Public Engagement

Trinity achieves its mission to ‘engage wider society’ through festivals, lectures, events, exhibitions, showcasing research online, and through media and social media activity.

Festivals and broadcasts
Trinity partners with national and international organisations to host events and festivals on campus. As in previous years, the college took part in the annual fixtures Culture Night and Open House Dublin, and this year Front façade lighting up was extended beyond Christmas and St Patrick's Day with Front façade turning rainbow for the Dublin Pride festival.

Over 3,000 visitors attended PROBE: Research Uncovered in September, a free pop-up festival showcasing academic research, with over 50 live experiments, exclusive demonstrations, laboratory and observatory tours and interactive workshops. PROBE, a collaboration between Trinity and Science Gallery Dublin in partnership with the British Council, was part of European Researchers’ Night, taking place in cities across the continent.
The science programme Growing Up Live was broadcast live from Trinity’s Anatomy Museum as part of Science Week 2018.
The science programme *Growing Up Live* was broadcast live from Trinity’s Anatomy Museum as part of Science Week 2018. Supported by Science Foundation Ireland and including leading Trinity researchers, the three-part series tracked human life from birth to death and everything in between, with experiments and studies.

Trinity’s Professor in Genetics, Aoife McLysaght joined Prof Alice Roberts to deliver the 2018 *Christmas Lectures* from the Royal Institution, aired on BBC Four. Prof McLysaght was the first guest lecturer in the iconic *Christmas Lectures*’ 194-year history. She added her expertise in the field of genetics to Prof Roberts’ in biological anthropology to help answer the most fundamental of questions: ‘Who am I?’

Five Nobel Prize winners and some of the world’s most brilliant science minds spoke at the *Schrödinger at 75 – the Future of Biology* in September, commemorating Erwin Schrödinger’s iconic *What is Life?* lectures in Trinity in 1943.

Beyond the campus, Trinity researchers showcased pollinator and sustainability friendly gardens at the 2019 *Bloom Festival*. The Pollinator-Friendly Organic School garden and The E3 garden were created by botanists, educators and engineers collaborating to inspire children and adults with appreciation and respect for nature.

**Public lectures**

The Trinity Long Room Hub (TLRH) regularly engages the public with arts and humanities research and its lectures and discussion series have become annual events. The 5th annual Edmund Burke lecture in October was delivered by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon who explored the rights of the artist in society.

Among the topics this year for TLRH’s on-going ‘Behind the Headlines’ discussion series were: ‘Does Race Matter?’, ‘Can Stories Save the World?’, and ‘Crises of Democracy’. The three-year ‘Out of the Ashes’ public lecture series, exploring collective memory, cultural loss and recovery, was opened by the founding director of the new Library of Alexandria, Dr Ismail Serageldin, who spoke about recapturing the spirit of the ancient Library of Alexandria 1600 years after its destruction. And a new cross-disciplinary lecture series for 2019, ‘What does it Mean to be Human in the 21st Century?’ was launched in partnership with The Dock, Accenture’s global research & incubation hub in Dublin.

Nobel Peace prize winner, His Excellency former President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, spoke about his search for peace and the challenges of ending Colombia’s fifty year civil war at a public event in November organised by the School of Religion, in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In November, American journalist and author of the bestseller *Marley & Me* John Grogan gave a public talk and interview, hosted by the School of English and the Oscar Wilde Centre for Irish Writing. While Celeste Kidd, Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator, University of California, Berkeley
and one of the leading figures of the global #MeToo movement visited in April as part of the 2019 TCD Neurohumanities Public Talks series to give a talk entitled ‘How Sexual Harassment Creates Inequality in Academia’.

**Exhibitions**

Science Gallery Dublin and the Old Library’s Long Room provide Trinity with world class spaces for innovative public exhibitions.

In 2018/19, Science Gallery’s three shows were INTIMACY, OPEN LABS and PERFECTION. In December the artist Siobhan McDonald, winner of a Trinity Creative Challenge award, exhibited ‘Future Breath’, an evolving work about the importance of the air we breathe and the unmistakable threat that plants and nature face in the wake of climate change. While the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities (TCPID) showed its third annual ‘SciFest@TCPID supported by Abbott’ exhibition in May – the investigative science and technology projects were researched and curated by current TCPID students.

The Old Library’s Long Room hosted several exhibitions in 2018/19. In April, the Bookmarks exhibition, displayed 80 handmade books written and illustrated by Dublin primary schoolchildren over a two-month period with the help of authors, artists and children’s book specialists, and was organised by the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) which supports students from under-represented backgrounds to progress to further education

The Old Library’s Collections were on display for Ireland and the English Lake Poets which ran April-May, showcasing hand-coloured political cartoons, manuscripts, first editions of poetry and prose, and illustrations from rare nineteenth-century travel books exploring Wordsworth’s, Coleridge’s and Southey’s connections to Ireland.

The Old Library’s extensive 18th and 19th century collection of political cartoons gifted by writer and cartoonist Nicholas Robinson, was the centrepiece of ‘Drawing your attention: Four Centuries of Political Caricature’ in June with contemporary works lent by freelance and Irish Times’ artist, Martyn Turner.

Over 1,600 entries were received from across Ireland and from the US, UK, Europe and Australia for the second annual Book of Kells Creative Competition. Entrants of all ages were invited to interpret themes from the Book of Kells in art and writing. Twelve prizes were awarded in six categories.

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Awards for public and civic engagement
The Registrar’s Civic Engagement Award, created to recognise exceptional contributions made by staff to civic engagement, had two joint winners in 2019, both addressing issues of intellectual disability:
— Prof Michael Shevlin, Director of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities, was awarded for his work developing a higher education programme designed to enhance the capacity of learners to participate fully within society as independent adults;
— the IDS TILDA research team (Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing) led by Prof Mary McCarron. IDS-TILDA is the first study in the world to directly compare the ageing experience of people with an intellectual disability to the general population.
Dr Jacek Kibilda of the CONNECT future networks and communications centre was awarded its inaugural ‘Education and Public Engagement Award’ in recognition of his work with the Separated Children’s Service, managed by the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, to create a programme for Transition Year students from migrant backgrounds. The 2018 iteration of the programme focused on female students to address the gender imbalance in STEM.

Online and digital public engagement
Trinity geologists and architectural historians collaborated to create a new interactive public website (www.makingvictorian-dublin.com) which enables a 3-D digital scan of the Museum Building in order to better understand the building industry responsible for Ireland’s Victorian architecture. Funded by the Irish Research Council, the project aims to open new interdisciplinary horizons for the research of Ireland’s past.

The digitisation of The Dublin Apocalypse, one of the great medieval treasures of the Library, has made this remarkable manuscript and its arresting vision of the end of days available to a global online audience. A full digital copy of the manuscript incorporating 118 individual digital scans, can be viewed via the Library’s Digital Collections platform.
To read the full publication, please click here