



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

(Some)
*History and Present of Irish/Celtic
Studies in Germany/DACH-Region*

Sabine Asmus

10.11.2023

(A) very dynamic field(s) of research

- Difficult to keep up with changing developments
- Focus on universities as potentially sustainable institutions
- Weak institutionalisation, lack of Chairs proper
- As opposed to a well developed interest in matters Ireland/Celts, certainly after Brexit
- A reality known since the early days of this research field
- According to Mainz University, Celtic Studies has currently two chairs:
<https://www.zq.uni-mainz.de/mainzer-arbeitsstelle-kleine-faecher/>
- This is arguable: the only chair proper for Celtic Studies was in Berlin (Humboldt-University, dissolved in 1998, see S. Heinz 1999 below)
- Irish Studies is not listed at all: unclearly defined research/study field

Potential Institutionalisation

- Public/private/specialised universities => focus here
 - Fully established, e.g. Chair of ... Marburg in context of linguistics
 - Private chair, a.o. Professor, e.g. Mannheim
 - Junior professor (default: 3 + 3 years), e.g. Bonn
 - Working group, e.g. Leipzig
 - Project work etc., e.g. *The Irish-English Network* (IrEN)
 - Specialisation part within larger structures, i.e. linguistics, literature, archeology, English studies, Indoeuropean studies (historical linguistics), History, etc.
 - Study schemes, e.g. Leipzig, e.g. *Contemporary Celtic Languages*
- Research Institutions, e.g. academy, Max-Planck Institute, e.g. Frankfurt/M für Rechtsgeschichte (legal history)
- Vereine/associations with a language focus, e.g. CnaG Bherlín, SKSK
- Foundations of various kinds
- Private initiatives, e.g. Pádhraic Ó Dochartaigh
- Library responsible for Celtic Studies is in Göttingen
- A complete picture is impossible
- Past attempts to reflect contemporary patchwork in the field have always been deficient
- „Irish Studies“ often form a part of English Studies

1. Towards Celtic Studies as an academic topic

- 1789 French Revolution
 - New philosophical approaches, e.g. search for comprehensive explanations of society, nature, the origin of mankind, their languages etc.
 - **Johann Gottfried Herder** (1744-1803) „Ueber den Ursprung der Sprache“
Herder: *Auszug aus einem Briefwechsel über Ossian und die Lieder alter Völker* (1773): "A poet is the creator of the nation around him, he gives them a world to see and has their souls in his hand to lead them to that world."
- Universal education and subsequent comparative studies
- 1810 Model of the Humboldtian University (Friedrich-Wilhelms-University **Berlin**)
 - Scientist Alexander (1769-1859)/philologist Wilhelm von Humboldt (1767-1835)
 - **Franz Bopp (Berlin, 1791-1867)**, founder of comparative linguistics
 - 1823 „Ueber die vergleichende Zergliederung des Sanskrits und der mit ihnen verwandten Sprachen“
 - Considered to have started systematic research in the field of Celtic Studies in Germany (but see also Zeuss below)
 - 1838 „Ueber die celtischen Sprachen vom Gesichtspunkt der vergleichenden Sprachforschung“
 - **Theodor Mommsen** Professor of **history (Berlin, 1817-1903)** needs the Celtic languages for historical studies

2. Nationalism and the investigation into the Celts

- After Napoleonic dominance in Germany (1806-1813)
Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814)
 - France = home of any educated person
 - Germans = chosen people of hope (for all)
- 1853-55 Joseph Arthur Comte de Gobineaus
„Essai sur l'Inégalité des Races humaines“, theory of races
- See also Herder on the role of literature above

- **Celtomania**
 - Concentrated in Bavaria (cf. history of Continental Celts, tribe of the Boii => Bavaria, Bohemia => Kalisz, near Poznan/Poland), but also BW
 - Trend to see antique Celts as culturally further developed than Germanic tribes (Germano-Celtic unit: Holtzmann, Deutsch-Irische Gemeinschaft)

3. Romanticism and the investigation into the Celts

- Industrial Revolution (1760-1820/40) facilitated travel
- Herder, philosopher, literary critic, traveler, writer (Scotland)
- Poet Ferdinand Freiligrath (1810-1876)
 - 1835 *Die irische Witwe*
 - 1847 *Irland* (1975, Inselverlag Leipzig)
 - Part of the network of A. v. Humboldt, Marx, Engels
- Poet Georg Weerth (1822-1856)
 - Before 1846 *Deutscher und Ire*
- Theodor Fontane (1819-1898)
 - 1859 *Jenseits des Tweed* (Scotland)
- 1861 Travel literature on Ireland, e.g. by Reinhold Pauli (1823-1882)

4. Political theory and the investigation into the Celts

Karl Marx (1818-1863, Berlin, Bonn, Jena), **Friedrich Engels** (1820-1895)

- Studied “the Celts“, including Old Irish, Old Irish laws and legends
- Results are works on the origin of family, property and state, e.g. Engels *Ursprung der Familie, des Privateigentums und des Staates*
- The Highland clearances in Scotland formed the idea of „primitive (original) accumulation“, cf. the major work of Marx *Capital*
- Irish Fenianism supported and criticised
- Relation of nationalism and class struggle studied in Ireland/Wales
- Importance of nationalism as basis for successful social struggle defined
- Further works on general colonialism, historicism etc. based on Ireland’s history and contemporary developments were eventually dismissed due to *La Commune de Paris* (1871) and the subsequent political engagements of the two

Further people and places involved in the development of German Celtic Studies I

- See Heinz, Sabine *Die Deutsche Keltologie und ihre Berliner Gelehrten bis 1945*
- 1839/40 **Lorenz Diefenbach (Frankfurt/Main, 1806-1883)**
Celtica (linguistic documents on the history of the Celts)
- 1849 Teacher **Friedrich Körner (Halle)**
 - *Overview over the origins of the Celts, their languages and their comparison to the Indian culture, incl. their mythology*
- 1853 Professor of history **Johann Kaspar Zeuss/ß (München 1806-1856)**
 - *Grammatica Celtica* (influenced by Jacob Grimm)
 - Like Bopp, also referred to as the 'first' researcher proper in the field (Hablitzel)
 - Other of his works with strong national-romantic overtones, e.g. *Die Deutschen und die Nachbarstämme* (1925): „das thätigste und mächtigste Volk“, „Centralvolk Europas“
 - Pointing to negative developments in 20th-century Germany



People and places involved in the development of German Celtic Studies II

- 1855 Professor of German and Sanskrit **Adolf Holtzmann (Heidelberg, 1810-1870)**
 - *Kelten und Germanen*: first idea of seeing the Celts and Germanics as a unit
 - Attempt to create a past for Germans deriving from Antiquity
 - Excluding the „Gälen und Kymren“, cf. Deutsch-Irische Gesellschaft (DIG) 20th c.
- 1857 Historian **Christian Wilhelm Glück (München)** on Celtic names in C. Julius Caesar
- 1857 Historian **Heinrich Bernhard Christian Brandes (Leipzig, 1819-1884)**
 - *Das ethno-graphische Verhältnis von Kelten und Germanen*
- 1858 **Adalbert Kuhn (Berlin, 1812-1881, comparative history and mythology)**
 - Founds the journal *Beiträge zur vergleichenden Sprachforschung* „Stellung des Keltischen im Indogermanischen“
- 1863 Priest **Friedrich Karl Meyer (Koburg, 1805-70)**
 - *Die noch lebenden keltischen Völkerschaften, Sprachen und Litteraturen in ihrer Geschichte und Bedeutung*
- 1871 Professor **Hermann Wilhelm Ebel (Berlin, 1820-1875)**
 - Re-edits *Grammatica Celtica*
 - Seminar on Celtic Studies at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University
 - Celtic linguistics, Old Welsh glosses, phonetics

The establishment of German Celtic Studies I Leipzig

- 1877 Professor **Ernst Windisch (Leipzig, 1844-1918, Sanskrit, Celtic, Linguistics)**
 - 1905 *Táin Bó Cúailgne etc, Irische Texte* together with Whitley Stokes
 - First Old Irish grammar
 - Students: Heinrich Zimmer, Kuno Meyer, Rudolf Thurneysen, Ludwig Mühlhausen
 - Rector of the university 1895/96
- 1878 Professor **Heinrich Zimmer (1851-1910)** follows Wilhelm Ebel in Berlin)
 - **Begin of institutionalised Celtic Studies in Germany with a Dozentur**
 - *Preußische Jahrbücher*: On the awakening of the Celtic nations
 - Abuses Irish studies for political purposes (*Randglossen eines Keltisten...*, 1907)
- 1881 From **Switzerland Rudolf Thurneysen (1847-1940, Jena, Freiburg i.Br., Bonn)**
 - *Index to Grammatica Celtica*, later developed into *Vergleichende Grammatik der keltischen Sprachen* by Henry Lewis and Holger Pederson 1908
 - Later major expert on Old Irish Grammar, 60 years of Celtic studies
- 1884 Quirin Esser on Galloceltic names
- 1885 Economist Friedrich E.A. Meitzen: *Siedlung und Agrarwesen der [...] Kelten [...]*
- 1894 **Whitley Stokes (Leipzig (1830-1909, lawyer, from 1903 with John Strachan in Manchester) *Thesaurus Palaeohibernicus***
 - Student of Prof Siegfried (Dublin) *Urkeltischer Sprachschatz* together with **Adalbert Bezenberger (Leipzig, 1851-1922)**

KURZGEFASSTE
IRISCHE GRAMMATIK

MIT LESESTÜCKEN

VON

ERNST WINDISCH



LEIPZIG
VERLAG VON S. HIRZEL

1879.

358

Ey 150 W 765

DIE
ALTIRISCHE HELDENSAGE
TÁIN BÓ CÚALNGE

NACH DEM BUCH VON LEINSTER
IN TEXT UND UEBERSETZUNG MIT EINER EINLEITUNG

HERAUSGEGEBEN

VON

ERNST WINDISCH

GEDRUCKT MIT UNTERSTÜTZUNG
DER KGL. SÄCHSISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

LEIPZIG
VERLAG VON S. HIRZEL
1905.

HBZ 6454

KELTISCHE STUDIEN

VON

HEINRICH ZIMMER.

2658

ERSTES HEFT:

IRISCHE TEXTE MIT WÖRTERBUCH VON E. WINDISCH.



BERLIN

WEIDMANNSCHE BUCHHANDLUNG

1881.

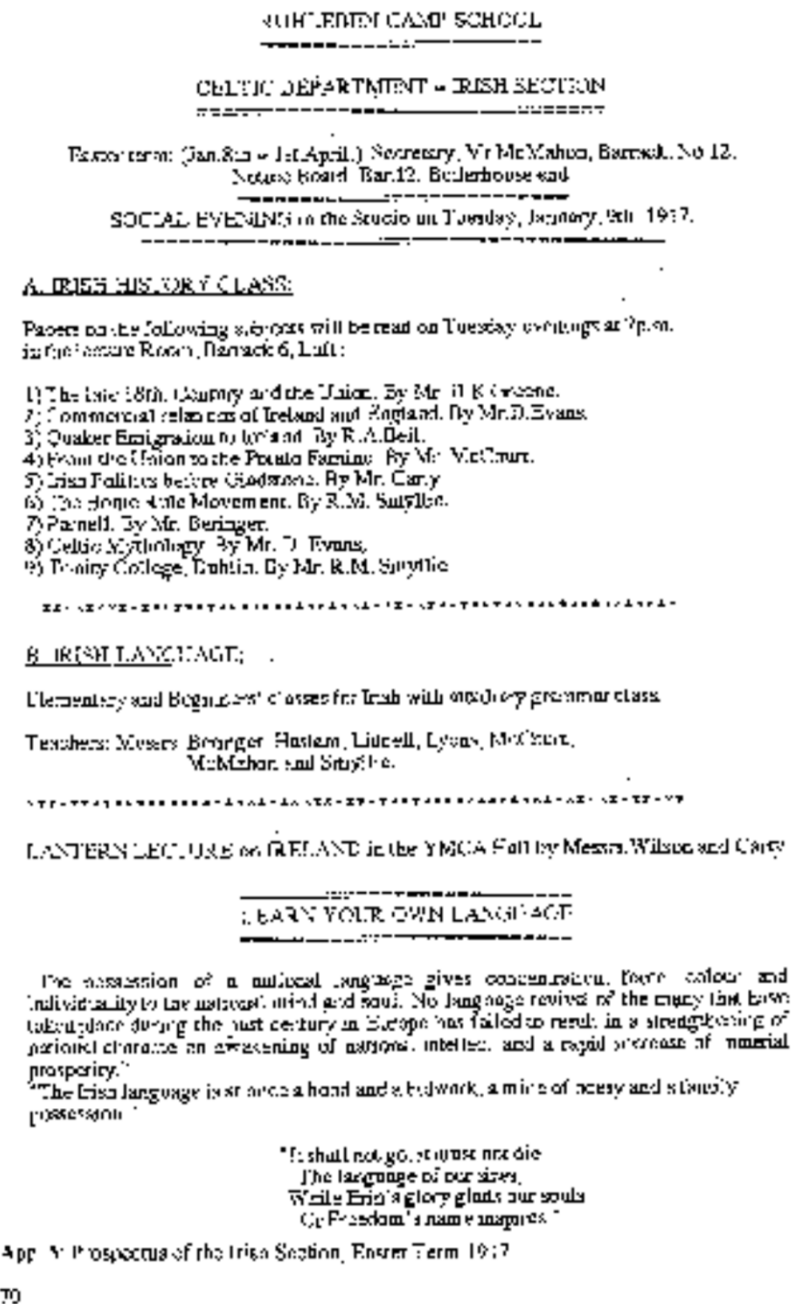
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The establishment of German Celtic Studies II - Berlin

- 1897 Egyptologist **Ludwig Christian Stern** (Berlin, 1846-1911, and Kuno Meyer),
 - Launch of the journal *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* (ZcP)
 - Publish descriptions of Irish manuscripts in European libraries
 - 1905 edited and translated *Cúirt an Mheadhóin Oídhche* (http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/cominfo/club_soc/historical/merriman_1968.htm)
- 1900 **Franz Nikolaus Finck** (Berlin, 1876-1910, Professor for general linguistics),
 - 1899 *Die Araner Mundart*
 - 1986 *Irische Zaubersprüche, Phonetics*
 - Student: Ernst Lewy
- 1901 Foundation of the **Ordinariat for Celtic Studies** at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University (from 1949 Humboldt-University), **Berlin** at the demand of historian Theodor Mommsen (cf. statute)
 - Demands the study of sources in the original
 - Edits himself the *Historia Brittonum* (1894)
- Ordinariat 1901 **Heinrich Zimmer** (until 1910),
 - Irish missions and Celtic Christianity
 - Mediaeval times, legends from Brittany, history
 - Culture, linguistics: phonology, morphology
- **Kuno Meyer** (1858-1919, pupil of Windisch, Leipzig)
 - 1903 Co-founder of the *School of Irish Learning* in Dublin
 - 1904 launch of *Ériu*; Irish manuscripts, *Dictionary of the Irish language, Sanas Chormaic*
 - 1911 Chair of Celtic Studies in Berlin: focus on Old and Middle Irish
 - His brother Edward Meyer as rector of the university in Berlin is also a member of the DIG aimed at anti-English support of Germany

German Celtic Studies trapped in politics

- Kuno Meyer
 - 1914 outbreak of WWI and subsequent internment of foreigners in Germany, particularly English/British/Irish ones
 - Ruhleben Camp/Berlin: Meyer organised a Celtic Department at „University of Ruhleben“ (today IKEA Berlin-Ruhleben)
 - Eisteddfod 1915
 - Recordings of native speakers
 - Investigation of speech apparatus of an Irish man
 - Sister Antonie (as a woman excluded from university studies) spoke English and Irish, published in den *Irischen Blättern* and in the *Irischen Korrespondenz*
 - Meyer, Bernhard, 2017, *Kuno Meyer and Wales: Letters to John Glyn Davies, 1892–1919*
 - Further scholars in the field:
 - Historian Gustav Kossima,
 - Archeaologist Friedrich Koepp
 - Anglicist Wilhelm Dibelius
 - Ethnologist Hugo Kunike



Celtic Studies and politics - DGKS

- Discriminating attitude by Thurneysen towards Celtic languages:
 - “VSO-order with a finite verb at the beginning of the sentence does not support the logic speech of the European “Kultur Mensch””
- After the defeat of France in 1941, foundation of the “Keltische Arbeitsgruppe im Kriegseinsatz der Geisteswissenschaften” (Celtic working group of deployment of the humanities in war)
 - Used works of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für keltische Studien* (DGKS), founded in 1936
 - DGKS directly linked with SS, SD and German Abwehr
 - Members are young men to complement linguistic research by racial-biological and custom-research (Brauchtumsforschung)
 - President: Ludwig Mühlhausen
 - Manager: Gerhard von Tevenar (1912-1943), Manx and Breton specialist
 - Honorary president Thurneysen
 - Further aims: guidance and support of the Breton *Home Rule* movement
 - 1940: Breton prisoners of war were moved together near Berlin in order to prepare them for collaboration with German occupying forces: Roparz Hémon, Yann Goulet, l’abbe Le Goff, André Geffroy, Tassel and others
 - Breton radio in Rennes in responsibility of Leo Weisgerber

German Celtic Studies under Fascism I

- 1920 Prague-born **Austrian Jew Julius Pokorny** comes to Berlin after death of Kuno Meyer
- Pokorny (1887-1970)
 - Links historical, archaeological and linguistic research, typology
 - *Indogermanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* (IEW 1959), Irish sagas, Irish lecturer
 - Editor of ZcP
 - 1925 Dr. honoris causa in Dublin, friend of Douglas Hyde (president 1938-1945)
 - 1915 applies for anti-English propaganda job in Berlin
 - 1916 volunteers for army until the end of WWI
 - Member of DIG, co-operation with Irish parliament, financed by German foreign service
 - 1918 „Rasse und Volk in Irland“ (Irish = Aryans, cultural dominance of the European North)
 - 1933 put on leave on the basis of the *Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtenstands*; 1934 decision reversed and Pokorny takes the Hitler oath
 - 1935 put on leave on the basis of the *Reichsbürgergesetz*
 - Forced leave was turned into a professor retirement, i.e. he was paid a pension (after 20 years of spearheading the „racial idea“ and consent by the local NSDAP-group), was not imprisoned, not dispossessed as all other Jews
 - Remains editor of ZcP until 1940
 - Seemed to have lectured until perhaps 1936
 - In 1943 he crosses the border to Switzerland in daylight and unharassed (Tevenar?)
 - Network in Berlin: **Anglicist Fritz Fiedler**, Scandinvist Gustav Neckel, Hans Reinerth, Otto Doppelfeld (museum Berlin), arts historian W.A. Ritter von Jenny (museum Berlin)

Mühlhausen - successor of Pokorny

- Ludwig Mühlhausen (1888-1965)
 - Multilingual scholar with interest in history, literature and modern matters Celtic
 - Honorary professor in Hamburg
 - 1936-1945 professor of Celtic Studies in Berlin (until internment)
 - Active fighter of NSDAP (1932), SA (1933), SS (1943)
 - Edition of *Y Mabinogi*
 - Self-finances his research trip every second year two Ireland + teaching material
 - Translation of Irish stories into German for the Lautabteilung (department for speech recording)
 - Excellent personal links with Douglas Hyde and personalities of the Irish independent movement (in line with Germany's support of Ireland as a developing country from Kuno Meyer until 1939)
 - Irish- and Welsh-language broadcasting during WWII
 - Entangled in mythology
 - *Nazi sa Ghaeltacht* - Mühlhausen by Kevin Magee broadcast in 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlhcub8xdc0>
 - Heinz, Sabine & Albrecht Belinda, 2000, „Warum trat Weisgerber nicht Pokornys Nachfolge an?“
- Potential successor Annie Heiermeier
 - Student of Pokorny
 - Place name studies in Ireland

Celtic Studies under Fascism II

- **Ernst Lewy (1881-1966)**
 - Student of Finck
 - Follows Finck in 1925
 - As a Jew forced resignation for 9 months in 1933
 - 1935 final forced resignation
 - Not allowed to emigrate to Palestine
 - Escapes to England
 - Osborn Bergin (1873-1959) makes him professor in Royal Irish Academy in 1947
 - Research in typology: including typological description of Old Irish, rather holistic approach
- **Rudolf Hirtz/Hertz**
 - Student of Thurneysen in Bonn
 - Old Irish syntax
 - As a Jew forced to retire in 1938, emigrates to Dublin
 - Compensated in 1946: extraordinary chair for Celtic philology in Bonn
 - 1953 Ordinariat (private, disappears with him)
 - Student Gearóid Mac Eoin († 2023)

Further scholars in Celtic/Irish Studies

- Leo Weisgerber (1899-1985)
 - 1926 professor in Rostock, student of Thurneysen,
 - Joins *Ahnenerbe* (research institution under Himmler) in 1940
 - 1938-1942 Censored Breton publications (when working in Marburg a.L.)
 - Responsible for Breton Radio in Rennes
 - Influential in Breton spelling reform (cf. Iwan Wmffre)
 - Thurneysen's successor in Bonn (1942-1967)
 - After protest against his fascist past, he escapes into German Studies in Bonn
 - Middle Welsh, speaker of two dialects of Breton
- Josef Weisweiler (1900-1987)
 - Student of Thurneysen in Bonn
 - Successor of Weisgerber in Marburg a.L. in 1943
- Hans Hartmann (1909-2000)
 - 1953 professor for general and comparative linguistics and Celtic Studies in Hamburg
 - Student of Mühlhausen, PhD 1941 in Berlin
 - Also in National Museum under Adolf Mahr (Austrian NSDAP leader in Dublin until 1939)
 - <http://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-history/glaoch-on-triu-reich-a-call-from-the.third-reich/-reich/>

Rise and Fall of Celtic Studies in Berlin after WWII

- Julius Pokorny refused to return
- Annie Heiermeier was ignored (Pokorny's influence)
- 1961 William B. Lockwood appointed as Professor of Comparative Linguistics and Celtic Studies - leaves upon Stalin revelations?
- 1965 Martin Rockel takes over within the English Department, focussing on anything Welsh until societal changes in German Democratic Republic in 1990
 - Old and Modern Irish, Gaulish, Cornish and Breton received attention, too
 - Students: Holger Stegat, Reinhard Ulbrich (PhD Douglas Hyde, Eulenspiegel)
 - Stegat and English-speaking colleagues disappear, e.g. John Mitchell et al.
 - Sabine Heinz/Asmus
- 1991 Celtic Studies as major and minor
- 1994 Martin Rockel honorary professor
- 1995 Sabine Heinz employed by Prof Poppe; has no *Habilitation* at the time
- March 1998 Conference on the history of Celtic Studies and intensive international campaign for the maintenance of Celtic Studies
- 1998 Closure of Celtic Studies in Freiburg i.Br. (Prof. Pilch retired, Prof. Tristram)
- 14.4.1998 Decision by the English Department to close Celtic Studies in Berlin
- Nearly all 100 students exmatriculated
- Last student leaving in 2001 (100 years of Celtic Studies in Berlin end here)
- All modern Celtic books disposed
- Intensive joint efforts by the Irish Government and other Celtic diplomatic and commercial staff to re-establish Celtic Studies at the Humboldt-University by 2001 (100th anniversary of the chair of Celtic Studies)
- Eventual failure as support from educational authorities (faculty/vice-president) in Berlin and the political ones in Scotland and Wales hold off



**(British-Celtic) English literature
and
Celtic Linguistics (and literature)**



Former Centre for Celtic/Irish Studies Berlin

Friedrich-Wilhelms-University => Humboldt-University

- Academic start:
 - 1745 Süßmilch => 1858 Kuhn => until 1867 Bopp
- Institutionalisation:
 - 1871 Ebel => 1878 H. Zimmer, 1900 Finck, until 1903 Mommsen
 - Chair for Celtic Studies in 1901 (closed in 1998)
- 1901 Heinrich Zimmer => 1911 Meyer => 1920-1936 Pokorny
 - 1916/1940 Thurneysen (student; recordings during the wars)
 - 1941 Hans Hartmann (PhD and broadcasting)
 - Helmut Bauersfeld, Gerhard von Tevenar? (until 1943)
- 1936-1945 Mühlhausen (research and broadcasting)
- Rather bleak today:
 - Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt-University
 - Prof. Catherine Toal, Bard College
 - Conradh na Gaeilge Bheirlín e. V., Pádhraic Ó Dochartaigh

Former Centre for Celtic/Irish Studies Leipzig

- 1857 Brandes
- 1877/1882 Karl Brugmann
- 1877 - 1918 Windisch
 - 1745 His students: Heinrich Zimmer, Kuno Meyer, Rudolf Thurneysen, Ludwig Mühlhausen
- 1894 Whitley Stokes
- (English Department Halle): Dorothea Siegmund-Schultze until 1986
- Active publishing of literature (also in Berlin)
- Michael D Higgins as a poet - 80s...

Michael D. Higgins

The poet turned President - Michael D. Higgins was elected President of the Republic of Ireland in 2011.



In conjunction with the ECCM Symposium 'Productivity of Culture' held in Athens, **Michael D. Higgins** gave a poetry reading on October 17, 2007 at Athens Centre

48, Archimidous Street 116 36 Athens Greece
Tel: 210 7015242, 210 7012268

organised by the Greek-Irish Society and Hatto Fischer, Poiein kai Pratein

<http://productivityofculture.org/symposium/poetry-2/>

Michael D. Higgins is one of those unusual politicians who takes to poetry but which is not unusual for Ireland. When Seamus Heaney accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature, he said that this came about not merely because his own poetry, but due to three generations of Irish poets. It includes poets like Michael Longley, Brendan Kennelly and many others.

Michael D. Higgins comes from Galway a city akin to Gaelic as much as to the English language. That difference of importance if European cultures are to be recognized and understood in terms of their own cultural diversities. As former Minister of Culture, Michael Higgins made this decision to secure the continuity of the Gaelic language by creating the institution of a Gaelic Television and Media Center to promote the language. Without such a powerful ally, there would not be this encouragement to read, to write and to speak in the Gaelic language even though between 40 to 60% of the population of Galway use it in daily communication.

The first encounter with Michael D. Higgins was during the CIED conference held in Galway 17 - 18th of October 1997. He continued from then on to updating CIED in what relates to the objective of making use of culture without thereby abusing it (Brendan Kennelly). Twice he came to conferences in Leipzig, the second time in June 1999.



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3rd time - 2019



Staatsbesuch am 4. Juli 2019
**PRÄSIDENT VON IRLAND
ZU GAST AN DER UNIVER-
SITÄT LEIPZIG**

ZUR PRESSEMITTEILUNG >



The Irish Times



Tánaiste



Ambassador Michal Collins



Leipzig – State of the Art

(A) Irish/Celtic in Sorbian Department

- Contemporary Celtic Languages (minor study scheme) with a focus on Irish
- *International BA for European Minority Languages* (with a focus on Sorbian and Irish, alternatives are possible)
- Application submitted for MA *Minderheiten in der Gesellschaft* (co-operation with IALT and many others)
- Students' society ERIU
 - Website: eriuleipzig.wordpress.com
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/eriuleipzig
 - Instagram: www.instagram.com/eriu_leipzig
 - Twitter/ X: www.twitter.com/eriu_leipzig
- Possible due to a grant from Ireland for the „Teaching of Irish abroad“ since 2013 (Michael Collins)
- Emma de Paor (Irish), Zuzanna Grala (Irish), Lena Krochmann (Scottish Gaelic/Sorbian), Elisabeth Walther (Sorbian/Welsh), Owain Griffith (Welsh), Sabine Asmus

(B) Irish Studies in the English Department

- Prof. Ralph Haekel, em. Prof. Jochen Schwend
- (Dr. Patrick McCafferty)

(C) Project work Celtic/German Studies in the Academy of Saxony by Dr. Dagmar Wodko and Dr. Britta Irslinger (Indoeuropean background – no co-operation)

(D) Halle: Dr. Britta Schulze-Thulin (English Department, but Indoeuropean background – no co-operation)

The Irish Free State – 100 years later
Comhdháil ag comóradh 100 bliain ó bunaíodh Saorstát na hÉireann
Conference commemorating 100 years of the foundation of the Irish Free State
Exhibition – ‘Die Wiederbelebung der Irischen Sprache und der Osteraufstand von 1916’
23ú Deireadh Fómhair 2021 / 23rd October 2021, Großer Hörsaal, Haus 1, Campus Jahnallee

09:00 - 09:20	Music/Words of welcome by Prof. Sabine Asmus et al. Thomas Bellow, Ilias Ben Mna, Embassy of Ireland
09:20 - 09:50	Dr. Jenny Farrell - 'Independence gained by the Free State as reflected in the works of Liam O'Flaherty', Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
09:50 - 10:00	Discussion
10:00 - 10:20	Prof. Ralf Haekel - 'Aspects of the literary and political figure of W.B. Yeats', Leipzig University
10:20 - 10:30	Discussion, Leipzig University
10:30 - 10:45	Sos Caife / Coffee Break
10:45 - 11:00	Zuzanna Grala - 'Language Policies in Comparative Perspective – the Cases of Ireland, Singapore and Malaysia', Leipzig University
11:00 - 11:05	Discussion
11:05 - 11:25	Poetry Reading from Students
11:25 - 11:35	Introduction to Exhibition by Pádraic Ó Dochartaigh 'Die Wiederbelebung der Irischen Sprache und der Osteraufstand von 1916' Emma de Paor – video info
11:35 - 12:40	Exhibition - Video - Music - Lunch break
12:40 - 13:00	Pádraic Ó Dochartaigh - 'The Irish language and literature in the 20th Century / Die Irische Sprache und Literatur im 20. Jahrhundert', CnaG Bherlin
13:00 - 13:10	Discussion
13:10 - 13:30	Prof. Schwend - 'Anglo-Irish Treaty - Stepping Stone to Independence', Leipzig University
13:30 - 13:40	Discussion
13:40 - 13:55	Sos Caife / Coffee Break
13:55 - 14:10	Emma de Paor - 'Dinnsheanchas agus Logainmneacha na hÉireann/The genre of Placename stories and Placenames of Ireland', Leipzig University
14:10 - 14:15	Discussion
14:15 - 14:30	Marlena Gawlik - 'Language and identity - Evan Boland's poem 'Muse Mother'
14:30 - 14:35	Discussion, Szczecin University
14:35 - 14:50	Lena Krochmann - 'Dissemination of terminology in Scottish Gaelic - language planning framework and strategies in the endangered situation', Leipzig University
14:50 - 14:55	Discussion
14:55 - 16:00	Closing words, remarks, exhibition

More

Conference
CELTO-SLAVICA 10
 Highlights in Celtic and Slavic:
 Comparanda and Inspirations

26 – 29 OCTOBER 2022
BIBLIOTHECA ALBERTINA
 Vortragssaal

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

John Koch
Some implications for Celtic origins of recent archaeogenetic evidence for Late Bronze Age migrations in western Europe

Séamus Mac Mathúna
Reflections on some Celtic, Scandinavian and Slavic comparanda

For programme details see
www.philol.uni-leipzig.de/celto-slavica

ALL WELCOME!

Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Ghearmáin
 Botschaft von Irland | Deutschland
 Embassy of Ireland | Germany

UNIVERSITÄT
 LEIPZIG



[https://www.academia.edu/58643297/The Irish Free State 100 years later](https://www.academia.edu/58643297/The_Irish_Free_State_100_years_later)

- https://www.academia.edu/41491633/Call_for_papers_Xth_Celto_Slavica_Colloquium

2016 IRELAND CENTENARY FESTIVAL IN LEIPZIG

Provisional academic programme

Friday, 22.04.2016

In: *Bibliotheca Albertina, Beethovenstr. 6*

• 10.00-10.15

Conference opening and welcome address from President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, by Dr Sabine Asmus and Dr Patrick McCafferty, University of Leipzig

• 10.15-10.45

"Irish Ireland and Nationalist Politics 1900-1921", Prof Robert Looby, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

• 10.45-11.15

"Constructing Irish Identity", Prof Joachim Schwend, University of Leipzig

• 11.30-12.00

"1916 in Polish newspapers and Poland as an inspiration for Ireland", Dr Mark Ó Fionnáin, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

• 12.00-12.30

"Translations by Brian Friel in Spain: A gesture 'to indicate...a presence'", Prof Marcello Giugliano, University of Leipzig

LUNCH BREAK

• 14.00-14.30

"The Names for Britain and Ireland Revisited", Prof George Broderick, University of Mannheim, Germany

• 14.30-15.00

"The Irish Language in the Digital Age", Aodhán Mac Cormaic, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Galway, Ireland

• 15.15-15.45

"Language Policies and Irish Literature", Marlena Gawlik, University of Szczecin, Poland

• 15.45-16.30

"Ecopoetics and Irish literature", Patrycja Lewków, University of Szczecin, Poland

• 16.45-17.15

"Who needs Football? We have Hurling and Camogie", Emily Stephenson, National University of Galway, Ireland

• 17.15-17.45

"Patrick Pearse, der Rebell", Hans-Christian Oeser, Berlin, Dublin

• 18.30 *Irish Music in Morrisons Pub, Ritterstr. 38-40*

2016 IRELAND CENTENARY FESTIVAL IN LEIPZIG

"FRÜHAUFSTAND"

Saturday, 23.04.2016

In „die naTo“, Karl-Liebkecht-Str. 46

11.00-14.00

Poetry-prose reading: Literature in Irish, English and German

• Poetry read by one of Ireland's leading poets Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill

Short Stories by Patrick Pearse, translated by students and Hans-Christian Oeser, Berlin, Dublin

• Music band: "Irish Folk in Leipzig"

• *Children's programm* by "Eriu Leipzig":

(dance workshop, crafts e.g. Saint Brigid crosses, writing in ogham, writing in seanchló, etc.)



(c) Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill – Taibhsí i mBéal na Gaoithe

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Veranstaltungen, Diskussionen,
Konferenzen, Publikationen, Events
und vieles mehr, in Verbindung mit
Minderheitensprachen



Past and Present – major developments I

- Berlin, Humboldt-University
 - **The only Chair (proper) of Celtic Studies** in Germany moved to the **English Department**, but **all-encompassing**): closed in 1998
 - Prof. Catherine Toal, Bard College
 - Aspects in Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt-University
- Bochum (**English Department**, mythology): Sylvia and Paul Botheroyd, retired
- Bonn (from Indoeuropean Studies (2009?) to the **English department**): since 2022 junior professor Elena Parina
- Dortmund: aspects within **English Linguistics**
- Duisburg-Essen (**Linguistics**): Raymond Hickey, retired
- Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Catholic University (**Linguistics**): Alfred Bammesberger, retired
- Flensburg Irish-Studies-Centre: Michelle Witen
- Freiburg i.Br. (co-operation based, **all-encompassing**): closed after retirement of Herbert Pilch (1927-2018) and H.L.C. Tristram (1941-2020)
- Greifswald, Rostock (**Linguistics**): closed
- Halle (**English Department**): Irish by Britta Schulze-Thulin
- Hamburg (**Linguistics**): Elmar Ternes and Corthals retired
- Heidelberg (**History**): Dagmar Schlüter?, cf. Celto-Slavica VIII (9/2016)
- Jena, Friedrich-Schiller university (**Intercultural business communication**): Fergal Lenehan, Sabine Ziegler (**Indoeuropean Studies**)
- Leipzig (**Sorbian and English Department, all-encompassing**) with partial revival attempts, network, Celto-Slavica X (10/2022), Sabine Asmus, Emma de Paor; Ralf Haekel et al.

Past and Present – major developments II

- Mannheim, personal Chair George Broderick (retired, but still teaching Irish, **Linguistics**)
- Marburg, chair (**Medieval Studies/Linguistics**): Alderick Bloom
- München (**Indoeuropean Studies**): after Peter Schrijver no Celtic scholar
- Potsdam within **English Studies**, but H.L.C. Tristram retired a decade ago and Arne Peters became professor in Bremen Anthropologische Linguistik (Cultural Linguistics)
- Trier (**Classical philology**): a.o. Prof Jürgen Zeidler
- Tübingen (**History of religion**): Bernhard Maier – Prof Ch. Reinfandt (**English Department**), Dr. R. Zähringer (**Literary Studies**)
- Würzburg (**Indoeuropean Studies**): after Karin Stüber no Celtic scholar; now PD Dr I. Bergmann (**American Studies**), Prof M. Eisenmann (**English as a foreign language**)
- Wuppertal (**Linguistics**): Arndt Wigger bis 2009; now Irish-Studies Centre Prof K. Rennhak (**English Department**)
- Switzerland:
 - Innsbruck (**Indoeuropean Studies**): Wolfgang Meid, retired
 - Zürich (**Linguistics**): Karin Stüber (titular professor)
 - Lausanne: aspects within the English department
- Vienna/Austria: part of **Indoeuropean Studies** (S. Schumacher) and English Studies
- A non-exhaustive attempt

Trend

- Start from comparative linguistics, partially Indoeuropean Studies
- Also to provide translations of texts for other sciences and pursuits
- Now, trend away from historical linguistics and linguistics of all sort with subsequent reflexes also in literature:
 - Jürgen Schneider: „Sprache ohne Land, Land ohne Sprache. Museyroom: Das Músaem Litríochta na hÉireann zu Dublin will irische Literaturgeschichte erzählen, weiß aber nicht wie“ (nd-aktuell.de, 25.10.2023, Kultur)
- No clearly defined study field, but aspects of various types of Celtic/Irish Studies in Dortmund, Potsdam, Lüneburg, Siegen, Stuttgart... (with some speakers of Irish and grants for the „Teaching of Irish“)
- **General trend: weakening of language studies**
- **The current state of Celtic/Irish studies is an incidental reflex of Irish as a definitely endangered language**

International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to draw attention to the critical status of many Indigenous languages across the world and encourage action for their preservation, revitalization and promotion.



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

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Spoken language
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Early Irish

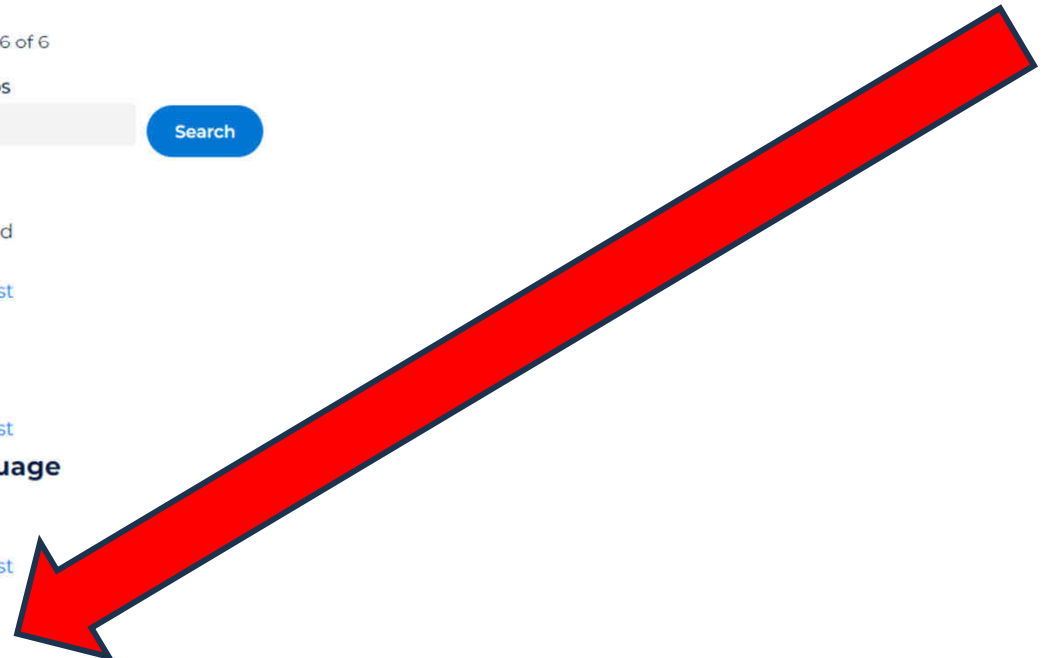
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Spoken language
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Irish Sign Language

Endangered/unsafe
Sign language
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Irish in Ireland

Not in use



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