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Donatella Abbate Badin (<donatella.badin@unito.it>) formerly of the University of Turin, is the author of numerous scholarly essays and books in the field of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Irish studies (chiefly Thomas Kinsella, Sean O'Faolain, the Irish Gothic, Thomas Moore, twentieth-century women writers). Her specialization in the representations of Italy in English and Irish literatures has led her to publish extensively on Sydney Owenson (Lady Morgan) whose *Italy* she edited for Pickering and Chatto. Her publications include *Lady Morgan's Italy: Anglo-Irish Sensibilities and Italian Realities* (2007) and *Thomas Kinsella* (1996).

Colin Barr (<c.barr@abdn.ac.uk>) is the author or editor of several books on Irish history, including *The European Culture Wars in Ireland: The Calan Schools Affair, 1868-81* (2010), *Nation/Nazione: Irish Nationalism and the Italian Risorgimento* (edited, with Anne O'Connor and Michele Finelli, 2014), and *Religion and Greater Ireland: Christianity and Irish Global Networks, 1750-1950* (edited, with H. M. Carey, 2015). He is presently Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Aberdeen.

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Carla de Petris (<depetrisc@hotmail.com>) formerly of the University of Roma 3. She has introduced many Irish writers to the Italian reading public through articles, essays, interviews and translations. She has co-edited *The Cracked Looking Glass: Contributions to the Study of Irish Literature* (1999), *Continente Irlanda* (2001) and two volumes of *Joyce Studies in Italy* (1988, 1991).

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Fergus Dunne (<fergusdunne2003@yahoo.co.uk>) completed a doctoral thesis on the essays and journalism of Francis Sylvester Mahony (“Father Prout”). He has published articles on Mahony’s writings in *European Romantic Review*, *Victorian Periodicals Review*, and *Modern Language Review*.

Michael D. Higgins is the ninth President of Ireland. Michael D. Higgins is also a writer and poet, contributing to many books covering diverse aspects of Irish politics, sociology, history and culture. He has published two collections of essays: *Causes for Concern. Irish Politics, Culture and Society* (2007) and *Renewing the Republic* (2001); and four collections of poetry: *The Betrayal* (1990); *The Season of Fire* (1993); *An Arid Season* (2004) and *New and Selected Poems* (2011). As Ireland’s first Minister for the Arts in 1993-97, his achievements include the reinvigoration of the Irish film industry, the establishment of Teilifís na Gaeilge, now TG4, and the repeal of censorship under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Acts.

Jerzy Jarniewicz is a Polish poet, translator and literary critic, who lectures in English at the University of Łódź. He has published twelve volumes of poetry, nine critical books and numerous essays on contemporary Irish, British and American literature.

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John McCourt (<john.mccourt@uniroma3.it>) teaches at the Università Roma Tre. In 2015 he published *Writing the Frontier Anthony Trollope between Britain and Ireland* for Oxford UP, and edited a special issue of *Joyce Studies in Italy* entitled “Joyce, Yeats, and the Revival”. He is currently editing a collection of essays on Brendan Behan.

Riccardo Michelucci (<r.michelucci@libero.it>) is a journalist. He contributes to the Arts and Culture section of the newspaper *Avvenire*. He studied Irish culture and politics at University College, Dublin. He is the author of *Storia del conflitto anglo-irlandese* (2009), and has recently edited the first Italian translation of James Stephens’ *The Insurrection in Dublin*.

Mary Morrissy is the award-winner author of three novels and two collections of short stories. She has taught creative writing since 2000 and was appointed Lecturer in Creative Writing at UCC in 2015. She has over 30 years' experience as a journalist; her most recent work is *Prosperity Drive* (2016).

Catherine O'Brien (<catherine.obrien@nuigalway.ie>) is Emeritus Professor of Italian, National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research deals mainly with Ossianic poetry, modern Italian poetry, women poets and poetry in translation. Now President of the Società Dante Alighieri Cork she was made Dama Cavaliere in 2004 in recognition of her services to Italian Studies in Ireland.

Anne O'Connor (<anne.oconnor@nuigalway.it>) is a Lecturer in Italian in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research interests include Translation History, Romanticism and Travel Literature. She is the author of *Florence: City and Memory in the Nineteenth Century* (2008) and Italian editor and translator of *European Romanticism: A Reader* (2010). She has also edited *Nation/Nazione: Irish Nationalism and the Italian Risorgimento* (2014). She has contributed articles to many journals such as *Italian Culture*, *Studies in Travel Writing* and *Modern Italy* and she has translated important nineteenth-century Italian texts into English.

Florry O'Driscoll (<F.ODRISCOLL1@nuigalway.ie>) is a PhD student at the National University of Ireland, Galway. His research interests include nineteenth-century Ireland, Risorgimento Italy, and Irish emigration to the United States, specifically as these topics relate to the experiences of Irish soldiers in these countries.

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Basil Walsh (d. November 2014) was a scholar of Irish music history and the author of a biography on Catherine Hayes (2000) and Michael William Balfe (2008). He contributed entries to the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* and he also contributed to various magazines, journals, newspapers, and encyclopaedias. He was also involved in the production and recording of Balfe's Italian Opera, *Falstaff* (1838), which was produced by Opera Ireland in September 2008 in Dublin as part of the Balfe's bicentennial celebrations with great acclaim. He maintained Web/BLOG sites at: www.catherinehayes.com , www.britishandirishworld.com and <http://balfcontinentaloperas.wordpress.com/>.