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Donatella Abbate Badin (<donatella.badin@unito.it>), formerly Professor of English Literature at the University of Turin, Italy, has worked in the fields of English, Irish and American literatures of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, specializing on travel literature, portraits of the Other and literary representations of Italy. She has published several books and essays on the subject of the travels to Italy of Lady Morgan, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Thomas Moore, Sean O’Faolain, Elizabeth Bowen and others. She is the editor of a critical edition of Lady Morgan’s *Italy*, vols. 1 and 2 for Pickering and Chatto (2010). She grew up in Turkey in a background similar to that of Joseph O’Neill.

Zsuzsanna Balázs (<z.balazs2@nuigalway.ie>) is an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar in the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research explores the anti-normative and anti-authoritarian potentialities in W.B. Yeats’s and Gabriele D’Annunzio’s drama, focusing on unorthodox representations of gender, power and desire in light of the two playwrights’ queer and feminist networks and collaborations. She is founding member of Modernist Studies Ireland and NUI Galway’s Queer Arts Collective.

Anna Charczun (<anna.charczun@alumni.brunel.ac.uk>) researches the development of Irish lesbian narrative between the 1800s and 2000s, investigates how the narrative evolved over time, and examines thoroughly the near entirety of the works that were included in this emergent canon. She is currently working on representations of lesbian writing and theatre in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which will be included in her forthcoming monograph entitled *Irish Lesbian Writing Across Time: A New Framework for Rethinking Love Between Women*.

Stephanie Conn is a poet from Northern Ireland. Her collections *The Woman on the Other Side* (2016) and *Island* (2018) were published by Doire Press. Her pamphlet *Copeland’s Daughter* (2016) was published by Smith/Doorstep. She is a current PhD candidate researching poetry and chronic illness. The themes and settings of her poems are international, often focussing on women, art, animals, and illness. Included in this edition of

Studi Irlandesi are three sections from a series of Frida Kahlo poems that Stephanie is currently working on: “Notes on Concealment”, “Under a Gangrene Sun”, and “Sustenance”.

Cónal Creedon is an award winning novelist, playwright and documentary film maker and Adjunct Professor of Creative Writing at University College Cork. Books include: *Begotten Not Made* (2018), *Cornerstone* (2017), *The Immortal Deed of Michael O’Leary* (2015), *Second City Trilogy* (2007), *Passion Play* (1999), *Pancho & Lefty Ride Out* (1995). Award winning plays include: *Second City Trilogy*, critically acclaimed in Shanghai, and New York. Cónal’s film documentaries have had numerous international screening, including World Expo Shanghai and New York University. Over 60 hours of Cónal’s radio drama have been broadcast by RTÉ & BBC. Cónal has been honoured by his home city of Cork with the Lord Mayor of Cork Culture Award, and was appointed Heritage Ambassador for the city. He was nominated Cork Person of the Year in 1999 and 2017.

Erin Costello Wecker (<erin.wecker@umontana.edu>) is an associate professor of English at the University of Montana. She earned an MA in Irish Studies and a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition. Her research focuses on the interdisciplinary nexus between the fields of Rhetoric, Irish Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Daryl Leeworthy (<d.s.leeworthy@swansea.ac.uk>) teaches history for the Open University in the UK. He has written widely on the LGBT history of Wales, notably *A Little Gay History of Wales* (2019), as well as the history of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry on Mark Ashton. His wider research interests include the history of social democracy, proletarian literature, and migration between Britain and Ireland.

Seán Mac Risteaird (<sean.macristeaird@dcu.ie>) completed his academic qualifications in Maynooth University. His PhD project focused on the contemporary Irish-language writers Micheál Ó Conghaile and Cathal Ó Searcaigh where he deployed queer theory as a mode of literary criticism. Seán has taught in Maynooth University, St. Thomas University (Fredericton, Canada), and on the Professional Masters in Education (Primary Education) in Hibernia College, Dublin. He then went on and worked as a Development Officer for Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) between 2017-2019 in Maynooth University. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Irish in Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, DCU, in 2019. His research interests include queer studies, in gender, in cultural and literary criticism and theory.

Conci Mazzullo (<concimazzullocm@gmail.com>) teaches English at a Higher Secondary School, and English and Irish Literature at the University of Catania. She holds a PhD in Irish Literature from Trinity College Dublin; the title of her dissertation was *Flann O’Brien’s At Swim-Two-Birds and the Construction of an Alternative Heroic Canon. An Intertextual Analysis* (2002). She has published essays and articles on Flann O’Brien and on the Irish sources of his works. She is a photographer and curated exhibitions in Italy and Nepal. Her most recent publication *Beyond Visible. Parallel Routes Nepal and Italy*, is a catalogue of an exhibition at the Nepal Art Council, Kathmandu (2018).

Patrick McDonagh (<Patrick.Mcdonagh@alumni.eui.eu>) received his PhD from the European University Institute. His dissertation was titled *Homosexuals Are Revolting: A History of Gay and Lesbian Activism in the Republic of Ireland, 1973–1993*. Patrick has published articles on the history of gay and lesbian activism in Ireland in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*,

Irish Economic and Social History, *Studi irlandesi. A Journal of Irish Studies*, *GCN*, and *RTE Brainstorm*, among others. He is currently finalising a forthcoming monograph on Gay and Lesbian Activism in the Republic of Ireland, 1973-1993.

Frank McGuinness was born in Country Donegal in 1953 and now lives in Dublin. He has written fifteen plays (including *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, *Carthaginians* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*) and twenty adaptations of European classics. His version of Ibsen's *Doll's House* won a "Tony" award and his most recent play, *Donegal*, was staged at the Abbey Theatre. He has published two novels (*Arimathea* and *The Woodcutter and his Family*) and a collection of stories (*Paprika*). The Gallery Press has also published his other poetry collections *Boosterstown*, *The Sea with no Ships*, *The Stone Jug*, *Dulse* and *In a Town of Five Thousand People*. He is Professor Emeritus of Creative Writing at University College Dublin, which conferred on him the Ulysses Medal (2019).

Barry Montgomery (<b.montgomery@ulster.ac.uk>) has served as Research Associate on the AHRC funded NUI Galway and Ulster University, *Representations of Jews in Irish Literature* project. He was lead researcher on the project's successful travelling exhibition, and is currently finalising a forthcoming critical volume. Montgomery is also currently publishing elsewhere in the field of Irish Jewish Studies, and has spoken on the subject at several Irish academic institutes, including the Royal Irish Academy (Dublin) and the Irish Literary Society (London). He is also engaged in publishing critical editions of works by Irish Jewish writers, Joseph Edelstein and Hannah Berman.

Ilaria Natali (<ilaria.natali@unifi.it>) teaches English Literature at the University of Florence. Her primary research interest is the study of modern manuscripts, with particular attention to the works of James Joyce and other Modernist authors. Since 2016 she has explored the relationships between literature and the history of medicine, devoting various essays to madness in eighteenth-century English poetry. In addition, she has analysed various aspects of Irish literature and culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Bernadette Nic an tSaoir is a native of Mayfield in Cork City and was a language teacher. Now a freelance translator/editor, she is presently working on her seventh collection of poetry in Irish. Her most recent collection is *Súil le Muir* (Dublin, Coiscéim, 2018).

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin was born in Cork. She is an Emeritus Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. She has written on the literature of the English Renaissance, on translation, and on Irish writing. She has translated the poetry of Antonella Anedda into Irish; her poems in Italian translation have been published by Trauben (Testo di Seta, 2004) and at the Riflessi DiVersi festival in Umbria. She has published nine collections of poetry, and was Ireland Chair of poetry (2016 -2019).

Máirtín Ó Direáin (1910-1988) was one of the leading poets in Irish in the mid-twentieth century. He was born and raised on Inis Mór, the largest of the three Aran Islands, off the coast of Galway, Ireland. A writer in the country's minority or, rather, minoritized language, he "welcomed light from wherever it came / but ask[ed] the foreign light / not to drown out [his] own" (from his poem "Solas" / "Light"). Ó Direáin's themes include his home island versus the city, love and death, women and masculinity, art and being an artist, the relationship between tradition and modernity, between minority and majority cultures, plus what the philosopher Oswald Spengler called "the morphology of cultures". The two poems in this issue are selected

(with permission) from Máirtín Ó Direáin, *Selected Poems / Rogha Dánta*, ed. by Frank Sewell (Winston-Salem, Wake Forest UP, 2020).

Mary O'Donnell's seven poetry collections include *Unlegendary Heroes* and *Those April Fevers* (Ark Publications). Four novels include *Where They Lie* (2014) and the best-selling debut novel *The Light Makers*, reissued last year after by 451 Editions. In 2018 Arlen House also published her third and highly-praised collection of stories, *Empire*. Her new poetry collection *Massacre of the Birds* will be published by Salmon next autumn. She is a member of Ireland's affiliation of artists, Aosdana, and holds a PhD from University College Cork.

Micheál Ó hAodha (<micheal.ohaodha@ul.ie>) works at the University of Limerick. His translation of Galway-born writer Dónall Mac Amhlaigh's novel *Deoraithe*, entitled *Exiles*, chronicling the working class experience of Irish migrants to England during the 1950s, will be published by Parthian, UK, in September, 2020 (<<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Exiles-Translations-Donall-Mac-Amhlaigh/dp/1912681315/>>).

Cathal Ó Searcaigh is one of the leading Irish-language poets in Ireland today. He hails from Míin a' Leá, under the shadow of Mount Errigal in Co. Donegal. A poet, dramatist, and prose writer, his poems have been translated into many languages, including Italian: see *Bollirà la rugiada: poesia irlandese contemporanea*, ed. by Andrea Fabbri, Mario Giosa, and Massimo Montevercchi (Faenza, Mobydick, 1996). One of Cathal's themes is love, including homosexual love, as noted by critic Jody Allen Randolph who comments that "his breaking down of stereotypes and new deployment of gendered themes [has] opened a new space in which to consider alternate sexualities within a contemporary Irish context". His work has been translated by authors including Seamus Heaney, Gabriel Rosenstock, Paddy Bushe, and Lillis Ó Laoire. The poem "Antinous" is here translated by Frank Sewell.

Rania M Rafik Khalil (<rania.khalil@bue.edu.eg>) specialises in Irish drama. She is the Research and Postgraduate Studies Coordinator, Internationalisation Coordinator for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at The British University in Egypt (BUE) and the International University Ranking Coordinator for the BUE.

Frank Sewell is a senior lecturer in Irish Literature and Creative Writing at Ulster University. His works include the monograph *Modern Irish Poetry* (Oxford UP, 2001) and *Seán Ó Riordáin: Selected Poems* ed. by Frank Sewell (Yale UP, 2014). Sewell's poems and translations have been published in anthologies, including *The New North: Contemporary Poetry from Northern Ireland*, ed. by Chris Agee (Wake Forest UP, 2008), and in journals from *Poetry Ireland* to *Poetry*.

Monica Randaccio (<mrandaccio@units.it>) is a lecturer of English Language and Translation Studies at the University of Trieste, Department of Legal, Language, Interpreting and Translation Studies, Italy. Her main fields of interest are contemporary Irish drama, language teaching, drama translation and, more recently, audio description. Among her publications, *Gli amori di Cass McGuire* (1999), *Il teatro irlandese contemporaneo: soggettività e comunità in Friel, Murphy e Kilroy* (2001), *L'osservatorio* (2005). She co-edited the fourth issue of *Studi irlandesi. A Journal of Irish Studies* (2014) on language and translation in Ireland. She worked on a project (FRA 2013) on Dario Fo's translations, *Traduzione aperta, quasi spalancata: tradurre Dario Fo*, 2016 and on another project (FRA 2015) on museum AD.

Kaitlin Thurlow (<kaitlin.thurlow@umb.edu>) received a MA in English Literature at the University of Massachusetts Boston and is interested in the ways literature and the visual arts intersect. She has presented papers on exile, empathy and objects in the work of James Joyce, John McGahern, Edna O'Brien and Donal Ryan.