



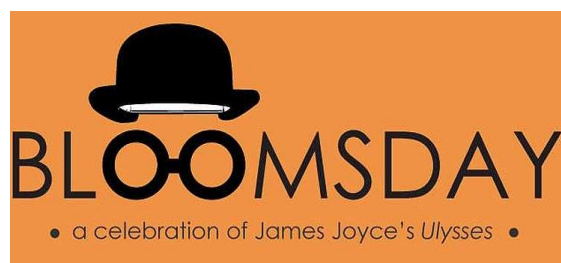
RECENT EVENTS

Bloomsday Celebrated in Dublin

On 16th of June every year Bloomsday is celebrated across Ireland, especially at key sites in Dublin. That is the day that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is set. Professor Sonja Tiernan went on The Panel on [RNZ](#) to discuss the background to *Ulysses* and the Bloomsday celebrations which are now spreading across the globe.



L to R: novelist Ian Rankin; Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon; Professor Liam McIlvanney.



Professor McIlvanney at the Harrogate Crime Festival in the UK

Professor Liam McIlvanney, Stuart Chair in Scottish Studies, was a guest at the Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Yorkshire on 18 July, where his novel *The Quaker* was on the shortlist for the Crime Novel of the Year Award. Prof McIlvanney bumped into some old friends, including Val McDermid (soon to take up her Visiting Professorship here at CISS), Ian Rankin and Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

Visit from the New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Peter Ryan

We are delighted at the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies that Mr Peter Ryan, New Zealand's Ambassador to Ireland, took time out of his busy schedule to visit the CISS reported in the [Otago Daily Times](#). The first meeting between Ambassador Ryan and Prof Tiernan established a commitment of mutual and collaborative work ahead. Watch this space for upcoming related events.



Professor Sonja Tiernan and New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Peter Ryan outside the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies.

‘Great Scots’ Lecture at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

The remarkable life of a Scottish settler was the subject of a packed public lecture at Toitū on 4 August. Professor Janie Hayward discussed Learmonth Dalrymple, the suffragist who led the campaign to establish Otago Girls’ High School and helped women gain entry to the University of Otago. The lecture was part of CISS’s series on ‘Great Scots: Otago Men and Women Who Have Shaped New Zealand’. Details of future lectures can be found [here](#).



Professor Janine Hayward of the Politics Programme at Otago University, discusses the life and legacy of Learmonth Dalrymple.

Irish Business Network NZ launched in Dunedin

The Eamon Cleary Chair in Irish Studies at the University of Otago was established in 2005, owing to a generous bequest by the benefactor and Irish business man after whom it is named. Members of the Centre of Irish and Scottish Studies were therefore delighted to be invited to engage with Irish connected businesses at the inaugural meeting of the Irish Business Network in Dunedin on 25 July. Professor Sonja Tiernan was delighted to address those gathered to provide a snapshot of future plans for Irish Studies at the University of Otago.



L to R: Mr Peter Ryan Ambassador of Ireland to New Zealand; Leanne Ross; Hon Clare Curran MP; Jim O’Malley & Sonja Tiernan at launch event of IBNZ Dunedin at Ombrellos Kitchen and Bar.



Standing room only: another full house at Toitū in the ‘Great Scots’ series.

Scotland and the South Seas: CISS in Hawaii

Professor Liam McIlvanney traveled to Chaminade University in Honolulu at the end of June to give a paper on ‘Scottish Vernacular Writing in Colonial New Zealand’ at an international conference on ‘Scotland and the South Seas: Writing the Wide Pacific’. Conference attendees also heard papers from former CISS postdoctoral fellow Dr Sarah Sharp and former CISS Masters student Dr Sarah Hamlin.



L to R: Leye Adenle; Liam McIlvanney; Vanda Symon; FM Nicola Sturgeon; Craig Sisterson; Amer Anwar.

Irish Film Night Series an instant success

An Irish Film nights series was launched on 7 August. The five film series comprises films chosen by staff from across the university. The films are being introduced by those staff members who briefly explain why their chosen film is significant for them. The series is already proving to be very popular with great audiences for *Inside I'm Dancing* on the 7th of August and *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* on the 21st. Plans are afoot to extend this to a bigger series including Scottish and Irish films next year. Details of future dates and films can be found [here](#).



Professor Barbara Brookes introduces her chosen film *Inside I'm Dancing*. Filmed in Dublin and Wicklow, the film focusses on two young disabled men who are determined to defy the expectations of society, and the institution where they live, by seeking physical and emotional independence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Scots: Dr Ali Clarke on Agnes Blackie

In the next lecture in the Centre's popular 'Great Scots' series, Dr Ali Clarke examines Agnes Blackie (1897-1975), one of the first generation of women academics at Otago, who lectured in physics for over 40 years. The lecture takes place at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum at 2pm on Sunday 1 September. Admission is free and all are welcome.

GREAT SCOTS
AGNES BLACKIE

Dr Ali Clarke examines the life of Agnes Blackie (1897-1975), one of the first generation of women academics at Otago, lecturing in physics for over 40 years. Her passion for physics and her skill at teaching made her a favourite with students. She provided particular support to women in a male-dominated field, and also to early international students, who treated her like royalty when she visited Asia in retirement. It was a career befitting somebody from a family of Scottish migrants who valued well-educated women.

Sunday 1 September 2pm
Toitū OSM Auditorium
FREE

Blackie family papers, MS-4443/141/002. Nicolson Collection, Veneranda Library of St. Mary's, University of Otago.

toitū OTAGO SETTLERS MUSEUM
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A department of the Dunedin City Council

Irish Film Night: *Sing Street*

In the third of our Irish Film Night series, Charlotte Hall from Health Sciences will introduce *Sing Street*. With the recession hitting people hard in Dublin during the 80s, Conor is moved from his private school to a tough inner-city alternative. As he tries to adjust to a new way of life, he decides to start his own band.

This event will take place in Burns 7 at 5.30pm on Wednesday the 4th of September.



Celtic Noir Crime Writing Festival 2019

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, we are partnering with the Dunedin Writers and Readers Festival and the Dunedin City Library to put on a festival of Celtic crime writing, featuring a range of novelists from Ireland, Scotland and New Zealand. International guests Val McDermid, Adrian McKinty and Liz Nugent will be joined by NZ crime writers Vanda Symon, Dame Fiona Kidman and our own Liam McIlvanney. The festival takes place on 12-13 October in the City Library. Book your tickets [here](#) from September, and follow

us on Twitter @CelticNoir2019.



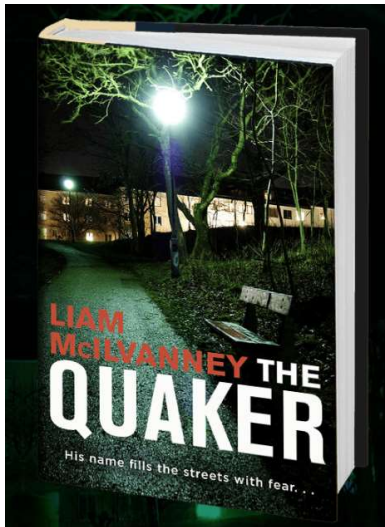
Cherry Smyth to perform *Famished* on Samhain (Halloween) 31st October

Save the date in your diaries for Northern Irish poet Cherry Smyth's week-long visit to Dunedin. Cherry will be giving a talk, a poetry workshop, and on Halloween night (the ancient Celtic pagan festival Samhain) she will be performing from her new book *Famished* about the Irish Famine in the Dunningham suite in the public library from 5.30. Check out a sneak peek of the performance [here](#) and a review of the book by CISS research assistant Emer Lyons [here](#). More info to come!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Crime Pays: Professor McIlvanney shortlisted for two awards



Professor Liam McIlvanney's latest crime novel has been shortlisted for two prestigious awards. *The Quaker*, which won the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Book of the Year in 2018, has now been shortlisted for the Crime Writers' Association Historical Dagger Award. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in London on 24 October. You can read more about the shortlist [here](#).

The Quaker has also been shortlisted for the [2019 Ngaio Marsh Award for Best New Zealand Crime Novel](#). The winner will be announced in Christchurch on 14 September.

CISS PhD candidate Majella Cullinane awarded inaugural Dan Davin Literary Foundation Writer in Residence

The Dan Davin Literary Foundation announced its inaugural Dan Davin Literary Foundation Writer in Residence this year and have offered a joint opportunity to Dunedin based writers Majella Cullinane and Maxine Alterio. They will be staying in Invercargill from the 29th of August and during that time will not only attend to their own work but will host a variety of writing workshops throughout the region. The foundation has also ensured that

they both have some Southland experiences while on the residency which will include a trip to Stewart Island for Majella and for Maxine, a trip to Milford Sound.



L to R: Majella Cullinane and Maxine Alterio.

Distinction for Irish Studies MA graduate Jared Smith

Jared Smith graduated with an MA distinction through the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the graduation ceremony on the 17th August. Jared's dissertation entitled 'Starving Freedom – Irish Hunger Strikes of the 20th Century' was supervised by our own Emeritus Professor of Irish Studies, Peter Kuch.

Jared is pictured below with his grandfather, Olly, to whom the dissertation is dedicated as the inspiration for Jared's love of history.



Jared chose his topic after seeing the 2008 film *Hunger* directed by Steve McQueen which depicts the hunger strike of Bobby Sands. Jared says what 'I discovered during my research was a plethora of similar hunger strikes undertaken by Irish political prisoners during the 20th Century. These directly

influenced the 1981 Hunger Strikes and therefore deserve more analysis.' Well done to Jared on his impressive research and we hope to work with you in the future.

First Creative Practice PhD from CISS submitted

Majella Cullinane, a PhD candidate in the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, has submitted her PhD thesis, entitled 'The Colours of That Place: Setting and Memory in Irish Short Fiction'. The thesis was supervised by Professor Liam McIlvanney and Professor Vincent O'Sullivan.



Majella is pictured ringing the University bell, as all PhD candidates are entitled to do on submitting their thesis.

Majella's is one of the first doctoral theses in Creative Practice to have been submitted to the University of Otago. The critical component of her thesis examines the function of setting in Colum McCann's short fiction. The creative component comprises a novella and three stories, which explore themes of memory and place, feelings of displacement and loss, as well as the effects of emigration on the people left behind. Congratulations, Majella!