The past decade has seen a strong renewal of interest in Irish Studies, not only in connection to major twentieth-century figures such as Joyce and Yeats, but also within a larger framework, with particular attention to women’s issues, nationalism, Northern Ireland and Northern Irish writers, the Irish language, and the lively fiction, poetry, drama and film of contemporary Ireland.

Writers such as John Banville, Eavan Boland, Paul Muldoon, Ciaran Carson, Medbh McGuckian, Edna O’Brien, Colm Toibin, William Trevor, and many others are attracting significant attention in Ireland, the U.S., Britain, Europe, and worldwide. The energy and enthusiasm that currently characterize Irish Studies has persuaded Bucknell University Press to capitalize on its long-standing reputation in Irish Studies to commence a new series of books of shorter, affordable, accessible, though intellectually serious studies of the most significant contemporary Irish authors. These will be monographs and not essay collections. Such books, in the range of 150-200 pages in length and prepared by recognized experts in Irish Studies, will bring a newer, more theoretically-informed perspective to the tried-and-true format established by an earlier Bucknell Irish Writers series, providing an introduction to a single author’s life and work and a general discussion of interpretive issues and strategies for understanding this work.

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