

# **Economics Department Newsletter Maynooth University**

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**From the Head of Economics Department**



I am delighted to present you our department's inaugural newsletter.

There have been a lot of exciting developments in the department during the past twelve months and I am thrilled to share them with you. I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Best,  
Tuvana Pastine

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# Economics as a Stand-Alone Department

Since September 2020, Economics is recognized as an independent stand-alone department following the restructuring of the Department of Economics Finance and Accounting.

Our colleagues in finance and accounting are now housed in the School of Business. We miss the daily chats with the finance and accounting people in the coffee room and in the corridors. But they did not go far, they are just across in the North campus.

The restructuring is a welcome development as the needs and future visions of different fields find better expression under the new structure.

Our existing economics programmes joint with finance and accounting at bachelor's and master's level continue as they are. The administration of these programmes is now performed in collaboration with the Business School.

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## Integrated BSc/MSc Economics Programme



We are very excited about the introduction of the BSc/MSc Economics Integrated Programme which is aimed at attracting students who aspire to work as professional economists. The Irish market has a strong demand for people who have significant investment in quantitative education beyond the economics core in Arts. Starting from the first year, students will take modules in statistics, econometrics and programming as well as a wide array of economics modules to develop the skills required to critically analyse and interpret economic data. Students who perform at a high enough level in the BSc will be able to automatically continue to the MSc Economics

programme.

The first round of students will enter the programme in September 2022. The MSc Economics Programme will also continue as a stand-alone programme and students from BA Arts will still be able to pursue a postgraduate degree in Economics.

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## Newly Constituted Board of Advisors to the Department of Economics



Please meet the members of our inaugural Board of Advisors: Dr. Dermot Coates Chief Economist, Dept of Employment Affairs & Social Protection; Sharon Donnery, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Ireland; Anthony Macken, CSO Research Coordination Unit; Dr. Tom McDonnell, Co-Director NERI; Dr. Adele Bergin, Associate Research Professor, ESRI; Mr. Gerard Brady, Chief Economist, IBEC.

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## The Launch of the Edgeworth Graduate Student Scholarship

[Find out more](#)

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## New Appointment to the Commission on Pensions



Dr. Aedin Doris has been appointed to the Commission on Pensions, just established by the Minister for Social Protection. This Commission will examine various options that can help with the sustainability of the State Pension system, not just the pension age. Importantly, it will also consider the impacts of these various options and will engage with stakeholders as part of its work.

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## **New Appointment to the Labour Market Advisory Council**



Prof. Donal O'Neill appointed to the Labour Market Advisory Council by the Minister of Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands. Donal will advise to the Minister regarding the policies and operations of the Department of Social Protection insofar as they pertain to the efficient operation of the labour market with a particular view to increasing participation rates, minimising unemployment levels and reducing average unemployment durations.

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## **We Now Have an Economics Postgraduate Alumni Network**

Since our first graduate in 1992, we have 536 postgraduate Economics alumni. We are now connected with 264 of our alumni and we are still looking to connect with remaining

unconnected former pupil. Please let your classmate know of this initiative.



[Economics Postgraduate Alumni Network Maynooth University LinkedIn](#)

[Economics.Alumni@mu.ie](mailto:Economics.Alumni@mu.ie)

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## Mentorship Programme for the Postgraduate Students in Economics

We received overwhelmingly positive response from the Economics Postgraduate Alumni Network about starting a mentorship programme in October 2021. Volunteer alumni will be matched with a postgraduate student for the academic year.

The mentorship programme will provide students a role model who can give encouragement and guidance.

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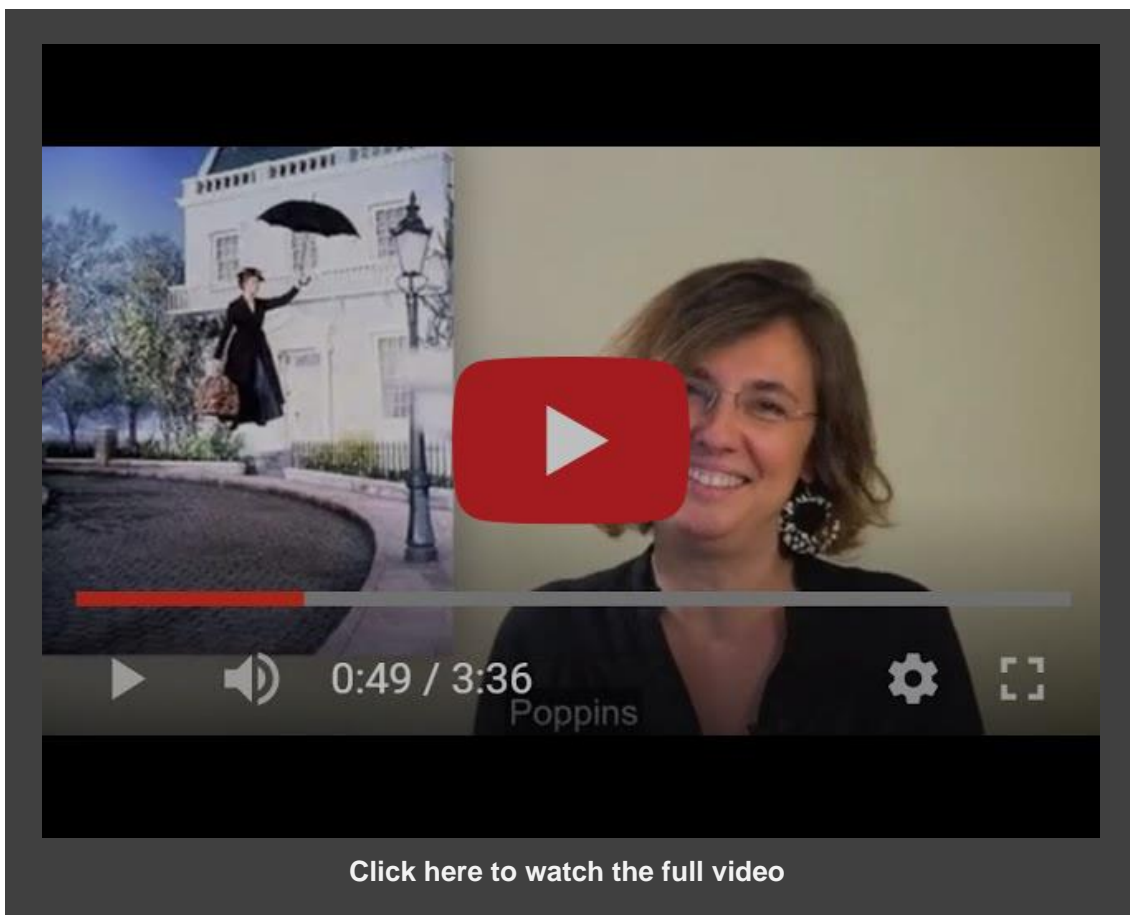
## Congratulations to Student Award Winners of 2020

- First-Year Prize in Economics: **Leah Moria Mitchell**
- 2nd Year Prize in Economics: **Kevin Scanlon**
- The Harry Murray Prize: **Rhys Thomas Gilson, Robert Even Abernethy and Jack Reynolds McGettigan**
- The Denis Conniffe Prize: **Gavan Mura McLaughlin**
- The Loudon Ryan Prize: **Gavan Mura McLaughlin**

- The Geary Prize: **Minh Duc Nguyen**

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## 2021 MU Economics Department Young Economist Award Winner Also Wins the Overall YEOTY Award



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## Economics Student Society

Weekly Teams Meeting

Day:	Starts:	Ends:	VIRTUAL
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>20:00</b>	<b>Activity</b>

Economics Society Quiz Winner

Congratulations to **Shaun Nevin** who won our inaugural Economics Society Quiz! Shaun put in a great individual showing and pocketed a €40 Amazon voucher as a result.

[Join Economics Student Society](#)

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## Spotlight on Dr. Irene Mosca



### **Why did you choose Economics?**

I thought that Economics was the perfect mix for me: I liked numbers and had an interest in public policy. Courses such as physics and chemistry did not interest me as much. I also thought that graduating in economics would open a lot of doors for me in the job market. For example, I could work in a financial institution, I could be a teacher or I could pursue a career in research. I have never regretted choosing economics.

### **What brought you to MU?**

I moved to Ireland in 2010, after studying economics in Italy and the UK. I joined the Department of Economics in MU in 2019. It is a small but active, vibrant, skilful and cohesive department. I am very happy to be part of it.

### **Could you tell us a bit about your research?**



My research is applied. I use large datasets and apply statistical methods to answer questions such as: are unemployed individuals more likely to be in poorer mental health? Are people who just retired more likely to volunteer than people who haven't retired as yet? Is there a link between health in childhood and economic success in adulthood?

**What were the main challenges you faced in the pandemic as a lecturer?**

The last year has been very challenging, for both students and lecturers. I did miss the human interactions with students and colleagues. I had to learn fast how to use technology in teaching. When schools and childcare facilities were closed, I had to juggle work and caring responsibilities. The silver lining is that we have all learnt how to think outside the box and deal with difficult situations. These skills will help us a lot in the years to come.



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