



PhD seminar in Irish Studies
'Irish time'
Leuven, 3-7 September 2012

Following a very successful first edition in 2010, the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies of the University of Leuven will organise its second PhD seminar in Irish Studies in September 2012, in collaboration with EFACIS and with the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe.

The aim is to give PhD students in Irish Studies from different European countries the opportunity

- to present their research in a congenial, interdisciplinary environment,
- to receive feedback and advice from established scholars and students with various backgrounds,
- to hone their methodological skills,
- to deepen their knowledge of the different aspects of Irish culture, history and society.

The programme will consist of

- lectures by invited keynote speakers from different universities,
- workshops which will discuss the state of a given field or methodological/theoretical approach, using selected texts as a basis for discussion, or practical aspects of research (e.g. publication),
- student papers: presentation of (aspects of) participants' own research projects followed by discussions.

The programme will partly be built around the theme of '**Irish time**' so as to ensure coherence and facilitate the exchange of ideas across the different disciplines.

In a possibly very Irish paradox, Ireland was only aligned to Greenwich Mean Time in 1916, the year that decisively alienated much of the island from Britain.

Ireland regularly confronts scholars with problems of chronology, periodization, and the charting of genealogies. The boundaries of European or World history are often said to apply to Ireland only imperfectly, if at all. Beyond the tourist stereotype of an island where time passes differently, Irish history is marked by continuities and discontinuities that only partly overlap with those of other histories. Time is also foregrounded and problematized in many famous texts of Irish literature. Ireland's problematic relation to Western modernity is another frequent theme. While the Celtic Tiger had seemed to consecrate Ireland's entry into Western (post-)history, the mean times that have followed its demise suggest an uncertain future, and a potential return to Irish exceptionalism or peripherality. For historians, literary and cultural critics, economists and other scholars who choose Ireland as their object, the choice of chronological boundaries (or their avoidance) almost inevitably requires a justification that can become a complex research question in itself.

PhD candidates working in all fields of Irish studies are invited to compare their experiences with such issues and to present aspects of their own research at the seminar.

Students can apply by **submitting a CV and a short description of their research project** (up to 1,000 words) before the **15th of February 2012**. The number of participants is limited to 25.

The registration fee for this seminar will be 250€. This will cover participation in the seminars and lectures, accommodation in twin rooms and breakfast in the beautifully refurbished Irish college in Leuven, registration as K.U.Leuven visiting scholar with access to library facilities (including JSTOR's Ireland Collection and British Periodicals Online), and insurance. Participants or their

institutions must be members of EFACIS. PhD students with no or limited funding are eligible to apply for a limited number of competitive grants, through which the registration fee will be waived.

For applications and further information, please contact :
Raphael Ingelbien (raphael.ingelbien@arts.kuleuven.be)

<http://www.irishstudies.kuleuven.be/>

<http://www.leuveninstitute.eu>

<http://www.efacis.org/>