



## Maynooth University Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

### Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute Post-Doctoral Researcher (12 Month Contract)



**Research project: "What works?" Sharing best practices in how civil society organisations use the internet in organising and building for socio-economic rights.**

"What Works?" is a fifteen month research project beginning in April 2019, sponsored by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and funded by the Irish Research Council under the COALESCE funding stream.

This research project seeks to find out what lessons can be learnt from the success of the Repeal movement and to share our findings with other progressive movements in Ireland. We are interested in learning how campaigns establish trust, deal with conflict and develop coalitions since this has always been a problem for social movements in Ireland – especially now with the advent of social media. Our project will use interviews and documentary analysis to examine how the Repeal campaign used digital technologies (e.g. WhatsApp). We will then work with Housing campaign groups - developing training resources and running a workshop - to share the information we have learned.

### The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will contribute as part of a team on the IRC funded – What Works project, undertaking research on how social movements use social media to deal with conflict, build trust and create coalitions.

The appointee's tasks will be to help conduct and analyse interviews with Choice campaigners, to write a literature review and reports on the project, to assist in the development and delivery of training materials to other campaign groups, as well as to assist the PIs in project management and collaborate with them in academic publications and presentations.



The successful applicant will be expected to work effectively as part of a team, maintain active liaison with stakeholders and collaborators, make a significant contribution to the dissemination of project outputs (incl. workshops, publications, web site, etc.),

The successful applicant will have experience in conducting a qualitative research project, a proven ability in writing academic papers and reports, and organisational experience, including the ability to work both under their own initiative and collaboratively as part of a team.

## Principal Duties

### Administrative and other duties:

This will include:

- Collaborate with PIs on research project
- Liaise with stakeholders group
- Conduct literature review on social media and social movements
- Conduct and analyse qualitative interviews with stakeholders
- Write reports and assist in the development of training resources
- Maintain and update the project web-page
- Organize training seminar and meetings
- Collaborate in academic publications and presentation at conferences
- Assist in data archiving and management

### The ideal candidate will have:

#### *Essential:*

- PhD (or nearing completion) in Sociology, Anthropology, Human Geography, Media Studies or related social science discipline;
- A proven expertise in qualitative research;
- Published in peer-reviewed academic journals;
- Report writing skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Ability to work as part of a team including across sites and collaboratively;
- Ability and willingness to help organise and attend workshops and conferences.

#### *Desirable:*

- An understanding of social movements and collective political action;
- Experience with social media research;
- Expertise in trust and conflict management.

## Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) is an exciting new research institute established in 2015 as part of the University's ambitious Research Strategy (2012-2017). The institute brings together, consolidates and scales existing social scientific research expertise and research infrastructure across the campus as part of a single enterprise.

Its mission is to lead the development of two of Maynooth University's six research priority areas: People, Place and Environment and Social and Economic Transformations. MUSSI also manages, supports and develops, a number of critical national data infrastructures including the All-Island



Research Observatory (AIRO), the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA), and Digital Repository Ireland (DRI).

MUSSI is home to two European Research Council (ERC) fellows, has won Horizon2020 funding, is founding partner of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), and the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) and serves as the national contact point for Ireland for both URBACT 3 (2015-2017) and ESPON (2014-2020).

## The University

Maynooth University is one of the four constituent universities of the National University of Ireland and in 2017 was placed in the global top 100 universities under 50 years old in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Formally established as an autonomous university in 1997, but tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St. Patrick in 1795, Maynooth University draws on a heritage of over 200 years' commitment to education and scholarship. It is located in the University town of Maynooth, 25km from the centre of Dublin, Ireland's capital city.

The University is a modern institution - dynamic, research-led, engaged, and grounded in the traditions of liberal education. With more than 12,000 students, Maynooth is Ireland's fastest-growing university, yet we retain a collegial campus culture that is central to our ability to bring significant interdisciplinary expertise to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. MU has a distinctive disciplinary profile compared to other universities in Ireland, with research and teaching strengths in humanities and social sciences, science, electronic engineering, business, law and teacher education. The University has major research institutes and centres in the areas of: humanities; social sciences; mathematics, computation and communication; human health; business and service innovation; climate change; and Geocomputation.

The University has, under the *University Strategic Plan 2012-17*, further enhanced its capacity and reputation for research, transformed its undergraduate curriculum, grown postgraduate enrolments and become even more international, diverse and engaged. MU makes, and is seen to make, an important and distinctive contribution to our national system of higher education.

Maynooth University is now embarking upon a new and exciting phase with the development of the *University Strategic Plan 2018-22*, with a vision to consolidate the international reputation of Maynooth University "as a university known for outstanding teaching, excellent research, a global outlook, effective engagement with the society we serve, and our distinctive approach to the challenges facing modern higher education."

The *University Strategic Plan 2018-22* builds on the institution's strengths and accomplishments, concentrating energy and resources on further development in research and postgraduate education. The strategy focuses on:

- targeted investment in research capacity in a number of priority areas;
- extending the postgraduate portfolio and growing the postgraduate community;
- realising the full benefits of our innovative undergraduate curriculum;
- enhancing the student experience;
- comprehensive and ethical internationalisation;
- equality diversity inclusion and interculturalism as enablers of academic excellence

These strategic goals are underpinned by a commitment to invest, first and foremost in people and opportunities for their development and success, and also in the systems and infrastructure required to achieve scholarly and educational objectives.



## Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.

## Terms and Conditions

This is a 12 month contract post at the grade of Post-Doctoral Researcher.

## Data Protection Law

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University's Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University's other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection>

## Salary

Postdoctoral Researcher: €37,223 - €41,827 per annum (5 points)

Appointment will be made in accordance with the Department of Finance pay guidelines.

\*New entrants to the public sector will be appointed on the first point of the Postdoctoral Researcher pay scale.

## Application Procedure

### Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

**Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer**

**The position is subject to the Statutes of the University**

