



Embassy of Brazil

Dublin, 13 August 2024

Prof. Laura Izarra
Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
São Paulo - Brazil

Dear Laura,

It was with great sadness and regret that I learned of the unexpected passing of Dr. Éibhear Walshe, director of creative writing in the School of English and Digital Humanities at University College Cork. On behalf of his many Brazilian admirers in Ireland, please accept our condolences and heartfelt sorrow. His sudden and premature passing is a great loss. Not only to his family, close friends and colleagues, but to all who share his love of language and literature. His achievements as a writer and academic are well attested, but his love of teaching and engaging with students shined through most powerfully. As his colleague, poet Liz Quirke, put it in a moving eulogy, “he who taught us the dialects by which we could recognize each other”.

This was very much on display when we first met, last June, during his trip to São Paulo as a visiting scholar at the invitation of the Chair of Irish Studies William B. Yeats at USP. It was his first time in Brazil, and he was bursting with energy and curiosity to share his passion and devotion towards Irish literature with audiences across the Atlantic.

Back in Dublin, we met again to discuss how best to join forces in sharing Ireland’s cultural bounty with Brazil. Tragically, this project has been cut short. Éibhear will be sorely missed by his many students and admirers. Yet I have no doubt that from “the great salon in the heavens”, his contagious enthusiasm for life and teaching will continue to stir and inspire the present and future generations.

I can think of no better tribute to Éibhear than the work undertaken by the William B. Yeats Chair to translate into Portuguese *The Diary of Mary Travers*. In this and in future endeavours to give life to his legacy be assured of the unstinting support of the Guimarães Rosa Lectorship. In a fitting coincidence, it is hosted at University College Cork, Éibhear’s academic home.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Biato'.

Marcel Biato
Ambassador of Brazil to Ireland