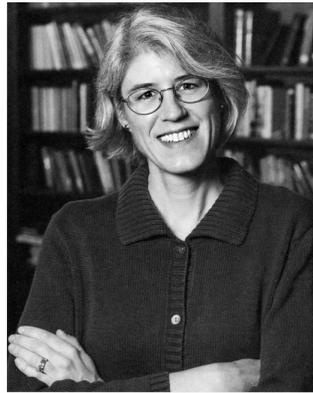


# IRISH STUDIES

## Faculty Profile: Ann Morrison Spinney

Since coming to Boston College in 2003, Ann Morrison Spinney has made a tremendous contribution to the interdisciplinary tradition of Irish Studies and has greatly enhanced the range of the program. Irish Studies has for many years offered popular performance classes in dance, fiddle, flute, and tin whistle; the program also recognizes the need to teach Irish, Celtic, and world music as an academic discipline. Professor Spinney earned her doctorate in Ethnomusicology at Harvard University. Spinney's doctoral work was in Native American studies, and her fieldwork on political ceremonies prompted her to examine her own ethnic identity. She had grown up with Irish and Scottish folk music all around her. Her father was an anthropologist with a keen interest in the history of the Morrison family, many branches of which migrated from Ireland. He was a folk music enthusiast as well. Spinney pursued classical music training, but after her dissertation was finished she turned back to folk music as an area of study.

Spinney was making this transition when she arrived at Connolly House, and much of her recent work here has been in Celtic and Irish studies. One current project is a comparative study of ethnic festivals. Another is an investigation of contemporary adaptations of tradition, from Wiccan ceremonies, to Celtic Punk, to popular culture's fixation with Celtic women. Such projects involve Spinney in research that is wide-ranging and genuinely interdisciplinary, and she has presented her work at conferences in various fields: Irish studies, women's history, ethnomusicology, sociology, and musicology. "Being associated with Irish Studies at BC has been



Ann Morrison Spinney

like having a post-doctoral research fellowship, there are so many ideas being tossed around here," Spinney comments. She has been especially grateful for the opportunity to work with Séamus Connolly, whose musical accomplishments, teaching, and fieldwork have inspired her greatly, and with Beth Sweeney, who has guided and built the Irish Music Archive.

Spinney's teaching at Boston College reflects the range of her achievements and interests. Her courses include *Introduction to World Music*, *Introduction to Irish Folk Music*, *Introduction to Celtic Musics*, *Native American Song*, and *Rock 'n Roll and Popular Music in the United States*. Popular music is an excellent medium through which to introduce students to important cultural and historical issues, Spinney observes, because it is so appealing. Often her courses are interdisciplinary; *The Ballad Tradition*, which is cross-listed in the English department, focuses on the English language ballad genre, from the earliest sources to present-day ballads like those on Bruce Springsteen's *The Seeger Sessions*. Spinney works with the new Writing Fellows program, trains graduate students in Irish studies in musical research, and donates her time and expertise to team-taught courses in the Irish Studies program. She constantly explores innovative new teaching technologies, and was recognized with BC's Teaching with New Media Award last spring.

## Niamh Lynch Appointed Director of Irish Institute



Niamh Lynch

The Boston College Center for Irish Programs is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Niamh Lynch as director of its Irish Institute. The Irish Institute designs and implements political, educational, and corporate exchange programs for leaders from Ireland and Northern Ireland. Supported by funding from the US Congress through the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, these programs promote peace and reconciliation on the island, while contributing to cross-border cooperation and stronger links with the United States. Lynch, a scholar of Irish history and politics, views the current period as “an exciting and challenging time—politically, economically, and culturally—for Ireland and for Northern Ireland.” In Northern Ireland, the impending return of devolved government will mark an important new chapter in the province’s history. Ireland, too, is in transition as it continues to adjust to the dramatic socio-economic changes of recent years.

A native of County Cavan, Ireland, Lynch immigrated to the United States as a teenager. She has had a long association with Boston College, having earned

both her BA and her PhD in History at the University. She has lectured on Irish history and politics at Regis College and the University of Massachusetts, and has presented her work at conferences in both Ireland and the United States. In 2004, she served as interim Managing Director of BC-Ireland in Dublin. Equally at home in Ireland and the United States, Lynch is well positioned to navigate the terrain between both cultures. She believes too that her academic background will underscore and strengthen the educational mission of the Institute. “In its ten years of programming, the Irish Institute has established itself as a crucial partner in the peace process while also expanding Boston College’s educational reach far beyond Chestnut Hill. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue this extremely important work.”

Thomas E. Hachey, University Professor of History and Executive Director of the Center for Irish Programs, describes Lynch as an academic who possesses all the administrative and entrepreneurial skills the position of Institute Director requires. The Director’s assignment entails designing programs that speak to Ireland’s special needs and are feasible for program leaders on this side of the Atlantic. In addition, she will maintain a close working relationship with each of the other units within the Center, and will coordinate with Congressional funders, State Department monitors, and the Center’s US Embassy and Consular General partners in Dublin and Belfast.

Professor Hachey attributes the high quality found among the half-dozen finalists in this recent search to the enviable reputation which the Irish Institute enjoys both here and abroad. And he is quick to give outgoing Director Mary O’Herlihy much of the credit for the Institute’s high standing. During O’Herlihy’s four-year tenure, she expanded the number of Institute programs funded by sources other than the federal grant, an initiative Hachey is confident Lynch will build upon.

Together with the United States Department of State and its embassy in Dublin, the Boston College Center for Irish Programs will host a two-day conference at Dublin Castle on April 13 and 14, 2007 for several hundred past participants of Irish Institute programs. Ministers of state, ambassadors, political party leaders, and many others will attend the event, which is being coordinated by the Institute and the Center’s Dublin branch, BC-Ireland, located on St Stephen’s Green.

## Tomás MacAnna Receives Distinguished Award



Tomás MacAnna and Rev. William B. Neenan, SJ

For decades, he has been synonymous with Dublin's world-famous Abbey Theatre—and with Irish theater in general—winning a Tony Award and numerous other plaudits. Now, Tomás MacAnna has a new honor to his credit: a Boston College Distinguished Alumnus Award. MacAnna was presented with the award by Vice President and Special Assistant to the President William B. Neenan, SJ, at a ceremony held October 25 in Dublin, organized by the Boston College Center for Irish Programs-Dublin. Also on hand were Executive Vice President Pat Keating, Center for Irish Programs Executive Director Thomas Hachey, and BC-Ireland Academic Director Michael Cronin.

In 1984, MacAnna worked with late BC Irish Studies program co-founder Adele Dalsimer to help create the Abbey Theatre Summer Workshop, which during its 18 years brought more than 300 BC students to Dublin for academic lectures—many of them by MacAnna himself—and practical training in various aspects of theater. MacAnna was also a visiting director at BC during the 1985-86 academic year, and supervised the production of a twin bill at Robsham Theater, *Cathleen ni Houlihan* by William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory, and T. H. Nally's *The Spancel of Death*, a long-lost play from the 1916 Easter Rising that was rediscovered by Dalsimer.

--Sean Smith

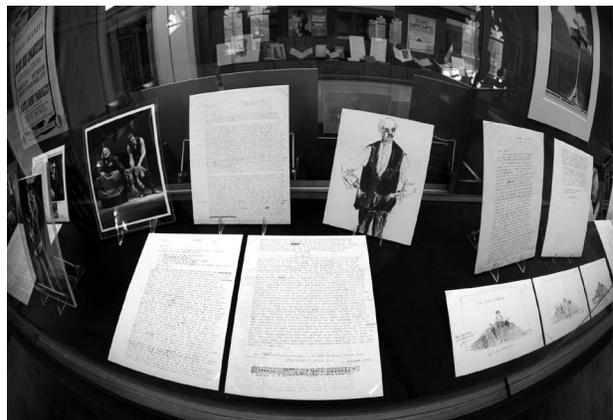
## Beckett Centenary Exhibit at Burns Library

An exhibit honoring the centennial of the birth of acclaimed Irish playwright Samuel Beckett is now on display at Boston College's John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections. The free public exhibit, titled "...my monster is in safe keeping," will be on view throughout the main exhibit floor of Burns Library through February 15, 2007.

The exclusive exhibit, which includes items never before displayed in the United States, is comprised of correspondence, manuscripts, posters, photographs, publications, and other papers by and about Samuel Beckett (1906-1989), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969 and noted for works that include *Waiting for Godot*.

The exhibit is drawn from Boston College's celebrated Beckett Collection, considered to be one of the world's finest. It is comprised of more than 400 manuscripts and other pieces collected by the playwright's friends Calvin and Joann Israel, as well as correspondence between Beckett and North American literary agent Barney Rosett, correspondence with director Alan Schneider, and correspondence in French between Beckett and Swiss-born French novelist and playwright Robert Pinget.

The exhibit celebrates not only the centennial of Beckett's birth but also a new Burns Library acquisition: The Judith Schmidt Douw Collection of Correspondence with Samuel Beckett, 1957-1984, which contains more than 130 letters from Beckett to Judith Schmidt (later Judith Schmidt Douw), secretary to Barney Rosett of Grove Press, Beckett's American publisher.



Beckett Centenary Exhibit at Burns Library

GARY GILBERT

“This exhibit gives Boston College an opportunity not only to celebrate the life of the great Irish playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett but also to showcase the University’s latest Beckett acquisition, the nearly 30-year correspondence between Samuel Beckett and Judith Schmidt Douw,” said BC’s Burns Librarian Robert O’Neill. “This collection significantly strengthens the American Beckett Collection, already well represented at Burns Library by the Israel, Schneider, and Rosett collections.”

In addition to letters from the newly acquired Schmidt Douw collection, the exhibit includes the rare Beckett manuscript *Suite* (later called *La Fin*) written in 1946, said exhibit curator Robert Bruns. “It was during the course of this manuscript that Beckett switched from writing in English to French, which may have marked the point at which he started writing extended prose works in French.”

Also on display are several of the letters from Beckett to Alan Schneider on how to direct his plays, Schneider’s letter to Thornton Wilder describing his first meeting with Beckett, and rare posters from openings of Beckett plays, including the original production of *En Attendant Godot* (*Waiting for Godot*) at the Theatre de Babylon in Paris. In addition, the exhibit includes several examples of BC’s extensive collection of signed Beckett publications from the Israel Beckett collection, annotated typescripts of early versions of novels and plays, and a typescript of Beckett’s prize-winning 1930 poem, *Whoroscope*.

The exhibit title, “...my monster is in safe keeping,” is a quote drawn from a letter in the collection from Beckett to Alan Schneider. On December 14, 1955, Beckett wrote, “Having worked with you so pleasantly and, I hope, profitably, in Paris and London, I feel my monster is in safe keeping.” He was referring to *Waiting for Godot*, which Schneider was to direct in the United States.

The Samuel Beckett Collection at Burns Library is one of the hallmarks of Boston College’s renowned Irish Collection, considered to be the premier collection of Irish research material in the United States. Also housed at Burns Library, the Collection documents the history, life and culture of the Irish people, with strong holdings in Irish history, religion, and politics, and significant collections related to some of Ireland’s greatest writers.

## Alumni Spotlight: Joseph Lennon



Joseph Lennon

Joseph Lennon earned his MA from the Boston College Irish Studies program in 1996. Since then, he has published widely on Irish, Indian, and British literature and culture. His book, *Irish Orientalism: A Literary and Intellectual History* (Syracuse University Press, 2004), was awarded the Donald J. Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book by the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS). *Irish Orientalism* has also drawn high praise from other eminent scholars; Edward Said calls it a “fascinating study” and Stephen Howe characterizes it as “undoubtedly the fullest, most detailed and perceptive analysis of these themes yet to have been attempted.” Lennon earned his PhD at the University of Connecticut in 2000, and is currently Associate Professor of English at Manhattan College. He is also the poetry editor of *The Recorder*, the journal of the American Irish Historical Society. Professor Lennon will be visiting Boston College in April to offer a graduate seminar on Irish Orientalism.

## Summer Research Fellow

Leeann Lane has been chosen as the recipient of the 2007 Summer Research Fellowship in Irish Studies. The fellowship provides housing, office space, and a stipend during the summer at Boston College. It was established to enable scholars to conduct research in the Boston area, especially in the University's Burns Library, with its special Irish Collection, and in the O'Neill Library.

Professor Lane is coordinator of the Irish Studies program at Mater Dei, a college of Dublin City University. She has published scholarly articles on a wide range of topics in Irish women's history, including activism, emigration, and the cooperative movement. Her current book project is a biography of the Irish novelist and political activist Rosamond Jacob, a key participant in the suffrage movement in Ireland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The periodical collections and the Kathleen Clarke and Norah Hoult papers at the Burns Library will be particularly important to her research. Professor Lane earned her PhD in History from Boston College in 2000.

## Irish Creative Writers at BC

The Irish Studies program is committed to studying the fascinating changes Irish literature, culture, and society are undergoing in the contemporary period. This year, the program begins a new project to bring several of Ireland's best creative writers to campus every year. Each writer will meet informally with students and give a public reading from his or her latest work. This year's creative writing series will begin with Colm Tóibín, whose novel *The Master* won the Los Angeles Times Novel of the Year Award, the Prix de Meilleur Livre Etranger, and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Eavan Boland will follow; she is the author of nine volumes of poetry, and her awards include a Lannan Foundation Award in Poetry and an American Ireland Fund Literary Award. Michael Longley finishes the series; he has published more than 20 volumes of poetry, and his honors include the Hawthornden Prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award, the T. S. Eliot Prize, and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

## Friends of Irish Studies

Over the years, Irish Studies has been jointly supported by University funds and generous gifts from the Friends of Irish Studies. Established in 1985 to provide financial support for Irish Studies, the Friends are a select group of individuals with a keen interest in Ireland, its literature, music, history, politics, and society as well as an interest in advancing the understanding of Ireland among Americans. Much of the public programming responsible for bringing leading writers, musicians, artists, and politicians to Boston College would not be possible without the support of the Friends. Donations can be sent to: Irish Studies Lecture Series, Connolly House, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Email [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu) for more information.

## Clair Wills Awarded BC-Ireland's Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies

Clair Wills, Professor of Literature at the School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London, has been named Visiting Research Fellow in Irish Studies at the Center for Irish Programs, Boston College-Ireland. Wills will hold the Fellowship from January to May 2007. At the BC-Ireland facility she will pursue her current research project examining the cultural responses to Irish emigration to Britain in the late 1940s and 1950s. She will also hold a prestigious British Academy Senior Research Fellowship at the same time, which will enable her to be on leave from her home institution.

Wills is an accomplished academic. She is the author of *Improprieties: Politics and Sexuality in Northern Irish Poetry* (Oxford, 1993) and *That Neutral Island: A Cultural History of Ireland During the Second World War* (Faber and Faber, forthcoming), and was one of the editors of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing Vols. 4 & 5, Women's Writing and Traditions* (Cork University Press, 2002). She is one of the conveners of the London Irish Studies Seminar, has published widely in scholarly journals, edited volumes, and in the press, and given plenary addresses around the world.

## BC-Ireland Summer Programs for Students

BC-I has joined with the James Joyce Centre, the National Library of Ireland, and University College Dublin to create an innovative summer school program based around the life and work of James Joyce. The James Joyce Summer School features a full program of lectures and seminars with leading Joyce scholars. This year's guest speakers include Anne Fogarty, Luca Crispi, and Dirk Van Hulle. Students may also participate in workshops in which they work with the Joyce manuscript collection in the National Library. The summer school is ideally suited to postgraduate students, but is open to all. There is a wide range of packages available, as well as full scholarships. For more information visit: [www.joycesummerschool.ie/](http://www.joycesummerschool.ie/).

In June 2007, the BC-I Summer School on Contemporary Irish Culture will run for its second year. The school involves three weeks of travel and classes in Galway, Belfast, and Dublin, and is taught by BC's Irish Studies faculty and leading scholars from Irish universities. In addition to attending classes, students have opportunities to tour the west of Ireland, see the murals and interfaces of Belfast, and visit Dublin's major historic and tourist sites such as the National Gallery, Daíl Éireann, and the Guinness Hopstore. The summer school is open to students from BC and other North American institutions. For more information visit: [www.bc.edu/dublin/](http://www.bc.edu/dublin/).

BC-I has worked closely with organizations across Dublin to secure a range of internships for BC students. The internships last for eight weeks, and begin in early June. Students work for twenty hours a week in government departments, the media, sports organizations, the non-profit sector, and business. They also have access to a range of social activities. There is time to visit other parts of Ireland, and many students also take advantage of Dublin's proximity to Europe, using their free time to explore other European cities. For more information visit: [www.bc.edu/dublin/](http://www.bc.edu/dublin/).

### ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

Irish Studies sends a weekly roundup of Irish Studies events, news, conferences, educational opportunities, and jobs. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email with your request to [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu).

## Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop, and Lecture Series

The music this spring continues the theme, "From Boston, New England, and Beyond," with a January céilí in Gasson Hall and four exciting concerts at Connolly House. The lead-off concert will feature flute and whistle player Jimmy Noonan, who has been teaching music at Boston College since the early 1990s. Winner of two western championships for flute and tin whistle, Noonan will present a lively evening of traditional music with accordion player Dan Gurney and guitarist Ted Davis. Irish Studies next welcomes fiddle player, céilí band leader, and radio personality Larry Reynolds, together with his sons Larry Jr. (accordion), Michael (accordion, vocals, guitar), and Sean (fiddle, bodhrán). A Galway native and a longtime friend of Boston College, Larry Sr. performed with both the Tara Céilí Band and the Connacht Céilí Band, and established the Hanafin-Cooley Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in Boston in the mid-1970s. For over 30 years, the Reynolds family has been a major influence in popularizing Irish traditional music throughout New England. The next special guest will be Boston College alumna and Harvard scholar Kate Chadbourne, performing folk songs and stories in Irish and English, with lap harp and piano accompaniment. Chadbourne spent a year each in Cork and Derry listening and learning, and brings those traditional arts to audiences throughout New England. Acclaimed uilleann piper Jerry O'Sullivan travels to Boston from New York to present the fourth concert. Jerry is a gifted ambassador of the Irish uilleann pipes, maintaining the historic traditions and melodies of the instrument, while expanding its range into new genres of music and media. He appears on over 90 albums, with performances on uilleann pipes, tin whistle, low whistle, Highland bagpipes, and Scottish smallpipes.

More event details and updates are available at [www.bc.edu/gaelicroots](http://www.bc.edu/gaelicroots). If you would like to receive email updates from the "Gaelic Roots" listserv, send an email to [Majordomo@listserv.bc.edu](mailto:Majordomo@listserv.bc.edu) with the following command in the body of your email message: *subscribe gaelicroots*.

## IRISH STUDIES COURSES SPRING 2007

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN  
IRISH II  
Aibhistín O'Coimin

CONTINUING MODERN IRISH II  
Joseph Nugent

IRISH LITERATURE SURVEY:  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
Amy Witherbee

CONTEMPORARY IRISH  
LITERATURE AND CULTURE  
Marjorie Howes

MAJOR IRISH WRITERS  
James M. Smith

GENDER TROUBLE IN IRISH CULTURE  
Vera Kreilkamp

HOW TO BE IRISH: STRANGE  
CHILDHOODS AND ODD MEMORIES  
Joseph Nugent

IRELAND: THE COLONIAL CONTEXT  
James M. Smith

WALTER PATER AND OSCAR WILDE  
Kevin Ohi

IRELAND AND THE EMPIRE 1800-PRESENT  
Mark Doyle

IRISH WOMEN EMIGRANTS: THE  
IRISH AND AMERICAN CONTEXT  
Ruth-Ann Harris

MODERN IRISH HISTORY (GRADUATE  
COLLOQUIUM)  
Tom Garvin

POLITICS OF NORTHERN IRELAND,  
1921-PRESENT  
Robert K. O'Neill

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE:  
BEGINNER  
Laurel Martin

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE:  
INTERMEDIATE  
Seamus Connolly

IRISH DANCING: BEGINNER TO  
ADVANCED  
Meghan Allen

TIN WHISTLE: INTERMEDIATE TO  
EXPERIENCED  
Jimmy Noonan

## SPRING CALENDAR CHESTNUT HILL

January 17

Irish Dance and Céilí: Directed by Meghan Allen, TCRG. Live dance music by Seamus Connolly, Larry Reynolds, and friends. Gasson Hall Irish Room, 6:30-9:00 pm  
Beginner instruction at 6:30; dances for all levels taught at 6:45.

February 1

Reading: Novelist Colm Tóibín reads from his work.  
Part of the Lowell Humanities Series and the Irish Creative Writers Series  
Gasson 100, 7:30 pm

February 6

Concert: Jimmy Noonan, Irish flute and whistle, with Dan Gurney (accordion) and Ted Davis (guitar).  
Connolly House, 7:00-9:00 pm

February 15

Reading: Poet Eavan Boland reads from her work.  
Part of the Irish Creative Writers Series  
Connolly House, 7:30 pm

February 19

Lecture: *Secularism and Cultural Shift in Contemporary Ireland*  
Tom Garvin, University College Dublin, 2006-2007 Burns Scholar  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish History Lecture Series  
Connolly House, 4:00 pm



Larry Reynolds

February 28

Concert: Irish music and song with Larry Reynolds and family.  
Connolly House, 7:00-9:00 pm

March 14

Concert: Kate Chadbourne, Irish stories and songs, with lap harp, piano, and Irish flute.  
Connolly House, 7:00-9:00 pm

March 15

Reading: Poet Michael Longley reads from his work.  
Part of the Irish Creative Writers Series  
Connolly House, 7:30 pm

March 19

Lecture: *Choosing to Kill, 1919-1927: the Milestone of Revolution?*  
Anne Dolan, Trinity College, Dublin  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish History Lecture Series  
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

March 20

Lecture: *Celts, Scots, Danes and the Formation of Literatures in English*  
Cairns Craig, University of Aberdeen  
The Center for Irish Programs Flatley Lecture  
Connolly House, 4:30 pm

March 28

Concert: Jerry O'Sullivan, uilleann pipes  
Connolly House, 7:00-9:00 pm

April 13

Seminar: *Irish Orientalism*  
Joseph Lennon, Manhattan College  
Jenks Honors Library, Gasson Hall, 2:00 pm

April 23

Lecture: *Conflict and Cooperation in Irish Women's Movements, 1880-1920*  
Senia Paseta, University of Oxford  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish History Lecture Series  
Connolly House, 4:00 pm

April 26

Concert: Boston College Arts Festival: Irish Programs performance  
This annual celebration of the arts opens with a performance by students and teachers of Irish music and dance at Boston College.  
O'Neill Plaza, 12:00-1:00 pm

May 1

Graduate Colloquium  
Rebecca Troeger, 2006-2007 Dalsimer  
Fellow in Irish Studies  
Connolly House, 4:00 pm



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## SPRING CALENDAR BC-IRELAND

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT BC-IRELAND,  
42 ST STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN

January 9

Lecture: *Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Missionaries*  
Andrew Holmes, Queen's University Belfast  
Matthew J. Kelly, University of Southampton  
Part of the Irish Historical  
Studies Lecture Series  
7:00 pm

January 15

Lecture: *"Quite historic ... Yes, It's Unprecedented": The Lemass-O'Neill Meetings of 1965*  
Michael Kennedy, Royal Irish Academy  
6:00 pm

February 6

Lecture: *Military Exiles*  
Oscar Morales, Trinity College, Dublin  
Eamon Ó Ciosáin, NUI Maynooth  
Part of the Irish Historical  
Studies Lecture Series  
7:00 pm

February 19

Lecture: *"Retrospective Legislation of an Anti-feminist Nature": Irish Women Workers and the 1935 Conditions of Employment Bill*  
Maria Luddy, Warwick University  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish  
History Lecture Series  
6:00 pm

March 20

Lecture: *The Irish Catholic Narrative: What Happened? Reflecting on the Milestones*  
Louise Fuller, NUI Maynooth  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish  
History Lecture Series  
6:00 pm

April 10

Lecture: *The Reconstruction of Irish America*  
David Doyle, University College Dublin  
Úna Ní Bhroiméil, MIC, University  
of Limerick  
Part of the Irish Historical  
Studies Lecture Series  
7:00 pm

May 8

Lecture: *Louvain*  
Thomas O'Connor, NUI Maynooth  
Clare Carroll, Queen's College, CUNY  
Part of the Irish Historical  
Studies Lecture Series  
7:00 pm

May 14

Lecture: *The Good Friday Agreement*  
Thomas Hennessey, Canterbury  
Christ Church University  
Part of the Turning Points in Irish  
History Lecture Series  
6:00 pm

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*Irish Studies* is edited by Marjorie Howes and Robert Savage with Elizabeth Sullivan and Morgan Adams.

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