

NEWS

James Joyce Espainiako Elkartearen XX. Topaketak
20th Conference of the Spanish James Joyce Society
Bilbao, April 23-25, 2009

The meeting of the Spanish James Joyce Society organised in Deustuko Unibertsitatea (Deusto University) in the Basque Country, under the title “The Jejune Jesuit Back in Ithaca” represents for the Basque University their first Conference on Joyce’s figure and work. The title of the event reflects the main milestones discussed along three intense days: James Joyce’s education and the constant revision of Joycean studies under the scrutiny of well-known Spanish and International scholars. This proposal emerged at the General Assembly of the Spanish James Joyce Society during the previous conference in Vigo, Galicia. The interest of Spanish peripheral communities in the figure and works of Joyce has been well-documented and in the Basque context this has been also proved by Basque literature expert Jon Kortazar (University of the Basque Country) with his contribution “Relaciones intersistémicas entre la literatura irlandesa y vasca” and by Asier Altuna-García de Salazar (from Deusto University) with “... and wild dwellers by Vizcáy? Ye, the unconquered remnant of the brave old Celtic race. The Basques in *The Nation*.” The impact of Joyce’s work in Spanish peripheral literary systems such as those of Galicia, Catalonia or the Basque Country was, subsequently, one more time, manifested in this conference.

The meeting at Deusto was organised with enthusiasm and professionalism by María Luz Suárez Castiñeira, Aitor Ibarrola Armendáriz, Asier Altuna García de Salazar, and last but not least, Olga Fernández Vicente.

During the XX Conference of the Spanish Society, five plenary conferences, a round table on translation studies, and twenty six communications took place in a majestic room.

On Thursday morning the Conference was officially inaugurated at the Filosofía eta Letren Fakultatea (Faculty of Arts). The academic event began with a welcome speech by University authorities, members of the organizing committee and the President of the Spanish James Joyce Society.

The first plenary lecture was delivered by Professor Francisco García Tortosa, from University of Seville and President of the Spanish James Joyce Society. With his speech, entitled “El vascuence en I,iv de *Finnegans Wake*,” Professor García Tortosa enlightened the audience in the obscure and complex pilgrimage that is reading *Finnegans Wake*, a pilgrimage in which also participated Jefferey Simons, from University of Huelva, with his paper “A Lyric Weakling in the ‘Wake.’”

Other participants, whose contributions were presented on Thursday, were Francisco Martínez Torres and Ian MacCandless, from the University of Granada, whose expertise in music studies and in Joyce’s work was, once again, proved with “Interpretations of Musical Form in ‘Sirens’”; and José-Miguel Alonso Giráldez, (University da Coruña), who spoke about “‘The Croppy boy’ in ‘Sirens’: the visible and the invisible in the ‘lonely Ormond Hall.’”

The interest of Joycean scholars in musical manifestations in the works and life of James Joyce is not new; however, this concern has also been favoured by Spanish institutions which are actually sponsoring Research projects on music and literature. Lidia María Montero Ameneiro, active member of one of these research projects, presented on Friday

her paper “La construcción de una identidad ‘nacional’ como elemento ‘natural’ a través de la música y la tradición en *The Wild Irish Girl* de Lady Morgan.”

Heritage management and the figure of Joyce was also discussed by David Clark (“Finnegan’s Wake-Up Call: Joyce, Tourism and Travel Narrative”) and by Rubén Jarazo Álvarez (“La gestión y explotación del patrimonio literario en Irlanda: James Joyce y su obra como caso de estudio”) both from the University Institute in Irish Studies Amergin, at the University da Coruña.

Another young Joycean, Naír Carrera Martínez, (Amergin and University of Perpignan), offered a wisely approach to the filmic version of *Dubliners* "Alusiones y juicios a la identidad irlandesa en la versión filmica de *Dublineses*; el conflicto entre la tradición y la modernidad."

The University of Seville was very well represented by José M^a Tejedor Cabrera’s (“James, pero no Joyce”), Ricardo Navarrete (“Joyce rezando. Panther Monster”), Benigno del Río Molina (“*Ulysses*: libro de portentos y monstruos”), and Rafael García León (“Bloomsday: ‘the blue book of Eccles’”).

Bruce Bradley presented “‘Allude to me a Jesuit’: James Joyce and his Educators”, a speech based on his book *James Joyce's Schooldays* published by Gill & MacMillan in 1982, which highlights the impact of Joyce’s Jesuit education. The session finished with a panel devoted to Women in Anglo-Irish literature, chaired by María Jesús Lorenzo Modia (“Images of Women in Jonathan Swift and Lady Mary Wortley Montague”) and in which also participated José Manuel Estévez-Saá, (“Mujeres y relaciones afectivas en la obra de James Joyce y William Trevor”) both from the University da Coruña.

The next morning, Jon Kortazar from the University of the Basque Country commented on bilateral relationships between Anglo-Irish and Basque literatures.

The Conference included an innovative panel on Ecocriticism and Eco-Feminist theory in relation to Joyce's work in which Marisol Morales Ladrón, Chair of The Spanish Association for Irish Studies (AEDEI), presented the paper entitled "James Joyce's Early Writings and Ecocritical Theory. A New Turn?," and Margarita Estévez Saá, Secretary of the Spanish James Joyce Society, who considered the possibility of speaking about an eco-feminist Joyce in "¿Could We Speak about an Eco-Feminist Joyce?"

The Friday morning sessions were closed by Professor Anne Fogarty, from University College Dublin and President of the International James Joyce Foundation, whose plenary lecture was entitled "I Will not Linger on the Past": History and Memory in "The Dead," in which she discussed concepts such as history and memory in "The Dead."

In the afternoon, one of the most relevant academic sessions took place, a round table on translation entitled "Joyce in Translation: Lost in Translation?," chaired by Fritz Senn, from the Zurich James Joyce Foundation, and in which also participated Carmelo Medina Casado (University of Jaen), Professor Francisco García Tortosa (University of Seville) and Joaquim Mallafré, and Vicente Araguas. Theoretical and practical reflections on the possibilities and limits of literary translation were combined with the expertise of some of the participants in the translation of Joyce's works into different languages such as Spanish (Francisco García Tortosa), Catalan (Joaquim Mallafré) or Galician (Vicente Araguas).

Professor Alberto Lázaro Lafuente (University of Alcalá) and Teresa Iribarren i Donadeu (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) presented before an expectant audience the history of an unpublished translation of Joyce's *Ulysses* into Catalan ("Shedding Light on the Mystery of the First Catalan *Ulysses*: The Joycean Letters of J. F. Vidal Jové").

On Saturday morning, conference delegates attended the last session centered on literary influences and James Joyce.

Yolanda Morató Agrafojo spoke about the influence of Joyce in Wyndham Lewis (“Dr. Lewis Mr. Joyce: ‘An Analysis of the Mind of James Joyce’ in *Time and Western Man* by Wyndham Lewis”) and Paula Rábade López and Raquel Paradela Macía (Amegin) dealt with the influence of Gothic literature in Joyce’s “The Dead” in “Influencia de la narrativa gótica en ‘The Dead’ de James Joyce.” The conference was brilliantly closed with Fritz Senn’s plenary lecture, “Joyce’s Narrative Handling of Time.”

The Annual General Assembly of the Spanish James Joyce Society also took place during the Conference and a new number of *Papers on Joyce* was presented to the participants.

Extra-academic activities included a music session at the Irish Pub, the visit to the Guggenheim Museum and the traditional conference dinner.

On behalf of the Spanish James Joyce Society and of all the participants in the Conference, we want to sincerely congratulate and thank the organizers of such an exceptional academic event.

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