

# Research and Innovation Overview 2024

## School of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SMLLC)

The School of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SMLLC) had an exceptional year in 2022-23, with several landmark publications generating significant scholarly interest. The school's faculty, engaged in diverse areas of research across multiple languages and cultures, continued to affirm their standing within the academic community. From groundbreaking work in nationalism to contributions in screen studies, translation studies, and language education, SMLLC faculty members have made substantial contributions to their respective fields.

**Head of School:** Professor Valerie Heffernan



### Research Themes and Focus Areas

The research conducted by the school's faculty spans a range of interdisciplinary topics, including:

- **Cultural Representations of Conflict/Memory Studies:** Research on the intersection of nationalism and cultural memory across global cultures is a core focus of the school.
- **20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literary and Film Studies:** Faculty explore themes such as representations of mothering and motherhood in film and adaptations of historical figures in literature and screen.
- **Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Studies:** The school continues to contribute to the growing field of translation studies, with recent research on theatre translation and linguistic landscapes.



### Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the SMLLC produced several high-impact publications, furthering its research contributions:

#### Publications

- Dr Zhouxiang Lu (Chinese) edited *The Routledge Handbook of Nationalism in East and Southeast Asia*, which has received widespread attention as a leading resource in nationalism studies.
- Dr David Conlon (Spanish) published "*Aquarius (2016) and Brazilian Social Dynamics*" in *Screen* (Oxford University Press), a piece that was shortlisted for the Screen Award.
- Dr Julie Rodgers (French) co-authored "Maternal Entrapment in French Film: 17 Filles" in *Modern Languages Open Journal*, bringing fresh insights into French screen studies.

#### Awards and Grants

- Dr Clive Earls (German) led a prestigious project, Gender Equality in Language Studies (GELS), funded through the HEA's Gender Equality Enhancement Fund. This project focuses on the under-representation of male-identifying students in language studies and is conducted in collaboration with University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, and Munster Technological University.
- Professor Valerie Heffernan (Head of School) and Dr Loïc Bourdeau (French) were awarded financial support from Enterprise Ireland to develop proposals for European Research Council grants, further enhancing the school's research capabilities.



### Collaborations and Partnerships

The school maintains robust partnerships with national and international institutions, fostering interdisciplinary research across multiple fields:

- **Gender Equality in Language Studies (GELS):** This collaborative project between Maynooth University, University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, and Munster Technological University is advancing conversations about gender equality in higher education, particularly in the field of language studies.
- **Cultural Collaborations:** Faculty members regularly collaborate with international publishers and academic institutions, contributing to books and edited collections that advance global perspectives on modern languages and cultures.



### Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The SMLLC's research contributes to public discourse and societal change, particularly in the areas of Cultural Studies and Applied Linguistics:

- **Gender Equality:** The GELS project is shifting the focus in gender equality research by addressing the under-representation of male-identifying students in language studies and working to create more inclusive and diverse learning environments.
- **Cultural Representation:** Research on national identities, Screen Studies, and Literary Studies contributes to broader discussions on cultural identity and historical representation, influencing both academic and public understanding of these topics.



### Future Directions

The school plans to continue its focus on Cultural Representations of Conflict/Memory Studies, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literary and Film Studies, Cultures of Migration and Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Studies. Future projects will expand the school's research collaborations and explore new approaches to interdisciplinary cultural studies, ensuring its continued relevance and impact in both academia and society.

The School of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Maynooth University continues to lead in research and public engagement across a range of modern languages and cultural studies. With its strong research outputs, impactful collaborations, and ongoing contributions to societal issues, the school remains a vital centre for language and cultural research both in Ireland and internationally.