Palimpsests:
The V International Flann O'Brien
Conference
University College Dublin
16–19 July 2019

Organised by
Professor Anne Fogarty, Dr John Greaney, Dr Scott Hamilton

Hosted by
UCD School of English, Drama, Film, and Creative Writing

Conference Venue
O’Brien Centre for Science, Belfield, UCD

Social and Performance Venues
Hodges Figgis, 56-58 Dawson St, Dublin 2
Boston College Ireland, 43 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2
The Singer’s House at The Dingle Whiskey Bar, 44 Nassau St, Dublin 2

With special thanks to
UCD School of English, Drama, Film, and Creative Writing, UCD Humanities Institute, UCD Special Collections, Professor Danielle Clarke, Dr Lucy Collins, Valerie Norton, Pauline Slattery, Boston College Ireland, Professor Michael Cronin, Professor Joseph Nugent, Dr Christian Dupont, Hodges Figgis, The International Flann O’Brien Society, Paul Fagan, Ollie Sweetman, Val O’Donnell, JoyceStagers, Fionnán O’Connor, Eva Reingraberova, Dr Gerry Smyth, LILT: the Liverpool-Irish Literary Theatre, Simon O’Connor, MoLI
Academic & Social Programme

Tuesday 16th

Conference Registration: 12.00 – 12.30
O’Brien Centre for Science, Belfield, UCD

Opening Ceremony: 12.30 – 13.00
Professor Danielle Clarke (Head of School of English, Drama, Film, Creative Writing, UCD), John Greaney, Scott Hamilton

Plenary 1: 13.00 – 14.00 (chair: Scott Hamilton)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD

Katherine Ebury
(University of Sheffield)
New contexts for confession:
Flann O’Brien, golden age crime fiction and Theodore Reik

Coffee Break: 14.00 – 14.30

Panel 1: 14.30 – 15.45
Short fictions (chair: Gregory Dobbins)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
“Je suis marxiste, tendance Groucho”: Trains, imaginary names, and whack for my daddy-o
Jeremy Fernando (NUS, Singapore)

Traces of Pirandello in Flann O’Brien’s short fiction
Neil Murphy (NTU, Singapore)

The loco in locomotive: The altering self in “John Duffy’s Brother”
Lim Lee Ching (SUSS, Singapore)

Panel 2: 14.30 – 15.45
Afterlives of The Third Policeman in print and art (chair: Joseph LaBine)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
David O’Kane (Artist), Edward O’Kane (Artist), Christian Dupont (Boston College)

IFOBS presents A Reading by Anne Enright: 16.00 – 17.00 (chair: Danielle Clarke)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
An update on the Irish drinking man

Evening Event: 18.00
Hodges Figgis, 56-58 Dawson St, Dublin 2

Address by Paul Fagan, President of the International Flann O’Brien Society

Launch of the second edition of No Laughing Matter, with a reading by Dermot Bolger

IFOBS presents A performance of The Irish Times Letters Controversy, presented by JoyceStagers

Wednesday 17th

Panel 3: 09.30 – 10.45
Brian O’Nolan as newspaperman (chair: Joseph Brooker)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
The full little jug
Catherine Flynn (UC Berkeley)

Myles at the Times: Fifth columnist or political prisoner?
Frank McNally (Independent Scholar)
Panel 4: 09.30 – 10.45
Reappraising At Swim-Two-Birds (chair: Yaeli Greenblatt)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Flann O’Brien’s radio jamming: A wireless reading of At Swim-Two-Birds
Yuta Imazeki (University College Dublin)

Panel 5: 11.15 – 12.15
Afterlives (chair: Catherine Flynn)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Myles of zombies: Resurrection, the undead, and the speaking dead
Scott Eric Hamilton (University College Dublin)
Devil in the details: O’Brien, minutiae and damnation
Noam Schiff (Brandeis University)

Panel 6: 11.15 – 12.15
O’Nolan and visual art (chair: Erika Mihálycsa)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
“Mortified language”: Cruiskeen Lawn and Irish art criticism
Conor Linnie (Trinity College Dublin)

“A spoiled Proust”: Myles, modernism, and Irish art
Luke Gibbons (Maynooth University)

Lunch: 12.15 – 13.30
Screening of An Béal Bocht, the award winning animation directed by Tom Collins: 12.45
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD

Plenary 2: 13.30 – 14.30 (chair: John Greaney)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD

Maebh Long
(University of Waikato)
Brian O’Nolan and the mechanics of the palimpsest

Coffee Break: 14.30 – 15.00

Panel 7: 15.00 – 16.15
Translating Flann O’Brien (chair: Yuta Imazeki)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Cad é atá in ainm? Brian Ó Nualláin’s Mairéad Gillan
Richard Murphy (University of South Carolina Upstate)
Crying Misery:
A critical analysis of Le Pleure-Misère: the French translation of Myles na gCopaleen’s An Béal Bocht
John Gleeson (Dublin City University)

Is this about Myles as well? Presenting Flann O’Brien in Czech and Polish translations’ paratexts
Barbara Szot (Palacký University)

Panel 8: 15.00 – 16.15
Connecting O’Nolan to his contemporaries (chair: Richard Murphy)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Embarrassing enlightenments: casual text play in Flann O’Brien’s “John Duffy’s Brother”
Samuel Flannagan (Free University of Berlin)
Brian O’Nolan and Patrick Kavanagh: Proponents of a conservative counterculture
Johanna Marquardt (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)
The uncertainty of late Irish modernism: Flann O’Brien and Erwin Schrödinger in Dublin
Andrew Kalaidjian (California State University)

IFOBS presents A Reading by Patrick McCabe: 16.30 – 17.30 (chair: James Fraser)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
The clown in the moonlight

Evening Event: 18.30
Boston College Ireland, 42 – 43 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2

Flanntasmagoria! The ever-widening spiral of Flann O’Brien:
Reception, exhibition, and programme in Boston College, Dublin

Interview with Blindboy Boatclub: 20.00

Thursday 18th

Panel 9: 09.30 – 10.45
Palimpsests (chair: Einat Adar)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Polyphonic palimpsest: Reading The Collected Letters
Joseph Brooker (Birkbeck College, University of London)
The palimpsestic nature of Cruiskeen Lawn
Daniel Syrovy (University of Vienna)

Scholars & swine: Intelligence and education in the life and works of Flann O’Brien
Liam Colford (Independent Scholar)

Panel 10: 09:30 – 10.45
Thinking the Animal (chair: Paul Fagan)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
The cow life: At Swim Two Birds and The Crock of Gold
Einat Adar (University of South Bohemia)

Drawing Corkadoragha: animal setting in the graphic adaptation of An Béal Bocht
Yaël Greenblatt (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Strike that: Palimpsest and performance in O’Nolan’s The Insect Play and Thirst
Alana Gillespie (Utrecht University)

Coffee Break: 10.45 – 11.15

Panel 11: 11:15 – 12.30
“TechnoFlann”:
Accessing O’Brien through the digital humanities (chair: Noam Schiff)
Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
Joe Nugent (Boston College), Christopher Boucher (Boston College), Alexander Benoit (Boston College)

Panel 12: 11:15 – 12.30
Transportations (chair: Johanna Marquardt)
Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD
“Is it about a bicycle?”: O’Nolan’s poetics of the moebius strip.
Dieter Fuchs (University of Vienna)

“There is more to it than the monstrous exchange of tissue for metal”:
Treasonous bicyclists in The Dalkey Archive
James Fraser (Maynooth University)

Off the rails: Flann an expert community advocate for rail transport.
James Bacon (Independent Scholar)

Lunch: 12.30 – 13.30
**Plenary 3:** 13.30 – 14.30 (chair: Thomas Jackson Rice)
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

**Erika Mihálycsa**
(Babes-Bolyai University)

“I made a right haimes of it”:
Flann O’Brien translating, translating Flann O’Brien

**Coffee Break:** 14.30 – 15.00

**Panel 13:** 15.00 – 16.15
**Brian O’Nolan and the Irish language** (chair: Louis de Paor)
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

“Creideann sé scéala a shil féin”: Revaluing Brian Ó Nualláin’s literary bilingualism
Eoin Byrne (NUI Galway)

It’s all relativism: Flann O’Brien’s ambivalence about Irish
Ian Ó Caoimh (University College Dublin)

Feergayluck
Joe Faherty (Independent Scholar)

**Panel 14:** 15.00 – 16.15
**International connections** (chair: Christian Dupont)
*Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

The crazy German and the jumping Irishman: *At Swim-Two-Birds*, Heinrich Heine and the book market
Toby Harris (Birkbeck College, University of London)

“I am, forsooth, a layman!”: O’Brien with Wittgenstein
Andrew Gaedike (University of Illinois)

“That poaching scoundrel”: Brian O’Nolan and Dion Bouicault
Richard Barlow (Nanyang Technological University)

**IFOBS presents A Reading by Lisa McInerney:** 16.30 – 17.30 (chair: Maebh Long)
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

**Chancers, wagons and scuts**

**Evening Events in support of Sweny’s Pharmacy:** 18.30
*The Singer’s House at The Dingle Whiskey Bar, 44 Nassau St, Dublin 2*

“The opposite to drink”: A Flannian whiskey tasting with Fionnán O’Connor: 19.00

**Flann Cabaret with LILT: the Liverpool-Irish Literary Theatre:** 21.00

**Friday 19th**

**Panel 15:** 09.45 – 11.00
**Health and the body** (chair: Tobias Harris)
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

“Foreignism in its filthiest guise”:
Myles na gCopaleen’s *Cruiskeen Lawn*, post-war planning and the welfare state
German Asensio Peral (University of Almeria)

“Veni, V.D., Vici”: Flann O’Brien, sexual health, and the literature of exhaustion
Lloyd (Meadbhbh) Houston (University of Oxford)

O’Nolan and the disembodied voice
Paul Fagan (Salzburg University)

**Panel 16:** 09.45 – 11.00
**Reappraising The Third Policeman** (chair: Colm Mulcahy)
*Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

*The Third Policeman* and the limits of play; or, It’s all fun and games till somebody gets kill-screened
Andrew Ferguson (University of Maryland)
“A horse in all but extraneous externalities”: *Tristram Shandy* in *The Third Policeman*  
Eric Swartz (Trinity College Dublin)

“No is a better answer than yes”: Negation in Flann O’Brien’s *The Third Policeman*  
Therese Cox (Columbia University)

**Coffee Break:** 11.00 – 11.30

**Panel 17:** 11.30 – 12.30  
*Scientific contexts* (chair: Katherine Ebury)  
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

“Fabulous science” crash-tested: Flann O’Brien and the (ab)uses of scientific imagination  
Adrian Oţoiu (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca)

Myles away from mathematics  
Colm Mulcahy (Spelman College)

**Panel 18:** 11.30 – 12.30  
*Brian O’Nolan and modern Ireland* (chair: Andrew Ferguson)  
*Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

Brian O’Nolan and the civil service: Systems of voice and identity  
Elliott Mills (Trinity College Dublin)

The mythic is the modern, the modern is the mythic  
Adam Pickens (Florida State University)

**Lunch:** 12.30 – 13.30

**Panel 19:** 14.45 – 15.45  
*IFOBS presents Experimentation and Irish writing: A conversation with Tramp Press writers* (chair: Alana Gillespie)  
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

Joanna Walsh  
Jack Fennell

**Panel 20:** 14.45 – 15.45  
*Translating Flann O’Brien 2* (chair: Andrew Kalaidjian)  
*Intel Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

A wretches’ wisdom: Flann O’Brien’s translations into Hebrew  
Ayala Amir (Bar Ilan University)

Myles na Spáinne: Translating Flann O’Brien into Spanish (and still keeping him funny).  
Antonio Rivero Taravillo (Independent Scholar)

**Coffee Break:** 15.45 – 16.15

**Closing Address**  
*Plenary 4: 16.15 – 17.30* (chair: Ian Ó Caoimh)  
*Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD*

Louis de Paor  
(NUI Galway)

“Níos gaelaí ná an ghaeilge féin”: More Irish than Irish.

**Conference Dinner:** 20.00  
*Jerusalem, 77 Camden Street Lower, Dublin 2*

BYOB: Bring your own bottle