



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, Joyce Stagers, 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)

The Column Bawn in the *Sunday Dispatch*
Pádraig Ó Méalóid (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)

Flann O'Brien and magic naturalism

Gregory Dobbins (University of California, Davis)

At Swim-Two Nialls: Sheridan and Montgomery live in fiction

Joseph LaBine (University of Ottawa)

Coffee Break: 10.45 – 11.15

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 Syrový (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*

Yaeli 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 Benoît (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 bicycl/ists 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 shúl féin”: Revaluating 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 Gaedtke (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

Germán Asensio Peral (University of Almería)

“Veni, V.D., Vici”: Flann O'Brien, sexual health, and the literature of exhaustion

Lloyd (Meadhbh) 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 Oțoiu (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

IFOBS presents **A performance of *The Mind of de Selby* (a documentary compiled by Robert Nicholson), presented by JoyceStagers: 13.30**

Lynch Theatre, O’Brien Centre for Science UCD

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