

Press Release

3 November 2016

Irish Studies Centre to celebrate its 30th anniversary

London Met's Irish Studies Centre (ISC) will celebrate its 30th anniversary on 22 November at London Met's Holloway campus.

Founded in 1986, the Centre acts as a central point for Irish Studies. It was the first of its kind in Britain and promotes Irish Studies through teaching, research, archiving and community liaison.

Dr Tony Murray, Director of the ISC, said: "I am very proud to be celebrating this special anniversary of the Irish Studies Centre.

"Over the last 30 years, we have conducted ground-breaking research into the Irish community in Britain, run innovative courses such as the Irish Writers in London Summer School and contributed to the Northern Ireland Peace Process by providing a platform for inclusive dialogue with all the parties involved. In addition, the Archive of the Irish in Britain which is housed here is an academic and community resource with a global reputation.

"The Irish Studies Centre will provide an invaluable centre of excellence for students and scholars for many years to come and promises to play a key role in British-Irish relations in the post-Brexit era."

Professor John Raftery, London Met's Vice-Chancellor, will open the celebration followed by a short film about the Irish Studies Centre. The film features excerpts from Professor Dianne Wilcocks, former Director of Research at the Polytechnic of North London, London Met's predecessor, as well as Lord Herman Ouseley, former Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality 1993 - 2000.

Professor Raftery said, "The London Met University community is proud to provide a home for the Irish Studies Centre and its world-class archive."

Daniel Mulhall, the Ambassador of Ireland to Great Britain, will also be in attendance and will speak at the event.

A public lecture will be delivered by Professor Shaun Richards, Emeritus Professor of Irish Studies at Staffordshire University, who has taught and published on Irish drama since the 1980s.

Professor Richards' lecture will focus on the vigorous revolutionary theatre world of pre-1916 Dublin, in which leaders of the Easter Rising – Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh and James Connolly - were all playwrights.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

[Tickets are free but must be booked beforehand on Eventbrite.](#)

Contact

Charlotte White | PR & Internal Communications Officer
External Relations | London Metropolitan University

+020 7133 2467
c.white1@londonmet.ac.uk

About London Metropolitan University

London Met has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men.

Four faculties teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2016, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 93% of all 2014/15 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

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