

# Introduction

“No universo da cultura o centro está em toda parte”

(Miguel Reale)

In July 2002 the University of São Paulo became the centre of Irish Studies for a few days by gathering a hundred and seventy nine delegates from twenty-one countries for the International Conference IASIL 2002. The monument of the clock in the central square of the *campus* witnessed the event and made real the words engraved on its circular ground evoking the image of the infinite and the universal without any privileged directions: “In the cultural universe the centre is everywhere” (Miguel Reale). The debate included different critical backgrounds and views from various parts of the world thus enriching the field of Irish Studies.

This Special Issue of *ABEI Journal – The Brazilian Journal of Irish Studies* is a selection of papers presented at the conference, entitled “Interrelations: Irish Literatures and Other Forms of Knowledge”. The articles follow interdisciplinary approaches to the study of texts and deal with issues and arguments about the relationship of Irish literary narratives and the visual arts, music and social sciences; displacements; readings of documents of the self, drama, fiction and poetry; and cultural translation.



Clock Square

The ideas discussed were reflections of the artist’s conception of the monument built in two parallel *lâminas* (plaques??) which are linked by um travamento de escadas até o topo where the clock is. The world of Humanities represented in six panels on one side and the world of Science in the other six panels on the opposite *plaque(?)* symbolize the intertwined (*estreitas? Fortes?* ) integration forming the dynamic spirit of the University.