



Maartje Draak Seminars 2024

PROGRAMME

Reading Early Modern Irish: language, literature and sources

27 & 28 JUNE



WEBSITE

By virtue of the legacy of prof. Maartje Draak, which is administered by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, we are able to organise the Maartje Draak Seminars in which international Celticists visit Utrecht for intensive workshops and seminars.

The Maartje Draak Seminars 2024 feature dr Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh (TCD) and dr Mícheál Hoynes (TCD), and will take place on Thursday 27 June and Friday 28 June. The Seminars will also include a screening of the documentary Ó Bhéal, which explores the increasing prominence of Irish language and tradition in the Irish Hiphop scene. More information on the programme may be found below.

Thursday 27 June

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR WHOM
13.15-15.00	Seminar: <i>Reading Early Modern Irish: language, literature and sources I</i>	Drift 25, room 0.03	Students (registered)
15.30-16.30	Lecture dr Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh : <i>Early Modern Irish Romantic Tales: a forgotten corpus?</i>	Kromme Nieuwegracht 80, room 0.06	All welcome
16.45-19.00	Reception	University Museum Utrecht, Oranjerie	All welcome

Friday 28 June

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FOR WHOM
11.00-12.45	Seminar: <i>Reading Early Modern Irish: language, literature and sources II</i>	Drift 25, room 0.03	Students (registered)
13.15-14.15	Lecture dr Mícheál Hoynes : <i>Irish Bardic Poetry 1200–1650</i>	Janskerkhof 15A, room 0.04	All welcome
15.30-17.30	Screening: Ó Bhéal + discussion	Parnassos, @Theatre Room	All welcome

Speakers Mícheál Hoyne & Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh



*Tá BA sa Nua-Ghaeilge agus sa Stair ó Choláiste na Tríonóide (2010) agus PhD (2014) ag **Mícheál Hoyne**. Bhí sé ina Chúntóir taighde in Philipps-Universität, Marburg (2013-14). Chomh maith leis sin, bhí sé ina Scoláire an Donnabhánaigh (2014-17) agus ina Chomhalta an Aimhirgínigh (2017-22) i Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, Institiúid Ard-Léinn Bhaile Átha Cliath. Faoi láthair, is léachtóir Gaeilge é at CnT agus is comheagarthóir ar Ériu é i gcomhar leis an Ollamh Emeritus Damian McManus.*

Mícheál Hoyne holds a BA in Modern Irish and History from TCD (2010), and a PhD from the same institution (2014). He has been Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in the Philipps-Universität, Marburg (2013-14), and an O'Donovan Scholar (2014-17) and Bergin Fellow (2017-22) in the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. He is currently an assistant professor at Trinity College Dublin and co-editor of the journal *Ériu* with Prof. Emeritus Damian McManus.



*Is léachtóir í **Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh** i Roinn na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh i gColáiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath. Tá spéis aici i bprós agus i bhfilíocht na Nua-Ghaeilge Moiche agus i dtraidisiún na lámhscríbhinní sa tréimhse iarchlasaiceach. Tá ailt foilsithe aici in *Celtica* agus in *Ériu*, agus foilseofar a heagrán den téacs *Bodach an Chóta Lachtna* go luath. Chaith Deirdre seal ag obair ar an tionscnamh **MACMORRIS**, agus tá sí ag obair ar an tionscadal *Léamh ó bhí 2018* ann chomh maith.*

Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh is a lecturer in the department of Irish and Celtic Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. Her research interests include Early Modern Irish poetry and prose, and the Irish

manuscript tradition in the post-classical period. She has published articles in journals such as *Celtica* and *Ériu* and her edition of the Early Modern Irish text *Bodach an Chóta Lachtna* is forthcoming. Deirdre worked as postdoctoral research on the IRC-laureate project **MACMORRIS**, and she is a member of the working group of the project *Léamh* since 2018.

Seminars

Reading Early Modern Irish: language, literature and sources

This intensive seminar (2 x two-hour sessions) will provide an overview of the grammar of Early Modern Irish (c.1200-1650) and will introduce the students to the key sources that will enable them to engage in independent study in this area. There will be a particular focus on the linguistic standard of Classical Modern Irish and on contemporary sources, including the Irish Grammatical Tracts and Bardic Poetry. Students will be provided with a tailored handbook and representative texts with glossaries. They will also be provided with a reading list prior to the seminars.

Lecture Deirdre Nic Chárthaigh

Early Modern Irish Romantic Tales: a forgotten corpus?

A large corpus of episodic prose romances, written in Early Modern Irish (the linguistic period of which spans from the 13th to the 17th century), survives in Irish-language manuscripts. The frequency with which these texts were copied and transmitted in manuscripts is evidence of their popularity in early modern Irish society. They range in subject and style: some belong to the so-called Ulster and *fiannaíocht* cycles; some are translations of tales imported from Britain and Europe; others are reworkings of early medieval prose texts. Despite the immense value of this corpus for our understanding of the language and of the literary tradition of late Medieval and Early Modern Ireland, Early Modern Irish prose remains the most understudied branch of Irish literature. It is not yet understood, for example, who composed most of these texts or for whom they were composed, and little work has been done on their transmission, development, and reception. Our understanding of the texts is considerably hindered by a lack of reliable modern scholarly editions.

In this lecture, I will give an overview of this corpus, of its linguistic and thematic diversity, and of aspects of its transmission and development. I will discuss its traditional neglect by Celtic scholars, before attempting to address some of the obstacles that continue to hinder our understanding of these texts, including problems of definition and categorisation, and – crucially – of access.

Lecture dr Mícheál Hoyne

Irish Bardic Poetry 1200–1650

Bardic poetry dominated the Irish literary landscape from the thirteenth century down to the collapse of the Gaelic order at the beginning of the seventeenth. In exchange for the transient wealth they received in payment, hereditary poetic families promised their aristocratic patrons nothing less than eternal fame. For this task, they had elaborated a complex metrical system known as *dán díreach* ('straight' or 'strict verse') and a beautiful standard language known as 'Classical Modern Irish'. Approximately two thousand Bardic poems survive, and this corpus provides unparalleled insight into life in Gaelic Ireland in the period 1200–1650.

This lecture will reconstruct what it would have been like to hear a Bardic praise-poem as it was first performed in the banqueting hall of a Gaelic chief. It will explain some of the features of the Bardic poet's art and explore the complicated relationship of poet and patron. It will survey how Bardic poetry adapted and evolved to changing circumstances in Ireland and was affected by new influences from elsewhere in Europe – and how the Bardic order finally met its end in the seventeenth century.

Screening Ó Bhéal

Ó Bhéal is a cinematic exploration of the rise of hip hop and electronic artists in Ireland, embracing oral traditions of folklore, ancient poetry and sean-nós singing to create a new fusion sound, a culture clash through music. An ensemble piece, featuring Irish-language rappers Seán 'Mory' Ó Muirgheasa and Oisín Mac, producer and multi-instrumentalist Fehdah, and Limerick rapper Strange Boy.



This beautiful black & white film delves deep into these four artists' process and how they are breaking new ground in Irish music. Through insightful interviews, intimate portrayals of the creative process of each artist as they work on tracks in studio, and visceral live performances, Ó Bhéal tells the story of a moment in time in the Irish musical landscape.

Director: Ciara Nic Chormaic

Producer: Jennifer Healy

Cast: Strange Boy, Fehdah, Mory, Oisín Mac



TRAILER FILM

Information for Students

Students (advanced BA & (R)MA) can acquire 1 ECTS by attending and writing a report. More information on the requirements can be found on the website.



WEBSITE

Registration

Registration is required for students.

For members of the general public, registration for the public events is appreciated.



REGISTRATION

Partners

KNAW - Maartje Draak Fund

Stichting A. G. van Hamel voor Keltische Studies

Ierse Ambassade Den Haag

Utrecht University Centre for Medieval Studies (UUCMS)

Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek (OSM)



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