Key themes in Irish Film

Let's go to the map

What do we call the country?

- Erin
- Eire
- Ireland (meaning the whole island and/or the Republic)
- the Emerald Isle
- the Oud Sod
- Ulster or Northern Ireland

Fundamentals of Irish Identity

- Must be *essential* (i.e., not simply not British)
- Recognition of Ireland's long history
- Respect for Gaelic culture and the Irish language
- Emphasis on rural life
- Catholicism
- Economic and Cultural Self-sufficiency
- Sinn Féin = "Ourselves Alone"

Conflicts and tensions

- Irish Ireland versus Anglophone Ireland
- Tradition/history versus modernization
- Catholicism versus Protestantism
- Gaelic revival versus Irish language
- Rural versus urban
- Agriculture versus industry

Ireland in Film

- No commercially self-supported native film industry

- How other countries represent the country

- Markers of Ireland and Irishness
  - US films: Ireland as rural utopia
  - British films: violence as a national characteristic

Censorship in Ireland

- Protective tariffs → economic wall between Ireland and Europe
- Cultural wall follows
- Censorship of Films Act (1923)
- Emigration blamed on movies

Hollywood's Ireland

Man of Aran (Robert Flaherty, 1934)

The Hollywood Irishman: James Cagney

 from gangster to G-man to song-and-dance man

Disney's Ireland:*Darby O'Gill and the Little People* (1959)

  Darby the Banshee and King Brian

  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZMU0rcp-hk

John Ford's Irishman: *The Quiet Man* (1952)

 Sean's arrival

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vvy_UqPIjl4&list=PLLptnlkV92bPdhKPqxNkNxKao9RiXAYpT&index=18

 the feisty colleen & the kiss https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkQyRE0byBI

Iconic themes in Irish Film

- Rebellion, sacrifice, departure, life in Diaspora, return
- The landscape → romantic; nostalgia; tourism
- Stereotypical characters
    - The fighting Irishman
    - The buffoon
    - The long-suffering mother
    - The feisty colleen
    - The rebellious son

What Is an "Irish Film" Now

- Where are they made?

- Who makes them?

- What are they about?

- What do they say about an Irish national identity?

- Are they political?

- The word "indigenous" is often used to distinguish Irish film.

- Funding-based restrictions on content and purpose