Ollscoil Mhá Nuad
Maynooth University

Research and Innovation Overview 2024
Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge (Modern Irish)

Ba bhliain an-rathúil í 2023 do bhaill foirne Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, le réimse leathan foilseachán i gcló ar réimse leathan ardán agus go leor oibre ar siúl ar thograí éagsúla taighde. Níor mhór aird ar leith a dhíriú ar an úrscéal a scríobh **an tOllamh le Nua-Ghaeilge, Fionntán de Brún, Béal na Péiste** – úrscéal a bhuaigh duais liteartha an Oireachtais in 2022, a bhuaigh **Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin** in 2023 agus ar ainmníodh é ar ghearrliosta **Leabhar Gaeilge na Bliana (An Post)**. Ag eascairt as rath an leabhair, tá idir chainteanna, agallaimh agus ceardlanna déanta ag an Oll. de Brún le grúpaí pobail, leis na meáin agus le lucht acadúil. Cheana féin, tá an t-úrscéal ar dhá chúrsa Ollscoile, ar a laghad agus scríobhadh roinnt léirmheasanna air, iad ar fad thar a bheith dearfach. Ainmníodh aistriúchán a rinne an **Dr Caitlín Nic Íomhair, Art Abú**, ar ghearrliosta **Ghradam de Bhaldraithe**, cúis mhór cheiliúrtha eile don Roinn.

Head of Department: Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh

Téamaí Taighde agus Réimsí Fócais

Díríonn baille roinne, ó thaobh cúrsaí taighde de, ar réimsí éagsúla a chuireann go mór le gort na Gaeilge, lena n-áirítear:

- **An Scríbhneoireacht Chruthaitheach:** Tá go leor oibre ar siúl sa roinn i ngort seo na scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí agus iad ag tógáil ar shaineolas agus ar shaintaithí na mball, a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite acu. Chomh maith leis sin, tá deiseanna á dtabhairt do na mic léinn freastal ar cheardlanna sa scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach agus a gcuid scileanna féin a fhorbairt.
- **Léann na Gaeilge:** Déantar taighde ar an Nua-Ghaeilge agus ar an Nua-Ghaeilge Mhoch, ar chúrsaí litríochta, teanga, aistriúcháin, ainmeolaíochta, pailéagrafaíochta, srl. agus tugtar glór do theanga ar an imeall agus do ghuthanna imeallacha taobh istigh den teanga.

Torthaí Taighde

Sa bhliain 2022–23, chuir an roinn roinnt mhaith foilseacháin mhóra i gcló agus d'éirigh leo maoiniú a fháil chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do thionscnaimh thaighde:

Foilseacháin

- Béal na Péiste, úrscéal mór le rá an Ollaimh Fionntán de Brún, a bhfuil roinnt mhaith duaiseanna buaite aige agus atá anois ar chláir ollscoile.
- Art Abú, a d'aistrigh an Dr Caitlín Nic Íomhair, agus ar ainmníodh é ar ghearrliosta ghradam de Bhaldraithe.
- *Léachtaí Cholm Cille*, in eagar ag an Oll. Tríona Ní Shíocháin agus ag an Ollamh Máire Ní Annráchain. Dírítear ann ar an léann feimineach, ar léann inscní agus ar an léann aiteach sa Ghaeilge.
- *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, in eagar ag an Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh. Is iris stairiúil é IMN atá ar an bhfód ó 1899. Tugtar deis do lucht acadúil – idir shinsearach agus sóisearach – ábhar (piarmheasta) a chur i gcló ann ar réimsí den nualitríocht go háirithe.

Gradaim agus Deontais

- Fuair an roinn maoiniú ó Fhoras na Gaeilge chun tacú leo comhdháil a eagrú agus dhá fhoilseachán mhóra a chur i gcló.
- Fuair an Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh maoiniú ó COGG, i gcomhar le Roinn na Ríomheolaíochta, chun acmhainní smaointeoireachta ríomhaireachtúla a chruthú do scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge.

Comhoibriú agus Comhpháirtíocht

Oibríonn baill roinne i bpáirt le forais teanga agus chultúir chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn:

- **Forais Acadúla agus Chultúrtha:** Tá beirt bhall, an tOll. de Brún agus an Dr Ní Mhaonaigh ar Choiste Léann na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh de chuid Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann, coiste a bhfuil dlúthbhaint aige le dearadh polasaithe agus le cur chun cinn na scoláireachta Gaeilge.
- **Rannpháirtíocht sa Phobal:** D'oibrigh an tOll. de Brún i bpáirt le Conradh na Gaeilge ar thuras treoraithe agus leabhrán ar stair na Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste, tionscanmh a thacaíonn le rannpháirtíocht trasphobail agus a chuireann an oidhreacht choiteann chun cinn.

Tionchar Taighde agus Tacaíocht Shocaíoch

Tá ról criticiúil ag taighde na roinne i gcur chun cinn agus i gcaomhnú na Gaeilge:

- **Dígitiú Irisleabhar:** Tá tionscnamh digitithe idir lámha ag an roinn chun *Léachtaí Cholm Cille* agus *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad* a chur ar fáil go forleathan agus chun an saibhreas iontu a roinnt ar ardáin nua-aimseartha.
- **Abhcóideacht ar son na Gaeilge agus cearta teanga:** Cuireann an roinn chun cinn cearta teanga phobal na Gaeilge, ó thuaidh agus ó dheas, tacaíonn siad go láidir le hAcht Féiniúlachta agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) agus leis an bhfeachtas ar son stádas oifigiúil na Gaeilge ó thuaidh.

Ag Breathnú Romhainn

Tógfaidh an roinn ar an obair atá ar bun cheana féin i ngort na scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí agus i léann na Gaeilge i gcoitinne, leanfar leis an obair atá á déanamh ag an leibhéal acadúil agus i measc an phobail chun an teanga, agus an saibhreas inti, a chur chun cinn agus a cheiliúradh, agus seasfar an fód i gcónaí ar son chearta lucht a labhartha.

Tá cáil ar Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, as an taighde ardchaighdeáin a dhéantar inti agus as an mbéim a leagtar ar chur chun cinn na scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí. Leanfaidh na baill orthu ag dáileadh thorthaí a gcuid taighde, i scríbhinn agus ó bhéal, ar ardáin náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, agus fanfaidh siad dílis do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus do lucht a labhartha.

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais www.maynoothuniversity.ie/nua-ghaeilge-modern-irish **Ríomhphost** nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie

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Research and Innovation Overview 2024
Department of Modern Irish

The academic year 2022-2023 was highly successful for the Department of Modern Irish (Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge), marked by numerous publications across various platforms and significant progress in several research initiatives. A standout achievement was the ongoing success of Professor Fionntán de Brún's novel Béal na Péiste, which won the Oireachtas literary prize in 2022 and continued to gain accolades, including the Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin and a nomination for the Irish Book of the Year Award. Professor de Brún's novel is now featured in university courses and has been the subject of numerous positive reviews. In addition, Dr Caitlín Nic Íomhair's translation Art Abú was shortlisted for the de Bhaldraithe prize, enhancing the department's reputation in creative writing.

Head of Department: Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh

Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department's research focuses on a variety of topics that enhance the understanding and promotion of the Irish language and literature, with key areas including:

- Creative Writing: Building on the department's expertise, recent work has focused on producing award-winning creative writing and affording students the opportunity to attend creative writing workshops and to develop their own skills.
- Irish Language Scholarship: Research in Irish-language scholarship, including linguistics, literature, translation, onomastics, palaeography, etc.. and a voice is given to a marginalised language and to marginalised voices within the language.

Significant Research Outputs

In 2022–23, the department produced a wide range of influential publications and secured significant funding for its research projects:

Publications

- Béal na Péiste, the award-winning novel by Professor Fionntán de Brún, has been praised across academic and media platforms and is now part of university curricula.
- Art Abú, translated by Dr Caitlín Nic Íomhair, was shortlisted for the de Bhaldraithe prize and continues to garner critical acclaim.
- *Léachtaí Cholm Cille*, edited by Profs. Tríona Ní Shíocháin and Máire Ní Annracháin, presents innovative research on gender theory, feminism, and queer theory within the Irish-language framework.
- *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, edited by Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh. IMN is a historical journal, in existence since 1899. Articles from scholars – junior and senior – particularly in the area of modern literature are published in this peer-reviewed work.

Awards and Grants

- The department received funding from Foras na Gaeilge to support conference organisation and publications, reflecting the growing impact of its research.
- Dr Tracey Ní Mhaonaigh secured a grant from COGG, in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science, to develop computational thinking resources for Irish-medium schools.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The department actively engages in collaborations to promote Irish language and culture:

- Academic and Cultural Collaborations: Two department members, Professor de Brún and Dr Ní Mhaonaigh, serve on Coiste Léann na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh (the Irish Language and Culture Committee) of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), where they influence policy and promote Irish-language scholarship.
- Community Engagement: Professor de Brún worked with Conradh na Gaeilge to develop a guided tour and booklet on the history of the Irish language in Belfast, supporting cross-community participation and recognition of shared cultural heritage.

Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The department's research plays a crucial role in promoting Irish language and literature:

- Digitisation of Key Irish Language Journals: The department is actively working on the digitisation of *Léachtaí Cholm Cille* and *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, increasing accessibility to these essential Irish-language resources.
- Irish Language Advocacy: The department advocates tirelessly for the rights of Irish speakers, both North and South, and supports the Identity and Language Act (Northern Ireland) and increasing the official status of the Irish language north of the border.

Future Directions

The department will continue to focus on creative writing and on Irish-language scholarship generally, to engage with public initiatives in order to promote and showcase the language and the wealth therein, and to advocate for the rights of Irish speakers.

Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge at Maynooth University remains a leader in Irish-language research and creative writing. Through its publications, collaborations, and ongoing commitment to promoting the Irish language, the department continues to shape the future of Irish language scholarship both nationally and internationally.

Find out more www.maynoothuniversity.ie/nua-ghaeilge-modern-irish Email nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie