michelle Gallen** reading an excerpt from her novel *Big Girl, Small Town*, with Spanish translator **Clara Ministral**. In September 2021, **Danielle McLaughlin** and Italian translator **Giovanna Granato** will read from Danielle's debut novel, *The Art of Falling*. Future episodes will feature **Lisa McInerney** in Korean, **Micheál Ó Conghaile** with Irish to Czech translator **Radvan Marcus**, and **Louise Kennedy** with Polish translator **Jerzy Kozłowski**. You can listen to all the episodes at [www.literatureireland.com](http://www.literatureireland.com)

## Literary Translator Studies



Klaus Kaindl

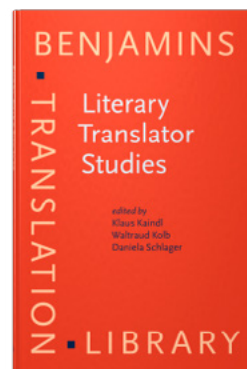


Waltraud Kolb



Daniela Schlager

Editors **Klaus Kaindl**, **Waltraud Kolb** and **Daniela Schlager**, of the University of Vienna's Centre for Translation Studies, joined **Andrea Bergantino**, one of our doctoral researchers, to introduce their new book, *Literary Translator Studies*. The emerging field of literary translator studies firmly positions the literary translator as a subject of research. The editors discussed how we can study the roles, identities and personalities of literary translators as human beings rather than disembodied channels of communication. They also presented some outstanding individuals, some of them long-forgotten literary translators and others well-known figures who appear in a new light.



April 2021

## Can machines be creative in literary translation?



Ana Guerberof-Arenas

Funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant, the 'CREAMT' project is led by **Ana Guerberof-Arenas** and **Antonio Toral**. The project uses a novel, interdisciplinary approach to assess how effective machine translation (MT) is in literary translation, by focusing on the creative aspect of literary texts and the reader's experience. The first phase analyses reproductions and creative shifts in three modalities: MT, human translation and MT post-editing, and two languages: Catalan and Dutch. The second phase measures the reader's experience using narrative engagement and enjoyment scales borrowed from psychology, communication and literary studies. Dr Guerberof-Arenas is Senior Lecturer in Translation and Multimodal Technologies at the University of Surrey, and she joined us to give an update on the preliminary findings of this project.

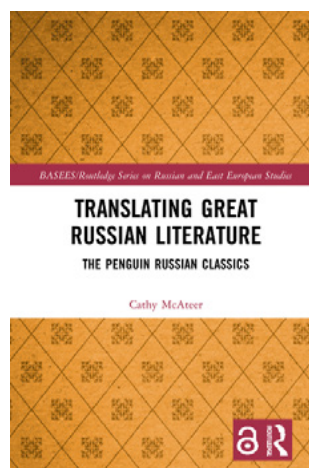
## Translating Great Russian Literature: The Penguin Russian Classics



Cathy McAteer



Conor Daly



**Cathy McAteer** was interviewed about her new book, *Translating Great Russian Literature*, by **Conor Daly** from the Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies at Trinity College. Cathy's book draws on her doctoral research of the Penguin archive to reveal some of the key publishing and translation practices behind Penguin's relaunch of the Russian Classics during the mid-twentieth century.

The book looks at the ways in which Allen Lane, Penguin's founder, the series editor E.V. Rieu, and a new cohort of commissioned translators (Gilbert Gardiner, Elisaveta Fen, David Magarshack, and Rosemary Edmonds) brought classic Russian authors - including Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov and more - to post-war readers in Britain and Ireland, subsequently paving the way for Soviet literature in translation.

Cathy McAteer is a Postdoctoral Fellow on the "Dark Side of Translation" project at the University of Exeter. Her main research interests lie in the field of classic Russian literature in English translation during the 20th century. **Conor Daly** has worked both as an interpreter and translator, and his translations from Russian into English have appeared in *The New York Review of Books* and *Mosaic*.

## Lawrence Venuti in Conversation



Lawrence Venuti



Michael Cronin



**LAWRENCE VENUTI**  
IN CONVERSATION

**Lawrence Venuti**, professor emeritus of English at Temple University, Philadelphia, is a world-leading translation theorist and

historian. He also translates from Italian, French, and Catalan. He is, most recently, the author of *Contra Instrumentalism: A Translation Polemic* (2019), the editor of *The Translation Studies Reader* (4th ed., 2021), and the translator of J.V. Foix's *Daybook 1918: Early Fragments* (2019), for which he won the Global Humanities Translation Prize at Northwestern University, and *Theses on Translation: An Organon for the Current Moment* (2019).

Prof. Venuti joined **Michael Cronin** for a wide-ranging discussion about Venuti's work in the field of translation studies and the place of translation in specific locales and the world at large.



May 2021

## Mícheál Ó hAodha in Conversation



**Mícheál Ó hAodha** is an acclaimed poet and translator from Galway who writes in the Irish language. He has written poetry, short stories, journalism and academic books on Irish social history, particularly relating to Travellers, the Irish working-class experience, and the Irish who emigrated to Britain. He is one of the few Irish-language poets since Seán Ó Ríordáin to explore the metaphysical in the Irish language, his work encompassing themes of loss, longing, memory, love and forgetting - in collections such as *Leabhar na nAistear* (*The Book of Journeys*) and *Leabhar na nAistear II*. Mícheál is also an accomplished translator: his recent best-selling translations from the Irish include: *Seán Ó Ríordáin: Life and Work* by Seán Ó Coileán (Mercier Press, 2018); *Exiles* by Dónall Mac Amhlaigh (Parthian, 2020); and *This Road of Mine* by Seosamh Mac Griannna (Lilliput, 2020). Mícheál joined **Michael Cronin** for a lunchtime talk about his work.

June 2021

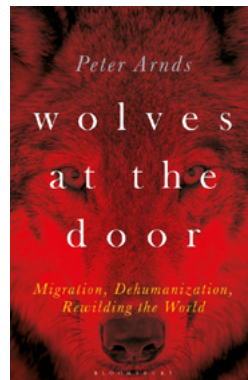
## ‘Wolves at the Door: Migration, Dehumanization, Rewilding the World’



Peter Arnds



Nicole Basaraba



have ‘Gypsies’, Jews, Native Americans and ‘wayward’ women been ‘wolfed’ in literature and politics? How has the wolf myth been exploited by Hitler, Mussolini and Turkish ultra-nationalism? How do right-wing politicians today exploit the reappearance of wolves in Central Europe in the context of the migration discourse? And while their reintroduction in places like Yellowstone has fuelled

Situated at the junction of literature, politics and ecocriticism, this new book by **Peter Arnds**, *Wolves at the Door*, traces the history of the wolf metaphor in discussions of race, gender, colonialism, fascism, and ecology. How

heated debates, what is the wolf’s role in ecological rewilding and the restoration of biodiversity? Prof. Peter Arnds, director of Trinity’s MPhil in Comparative Literature, was in conversation with Dr. **Nicole Basaraba**, Postdoctoral Researcher at Maastricht University.

## Summer Translation Workshops

Literature Ireland’s inaugural Translation Summer School took place from 28 June–2 July 2021. The workshops, held remotely, were open to early-career literary translators and postgraduate students of literary translation. This week of training focused on Irish fiction, poetry and non-fiction, and gave attendees a rare opportunity to work closely with established tutors including **Marie Hermet** and **Cliona Ní Ríordáin** (French), **Christa Schuenke** and **Peter Torberg**

(German), **Andrea Binelli** and **Michael F. Moore** (Italian), and **Clara Ministral** and **Arturo Peral** (Spanish). A second summer school is planned for 2022.



## News from the Centre

### MPhil news

Our **MPhil in Literary Translation** continues to go from strength to strength, having been awarded the gradireland ‘Postgraduate Course of the Year in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences’ last year. Our 2020-21 students took all their classes online and we hope to welcome them to Trinity in person in the near future. Our student numbers are set to double for 2021-22, when we will be welcoming students from countries including Brazil, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, the UK and the USA.

### PhD research

Trinity College has outstanding resources for PhD candidates in Translation Studies, with expertise in a wide range of languages and cultures and a world-class library. Our PhD 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. In the 2019-2020 academic year, we started building our doctoral research team and in our 2020 Newsletter we introduced the first members of this team, Andrea Bergantino, John Gleeson, Danielle LeBlanc and Hannah Rice. This year, the team is joined by **Nayara Helou Chubaci Güércio**.



**Nayara Helou Chubaci Güércio**

Nayara is researching indirect translation in academia. Her research aims to comprehend and illustrate the decisions and factors facing researchers studying indirect translations during the years 2017-2021. Nayara has been generously funded by the ABEI/HADDAD Fellowship for Brazilian students. Nayara has an MPhil in Literary Translation from Trinity College Dublin (2020).

### Conference

Our PhD students will be running a conference ‘Who’s Afraid of Translator Studies: The Human Translator in Focus’, from 12-13 May 2022 at Trinity College. The Call for Papers is now open and abstracts should be submitted to [tlctphd@gmail.com](mailto:tlctphd@gmail.com) by 29 October 2021. You can follow this group on Twitter @TCLCTPhDs.

## 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.

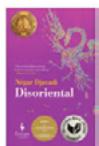
We are wholly reliant on funds raised from outside College to support our mission. Funds raised through our friendship programme will allow us to continue hosting our public outreach and literary translation events, and to develop our research and residency programmes. If you enjoy our events and activities, 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, ‘bronze’, ‘silver’, ‘gold’ and ‘patron’, each lasting 12 months.

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](mailto:littrans@tcd.ie), or click [here](#).



## Book Club News

Our book club meets on the third Tuesday of each month during term, to discuss a piece of recently translated literature. New members are always welcome and you may participate as and when it suits. This year, we reviewed books from Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Iceland, Iran, Italy and the Netherlands.



### **Disoriental**

by Négar Djavadi,  
translated from French  
by Tina Kover



### **The Discomfort of Evening**

by Marieke Lucas Rijneveld,  
translated from Dutch  
by Michele Hutchinson



### **The Doll**

by Ismail Kadare,  
translated from Albanian  
by John Hodgson



### **Family Lexicon**

by Natalia Ginzburg,  
translated from Italian  
by Jenny McPhee



### **Storm Birds**

by Einar Káráson,  
translated from Icelandic  
by Quentin Bates



### **The Adventures of China Iron**

by Gabriela Cabezón Cámara,  
translated from Spanish by Fiona  
Mackintosh & Iona Macintyre



### **Three Apples Fell from the Sky**

by Narine Abgaryan,  
translated from Russian  
by Lisa C. Hayden

## Autumn 2021



**21 September 2021**

*At Night All Blood is Black*  
by David Diop,  
translated from French  
by Anna Moschovakis



**16 October 2021**

*The Perfect Nine*  
by Ngugi wa Thiong'o  
translated from Gikuyu  
by the author



**16 November 2021**

*The Enlightenment of the  
Greengage Tree*  
by Shokoofeh Azar,  
translated from Farsi  
by Anonymous

## Translation Studies Reading Group

Our translation studies reading group meets each month during term time. We welcome academics and students from all over the world to join us for informal discussions, based on recently published research in translation studies. The texts we discussed this year included:

Maitland, Sarah:

*Imagining otherness: on translation, harm and border logic.*

Pym, Anthony: *Where translation studies lost the plot: Relations with language teaching.*

Svahn, Elin, Minna Ruokonen, Leena Salmi: *Boundaries Around, Boundaries Within: Introduction to the Thematic Section on the Translation Profession, Translator Status and Identity.*

Tuominen, Tiina: *Experiencing translated media: why audience research needs translation studies.*

Şebnem Susam-Saraeva: *Representing experiential knowledge: Who may translate whom?*

Kwaśna, Karolina & Heydel, Magdalena: *Why Don't You Tell Them ... Unheard Voices in Claude Lanzmann's Film Shoah.*

Bantinaki, Katerina: *The literary translator as author: A philosophical assessment of the idea.*

Marais, Kobus: *Eleven different names, one practice: towards a phenomenology of translation.*

Stevens, Sophie: *Distance and Proximity in Analysing and Translating 'Bailando sola cada noche'.*

## Upcoming events

We run events, talks and workshops on all aspects of literary and cultural translation throughout the year. Our events are open to the public, and unless stated otherwise, admission is free. Please keep an eye on our website for regular updates about new events, or sign up to our mailing list (email [littrans@tcd.ie](mailto:littrans@tcd.ie)) to receive advance notice of same.

Here are just a few of the events we are hosting in the coming months:



**7.15pm, Thursday 30 September 2021**

### Colm Tóibín and his Translators

Please join us on 30 September – European Day of Languages – to celebrate the work of **Colm Tóibín** in translation. We will be joined by Colm Tóibín and by his French, Greek and Polish translators, **Anna Gibson, Athina Dimitriadou** and **Jerzy Kozłowski**. All three are translating Tóibín's new book, *The Magician*, the fascinating life story of Thomas Mann. This event is organised in partnership with the French, Greek and Polish embassies in Ireland and EUNIC-Ireland (EU National Institutes for Culture).



**October 2021**

### Poetry Translation Competition

In collaboration with the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland, we hosted a poetry translation competition this Summer to celebrate the people, languages and poetic traditions of Taiwan and Ireland. The winning translators will be invited to a 'translation slam' at Trinity College later this year. Details will be announced closer to the time on our website, here.



**1–2pm, Wednesday 20 October 2021**

### Trinity in Translation

Join us for a lunchtime talk about the fascinating history of translation and translated literature by scholars and former students of Trinity College Dublin. This event will be hosted by **Michael Cronin** and Trinity alumna Dr **Carol O'Sullivan**, now Director of Translation Studies at the University of Bristol, and is part of the Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity webinar series, hosted by Trinity Development & Alumni.



**4–6 November 2021**

### Petra-E Literary Translation Studies Conference 2021

We will be hosting PETRA-E's forthcoming conference "*Literary Translation Studies Today and Tomorrow*" at Trinity College in November. PETRA-E is a European network for the education and training of literary translators.

#### Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin  
36 Fenian Street, Dublin D02 CH22  
Tel: (+353) 01 896 3227  
Email: [littrans@tcd.ie](mailto:littrans@tcd.ie)

@TCLCTdublin TCLCTdublin TCLCT dublin

[www.tcd.ie/literary-translation](http://www.tcd.ie/literary-translation)

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