

## **“Nationalism in William Bulfin’s Epistolary and Journalistic Discourse”**

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### **Introduction**

Around the 1840's, Ireland saw the start of a great hunger, which grew worse in the following years, resulting in the outnumbering deaths from hunger and diseases as well as in the massive emigration of people to other countries. The majority of Irish emigrants went to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In Latin America, Argentina was the country that received the largest number of Irish immigrants because its weather and agricultural conditions were like the ones in homeland.

Thus, in the emigrants' struggle for surviving in the new land, a conflictive tension was generated which was propitious to the formation of a nationalist feeling as well as to the construction of an imaginary conception of nation.

As a result of such an emigrational process, this study will focus on the analysis of nationalist constructions in the letters, editorials and lectures of an Irish Argentinean diasporic journalist and writer, William Bulfin, during the period in which he was the editor of the newspaper *The Southern Cross* (1986-1906). In addition, it will identify his writings' responsibility for the construction of a diasporic identity and their historical contribution to the establishment of the Irish Free State.

### **Justification**

In the last two years I have been awarded a scholarship by the University of Sao Paulo in order to digitalize the letters William Bulfin exchanged with his family and friends. As most of his work has already been done, my intention is to complete the next stage of this study which is to select a *corpus* and analyze his unpublished writings so as to contribute with an unexplored field of study: the presence and importance of nationalism in William Bulfin's letters, editorials and lectures.

### **Objectives**

- Analyze and evaluate discursive implications in William Bulfin's letters, editorials and lectures.

- Identify how the Irish cultural nationalist movement at home influenced the constructions of William Bulfin's diasporic identity.
- Measure the consequences that these connections with Ireland had on the Irish Argentinean community.
- Analyze the construction process of an Irish diaspora ideology within his writings, enlightened with a patriotic view of homeland.

### **Methodology**

*Corpus* will be selected from letters he exchanged with his brother and wife, as well as the editorials and lectures; according to their relevance to his job as a writer and editor, to the Irish Argentinean community and to his political relations with homeland through the Gaelic League. Discourse analysis and literary theories will help to make interpretations from within the text up to the context. Finally, connections will be established with the historical information of the Diaspora and Irish Nationalism at home and abroad.

### **Chronogram**

- From August to October: Selection of *corpus*: letters, editorials and lectures.
- From November to January: Reading of bibliography related to discourse analysis, epistolary, Irish history and nationalism.
- From February to April: Problematization of the analysis and first draft of the monograph structure.
- From May to July: Final writing of the monograph.

### **Budget**

As my current scholarship ends in June and it cannot be renewed due to a university policy, SILAS grant will continue helping my full-time dedication to the research.

As most of *corpus* material is already part of the university library, there is no need for a field trip. However, the grant will provide me with means for copying such material from the library (selected lectures and editorials from microfilms of *The Southern Cross*) and acquisition of theoretical books when necessary.