

Panel 21

James Joyce & Interart Encounters

The Dialectic of the Novel and Drama: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* as Drama

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It is commonly acknowledged that James Joyce's (1882-1941) semi-autobiographical novel *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (hereinafter referred to as *Portrait*) is a masterpiece among modern novels, whether for professional scholars or general readers. Equally important, however, is Joyce's deep engagement with drama, which has permeated his creation. This essay will read *Portrait* from the critical lens of drama. Through close textual analysis and the application of drama theory, it first examines Joyce's personal understanding of drama. Building on that foundation, it then demonstrates how *Portrait* operates as a drama on three key levels: its structure and genre, its language, and the core of plot development. To which, this paper argues that *Portrait* is simultaneously a "dramatized" novel and a "novelized" drama.

Biography

Liu Hanyang (刘瀚阳) is a second-year graduate student at Beijing International Studies University, majoring in Comparative Literature and World Literature. Liu is from Kaifeng, Henan Province, China. Liu's current research focuses on James Joyce studies and classical literature. Liu has presented papers at academic forums on Irish literature hosted by both Chinese and international institutions, including University College Dublin, the Irish Studies Centre at Beijing Foreign Studies University, and the Irish Studies Centre at Nanjing University. Liu has also participated in the translation and editing of *The Development of the Idea of History in Antiquity* by Gerald A. Press, which is to be published in 2026.