

## **Editor's Introduction**

**Cliona Murphy**

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This volume, dedicated to Patrick Rice, is guest-edited by Gráinne Kilcullen. Like Patrick, she is from County Cork, and also, like him, she works in human rights. She is currently working with Peace Brigades International in Nepal, and has worked for Front Line Defenders in Dublin, an international organisation for the protection of human rights defenders. Indeed, she has an article here on Front Line Defenders' work in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. Gráinne met Patrick when he was about to guest-edit this special issue and subsequently took over his role after his untimely death. Working with Gráinne, I have found her wisdom, extensive knowledge of human rights, and her experience working in the field to be an ideal background for this project. Her introduction and the following articles convey not only the enormous legacy of Patrick Rice but also various aspects of the Irish dimension to human rights in Latin America.

The next issue of this journal will be devoted to gender and will also serve as the journal's transition to peer-review status. An extensive editorial board has been formed, composed of more than two dozen experts who represent more than a dozen countries of origin or residence. Each member has a strong interest in Ireland, Latin America, or both. They represent various disciplinary fields including History, Literature, Language, Political Science, Economics, Latin American Studies, Sexuality, Humanities, Social Sciences, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Board members will provide informed feedback to our contributors, and collectively contribute to the academic quality of the journal. The names of those on the board are listed below. Dr. Gabriela McEvoy, from Peru and based in Pennsylvania, has agreed to be the Spanish language editor beginning with the next issue.

Preparations for the fourth SILAS conference are underway. It will take place in Argentina in August 2013 in conjunction with the eighth Symposium of Irish Studies in Latin America at the Universidad Nacional de la Pampa. Please consult the SILAS website for the Call For Papers. The theme of the conference is *The art of movement and transformation: Ireland and the Americas looking forward*.

***Irish Migration Studies in Latin America***  
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