

## *Linguistic Revival Movements in Europe*

### Workshop 2

National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### **Workshop Topic**

The first meeting in Amsterdam offered a useful juxtaposition of language movements in various European countries. The Maynooth meeting is intended to strengthen the specifically comparative framework. The question to be addressed is: how did language revival in a given country reflect influences and inspirations from movements or developments elsewhere?

The working assumption of this workshop series is that the study of national movements should move beyond internalism, i.e. explaining nation-specific activist movements wholly from nation-specific conditions or circumstances. In many cases, nationalism was communicated and spread beyond national borders. The Breton language movement looked to Wales, the Estonian looked to Finland; there were contacts between Occitan Félibrige poets and their Catalan counterparts; to name some just examples from this network.

These cross-national contacts, inspirations and cross-currents are known as yet largely incidentally and as marginalia in the main narrative of national re-awakenings. What form they took, at what stage in a movement's development they were most or least important, all this still needs to be charted. To do so may require a fresh return to sources, and this is a central part of the invitation for this workshop.

Preliminary suggestions for cross-national transfers include elements such as:

- the environment of metropolitan centers in multi-ethnic empires, where different subaltern nationalities would meet (e.g. Jernej Kopitar's circle in Vienna).
- the philological notion of language families, which would lead to familial solidarity movements such as Pan-Slavism, Pan-Celtism etc.;
- the successes of a movement in a given area serving as inspiration or as programmatic model for nationalists elsewhere (e.g. through Habsburg *Ausgleich* in Ireland).
- the networks of correspondence, sociability and periodical publishing.

#### **Publication Aim**

We propose the production of a journal special issue on this topic, with contributions from the workshop participants. To this end, we invite workshop participants to prepare, in advance of the Maynooth meeting, an abstract (c. 250 words) detailing your topic, its comparative framework and sources to be employed. We are confident that this publication will be a very important contribution to the field, and will introduce our wider communities to the dynamic work of this collaborative initiative. The abstracts will provide the main focus of our workshop, allowing (a) discussion and commentary on specific contributions, (b) exploration of connections between contributions, (c) the delineation of key thematic concerns and overall focus for the special issue. The target date for completion of final essays is October 2011.

Please send abstracts to Margaret Kelleher ([Margaret.Kelleher@nuim.ie](mailto:Margaret.Kelleher@nuim.ie)) no later than **4<sup>th</sup> March** to allow prior circulation to all participants.

We look forward to your contributions and to seeing you in Maynooth.  
Joep Leerssen and Margaret Kelleher (21 February 2011)