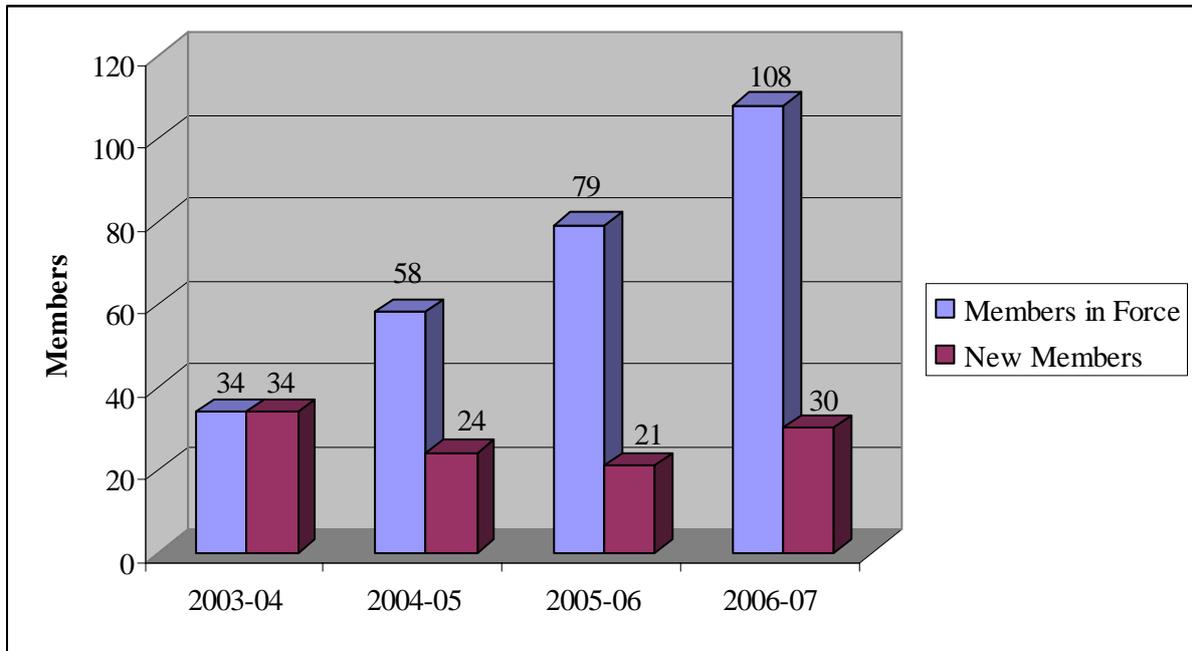


**Society for Irish Latin American Studies**  
**Annual General Meeting 2007**  
**Annual Report of the Executive Committee**

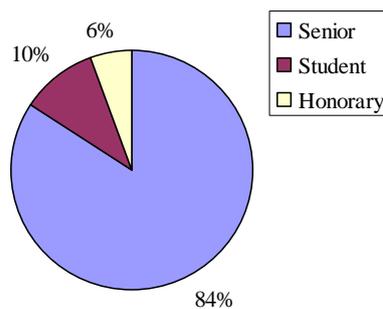
**1. MEMBERSHIP**

This past year has been an important one for SILAS. We are happy to report a continued increase of 28 per cent in membership, with 30 new Members who joined in this period (1 May 2006 thru 30 April 2007). So far, the Society has 108 Members (30 April 2007), including ninety-one Senior Members, eleven Student Members and six Honorary Members.

**Chart 1. SILAS Membership 2003-2007 (to 30 April 2007)**



**Chart 2. SILAS Membership by Type of Members**



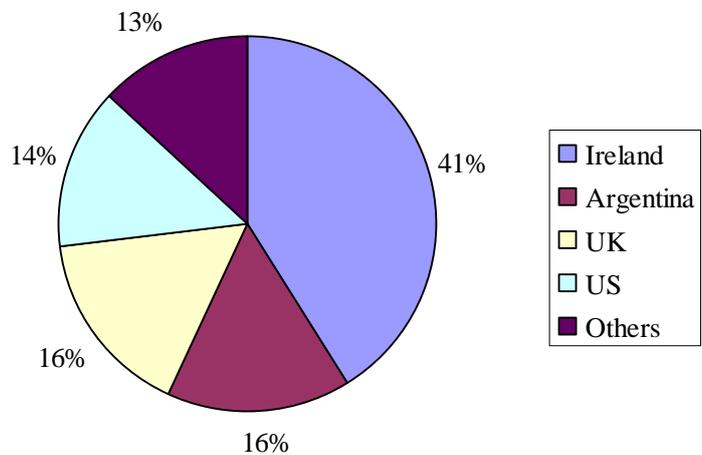
The concentration of Members in a few countries (Ireland, Argentina, UK and US) continues to be significant, though the relative importance of the US and UK have increased compared to 2006.

**Table 1. Members by Country of Residence**

SILAS Members by Country

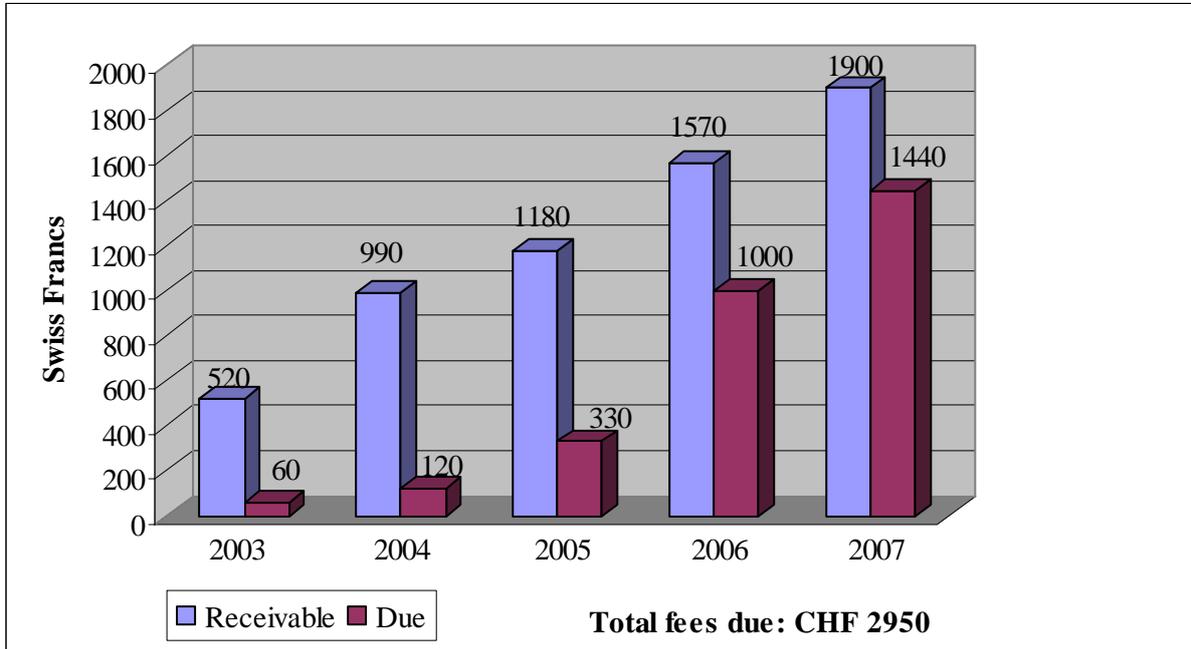
Argentina	17	16%
Australia	1	1%
Brazil	3	3%
Canada	1	1%
Finland	1	1%
France	1	1%
Hungary	1	1%
Ireland	44	41%
Mexico	2	2%
Spain	1	1%
Switzerland	4	4%
UK	17	16%
US	15	14%
Total	108	100%

(to 30 April 2007)



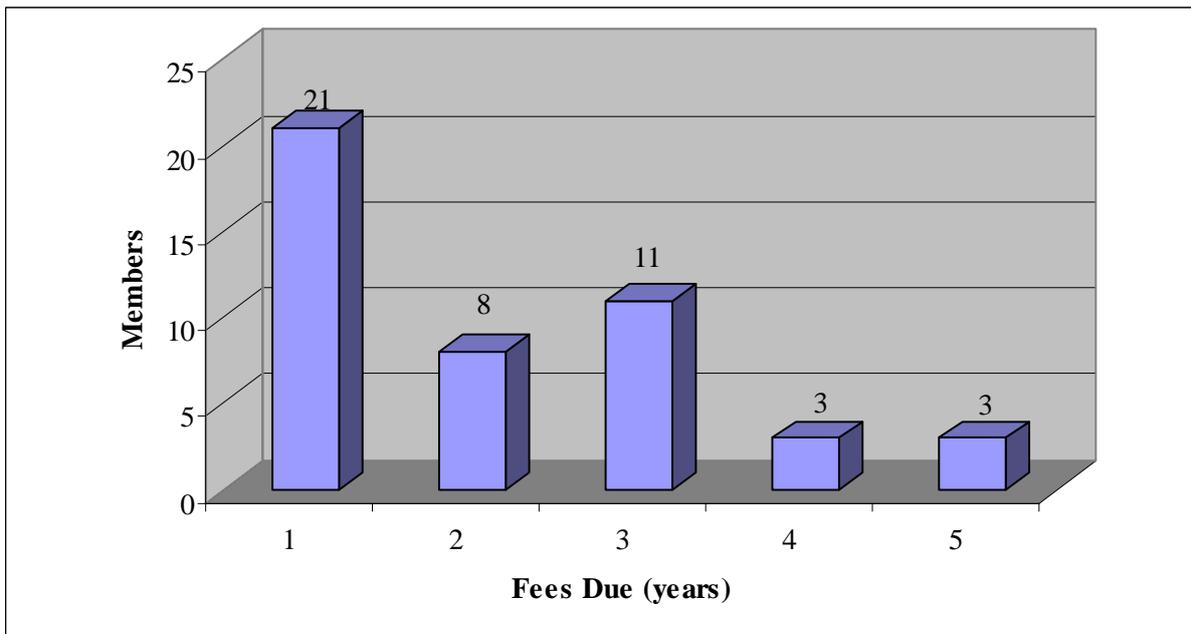
The unpaid fees continue to be a major problem for SILAS revenue. The percentage of unpaid to total fees increased to 76 per cent in 2007 ( $\text{CHF } 1440 / \text{CHF } 1900 = 0.76$ ), from 63 per cent in 2006 and 30 per cent in 2005.

**Chart 3. Unpaid Fees (to 30 April 2007)**



Total fees due are owed by 46 Members (i.e., 42 per cent of Membership, not including the Honorary Members).

**Chart 4. Number of Members with Fees Due (to 30 April 2007)**



## 2. TREASURY

Following the Society's change of name, the account holder of the bank account with UBS in Geneva has been changed from "Irish Argentine Historical Society" to "Society for Irish Latin American Studies". The account is denominated in Swiss Francs.

Cheque cashing expenses continue to impact in SILAS revenue. Most fees and donation payments are settled through personal cheques. A Visa/MasterCard service establishment has been opened in Switzerland, but very few Members use this option.

## 3. PUBLICATIONS

SILAS's website ([www.irlandeses.org](http://www.irlandeses.org)) is available since 2003. From January 2005 the website includes a serial publication, *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* (IMSLA), which is now being published every four months (previously every quarter). This publication is registered under ISSN 1661-6065 and is given volume and issue numbers. Also, as in the case of an increasing number of academic journals, a paginated version is published in the website so readers who need to cite articles are provided the complete reference. With a view to conceptually separating SILAS website and the publication, since April 2007 IMSLA is one of the options in the website's main menu.

SILAS Website (home page, 4 May 2007):

**Irish Migration Studies in Latin America**  
Society for Irish Latin American Studies

The Homeland    The Journey    Settlement    Faces and Places

Home

[Introduction](#)

[About](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Irish Migration Studies in Latin America \(current issue\)](#)

[IMSLA Archives](#)

[Members Only](#)

Google Custom Search

[Grants](#)  
[Announcements](#)  
[Manuscripts Collection](#)

**Message from Laura Izarra, SILAS President**

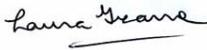
*Bemvindol! Bienvenido! Fáilte romhath!*

Welcome to the SILAS website. The Society for Irish Latin American Studies (SILAS) is internationally the largest association of scholars, students and those interested in relations between Ireland and Latin America. We work in all areas of the humanities and we support the acquisition and analysis of knowledge on past, present and future relations between Ireland and Latin America. These pages are dedicated to providing information and services to SILAS Members and friends, and raising critical debates on contemporary issues concerning Irish Latin American identities and relationships.

If you are not already a Member of the Society, I encourage you to [join now](#). Membership offers a number of benefits. These include the open-access journal *Irish Migration Studies in Latin America* published by SILAS, as well as exclusive access to SILAS databases, members newsletter, and support for our publications, grants and research programmes, conferences, archiving projects and manuscript collections. Membership also makes you eligible for candidacy to the Executive Committee or one of our other committees and working groups.

If you have any questions concerning the Society and its activities, send us a message at [contact@irlandeses.org](mailto:contact@irlandeses.org).

Sincerely,

  
Laura Izarra, President

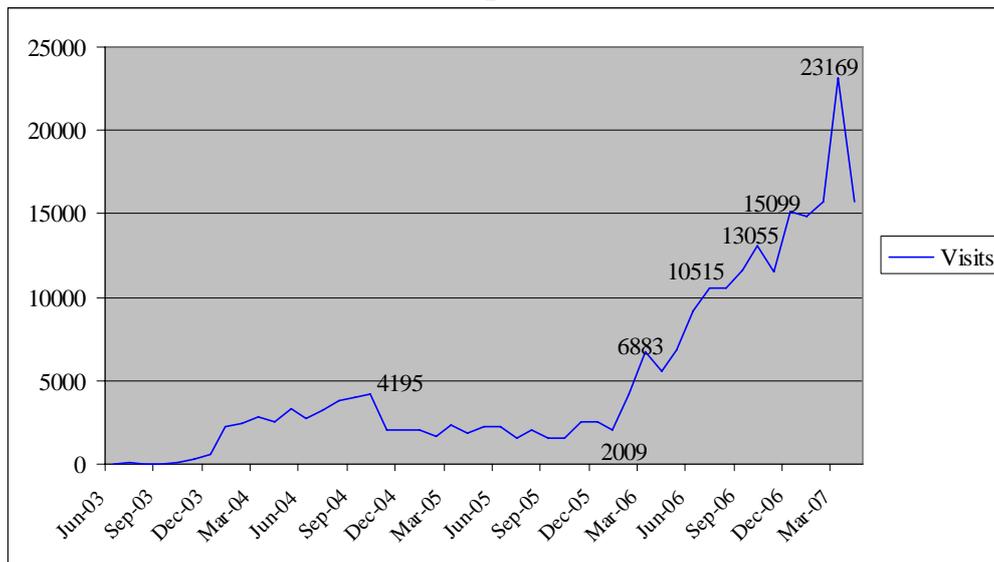
SILAS Conference: Galway, 27-30 June 2007  
**Adventurers, Emissaries and Settlers: Ireland and Latin America**  
[Overview](#) - [List of Papers](#) - [Schedule](#) - [Registration](#) - [Travel Bursary \(closed\)](#)

[New Resource](#) [Ireland and Mexico](#)  
**The Diary of Roberto Murphv** **IMSLA Current Issue**

IMSLA main page (table of contents, Vol 5, N° 1):

Both the website and IMSLA continue to be effective communication means and they are major information source about SILAS activity. However, during problematical technical situations the dependence on one medium may be uncertain. For instance, between 15 and 26 April 2007, access to [www.irlandeses.org](http://www.irlandeses.org) was denied owing to an administrative fault of the domain registrar, though access through other SILAS domains was available (see below).

Chart 5. Website Visits 2003-2007 (to 30 April 2007)



Monthly visits increased from a few dozens in the first publications of 2003 to 15,716 in April 2007. In November 2004 a new page design was implemented, which caused a loss of visits from certain Internet browsers (eg., Netscape). A technical solution was developed for this problem in late 2005. On 6 May 2006, the hosting service provider was changed from Lycos Europe (Paris) to Infomaniak in Geneva. From 15 to 26 April 2007, access to the main domain name (www.irlandeses.net) was not available due to an administrative error of the domain registrar, Lycos Europe, who cancelled the domain name with the Public Interest Registry (the international organisation that manages the .ORG top-level domain name and maintains the database of all .ORG Internet addresses).

Daily visits reached a record of 1,015 on 21 March 2007, this being related to the special edition on Ireland and Mexico (Vol. 5, N° 1 - March 2007).

Another key indicator is the number of downloaded pdf files (comparable to readership in a printed publication). In the twelve-months period from May 2006 to April 2007, there were 28,916 pdf files downloaded from the website, including 28,432 IMSLA issues (complete issues, not articles). The most successful IMSLA issue to date was the special one dedicated to Ireland and Brazil (July 2006, Vol. 4, N° 3), which was downloaded 10,319 times since its launching.

**Table 2. Downloaded IMSLA issues (pdf files)**

0601 (4:1)	0603 (4:2)	0607 (4:3)	0610 (4:4)	0703 (5:1)
160	537			
558	624			
159	615	369		
671	580	593		
278	588	664		
351	1561	2506	482	
325	1110	1586	851	
246	586	1080	1063	
215	736	963	688	
0	497	680	749	
0	685	1367	919	885
0	497	511	543	354
2963	8616	10319	5295	1239

We are thankful to the growing number of contributors and to Members and friends who submit primary sources for publication and who provide constant feedback. Once again, Claire Healy, Associate Editor, and Ignacio Adrogué, IT specialist, have been vital members of the publishing and technical teams.

#### 4. GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Grants Programme of the Society for Irish Latin American Studies (SILAS) was introduced in March 2004 to support innovative and significant research in the different aspects of migrations between Ireland and Latin America. The grants programme name is **Irish Latin American Research Fund**.

Grants up to 1,000 Euros are awarded to exceptionally promising students, faculty members or independent scholars to help support their research and writing leading to the publication or other types of communication of their projects. Awards are selected on the basis of a well-developed research plan that promises to make a significant contribution to a particular area of study about the Irish and Latin America. Typically, grants funds are used to pay for travel expenses to distant archives.

Every year three prestigious scholars seat on the selection committee to assess the research proposals and award grants to the best projects. The Irish Latin American Research Fund is open to faculty, advanced university students, and independent scholars throughout the world. Funding for the grants programme is obtained from individuals and private sources, namely from SILAS members and friends.

**Table 3. ILARF grant statistics**

(€)	Budget	Donations	Applications	Selected Grants	Grant Recipients	Euros Awarded
<b>2004</b>	4,500.00	1,091.57	17	11	5	1,900.00
<b>2005</b>	3,000.00	1,050.95	9	5	3	2,600.00
<b>2006</b>	3,000.00	2,053.58	16	4	4	2,700.00
<b>2007</b>	3,000.00	800.00	5 <sup>(1)</sup>	--- <sup>(2)</sup>	--- <sup>(2)</sup>	--- <sup>(2)</sup>

(1) Received to 4 May 2007

(2) This year's awarded grants will be announced on 28 June 2007

**Table 4. ILARF grant participant countries**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Argentina	9	1	7	
Ireland	5	1	3	
Canada	1	1	1	
Cuba				1
Mexico				1
US	1	3	3	1
UK	1	1	1	1
Brazil		2		
Spain			1	1

Grant recipients to date include:

**Andrés Bisso and Paula Migo** (Universidad de La Plata, Buenos Aires), 2006 (Euro 1,000). *Los procesos de construcción de la identidad en las asociaciones irlandesas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires durante el siglo XX.*

**Igor Pérez Tostado** (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville), 2006 (Euro 1,000). *The Irish Experience in the Spanish Caribbean Frontier: migration, identity formation and political participation in the island of Hispaniola (c.1640-1660).*

**Fiona Clark** (Queen's University Belfast), 2006 (Euro 700). *Daniel O'Sullivan: an Irish military physician in the Spanish colonial world (late eighteenth century).*

**Jorge Chinaea** (Wayne State University, USA). 1,000 Euros. "Jaime O'Daly: Enlightened Planter-Administrator in Late Bourbon Puerto Rico, 1776-1826" (2005).

**Karen Racine** (University of Guelph, Canada). 800 Euros. "Recruitment in Ireland for the Spanish American Independence Armies, 1814-1824" (2005).

**Ryan Crewe** (Yale University, USA). 800 Euros. "An Irish 'Emperor of Mexico': The Exile and Rebellion of William Lamport, Don Guillén Lombardo, 1611-1659" (2005).

**Claire Healy** (National University of Ireland, Galway), 600 Euros, "Irish Migration to Argentina: Interaction between African, Indigenous and Irish People in Buenos Aires, 1776-1892" (2004).

**Jorge Cernadas Fonsalías** (Universidad de Buenos Aires), 400 Euros, "Relations Between the Irish Nationalist Movement and the Irish settlers in Argentina, 1916-1922" (2004).

**Helen Kelly** (Trinity College, Dublin), 400 Euros, "An Historical Analysis of the Irish Community in Argentina from 1830s to the Turn of the Century" (2004).

**Maria Jose Roger and Lorena Kijora** (Universidad Católica Argentina), 300 Euros, "The Irish Argentines during the Violent Years, 1976-1983. The Role of the Irish-Argentine Institutions and Individuals during the Last Military Dictatorship in Argentina" (2004).

**Carla Horton** (Universidad de Buenos Aires), 200 Euros, "En Defensa de los Valores de la Raza Irlandesa.' El Padre Federico Richards y el Southern Cross ante el Proceso de Reorganización Nacional, 1976-1978" (2004).

Selection Committee members to date include:

**2007-2008:** Maureen Murphy (Hofstra University), Piaras Mac Éinrí (University College Cork), and Guillermo O'Donnell (University of Notre Dame).

**2006-2007:** Laura Izarra (University of São Paulo), Kerby Miller (University of Missouri-Columbia), Angus Mitchell (University of Limerick).

**2005-2006:** Thomas Ihde (City University of New York), Rosa González-Casademont (University of Barcelona, Peadar Kirby (University of ).

**2004-2005:** Kevin Whelan (University of Notre-Dame), Hilda Sabato (University of Buenos Aires), Oliver Marshall (University of Oxford).

Finally, these grants were possible thanks to the generosity of the following SILAS Members and friends:

<p><b>Jim Geoghegan</b> <b>Hugh Fitzgerald Ryan</b> <b>David Barnwell</b> <b>Peter Mulvany</b> <b>Herman and Maria Ana Beuk</b> <b>Tom Ganly</b> <b>Cathal McGoey</b> <b>Edmundo Murray</b> <b>Emer Singleton</b> <b>Harry Dunleavy</b> <b>Bill Mulligan</b> <b>The MacGeoghegan Family Society</b></p>
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We couldn't have implemented the programme without their help, and we hope to greatly increase this list in the current academic year.

## 5. MANUSCRIPTS AND RARE BOOKS COLLECTION

The Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection (MRBC) was created in May 2005 to allow Members and others to contribute to the preservation of Irish heritage and aid historical research on relations between Ireland and Latin America.

SILAS has signed a twenty-five years repository contract with the Max von Buch Library of Universidad de San Andrés (Buenos Aires). This library provides optimal security and technical conditions for documents and rare books belonging to SILAS, its Members and friends. The library staff is trained to preserve records using the latest available technology. Furthermore, the Max von Buch Library has been collecting a number of invaluable holdings of the British and Irish communities in Argentina, including among others the most complete collection of the *Standard* newspaper in existence in a public library (1861-1959), the Cecilia Grierson Papers (1859-1934), and the records of 'The Strangers Club' of Buenos Aires (1841-

1981). To this, SILAS added the **Anastasia Joyce Papers (1844-1881)** donated by Mary Anglim, including the letters to Martin Murphy of Co. Wexford. The collection has been received in Buenos Aires, was classified and catalogued by the staff library and is available to researchers.

## 6. CONFERENCES

Since its inception in 2003, the Society has organised panels about Ireland-Latin America relations in difference conferences. In this way, panels have been arranged in ACIS conference in Liverpool 2004, CAIS conference in Maynooth 2005, and the Irish Latinoamericanists conference in Coleraine 2006.

Since 2006, Executive Committee members Claire Healy and Oliver Marshall have been working on the organisation of the first SILAS conference, which will be held on 27-30 June 2007 at the National University of Ireland (Galway) in conjunction with the Fifth Galway Conference on Colonialism. The call for papers have attracted numerous proposals, and twenty-eight papers will be presented arranged in eight panels. The venue will be the Moore Institute Seminar Room at NUI Galway. As a result of the contacts made by Claire Healy, a special grant of Euro 7,000 has been awarded by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs (Cultural Division) as a contribution to the conference's promotion, and travel expenses of Latin American experts, as well as the publication of the conference proceedings.

The Second Symposium of Irish Studies is being organized by SILAS with the aim to continue the networking started by the Brazilian Association of Irish Studies (ABEI) at the First Symposium in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2006. The Symposium will be held on 5-7 September 2007 at Manzana de las Luces, Perú 272, Buenos Aires, and has the support of the Embassy of Ireland in Argentina and Culture Ireland. It is being co-organized with the Brazilian Association of Irish Studies (ABEI), the National University of La Pampa and the National University of San Martín - IDAES (Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales), the Instituto Histórico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Academia de Historia de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Ministerio "Puertas del Bicentenario" and *The Southern Cross*. Its 2007 theme "Ireland and Latin America: Towards New Perspectives" opens an interdisciplinary discussion on various sub-themes of research, such as Irish-Latin American relations, historiographic and critical trends in migration studies, literature, theatre, cinema, representations of Ireland in the Latin American press and of Latin America in the Irish press.

SILAS Executive Committee  
Galway, 28 June 2007

Laura Izarra (President), Oliver Marshall (VicePresident), Edmundo Murray (Secretary),  
Edward Walsh (Treasurer), Hilda Sabato (Director), Sharon Newman (Director), Bill  
Mulligan (Director), Claire Healy (Director), Guillermo MacLoughlin (Director).