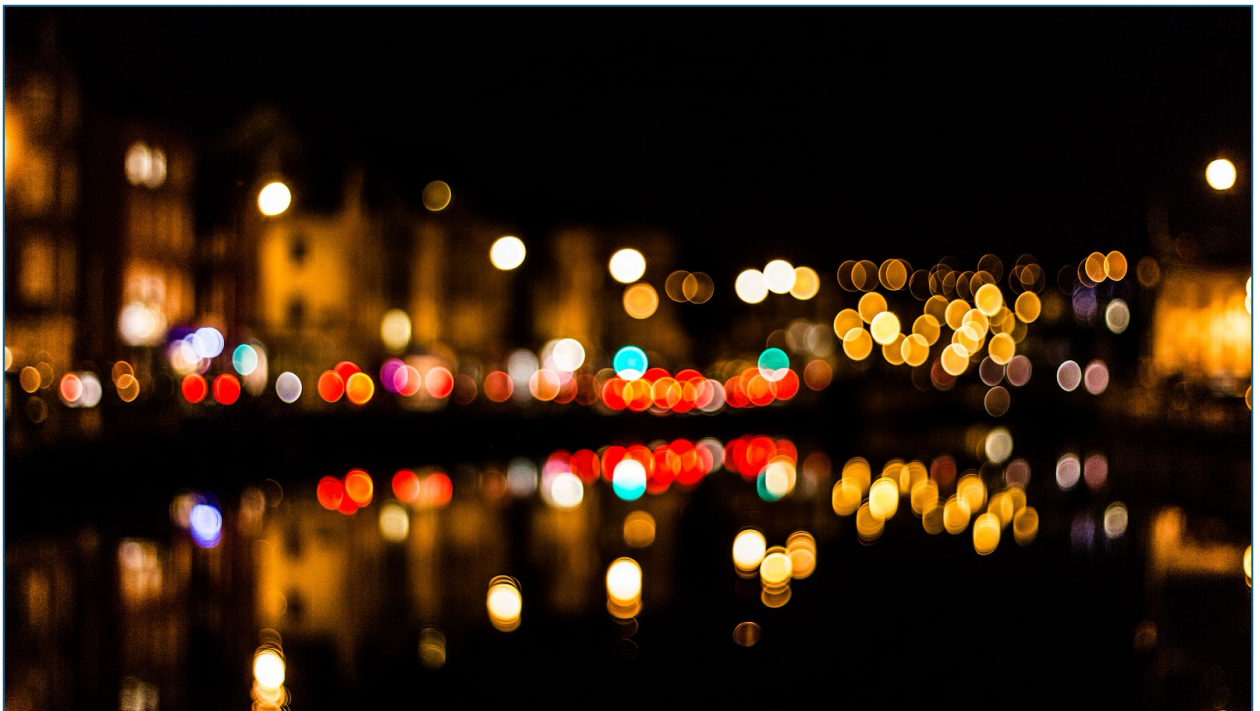


CASiLaC

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Languages and Cultures

*Part of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
and the UCC Future Humanities Institute*

Annual report 2025-6



Welcome from the Centre Director

In discussions during the review of CASiLaC last year, culminating in the visit by members of our International Advisory Board in June 2025, colleagues in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures agreed that we would like to begin producing an annual report, in order to document and celebrate our activities.

This academic year our Centre awarded a grand total of €7200, in two funding rounds, to support a total of 21 interdisciplinary collaborative research activities based in the School and our Centre's research clusters but reaching out across the wider College, University and beyond. You will find accounts and images of some of these in the pages which follow. The volume of excellent applications is testament to the vibrancy of our interdisciplinary research environment and a very good indication that we are succeeding in our strategic objective to incubate new interdisciplinary research authentically from the grass-roots rather than in obeisance to top-down imperatives and agendas.

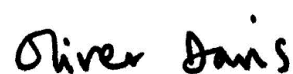
Several of our researchers have also made a strong contribution to the research culture of the wider institution, representing their work at prominent public-facing occasions during the year, notably the national launch of the [UCC Future Humanities Institute](#), of which CASiLaC is a constituent and founding research division, as well as at the College's annual Research Showcase.

Of course, the interdisciplinary research activity which CASiLaC supports is only one part of the research ecosystem in our School. Many of our researchers are also engaged at the same time in work within their disciplines, either in collaboration with others or on an individual basis. All of this work is important and valued.

In the first Semester, a significant IT project was delivered to time: [the new CASiLaC website](#). The new website offers a future-oriented crisp presentation of who we are and what we do across our seven constituent Clusters and the Centre for Dante Studies in Ireland. You can find out more about CASiLaC's activities on the website and peruse posters and other details of forthcoming and recent events.

In the second Semester, the School's Research and Innovation Committee decided that we would relaunch CASiLaC in Autumn 2026 with a new distinguished lecture, which we intend will take place every two years, The Cara Levey Lecture.

I very much hope you enjoy reading this first Annual Report, which is presented by Research Cluster in no particular order, followed by the Centre for Dante Studies in Ireland.



Professor Oliver Davis

SLLC Director of Research and Director of CASiLaC, 17 June 2026

Translation and Creative Practice

As well as hosting the Literature Ireland co-sponsored Translator in Residence, Tania Ganho, who gave a series of workshops, talks and conversations with other writers and translators including Naoise Dolan, Billy O'Callaghan and Laëtitia Saint-Loubert (Feb-April 2026), we organised a series of events in partnership with Departments and colleagues within CACSSS involving active translators, writers and researchers. These included plurilingual Austrian writer, Peter Waterhouse (November), Argentine scholar and translator Jorge Fondebrider (February), and French theatre translator, Marianne Dugeon (March).

Continuing our commitment to exploring creative approaches to researching translation and minoritised languages, we held a series of events with writers and translators, including conversations between Galician author Brais Lamela and translator Jacob Rogers on 'What Remains in Translation' (October); Buffery's talk 'Is Brossa translatable?' (December), first delivered as invited keynote (Manchester, 18 September); Mara Faye Lethem 'On the Short Stories of Pere Calders: Translation as Research' (March); the symposium 'Less-Translated Literatures in the Anglophone World' with Olivia Hellewell and Laura Linares; the closing events of the Cork World Book Fest, with Cynthia Menéndez, Keith Payne, and Xavier Mas Craviotto; the opening colloquium for this year's EMT Networking Event, held in UCC on 19-20 May 2026.

As well as consolidating the above partnerships and networks, we continued to build capacity in three key areas: activist translation, together with the Feminist Translation Network, which we invited to participate in a symposium with PhD students and ECRs during our Translation Week (September); Public Translation Studies, through the Transactions Collective (facilitated by Hannah Silvester, Céire Broderick and Elizabeth Rosales) and Silvester and Tuominen's Subcomm project.



Other key activities and outputs include: the AHGBI prize-winning monograph: Linares, *Translation Landscapes: Contemporary Galician Fiction in English* (Legenda, 2025); a co-edited volume on 'Translation and/as soft power in the Twenty-First Century' for *Target* (Linares, Castro, Hellewell, due 2027); Muñoz Gómez's invited chapter in *Translating at Work: Paraprofessional Translation in Organizations*, ed. Koskinen (forthcoming 2026); PhD conferring – Muñoz Gómez; PhD completions Eileen O'Connor – *Translating the Works of Blanca Varela* (GOI funded); Shuai Liu – *The Translation of Late Qing (c.1839-1912) Chinese Literature in the Anglophone World*; competitive Research Ireland GOI funding for former MATS student, Mario Puebas Madueño (4-year GOI PhD Studentship) and Dr Marina Popea (2-year GOI Postdoctoral fellowship); performance of *The Weight of the Body* (Cork Fringe Festival, May).

Violence, Conflict and Gender

The cluster has a new team of co-convenors who commenced in January 2026 including a Postgraduate Researcher from within the SLLC, Magali Belen Segovia. Activities in 2025-2026 focused around three key events:

1. [Global and Comparative Perspectives on Gender-Based Violence](#) (15 October 2025, hybrid) was a collaboration with the Institute for Social Sciences 21 (ISS 21) Gender, Sexualities and Families Cluster (Dr Gema Kloppe-Santamaría). It incorporated three thematic strands: Gendered realities: representation, reproduction, mediation; Violence(s) and exclusions: borders and entanglements; Resistance and action: crafting alternative futures. With a keynote from Prof Pablo Piccato (Columbia), it featured participation from UCC researchers in Sociology, Applied Social Sciences, Philosophy, Theatre, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and History.



2. [Constructing Masculinities: Historical and Cultural Framings](#) (14 April 2026, online) was the first of a series of events planned around the theme of masculinities, a strategic focus for the year. It drew together researchers in Gender Studies, Literary and Cultural Studies, Studies of Religion and History. Featuring contributions from Dr Mathew Rickard (Jules Verne University of Picardy); Ashley Brown (Glasgow) and Leandro Wallace (Macquarie) with a response from Magali Belen Segovia (UCC), the event attracted an audience of 45 people, including participants based in France, the UK, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Netherlands, Finland and Slovenia.
3. Creativity in the Classroom: Zines as Inclusive Pedagogical Tool (19 May 2026, hybrid) invited queer, working class and neurodivergent artist, Lu Williams to share their creative practice in zines with other practitioners, artist Justine Le Page and academic, Dr Laura Kennedy.

Rethinking Spatial Humanities

The 2025-2026 academic year was a dynamic one for the cluster, as we organized a (hybrid) seminar series, two invited talks, and a major conference. Two Research Ireland-funded ECRs are co-convenors of the group: Dr Alessio Aletta (GoI Postdoctoral Fellow) and Giulia Bernuzzi (GoI Postgraduate Scholar), both working on projects related to Space and Literature.

The Cluster's programme for this year placed particular emphasis on the practical and theoretical uses of spatial thinking within diverse areas of humanities research, including literary studies, theatre and performance, environmental humanities, and cultural history. The activities were designed to test the usefulness of various forms of spatial methodologies and their application to a range of objects, archives, and cultural practices, resulting in a diversity of speakers and topics. The seminars were well-attended, and presentations were followed by a discussion period. Silvia Ross also had the opportunity to present the Cluster's research activities at the one-day conference, 'Radical Humanities: Problems, Methods, Approaches', organized by the RHL on 25 April 2026.

The 'Scaling Spaces: Interdisciplinary Methodologies in Spatial Research' seminar series ran in Semester 2, and was held in person (and on Teams) on Thursdays at 4.00 pm.

An interdisciplinary conference, spearheaded by Dr Alessio Aletta, '[Map Matters: Cartographic Approaches to Cultural Production Across Languages](#)' was held on 20-21 May (online) and 22 May (in person) 2026. It featured 26 presentations by speakers from institutions all around Europe, Asia, and North America, as well as three special events:

Wed 20 May *Mapping as a Creative Practice*, Artist talk by Emily Jay (Artist-Scholar, Ohio Northern University)

Thurs 21 May *What Does It Even Mean to Map Fiction?* Roundtable moderated by Shawn Day (School of English and Digital Humanities)

Fri 22 May *"The Eye of History": 450 years of mapping the Ancient World*, Keynote Address by Stuart Dunn (King's College London)

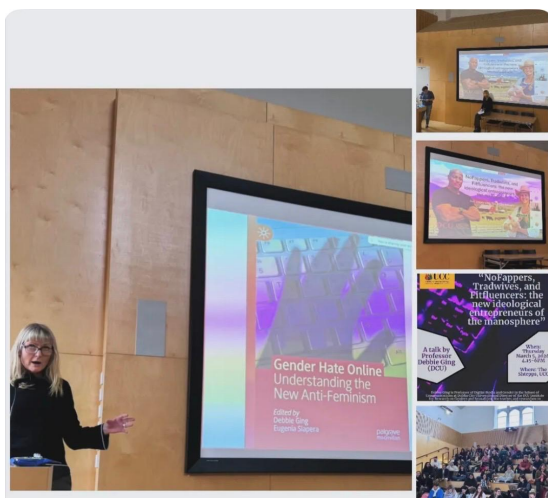
We are in the planning stages of the programme of events for the next academic year. In addition to the walking event to be held in September 2026, we plan to run a Seminar Series again in S2 (4-6 seminars, hybrid and online). We are also considering the organization of a Film series (2 screenings in S1 and 2 in S2), and the creation of a Podcast.

Given that Alessio will be finishing his post-doc, Silvia is on sabbatical until 31 December 2026, and Giulia will be a visiting scholar at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario for two months in the Autumn, the Cluster requires another convenor. Amir Shahhosseini Angas, a PhD student in the Department of Philosophy, has agreed to join as co-convenor.

Political Technologies

The Political Technologies research cluster is co-convened by Prof. Oliver Davis (French), Dr Sinan Richards (French) and Dr Evelien Geerts (Philosophy and Women's Studies). We launched this new cluster with an inaugural series of six research seminar papers addressing different aspects of our cluster's overlapping concerns with politics and technology.

We began in September with the acclaimed theorist, **Professor Arthur Bradley** (Lancaster), who spoke online about Jean Genet's account of the 1982 massacre in the Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon, in the context of the ongoing genocide in Palestine. **Dr Kevin Guyan** (Edinburgh) presented his book *Rainbow Trap* (2025) in November, which takes a critical look at the management of queer inclusion through EDI surveys. In January, **Professor Didier Bigo** (Sciences-Po & Liverpool), founder of the Paris School of Critical Security Studies, presented in person a recent paper on the construction of security as preventative elimination and spoke directly to Michel Foucault's concept of the 'political technology'.



This was followed in March by a very topical in-person paper by **Professor Debbie Ging** (DCU) on the entrepreneurs of the 'Manosphere', co-organised with the UCC Women's Studies Unit as part of UCC's International Women's Day programme. Debbie Ging is Professor of Digital Media and Gender in the School of Communications at DCU and Director of the Institute for Research on Genders and Sexualities. Ging focused on the phenomenon of the neo-manosphere: a

diverse ecosystem of online anti-feminist and male supremacist groups that has only recently entered mainstream public debate.

We ended the series with another very timely paper, by **Professor Nidesh Lawtoo** (Leiden), who spoke in person about his own critical engagement with René Girard in the 'Homo Mimeticus' project in relation to tech entrepreneur Peter Thiel and the second Trump presidency. A recording of his talk, of the response by Oliver Davis and the ensuing conversation is available [online on our website](#).

We begin next year with a one-day international research workshop funded by Collective Social Futures, 'The Epidemiological Turn: Critical approaches to conspiracy theory and mis/disinformation discourse', in the CACSSS Seminar Room on Friday 11th September. Having laid on quite a full programme of talks this year, next year we intend to focus on fewer, more intensive, events with a more concerted focus on follow-through into collective published outputs and external grant capture, beginning with applications for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship and RIA Disinformation Grant supported and enabled by the cluster.

Memory, Commemoration and Uses of the Past

Over the last year, the cluster has engaged in a wide range of activities, including research seminars, conferences, practice-based workshops and public outreach. The activities developed include a book launch and round table on how anticolonial aesthetics shape our present and contribute towards the design of potential and liveable futures; a film screening session and a debate engaging with the legacy of Marguerite Duras; a discussion with students on the importance of theatre and performance for a critical problematisation of mainstream historical



narratives in Latin America and a public event organised by Dr Laura Kennedy on the legacies of Frances Molloy's acclaimed novel *No Mate for the Magpie*, 40 years on, in partnership with the Museum of Free Derry.

Two events merit special attention: on the 5th of March 2026, Magali Belén Segovia (SPLAS) coordinated a day-long seminar honouring and

celebrating the memory of Dr Cara Levey. This event provided an updated view on how memory politics are being affected by ultraconservative regimes in the Americas and also discussed the role of cultural production as a catalyst for alternatives.

On the 11th and 12th of May 2026, Dr Leonora Masini, Dr Barbara Siller, Dr Chiara Giuliani and Prof Laura McAtakney organised a major conference on time and temporality, which included contributions from history, archaeology, philosophy, law, ecology, sociology, anthropology, digital humanities and the visual arts. The conference gathered around 40 speakers and included two keynote sessions: one by Dr Antonia Thomas on geology, human interventions in the landscape and placemaking in Orkney and another by Dr Alberica Bazzoni on precariousness, coloniality and time.

The cluster's future plans include the preparation of several funding applications; the organisation of a major conference here at UCC related to the IRC Laureate Consolidator ARTFICTIONS Project (April 2027) and of another on reparations (October 2026); the curation of a large-scale exhibition in The Glucksman Museum (April-May 2027); a programme of research activities, seminars and workshops related to post/decolonial and memory debates.

Language: Cognition, Practice, Policy and Ideology

The cluster has had a very productive year. In addition to facilitating a varied range of one-off and recurrent events showcasing the diversity of research interests of members, PG/ECR members have been particularly active in promoting and disseminating applied linguistic work to the wider CACSSS community.

Furthermore, the cluster has been successful in attracting funding for events from a number of sources, including SATLE, HEA (MOVE project), UCC Confucius Institute and CASiLaC. Here is a brief overview of the activities of the cluster:



7th September 2025 – Symposium on Plurilingualism – Funded by SATLE.

2nd December 2025 – Seminar on Social Inequalities and Study Abroad - Funded by the MOVE project. Invited speaker: Joana Almeida – Assistant Professor in Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick

29th January 2026 One-day workshop ‘Intelligent Pedagogies: The Future of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language’ –

Funded by UCC Confucius Institute and CASiLaC. Brought together leading scholars from Ireland, the UK, France, Germany, and Norway. Explored the role of AI, social media, and innovative pedagogical approaches in Chinese language education.

20th February 2026 – Meitheal, CACSSS Doctoral Researchers Week – special session organized by doctoral and early career researchers in CACSSS: ‘Bitesize Language Research: Rapid Insights from Applied Linguistics and Teaching Chinese’.

Coordinated by Jordan Carolan, Yingying Song, MAAPL students Victoria Smith and Caoimhe McGuire.

5th March 2026 – Symposium on ‘Digital Sustainability for Minoritized Languages: Challenges and Opportunities’ – Funded by CASiLaC and MA Applied Linguistics.

28th April 2026 – ‘Applying AI Technologies to Discourse Analysis’ – Funded by UCC Confucius Institute, CASiLaC and SATLE. Invited speaker: Carlotta Sparvoli - Associate Professor, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

March 2026 – PhD Seminar Series

2025-2026 SLA Reading Group. Weekly reading group on Second Language Acquisition, organized by Yanyu Guo. 20 sessions throughout the 2025-26 academic year. Engaged with recent developments in SLA theory, methodology and multilingualism research.

Teanga publications: April 2026 – Special Issue 13 (2026) ‘More Papers on Irish English: 40 Years on’. November 2025 – Issue 32: 15 papers reflecting the breadth and depth, and evolution of contemporary Applied Linguistics research in Ireland and beyond. Argues that linguistic phenomena are embedded in communities, shaped by histories, enacted in classrooms, and lived through the experiences of learners and speakers.

Life Writing

The Life Writing Research Cluster hosted speakers and events on diverse topics pertaining to the writing of lives, from writing literary works in a non-native language, to researching and writing Irish-East German relations, and discussing pertinent and poignant issues around the writing of loss, death and associated grief.

In Semester 1, October 2025, the cluster welcomed prolific writer Yoko Tawada (pictured here with Dr Till Weingärtner), who read from her works *The Bath*, *Portrait of a Tongue*, and *Memoirs of a Polar Bear*. Originally from Japan and based



in Berlin, Tawada is an internationally acclaimed writer of innovative fiction in both German and Japanese. The event featured English translations read by former BA World Languages students and current MA Creative Writing students. The readings were followed by a conversation with Dr Till Weingärtner regarding Tawada's approach to 'life-writing' and her experience writing in a non-

native language. The Cluster was also represented at the Cork International Short Story Festival the following evening, as Till Weingärtner joined Tawada on stage once more.

In Semester 2, February 2026, Dr Jérôme aan de Wiel, Department of History UCC, was invited to discuss his ongoing research on Irish-East German relations from the 1930s based on his extensive work in (Stasi) archives and interviews illuminating the complex nature of the socio-political culture at the time. The talk also addressed the post-war period and Ireland's humanitarian aid to Soviet-occupied Berlin 1945-1950, bringing fascinating insights into a largely unknown chapter in Irish-East German relations.

In March, Prof. William Niven, emeritus, U. Nottingham, visited UCC to deliver a talk on his very personal 'grief diary' articulating the question of mourning to the process of life writing, and reading key passages from the diary *Du bleibst da: Ein Abschied* [You remain there: A Farewell] (2024). The complex and challenging nature of grief and grieving, as shared in his memoir, discusses the process of losing his wife Helene to multiple sclerosis, and addressed the inner tensions and unanswered questions around care and caregiving whilst living and working.

Future events planned in the Life Writing Cluster include Michaela Schrage-Frueh (UL), who will speak to her latest work concerning the writing of older lives 'Restoring Ageing: Amplifying Older Women's Voices Through Creative Life Writing.'

Megan Wilson will also give a talk on her project which looks at the cost involved in narrating reproductive health traumas in the run up to the repeal the 8th referendum: she will discuss what is often neglected, namely the damage that self-narration can do.

Centre for Dante Studies in Ireland (CDSI)

In September, the CDSI welcomed [the Jamaican poet Lorna Goodison for the launch, reading and discussion of her *Dante's Inferno*](#) (Carcenet, 2025).

The CDSI continued to run its annual Dante Public Lecture Series (Jan-Feb 2026). Currently in its 16th year, the series brings scholars, creative practitioners and others to talk about Dante and his enduring legacy:

- 19 Jan - Prof. Arielle Saiber (Johns Hopkins University) – ‘Neither Here nor There: Directionality in Dante's *Paradiso*' [Saiber lecture link](#)
- 26 Jan - Prof. Paolo Rigo (Università Roma Tre) – ‘The (non) Myth: Dante, Florence and Boccaccio’ [Rigo lecture link](#)
- 3 Feb - Prof. Dennis Looney (University of Pittsburgh) – ‘Dante Down South: Rewriting the *Divine Comedy* in Southern Literature of the United States’ [Looney lecture link](#)
- 9 February - Prof. Sam Slote (Trinity College Dublin) - ‘De Defututa Vulgari Eloquentia: On Joyce's Eloquent Vulgarities’ [Slote lecture link](#)
- 16 February - Dr Leyla Livaghi (University of Pisa) – “Per te poeta fui, per te cristiano.” Dante's Statius and the Authority of Virgil’. [Livraghi lecture link](#)

In conjunction with TCD and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Dublino, the CDSI inaugurated a series of public facing lectures on the role of women in Dante's reception in Ireland. Dr Federica Coluzzi (CDSI) and Serena Vandì are the main organisers of ‘Beatrice's Irish Voice. Women Writers and Dante: A History of Cultural Reception (XVIII-XXI Century)’. The cycle of lectures will be complemented in the Autumn by an exhibition curated by Dr Coluzzi in the National Library of Ireland.

To celebrate Dantedì (DanteDay) the CDSI produced a special video celebrating the voices of women reading Dante, bringing together 'dantiste' from across the generations who read passages from the *Commedia*, including the voices of female characters, as well as excerpts from works inspired by Dante and reimagined through female perspectives. A collective tribute to Dante's legacy, seen and heard through women's voices. Special thanks to Chiara and Elina who co-ordinated the initiative. Here is the recording: [CDSI Dantedì 2026](#)



Our Director, Dr Daragh O'Connell, gave a series of Dante seminars and lectures nationally and internationally and was awarded a Visiting Professorship at the University of Bologna (April – June, 2026). Finally, the CDSI has organised two panels at the Alma Dante conference in Ravenna (27-30 May), reflecting its research work in both medieval and reception studies. All members of the CDSI spoke at the conference.