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Biographical Details

Binchy, James, *Mary Immaculate College, Limerick*

James Binchy is a Research Officer in the Learner Support Unit, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. He is currently doing PhD research into the area of undergraduate academic writing, working on a corpus of real essays collected over a number of years. He is also interested in applied linguistic research in spoken language.

Clancy, Brian, *Mary Immaculate College, Limerick*

Brian Clancy is the Project Support Worker in the Learner Support Unit in Mary Immaculate College. His research interests include Corpus Linguistics and spoken English, especially speech in intimate settings, mature student education and the development of teaching skills at third level. He is currently researching for a PhD in Applied Linguistics which seeks to compare and contrast family discourse in the Traveller and settled communities.

Hickey, Tina, *University College Dublin*

Dr. Tina Hickey lectures in the School of Psychology in UCD, and previously was a researcher in Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann. She has published widely on the acquisition of Irish as first language in the home, as a second language in the naíonraí, and on ways of supporting Irish reading and the learning of Irish. Her current research interests include immersion education, bilingualism, supporting mother-tongue development in minority language children and reading in a second language.

Jarazo-Álvarez, Rubén, *University of Corunna*

Ruben Jarazo Alvarez is a PhD student at the University Institute of Research in Irish Studies 'Amergin', Corunna University, Spain. He is investigating the cross-cultural relationships between Irish and Galician cultures in the North Western region of Spain. He has published several articles and is currently working with several university programmes and he develops teaching units and workshops for secondary and university learners of English.

Montero Ameneiro, Lidia, recently achieved a Masters degree in one of the most innovative multidisciplinary Masters degrees in Europe, 'Expert on Irish Studies' and is currently a PhD student at the University Institute of Research in Irish Studies 'Amergin', University of Corunna,

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Spain. Her thesis topic is the 'Big House' in Irish literature, and she has published several articles on her subject.

Jones, Susan, *University of Nottingham*

Susan Jones grew up in North Wales as a Welsh-English bilingual and has worked as a teacher of English in secondary schools in an English inner-city. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Nottingham, researching the impact of bilingual girls' literacy practices on their identity.

Kenner, Charmian, *Keynote Speaker, Goldsmiths' College, University of London*

Dr. Charmian Kenner is a lecturer in Educational Studies in Goldsmiths' College, University of London. Her research is in the field of bilingualism and literacy, focusing particularly on early writing development and on family learning. Charmian is the author of *Home Pages: Literacy Links for Bilingual Children* (Trentham Books, 2000), which looks at how teachers can support the development of multilingual literacy in early years settings. It combines theoretical ideas on emergent literacy and bilingual learning to inform classroom practice. She has also written a number of other publications for academics, teachers and teacher educators, including an examination of biliteracy in a monolingual school system (in *Language, Culture and Curriculum* 2000) and children's understandings of text in a multilingual nursery (in *Language and Education* 1999). Her most recent book is *Becoming Biliterate: Young Children Learning Different Writing Systems* (Trentham Books, 2004), a study of six year olds learning to write in Chinese, Arabic or Spanish, as well as English.

Kitching, Karl, *St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra*

Karl Kitching is a seconded primary teacher working in research for St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. He has co-authored a forthcoming national report on relationships and sexuality education at second level. His main areas of interest are additional language learning, minority group perspectives and equality in education.

Lyddy, Fiona, *National University of Ireland, Maynooth*

Dr. Fiona Lyddy is a lecturer in Psychology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Her research interests concern language and

communication, with a current focus on working memory, word recognition and literacy attainment in Irish and English.

Roche, Bryan, Dr., is a lecturer in Psychology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. His research interests include the experimental analysis of behaviour and applications of relational frame theory to social settings.

Ambrose, Helen, is a recent graduate of the BA in Psychology programme at NUI, Maynooth. She is currently undertaking postgraduate training in Occupational Therapy.

Mac Cárthaigh, Maitias, *Fios Feasa*

Maitias Mac Cárthaigh was born and raised outside of New York, but for the last twenty years he has lived and worked in Corca Dhuibhne, Co. Kerry. In 1997 he founded the multimedia company *Fios Feasa*, which have published nine educational CD-ROMs in Irish or bilingually. He has taught Irish and multimedia computing in Irish, and is currently part of an ad-hoc working group on Irish language awareness in Munster. He is currently the chair of *Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge*.

MacBlain Seán, *Stranmillis University College, Belfast.*

Sean Mac Blain is Senior Lecturer in Education and is currently researching the impact that reading failure can have on the emotional development of children. He worked previously as an educational psychologist and as a teacher of pupils with dyslexia.

O'Neill, Angela, M Ed., recently graduated from the Master of Education programme at Stranmillis University College. Angela teaches in a large primary school in Northern Ireland where she shares responsibility for the management of pupils with learning difficulties whose first language is not English.

Weir, Kelly, M.Ed., recently graduated from the Master of Education programme at Stranmillis University College. Kelly teaches in a small primary school in Northern Ireland and holds the position of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

MacBlain, Mario, MBS, works as a part-time lecturer at the University of Ulster and is currently researching the creative aspects of pupils with dyslexia, in particular, potential links with entrepreneurship.

Murphy, Brian, Keynote Speaker, University College Cork

Dr. Brian Murphy lectures in the Education Department of University College Cork in the areas of language teaching methodology, literacy, and teaching studies. His current areas of research interest include the pedagogy of language and literacy development, second language teaching and learning, language policy issues and teacher education.

Ní Nuadháin, Nóirín, Keynote Speaker, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra

Nóirín Ní Nuadháin lectures on the teaching of Irish in the Education Department of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. While Education Officer at the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment she contributed to the writing of *Curaclam na Gaeilge* (Rialtas na hÉireann, 1999) and *Treoirlínte do Mhúinteoirí* (Rialtas na hÉireann 1999). She has produced a range of materials to make the teaching and learning of Irish more attractive and communicative, including *Aimsigh na Difríochtaí* (Blackrock Teachers' Centre, 1986), *Chuíchí Teanga do na Bunranganna* (Mary Immaculate College, 1992) and a video *Chuíchí Teanga sa Seomra Ranga* (Blackrock Teachers' Centre, 1988). She has also published a book of dramas *Tríocha Drámaí do Dhaltai Scoile* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta 1989 and reprints), and edited books of rhymes. She developed *Gaelsoft*, computer reading games, with colleagues in Mary Immaculate College in 1996. She has recently published *Tomás na hOrdóige agus Scéalta Eile* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 2004), and *Ar Maidin Moch* (CIC 2006).

Ó Faoláin, Dónal, Scoil Náisiúnta na Rinne

Dónal Ó Faoláin spent many years working as a class teacher in Scoil Naithí, Dublin, a total immersion Irish primary school. His interest in computers led him to further studies in Computer Applications in Education in Dublin City University where he completed an MSc in 1999. Since 1999 Dónal has been involved in Learning Support in the Déise Gaelacht, working with pupils in Scoil Náisiúnta na Rinne, and Scoil na Leanaí, An Rinn, Co Phort Láirge. He successfully undertook additional studies in UCC, leading to a Diploma in Learning Support in 2002.

Literacy and Language Learning

Reading in a First or Second Language

A collection of articles arising from the 2005 annual conference of the Reading Association of Ireland, on the challenges of reading in a second or additional language, and on the role of reading and writing in supporting first language skills.

Reading Irish as a First or Second Language

- Putting a bit of spice into reading in Irish in the primary school.
Nóirín Ní Nuadhóin, St. Patrick's College
- The emergent reader of Irish: Promoting real recognition of the most useful words.
Tina Hickey, University College Dublin
- Children's reading of Irish-English homographs: The role of language background and task context.
Fiona Lyddy, Bryan Roche and Helen Ambrose, NUI Maynooth
- Literacy and L1 Speakers of Irish. *Maitíós Mac Cárthaigh, Fios Feaso*
- Developing a phonics programme in Irish for the teaching of reading in the Gaeltacht.
Donál Ó Faoilín, Scoil Náisiúnta na Rinne

Literacy and Bilingualism/Multilingualism

- Using home texts to promote L1 and L2 literacy learning in the classroom.
Charmion Kenner, Goldsmith's College, University of London
- Teaching reading to pupils learning English as an additional language.
Karl Kitching, St. Patrick's College
- A tale of two literacies: Girls growing up biculturally literate in two UK communities.
Susan Jones, University of Nottingham
- Second language learning at third level in Spain: Reading English literature.
Rubén Jorazo Álvarez and Lidia Montero Ameneiro, University of Corunna

First Language Literacy: Early Reading to Advanced Literacy Skills

- Supporting first language development: Key elements of the requisite integrated approach to literacy. *Brian Murphy, University College Cork*
- Supporting pupils with dyslexia: Emotional or mechanistic approaches to literacy.
Seán MacBáin, Angela O'Neill, Kelly Weir and Mario MacBáin
- Lessons from the writer: Academic writing insights from one-to-one consultations with students at third level. *Brian Clancy, University of Limerick*
- Citation practices of third level students. *James Sindy, University of Limerick*



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