

AFIS 2021 Keynote Speaker:

Anne Goarzin

Anne Goarzin is Professor of Irish literature and culture at the University of Rennes 2, France. Her research focuses on the intersections between literature, the visual and 21st century critical theories. Her publications include essays on Irish fiction and poetry as well as on contemporary visual arts or the circulation of popular culture. She is director of GIS E.I.R.E (*Etudes irlandaises: réseaux et enjeux*, www.giseire.org), a research network for Irish studies supported by the Irish Embassy in France and DFAT. She is involved in a transdisciplinary Graduate School programme on ‘Creative Arts in Public Space’ (EUR CAPS, <https://creativepublicspace.univ-rennes.fr/>), which is due to open in 2022 in Rennes. In 2021, she was appointed Dean of Graduate Studies for Arts, Languages and Literature at the Université de Bretagne Loire. Recent publications include: *New Readings of Louis MacNeice*, GOARZIN, A. and NI RIORDAIN, Cliona, eds (Rennes, PUR, 2018); *New Cartographies, Nomadic Methodologies: Contemporary Arts, Culture and Politics in Ireland*, GOARZIN, A. et PARSONS, Maria, eds (London, NY and Oxford, Peter Lang, 2020); *Irish Arts: New Contexts* GOARZIN, A., MORISSON Valérie and STAUNTON Mathew, eds, *Etudes Irlandaises*, Vol. 45, No 1, Spring 2020.



AFIS 2021 Keynote Speaker:

Brigid Laffan

Brigid Laffan is Emeritus Professor at the European University Institute. She was Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and Director of the Global Governance Programme and the European Governance and Politics Programme at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence until her retirement in August 2021. Previously, Prof. Laffan was Professor of European Politics at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) University College Dublin (UCD), and she was Vice-President of UCD and Principal of the College of Human Sciences from 2004 to 2011. Prof. Laffan was also the founding director of the Dublin European Institute UCD from 1999 and in March 2004 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She is a member of the Board of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Fulbright Commission (until September 2013) and was the 2013 Visiting Scientist for the EXACT Marie Curie Network. In November 2018 she was ranked among the women who shape Europe by POLITICO and was also awarded by the University of Limerick Alumni Association with its highest honour. In September 2014 Professor Laffan was awarded the UACES Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2012 she was awarded the THESEUS Award for outstanding research on European Integration. In 2010 she was awarded the Ordre national du Mérite by the President of the French Republic.



AFIS 2021 Interview with Author:

Donal Ryan

Donal Ryan, from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, is the author of five number one bestselling novels and a short story collection. He has won several awards for his fiction, including the European Union Prize for Literature, the Guardian First Book Award and four Irish Book Awards, and has been shortlisted for several more, including the Costa Book Award, the IMPAC award and the Prix Jean Monnet de Littérature Européenne. He was nominated for the Booker Prize in 2013 for his debut novel, *The Spinning Heart*, and again in 2018, for his fourth novel, *From A Low and Quiet Sea*. His work has been adapted for stage and screen and translated into over twenty languages. *The Spinning Heart* was voted Irish Book of the Decade in 2016 in a nationwide poll run by Dublin Book Festival. His latest novel, *Strange Flowers*, set in Nenagh and London, was published in August 2020 by Doubleday. *Strange Flowers* entered the Irish charts at number one, and was voted Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. In 2021 Donal became the first Irish writer to win the prestigious Prix Jean Monnet For European literature for the French translation of *From a Low and Quiet Sea*. The President of the jury, Gérard de Cortanze, compared Donal to William Faulkner and John McGahern.

A law graduate and former civil servant, Donal has lectured in Creative Writing at the University of Limerick since 2014 and lives in Castletroy with his wife, Anne Marie, and their two children.



Donal Ryan. Photo credit Anthony Woods