

## UCML Executive

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

### Northern Ireland Report

**NICILT** A Professional Learning Day for Teachers of Spanish took place in May 2023, hosted by NICILT, in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy Education Office and the Junta de Castilla y León; guest speakers included Mr Jose Lázaro, Hon. Consul of Spain in Belfast and QUB's Dr Fiona Clark. NICILT + QUB Modern Languages hosted a YR 9 Poster Competition: pupils designed a poster on why study a language/why languages are important for the global workplace, with 350+ entries from 45 schools across Northern Ireland.

**St Mary's University College** Irish Language Framework for Irish Medium Primary Education is well underway with including research to ascertain current practice and future aspirations. The leaders of the research project, Dr Tomas Rogan, Dr Seán Mac Corraidh and the research officer Helen O'Donnell at St Mary's University College, Belfast will talk about the project at the Summer Research Symposium (SRS) 2023 in St Mary's on Friday 23 June 2023. Dr Seán Mac Corraidh will also deliver on his research at the symposium on 'Writing Style and Use of Irish in the works of Séamus Ó Grianna', a 20<sup>th</sup> century prolific writer from the *Gaeltacht* or 'Irish-speaking area' of County Donegal.

**Stranmillis University College** in April Dr Sharon Jones and Dr Tomas Rogan (St Mary's UC) travelled with 12 teacher education students in collaboration with the Saphara charity and local NGOs on a joint study visit focused on multilingual education in contexts of social disadvantage.

**Queen's University Belfast** Congratulations to Prof. Maeve McCusker on the award in May 2023 of the prestigious Gapper Book Prize by the Society for French Studies, for the best monograph published in French in the UK and Ireland in the previous year. Prof McCusker's *Fictions of Whiteness. Imagining the Planter Caste in the French Caribbean Novel* (University of Virginia Press, 2021) is the first study of the planter figure in the French Caribbean imaginary, and also the first to bring this literature into dialogue with Critical Race Studies. Other recent publications include Dr Piotr Blumczynski's *Experiencing Translationality: Material and Metaphorical Journeys* (Routledge, 2023) and *The Languages of COVID-19: Translational and Multilingual Perspectives on Global Healthcare*, ed. by Piotr Blumczynski and Steven Wilson (Routledge, 2023). This book and associated [policy paper](#) make a case for languages-based research and applied policy in the context of public health (a major global research priority). Student Year Abroad Photo Competition and Exhibition in collaboration with British Council, Dept. of Education, and AHSS Faculty, attended by the Ambassador of Spain to the UK and Ireland organised by Fiona Clark. Workshops with Chilean artist/sculptor, Tere Chad with ongoing involvement in upcoming Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart organised by Fiona Clark. Portuguese Cultural event - screening of 'José e Pilar' and conversation with film director Miguel Gonçalves Mendes, organised by Maria Tavares and Vítor Neves Fernandes. Society for Latin American Studies biennial conference held at QUB, organised by Tori Holmes, Ricki O'Rawe, and Sarah Bowskill. *Moving Geographies: 100 Years of 'Spanish' Visual Studies*

Conference and film screening, organised by the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies / Bulletin of Spanish Visual Studies* based at QUB - Prof. Isabel Torres. Visit from the Brazilian General Consulate in Edinburgh with staff and students from Portuguese in QUB, organised by Tori Holmes. The Yearly Languages Research Showcase for staff and PGR students was organised by Sarah Bowskill. CLER (Centre for Language Education Research) presentation by Prof Sender Dovchin's presentation on Translingual Discrimination. Prof Sender's research is based on interviews with individuals who have experienced discrimination due to their accent and/or name and highlighted the differences between multilingualism and translingualism.

Dr Sharon Jones UCML  
NI Representative 25/05/23