

ISAANZ 26 | Disruptions and Transitions

Australian Catholic University

12 - 14 December 2023

Naarm / Melbourne



In December, the association hosted a highly successful conference at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. What follows is a pop-up version of conference proceedings ~ a combination of stimulating intellectual and social shenanigans, with images.

Read on to see if your 'best side' was captured by the ISAANZ photographer*.

*NB: The so-called 'photographer' assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in terms of imagery and interpretation of conference contributions in this *ad hoc* yet enticing content.

**Abstracts of conference papers are on the ISAANZ website.

Conference Opening

Ambassador Mawe kindly accepted our invitation to open the conference and he did so with a sharp intellect and equally sharp wit, sharing with us how he sees the place of Irish culture and identity, and Irish Studies, in Australia and New Zealand ~ all peppered with references to the late great Shane MacGowan (25 December 1957 – 30 November 2023).



Thanks also go to the Ambassador for his generous gifting of copies of *On Behalf of the People of Ireland: Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Irish-Australian Diplomacy* for all our attendees. (Sincere apologies to the Ambassador for the ongoing nature of the 'M/H' debacle ~ from the name tag creator/maker, SCDR!)



Keynotes & Special Sessions

Jane Moore ~ 'The Surface Romanticism of Thomas Moore' ~ Thomas Moore's poetical work ~ imitation is never simple repetition and this, among many other things, is reason enough for re-appraising the value and nature of Moore's contribution to the development of literature.

* Dr Jane Moore is Reader in English Literature at Cardiff University.



Paul Murray ~ Matthew Ryan interviewed Irish author Paul Murray in a special ISAANZ screening ~ on sadness, dark humour, his new novel [The Bee Sting](#), storytelling in a time punctuated if not blanketed with crises, and more.

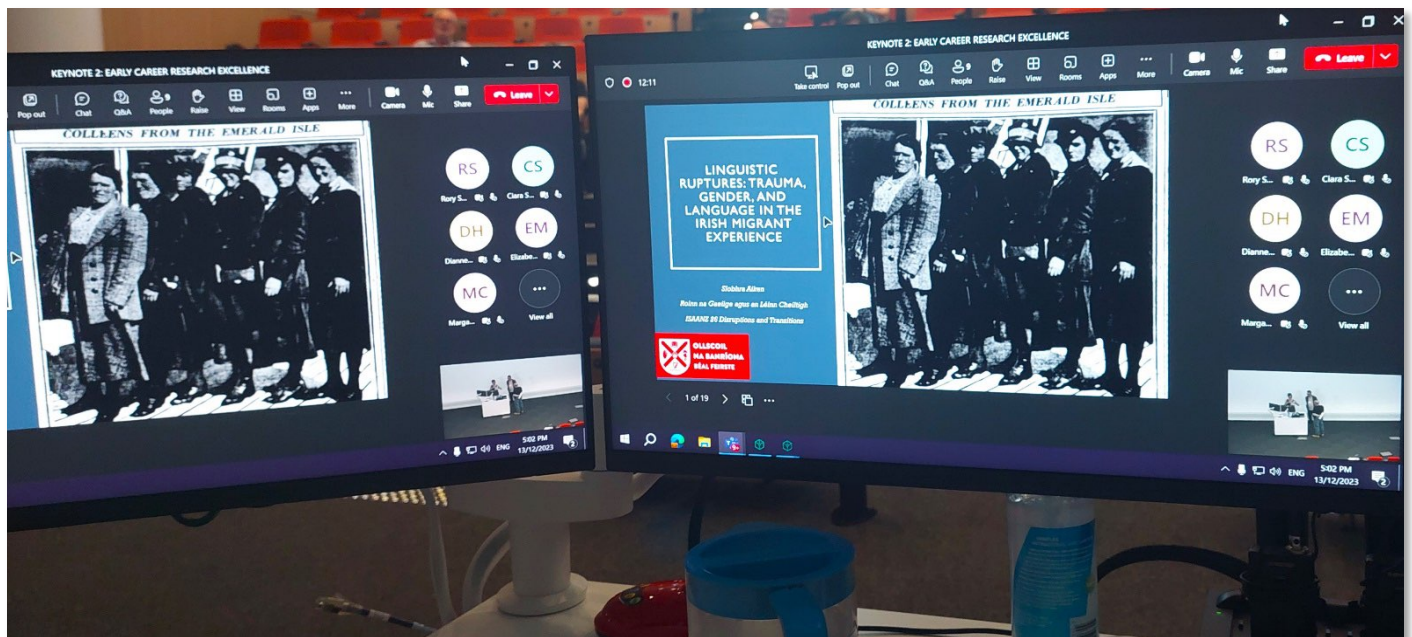




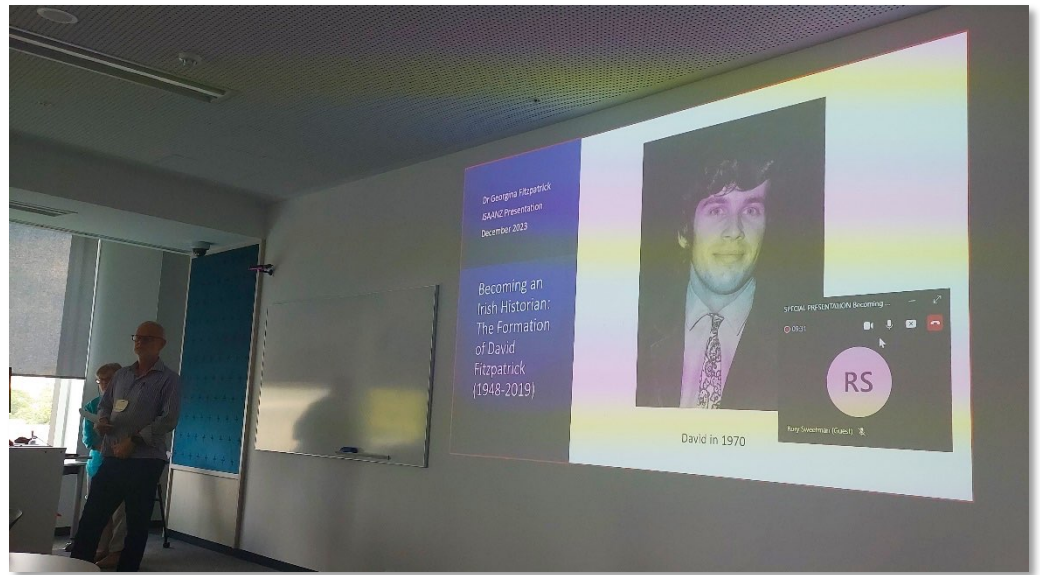
Síobhra Aiken ~ 'Linguistic ruptures: trauma, gender, and language in the Irish migrant experience'(online) ~ Our inaugural Early Career Research Excellence Keynote ~ between muddled and gendered 'liberating' opportunities and the shock of trying to navigate an English-speaking world, migration presented Irish-speaking female migrants with distinctive challenges not yet charted, until now.

Síobhra led our first **ISAANZ ECRs Connect** event ~ a half hour of stimulating talk about history and literature, Ireland and the world, resistance and historiography, centring on her 2021 article [“The Women’s Weapon”: Reclaiming the Hunger Strike in the Fiction of Dorothy Macardle, Máiréad Ní Ghráda and Máirín Cregan’](#)

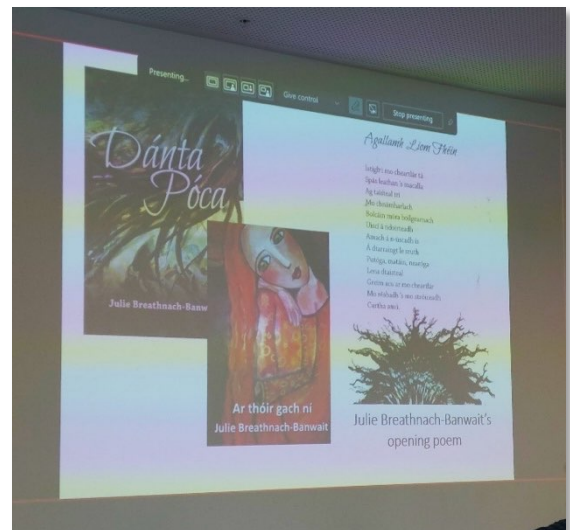
* Dr Síobhra Aiken is a Lecturer in the Department of Irish and Celtic Studies at Queen’s University Belfast.



Becoming an Irish Historian: **The Formation of David Fitzpatrick (1948-2019)** ~ Georgina Fitzpatrick ~ a rare intimate look at an eminent Irish-Australian historian's career beginnings complete with kitchen table interviews and border crossings at the outset of the Troubles.

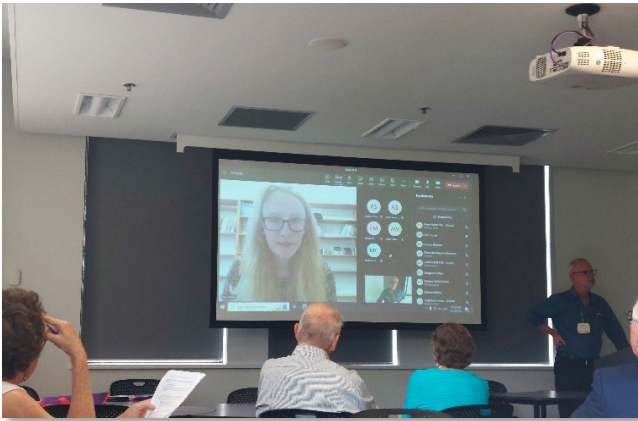


Val Noone ~ New work on Irish-language culture in Australia ~ featuring Val on learning Irish later in life ~ Kevin Molloy - A librarian's viewpoint ~ Julie Breathnach-Banwait - From Connemara to Australia ~ Dymphna Lonergan - A South Australian perspective.



Sessions

It is impossible to capture the variety, diversity, scope, and tone of all our conference presentations here, but perhaps pictures can speak louder than words.



Ciara Smart



Damian John Gleeson



Dianne Hall



Erin G. Carlston



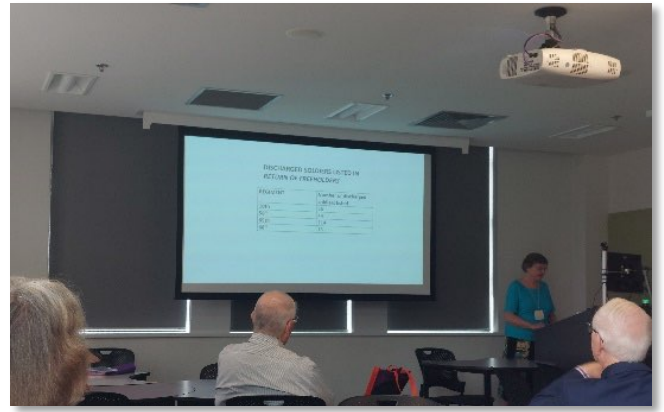
Gemma Clark



Jessie Burnette



John Clancy



Kathryn Patterson



Noémie Beck & Ambassador Mawe

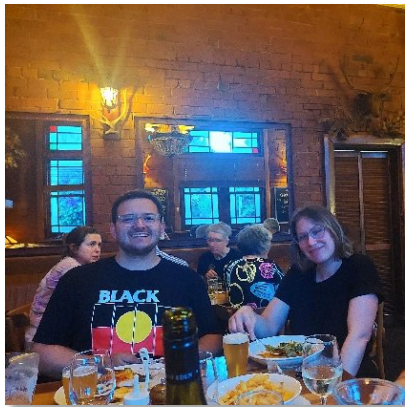


Tech negotiations - Malcolm and Dianne

The Dinner and Other Catching Up

Fitzroy's The Union Club Hotel and The Standard Hotel could not have foreseen the Irish influx that was to hit them (apart from the booking, that is). Evenings of joy, chatter, conviviality!





Thank you ...

Dr Matthew Ryan ~ with sheer brilliance, Matthew inducted timid technophobes (Panel Chairs) into the world of almost seamless hybrid delivery, secured ACU goodies (including rooms, tech assistance, and those water bottles), managed the lunches and reception and booked the dinner venue, was on hand for printing/storage/coffee-directions, and so much more...and amid all that, he had the presence of mind to deliver his own scholarship too! Thank you for generous collegiality and awesome organisation! (Thank you too, ACU)

Dr Maebh Long ~ we missed seeing you at the conference, but we were all able to reap the benefit of your ideas and organisation, including the fabulous Jane Moore.
See you at the next one!

All the Participants ~ whether presenting or engaging in Q&A ~ you made the conference what it was, a place of scholarly and social connection and stimulation for the mind and soul.
Thank you!

Show 140 posts



Sharon CrozierDeRosa @SCrozierDeRosa · 55s

Replying to @ISAANZ @ACUmedia and 3 others

Perry and Liz were asking where you and your always-beautiful-shoes were!! Missing you!



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Sharon CrozierDeRosa @SCrozierDeRosa · 4m

@ISAANZ 26 Conference @ACUmedia Melbourne ~ Dr Jane Moore from @cardiffuni delivers 1st Keynote on the writings of Thomas Moore



Sharon Crozier-De Rosa
January 2024