



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Morning Session:
**Looking forward, looking back: collective reflections on Freire's
influence on global development theory and practice.**
(11am to 12.30pm)

Speakers:



Dr Eilish Dillon is the Head of Department at the Department of International Development and has been involved in critical global education in Ireland in different capacities for many years. She is currently completing research on ethical communications among non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs) in Ireland.



David Archer is Head of Tax Justice and Public Services with Action Aid. In the 1980s he researched programmes inspired by Paulo Freire across Latin America and in the 1990s developed [the Reflect approach](#) inspired by Freire that has now spread to over 100 countries.



Zoryana Pshyk is an ex-asylum seeker and a community educator. She is a Chair for the Kildare Integration Network (KIN), and a member of the Newbridge Asylum Seekers Support Group (NASSG). Zoryana is an active participant in local community development with an emphasis on Social Inclusion, and a board member of the County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) representing Community. Zoryana is a core part of the Community Education team, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) where she works as an outreach worker supporting the local community groups. She is also a facilitator with Partners Training for Transformation and an associate lecturer with the Department of Adult and Community Education, Maynooth University.

Moderator:



Paddy Reilly is a lecturer in the Department of International Development, responsible for various courses including Participatory Adult Learning for Development for MA students, and several undergraduate courses.

Afternoon Sessions:

What relevance has Freire to our world today: in the academy, the community and globally?

(1.30pm to 4pm)

Workshop 1: The Influence of Freire in Higher Education

(1.35pm to 2.40pm)

Speakers:



Dr Fergal Finnegan is a lecturer at the Department of Adult and Community Education, Maynooth University and is a co-director of the Doctorate in Higher and Adult Education and the PhD in Adult and Community Education programmes. Before becoming an academic he was a community adult educator and literacy worker and these experiences have strongly shaped him and led him to Freire. His main research focus is on transformative education for equality and he is especially interested in how research can be used to strengthen democratic participation in educational institutions. He is one of editors The European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults and the Journal of Transformative Education.



Dr David Kaulem is the Dean of the School of Education and Leadership and the Director of the Center for Ethics at Arrupe Jesuit University in Harare, Zimbabwe. His research and publication interests include ethics, social justice, leadership development, conflict and social transformation and Christian social teaching.

Moderator:



Dr Mags Liddy is the Nano Nagle Newman Fellow in Education at UCD School of Education. This research project aims to assess the needs of female teachers in schools in India and Pakistan with regard to capacity building for leadership in education. Mags completed her PhD research on the capacity of overseas volunteering as a professional development experience, examining its impact on lives and identity.

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Workshop 2: The Influence of Freire in Community Activism / Advocacy (1.35pm to 2.40pm)

Speakers:



Amel Yacef, originally from Algeria, has been working in the youth and community development sector in Ireland for over 20 years; she has managed and coordinated projects with a focus on social justice, community development and human rights. She has been engaging on a voluntary capacity with various organisations and campaigns fighting for a more just, equal and caring society. Amel presently works in the National Youth Council of Ireland; she describes her practice as transformative and compassionate justice. She has extensive experience in organising and mobilising young people and the grass roots; facilitating processes that enable those voices to sit in their power, and impact political discourse.



Peter Dorman is from Dublin and has worked in youth and community work for 30 years. In 1986 he participated in a Training for Transformation programme which set the direction for his life and work from then on. He was involved in helping develop Partners TFT which runs Freire inspired programmes in Ireland and the UK. Peter facilitated many of these programmes and was on the staff of Partners for a number of years. In 2001 Peter joined the staff of Community Action Network and brought his Freirean approach to work with alienated communities mostly in Dublin but also across Ireland and in Asia. His focus has been in housing rights in local authority estates regeneration community safety community benefit in procurement and popular education.

Moderator:



Patrick Marren is a lecturer with the Department of International Development. Has been lecturing and facilitating for 30+ years on a range of international development issues, primarily on political economy of development. In terms of Freire, he had the opportunity to work with the Grail Institute in South Africa for three years on their programmes, and meet with Sally Timmell, one of the co-authors of 'Training for Transformation'.

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(1.30pm to 4pm)

Workshop 3: The Influence of Freire in International Development Practice (1.35pm to 2.40pm)

Speakers:



Dorothy Kwennah Toomann is a Gender Consultant and the Country Coordinator of the International Association for Community Development in Liberia. In 2020, she contested in Liberia's Special Senatorial Elections as an Independent Candidate in Bong County. Prior to that, she worked with the Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L) for about two decades including serving as executive director. DEN-L is a national grassroots organization influenced by the approaches of Paulo Freire and involved in capacity building – training, organizational development, community development, peacebuilding, advocacy and theater awareness in Liberia.



Michael Solis is Trócaire's Global Director for Partnership and Localisation. He has 15 years of experience in development, human rights and humanitarian action across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Based in Nairobi, he recently established and leads Trócaire's Global Hub on Partnership and Localisation, which builds on Trócaire's 50 years of experience as a partnership agency and drives the organisation's strategic shift toward localisation. Previously, Michael served as Country Director of Trócaire in Sierra Leone and Programme Manager during and after the West African Ebola crisis. He holds a BA in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University, an LL.M in International Human Rights Law from the National University of Ireland Galway and an MSc in Development and Gender Studies from Central American University in Managua, Nicaragua.

Moderator:



Niamh Rooney is a lecturer with the Department of International Development. Her areas of experience and interest include the planning development programmes, with a particular focus on participatory, human rights, and results based approaches. Niamh is an advocate for sustainable development and emphasises the importance of sustainability through her work. Niamh also acts as academic coordinator of the Departments' Research, Engagement and Capacity Hub (REACH) and facilitates continuous community education and professional development learning events in Ireland and overseas with a focus on community participation, inclusion, and empowerment for sustainable development.