

<b>Institution:</b> Ulster University		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> History (28)		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Windows on our past, signposts for our future: developing heritage and enhancing tourism in north-west Ulster		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> 2005 - 2018		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>  Éamonn Ó Ciardha	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>  Senior Lecturer in Irish/English Literary & Historical Studies	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b> 2005 - present
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> 2014 - 2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> N		
<p><b>1. Summary of the impact</b></p> <p>The broad impact of Ó Ciardha's research centres on the preservation of cultural heritage and the enhancement of tourism potential of north-west Ireland's cross-border history.</p> <p>Through knowledge transfer and engagement, Ó Ciardha's research has had direct impact on key community-based heritage and tourism organisations' ability to make claim for heritage importance; it has developed heritage tourist strategies; secured funding from various sources to allow for establishment and expansion; and informed multiple outreach activities. The total monies raised for these organisations out of Ó Ciardha's underpinning research are over GBP1,600,000.</p> <p>The impacts are on the following organisations:</p> <p><b>I1:</b> Monreagh Ulster Scots – Scots Irish Heritage and Education Centre (impact on claims to heritage status, on a grant application, and on the subsequent expansion programme that included an additional hire)</p> <p><b>I2:</b> Sliabh Sneacht Heritage Centre (impact on claims to heritage status, on a grant application, and on the subsequent expansion programme that included three additional hires)</p> <p><b>I3:</b> Cultúrlann Uí Channáin / An Gaeláras (impact on claims to heritage status, on grant applications and on the subsequent expansion programme)</p> <p><b>I4:</b> Trustees of the Friends of Derry City Cemetery (impact on claims to heritage status, grant application and on the subsequent expansion programme)</p> <p><b>I5:</b> Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór Centre (impact on grant application, on sustainability of the business, on the hire of a part-time researcher, and on projected pamphlet series)</p> <p><b>2. Underpinning research</b></p> <p>Ó Ciardha's interdisciplinary underpinning research, firmly entrenched in pan-Atlantic/pan-European contexts, explores global, inter-related themes of conquest, colonisation, diaspora/emigration, book history/history of reading, language change and cross-border history, politics and culture. Moreover, his re-interpretation of Ireland's fraught histories, politics, literary and cultural heritages through the ports, towns, farms, bleaching-greens, and printing-presses of north-west Ulster enables local organisations to promote the region's past to local, national, and international users.</p> <p>From 2005, Ó Ciardha mined specialist archives to re-assess five centuries of a contentious history in four languages and in various national/international repositories, thereby facilitating a re-appraisal, retrieval and re-engagement with Irish history/heritage in their proper local, national, pan-European, and Atlantic World contexts. Furthermore, his research enabled him to be a lead editor on several key collected research outputs (<b>R1-2</b>) that have established</p>		

themselves as definitive collections on two watershed events in Irish/British History, as well as being the culmination of his involvement in the 'Decade of Quarto-centenaries' (2006-2016).

*Imeacht na n-Iarlaí: The Flight of the Earls*, Derry (2010) **(R1)** is framed by Ó Ciardha's research agenda that Irish history and heritage must be studied in their European interconnections where politico-religious power struggles consistently and directly impinged on Irish matters. Moreover, the Irish response gave rise to Ireland's first modern diaspora, thereby connecting local, national, and international heritage and history, in which the Irish diasporic elite made fundamental contributions to European and North American military, political, academic, diplomatic arenas. *The Plantation of Ulster: Ideology and Practice*, Manchester (2012) **(R2)** is framed by Ó Ciardha's research emphasis on Ireland's shared history, so that this well-known but little understood event was studied for the first time in its proper, truly triangular (native Irish-Scots-English) perspective. Ó Ciardha's approach adopted in the collection transformed understandings of political ideology, religion, literary culture, and colonial discourse that, in turn, produced a new appreciation of the narrative of local history and heritage.

Unearthing shared traditions and placing them in European and global contexts is a common feature of several of Ó Ciardha's key peer-reviewed research articles and chapter outputs. 'The Irish Book in Irish, 1691-1800' (2014) **(R3)** focuses on a shared Irish Catholic/Protestant bibliographical tradition which at once helped preserve Catholicism, promoted Protestantism and underpinned vibrant multi-cultural, multi-denominational and multi-lingual heritages in the Atlantic World. The research highlighted the role of antiquarian, learned, and religious societies in supporting the emergence of a printed literature in Irish, almost exclusively derived from the Irish manuscript tradition. Ó Ciardha demonstrated how the travails of these societies brought Irish literature to a wider European audience and effectively established Irish philology and linguistics as professional European academic disciplines.

"*An Chaoimhniadh Chomhachtaigh agus Séamus an Chaca*" (2017) **(R4)** utilises Irish language records in large manuscript and oral collections of 'high', vernacular literature and folk memory to correct and counter-balance an all-pervasive Anglo-centric view of Irish history. The research reveals a rich heritage of Irish language ballads, laments, news-poems, recruitment songs and satires in which poets and singers were the chroniclers and conscience of the Irish-speaking community. By bringing out these previously marginalised voices, the research placed key events of Irish history in their proper multiple, multilingual political and cultural contexts. The various, varying perspectives of James II and his luckless cause are contained in the vibrant vernacular and folk traditions, which survived into the twentieth century through Irish folklorists. Ó Ciardha's research thus emphasises a rich continuity in the Irish heritage.

'Irish Jacobites in early modern Europe' (2018) **(R5)** derives from the rich life-stories, literary relics, memorials and memoirs of a significant and influential Irish diaspora that spread itself across Europe from the Iberian Peninsula to the Russian Steppe. The resultant picture of complex pan-European political, socio-economic and cultural networks of an Irish diaspora that encompassed clergymen, poets, propagandists and some of Ireland's leading military families revealed the interconnections between local heritage and a broader multi-layered, trans-national, trans-continental, and trans-confessional Irish and European political, social, economic, military, and literary history.

Finally, Ó Ciardha's research agenda of shared and interconnected history through interdisciplinary work framed the co-edited *Monaghan: History and Society* (2017) **(R6)**. Combining the fields of geography, history, archaeology, politics, literature, migration and others, this volume captures through these respective lenses the various histories, evolutionary processes, personalities, and influences of this border region over 1,500 years, thereby providing an academic template for cross-border co-operation and shared heritage initiatives in north-west Ireland.

**3. References to the research** Outputs can be provided by Ulster University on request.

**R1.** D. Finnegan, M.C. Peters and É. Ó Ciardha (eds), *The Flight of the Earls: Imeacht na n-Iarlaí* (Derry, 2010), 300pp. BBC History Book of the Year 2011.

**R2.** É. Ó Ciardha and M. Ó Siochrú (eds), *The Plantation of Ulster: Ideology and Practice* (Manchester, 2012), 288 pp.

**R3.** É. Ó Ciardha, 'The Irish Book in Irish, 1691-1800', *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*, xxviii, (Spring 2014), pp 13-37.

**R4.** É. Ó Ciardha, 'An Chaoimhniadh Chomhachtaigh agus Séamus an Chaca: (Worthy Knight/Worthless Shite), James II and his war in Irish Literature and Folklore', in David Hopkins et al (eds), *European traditions of revolt: The Memory of Social Conflict in Oral Culture. Cultures orales et mémoires des révoltes et contestations en Europe (XVe-XIXe siècles)* (Ashgate, 2017), pp 217-240.

**R5.** É. Ó Ciardha, 'Irish Jacobites in early modern Europe: exile, adjustment and experience, 1691-1745', in T. Buelmann, J. C. D. Clark and D. MacRaild (eds), *British and Irish Diasporas: Societies, Cultures and Ideologies* (MUP, 2018), pp 56-99.

**R6.** P. Duffy and É. Ó Ciardha (eds), *Monaghan: History and Society* (Dublin, 2017), 925 pp.

The above journal articles/books have been subject to blind peer review practice by internationally-based editorial boards.

#### 4. Details of the impact

Collaboration with Invest NI and Fáilte Ireland has enabled Ó Ciardha to engage with community organisations and local stakeholders in the heritage/tourist sector to provide underpinning research for various initiatives. Specifically, he has worked with the Monreagh Ulster Scots-Scots Irish Heritage and Education Centre, the Sliabh Sneacht Heritage Centre, Cultúrlann Uí Channáin/An Gaeláras, the Friends of Derry City Cemetery, and Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór Centre.

##### **I1 Monreagh Ulster Scots – Scots Irish Heritage and Education Centre**

Ó Ciardha's research on early modern Irish religious/dynastic history conquest, plantation, warfare, military diaspora and Irish book history (**R1-4**) underpinned a 2014 Fáilte Ireland/Irish Tourist Board heritage report/grant application submitted by the Monreagh Ulster Scots-Scots Irish Heritage and Education Centre. The Centre Manager outlines their commission to Drs Kelly (Ulster) and Ó Ciardha 'to pen a Fáilte Ireland Heritage grant application which accrued major funding from the Ulster Scots Agency of GBP50,000 per annum, plus an additional GBP30,000 for refurbishment [adding up to date to GBP280,000]. This allowed the centre to expand, re-brand and develop its heritage, pedagogical and tourist potential of the centre and its resources'. **[C1]** Thus Ó Ciardha's research proved pivotal in enabling the Centre to promote its expansion as a heritage, pedagogical, and tourist centre, re-boot, re-imagine and re-brand, thereby facilitating its celebration and promotion of Ulster-Scots history, heritage and culture and its key role in the inter-related histories of Ireland, Britain and north America. **[C1]** This initiative also facilitated the hiring of one full-time heritage officer (1 headcount, 1 FTE) **[C1]**. Furthermore, the Centre Manager confirms that Ó Ciardha's underpinning research framed a range of expansion plans that 'led directly to 1. The Centre now welcoming 5,000+ overseas visitors each year, primarily from the USA. 2. Conducting approximately 40 organised tour groups per year. 3. Working on cross border projects, including the development of a good working relationship with Inishowen Development Partnership. 4. The establishment of a new extensive genealogy research library that has included producing resources and teaching packs to engage with 12 local schools'. **[C2]** The underpinning research has thereby enjoyed a local, national and international reach across a range of beneficiaries.

##### **I2 Sliabh Sneacht Heritage Centre**

The Sliabh Sneacht Heritage Centre is situated in Drumfries, Inishowen, County Donegal in an area of high economic deprivation. The Centre wanted to develop a heritage/tourist profile and to act as a hub for community outreach and knowledge of the region's history. Lacking internal expertise, it turned to Ulster and commissioned a report in 2015 funded by Enterprise Ireland, 'Cultural and Heritage Audit with Market Exploration and Interpretation Recommendations' (researched and written by Ó Ciardha with Drs Sharon Loane and Laura Bradley-McCauley, School of International Business and Dr Billy Kelly, Ulster).

The heritage aspect of this report drew explicitly on Ó Ciardha's published research on conquest, colonization, north-west Ulster's book and manuscript tradition, language change, cultural and border heritage, history and politics, and most notably Inishowen's archaeological, literary, and mythological heritage **[R1-6]**. The Centre developed its business plans and grant application directly out of the report that led to an award of approximately EUR500,000 (05-2019) **[C3]**. This enabled the hiring of three full-time members of staff (3 headcount, 3 FTE) and the roll-out of initiatives such as the school heritage education programme. The fundamental impact of Ó Ciardha's underpinning research and its findings in the heritage section is recognised in the Centre's Manager's letter; *'The research, particularly in the area of culture and heritage, clearly identified areas where the Centre could develop a unique and attractive offer for tourism and education programmes.'* He goes on to add, *'The work produced by the University of Ulster team has allowed us to develop our understanding of Sliabh Sneacht and Inishowen in its proper national, European, and Atlantic world contexts, in areas as diverse as Conquest, Plantation, Irish Emigration to Europe and the Atlantic World, Ordnance Survey, Industrialisation and Empire'*. Furthermore, it has *'established strong cross-border and cross-community relationships with a variety of partners that have enabled us to secure funding and link into other resources that have proved invaluable in the ongoing development of the Centre'*. **[C3]**

### **I3 Cultúrlann Uí Channáin / An Gaeláras**

Ó Ciardha's jointly authored Invest NI Innovation Voucher (2017) heritage report (with Drs Sharon Loane and Laura Bradley-McCauley, School of International Business, Ulster) for Cultúrlann Uí Channáin/An Gaeláras drew heavily upon his research on early modern political, military and cultural history: 'Flight', 'Plantation', Presbyterianism, education, emigration and diaspora **[R1-R6]**. The research in the report was used to place its at-risk derelict Grade B+ building in its historical, confessional, and cultural contexts, and to make a successful case in grant applications for the building's restoration as a landmark Arts and Cultural Centre. The Trustees *'acknowledged the contribution of Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha and his colleagues in our successful efforts to secure funding [GBP786,900] from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Pilgrim Trust'*. **[C4]** In consequence the Centre invited Ó Ciardha to sit on the Board of Cultúrlann Uí Channáin/An Gaeláras.

The report based on Ó Ciardha's research has been instrumental to the restoration work. Refurbishment provided public access to the city's built heritage and had a positive impact on the Clarendon Conservation Area by securing the future of an 'at-risk' listed building. The Building is used by the organisation and other community groups, and the project has increased access to the arts, culture and heritage in an area of high social deprivation.

The Chief Executive of An Gaeláras Ltd's letter recognises the key role played by Ó Ciardha's research: *'As a result of this ongoing project, and Dr Éamonn Ó Ciardha's research, the church is in the process of transformation, and it has already become one of the most iconic music and performance venues in the city.'* **[C5]** The Chief Executive's letter goes on to outline the various activities that were framed by Ó Ciardha's research and the extent of its reach to a range of beneficiaries: *'the Coming Home/Gorta Mór exhibition, the largest collection of Irish Famine Art in the world, welcoming over 20,000 visitors to the church over a 12-week period; a programme of lectures, music recitals, film screenings and education outreach with local schools and youth groups; three large pieces of public art were commissioned and installed in the local community; a 'murals art trail' has been devised and launched; the annual IMBOLC festival, attracting thousands of visitors to the city; the largest number of Irish language classes*



*on the island, with 400 registered in 2018-19; a music academy which welcomes 150 musicians and singers each year; provides volunteer opportunities for the community.'* [C5]

#### **14 Trustees of the Friends of Derry City Cemetery**

In 2017 Ó Ciardha's research and edited/co-edited outputs on Derry/Londonderry and its environs around the inter-related themes of conquest, colonization, plantation, religion, built heritage, industrialization, partition and cross-border politics (**R1, R2, R3, R6**) underpinned a jointly authored Invest NI Innovation Voucher heritage report (with Drs Sharon Loane and Laura Bradley-McCauley, School of International Business, Ulster) around the Derry City Cemetery. This report enabled the Trustees of the Friends of Derry City Cemetery to develop a cultural and tourist offering that has been awarded over GBP10,000 in funding. The Trustees' Chairman pays 'tribute to the contribution of Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha and his team in our successful efforts to secure funding to develop and promote experiential cultural/heritage/academic and educational tourism around major cemetery sites in North-West Ireland'. [C6] He goes on to point out that Ó Ciardha's underpinning research provided the 'blueprints for pursuing the history/heritage and tourist potential of a largely forgotten and untapped resource' [C6]. As a result, the cemetery has established itself as part of the Derry City Tourist Trail and it is building plans for further expansion. It employs one full-time employee (1 headcount, 1 FTE) and has over 50 volunteers. [C6] Subsequently the Chairman confirmed that 'Ó Ciardha's underpinning research enabled an expansion of our offerings that led directly to the following: 1. attracting over 2.5k visitors from across the globe; 2. offering tours to community groups and schools; 3. be part of the NIHE anti-vandal programme; 4. set up an outreach programme visiting care homes and other groups. In addition the funds have allowed the volunteers to work on other cross-border-community cemetery projects in Strabane and Lifford/Lurgan' [C7]. There have therefore been a broad reach and range of beneficiaries from Ó Ciardha's underpinning research.

#### **15 Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór Centre**

In **C8** Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór Centre acknowledges that 'Ó Ciardha's underpinning research on early modern conquest, plantation, military/political diaspora and Irish manuscript/book history (**R1-5**) informed and framed a successful application to the EU (Peace IV) "Peace Tourism Grant" scheme for an award of GBP27,380'. **C8** confirms that this award was 'crucial to the sustainability and expansion of this business'. Crucially, as the Manager of Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór acknowledges, the monies raised 'enabled us to employ a part-time researcher and two Erasmus+ interns to complete the research and source additional funding for other related publishing and media initiatives' [C8]. A main output, as **C8** outlines, was to use the funds 'to commission, edit and produce a series of Maritime/migration pamphlets which will at once explore Derry/Londonderry long association with the sea, assess its crucial importance as a key point of departure for the Irish military Diaspora in the early modern/modern periods and re-imagining the port's importance in the 21st century and beyond' [C8]. The series is thus framed by Ó Ciardha's research agenda and he has been appointed Series Editor as only his research knowledge could bring this project to fruition. Looking to the future, it is intended that this project will have further impact and beneficiaries because, as **C8** points out, the pamphlet series will provide 'crucial, popular academic ballast' for a projected GBP8,000,000 Maritime Museum.

#### **5. Sources to corroborate the impact**

- C1.** Statement 1 from Centre Manager, Monreagh Ulster Scots-Scots Irish Heritage and Education Centre.
- C2.** Statement 2 from Centre Manager, Monreagh Ulster-Scots Scots-Irish Heritage and Education.
- C3.** Statement from Centre Manager, Sliabh Sneachta Heritage Centre.
- C4.** Statement from Board Member, Cultúrlann Uí Channáin/An Gaeláras.
- C5.** Statement from CEO, Cultúrlann Uí Channáin/An Gaeláras.
- C6.** Statement 1 from Chairman, Friends of Derry City Cemetery.
- C7.** Statement 2 from Chairman, Friends of Derry City Cemetery .
- C8.** Statement from Manager, Creggan Enterprises Ltd, Rath Mór Centre.