

The presence of the Haddad Foundation in Ireland

A presença da Haddad Foundation na Irlanda

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Abstract: *This text recounts key moments in the decade-long cooperation between the Haddad Foundation and Trinity College Dublin, with the establishment of scholarship programmes fostering the Humanities and, more recently, a professorship at the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation. Reference is made to the diversity of people and ideas that are a hallmark of the scholarship programmes sponsored by the Haddad Foundation, and how they have attracted students mostly of Literature and Theatre over the years, always in close connection with academic institutions such as the Brazilian Association of Irish Studies (ABEI) and the University of São Paulo.*

Keywords: *Haddad Foundation; Trinity College Dublin; Ireland and Brazil.*

Resumo: *Este texto relata momentos importantes na cooperação de dez anos entre a Fundação Haddad e o Trinity College Dublin, com a criação de programas de bolsa voltados para o fomento das Humanidades e, mais recentemente, de um professorado no Centro de Tradução Literária e Cultural do Trinity College. O texto faz menção à diversidade de pessoas e ideias que tem sido uma marca dos programas de bolsa patrocinados pela Fundação Haddad, e a como eles têm atraído principalmente alunos de Literatura e de Teatro ao longo dos anos, sempre em contato com instituições acadêmicas tais como a Associação Brasileira de Estudos Irlandeses (ABEI) e a Universidade de São Paulo.*

Palavras-chave: *Fundação Haddad; Trinity College Dublin; Irlanda e Brasil.*

Among the growing community of Brazilians who bring to Ireland some of our culture, our language, and our traditions, there is an annual cohort of young scholars who are awarded a scholarship to pursue their postgraduate degree in the country's oldest and most prestigious university, Trinity College Dublin.

The Haddad Foundation has been funding scholars at Trinity since 2015, when the first fellow started the MPhil degree in Irish Writing. After ten years, the **ABEI/Haddad Fellowship** programme still has literary inclinations, but is open to those wishing to pursue a career in Communications, History, Translation, Screen Studies, and Digital Humanities as well. In 2020, the **Haddad Fellowship** was inaugurated, mainly geared to studies in Theatre. Both the ABEI/Haddad and the Haddad Fellowship are by now consolidated and well-known scholarship programmes whose main objective is that Brazilian students in the area of Humanities receive high-quality training in Ireland and, upon returning, they employ the expertise acquired there in our own country, promoting and developing not only Irish Studies, but also the cultural scene in Brazil as a whole.

A milestone in the partnership between the Haddad Foundation and Trinity College Dublin was a 2023 ceremony in which the trustees Dr. Claudio Haddad and Dr. Rosalie Haddad had their names embossed on the frieze of the grand entrance to the Dining Hall, marking their ingress into the Roll of Honour of this centuries-old university. The ceremony was attended by the then ambassador of Brazil in Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Marcel Fortuna Biato, not to mention authorities from the university itself such as the provost, Professor Linda Doyle.



Claudio Haddad, Linda Doyle, and Rosalie Hadadd.

To date, thirty-five students have been awarded a scholarship at Trinity by the Haddad Foundation, thirteen of them in partnership with the Brazilian Association of Irish Studies (ABEI). They come from different regions in Brazil, and their cultural and academic backgrounds are also varied. As per the latest QS World University Rankings, 33% of the student body at TCD is international, making it tremendously diverse, and the scholars sponsored by the Haddad Foundation reflect and contribute to that diversity, which is cultural as well as intellectual. From the titles of dissertations and final projects below, one immediately sees the range of the fellows' work at Trinity, spanning Shakespeare, Lady Gregory and contemporary playwrights; language variation in videogames and machine translation; original writing and the literary scrutiny of established Irish and English authors... The list goes on and gives us a glimpse of the sheer variety we can expect from upcoming scholars. However, it is visible that a natural trend emerged throughout the years, and most of the fellows now hold or are pursuing a degree in Theatre and Performance and in Literary Translation.



Trustees of the Haddad Foundation and fellows.

On the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Ireland, it is perhaps telling that students of the MPhil in Literary Translation form a large part of the fellows: language is the first major gap that must be bridged when cultures interact, and naturally translators are well-equipped for that task. The Haddad Foundation, indeed, works closely with the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation (TCLCT): not only many fellows studied there, but Professor Rosalie R. Haddad is a board member of the Centre. Due to the growing interest of Brazilian students in the MPhil in Literary Translation, a Portuguese-speaking scholar at Trinity College who could research, teach, and supervise Brazilian scholars was hired in 2023. Dr. Natália Resende was selected as the first Haddad Assistant Professor at the TCLCT.



James Hadley, Claudio Haddad, Rosalie Haddad,
and Natália Resende.

With a background in Natural Language Processing, Psycholinguistics, and expertise in experimental research, Professor Resende teaches modules that focus on the intersection of translation studies and technology. She coordinates the core module “Interlingual Technologies” and has developed three optional modules since joining the TCLCT: “Data Driven Approaches to Literary Translation”, “Experimental Methods in Translation Studies”, and “Machine Translation for Creative Texts”. With the support of the Haddad Foundation, her research focuses on machine translation for literary texts, combining natural language processing techniques with methodological approaches from psycholinguistics. More recently, she has been working on a project that explores the potential of AI systems to assist humans in the translation of poetry. Needless to say, the impact of AI in the translation market is already so perceptible and so rapidly evolving that research in the area is essential to fathom what the implications will be in the very near future. Professor Resende at times collaborates with scholars from other universities

as well, such as Professor Lenita Rimoli Pisetta, from the University of São Paulo, who visited the TCLCT in 2024 in order to deepen her knowledge of AI applied to translation and prompt engineering techniques. More recently, Professor Sandra Vasconcelos, also from USP, was received by Professors Natália Resende and James Hadley (director of the TCLCT) to deliver the lecture “Joyce and Rosa: Encounters”, celebrating the anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Brazil. Her visit received the support of the W. B. Yeats Chair of Irish Studies, USP, and the Embassy of Brazil in Ireland.

If the ABEI/Haddad fellows have historically shown a literary bent — in part, perhaps, due to the links between ABEI and various departments of Languages and Literature in Brazil and abroad —, the focus of the Haddad Fellowship programme in Drama studies has organically emerged from the trustees’ own passion for Theatre. Consolidated as active patrons of the arts in São Paulo, they also saw in Ireland — a country with some of the most renowned playwrights of all time — a promising place for Brazilians to improve their skills and acquire new ones. In connection with Ireland’s National Academy of Dramatic Arts (The Lir) and Trinity’s School of Creative Arts, students have the opportunity to develop academic and hands-on projects as performers, stage designers, directors, and playwrights.

Haddad fellows across different areas have contributed to the theatre scene in Dublin either independently, in events such as the Dublin Theatre Festival and the Dublin Fringe Festival, or as part of their final assessment. Each year, the students at The Lir Academy showcase their talent in the Gradfest, staging plays for everyone to attend, and our fellows have helped to produce different plays by prominent contemporary playwrights such as Sarah Ruhl, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, John Logan, and Simon Longman.

As the Haddad Fellowship completes its first five years and the ABEI/Haddad Fellowship its first decade of existence, one cannot help but be proud of this academic bridge between Brazil and Ireland, built with the determination of many people under the auspices of the Haddad Foundation. The list below, comprehensive but not exhaustive, displays the fellows’ final projects and dissertations and bears witness to this effort. While reflecting on the past achievements, it is also thrilling to know that this international exchange will yield yet more fruit in different areas of the Humanities in coming years.

Dissertations and Final Projects by ABEI/Haddad and Haddad Fellows 2015–2025

(The full list of fellows can be seen on www.haddadfellowship.com)

Comparative Literature

- Adão Lopes da Fonseca – “A Comparison of Representations of the Werewolf Figure in Brazilian and Irish Folklore”
- Débora Gandra de Souza – “The decision making in Macbeth and Julius Caesar”

Creative Writing (final portfolios)

- Amanda Cristina Marques dos Santos – “Triste, Louca ou Má”
- Giulia Paim – “Rock Journey”
- Valentina Gindri – “Aquarium, a collection of Short Stories”

Irish Writing

- Thalita Serra de Castro – “Linguistic Fluidity and Unrealized Territories in Brian Friel’s *Translations*”
- Natália Bergamin Retamero – “The Family in Contemporary Irish Literature: How O’Brien, Enright, and O’Neill Represent Relationships”

Literary Translation

- Amábile Deretti – “Language Variation in Videogames: A reception study on the impact of Anne Bonny’s language variation on the gameplay experience of *Assassin’s Creed: Black Flag* in English and Brazilian Portuguese”
- Eduardo Boheme – “Poetry and Calligraphy: Brazilian Translations of J.R.R. Tolkien’s *legendarium*”
- Nayara Güércio – “The Traveller as a Translator: Intralingual Translation in Brazilian Road Films” (MPhil dissertation) / “Mapping Indirect Translation Research: A Two-Tier Meta-Analysis of Traditions, Shifts, and Uncharted Paths” (PhD thesis)
- Thais Giammarco – “Analysing Machine Translation of Subtle Forms of Humour in Maeve Brennan’s Short Stories”

Modern Irish History

- Maria Clara de Lima Mendes – “The Sense of Community in Enniskillen in the aftermath of the Remembrance Day Bombing in 1987”

Stage Design

- Cecilia Mondadori – “Gundog”, by Simon Longman (Set Designer)
- Filipa Porto – “Appropriate”, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (Set Designer)
- Juliana Schmidt – “Appropriate”, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (Costume Designer)
- Pedro Henrique Pacheco da Silva – “Red”, by John Logan (Lighting Designer)

Theatre and Performance

- Carlos Darzé – “Homesick: The Multiple Intercultural Tensions in a Cosmopolitan Theatre World”
- Juliana Del Rosso – “Revisiting History: a dramaturgical experiment”
- Murilo Ortunho – “The Effects of Liquid Modernity on Nature and the Body”
- Viviane Monteiro – “Aspects of Womanhood in Selected Plays by Lady Augusta Gregory”

Theatre Directing

- Zia Basbaum – “Eurydice”, by Sarah Ruhl (Director)