

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
RESEARCH REPORT  
2024-2025





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# Welcome from the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences



Reading this report is a fascinating journey through the research informed, practice engaged, education and above all societal impact that our community of researchers, educators and students make every

day. I urge you to take a wander through this report and pause upon a project that you find fascinating. Wander to the library (online) and read about the study, read the media report, or better yet reach out and talk with one of the researchers about their project, its practical implications and how it could be useful to you in your professional life, personal life, or as a citizen of the world.

As I write, I hear our wonderful Associate Dean for Research and Engagement, Professor Audra Mockaitis, saying, “Where is your introduction, you are holding the report up!” I cannot help but read about the research impact of one more of our eleven Departments and Schools or get distracted by reading another of the media reports, papers (or oops a book – it was a good one!). Do take the time to get lost in this research. Learn something new. Be reminded of something you thought you knew but find a new insight about. Be inspired to take action.

Social Science is not about one paper, one research project, or one idea. It is about the body of work from which we can see patterns, find new ideas, and form research informed, practice engaged insights, from which we can face challenges in our work life, our personal and citizen action lives. I am immensely proud of the work that our community do every day

to add to the body of Social Science. The actions that they take to bring this work to the public and the co-creation of research they do with each other, nationally, internationally, with students, organisations and community groups. Research is at the heart of a university community. It is the work that this report recounts, celebrates and challenges us to read and act upon!

Yes, this report records over 490 research publications (books, articles and so much more!). It details over €9.1 million of externally funded research. We see how over 150 Maynooth faculty co-created insights with international collaborators, students (more than 550 doctoral students), and community groups. You will see the happy pictures of award winners, and of communities doing research.

At the end of the report, I hope you will take the following actions. Participate in the research seminars and talks across the university (I just loved listening to the ones from Anthropology and Froebel in the last week). Take the time to read the research work of your colleagues.

**Above all -talk with your friends, your community leaders, your family, your local town and international visitors about a piece of research in this report that can improve their lives.**

**Thanks to everyone** mentioned in this report for the work you do as researchers, students, organisers, supporters, and impact that you create. Your work is at the heart of what makes this an impactful community.

**Professor Peter Mc Namara**  
**Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences**



## From the Associate Dean of Research and Engagement



I am delighted to introduce the Faculty of Social Sciences Research Report, showcasing the outstanding research activity across our faculty over an eighteen-

month period from January 2024. This period has been marked by innovation, collaboration and impact across our many departments, institutes and centres. From new research initiatives and interdisciplinary projects to continued success in obtaining national and international research funding, our work in the Faculty of Social Sciences demonstrates a commitment to advancing knowledge in the social sciences and engaging with various communities to address complex social issues and societal challenges with research that makes a difference.

This research report highlights our collective achievements, including faculty research statistics, departmental activities, the work of our research institutes, centres and research students. This work reflects both the strength of our research community as well as our supportive environment that fosters curiosity, critical inquiry and meaningful engagement beyond the university that underpin our research culture. It is great to see so many innovative research projects and publications being produced, as well as the noticeable impact of this work beyond traditional metrics.

Our colleagues have been successful in attaining **national funding** from sources such as: Science Foundation Ireland, the Irish Research Council, Enterprise Ireland, the Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland, the Marine Institute, the Geology Survey of Ireland, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, the Health Service Executive, the Environmental Protection Agency,

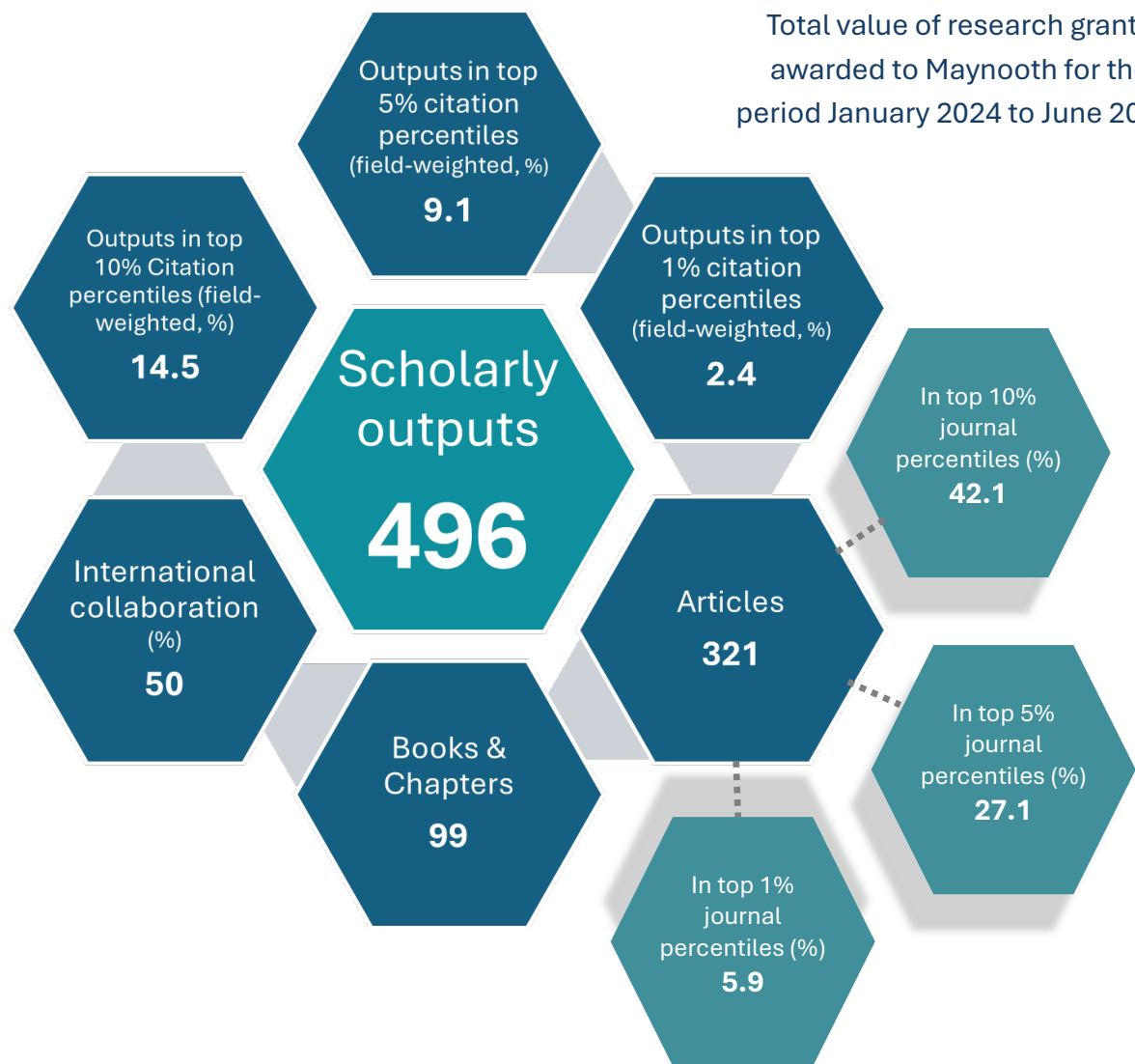
Childhood Cancer Ireland, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Restorative Justice Services, Caremark, the Joint Managerial Body Secretariat of Secondary Schools, the National Council for Special Education, Met Eireann, the Community Foundation Ireland and Dublin City Council.

Our notable **EU-funded projects** include those of Professor Fabiano Pallonetto: 3DP STef (~€428k), AI-EFFECT (~€207k), SyMeCo (~€95.5k), STREACS (~€215k), Dr Amy Fahy's RESKILL (€146.8k), Professor Camilla Fitzsimons' project BRIDGES (€86.8k), Dr Ciara Bradley's PD4D KA2 (€66.3k), Dr Kevin Credit's Horizon Europe project "WellbeMap" (~€237k), Professor Bernie Grummell's SEED2 project under KA2- (~€209k), Professor Delia Ferri's SWINS project (~€1.99k), Dr Thomas Delahunty's (€~30k) KA2 LIFT project, and Professor Peter Thorne's project "C3S2 Rescue, Collection and Processing of in situ Observation" funded by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (~€1.43M).

I extend **my sincere thanks** to all who have contributed to this report, and importantly, to all colleagues, who actively contribute to making our faculty a vibrant hub of research excellence, and a vital contributor to the university's research mission.

**Professor Audra I. Mockaitis**

Our Research at a Glance



**€ 9,128,239**  
Total value of research grants awarded to Maynooth for the period January 2024 to June 2025.

Source: SciVal, for the period January 2024 to June 2025.

Enrolled research students

	2024	2025
PhD students	506	504
Professional doctorates	72	53
Research masters	27	22
Total	605	579

Graduate Research Academy data.

**€ 5,951,112**  
National funding

**€ 3,177,127**  
EU funding

## Articles in top 1% citation percentile (field-weighted)

- Akartuna, D., Menon, P., **Doğança Küçük, Z.** (2025). The feasibility and efficacy of a psychospiritual intervention with the insights from Bhagavad Gītā and Yin Yoga on a Turkish population: A mixed method approach. *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, 15(1): 69-89.
- Anjomshoe, A., Banomyong, R., **Hossein Azadnia, A.** and 2 more (...) (2025). Sustainable humanitarian supply chains: a systematic literature review and research propositions. *Production Planning and Control*, 36 (3): 357-377.
- Bray, A., Devitt, A., Banks, J., **Flood, M.**, and 6 more (2024). What next for Universal Design for Learning? A systematic literature review of technology in UDL implementations at second level. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 55 (1): 113-138.
- Bresnihan, P.**, Brodie, P. (2024). From toxic industries to green extractivism: rural environmental struggles, multinational corporations and Ireland's postcolonial ecological regime. *Irish Studies Review*, 32 (1): 93-122.
- Forster, P.M., Smith, C., Walsh, T. , **Thorne, P.**, and 55 more (2024). Indicators of Global Climate Change 2023: annual update of key indicators of the state of the climate system and human influence. *Earth System Science Data*, 16 (6): 2625-2658.
- Leahy, A., Ferri, D.** (2024). Barriers to cultural participation by people with disabilities in Europe: a study across 28 countries. *Disability and Society*, 39(10): 2465-2487.
- Oludapo, S., Carroll, N., **Helfert, M.** (2024). Why do so many digital transformations fail? A bibliometric analysis and future research agenda. *Journal of Business Research*, 174.

## Articles in top 1% journal percentile (Citescore)

- Agbabiaka, O., Ojo, A., **Connolly, N.** (2025). Requirements for trustworthy AI-enabled automated decision-making in the public sector: A systematic review. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 215.
- Anjomshoe, A., Banomyong, R., **Hossein Azadnia, A.**, Kunz, N., Blome, C. (2025). Sustainable humanitarian supply chains: a systematic literature review and research propositions. *Production Planning and Control*, 36 (3): 357-377.
- Asheq, A.A.**, Hasan, R., **Coughlan, J.** (2025). Social Networking Site Users' Behavioral Responses Toward Travel Destinations Promoted by Virtual Influencers: A Multiple-Model Comparison Approach. *Journal of Travel Research*.
- Bidav, T.**, Mehta, S. (2024). Peripheral Creator Cultures in India, Ireland, and Turkey. *Social Media and Society*, 10 (1).
- Bray, A., Devitt, A., Banks, J., Fuentes, S.S., Sandoval, M., Riviou, K., Byrne, D., **Flood, M.**, Reale, J., Terrenzio, S. (2024). What next for Universal Design for Learning? A systematic literature review of technology in UDL implementations at second level. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 55 (1): 113-138
- Connaughton-Crean, L.**, Ó Duibhir, P. (2024). 'We are always planning trips to Poland': the influence of transnational family life on the family language policy of Polish-speaking families in Ireland. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 1-15.
- Crowley-Henry, M.**, Almeida, S., Bertone, S. Gunasekara, A. (2025). Understanding Female White Migrant Academics' Career Narratives: An Intersectional Feminist Standpoint Approach. *Gender, Work and Organization*.



- Cullen, P.** (2025). Minoritized mother politicians in Ireland: Subjectivities and subjectivation in the political workplace. *Gender, Work and Organization*, 32(1): 389-407.
- Edeh, J.**, Olarewaju, A.D., Kusi, S.Y. (2025). What drives SME export intensity in transition economies? The role of infrastructure, digitalisation and innovation capabilities. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 215.
- Fernandez-Osso Fuentes, M.J., Keegan, B.J.**, Jones, M.V., **MacIntyre, T.E.** (2024). Conceptualizing digital placemaking in nature for wellbeing. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 204.
- Hiltner, S., Eaton, E., Healy, N., Scerri, A., **Stephens, J.C.**, Supran, G. (2024). Fossil fuel industry influence in higher education: A review and a research agenda. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 15 (6).
- Hussain, S., Teni, A.P.**, Hussain, I., Hussain, Z., **Pallonetto, F.**, Eichman, J., Irshad, R., Alwayle, I.M., Alharby, M., Hussain, A., Zia, M.F., Kim, Y. (2024). Enhancing electric vehicle charging efficiency at the aggregator level: A deep-weighted ensemble model for wholesale electricity price forecasting. *Energy*, 308.
- Keshavarz, A.R.**, Rouzies, D., Kramarz, F., Quelin, B., Segalla, M. (2024). How do firms value sales career paths? *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, 52 (3): 762-788.
- McFadden, C., **Crowley-Henry, M.**, Rumens, N., Rocco, T., Collins, J. (2024). Doing transgender: Gender minorities in the organization. *Gender, Work and Organization*, 31(5): 1754-1765.
- Munden, H.P., **Morrison, J.** (2025). "We had a lot of fun": Psychological rewards of white supremacy group membership. *Political Psychology*, 46 (2): 365-381.
- O'Brien, A., Kačkutė, E., **Crowley-Henry, M.** (2025). Introduction to "Motherhood, Subjectivity, and Work". *Gender, Work and Organization*, 32(4): 1649-1653.
- Pearson, E.**, Opoku, M.P. (2024). Experiences of service and diagnosis among immigrant families of young children with suspected or diagnosed developmental disabilities. *Ethnicity and Health*, 29 (8): 1036-1053.
- Princen, S., Schimmelfennig, F., Sczepanski, R., **Smekal, H.**, Zbiral, R. (2024). Different yet the same? Differentiated integration and flexibility in implementation in the European Union. *West European Politics*, 47 (3): 466-490.
- Vicente-Serrano, S.M., Juez, C., Potopová, V., Boincean, B., **Murphy, C.**, et al. (2024). Drought risk in Moldova under global warming and possible crop adaptation strategies. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1538 (1): 144-161.

## Research Impact

The following journal articles have already received media attention and in many instances have been cited in various policy documents. These are works that have been published during the reporting period; they are all new publications. Altmetrics scores are provided where available (current September 2025). The citing public and third sector sources are comprised of government bodies, think tanks and IGOs, and the citations were obtained from the Overton database by entering faculty members' publication DOIs in the search terms.



Forster, P. M., Smith, C., ...**Thorne, P.**, et al. (2024). Indicators of Global Climate Change 2023: annual update of key indicators of the state of the climate system and human influence, *Earth System Science Data*, 16, 2625–2658. DOI: /10.5194/essd-16-2625-2024

This article has been cited by 218 news outlets and 17 policy documents since its publication, including: UN Environment Programme (2024), World Meteorological Organization (2024, 2025), Bruegel (2024), United Nations (2024), Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, UK (2025), and OECD (2025).



Hiltner, S., Eaton, E., Healy, N., Scerri, A., **Stephens, J.C.**, Supran, G. (2024). Fossil fuel industry influence in higher education: A review and a research agenda, *WIREs Climate Change*, 15 (6). DOI: 10.1002/wcc.904.

This article has been cited by 33 news outlets and 2 policy documents: PublicPolicy.ie (2025) and ALLEA (2025).



Kinol, A., Si, Y., Kinol, J., & **Stephens, J.C.** (2025). Networks of climate obstruction: Discourses of denial and delay in US fossil energy, plastic, and agrichemical industries, *PLOS Climate*.

This article has been cited by 20 news outlets, and the International Panel on the Information Environment (think tank) (2025).



Reed, M.S., Merkle, B.G., Cook, E.J., **Marder, I. et al.** (2024). Reimagining the language of engagement in a post-stakeholder world. *Sustainability Science*, 19, 1481–1490. DOI:10.1007/s11625-024-01496-4.

This article has been cited by the UK Government Office for Science (2025) and the LSE blog (2024).



de Smeth, K., Comer, J., & **Murphy, C.** (2024). Hydrometric data rescue and extension of river flow records: Method development and application to catchments modified by arterial drainage, *Geoscience Data Journal*, 11 (2): 176-196. DOI:10.1002/gdj3.206.

This article has been references in 2 policy sources: World Meteorological Organization (2024, 2025).



Marder, I. D., & Kurz, K. (2024). Can dialogue help police officers and young Black adults understand each other? Key findings from a restorative process. *Policing and Society*, 34(5), 449–466.

Cited by: Government of Flanders (2024).



**Cannon, B.**, & Murphy, S. (2024). ‘We’re not right-wing or racist but...’: Far-right myth and distributive conflict in asylum seeker related protest in the Republic of Ireland, November 2022–July 2023. *Irish Journal of Sociology*, 32 (1-2).

This article has been cited by the Northern Ireland Executive (2025) and LSE think tank (2024).

**Brandon, A.**, Emandache, E., & Iwaniec, A. (2024). Social Media, Newsworthiness, and Missing White Woman Syndrome: A Criminological Analysis. *Social Sciences*, 13(1),44.

Cited by: the Missing and Murdered African American Women Task Force, State of Minnesota, USA.

**Paolucci, V.**, & Roche, W. K. (2024). Social partnership, company-level collective bargaining and union revitalization in Ireland. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 45(4), 1242-1271. DOI:10.1177/0143831X231220136.

Cited by: PubliPolicy.ie.

## Launch of TOPIM

**Dr Samantha Hallam** co-developed and launched TOPIM, a new tropical cyclone hurricane intensity prediction model across the Caribbean during 2024 to 70 meteorological offices, and disaster recovery agencies across the Caribbean to assist with near real time hurricane prediction and future scenario planning. Further information action can be found here <https://www.topim.org/news>.

## High Court Judgment

**Dr Orla Kelleher** and her co-author Dr Andrew Jackson, assistant professor at UCD, were extensively quoted in a recent High Court judgment *Friends of the Irish Environment v Government of Ireland* (Friends II) [2025] IEHC 61. See High Court judgment here: <https://lnkd.in/eeZ59niS>

## Policy impact

In December 2024, **Dr Clíodhna Murphy** undertook a review of the EU's revised Anti-Trafficking Directive, and its implications for Irish law, for the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. The review will inform the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission's work as Ireland's Independent National Rapporteur on the Trafficking of Human Beings.

**Dr Clíodhna Murphy** has been appointed to the newly-formed Education and Training Committee of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, as one of seven Committee members. In April, the Committee began its work towards implementing structural reforms to the system of education and training of solicitors and barristers.

**Dr Sinéad Ring** has been re-appointed by the Minister for Justice to the Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee of the Judicial Council. <https://judicialcouncil.ie/sentencing-guidelines/>

**Dr John Reynolds** was invited to give expert evidence to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade.

PhD candidate Sarah Reynolds was invited to participate on a panel at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels.

**Prof Michael Doherty** has contributed to a new

UNI Europa report on the state of play in the transposition of the EU's Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages.

**Dr Mary Dobbs** and **Dr Orla Kelleher** launched 2 policy reports: *Constitutionalising Environmental Rights – Practical Insights Into the Irish Context* with a panel consisting of Senator Alice-Mary Higgins, Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Cliona Kimber SC, Seán McCabe, and Beth Doherty and The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) independent research report titled "The Environment, Human Rights and the Windsor Framework."

Stemming from the second Irish Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) meeting, a policy brief was produced by leading Irish scientists: Audrey Morley (University of Galway, Ryan Institute, iCrag), **Dr Gerard McCarthy** (co-chair), Enda O'Dea and Tido Semmler (Met Eireann). The brief highlights the urgent need for Ireland to prepare for potential disruptions caused by changes in the AMOC, which could significantly affect weather patterns, marine ecosystems, and socio-economic systems. Importantly, it stresses the need for clear, accurate communication of AMOC science to policymakers and the public to guide informed decision-making and climate action.

**Dr Michael Hayden's** research contributed to the findings and recommendations in the Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming report launched by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



**Prof. Brian Donnellan** and **Caroline Creamer** led a report, *The 21st Century Councillor in*

*Irish Local Government*, commissioned by the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG). The findings will help to inform and strengthen the AILG's Learning and Training Development Programme and support councillor well-being.





# MU Research Awards 2024



Each year Maynooth University recognizes the research and impact achievements of our academic and professional staff. In 2024, four FSS colleagues received MU

Research Achievement and Graduate Research Academy awards. The awards were presented during Research Week in October. Congratulations to our colleagues!

## Early Career Research Award



**Dr. Bríd Ní Ghrainne**

*School of Law and Criminology*

This award honours individuals who have demonstrated exceptional promise through innovative research, contributing new knowledge and ideas within their discipline in the early stages of their career, and who demonstrate potential to become future leaders in their field.

Brid is an expert in the Law of Forced Migration. She has published widely on the topic in books and journals, such as *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, *Human Rights Law Review*, *Legal Studies* and others, and has authored two books.

## Mid-Career Research Award



**Professor Aisling McMahon**

*School of Law and Criminology*

This award is for academics who have made significant contributions to their field and have demonstrated sustained excellence in research and impact that advance knowledge, enhancing the university's profile.

Aisling is an expert in health law and intellectual property law. She has led numerous nationally and internationally funded projects related to bioethics in the patenting and licensing of medical technologies. She is the founder of the UK and Ireland Patent Scholars Network and was recently appointed by the Minister for Health to the Irish National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Trials. She publishes in leading journals in the field and regularly presents her research to national and international bodies, such as the WHO, and the US National Academy of Sciences.



## Excellence in Research Outputs Award



**Dr Ian Marder**

*School of Law and  
Criminology*

This award celebrates colleagues who have produced outstanding research outputs. This award honours those whose scholarly outputs significantly contribute to advancing knowledge and enhancing the university's reputation in their respective fields.

An expert on restorative justice, Ian maintains an active research pipeline and has published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals. His work is also often cited in the media on topics related to the criminal justice system, sentencing, crime and safety, and restorative inquiry.

## Graduate Research Academy Award



**Dr Olga Ryazanova**

*School of Business*

The Graduate Research Academy Research Supervision award recognises academic supervisors who have played a vital role in supporting their students in their research and their career planning.

All research students are eligible to nominate their supervisors outlining the role that their supervisor has played to help them develop their research and professional skills.

## SPUR Undergraduate Research Symposium Award

Each year the SPUR event showcases the research work of our undergraduate students who have successfully completed their summer research in the SPUR program. The students showcase their work at the research symposium in poster form, and discuss their research with fellow peers, university staff and judges. Each faculty selects a winner, and the audience selects their favourite poster.

The winner in the Faculty of Social Sciences was **Sharon Tyndall**, mentored by Dr Linzi Ryan, Dr Derek Barter, Dr Nuala Whelan, and Dr Margaret Nugent, for the research project “Barriers to lifelong learning for the older adult” (a collaboration between the Departments of Design Innovation and Adult and Community Education).







## Department of Adult & Community Education

This report has been prepared to capture the research activities of staff in the Department of Adult & Community Education over the 18-month period between Jan 2024 to June 2025. The report recounts the range of engaged research and public activities with which we have been involved, and documents the research collaborations, funded and unfunded; significant appointments, awards and honors; key publications and other research achievements by staff and students in the department. Reflective of the ethos of a department of adult and community education, our research and teaching are interrelated, as evident in our research, postgraduate programmes and the wide range of community engagement. Equally noteworthy is the range of activities and partners with whom we work, through engagements across departments and units of Maynooth University, with external community, policy and education partners across Ireland, and internationally with a wide range of European and African research partners.

We have a well-developed research agenda, reflective of our position as the leading research partner in adult and community education in Ireland, conducting research for key national education agencies, which allow us to engage with statutory agencies and civil society partners on key issues of national significance. Our research seeks to support democratic and transformative approaches to adult education underpinned by a commitment to equality and social justice. Specifically, the department continues to lead nationally and is a key contributor internationally on research on; 1) inclusion in adult and teacher education; 2) widening access and

participation; and 3) critical pedagogy, popular education, and transformative learning.

During this period, we also were awarded the first Erasmus + Capacity-Building in Higher Education which Maynooth University has held. This marked a key shift for the department from research partner to leading international research collaboration with a significant award of €800,000. We also continue to hold one of the first Erasmus Teacher Academies awarded in the TUTOR inclusive education project (2023-2025) which has been hosting the mobilities and training of educators from Austria, Greece, Ireland, and Turkey. These projects and networks involve a wide range of partners across over 11 European countries and 2 African countries on diverse themes including inclusive education, capacity building of higher education, transformative learning, sustainable local enterprise, and active citizenship. The projects enable us to engage with a wide network of collaborators including learners, educators, practitioners, community partners and policymakers across Europe. We also have an extensive record of publications, engagements and communications with community, academic, research and policy audiences as outlined in the dissemination section.

During this period, the department had 12.5 academic staff in 2025 and 151 postgraduate students engaged in research across 6 major postgraduate programmes from Postgraduate Diplomas to Master and Doctoral degrees in year 2024-25. Noteworthy in the Department's student profile is our extensive doctoral level commitment, across the Structured PhD in Adult and Community Education, and the

Doctorate in Adult and Community Education Programmes with 19 students pursuing doctoral degrees (6 PhD, 13 EdD).

In the following sections of this report, we outline how our scholarly work is closely related to our collaborative and participative approach to research and our engaged research with practitioners, stakeholders, and communities. This is congruent with Maynooth University's inclusion and civic engagement objectives, and supports the ethos, reputation, and strategic goals of Maynooth University.

## Engaged Research and Impact

This section documents the engaged research and ongoing engagements staff have been involved in, describing the scope and impact of the engagement within Maynooth University with other departments and units; and with community, education, policy and other partners external to Maynooth University. In many instances multiple partners within and external to the university are involved through ongoing engagements we have sustained and developed over a number of years as recounted below.

### Internal collaborations

The Department of Adult and Community Education has continued to run the highly successful ComMUniversity programme, widening participation, community engagement and access on collaboration with the Depts of Law and Criminology, Philosophy, History, Psychology, with 45 participants completing two ComMUniversity programmes in 2024-2025. It is set to continue and expand in 2025-2026 with a new Interdisciplinary Degree presented to Community/Employment/Guidance staff from community and the statutory sectors.

Staff have offered research seminars with other colleagues and departments/ units across Maynooth University including sessions on relational pedagogy of kindness for the Centre for Teaching & Learning, MU, in December 2024 and Reflecting on your pedagogical year: Practice and Identity. Centre for Teaching & Learning MU Showcase, in May 2025. With staff from Dept of Anthropology, we have been the co-organiser of Annual MU Intersectionality Lecture with Dr Eburn Joseph. 'Intersectionality: When Race, Gender, and Skin Color Intersects' in June 2024; and with staff from Dept of Applied Social Studies, at DFHERIS All Staff Meeting in Maynooth University on 'Social Cohesion - Empowering Citizens, Embracing Diversity, and Expanding Opportunities' in Jan 2025. Staff were on the Maynooth University CTL Panel of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Ex-change: From awareness and intentions to action and outcomes in May 2025. We have engaged in the Athena Swan self assessment preparation across the department, engaging in surveys of staff and students at postgraduate level in collaboration with the Office for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

We have conducted ongoing inter-departmental research on the experience and impact of the Irish language curriculum on the Turn to Teaching Foundation Cert and published [an article](#) in the Irish Educational Studies. In addition, Turn to Teaching programme continued biographical research on emergent teacher identities, including 3 art-based workshops with the graduating student-teachers who came from the Turn to Teaching access programme into ITE, with Froebel, the Dept of Early and Primary Education. Staff are also involved in research and engagement





*Turn to Teaching.*

through the Finnish International Schools in Asia project with the Education Dept.

We have engaged in evaluations of the impact of reflective practice initiatives in Professional Military Education which has been an ongoing collaboration with Dept of History and the Irish Defence Forces over the past number of years.

### **National Collaborations**

Staff in the department has been involved in significant ongoing public engagements related to our research activities. The ongoing nature of these engagements are key to building sustained ongoing relationships. We hosted the Higher Education Lifelong Learning In Ireland Network/ ComMUniversity Spring Think in event in March 2025. This event had 70 people in attendance with the Principal Officer of Student Support & SUSI at Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and her staff presenting and engaging with an audience of community based adult education staff, university access officers from around Ireland, registration and fees office staff from various universities as well as academics involved in Adult and Community Education.



*ComMUniversity Spring Think 2024.*

Much of our public engagements are based on ongoing relationships which have built over several years with significant ongoing impact for the partner organisation, for example through ongoing work with the Irish Defence Forces in educational programmes and postgraduate research where there has been a clear impact in their practice. Through postgraduate research and our Masterclass Series, and as Speaker at the National Lifelong Guidance Forum, we have supported the Continuous Professional Development of Adult Guidance Practitioners in Ireland. These masterclasses open spaces for Adult Guidance Practitioners to connect with expert academics in way that is mutually enriching and informative. Staff has also delivered online sessions on delivering Employment Guidance in a time of low unemployment to the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOU) in Jan and Feb 2024, and Feb 2025 with 100+ practitioners in each session, and an Employment Guidance Workshop for the Irish Local Development Network with 30 Managers for a one-day session, in April 2025.

We have been developing a research collaboration with UNESCO chair on issues-based art education including community organisations in inner city Dublin (Design and Innovation, Froebel) as an

interdisciplinary, international project including local community organisations in engaged and meaningful ways. Staff have collaborated in the ATU/MTU led PATH 4 partnership in researching, designing, implementing and dissemination of an asynchronous course on Universal Design for Senior Leaders in Tertiary Education. The course bridges the knowledge gap about universal design at leadership level in universities, leading to a top-down approach that addresses and meets the needs of grassroots practitioners, advancing policy and practice coherence. The network consortium has built strong professional relationships across all tertiary education, at a national and policy level on the principle of inclusive practice, including universal design. We have been engaged in ongoing network-building and research on inclusive approaches for people with intellectual disabilities to access higher education, which has enabled considerable public awareness and advocacy for people's right to education, including the INCLUDE-ID network with TCD, TU Dublin, ATU and TUS.

Staff have also been involved in a range of ongoing external research engagements including ongoing work on a walking project with subsequent publications and podcasts, as well as ongoing evaluation of the practice and experience of teaching and directing an initial teacher education programme for Further Education, which has resulted in publications and conference workshops. Staff are completing research charting feminist activism in Ireland both historically and to the present day, based on interviews and testimonies.

### **International collaborations**

We have a wide range of external partners from universities and civil society

organisations through our funded research projects which are described in a later section, but of significance here is the range of engaged policy partners involved in inclusive education at EU level (Belgium), and educators at national levels in Ireland, Austria, Turkey, and Greece. Other funded projects involved collaborations within Maynooth University through the SEED Project with ICARUS, Micro-credentials Office, as well as local community stakeholders and community associate partners, and international partners in Belgium, Italy, Malawi and Zambia.

We have engaged in or hosted significant international public engagements, including as invited speaker at the Northwestern Institute for Global Affairs (Illinois, USA) to discuss the Irish struggle for abortion rights in Nov 2024, sharing Ireland's experiences with an audience of thousands and comparing this to trends and issues across the globe. We hosted a public event for the sector and colleagues in October 2024 with the internationally recognised leader in adult and further education, Professor Stephen Brookfield.

The TUTOR Erasmus + research project has developed and delivered CPD training which has been impactful in creating a community of likeminded, social justice-oriented educators from early childhood, primary, second level, FET, adult education and higher education, with participants noting the unique nature of this intersectoral networking across education areas. Participant testimonials cite the impact through their evolved practice in schools, colleges, and places of learning but also inclusive education experiences for children and adult learners.

## Significant Events

Staff in the department have hosted the ComMUniversity and HELLIN events, as well as the annual Addiction Studies/Psychology certificate courses spring seminar, with a keynote address by Marica Ferri, MSc, PhD Head of sector, Health and social responses, Substance use, harms and responses unit of the European Union Drugs Agency. This included presentation and dialogue between a prodigious organisation speaking about Drug Trends in Europe, responses by local Community Response Addiction and Family Service Team Leader from the Dublin North Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force and staff from MU Addiction Studies programme and Men's Aid.



*Hellin conference 2024.*

The public event in Nov 2025, Critical Conversations with Professor Stephen Brookfield was hosted with over 170 attendees, bringing adult educators together from across the Island of Ireland and facilitated rich discussion across a range of topics pertinent to critical pedagogy.

We also hosted an annual gathering of national FET practitioners across the sector, which is important in sustaining contact with the field which we service in our work. We hosted UNESCO chair, Dr. John

Johnston in April 2025 and held a two-day seminar with interested colleagues and art educators around Ireland in MU. It was a thought-provoking event, which inspired further collaboration. We also had multiple seminars with Masters students in Education departments on Equality, Difference, Challenging DEIS stereotypes, etc. with our networks of teachers from underserved backgrounds. These seminars included speakers and case studies for student-teachers to work on together with these experienced teachers. We held a poetry workshop with the experienced teachers from DEIS schools with the support of Arts Council former artist in residence, Colm Keegan.

We hosted a series of Masterclasses for Guidance Counsellors, as well as developed and facilitated a series of CPD Masterclasses for Guidance practitioners including; i) 'From Challenges to Triumphs: Career Counselling in the Face of Uncertainty' in May 2024 with guest speaker Dr Deirdre Hughes (OBE University of Warwick, Institute for Employment Research); ii) Socially Just Career Guidance and Sustainable Futures in March 2025, with guest speaker Professor Tristram Hooley (University of Derby) and iii) 'Conceptualizing 'Calling' in Lifelong Guidance' in May 2025, with guest speaker Dr Gill Frigerio (University of Warwick). These Masterclasses offer a one-day CPD for Adult Guidance practitioners working in a range of settings (education, employment, prisons, community etc.) to reflect on practice, consider new ideas and debates in the field, engage with colleagues, develop new networks etc.

Though the TUTOR Erasmus + inclusive education project and the Digital Entrepreneurship for Women (DEW) project,

we hosted international academics, adult and community education practitioners, further education stakeholders and policy makers in a series of international mobilities, training and webinars. We hosted the Annual Symposium of Critical and Feminist Research Special Interest Group, Education Studies Association of Ireland 'Humanising Education: Declaration of the Global Forum for Educating for the Third Millennium' in June 2025 with Professor Ron Barnett and Professor Kathleen Lynch.



*Humanising Education Symposium 2024.*

## Funded Research

This section outlines the research collaborations and their impact. This includes a range of funded or unfunded project, with partners nationally and internationally which has significant ongoing impact for communities. This includes ongoing research in widening participation, access and community engagement through the ComMUniversity which has included the involvement of various community based actors such as Waterford Area Partnership, South Dublin County Partnership, City of Dublin ETB, Southside Partnership, Financial Justice Ireland, Cork City Partnership, Louth Local Development, AONTAS, Wexford Local Development, Co. Wicklow Community Partnership, Kildare Wicklow ETB, Northside

Partnership, Inner City Renewal Group, County Kildare LEADER Partnership. Research collaboration with Limerick Traveller Network/Exchange House has supported 12 peer-researchers employed by Exchange House Ireland to complete action research to assess and improve educational outcomes for Travellers by exploring alternatives, with findings disseminated nationally and internationally using easy access formats including reports, videos, fliers.

Ongoing partnership with the Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies, The Irish Defence Forces, has contributed significantly to improving and developing Professional Military Education. The ongoing development of the Turn to Teaching project has included key engagements with the DES/DFHERIS and National Tertiary Office in their developmental work on a new Tertiary degree for Primary ITE. This has also included collaboration with Dunboyne College of Further Education on alternative pathways and FE-HE collaborations to primary teaching profession on request from the National Tertiary Office. The multiple inter-university partnership called the HE-FE Forum has enabled us to explore issues and collaborative research opportunities for ITE providers for FE teacher education.

Through the Centre for Studies in Irish Protestantism, we have engaged in research with community organisation representatives in Belfast, Lisburn, Derry/Londonderry, Lurgan and Fermanagh. This is part of long-term engagement with community leaders, building on conflict intervention work since 2015. The impact of the engagement to date has been to extend network capacity to contribute to dialogue



on a national, cross border and policy level, about issues of identity impacting upon the protestant population on the island of Ireland.

The department, alongside colleagues in the department of sociology, worked with activists and activist educators across Europe on an Erasmus plus funded collaborative project called the Movement Learning Catalyst (MLC). Maynooth alongside ULEX, European Alternatives and ECON examined how to best enhance to build transversal and transnational capacity of progressive social movements. In 2024 we concluded a year-long learning programme, working with a cohort of activists both through residential training, online seminars and peer mentoring. We published a book length curriculum including a guide to good practice in pedagogy. Alongside this we finished an extensive, and highly novel, piece of empirical research on movement learning and popular education. Collaboration with members of the MLC network is ongoing through consultancy and engaged research.

Staff research examining political communications and practitioner perceptions of the politics of fear, with communication consultants, communication officers from NGOs and elected representatives provides a deep analysis of the nature of democratic political communications.

Our engagement has allowed us to develop significant responses to identified community and societal needs. We have engaged in a series of community Needs Analysis at a national level, exploring the continuous professional development (CPD) needs of practitioners, managers and leaders in the further education, community

education and adult education sectors, ii) a needs analysis of the continuous professional development (CPD) needs of practitioners, managers and leaders who are working in the addictions sector, including the HSE. The Wider Benefits of Learning-National ETB led research project building a strategic framework to devise, pilot and validate a Wider Benefits of Learning Tool, making effective use of existing practice, learning and international evidence to measure the social and personal impact learners experience in FET.

The absence of specific continuing professional development (CPD) in Universal Design, Universal Design of Education (UDE) and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for higher education and further education senior leaders was identified as a deficit potential at senior leader level to sustainable and strategically support impacts to tertiary education systems. A collaborative project has produced a bespoke self-paced course addressing the fundamentals of UD and its implications for strategy, policy and practice that builds on the outputs from a national symposium and subsequent research across all tertiary and policy institutions.

We have also engaged in partnerships which enable us to evaluate and offer recommendations for practice and sustainability for community-based projects and programmes. The WALKWAYS project with the disability support provider, WALK and City of Dublin ETB, has allowed us to work with staff and tutors to evaluate the innovative WALKWAYS programme in further education for students with intellectual disabilities. We worked in collaboration with Mayo Roscommon Local

Area Employment Services to explore Travellers' perceptions of employment and



*SEED at Zambia Ministry of Education.*

entrepreneurship, and to support their development, aspirations and opportunities through a six-week employability programme which included a daylong session at Maynooth University. The project team includes employment staff, trainers, local stakeholders, and policy makers. The outcome will be the development and dissemination of a comprehensive evaluation report for policy impact.

International collaborations include the Erasmus + Capacity Building in Higher Education SEED - Capacity building for Sustainable community-based Enterprise Development project (2025-2027), European Commission (2025-2027) with partners in Belgium, Italy, Malawi and Zambia, to develop community-based and climate-sensitive approaches to sustainable local enterprise training amongst Malawian and Zambian higher education institutions. This is the first Erasmus CBHE project led by Maynooth University and the project has a key contribution and ongoing future impact by enhancing community and higher education institutes capacities to co-develop community-based and climate-sensitive approaches to sustainable local enterprise training amongst Malawian and

Zambian higher education institutions, by developing new micro credentials for the Malawian and Zambian system.

The TUTOR Erasmus + Project is an Erasmus+ funded 3 year study examining inclusive education at second level and further education and training, focusing on the experiences of three cohorts: (1) Migrant & Ethnic Minoritised Communities (2) LGBTQI+ communities (3) Communities experiencing or historically experienced Socio-economic Disadvantage. It explores all three with a combination of feminist, critical education, and intersectional lenses. This engaged with over 100 Irish stakeholders from primary level, second level, FET and adult education, a series of three public webinars with 150 participants, and also 132 educators who took part in CPD courses delivered online in April and May 2025 in Ireland, with approximately 300 others participating in the CPD courses in Austria, Turkey, and Greece. The IETTAC - Innovations in Education for Transnational and Transversal Active Citizenship (Erasmus+) project builds on longstanding engagement through participatory and engaged research with activists inside and outside the university, resulting in groundbreaking research and programmes with activists. The Finnish International Schools Project in collaboration with Dr. Maija Salokangas, Education explores the impact of international schools in Asia. The Erasmus + TUTOR - Teachers' upskilling aiming at a holistic inclusivity in learning (2022-2025) is an international consortium with Austrian, Belgium, TUTOR project which research and develop mobility training, internationalisation strategies and train the trainers for educators responding to the needs of students from marginalized communities, including LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities, migrants, and

socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Staff have worked as part of a consortium to develop the ESF+ BRIDGES project application which was successfully funded in May 2025. BRIDGES is a three-year project that aims to adapt and transfer elements of successfully tested approaches to Long Term Unemployment in Berlin (DE), Vienna (AT), Bologna (IT) and Dublin (IE). It brings together partners experienced in subsidised employment interventions and active labour market measures, which are targeted, holistic and employment led. It aims to foster continuous mutual learning among organizations, staff, and communities of practice, where these innovative employment measures will be tailored to local contexts. It aims to contribute towards improved services and policies.

## Significant Appointments, Awards and Honors

Significant appointments, awards and honors (e.g., fellowships, editorships, international, national and MU research awards) include a staff member being nominated for Maynooth University individual teaching award (March 2025), a MUSSI award for organising a conference.

Significant student achievements include their successful journeys in Access, Widening Participation and Community Engagement, through the Turn to Teaching and Continuing Education certificates where students are at the beginning or engaging in their academic journey and engaging in university more fully as well as volunteering, community service or other social responsibilities that they would not have had the opportunity to become

involved with otherwise. Through to work produced by students on the BA Local Studies/BA Community Studies which has been deemed to be outstanding by the academic departments involved, and the postgraduate research thesis of the Masters of Education and Doctoral students, including an award holder of the Research Council GOI Doctoral scholarship.

## Publications

Staff in the department have been involved in a range of diverse publications and ways of communication our research engagements and activities during this period.

### Books

**Fitzsimons, C. & O'Neill, J.** 2024. *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*. London: Anthem Press.

**Fitzsimons, C.** 2025. *Rethinking Feminism in Ireland*. London: Bloomsbury.

Vandenabeele, J., Schreiber-Barsch, S., & **Finnegan, F.** 2024. Sustainability: Place, Space and Pedagogy in Adult Learning and Education. *European Journal for Research on the Education and Learning of Adults*, 15(3), 227–381. <https://doi.org/10.3384/rela.2000-7426.5549>.

**Finnegan, F. & Merrill, B.** 2024. Class matters: social class and adult education, *Sisyphus: Journal of Education*, 12 (1) 1-107.

### Book Chapters

**Fitzsimons, C.** 2024. Critical Education and the Irish Repeal Movement' In: *Lived Experience, Lifelong Learning, Community Activism and Social Change*. London: Routledge.

**Fitzsimons, C.** 2024. Philosophical Foundations: Applying bell hooks'; Engaged Pedagogy to FET Context;' In: *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*. London: Anthem Press.

**Fitzsimons, C. & O'Neill, J.** 2024. Critical perspectives and FET in Ireland' In: *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*. London: Anthem Press.

**Fitzsimons, C. & O'Neill, J.** 2024. A Precarious Profession' In: *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*. London: Anthem Press.

**Grummell, B.** 2024. Influence of Freire and Training for Transformation on Local-Global Linking in Global Education in Community Development and Higher Education in Ireland' In: *Global Education in Ireland: Critical Histories and Future Directions*. London : Bloomsbury

**O'Neill, J.** 2024. *Architectures: Challenges and Opportunities for Creative Applications across Europe* (pp. 89-105). Bristol: Bristol University Press.

**O'Neill, J.** 2024. 'A Winter Sun: Creative Reflexivity as Practitioner Research'. In *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*. London: Anthem Press.

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

**Barter, D.** 2025. Lifelong Learning and the Older Learner'. *Prism Education Journal*

**Barter, D.** 2025. Maynooth University *Maynooth Philosophy Supplement*, Issue 2: Philosophy and Education

**McGinn, A.** 2024. Militaries, gender and peacekeeping: An identity perspective, *Journal of Military History and Defence Studies*, 4, pp, 200-214

**O'Neill, J.** 2024. Burns, G.; Ní Ghloinn, A.; O'Neill, J.; Ní Ghallchobhair, C.; Whelan, K.; Nic an Bhaire, M. (2024) "Overcoming the fear": the story of the Irish language in a programme promoting diversity in the primary teaching profession'. *Irish Education Studies Journal*.

**Murray, M.** 2024. Fear, class and quiescence: Activist views on the 'sinister' narrative during the Irish anti water charges campaign

(2014–2016). *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, 11(3), 320–344. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23254823.2023.2200823>

**Murray, M.** 2024. You Go on One of These Protests, Your Child Could Get Hurt . . . ' Fighting Political Fear and the 'Sinister' Narrative During the Irish Anti-Water Charges Campaign (2014–2016). *Critical Sociology*, 51(6), 1133-1147. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920524126292>

**Matson, S. & Salokangas, M.** 2025. How the commodification of education impacts Local and Finnish teachers' identity when working in a Finnish international school in Asia. *Globalisation, Societies and Education*, 1–12.

**Matson, S.** 2025. The least adult role or a playful researcher? Considering an adult's role when researching with children. *Childhood*, 0(0)

**Nugent, M.** 2024. Deepening Dialogue in Silent Spaces: An Exploration of Pedagogical Informed Practice in Adult and Community Education Spaces within Communities in Contention. *Journal of Dialogue Studies*. 12 (12) 262-275.

**Nugent, M.** 2025. The Future is Vegetarianism. Development Education's role in radically transforming the food industry. *Policy and Practice: A Development Education Review*. Issue 40. ISSN: 2053-4271.

### Media

**Grummell, B. & Matson, S.** 2024. In Review: An LGBTQI+ Inclusive Classroom – In conversation with Jamie Kenny, TUTOR Ambassador - <https://dacemaynooth.com/2024/02/14/in-review-an-lgbtqi-inclusive-classroom-in-conversation-with-jamie-kenny-tutor-ambassador/>

**Grummell, B. & Matson, S.** 2024. TUTOR Webinar Series in Review: Empowering Every Student – Reimagining Inclusive Education -



<https://dacemaynooth.com/2024/07/24/tutorial-webinar-series-in-review-empowering-every-student-reimagining-inclusive-education/>

**Grummell, B. & Matson, S.** 2024. "Empowering every student: reimagining inclusive education – Macdara Deery (TUTOR Ambassador), with Katriona O'Sullivan, Declan Markey, and Emma Tierney, 15th May

**Grummell, B. & Matson, S.** 2025. Teaching to Transgress: Towards Racially Inclusive Education - Melanie Groening McKenna, (TUTOR Ambassador) with Lilian Nwanze, Siphwe Moyo, and Audrey Byran, 30th Jan

**Grummell, B. & Nugent, M.** 2024. The SEED Capacity Building in Higher Education research project . Education Department newsletter, Maynooth University.

**Matson, S.** 2025. 'Perfection is the tool of the Oppressor' Teaching to Transgress: Towards Racially Inclusive Education FB Live - Sinead Matson, TUTOR newsletter, <https://tutor-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/fourth-edition-of-the-TUTOR-Newsletter.pdf>

#### Other

**Finnegan, F., Cox, Laurence., Arribas, A. & Hemmermann, A.** 2024. Movement Learning Catalyst: Findings on movement needs, activist training and popular education pedagogy

Ahlers, J., **Finnegan, F.**, Cox, Laurence., Tota, M. & Assoc. 2024. MLC Guide To Learning for Systemic Change

**Matson, S. & Grummell, B.** 2025. The TUTOR Project: Reimagining Inclusive Education in Second Level and Further Education. Ireland's Yearbook 2024. Education Matters, Co. Kerry.

**O'Neill, J.** 2024. 'Walking to church: childhood and community ... with Lilian around Maynooth' [Podcast Feb 2024] [https://open.spotify.com/episode/547Kvo0T](https://open.spotify.com/episode/547Kvo0Tn66lYbXwpKUxV9?si=Mnnxc3K2Q5qhyo6D6Gl9VQ)

[n66lYbXwpKUxV9?si=Mnnxc3K2Q5qhyo6D6Gl9VQ](https://open.spotify.com/episode/547Kvo0Tn66lYbXwpKUxV9?si=Mnnxc3K2Q5qhyo6D6Gl9VQ)

**O'Neill, J.** 2024. 'I love to know the stories of cities – walking into stories of place ... with Lilian around Maynooth' [Podcast Mar 2024]

Vally, S., **Finnegan, F.**, Novelli, M. & Dey, J. 2024. In memory of Aziz | Learning from social movements, radical education and digital surveillance, JAACKLA

### Key research achievements

As people grounded in an adult education practice, we envision research as an ongoing and almost always externally invisible process of critical reflexivity. The outcomes listed throughout this report are some of the outcrops of much that is subterranean where the impact can be felt more as tremors, ruptures, or even new territories in personal positions, perspectives and, importantly, as practice in groups and ways of living and being in the world.

Our longitudinal research capturing Turn to Teaching students' development throughout the years as learners, teachers, and thinkers. This research gives an accurate idea of the impact of access programmes and alternative pathways for learners coming from diverse walks of lives. It also informs policy on equity and education in Ireland and beyond. We are working on publications to make these stories known by different audiences.

The international collaborations and networks of training involved in the TUTOR Project which has significant impact for educators from all sectors in their inclusive practice across Europe.

The SEED Capacity Building in Higher Education project (2025-2027) with partners in Belgium, Italy, Malawi and

Zambia, has a huge potential impact in countries which are very vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity. This project has a key contribution and ongoing future impact by enhancing community and higher education institutes capacities to co-develop community-based and climate-sensitive approaches to sustainable local enterprise training amongst Malawian and Zambian higher education institutions.

In the midst of the Coolock Says No protests, we managed to run a ComMUniversity with residents from the Coolock/Darndale/Artane/Kilbarrack/Beaumont area that had 30 participants, enabling an intercultural sharing of experiences, histories and cultures between those moving into the area and people who had grown up in that area all of their lives.

Through writing and publication, such as *Rethinking Feminism in Ireland* book, staff have developed groundbreaking research and made a significant contribution to Irish discourse on feminist activism. It was shortlisted, then selected for open-source publishing by Bloomsbury.

## Department Institutes/Centres

Though the **Centre for Studies in Irish Protestantism**, we have guided an important time of transition of the centre leadership, including assessing adaptive leadership needs in collaboration with community organisations in Northern Ireland and the border counties. Reconnecting with, advancing and supporting community engagement research interventions with leaders in communities in Northern Ireland and the border communities has been critical. This

longitudinal approach and engagement with Loyalist, Unionist, Republica and Nationalist leaders in post conflict community contexts is supportive of rebuilding society during what is often a fragile peace building process and managing expectations during disruptive Brexit discourses. The engagement has a lasting transformative impact on trust and relationship building at local level, supporting the de-escalation of tensions during critical times throughout the calendar of commemorations. The research helps in connecting and aligning of policy priorities at governmental level.

**The Centre for Research in Adult Learning and Education (CRALE)** is the department's research centre and is the only national research centre for adult education research. Since 2012, CRALE has worked on funded research projects in Europe, Palestine and Africa, often with other departments in the University or with universities outside Ireland. Its learner-centred, innovative participative methodologies and transformative research aims aligns with the University's goal to research the major societal challenges of the 21st century.

It develops engaged research highlighting the importance of linking personal and professional experience, teaching and research, community engagement and innovative research partnerships with communities and researchers to bring about significant change and social action in the conditions of disadvantaged communities. CRALE organises and supports events and research in DACE and in adult education nationally, including the bi-annual doctoral research symposiums.

**Department of Anthropology**  
& Centre for Global Development

In 2025, the Department of International Development joined the Department of Anthropology and became the Centre for Global Development. From January 2024 to June 2025, the enlarged Department of Anthropology has produced innovative, engaged research at the intersections of global development, technology, health, security, social change, and environmental studies. Major projects have examined such diverse topics as digital ageing and care, the water crisis, and genomic relatedness in human lineages. The Department has also worked on global security, addiction and recovery, migration, museum collections, and the anthropology of education.

## Engaged Research and Impact

Dr A Jamie Saris organized Art Exhibition, *What's the Story? Breaking Down Barriers and Building Stronger Communities* by The Union for Improved Services, Communication and Education (UISCE) at the CREOLE Intensive Programme, MU, June 2024.



A Jamie Saris and Videon Simon (U Dar es Salaam). Workshop on Ageing in East Africa, at the University of Dar es Salaam, May 2024.

## International collaborations

The Centre for Global Development's Dr Eilish Dillon participated in the Irish Development Education Association's Formal Education Working Group, advising on the importance of integrating global citizenship and development education into its Vision 2030 strategy for development education in Ireland. She also represented the Irish Development Education Association on the Education for Sustainable Development Advisory Group for the Department of Further and Higher Education and, as a signatory to the IDEA Code of Good Practice in Development Education, she joined the advisory group for its Ireland-Latvia partnership project to support good practice in development education in both countries.

Other international collaborations include work with Genome Asia, and *Community Stories and Conversations in Kenya: A Curatorial Practice of Care that Transcends beyond the Walls of European Museums* and African Digital Heritage, Project BEDROCK (Building Educational capacity and ecosystem for trust in AI and Robotics-aided Care and Knowledge

sharing), and the World Council of Anthropology Associations.

Prof Hana Červinková (Anthropology), together with Dr Majella Dempsey (Education), launched an interdepartmental research seminar in Anthropology and Education, which is international in scope with a strong component of engagement with practice.

## Appearance in the Media (Selections)

**Saris, A.J** Science Fiction and Tech, *The Brendan O'Connor Show*.

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22351011/>

**McGonigle, I.** [朝日新聞社](#) - The Asahi Shimbun (one of Japan's leading newspapers), 大航海時代の南米先住民族の滅亡 免疫の遺伝的な多様性低下も要因か,  
<https://www.asahi.com/articles/AST6D20NST6DUTFL027M.html>

**McGonigle, I.** Why a Singapore-based team is trying to sequence 100,000 Asian genomes, *CNBC The Edge*,  
<https://www.cnbcm.com/video/2025/05/12/why-a-singapore-based-team-is-trying-to-sequence-100000-asian-genomes.html>

## Publications in the Media

- **Maguire, M.** and Alexandre Rodde. 2025. "Are We Prepared for Future Emergency Evacuations?" RTE Brainstorm.
- **Saris, A J.** Why an Ageing Population in Africa Deserves More Attention. RTÉ Brainstorm.

## Engagement with Industry/Practice

- **Dillion, E.** (with Dóchas). Putting Critical Learning at the Heart of Ethical Development Communications among INGOs.  
<https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/id/eprint/19237/>
- **Maguire, M.** 2024. Plenary lecture, "Future Policing Challenges: Opportunities for

University-Law Enforcement Agency Collaboration," Airpol Congress, Presidential Palace, Bucharest, Romania, 09.10.24.

- **Maguire, M.,** and Pete Fussey. 2024. Plenary lecture, "The First Line of Defence: improving security standards for major events," Emergency Response & Awareness Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 11.4.24.
- **Chipangura, N.** *Ongoing African Collections Collaborative Provenance and Biographical Research with a variety of Museums internationally*

## Membership in Industrial/Public Sector Bodies

**Prof David Prendergast.** Advisory Board Member, **visual-ITN** – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovation Training Network: Privacy-Aware and Acceptable Video-Based Technologies and Services for Active and Assisted Living; Member of the Smart Dublin Network; Board Member, Sona Sasta Meals on Wheels; PhD Supervisor, SFI Advance Centre for Doctoral Training in Advanced Networks for Sustainable Societies

**Dr A Jamie Saris.** Member, Editorial Boards *Culture Medicine and Psychiatry* and *Reviews in Anthropology*

**Dr Njabulo Chipangura.** Editorial board member of *Museum International* (Taylor and Francis) and *Museums and Society* (University of Leicester Open Journals)

**Prof Mark Maguire.** Editorial Board Member, *Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale*; Editorial Board Member, *PARISS: Political and Anthropological Research in the Social Sciences*; Editorial Board Member, Humanitarianism and Security Series, Berghahn Press; Editorial Board Member, Organizational Studies Series, University of Bristol Press.

**Prof Pauline Garvey.** Editor-in-Chief. *Home Cultures*



**Jessica Dickson.** Board Member ‘The Solidarity Cinema Series’—an initiative in partnership with the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies. Florida Atlantic University

**Dr Chandana Mathur.** Editorial committee member of *Dialectical Anthropology*, Advisory board member of *Feminist Anthropology*.

## Significant Events

As part of the process of disseminating the research arising from the book *Global Education in Ireland: Critical Histories and Future Directions*, Eilish Dillon launched the book at Maynooth University.

Dr Eilish Dillon gave the keynote address at the IDEA Annual Conference in September 2024 on ‘What Difference Does Global Education Make? Reflections to mark 20 years of IDEA and on Future Directions’.



2024 June. Ethnography Summer School. Maynooth University. Keynote Speaker: Dr Dale Pesmen.

Eilish Dillon also gave the keynote address on the receiving of certificates by educator participants on the Certificate in Global Citizenship Education at Maynooth University in June 2024, titled ‘Sharing the World: Reflections on (over) 50 years of Global Education in Ireland.’

Prof Hana Červinková (Anthropology) together with Dr Majella Dempsey (Education) organized a one-day international conference in March 2025, New Approaches to Participatory Action Research in Social Sciences, co-sponsored by the Maynooth University Social Science Institute and the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies. Keynote speaker (Prof. Beth Rubin, Columbia University) facilitated a workshop with participants using work from her latest book, *Youth Participatory Action Research in Your Classroom: Teaching and Learning for Active Citizenship*.



Dr Chandana Mathur organised the Scholars at Risk Ireland Symposium on Academic Solidarity in March 2025.

Chandana Mathur presented a paper titled ‘SDG6 and an engaged anthropology of water’ at the WCAA Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals in Johannesburg in November 2024.

Chandana Mathur presented a paper titled “The Solidarity of Labour and the Labour of Solidarity: The Mnemonic Significance of Irishwoman Mary Harris Jones in the US Heartland Today” at the SOFEIR-UCC ‘Ireland and Transnational Solidarities’ conference in March 2025.

Dr Njabulo Chipangura presented “An auto-ethnographic account of decolonised museum solidarities in the Global South and North” during the Decolonising Museums and Colonial Collections: Towards A Transdisciplinary Agenda and Methods”, 12 March 2025, Figueira da Foz Museum, Portugal.

Njabulo Chipangura was also Africa Day Lecture 2025; Panel Chair at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 26 May 2025. (See photo below):



Njabulo Chipangura also presented a paper at the British Zimbabwe Society Research Days, 19 June 2025, Oxford University on “Towards an Ethic of Decolonial Care in Museums” (See photo below):



Session: *Praxis and the “Third Age”: Processes of Resistance and Accommodation to “Ageing” in Comparative Perspective* (Organised by **A Jamie Saris**). American Anthropological Association, Tampa, FL

Presenters:

**Prendergast, D.** “Divorce and the Later Life Course: three case studies from Northern Ireland.”

**Garvey, P.** “Building Retirement: Scaffolding choice and obligation in Dublin homes.”

**Saris, A.J.:** “Ageing Names and Naming Ages: Uncertain Satisfactions in ‘Old Age’ for Research and Other Purposes.”

## Funded Research

Dr Eilish Dillon, Centre for Global Development, worked in partnership with Dóchas on an Irish Research Council New Foundations project on ‘Building Capacity for Ethical Global Development Communications: GCE Approaches, Learning Needs and Guidelines for Practice.’ Alongside other important outcomes, a resource hub was developed for the Dóchas website [www.dochas.ie/resources/ethical-communications/](http://www.dochas.ie/resources/ethical-communications/)

Dr Chandana Mathur worked with Prof Honor Fagan (Sociology) to coordinate the social science work package of the PANIWater project, one of the seven India-EU water cooperation projects. The EU, through its Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the Government of India (Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology) invested circa EUR 40 million (INR 323 crores) on seven projects – PANIWATER among them – with an average duration of 4 years.



## Significant appointments

Prof David Prendergast, European Research Council. Appointed Panel Member for the panel SH8–Studies of Cultures and Arts in the evaluation of ERC Starting Grants 2026.

Prof Hana Červinková was appointed a Visiting Professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria (March) followed by a Visiting Professorship in the Department of Anthropology at Grinnell College, Iowa, USA (April).

Prof Mark Maguire became a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Dr Chandana Mathur was appointed as a review panel member for 2025 for the European Research Council panel SH8: Studies of Cultures and Arts.

Chandana Mathur was appointed as a member of the Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom of the European Association of Social Anthropologists in July 2024.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

**Congratulations to Drs Chrissy Skelton and Miriam Teehan on successful PhD completion and graduation.**

Chrissy Skelton. 2024. *Race, Rescue, Rehome: Irish Greyhounds and the Multi-Species Family*.

Supervisors: Prof Pauline Garvey & Prof David Prendergast

Miriam Teehan. 2025. *From 'Cottage to creche' and Back: An Examination of Childcare and Au-Pairship in Ireland*.

Supervisors: Prof David Prendergast & Prof Pauline Garvey

Dr Shirley Howe successfully completed her viva in September 2024 to gain a doctorate in Geography and Anthropology for her thesis

entitled 'Of Land and Ocean: Climate change vulnerability and resilience on Inishbofin Island'.

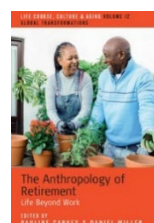
Supervisors: Prof Conor Murphy (Geography) and Dr Chandana Mathur (Anthropology).

Thomas Spitzfaden presented a paper, "Ageing, Addiction, and the Practice of Recovery" at the session, *Praxis and the "Third Age": Processes of Resistance and Accommodation to "Ageing" in Comparative Perspective* (Organised by **A Jamie Saris**). American Anthropological Association, Tampa, FL.

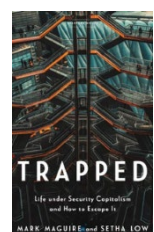
## Publications

During this time period, the Anthropology Department collectively authored 14 publications, (3 books and 11 articles/book chapters), and one ethnographic film).

### Books



**Garvey, P.** and D. Miller eds. 2025. *The Anthropology of Retirement*. Oxford: Berghahn Books.



**Maguire, M.**, and Setha Low. 2024. *Trapped: Life Under Security Capitalism and how to Escape it*. Stanford, C.A.: Stanford University Press



Seidel, K., **Prendergast, D.** and **Saris, A.J.** 2025. *From Legacies to Futures: The Lifeworlds of Older Adults in Europe*. Oxford: Berghahn Books



**Dillion, E. N.**, Gaynor, G. McCann, and S. McCloskey, eds. 2025. *Global Education in Ireland: Critical Histories and Future Directions*. London: Bloomsbury.



## Articles/Book Chapters

- Dickson, J.L.** 2024. "COVID Variants and Colonial Remnants in South Africa's Media Industries." In *Unmasked: Media Industries in Crisis*, Mayer, V., Banks, M., and Lavie, N. (eds.) Routledge
- Elena S. Gusareva, GenomeAsia100K Consortium, **I. McGonigle**, et al. 2025. From North Asia to South America: Tracing the longest human migration through genomic sequencing. *Science* 388,
- Pandian, S. and **I. McGonigle**. 2024. "Engineering Trust in Singapore's Covid-19 Response." *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 1-24.
- Cheung, R. and **I. McGonigle**. 2024. 'Journey to the Future': Temporal Imaginaries in Contemporary Dubai. *Anthropology Today* 40(6): 19-22.
- McGonigle, I.** (2024) Review of 'A Race for the Future: Scientific Visions of Modern Russian Jewishness' by Marina Mogilner. *Isis* 155(2): 420-421.
- Low, Setha, and **M. Maguire**. 2024. "Security Inside Out: The Danger of 'Interiority' in a World of Inequality," *Anthropology Now*, 18(3): 1-11.
- Maguire, M.**, and David A. Westbrook. 2024. Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Counterterrorism: the 'Realities' of Security Practitioners and Technologists. In *States of Surveillance: Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice*, edited by Maya Avis, Daniel Marciniak, and Maria Sapignoli, 164-176. London and New York: Routledge.
- Low, Setha, and **M. Maguire**. 2024. "Writing Urban Security," *City & Society*, 36(1): 57-59.
- Maguire, M.** 2024. "Ireland Unfree - Biographical Reflections on Academic Freedom. Part I," *PARISS: Political and Anthropological Research in the Social Sciences*, 5 (1): 5-39.
- Maguire, M.**, and Setha Low; Russ Castronovo. 2024. "Dialogue: Russ Castronovo's *American Insecurity* and Mark Maguire and Setha Low's *Trapped: Life Under Security Capitalism and How to Escape It*," *Perspectives on Politics*, 22 (4): 317-333.
- Chipangura, N.** 2024. "Decolonising the Archaeology of Indigenous Artisanal Gold Mining in Eastern Zimbabwe." *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage* 10 (3-4): 215-232.
- Chipangura, N.** 2024. Ethically Contested Exhumations in Eastern Zimbabwe: A compromise between spiritual approaches and scientific practices. In *The Ethics of Collecting Trauma: The Role of Museums in Collecting and Displaying Contemporary*, edited by A. Bounia and A. Witcomb. London: Routledge.
- Chipangura, N.**, Farai Chabata, and Lennon Mhishi. 2024. Where are Nehanda's remains? A Zimbabwean search in the context of shifting museum politics. In *Fifteen Colonial Thefts: A Guide to Looted African Objects in Museums*, edited by Sela Adjei and Y. Legall. Las Vegas and London: Pluto Press.
- Nyamushosho, Robert T. and **N. Chipangura**. 2024. "Mixed Memories: rethinking the loss and transformation of the colonial heritage archive in the aftermath of the Jagger Library inferno and Rhodes Must Fall Movement." *Social Dynamics* 50 (1): 97-101.
- Kodate, N., Kohli, P., Maeda, Y., Obayashi, K., **Prendergast, D.** and Masuyama, S. 2024. 'Assembling Sociality in Caring Spaces: Culturally Sensitive Robot Deployment During the Pandemic in Residential Care Homes in Ireland and Japan'. *Engaging Science, Technology and Society*. 10 (3) 181-206 .
- Dillion, E.** 2024. Ireland. In *Global Education in Europe, National Histories Volume 1*. Global Education Network Europe (GENE).
- Dillion, E.** 2024. Towards Critical and Postcritical Global Education. In *Critical Perspectives on Further Education and Training*, eds. C. Fitzsimons and J. O'Neill. London: Anthem Press.



## Film

Licensed Film: **McGonigle, I.** [Director/Producer] (2024) *Technologies of the Soul: Ancient Wisdom in the Smart Nation*. [A documentary about technological change in contemporary Singapore] (60 min). Licensed by Salt Media in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines.

<https://smix.asia/index?mid=Technologies-of-the-Soul:-Ancient-Wisdom-in-the-Smart-Nation>

## Department Institutes/Centres

Anthropology Department members are involved with the **Maynooth Social Science Institute (MUSSI)**, and the Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute.



## Department of Applied Social Studies

From January 2024 to June 2025, the Department of Applied Social Studies at Maynooth University demonstrated a strong and diverse research profile, with notable outputs in rights-based research, youth work, community work, social work, social justice and human trafficking. During this period the Department was home to 15 academic staff, 2 postdoctoral researchers, 2 practice development coordinators and 3 administrative staff. The Department was also home to 55 taught and 13 research postgraduate students.

Over the 18-month reporting period, the Department brought in over €500,000 in research funding and published 29 Scopus-indexed contributions as well as several policy and practice research projects which contribute directly to national policy and practice development.

### Engaged Research and Impact

The Department of Applied Social Studies has a vibrant portfolio of community-engaged and policy-relevant research. Below we describe a selection of the wide-ranging research activities and impact generated by researchers in Applied Social Studies in 2024-25.

#### Engagement with Communities, the Public Sector, and Practice

Marianne O'Shea delivered an invited keynote at the Ann McGeeney Trust Fund + Community Foundation Northern Ireland Conference: *Looking Back, Reaching Forward, Challenges & Opportunities for Women on the Island of Ireland*.

Sinead McMahon Coffey delivered an invited keynote – *The Value of Universal Youth Work in Ireland* (Pinnacle Youth: Tipperary ETB Conference, 2024).

Marianne O'Shea, Brian Melaugh and Rory Hearne contributed to the MU-Wide collaboration between Academics and Policy.

Makers: *Roundtable on Addressing Drug Use and Drug Dealing in Dublin's North East Inner City*.

### International Collaborations

The Department is involved in several international collaborations including the project *Measuring the impact of youth organisations (MIYO)* by Dr Hilary Tierney and Prof Maurice Devlin, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships led by World Organisation of Scout Movement (WOSM) and YMCA Europe; Rory Hearne and Niamh Flanagan's Horizon Europe funded *Involve Project* and Hilary Tierney and Ciara Bradley's Erasmus+ project *Professional Development for Diversity*.

### Significant Events

The Department hosted significant events including Niamh Flanagan's international conference on *Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery* in 2024.



In 2025, Hilary Tierney, Maurice Devlin and Danny Connelly organised *(Re)Valuing Partnership in Youth Work: Looking back, taking stock, moving forward* in association with Education and Training Boards Ireland and the National Youth Council of Ireland. 200 people

attended including youth work practitioners, policymakers, academics, and advocates to reflect on the legacy of the 'In Partnership with Youth' policy, examine contemporary youth work, and explore future possibilities of youth work in Ireland.



## Funded Research

The Department received funding for a multitude of research projects during the period including *Measuring the impact of youth organisations (MIYO)* by Dr Hilary Tierney and Professor Maurice Devlin, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships led by World Organisation of Scout Movement (WOSM) and YMCA Europe <https://impactofyouth.org/>

The outputs of the project were taken up the Department of Education and Youth, who have contracted MU to develop a national *Impact Measurement Tool for the Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative (TYESI)* led by Ciara Bradley, Kathryn McGarry and Danny Connelly.

Mags Crean, Calvin Swords and Niamh Flanagan received MUSSI funding for *It takes a village: Research Evaluation of a community-led, school-based initiative dedicated to supporting the well-being of primary school children. Greystones.*

Mags Crean, Johanna O Shea and Patricia Brennan received funding for the research and evaluation of the *Zero Tolerance Meath community prevention project.*

Hilary Tierney and Ciara Bradley lead the Erasmus+ funded project *Professional Development for Youth Workers*

Jenny Säilävaara was awarded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship for [INFEDE: Infant feeding decisions in two cultural location](#), which examines the factors influencing mothers' decisions on infant feeding in two cultural locations: Ireland and Finland.

## Significant Appointments

Department members were invited to serve on journal editorial Boards:

Sinead McMahon Coffey co-edited a special issue of *Ethics and Social Welfare* in 2024. Ciara Bradley was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Community Development Journal* in 2024 and a Visiting Lectureship the *Department of Gender and Sexualities*, University of Malta in 2025.

Members of the Department also contributed to a wide range of civil society organisations:

Sinead McMahon Coffey was appointed to the Tipperary ETB Youth Work Advisory Board. Daniel McFadden was appointed to the expert panel of the Inspector of Prisons in Ireland. Marianne O'Shea was appointed on the Expert Advisory Group of the Feminist Communities for Climate Justice Ireland and Convener of the Community Work Ireland Policy & Practice Group. Saoirse Reynolds Conlon appointed to



the City of Dublin Youth Services Youth Work Committee and the EU Youth Dialogue National Working Group. Seamus Taylor was appointed to the Board of the Irish Network against Racism.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

Thomas McCann graduated from the Doctor of Social Science in September 2024. He is the second Traveller man to achieve a Doctorate in Ireland.



## Publications

In 2024-2025, members of the Department of Applied Social Studies published 1 edited book, 19 articles and 10 book chapters.

### Journal articles

**Bradley, C., Gorman, J. and Tierney, H.** (2025) 'A journey, not a destination: Emerging professional identities of community work and youth work students', *The Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning*, 21(1-2).

**Bradley, C.** (2024) 'Review of: Socially just practice in groups: a social work perspective', *Groupwork*, 30(3), pp. 56-58.

Farrell, E., Symonds, J., Devine, D., Sloan, S., **Crean, M.**, Cahoon, A. and Hogan, J. (2024) 'What does well-being mean to me? Conceptualisations of well-being in Irish primary schooling', *Health Education*.

**Crean, M., Moore, B., Devine, D., Symonds, J., Sloan, S. and Martínez Sainz, G.** (2024) 'Qualitative research during the COVID-19 pandemic: the impact of remote research on the collaborative production of methodological knowledge',

*International Journal of Research and Method in Education*.

**Crean, M.** (2024) 'Book review: The Making of a Left-Behind Class – Educational Stratification, Meritocracy and Widening Participation by Fred Powell, Margaret Scanlon, Patrick Leahy, Hilary Jenkinson and Olive Byrne', *Social Policy and Administration*.

**Flanagan, N. and Wilson, E.** (2025) "If there was one piece of advice I could give you as you go on placement, it would be about 'soft skills': Practice Teacher's advice to Social Work students", *The Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning*.

**Flanagan, N., Wilson, E., Dowzard, P., Sharkey, T., Woods, C., Barry, A., Cockerill, S., Doyle, C., Forsyth, H., Fry, J., Gleeson, J., Langheld, E., Langheld, N., Lowe, D., McConnell, R., Molloy, N., Moutray, C., Murray, L., Reddy, S., Ritchie, H., Sandall, A., SoneLenou, C., Trosset, L., Wilson, M. and Woods, E.** (2025) 'Continuing a conversation about racism with teenagers: using the social work research dialogue approach', *European Social Work Research*, 3(2), pp. 164-181.

**Flanagan, N. and Wilson, E.** (2024) 'A dialogue approach to teaching social work research: experience, dialogue, meaningful research, and publication', in *The Routledge International Handbook of Social Work Teaching*, pp. 28-45. London: Routledge.

McFadden, P., Bloomberg, H., Kallio, J., Kroll, C., McCartan, C., **Flanagan, N.** and Wilson, E. (2024) 'A common purpose? Social work students' social justice-related views in Finland and the island of Ireland', *The British Journal of Social Work*, 54(3), pp. 1236-1255.

Gleasure, S., Devine, D., Martínez Sainz, G., Sloan, S., **Crean, M.**, Moore, B. and Symonds, J. (2024) "This is where the care can step up": a typology of nurturing pedagogies in primary schools serving low-income communities during COVID-19 closures', *Early Childhood Education Journal*.

Greaves, M., Devine, D., Martínez Sainz, G., Moore, B., **Crean, M.**, Barrow, N., Sloan, S., Symonds, J. and Ioannidou, O. (2024) 'Failing by design: exploring the current lived experiences of a low-socioeconomic status boy in primary school', *Curriculum Journal*, 00, pp. 1-18.

Marder, I., **Flanagan, N. and O'Shea, J.** (2024) 'Embedding a culture of interdisciplinary open research in criminal justice: a new partnership



for Ireland', *Irish Probation Journal*, 21, pp. 159–189.

Martínez Sainz, G., Devine, D., Sloan, S., Moore, B., **Crean, M.**, Barrow, N., Greaves, M. and Gleasure, S. (2024) 'A rights-based exploration of children's pedagogical voice in the classroom', *Education* 3–13.

**McMahon, S.**, Forde, C. and Wadhwa, G. (2024) 'Editorial: Ethics of youth work practice in the twenty-first century: change, challenge and opportunity', *Ethics and Social Welfare*, 18(2), pp. 107–114.

**Pierce, M.**, Darley, A. and Lafferty, A. (2025) 'Student carers in higher education institutions: a scoping review protocol', *HRB Open Research*, 8(9).

**Pierce, M.** (2024) 'Health services, 2023', *Administration*, 72(1), pp. 47–63.

**Pierce, M.** (2025) 'Health services, 2024', *Administration*, 73(1), pp. 51–67.

**Pierce, M. (2024)** 'Optimising the implementation of a dementia care education programme for healthcare assistants (home support): lessons from a qualitative study', *Age and Ageing*, 53(Suppl\_4).

**Swords, C. (2024)** 'Service user perspectives on recovery: the construction of unfulfilled promises in mental health service delivery in Ireland', *Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice*, 19(1), pp. 34–48.

## Book Chapters

**Bradley, C.** and Kavanagh, L. (2024) 'Challenging inequalities with critical biographical research methods', in Pulla, V. (ed.) *Biographical Research and New Social Architectures: Challenges and Opportunities for Creative Applications across Europe*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**Bradley, C.** and Kavanagh, L. (2024) 'Epistemology, research design and social justice', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Nwanze-Akobo, L. and **Benson-Olatunde, T.** (2025) 'What about us? A critical, autoethnographic conversation by two Black African women (BAW) about the intersectional nature of the challenges they experience in Irish academia', in McIlrath, L., Connolly, M., Maher, H. and Leeson, L. (eds.) *Transforming Gender Equality*

*and Inclusion within Higher Education in Ireland: Contemporary Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

**McGarry, K., Bradley, C.** and Kirwan, G. (2024) 'Researching for social justice: an introduction', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**McGarry, K., Bradley, C.** and Kirwan, G. (2024) 'Concluding thoughts', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**McGarry, K., Bradley, C.** and Kirwan, G. (eds.) (2024) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**McMahon, S. (2024)** 'Using post-structural policy analysis for social justice', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**McMahon, S., Bradley, C.** and Tierney, H. (2024) 'Using a social justice lens in research engagements for community work and youth work practice', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**O'Shea, J.** (2024) 'The potential for Q-methodology in promoting human rights and social justice: a case of social workers in practice research', in McGarry, K., Bradley, C. and Kirwan, G. (eds.) *Rights and Social Justice in Research: Advancing Methodologies for Social Change*. Bristol: Policy Press.

**Taylor, S.** (2024) 'Reflecting as a pracademic in policy land: using research and practice to advance social justice on the hate crime policy domain', in *Rights and Social Justice in Research*. Bristol: Policy Press.

## Policy Briefs

**Grimes, L. and Flanagan, N.** (2024) *Policy Brief: European Pillar of Social Rights*.

**Grimes, L.** (2025) *Policy Brief: The European Democracy Plan and European Defence of Democracy Package*.

## School of Business

The School of Business is home to a vibrant international community of research-active faculty. Broadly speaking, our research seeks to offer insights into the drivers of performance and analyses the impact of the interactions among different agents operating within the world of business – from individuals within organisations, to groups in organisations, organisations as a whole, to their ecosystems, markets, and regulation.

We believe that business is about solving problems and that rarely, if ever, does the solution come from one person or one disciplinary perspective. Therefore, our faculty approaches these research themes from different perspectives and engages in conversations and collaborations across different functional disciplines, e.g., Management, Management Information Systems, Human Resource Management, Organisational Behaviour, International Business, Entrepreneurship, Operations & Supply Chain, Marketing, Strategy & Innovation, Finance and Accounting.

### Engaged Research and Impact

Research is an important aspect of our mission. Guided by our research beacons, we aim to add value to the business community and wider economy by addressing topical issues and challenges and providing research-informed, actionable insights.

Here are **some examples** of how our faculty took their research beyond the university in engaging ways.

#### International collaborations

Dr. Brendan Keegan presented research findings at "Drammen before, now and in the future", a roundtable event in Drammen, Norway.

The presentations showcased insights from the NetZeroCities EU project, examining place-making and sustainable urban development in Drammen. The event attracted diverse



stakeholders including municipal representatives, community organisations, engaged residents, and visitors from surrounding areas. Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Health and Technology and HelseHub at the University of South-Eastern Norway, the session generated lively discussion about the temporal nature of urban development and the role of nature-based solutions in creating sustainable cities.

Participants provided valuable feedback and engaged with the research through questions and contributions, creating a meaningful knowledge exchange between academia and community. The event highlighted the practical applications of our faculty's research in supporting evidence-based urban planning and citizen engagement initiatives.

#### Appearances in the Media

Dr. Nicola Mountford published an RTE Brainstorm article on '[Who makes the decisions on Irish healthcare budgets – and whose voices get heard?](#)'

Dr. Tatiana Andreeva was interviewed by Mariia Kashirina for [Trinity Business Review](#), to explore the insights from Tatiana's ongoing research on the effects of hybrid work and reflect on the implications for young professionals who are just entering the workforce.

The School of Business launched a research podcast series on Spotify. Each [episode](#) featured a new faculty member discussing their current research as well as their experience in academia.



### **MU-led Research Informs New Agricultural Report**

With the support of research from Dr. Michael Hayden and Dr. Bridget McNally of the School of Business, the Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming report was launched by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD.

In the report, the Commission published its findings and recommendations with significant policy contributions from the research of Dr. Hayden.

### **Building research links with Trinity Business School**

Over the 2024-25 academic year, the School of Business developed a relationship with Trinity Business School to cross promote each other's research seminars, extending the invite to their own faculty members.

This has resulted in (i) promotion of School of Business research to TCD staff, with a view to developing collaborations (ii) creating greater awareness of MU's School of Business research activities, (iii) identifying potential guest speakers for the upcoming academic year.

Through this collaboration, we are now planning to jointly host a visiting researcher, Professor Stefano Pentano, Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania in April 2026 on the topic of AI.

### **Launch of the Fertility@Work Research Lab at Maynooth University School of Business**

As Ireland enters a critical period of regulatory change and expanded access to publicly funded fertility treatment, Maynooth University School of Business has launched a new research initiative, Fertility@Work Research Lab, led by Dr Valentina Paolucci and Professor Marian Crowley-Henry, to examine how workplaces can better support employees navigating infertility. Rooted in the university's commitment to equity, health, and wellbeing at work, the Fertility@Work Lab explores how multi-level systemic factors, alongside stigma and disclosure, shape the workplace experiences of individuals undergoing fertility treatment. The Lab brings together an interdisciplinary network of stakeholders—including fertility clinics, trade unions, HR professionals, employment law scholars and practitioners, and advocacy groups like NISIG—to co-produce evidence-based, inclusive policy recommendations.

Two pilot studies are currently underway. Pilot 1 investigates the implementation of Ireland's first workplace fertility policy at an Irish bank, focusing on the role of trade unions and employers in driving change. Pilot 2 builds collaboration between workplace researchers and medical professionals to explore how fertility care and employment accommodations intersect. Research funding is actively being pursued, and ethics applications are in preparation, with processes supported by partner institutions. In parallel with this research, the team is in dialogue with the university's EDI office to share findings and collaborate on developing a research-informed policy for staff. In doing so, the Fertility@Work Lab not only contributes to national and international policy discussions but also aims to lead by example in shaping inclusive practice within its own institution.



## Significant Events

This 2024-25 academic year was host to a number of events and conferences at the School of Business including the following:

### **IAFA & IAASA Conference on Integrating Sustainability Reporting and Assurance into Accounting Education**

Maynooth University School of Business hosted the joint conference of the Irish Accounting & Finance Association (IAFA) and the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) on Integrating Sustainability Reporting and Assurance into Accounting Education on campus on 1st November 2024. It was an all-day conference focusing on sustainability reporting and assurance, and its impact on accounting education. It was hosted by Dr. Michael Hayden (Assistant Professor of Accounting, School of Business).

The event was attended by over 100 delegates which included academics, educators, researchers, practitioners, regulators, policymakers and business representatives. It was the first conference in Ireland to bring together these various stakeholder groups associated with accounting education, thereby demonstrating the significant importance of this topic.

Discussions focused on two broad themes:

- The implications of sustainability reporting and assurance for accounting education.
- Changes necessary in accounting education to develop the future competencies required of graduates in respect to sustainability reporting.

Minister Dara Calleary (Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital Transformation and Company Regulation) provided an opening address.

### **13th Annual Action Research Colloquium**

The School of Business held the 13th International Action Research Colloquium in Maynooth University on 27th June 2025 led by



Professor Paul Ellwood, with an optional PhD workshop and Action Research Masterclass available on June 26th.

The theme of this Action Research Group Ireland's (ARGI) annual colloquium was Action Research for Learning and Education.

### **School of Business Research Seminar Series**

A calendar of research seminars was organised for the academic year including presentations from School of Business staff, visiting academics and the Research Development Office. Seminars were open to all School of Business faculty and were shared with the wider MU community via the MU Website, the MU Matters newsletter and the FSS email distribution list. School of Business PhD and Master's students were also invited to attend.

## Funded Research

The success of research funding at the School of Business is a testament to the quality of the research being undertaken across several faculty, **with MU School of Business now surpassing all other business schools in Irish Universities in terms of funding figures, both overall and per capita.** Below are some of the highlights from the past year.

Dr. Anu Priyadarshini of the School of Business, Maynooth University, along with her collaborators in DCU, MTU, UCC and UCD received €1.32 million in EPA funding to support two research projects aimed at addressing climate and environmental challenges.

Science Foundation Ireland have progressed the RENEW Challenge for the next stage of this



highly competitive funding - Grow phase - worth approx. €500,000. This project, led by Professor Fabiano Pallonetto and Dr. Amy Fahy focuses on advancing energy solutions across societal stakeholders.

A further project, RESSKILL, led by Dr. Amy Fahy worth approx. €200,000 is focused on upskilling and reskilling the workforce in the energy sector using a micro credential focus – a project built on the success of RES4CITY.

The Green Corridor initiative, a collaboration between the ports of Dublin and Holyhead with leading ferry operators, Irish Ferries and Stena Line, and supported by the environmental consultancy Ricardo, Maynooth University (including Dr. Patrick Rigot-Müller from the School of Business) and EDF, has received €143,621 in grant funding from the International Green Corridor Fund towards the total project investment.

### Research Seed Funding

The School of Business' Research Committee reviewed applications for seed funding of internal research projects, and awarded funding to the following diverse 11 projects:

- Dr. Shivam Agarwal, Biomarkers, money management difficulty and dementia
- Dr. Tatiana Andreeva, Understanding Knowledge Hiding in the Hybrid Work Environment
- Dr. Elisabetta Barone, The Impact of Mandatory Sustainability Reporting on Reporting Practice: A Comparative Study
- Dr. Tania Biswas, Leadership Practices in Distributed Work Mode
- Dr. Amy Fahy, REACHE: Renewable Energy Access for Community Health and Empowerment
- Dr. Jon Gruda, Cross-Cultural Study on Inclusive Leadership, Psychological Safety, and Employee Voice

- Dr. Brendan Keegan, The Role of the Extended Present in Place-making
- Dr. Amr Mahfouz, ResiLog – Building Resilient Supply Chains: Transportation & Logistics Adaptation to Geopolitical Disruptions in the Suez Canal
- Prof. Audra Mockaitis, Unpacking the Dark Triad: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Values, Personality, and Behaviour
- Dr. Nicola Mountford, Policy -making processes – a review
- Dr. Muhammad Waseem, Optimizing Building Energy Management Systems for Sustainability, Efficiency, and New Business Opportunities

### Conference Travel Scheme

34 faculty members were supported to travel to attend conferences abroad to present their research, including but not limited to: Academy of Management (Copenhagen), Academy of Marketing Science (Montreal), EMAC (Madrid), European Accounting Association (Rome), R&D Management Conference (Pisa), International Conference on Emerging Power Technologies (Pakistan), Global People Practice Conference Parys (South Africa), International Labour and Employment Relations Association (Durham), Academy of International Business (Miami), Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (Australia).

In addition, 25 faculty members were supported to attend the IAM conference in Maynooth University as part of this scheme. The aim of the scheme is to promote the wide dissemination of faculty research at reputable scholarly conferences.

### Significant appointments

- Dr. Michael Hayden was elected to the Council of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

- Dr. Olga Ryazanova joined the British Academy of Management as a member of their editorial review board.
- Prof. John Cullen was nominated to the Psychologists Registration Board (CORU) by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science to represent 3rd level institutions involved in the education of psychologists. Prof. Cullen was appointed by the Minister for Health in July 2025.
- Dr. Nicola Mountford was appointed as a Member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Business Research.

## Awards and Honors

### Most cited paper Award

A paper by Dr. Tatiana Andreeva (MU School of Business), co-authored with Dr Paola Zappa, University College London, was among the top 10 most cited papers in the Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology. Their 2023 paper demonstrates that gender plays an important role in knowledge hiding at work – that is, intentionally concealing knowledge from a colleague who requested it. The study finds that men hide their knowledge from colleagues at work more frequently, and when they do so, they experience no penalties while women do.

### Journal of Global Mobility Best Paper Award

Professor Audra I. Mockaitis won a Best Paper Award at the European Academy of Management (EURAM) conference in Florence, Italy.

The paper, "Adjustment and intra-individual value change in migrants: The mediating role of host country embeddedness," was one of three finalists and the ultimate winner of the Journal of Global Mobility Best Paper in the Global Mobility Track.

### Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Adam Keeley received an Outstanding Service Award for his roles as both Division Secretary and Division Communications Director in the Academy of Management (AOM). He was recognized for his exceptional service at the AOM conference in 2025.

### MU Team Public Engagement Award

The RENEW project team received the 2025 Team Award for Public Engagement at the MU President's Awards.



Now in its third year, RENEW is funded by the National Challenge Fund through Research Ireland and led by Professor Fabiano Pallonetto and Dr. Amy Fahy, a stakeholder engagement expert from the IRESI Centre in the School of Business. The team also includes Carrie Anne Barry from the Centre for Ocean Energy Research and Department of Electronic Engineering, and Peter Hamilton, formerly with Kildare County Council.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

Over the last 3 years, the School of Business has seen an increase of 40% in PhD students.

The Annual PhD Symposium took place on 20th March 2025.

This annual symposium provides an important opportunity for our PhD students to share their research, receive valuable feedback, and



engage in meaningful discussions with fellow researchers and faculty members.

## Publications

Our faculty regularly publish in the most visible and high-quality peer reviewed journals in the world and speak at international research conferences, as well as at practitioner events.

In 2024-2025 our faculty published 74 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Below are examples of the School of Business' publications, which were featured in the highest-ranking journals on the CABS ranking system of ABS 3 and above.

### Journal Publications

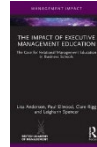
- Castellanza, L.** and Woywode, M. (2024). Types, determinants, and outcomes of entrepreneurial behaviours during crises. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 1-30. DOI:
- Chow, D.**, Humphrey, C. and Moll, C. (2024). Preserving hopes in accounting reforms—the case of WGA. *Public Money and Management*.
- Chugh, R., **Mockaitis, A.I.**, & **Nooshabadi, J.E.** (2025). It's all about resources: Narcissistic CEOs and entrepreneurial orientation during disruptions. *International Small Business Journal*.
- Crowley-Henry, M.**, Almeida, S., Bertone, S. and Gunasekara, A. (2025). Understanding female white migrant academics' career narratives: An intersectional feminist standpoint approach. *Gender, Work, and Organization*, DOI:
- Fernandez de Osso Fuentes, M., **Keegan, B.J.**, Jones, M.V. and MacIntyre, T.E. (2024). Conceptualizing digital placemaking in nature for wellbeing. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 204, p.123440.
- Dávila, G.A., **Andreeva, T.**, and Sætre, A.S. (2024). Using social integration mechanisms to boost absorptive capacity: Walking a tightrope. *European Management Review*.
- Flavin, T.** and Sheenan, L. (2024). Can green bonds be a safe haven for equity investors? *International Journal of Finance and Economics*.
- Gruda, D.**, Hanges, P., Miknevičiute, E., Karanatsiou, D. and Vakali, A. (2024). Every vote you make: Attachment and state culture predict bipartisanship in US Congress. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 222, p.112576.
- Hayden, M.T.** and Leonard, B. (2024). Concerns and barriers surrounding the farm succession process—perception versus reality for beef farmers in Ireland. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 112.
- Hoekman, J. and **Rake, B.** (2024). Geography of authorship: How geography shapes authorship attribution in big team science. *Research Policy*, 53, 2. .
- Mostafiz, M.I., **Ahmed, F.U.**, Tardios, J., Hughes, P. and Tarba, S.Y. (2024). Configuring international entrepreneurial orientation and dynamic internationalization capability to predict international performance. *International Business Review*.
- Mountford, N.** and Geiger, S. (2024). Public actor roles in market experiments: Innovating digital health markets in New York and Ireland. *Journal of Business Research*, 183.
- Nolan, J., Hogan, T., and **Hayden, M.T.** (2024). Financial literacy practices on family farms. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 112.
- Nooshabadi, J. E.**, **Mockaitis, A. I.**, and Chugh, R. (2024). Chief executive officer's dark triad personality and firm's degree of internationalization: The mediating role of ambidexterity. *International Business Review*, 102296. .
- Nyiauwung, J.**, **Smith-Auchmuty, A.**, and Piabuo, S. (2024). Work and Employment Practices in an Intriguing Sub-Saharan Context: Unpacking Salient Endogenous Traits. *Journal of Management Inquiry*.
- Paolucci, V.** and Roche, W., (2024). Social partnership, company-level collective bargaining and union revitalization in Ireland. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*.
- Paolucci, V.** and Roche, W. (2024). The unlikely success of coordinated bargaining in a liberal market economy: The case of Ireland. *Industrial Relations Journal*.

- Ryan-Charleton, T. and **Galavan, R. J.** (2024). Multimarket contact between partners and strategic alliance survival. *Strategic Management Journal*.
- Ryazanova, O., McNamara, P., and Andreeva, T.** (2024). When Hard-Working Bees Do Not Make a Productive Beehive: Legitimacy Tensions in Societal Impact Governance and How to Navigate Them. *Academy of Management Learning and Education*.
- Terpstra-Tong, J.L., Trevina, L.J., Yaman, A.C., ..., **Crowley-Henry, M.**, et al. (2024). Gender composition at work and women's career satisfaction: An international study of 35 societies. *Human Resource Management Journal*.
- Roche, W.K. and **Paolucci, V.** (2025). The Transformation of Pay Determination in Ireland. *Administration*, 73(3), 1-30.
- Sheppard, G.** and BECK, M.P. (2025). Divergent pathways: PPP developments in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. *International Public Management Journal*, pp. 1-18.
- Manning, J.** (2025). A decolonial feminist contribution to management studies: Introducing Maya women's communitarian organising. *Management Learning*.
- Mostafiz, M.I., **Ahmed, F.**, Ahammad, M.F. and Rahman, P.N.A. (2025). Entrepreneurial Cognition and Artificial Intelligence Adoption—Contingency Role of Innovation Ecosystem Resource Mobilization and Entrepreneurial Bricolage. *R and D Management*.

## Books



**Mockaitis, A.I.** & Butler, C.L. (Eds) (2024). *Elgar Encyclopedia of Cross-Cultural Management*. Elgar.



Anderson, L., **Ellwood, P.**, Rigg, C., & Spencer, L. (2025). *The Impact of Executive Management Education: The Case for Relational Management Education in Business Schools* (1st ed.). Routledge.

## Research Communications

Social media continues to be utilised to promote and share playback of our research seminars, as well as to share research news including funding wins, school events and academic achievements. Across our main channels, LinkedIn and Instagram we have seen positive follower growth and engagement with 3,647 followers on LinkedIn (+17%) and 355 followers on Instagram (+253%).

Items included on social media posts included coverage of Podcasts, research publications and funding news, coverage of research seminars, research events at the School of Business, and events attended by School of Business colleagues.



## Department of Design Innovation

The Department of Design Innovation is a small but dedicated collection of academics and practitioners working within our respective fields to meaningfully contribute to design research and education, at a national and international level. We are committed to instilling creativity, critical thinking, and practical skills in our graduates, as well as making a significant impact in the domains of professional, health, social and product innovation.

Design has always been essential in the development of goods, services, processes, and environments, linking creativity with innovation to generate practical and desirable solutions. In today's modern society, Design is no longer confined to traditional product development but extends into sectors such as public policy, sustainability, healthcare, and digital transformation. The growing global recognition of design as a driver of economic and social impact positions our department as potential leaders in socially, economically and environmentally relevant innovation.

### Key research partnerships (international collaborations) and engaged research

Dr Iain Macdonald (Head of Department) continues to work with his interdisciplinary and international research team involving Dr Céline Healy, Department of Education Maynooth University, and colleagues at Edinburgh Napier University on HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine education and advocacy in schools. Following the completion of their SFI Discovery grant their attention is now on working with the Irish National Immunisation Office and NHS Lothian in Scotland. NHS Lothian Pre-vaccine Workshops were delivered with 4 secondary

schools in Edinburgh, in collaboration with research colleagues from Edinburgh Napier University and Dr Céline Healy, Department of Education Maynooth University, April 2025.

Dr. Threase Kessie continues to provide a human centered design approach to strategy development across a wide network of partners. Over the past 18 months, Dr Kessie has worked with the Restorative Justice Services (in collaboration with Dr Alastair Brook – Department of Design Innovation & Dr Ian Marder – Department of Law and Criminology), Victim Support at Court, HSE Spark Innovation Programme, and the Department of Applied Social Studies at Munster Technological University, Cork, to help these teams co-create the strategic direction for the future of their organisations. Dr Kessie also led the human-centred design networking session for the 'Research Together' event, bringing health-focused charity partners and MU academics together to forge research collaborations. Dr Kessie and Dr Ryan collaboratively delivered a human centered design networking session for researchers from Dundalk IT and MU, to explore opportunities for cross-institutional research.

Dr Kessie currently sits on the Criminal Justice Open Research Dialogue network, coordinated by Dr Marder, where she provides human centered design support to this network.

Dr Alastair Brook successfully defended his PhD titled 'Architectural Storywork as a discursive design practice: on self-determined Indigeneity, architectural autonomy, and the transmission of knowledge through architectural discourses in Bali, Indonesia' at University College Cork. Dr Brook is currently collaborating with Dr Jack Lehane, Ecosystem

Manager of Smart D8, to construct an ethical roadmap for guiding public engagement with health and justice policies in the Kildare and Dublin areas. This process collates historic and present-day stories of ‘design justice’ in the region; where protagonists respond to social injustice by redesigning the systems in which they live. Dr Brook is also collaborating with Dr Oratile Mokgatla (Department of Design Innovation) to study ‘more-than-critical’ discursive design practices and similar decolonial possibilities within South Africa, the wider Global South, and the diaspora of the Global Majority. Building on academic collaborations with Dr Breda O’Driscoll on the MSocSc Social Work programme, described by external examiners as “a revolution in pedagogy”, Dr Brook and Dr O’Driscoll have secured SPARKS funding to embed innovation within social work practice. The main outputs will be a showcase within Maynooth University and a legacy resource booklet to pioneer this approach nationwide, capturing processes, tools, and student ideas for future cohorts and others.

Dr Linzi Ryan continues her research in the areas of health and healthcare reform. She is currently working with Debra Ireland on the development of a self-cooling sole to elevate orthopaedic complications caused by Epidermolysis Bullosa Simplex (EBS), more commonly known as butterfly skin. She collaborated with BAYADA, a homecare company providing care services for children with special needs, as part of a live module project; and hosted the ‘Design Thinking – User Centred Design approach to help inform research and innovation’ workshop RISE@ATU Postgraduate Research Training Program Summer School, teaching Engineering PhD students how to be creative problem solvers. In addition, she supervised Sharon Tyndall, who went on to win the best poster presentation at the All Ireland Conference for

Undergraduate Research (AICUR). She is currently collaborating with SHINE, Mental Health Reform Ireland and the University of Northumbria on a collaborative project around student mental health.

Senior Technical Officer Anthony Cleary continues his collaboration with University departments. In 2025, he collaborated with ICARUS and the Dept. Of Geography to create ‘Circus of Climate Horrors:’ a public outreach exhibition to engage the public on a range of climate change related discussions on topics such as global temperature and sea level rise, coastal and river flooding, Co2 levels, coral bleaching and sustainable energies. It was exhibited at a range of musical festivals including Glastonbury, All Together Now, and Picnic in the Park.

Oratile Mokgatla’s research focuses on decolonising Industrial Design education in the Global South, particularly in South Africa and Botswana. Her PhD work explores how decolonial pedagogies and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies can inform curriculum development, consolidating related fields such as product design and design engineering. She collaborates with Dr Brook on ‘more-than-critical’ discursive design practices across the Global South and diaspora and leads a Centre for Teaching and Learning Fellowship (2025–26) titled Empowering Teaching and Learning Practice in Product Design through GenAI, engaging students, staff, and industry partners across three universities. Oratile is also co-founder of the Wom+n in Tech initiative in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, which champions women’s participation and confidence in technology- and manufacturing-facing roles within the design industry in South Africa.

## Significant events hosted by the department

The AX1 Design studio hosted some significant events over the past 18 months:

- Dr Iain Macdonald and Dr Threase Kessie collaborated to curate and present the MSc Design Innovation 10th Anniversary exhibition and event for alumni and staff. The exhibition displayed student case studies and the impact that the program had on their careers.
- In February 2025, Dr Macdonald hosted fellow ex-BBC colleague Paula Williams from Ravensbourne University to jointly present a talk to launch their book *Designing the BBC: a history of motion graphics* to an audience of staff, students and friends.
- A collaboration with Laura Thornton, Froebel Department of Primary & Early Childhood, and Dr Dilara Bloom, Adult & Community Education secured a MUSSI Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute Conference and Seminar Grant of €1000. In April this facilitated the 2-day Conflict Resolution Through Issues-Based Arts Education event with UNESCO Chair Prof John Johnston, ArtEz University, Netherlands. This has led to the formation of an interdisciplinary working party to establish an inter-departmental UNESCO affiliation at Maynooth University involving community centres in Dublin situated in F2 Fatima.
- The Irish Doughnut Economy Action Lab, represented by Sophia McConnon hosted the first University-based Doughnut Economy Fishbowl Debate. The session was attended by MU staff and students and allowed for a discussion around the relevance of the self in the doughnut economy model.

- To launch his book, William Alister Macdonald, Dr Macdonald gave presentations in French at the Norman Hall Museum in Tahiti, and in English at The Guildhall Art Gallery, London, and in Scotland at The Scottish Arts Club, Edinburgh, and the Nucleus Caithness Heritage Centre in Wick.
- In February 2025, to launch the book, *Designing the BBC*, Academy and BAFTA award-winning Framestore production company in London hosted a special symposium with speakers from the BBC and the Creative Director of Framestore examining the past, present and future of motion graphics.

## Significant funded research

As co-Principal Investigators, Dr Kessie and Dr Linzi Ryan were awarded €380,000 under the Health Service Executive's Measuring Value in Healthcare Innovation funding call for a project titled 'HIVE: Health Innovation Value Evaluation.' Through a human centered approach, the HIVE project will capture the experiences of current frontline clinical innovators and co-design a series of frameworks to support the HSE Spark Innovation Programme further enhance the culture of innovation in the HSE.

Separately, Dr Threase Kessie collaborated with Dr Ian Marder (School of Law and Criminology) and successfully won the tender to complete the strategic planning consultation and writing for the Restorative Justice Services. Dr Kessie was also awarded €10,000 from the HSE to co-design the Spark Innovation program's research strategy.

Dr Linzi Ryan secured €18,000 in funding from the MU Seed Fund and match funding from Debra Ireland for the cooling sole project.

## Significant appointments, awards and honors

Dr Macdonald continues to be on the Editorial Committee of the International Journal of Art & Design.

Dr Kessie was the invited closing keynote speaker for the Irish Human Computer Interaction conference in MTU Cork, in November 2024, where she shared her experience of engaging in design led public sector innovation.



*Threase Kessie gives the iHCI keynote.*

## Celebrating research student achievements

Three graduates from the BSc Product Design and Innovation (2024 and 2025 student cohorts) have been nationally and internationally recognised for their final year projects. Laney Hyland Reilly won a HSE Spark Design on the Frontline Scholarship, and the Irish Design Institute's Medical Device Design of the Year. Andrew Meehan also won a HSE Spark Design on the Frontline Scholarship, as well as the internationally recognised Cumulus award for sustainable innovation. Zoe Mulroy Hehir was the Irish national winner of the prestigious James Dyson award her invention "Lymphia", a device that allows patients to perform lymphatic drainage independently.



*Zoe Mulroy Hehir*

The Department welcomes two new PhD students: Ed Harte (co-supervised by Dr Ryan and Dr Kessie), and Maxim Rakov (co-supervised by Dr Macdonald, Dr Ryan and Dr Kessie).

## Key publications

### Conference presentations:

'Powering Bridge Building and Connections through STEAM: Creative, Collaborative Initiatives for developing Immunisation Awareness.' (Healy, Macdonald, Malone, Gray Brunton, Firth) Educational Studies Association of Ireland Conference, Athlone.

Dr Linzi Ryan, Dr Threase Kessie, Dr Alastair Brook, Oratile Mokgatla hosted a workshop at the Possibility Studies Network Annual Conference, at Maynooth University. The workshop was titled 'Finding the Jam: Filling the Hole of the Doughnut Economy' and saw participants engage with the levels of personal accountability in the doughnut economy model.

Dr Kessie presented her collaborative research with the Spark Innovation Programme at the CHI '24 International conference in Hawai'i in May 2024.

Dr Linzi Ryan presented her work titled 'Collaborative Policy Development for Effective, Flexible Working' at the 25th European Conference on Knowledge Management.

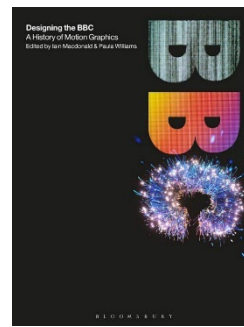


### Journal articles:

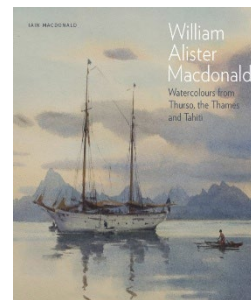
Marder, I., McCormack, P., **Finnegan-Kessie, T.** et al. (2024). Embedding a culture of interdisciplinary open research in criminal justice – a new partnership for Ireland. *Irish Probation Journal*.

McFindlay, P., Moseley, A. M., & **Mokgatla, O. R.** (2024). Bridging the Gap: An Action Research Pilot Study on Confidence Building for Women Design Students in Higher Education. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 26 (7): 11.

### Books:



**Macdonald, I. & Williams, P.** (eds) (2025) *Designing the BBC – a History of Motion Graphics*. London: Bloomsbury ISBN 978-1-350-38226-8.



**Macdonald, I.** (2024) *William Alister Macdonald- Watercolours from Thurso, the Thames and Tahiti*. Lewes, Sussex: Unicorn ISBN 978-1-916846-24-1.



## Department of Economics

The Department of Economics is a twelve-member department whose research addresses issues that are relevant to economic, health and social policy. Whether using theoretical methods or statistical analysis, we address important societal challenges with rigour and curiosity.

In our research in 2024-25, we published on diverse topics, from the effect of tariffs on productivity to the impact of childbearing on the gender wage gap; from the incentives for export cooperation in vaccines during a pandemic to the impact of Covid infection on professional footballers' productivity; from the effect of personality on female employment to the impact of in-utero exposure to rubella on lifetime health and educational outcomes.

Our engagement in policy-relevant research has led to our inclusion in advisory roles for various government bodies. By publishing high-quality research – as evidenced by the quality of the journals we publish in – we build a platform for having an input into policy decisions.

### Engaged Research and Impact

The policy relevance of our research leads to media interest in our work, membership of advisory bodies and invitations to policy conferences.

### Appearances in the Media

In September 2024, Dr Irene Mosca was interviewed by BBC Sounds about Marriage Bars around the world. Link: [The History Hour](#) (interview slot starts at 9:44).

In April 2025, Dr Aedín Doris contributed to an article on wealth disparity in Ireland published in The Irish Times. Link: [Wealth gap tensions](#).

Also in April 2025, Irene Mosca featured in Episode #39 of the podcast series *Arqus Knowledge Pill*. Link: [Arqus Knowledge Pills](#).

### Memberships of Advisory Bodies

Dr Aedín Doris was appointed to the Labour Market Advisory Council and to its Evaluation Sub-Group. The Council advises the Minister for Social Protection and the government on labour market policy.

Dr Irene Mosca was appointed to the External Advisory Group (EAG) of IGEES (the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service). The EAG provides independent advice to this important government function.

### Policy Conference Invitations

Dr Aedín Doris was invited to discuss Irish Higher Education Funding at an important policy conference hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in May, 2025. The conference's aim was to inform the Scottish government's



*Dr Aedín Doris, head of department.*

policy response to recent funding difficulties in Scottish universities and colleges.

## Significant Events

On 17 September 2024, the Department of Economics held a well-attended conference on campus in memory of our late colleague, Prof Donal O'Neill. Speakers included Prof John Kennan (University of Wisconsin, Donal's PhD supervisor), Prof Brenda Gannon (University of Queensland, Donal's PhD student) and two former colleagues, Prof Dirk Van de Gaer (University of Ghent) and Prof Peter Dolton (University of Newcastle).



Economists from various Irish universities acted as discussants on the excellent papers, which covered topics in labour economics, health economics and economic inequality.

In addition, a panel discussion (shown above) celebrated Donal's many important contributions to policy-making in Ireland, including on the Low Pay Commission and the Labour Market Advisory Council.

## Funded Research

Dr Irene Mosca and Dr Alex Farnell were awarded funding from the Ulysses scheme, together with Prof Peter Eibich of Université Paris Dauphine. The aim of the scheme is to foster new collaborations between Ireland and France-based researchers by providing seed

funding for reciprocal travel visits. The Ulysses scheme is sponsored by Research Ireland and the Embassy of France in Ireland.

The two-year project will investigate longitudinal changes in compliance with recommended childhood vaccinations in Ireland and France. Irene and Alex visited Prof Eibich in Paris in June 2025.



## Conference Presentations

Members of the Department of Economics have presented their research at a number of national and international conferences held at the Universities of Galway, Cork, Glasgow, Reading, Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Zurich and Bordeaux, at the Irish Economic Association Annual Conference in Belfast, and at the Central Bank of Ireland.

A notable achievement was that Dr Alex Farnell was awarded a travel grant by the Irish Economics Association (IEA) to present his research at the European Sports Economics Association conference in Rotterdam (Netherlands) in August 2024. The goal of the IEA Travel Grant Scheme is to aid in the dissemination and promotion of economic research by economists working on the island of Ireland. Funding is awarded based on the quality of the work, the quality of the



conference and the benefit of the conference to the applicant's research, network and career progression, with an emphasis on early career researchers.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

Dr Bruno Morando hosted Sita Majhi from January to March 2025. Sita is a third year PhD student from the Centre for Development Studies in Kerala (India). Sita was awarded a scholarship to visit an academic institution in Europe or the US, and she chose to visit Maynooth University under Bruno's supervision. At the end of her visit, Sita gave a presentation on her work to the Economics Department.

## Publications

Collectively, we have published 11 papers in highly ranked international journals between January 2024 and June 2025. Our collaborations with a wide range of co-authors, both international and Irish, indicate the breadth of our research networks.

**Doris, A., O'Neill, D. and Sweetman, O.** (2025) "Why do the earnings of male and female graduates diverge? The roles of field of study, motherhood and job dynamics". OXFORD ECONOMIC PAPERS.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oep/gpaf009>

Kilumelume, M. **Morando, B.**, Newman, C. and Rand, J. (2025) "Tariffs, productivity and resource misallocation". WORLD BANK ECONOMIC REVIEW.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhaf010>

**Mosca, I.** and Wright, R.E. (2025) "The Relationship between personality and employment: evidence from the Irish Marriage Bar". BULLETIN OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH.  
<http://doi.org/10.1111/boer.12499>

**Farnell, A.**, Mills, B., O'Sullivan, V., Simmons, R. and Berri, D. (2025) "The effect of task switching on productivity: evidence from major league baseball pitchers". OXFORD ECONOMICS PAPERS.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oep/gpaf004>

**Mosca, I.** and Nolan, A. (2025) "The long-term effects of in-utero exposure to rubella". OXFORD BULLETIN OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/obes.12663>

**Cuberes, D.** and Teignier, M. (2025) "Macroeconomic costs of gender gaps: the case of Mexico". ENSAYOS. REVISTA DE ECONOMÍA.  
<https://doi.org/10.29105/ensayos44.1-3>

Butler, D., **Farnell, A.** and Simmons, R. (2024) "Do sports analytics affect footballer pay?". FRONTIERS IN BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/frbhe.2024.1490871>

**Dewit, G.** and **Leahy, D.** (2024) "Export policy cooperation in a pandemic: the good, the bad and the hopeful". ECONOMICA.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.12552>

**Farnell, A.**, Butler, D., Rossi, G., Simmons, R., Berri, D. and Bamba, E. (2024). "Is there a nationality wage premium in European football?" SPORTS ECONOMICS REVIEW. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.serev.2024.100040>

Kampfen, F. and **Mosca, I.** (2024). "Heterogeneous effects of blood pressure screening". ECONOMICS LETTERS.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2024.111845>

Butler, D., Butler, R., **Farnell, A.** and Simmons, R., (2024) "COVID-19 infections and short-run worker performance: Evidence from European football", EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF OPERATIONAL RESEARCH.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejor.2023.12.017>



## Department of Education

The [Department of Education](#) at Maynooth University is a dynamic academic community with 20.5 full-time academic staff. It has a strong and vibrant tradition of research and scholarship, and its current research focus and outputs can be grouped across three key themes: professional studies; transformative pedagogies and spaces; and education, culture and social justice. Academic staff have formed collaborations with researchers, stakeholders and educational practitioners both locally and across the globe.

### Engaged Research and Impact

#### Internal collaborations

The Department's engaged research continues to be strongly collaborative and impactful. Colleagues work across MU units such as Psychology, Froebel, Adult & Community Education, Design Innovation, Maths & Stats, Geography, and Sociology, and contribute to university-wide initiatives including seminars, PLCs, Athena Swan, and ESD. Recent work includes Dr Tom Delahunty's collaboration with Sociology on critical perspectives of AI in education; Dr Majella Dempsey's advancement of STEM education through the SFI-funded CT4STEM proposal with Computer Science; and Dr Zerrin Doğanca Küçük's contributions to the 5S Project and co-development of the RI Discover Project application with the Biology and Geography departments. Inclusive education remains a strong focus: Dr Margaret Flood co-led a two-year UDL Fellowship spanning Business, Chemistry, English, and CTL, and facilitated UDL PLCs with the Froebel Department. Dr Ece Gokmenoglu co-delivered national CPD for guidance counsellor supervisors with Adult & Community Education, while Professor Bernie Grummell provided leadership on intersectionality through Athena Swan and contributed to the ESD Ex-change panel. Health

and wellbeing research is also prominent, with Dr Céline Healy co-leading an HPV communication in post-primary study with Design Innovation. Additional collaborations include Dr Diarmaid Hyland's work with Maths & Stats on task design and history of mathematics, Dr Elizabeth Meade's social justice research through the Ubuntu Network, and Dr Angela Rickard's leadership on Phase 2 of the 5S Project and development of LGBTIQ+ resources with the Froebel and Adult & Community Education departments. Finally, Dr Joe Oyler and Dr Maija Salokangas assumed the roles of co-directors for the Centre of Public Education and Pedagogy (CPEP).

#### External collaborations

The Department's research is strengthened by extensive national and international partnerships. Dr Majella Dempsey plays a key role in MSCA bids, contributes to ECER networks, and leads commissioned studies for NAPD/IPPN and JMB. Dr Zerrin Doğanca Küçük works with ESRI, TU Dublin, and the University of Iowa, and publishes with partners in India, Qatar, and Turkey. Health-focused collaborations include Dr Margaret Flood's partnerships with Kennedy Krieger, Johns Hopkins, and Childhood Cancer Ireland, and Dr Céline Healy's HPV/STEAM research with Edinburgh Napier and the Irish Cancer Society. Dr Tom Delahunty serves as Co-PI on the Erasmus+ LIFT project, chairs RAISE, and collaborates with the University of Birmingham. Dr Ece Gokmenoglu engaged with DCU and Bahçeşehir University on clinical supervision, while Dr Angela Rickard leads the 5\*S Project with Tailte Éireann, TU Dublin, and ESRI Ireland, and co-develops creative initiatives such as Thinking Changes with Guth Gafa Film Company. Dr Catriona O'Toole leads participatory research on Kyrie Therapeutic Farm and contributes to trauma-informed education networks. Dr Joe Oyler

collaborates with the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) on curriculum analysis and leads international research on AI in education, including projects on argumentation and an NSF-funded AI ‘dialogue coach’ initiative. Professor Sharon Todd collaborates with Uppsala University and Ghent on sustainability and democratic transitions in education.

### **Published Industry/Policy Reports**

Researchers also led on, and contributed to, several commissioned reports. The NCCA commissioned Dr Thomas Walsh to prepare a [report](#) which documents the process undertaken in redeveloping the primary school curriculum. Dr Catríona O’Toole and Tara Ćirić published several reports on school avoidance, including *Working with School Attendance Problems: A Guide for Educators and Practitioners in Limerick* and *Working with your child to address school avoidance A resource for parents*. Dr Elizabeth Meade and Dr Ciarán Ó Gallchoir worked alongside colleagues from Maynooth University on a report for Dublin North East Inner City Roundtable on Addressing On-Street Drug Dealing and Drug Use in Dublin’s North East Inner City.

### **Publications in the Media**

The research undertaken in the department was represented in various media outputs on a range of important topics, including an RTÉ brainstorm article by Dr Margaret Flood on the rights in school of children treated for cancer, a critical commentary on the Netflix series *Adolescence* in *Dissident Voice* by Dr Tom Delahunty, a publication in a magazine for principals and deputy principals by Dr Majella Dempsey, and a range of webinars on topics such as LGBTQI+ inclusive classrooms and racially inclusive education.



### **Engagement with Policy Bodies and Schools**

The Department maintains a strong commitment to working with schools, policy bodies, and networks and organisations related to education. Dr Majella Dempsey co-authored a report highlighting the nature of the work of Deputy Principals which led to a presentation with senior management in the Department of Education as well as a workshop in Maynooth for the NAPD region 5 which was attended by Principals and Deputy Principals. Dr Liz Meade also engaged directly with school leaders at the World Wise Global Schools (WWGS) annual Global Citizenship Education School Leadership symposium on ‘Unlearning and Reconstructing’ held on the 3rd of April 2025 in Iveagh House.

Dr Majella Dempsey and Dr Céline Healy continued to work closely with the NCCA. Dr Healy chaired NCCA boards and development groups resulting in the development and revision of several subject specifications in the modern languages space. Dr Dempsey’s efforts at Senior Cycle resulted in a keynote invitation for the annual Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe (CIDREE) conference in November 2025. An NCCA tender project evaluating the national implementation of the Junior Cycle Reform was published last year, which Dr Ciarán Ó Gallchoir co-authored.

Several members of the department delivered invited keynotes and workshops with professional bodies, government agencies, and

third level institutions. These included events on Drug use in Dublin's North East Inner City (Dr Liz Meade), Guidance Counsellor education (Dr Ece Gokmenoglu), Trauma Informed practice (Dr Catriona O'Toole), UDL (Dr Mags Flood), modern languages (Dr Céline Healy) and Lesson Study (Dr Diarmaid Hyland). Combined, these events reached 100s of stakeholders in Irish education, members of school leadership, and 1000s of practising teachers.

### **Membership in Industrial/Public Sector Bodies**

Several members of the department maintain key positions on advisory panels for the NCCA: Dr Thomas Walsh is a member of the international Advisory Panel for the redevelopment of the primary school curriculum; Dr Majella Dempsey is IUA representative on the NCCA Board for Senior Cycle; Dr Céline Healy has multiple roles relating to modern languages. In addition, Dr Healy is an Advising Member (language expertise) on the Department of Education and Youth led Foreign Languages Advisory Group (FLAG), an Advising Member (initial teacher education expertise) on the FLAG Post-Primary Sub-Committee, and a Steering Committee Member for the Irish National Pilot Project in Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL).

Dr Catriona O'Toole is the Maynooth University Representative on Kildare Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC); a Member of the Board of Directors of Alcohol Action Ireland; the Link convenor for Health and Wellbeing Education, a Network of European Educational Research Association (EERA); a Member of the executive committee of the International Network for School Attendance (INSA); and a Committee Member for the Special Interest Group in Trauma and Adversity. Dr Angela Rickard is Chair of the Board of Directors of Guth Gafa (Thinking Changes project).

## **Significant Events**

Department of Education colleagues both organised and participated in a wide array of significant events in Maynooth University and across the globe. Dr Joe Oyler, Dr Margaret Flood, Dr Elizabeth O'Brien and Professor Sharon Todd, among others, were invited keynotes at a range of national and international conferences in 2024-25. Department of Education colleagues (Dr Ciarán Ó Gallchoir, Dr Joe Oyler, Prof Carl Anders Säfström, Prof Gert Biesta, Dr Angela Rickard, Prof Sharon Todd), alongside wider collaborators, were centrally involved in the organisation and discussions at a symposium in Mälardalen University, Sweden in May 2025 to revisit the Manifesto for Education published in 2010.



In her role as President of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI), Dr Céline Healy brought the ESAI Annual Conference to Maynooth University in April 2024. There were over 400 delegates from the island of Ireland and across the globe in attendance. Dr Céline Healy also organised and hosted the World CLIL 2025 Conference at Maynooth University in June 2025, involving 220 delegates from 26 countries. Dr Margaret Flood led the organisation of an annual UDL International Symposium in 2024, attracting significant numbers of Irish and international delegates. Dr Elizabeth Meade and Dr Elizabeth O'Brien organised and hosted the Society for Women in Philosophy Ireland (SWIP) annual international conference in Maynooth in 2024, with renowned international female philosopher

Wendy Brown as the keynote speaker. The UBUNTU Assembly was hosted by Dr Angela Rickard in Maynooth University in January 2025.

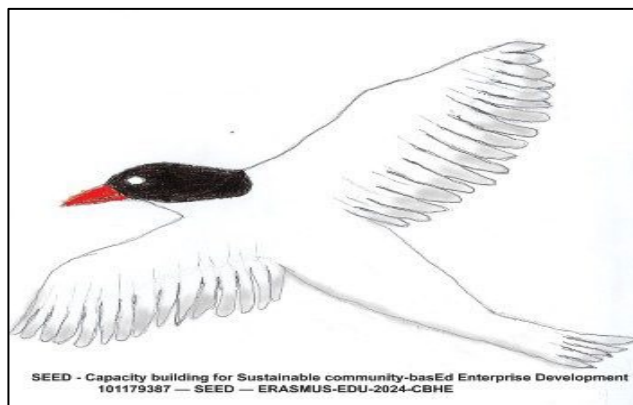
Department of Education academics contributed more than 100 presentations, papers and workshops at national and international conferences in 2024-25, representing a significant impact on education discourses in a wide array of areas of scholarship. Colleagues in the Department have been particularly active in leadership roles in a range of societies and conferences, including the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI), the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), the Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA) and the History of Education Society (UK). This scale of engagement highlights the global reach and networking activities of Department of Education colleagues across a broad range of disciplines in education, including social justice, philosophy, sustainability, history of education, inclusion, STEM education and guidance counselling.



## Funded Research

The Department, and its partners, continues to attract national and international funding to support its research activities, totalling close to €6 million for ongoing and new grants in 2024-25. At the international level, Professor Sharon Todd, in collaboration with partners, completed a €4 million Marie Curie Innovative Training Network project (Solidi) as well as a project funded to the tune of €540,000 by the Swedish Research Agency (Forms of Formation). A consortium led by Maynooth University (PI: Professor Bernie

Grummell) was awarded €800,000 in European Commission funding for an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project to support capacity building for sustainable community-based enterprise development with HEI and civil society partners in Malawi, Zambia, Belgium and Italy.



Dr Tom Delahunty and Dr Diarmaid Hyland attracted €400,000 in funding for a ERASMUS + KA2 'Lesson Study in Future Teacher Education in Europe' project. A collaboration between Dr Zerrin Doğança Küçük, Dr Angela Rickard and wider colleagues was also awarded €250,000 in funding by Research Ireland to continue Phase 2 of the 5\*S: Space, Surveyors and Students project. Dr Angela Rickard, Professor Bernie Grummell and Deirdre Forde were funded by the Department of Education and Youth to prepare an updated "Being LGBT in School" resource. Childhood Cancer Ireland provided €87,000 in funding to Dr Margaret Flood to explore, in collaboration with Kennedy Krieger Institute, barriers to education for children being treated for cancer. Dr Tom Delahunty received a Research Ireland New Foundations award to support the mapping of heteroactivist resistance to childhood education on gender and sexualities. Dr Liz Meade, Dr Elizabeth O'Brien, Dr Zerrin Doğança Küçük and Dr Angela Rickard received more than €20,000 in funding from the UBUNTU Network to support research on Global Citizenship Education and social justice in initial teacher education. Dr Majella Dempsey was



commissioned by the Joint Managerial Board to undertake research to evaluate the Balint Leadership Programme.

Department of Education academics have also successfully attracted funding from within Maynooth University. Dr Margaret Flood was awarded a Centre for Teaching and Learning Fellowship as well as an Eochair funding scheme award to support her research related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Dr Thomas Walsh was awarded a MUSSI grant to support research as part of a wider Teaching Council funded collaboration with schools to explore teacher and school leader agency in the context of the redeveloped primary school curriculum. Dr Tom Delahunty received MUSSI funding to advance a cartography for a critical psychology of education network in Ireland. Dr Margaret Flood and Dr Diarmaid Hyland were also awarded SPARK initiative awards in 2024-25, and Dr Catriona O'Toole received a Maynooth University Teaching and Learning Fellowship in 2025.

## Significant appointments

Members of the Department of Education team were appointed to the following professional bodies in 2024-25:

Dr Céline Healy

- Ireland representative on the Executive Council of the European Educational Research Association (EERA).
- A former elected President of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) (2022-24), she continues to contribute to ESAI as ex-officio President and Executive Committee Member.
- Invited Executive Committee Member of the Standing Committee of Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS) and Chair of the SCoTENS Doctoral Round Table Sub-Committee.

Dr Catriona O'Toole

- Member of Board of Directors, Alcohol Action Ireland.

Dr Thomas Walsh

- Trustee and Member of the History of Education Society (UK).

In addition, the following appoints were made or continued to editorial boards:

Dr Tom Delahunty

- Editorial Board of Irish Educational Studies

Professor Bernie Grummell

- Editorial Board of Policy and Practice: Development Education journal
- Editorial Board of Adult Learner journal.

Dr Catriona O'Toole

- Special Issue Editor, Advancing equity, voice and sustainability in school wellbeing, Health Education. (2025)
- Topic Editor for Frontiers in Psychology/ Frontiers in Education. Education Not Cancelled: Pathways from absence to post-secondary education (2024)

Dr Joe Oyler

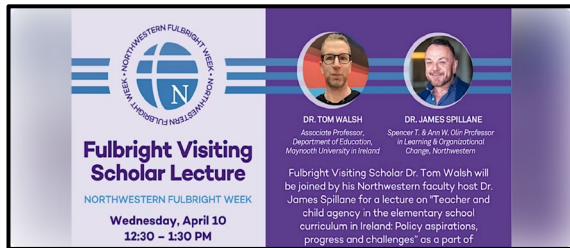
- Editorial Board of Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis.

## Awards and Honors

The department celebrated the following international and national recognition of our staff in 2024 and 2025. At national level, the department's contribution to supporting research in Ireland was recognised with the awarding of the Irish Research Council Research Ally prizes to Dr Rose Dolan, Dr Anthony Malone, Dr Joe Oyler and Professor Sharon Todd in 2024, and to Dr Zerrin Doganca Kucuk, Dr Rose Dolan, Dr Ece Gokmenoglu, Dr Maija Salokangas and Dr Thomas Walsh in 2025.

Internationally, Dr Thomas Walsh, a Fulbright Irish Visiting Scholar in Northwestern University Chicago in 2024, focused on contemporary curriculum policy and practice in Chicago Public Schools, with an emphasis on curriculum policy

making dynamics. Dr Elizabeth O'Brien was acknowledged for her Outstanding Early Career Contribution by the American Educational Research Association (AERA).



## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

The Department of Education continues to support and be nurtured by a vibrant student research community, including more than 60 doctoral students in 2024-25. The calibre of students is evident in their successes in attracting funding to support their research, including scholarships from Research Ireland (Tara Ćirić, Melanie Groening McKenna), Hume Scholarships (Pauline McNamee, Sichen Huangfu, Ruth Sheridan Cregg, Stephen Begley), departmental scholarships (Jessic Harrison, Nikoloz Maglaperidze) and wider scholarships (Dalal Almuhaideb, Jamie Murray, Daragh Cogley). Students are very active in disseminating their research at national and international conferences on an ongoing basis. Well done to Colm O Riain; M.Ed student, who received a special commendation for his thesis research in the Early Career Researcher category at the ESAI annual conference in 2024. Congratulations also to Daragh Eoghan Cogley, who recently commenced as a PhD student, and who co-organised [The Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival](#) which took place in Brussels in March 2024.

## Publications

In this period 29 peer reviewed papers were published, alongside 18 chapters in books and

one monograph. This represents extensive publication activity from the Department across a broad range of disciplines and themes. Many of the publications are in internationally peer-reviewed and highly ranked journals, evidencing the Department's successful dissemination of research at a global level.

**Delahunty, T., Ní Ríordáin, M., & Prendergast, M.** (2025). Investigating STEM interest, mathematics beliefs and gender stereotypes among pre-service early childhood educators. *European Journal of Teacher Education*, 1-23.

Gillborn, S., & **Delahunty, T.** (2025). The psychological complex in contemporary education policy. *Journal of Education Policy*, 1-24.

**Delahunty, T.** (2024). 'Datafied dividuals and learnified potentials': The coloniality of datafication in an era of learnification. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 1-13.

Bryan, A., Byrne, D., Coulter, M., **Delahunty, T.**, Keane, E., Kitching, K., & Chróinín, D. N. (2024). 'Bearing witness to negativity': towards just futures of education. *Irish Educational Studies*, 43(3), 345-354.

**Delahunty, T.** (2024). Unearthing the coloniality of neoliberalised curricular discourses to promote a public orientation towards secondary science education. *International Journal of Science Education*, 1-20.

**Delahunty, T.** (2024). The convergence of late neoliberalism and post-pandemic scientific optimism in the configuration of scientific learnification. *Educational Review*, 1-23.

**Delahunty, T., & Dempsey, M.** (2024) 'Critical Challenges for Curriculum Futures: Democracy and Education'. *Orbis Scholae*, 18 (3):5-10.

**Delahunty, T., Dempsey, M., Alvunger, D., Berger, D., Hussan, S., Kitching, K., Kontovourki, S., Nieveen, N., Philippou, S., Ventura-Medina, E., & Dvořák, D.** (2024). Citizenship Education Curriculum Making for troubled Times. *Orbis Scholae*. 18(3): 11-19.

**Dempsey, M, & Delahunty, T.** (2024) "One Hundred Years of Curriculum-Making in Ireland: What Have We learned in Science Education?", *Education Matters: Ireland's Education Yearbook 2024*,

Jeffers, G., Lillis, C., & **Dempsey, M.** (2024) 'The Deputy Principal: Some Indicative Challenges On the work of deputy principals in Irish primary and

- postprimary schools' In: *Education Matters Yearbook*. Dublin : Education Matters.
- Akartuna, D., Menon, P., & **Doğança Küçük, Z.** (2025). The feasibility and efficacy of a psychospiritual intervention with the insights from Bhagavad Gītā and Yin Yoga on a Turkish population: A mixed method approach. *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, 15(1), 69–89.
- Sloan, C., & **Dolan, R.** (2025) 'The continuous call for school-university partnerships: a thematic review of policy in the Republic of Ireland'. *Irish Educational Studies*,
- Flood, M.** (2025). Universal Design for Learning in Irish Further and Higher Education: Educators' Knowledge & Practice. *The International Journal of Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning*, 1(1).
- Flood, M., Nolan, S., & Boss, F.** (2025). Universal Design for Learning with Visual Thinking Strategies: Support for Learner Engagement, Representation, and Action and Expression. *The International Journal of Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning*, 1(1).
- Flood, M., & Carey, L.** (2025). A Comparative Analysis of the Protection of the Rights of Childhood Cancer Survivors to Education Under Special Education Law. *Continuity in education*, 6(1), 74–90.
- Flood, M; Logan, A** (2024), 'The Outcomes of Collaborative Whole-School Professional Development on Teachers.' *International Journal of Teacher Education and Professional Development*.
- Devitt, A., Banks, J., Bray, A., Sanchez Fuentes, S., Sandoval, M., Riviou, K., **Flood, M., Reale, J., & Byrne, D.** (2025). A Systematic Literature Review on the Effectiveness of Universal Design for Learning in Second-Level Education. *The International Journal of Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning*, 1(1).
- Flood, M., O'Reilly, L., Dunne, S., Walsh, E.** (2024). The Enactment of the Principles of UDL in Practice in an Irish Post-Primary English Classroom: A Snapshot. In *Cases on Effective Universal Design for Learning Implementation Across Schools*. USA: IGI Global
- Hogan, P.** (2025) *Hermeneutics: Understanding Educational Experience*. Leiden and Boston: Brill.
- Hogan, P.** (2024) 'Uncovering Education as a Practice in its own Right' In: *Defending the Value of Education as a Public Good*. London and New York : Routledge.
- Grummell, B.** (2024) 'Influence of Freire and Training for Transformation on Local-Global Linking in Global Education in Community Development and Higher Education in Ireland' In: *Global Education in Ireland: Critical Histories and Future Directions*. London : Bloomsbury
- Matson, S., & **Grummell, B.** (2024) 'The TUTOR Project: Reimagining Inclusive Education in Second Level and Further Education'. *Education Matters: Ireland's Education Handbook*. P. 326-329
- Malone, A.** (2024) 'Dialectic Realities and Loose Coupling in Secondary Teacher Professional Learning in Ireland: The Case of TL21' In: *Creating, Sustaining, and Enhancing Purposeful School-University Partnerships*. Singapore : Springer.
- Meade, E** (2024) Epistemic Injustice, the Far Right and the Hidden Ubiquity of Neoliberalism, Policy and Practice: *A Development Education Review*, 38, pp. 14-33
- Meade, E** (2024) Review of Fascism on Trial: Education and the Possibility of Democracy by Anthony R. DiMaggio and Henry Giroux, Policy and Practice: *A Developmental Education Review*, 39, pp. 206- 213
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- Ó Gallchóir, C.; O'Flaherty, J.; Hogan, D.; McCormack, O.** (2025) 'The difficult dynamic of teacher educators as policy actors: considerations for counter-conduct'. *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, :1-22.
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- O'Sullivan, M., Nunan, P., Kyne, G. & Dolan, R.** (2025) 'Exploring the landscape: A self-study of the professional doctoral space for current and aspiring teacher educators' professional learning' *Research in Teacher Education*, 15 (1) :7-13.
- Ó Gallchóir, C.; Young, AM, & MacPhail, A.** (2024) 'Guerrilla teacher educators: identity considerations of school-based teacher

- educators in Ireland'. *IRISH EDUCATION STUDIES* :1-17.
- Phillips, B., **O'Toole**, C., McGilloway, S., & Phillips, S. (2025). Trauma-Informed Practice in *Montessori Classrooms: An Essential Guide for Students and Teachers* (1st ed.). Routledge.
- Heyne, D., Gentle-Genitty, C., Melvin, G., Keppens, G., **O'Toole**, C., & McKay-Brown, L. (2024). Embracing change: from recalibration to radical overhaul for the field of school attendance. *Frontiers in Education*, 8, 1-15. Article 1251223. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2023.1251223>
- Koretsidou C, **O'Toole** C, Galavan E, McKeon J, McGilloway S. (2024). Designing recovery-oriented care: a qualitative study to inform service design at Kyrie Therapeutic Farm in Ireland. *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 1-7. doi:10.1017/ipm.2024.58
- O'Toole**, C. & **Ćirić**, T. (2024). Compassion, collaboration and cultural-responsiveness: Insights on promoting successful pathways through education for students who face school attendance barriers. *Frontiers in Education*. Volume 9 - 2024 doi: 10.3389/feduc.2024.1456388
- Ni Shuilleabhain, A., Owens, E., Seery, A., & **Hyland**, D. (2024) From beginning to mature: investigating the development of teacher community through Lesson Study. *Front. Educ.* 9:1331127. doi: 10.3389/feduc.2024.1331127
- Todd**, S. (2025). "Black Swan Pedagogy: Remnant Ecologies and Navigating Between Disruption and Loss" In *Events of Art and Education in Post Climate Times*, eds Carl Anders Säfström and Glenn Loughran. London: Routledge.
- Todd**, S. (2024) 'Worlding Pedagogies in the Time of Planetary Crisis: Aesthetic Practices Beyond Hope and Despair.' In *Handbook of Children and Youth Studies*, eds. H. Cahill and H. Cuervo. Singapore: Springer.
- Todd**, S. (2024) 'Worlding Pedagogies in the Time of Planetary Crisis: Aesthetic Practices Beyond Hope and Despair.' In *Handbook of Children and Youth Studies*, eds. H. Cahill and H. Cuervo. Singapore: Springer.
- Todd**, S., Bazzul, J. (2024). In Conversation with Sharon Todd: 'Rethinking the Future in a Time of Sorrow.' In Tolbert, S., Wallace, M.F., Higgins, M., Bazzul, J. (eds) *Reimagining Science Education in the Anthropocene*, Vol 2 . Palgrave Macmillan.
- Todd**, S. (2024). 'Ecology of Encounters: The Logic of Composting as an Educational Response to Environmental Collapse' (Spanish translation: Ecología de encuentros: la lógica del compostaje como respuesta educativa al colapso ambiental.) *Teoría De La Educación. Revista Interuniversitaria*, 36(2), 43–58.
- Walsh**, T. and O'Donoghue, T. (2025) 'Transnational Knowledge Circulation and The Closing of Minds to External Influences on Schooling in the First Decade of Independence in Ireland'. *History of Education Quarterly*.
- Walsh**, T. (2024) 'From 'sojourning' to standards: a critical reflection on the evolution of initial teacher education policy in Ireland'. *European Journal of Teacher Education*.
- Walsh**, T. and O'Donoghue, T. (2024) 'Transnational Knowledge Circulation and the Commission on Manual and Practical Instruction in Ireland, 1896-98'. *Paedagogica Historica*.
- Walsh**, T. (2024) "'Authoritative Evidence" or Personal Ideology? Rev. Professor Timothy Corcoran and the Primary School Curriculum in Ireland in the 1920s'. *History of Education*.
- Walsh**, T., & Purdy, N. (2024) 'Divergent Pathways in North-South Education Policy Development in Ireland in the 1920s: Exploring the Influence of the First Ministers for Education on Both Sides of the Border'. *History of Education*.
- Walsh**, T. (2024) 'Alignment and Coherence in the Context of Policy and Curriculum Development in Ireland: Tensions, Debates, and Future Directions' In: Springer *International Handbooks of Education*, pp. 543-563.
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- Walsh**, T., Wyse, D., Spillane, J. and Hayward, L. (2024) 'The Primary Curriculum Framework: Heraldng a New Era for Primary and Special School Education in Ireland' In: *Ireland's Education Yearbook 2023*. Dublin : Education Matters, pp. 124-129.
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## Department Institutes/Centres

### Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy

The Centre for Public Education and Pedagogy (CPEP) continues to host and support a variety of research activities and events. Below are highlights of some of its work.

The Centre hosted its annual Doctoral Conference in June of 2024 and again in 2025. In 2025, 17 PhD students from 7 countries participated. The conference brings together PhD students from around the world to share their research and to support each other's work. Professors Carl Anders Säfström and Gert Biesta ran the conference in 2024 with Dr Joe Oyler joining in 2025 as incoming co-director. PhD candidate Nikoloz Maglaperidze provided administrative support of the conferences.

In addition, colleagues within the centre presented at various conferences in the form of keynote addresses, symposia and individual papers. A number of these events were hosted or co-hosted by the centre. Select events include:

**Reclaiming the Publicness of Education: CPEP Symposium and Directorship Transition (June 2025)** - The symposium "Reclaiming the Publicness of Education" was hosted by CPEP at Maynooth University. Prof Sharon Todd chaired the symposium with feature presentations by Carl-Anders Säfström, Gert Biesta, Joe Oyler, Maija Salokangas, and Nika Maglaperidze. The symposium was followed by a formal handover ceremony where Drs Maija Salokangas and Joe Oyler were welcomed as the new co-directors of CPEP.

**Relation-Centred Education Network Conference: Relational Pedagogy & the Relation-Centred Education (June 2025)** – The Centre co-hosted the conference with the Frobel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University.



**Publicness of Education: The Past, Present, and Future of an Educational Ideal** - A one day seminar to reflect on issues on the state of Public Education and envision its future. Colleagues and stakeholders from across the field attended and engaged in discussion. Key presenters included: Prof Gert Biesta, CPEP; Prof Karl Kitching, University of Birmingham; Prof Carl Anders Säfström, CPEP; Prof Sharon Todd, MU, Dr Joe Oyler, MU; Dearbhil Lawless, AONTAS; Simon Lewis, Principal Carlow Educate Together.

**Symposium on Early Childhood Education and Public Education** – A shared symposium, hosted by the Researching Early Childhood Education Collaborative (RCEC), Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the CPEP. This event explored the future of public education and early childhood education and care. Key speakers included: Prof Nóirín Hayes TCD; Prof Carl-Anders Säfström, CPEP; Dr Leah O'Toole, MU; Tracey McElheron, MU; George Dowling, MU.

In addition to events, the centre has been the source of significant research contributions to the field as evidenced by Professor Gert Biesta being included in the [World's Top 2% Scientists](#) rankings and together with Professor Säfström editing or authoring a combined 4 books, 11 book chapters and 6 articles.



## Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

The Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood has seen its research grow from strength to strength through 2024 and 2025. Our research and scholarship activities and outputs reflect our deep commitment to supporting education and well-being for children, families and communities. During this period, researchers in the Department have secured over €680,000 in funding and made significant contributions on key policy initiatives in the Department of Education. Major, EU-supported research into the Circular Economy and the pan-European BioBeo project have drawn significant funding and resulted in a range of highly impactful outcomes in the education sector. A fully open-source textbook on inclusion, co-led by Froebel researchers and involving over 155 self-advocates and researchers from around the world, was recently published. The first International Handbook on Relational Pedagogy, involving over 70 authors and promoted by Routledge as a 'seminal' book in this important, emerging field, is currently in press, due for publication in 2026.

### Engaged Research and Impact

#### International collaborations

Froebel staff have contributed to expert meetings, presented keynote presentations and held external appointments with universities and organisations across several regions and countries: the European Union, Australia, Bolzano, France, Germany, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and the United Arab Emirates.

#### Published Industry/Policy Reports

Our department has made significant contributions to the fields of early childhood and

primary education, in Ireland and internationally, through published reports and educational materials:

Leah O-Toole and Iram Siraj: led authorship of background papers informing the recently revised early childhood curriculum in Ireland for the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Patricia Kennon and Suzanne O'Keefe authored a report commissioned by Mental Health Ireland to evaluate student teachers' confidence around wellbeing promotion in primary schools. Iram Siraj led development and publication of classroom and early childhood centre quality rating scales including The Early Childhood Quality Rating Scale – Emergent Curriculum (ECERS EC), The Sustained Shared and Emotional Well-Being (SSTEWS) scale and The Pedagogical Leadership in the Early Years (PLEY) scale.

#### Media appearances / publications

Aoife Titley appeared as an invited guest on Season 1 of the ETBI's Let's talk ethos podcast series. Topic: Scope of GCE within the curricular context of Goodness me, goodness you in Community National Schools.

Suzanne O'Keefe published a prolific three contributions in RTÉ Brainstorm: *Are you being driven to distraction by technology? 3 reasons children can benefit from yoga and 5-step practice for them*, and *Do you need lessons in love?*

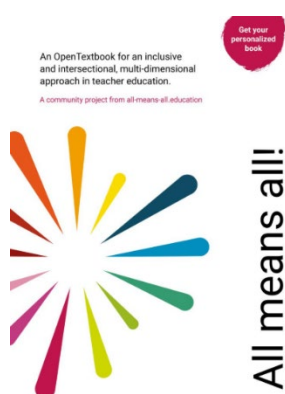
### Significant Events

Laura Thornton, with colleagues from Adult and Community Education and the Department of Design Innovation hosted a two-day Issues-Based Arts Education symposium, in collaboration with Professor John Johnson, UNESCO Chair in Issues-Based Arts Education.



Aoife Titley delivered presentations at Mary Immaculate College and Marino Institute of Education about diversifying primary teaching to teacher educators, as part of the DICE Project's

Anti-racism in initial teacher education CPD programme. The hope is to continue this work with a view to developing an anti-racism charter for initial teacher education in Ireland. E-book will be published in January 2026.



Deirdre Forde and colleagues from Bremen University and Free University Bolzano launched the fully Open Access book, 'All Means All!'. Drawing on contributions from 151 educators, researchers, and self-

advocates across Europe and beyond, the work blends lived experiences, research insights, and practical strategies to challenge biases and champion equity. This is a groundbreaking piece of work as the textbook has made the shortlist of finalists for the International Open Education Awards for Excellence.

<https://book.all-means-all.education/ama-2025-en/>



Leah O'Toole led organisation of the Relation-Centred Education Network's annual international

conference at Maynooth University from 16th-18th June, 2025 where Iram Siraj presented a keynote and other staff gave a number of papers. Leah and RCEN colleagues are set to publish The first International Handbook on Relational Pedagogy in 2026, a seminal piece of work for this field.



Professor Iram Siraj, the Froebel Department's Distinguished International Collaborator, delivered an

inaugural lecture University Collaborator, titled *How working-class children succeed against the odds: Findings from a longitudinal, pre-school to secondary school study*.

## Funded Research

Seventeen research grants were awarded to Froebel staff. Grants of **€50,000 or over** included:

Deirdre Forde, Angela Rickard and Bernie Grummell (€50,000, DCEDIY Multisupplier Framework) *LGBTQ Inclusive Schools*.

Fintan Sheerin, Laura Coffey and Deirdre Forde (€70,000, Autism Association of Ireland) *The Voice of Ageing Autistic Adults in Residential Care Settings*.

Máire Nic an Bhaird and Laoise Ní Chléirigh (€120,000, SFI I-Form Platform Funding) *Education and Public Engagement Enabling Action*.

Máire Nic an Bhaird and Laoise Ní Chléirigh (€63,578.60, DAFM Policy and Strategic Studies Research Call): *Circular Bioeconomy Education Centre*



Máire Nic an Bhaird and Laoise Ní Chléirigh  
BIOrbic Collaboration with UCD: €296,000

Máire Nic an Bhaird and Laoise Ní Chléirigh  
(€227,400, Horizon Europe) *BioBeo*

## Significant appointments and invitations

**Grace Cardiff**, invited speaker, Brock University, Ontario, Canada.

**Edel Fahy**, (i) Member, International Drama in Education Association (IDEA), (ii) Committee member of Arts Education Curriculum Development Group, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, (iii) invited speaker, Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO).

**Máire Nic an Bhaird**, (i) Education for Public Engagement Lead in BiOrbic, Ireland's National Bioeconomy Research Centre, (ii) invited contributor, Education Research Showcase and Futures, Department of Education, (iii) invited keynote, American Irish Historical Society.

**Patricia Kennon**, (i) Visiting Scholar in Residence, iSchool, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, (ii) Honorary Fellow, University of Roehampton, London.

**Suzanne O'Keefe**, Associate Editor, Springer Nature (SN) Social Sciences, Editorial Board Member, On the Margins.

**Leah O'Toole**, (i) Associate Editor, *International Journal of Early Childhood*, (ii) Governing Board Member, Relation Centred Education Network, (iii) NHS Highland Scotland, expert reviewer.

**Emma Pearson**, (i) The World Bank: expert contributor, LEAP, Leadership for Progress in Foundational Learning, (ii) UNICEF / Ministry of Education, Rabat, Morocco: invited keynote, (iii) visiting scholar, Macquarie University, Sydney, (iv) UNICEF Pakistan / Aga Khan Human Development Programme: invited presentation, (iv) National Research Foundation, South Africa, external reviewer.

**Iram Siraj**, (i) OECD/ACER International Early Learning (IELS) study, chair of the Technical Expert Group, (ii) thought leader, Goodstart Learning, Australia, (iii) keynote speaker, Dept. of Children Disability and Equality inaugural conference, (iv) Keynote speaker, Stavanger University, Oslo, (v) Chair, Working Group on workforce issues for ECEC, Nuffield Foundation.

**Laura Thornton**, Member, IMPACT (Interested Motivated Professionals Anti-Child Trafficking).

**Aoife Titley**, invited speaker, ETBI Conference: The Learner in Education and Citizenship.

## Awards and Honors

**Leah O'Toole**, Erskin Fellowship, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Patricia Kennon**, (i) 2024 Society for Research into Higher Education Accolade, (ii) 2025 Research Ally award, Irish Research Council (Research Ireland).

## Publications

Froebel staff published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, government reports or book chapters, with 20% of articles (as follows) in Q1-ranked journals:

Buruleanu, L., Ní Chléirigh, L., Nic an Bhaird, M., Curran, Tom., Reinmuth, E. & Bîzoi, M. (2025). Weaving Knowledge, Innovation, and Learning: A Transdisciplinary Pathway to Circular Bioeconomy Through BioBeo. *Sustainability*, 17 (14).

Cardiff, G., Bowles, R., Beni, S., Ní Chróinín, D., & Fletcher, T. (2025). The role of reflection in the enactment of student voice pedagogies in primary physical education. *Curriculum Studies in Health and Physical Education*, 16(2), 174-190.

Cardiff, G., Bowles, R., Beni, S., Ní Chróinín, D., & Fletcher, T. (2025). The role of reflection in the enactment of student voice pedagogies in primary physical education. *Curriculum Studies in Health and Physical Education*, 16(2), 174-190.

- Carter, B., Shelton, K. S., Holmes, L. J., Sprecher, E. A., Javed, M., Mcleod, J., Park, J., Selwyn, J., Siraj, I., Robinson, C. and Hiller, R. M. (2025). The mental health and wellbeing of care-experienced young people during early and later adolescence. *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*
- Connaughton-Crean, L., & Ó Duibhir, P. (2024). 'We are always planning trips to Poland': the influence of transnational family life on the family language policy of Polish-speaking families in Ireland. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*.
- Connaughton-Crean, L., Ní Dhiorbháin, A., & Ó Duibhir, P. (2025). "Everything Starts with Attitudes": Exploring Language Ideologies and Attitudes of the Polish Community in Ireland Towards Irish and Irish-Medium Education. *Journal of Language, Identity & Education*.
- Huang, R., Zheng, H., & Siraj, I. (2025). Quality in Chinese Preschool Classrooms: Its Structural Influencing Factors and Associations with Child Development. *Early Education and Development*, 36, 7, 1674–1694.
- Javed, M., Sprecher, E., Carter, B., Elhassan, L., Hiller, R., Holmes, L., Park, J., Robinson, C., Selwyn, J., Shelton, K. and Siraj, I. (2025). A systematic review of ethnic representation in UK research involving children and young people living in care, *The British Journal of Social Work*.
- Jess, M., Parker, M., Carse, N., Douglass, A., Keay, J., Martinez Alvarez, L., ... & Sweeney, T. (2024). The purpose of primary physical education: The views of teacher educators. *European Physical Education Review*, 30(4), 601-619.
- Kazmierska-Kowalewska, K. M., Okely, A. D., Siraj, I., Archer, C., Veldman, S. L., & Jones, R. A. (2025). Potential Efficacy of the MOVERS Professional Development Programme: A Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial. *Child: care, health and development*, 51(5), e70146.
- Kennon, P. & Morrissey, S. (2025). Race, ethnicity, and representation in Irish children's and young adult literature and film: an introduction. *Irish Studies Review*, 33(2), 135–146.
- Kennon, P. (2025). 'A story is a living thing': a conversation with Oein DeBhairduin about the importance of Irish Traveller voices and authentic representation. *Irish Studies Review*, 33(2), 147–160.
- Meegan, J. & Young, K (2025). It's a Tool Not a Crutch: A Pilot Generative AI Intervention to Enhance Pre-service Teachers' Self-efficacy and AI Literacy. *Tech Know Learn*.
- Ní Chróinín, D., Parker, M., Coulter, M., & Sweeney, T. (2025). Teachers learning to use student voice in primary physical education—ready, steady, go!. *European Physical Education Review*, 31(2), 261-278.
- Pearson, E. C., & Opoku, M. P. (2025). Understanding the unique role of community-based para-professionals delivering early childhood development in low-resource contexts: a Delphi study. *BMC Health Services Research*, 25(1), 1-12.
- Pearson, E., & Opoku, M. P. (2024). Experiences of service and diagnosis among immigrant families of young children with suspected or diagnosed developmental disabilities. *Ethnicity & Health*, 29(8), 1036-1053.
- Pearson, E., & Degotardi, S. (2024). 'Innovating' to promote equity and inclusion in early childhood education: a framework for documenting localised pedagogical approaches. *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, 1-24.
- Scanlon, D., Coulter, M., Baker, K., Iannucci, C., Calderón, A., Luguetti, C. N., ... & O'Loughlin, N. M. (2025). Developing guiding principles for the Socially-Just Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility (SJ-TPSR) approach: lessons learned from a collaborative self-study. *Curriculum Studies in Health and Physical Education*, 1-21.
- Yang, H., Rao, N., & Pearson, E. (2024). Inequality in access to early childhood care and education programs among 3-to 4-year-olds: Trends and variations across low-and middle-income countries. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 66, 234-244.
- Vlcek, S., & Somerton, M (2024). Stakeholder collaboration in the education of Australian students with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review. *Australasian Journal of Special and Inclusive Education*, 48, 107–121.
- Vlcek, S. Somerton, M., Cuskelly, M., & Pedersen, S. (2024). Home-school interactions relating to students with disability: a document analysis of Australian policy and guidelines. *Qualitative Research Journal*.

## Department of Geography

In 2024-25, the Department of Geography at Maynooth University continued to excel in producing cutting-edge, societally impactful research. The Department is currently the home to 27 academic staff members, 19 postdoctoral researchers, and 5 administrative staff members. Many of our academic and research staff are also associated with leading university research institutes, including the Irish Climate Analysis and Research UnitS (ICARUS), National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG), and Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI). The department is also home to 37 taught and 40 research postgraduate students. Over the 18-month reporting period, Geographers secured **€3.7M in research funding** (direct costs) and published **109 Scopus-indexed contributions**, including 18 in the top 10% most cited worldwide. The average Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FCWI) of these publications was 1.72, indicating greater than (global) average citation levels compared to similar publications.

### Engaged Research and Impact

The Department of Geography continues to demonstrate a vibrant portfolio of community-engaged and policy-relevant research. In 2024 and 2025, relevant projects ran the gamut of engagement, from local initiatives supporting sustainable food practices to global partnerships on climate resilience and hydrological change. Our researchers are deeply embedded in both community and international networks, contributing to major initiatives like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as local and national policy-making in Ireland. Below we describe a selection of the wide-ranging research activities and impact generated by Geographers in 2024-25.

### Engagement with Communities, the Public Sector, and Practice

Dr. Lisa Orme conducted several outreach events with the Irish Peatland Preservation Council focused on educating members of the public and school groups about the importance of peatlands and how we can use them to understand past climate change.

Profs. Peter Thorne and Conor Murphy were invited to speak at the 'Agriculture & Climate Change' conference in June 2025 hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and opened by Taoiseach Micheál Martin. Prof. Thorne also presented evidence on climate change research to an Oireachtas joint committee.

In the '[JustHousing](#)' project, Drs. Fiadh Tubridy, Patrick Bresnihan (PI), Laure De Tymowski, and Kevin Credit have analysed the ways in which building conditions, retrofit, and social deprivation intersect, and engaged with social housing residents in Dublin's Cromcastle Court and Emmet Buildings. This work resulted in reports on the housing conditions in these flat complexes as well as public meetings (in collaboration with the Community Action Tenants Union) on complex renovation, a [protest march](#) to council offices in Coolock in February 2025, and a photo exhibition and workshop in Tailor's Hall in Dublin in June 2025.



Profs. Karen Till (PI) and Gerry Kearns led the 'Our Shared Plate' project, which piloted

innovative approaches to engaged research across nine local communities in Ireland to support the co-creation of sustainable communities through healthier food practices. Engagement included community food mapping events, food diaries and interviews, and reflective summary events with community scrapbooks and sensory boxes which were given to the participants.

In March 2025, Dr. Conor Cahalane began a Geological Society of Ireland (GSI) project to collaboratively develop an online application for non-specialists, policy-makers, and members of the public to explore the suitability of satellites for measuring near shore bathymetry.

### Appearances in the Media

The results of Dr. Martina Roche's project Highlighting pathways to Empower Rural women to have Sustainable and Equitable Livelihoods in Farming (HER-SELF) – compiled in a first-ever policy report on women in farming in Ireland – was profiled in [The Irish Independent](#) and [Agriland.ie](#).



Prof. Jennie Stephens was interviewed about her research for articles in *The Guardian* and

*The Financial Times* on fossil fuel industry influence on universities.

### International Collaborations

Prof. Peter Thorne served in a number of prominent roles on the IPCC: Coordinating Lead Author on the IPCC *Special Report on Climate Change and Cities*, and review editor for IPCC Working Group I.

Prof. Jennie Stephens led the 'Justice First' project, which involves partners in Canada, US, Norway, Germany, Mexico, and Ghana to study community-embedded climate transition planning in marginalised and Indigenous communities.

Additionally, Prof. Conor Murphy joined the Reference Observatory of Basins for International hydrological climate change detection (ROBIN) network, a global collaboration to establish reference hydrometric networks for monitoring climate variability and change in river flows.

### Membership in Industrial and Public Sector Bodies

Prof. Conor Murphy was appointed by the Office of Public Works to the National Advisory Board for FEMI (Flood Estimation Methods for Ireland) to develop new approaches for flood estimation that underpin engineering, infrastructure, flood defences and planning in Ireland. In addition, Dr. Conor Cahalane served the second year of a four year term as Secretary General of the European Spatial Data Research Group (EuroSDR). Dr. Kevin Credit was invited to represent Maynooth University as a committee member of Irish Transportation Research Network (ITRN).

### Significant Events

Members of the Department coordinated and were involved with many significant research events over the course of 2024 and 2025, including the organisation of multiple series of sessions and presentations of individual papers at the International Geographical



Congress in Dublin in August 2024 and the Conference of Irish Geographers in Belfast in May 2025, including the presentation of a keynote address by Prof. Conor Murphy. Members of ICARUS and the Department also continued to organise the ‘Circus of Climate Horrors’ outreach project, which presents interactive activities and games on climate change to participants of conferences and large events such as the Glastonbury Festival.

Prof. Jennie Stephens delivered the inaugural Maynooth University Professorial lecture as a new Professor of Climate Justice and organised a book launch event for her new book *Climate Justice and the University* at the Royal Irish Academy in December 2024.



As a part of the ‘MobiliseCare’ project, Prof. Mary Gilmartin (PI) and the research team presented at the Migration, Place/making and Belonging Conference in University College Cork (UCC) in June 2025. The presentation highlighted the three emerging themes of the project: “care,” “migration as crisis,” and “connection & solidarity.”

Prof. Mark Boyle and Seán Ó Foghlú organised a May 2024 Roundtable with the North East Inner City Initiative (NEIC) and Department of an Taoiseach on community concerns around drug activity, feeding into a new NEIC [Strategic Plan](#). They are also running a seminar series (Sept 2024–May 2025) on [Research for Policy](#), bringing together Maynooth researchers and government policymakers to share experiences.

Dr. Samantha Hallam launched the Tropical cyclone Ocean-coupled Potential Intensity Model (TOPIM) in July 2024 at a workshop with 70 Caribbean stakeholders. She later presented TOPIM at the Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDEMA) in December 2024, securing the support of the St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister for the TOPIM2 project.

## Funded Research

In 2024 and 2025, Geographers were awarded a faculty-high **€3.7M in direct costs** from a variety of national and international sources, including Research Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and the European Commission. Among the **21 funded projects**, a few standouts include:

- Prof. Peter Thorne secured €1.14M in funding from the EU for the ‘C3S2 Rescue, Collection, and Processing of In Situ Observations’ project, €504K from the EPA for the ‘Weather Attribution Science Irish operational User Service’ (WASITUS), and €300K in additional funding for the Co-Centre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water from Research Ireland.
- Prof. Conor Murphy was awarded €461K from Met Éireann for the project ‘EXACT: Extremes Across Climates and Timeframes’ to deliver next generation climate services for Ireland.
- Prof. Mark Boyle’s project ‘Unlocking the value of research for public policy making and innovation: Mapping Ireland’s key brokering structures and supports’ (€173K) commenced in 2024 and involves a comprehensive and granular mapping of research-policy brokering structures and supports currently in place across Irish Higher Education Institutions, public service research systems, and civil society organisations.

## Significant Appointments

Several Department members were invited to serve on Editorial Boards (Prof. Ronan Foley, *Health & Place*; Dr. Kevin Credit, *Information Geography*; Prof. Karen Till, *Gender and Justice*) or as Editors (Prof. Conor Murphy, *Journal of Water Scarcity and Drought*) in 2024-25.

Prof. Karen Till served as an Invited Visiting Professor for the launch of the MemoryLab at the University of Bologna. Prof.

Prof. Peter Thorne also received two noteworthy external appointments in 2024-25, serving as Deputy Chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and Chair of the GCOS Essential Climate Variable Rationalisation Task Team.

Dr Gerard McCarthy was appointed co-chair of a new Atlantic climate project (with scientists from 9 European countries and Canada) that aims to deliver an updated climate assessment of the Atlantic Ocean's circulation system.

## Awards and Honors

The '5\*S' project, a collaboration between the Departments of Geography and Education led by PI Dr. Conor Cahalane, was selected by Maynooth University for its Impact Assessment Case Study submission to the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

Prof. Karen Till was shortlisted as a finalist for the 2024 Maynooth University inaugural Public Engagement Individual Award.

Dr. Kevin Credit was awarded [Best Paper](#) in 2024 in the *Journal of Geographical Systems* and was also shortlisted for the 2025 Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) [Best Published Paper](#) award for a 2024 paper in *Regional Studies*.

Dr. Samantha Hallam's TOPIM project was publicly recognized at the American Meteorological Society (AMS) annual meeting

in January 2025 and was also a finalist for the Irish Education Awards Best Research Project.

Dr. Martina Roche's project HER-SELF was nominated in the Research Section of the Better Farming Awards in November 2024.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

Geography research students accomplished a number of noteworthy achievements in 2024 and 2025, contributing to a vibrant research culture in the Department. 11 students graduated from the PhD programme over this period: Sudipto Bhowmik, Caoilfhionn D'Arcy, Samuel Tiéfolo Diabaté, Sandra Cristina Deodoro, Laure De Tymowski, Shirley A. Howe, Catherine O'Beirne, Alexis O'Reilly, Bernard Essel, Louise Sarsfield Collins, and Conchúr Ó Maonaigh (all of the theses can be found [here](#) on MURAL).

Research students also had considerable success in publishing peer-reviewed journal articles. These included Csaba Horvath (under the supervision of Prof. Conor Murphy), who published his first two papers in the *Geoscience Data Journal* related to historical climate datasets. Also, under Dr. Conor Cahalane's supervision, Bernard Essel and Isaac Mensah both published first-authored papers related to drone mapping and remote sensing detection of artisanal and small-scale mining (respectively). They also collaborated (with others in the Department) on a paper describing the Climate Data Rescue Africa (CliDaR-Africa) project. Patrick McLoughlin (under the supervision of Dr Gerard McCarthy) published a first-authored article in *Weather*. Samuel Diabaté, also under Dr McCarthy's supervision, published a first-authored article in *Continental Shelf Research*.

## Publications

In 2024-2025, the exceptional publication track record of the Geography Department continued, publishing a total of **155 articles** according to the University's Research



Information Service (RIS). These include several pieces of work that are already gaining significance, including:

Forster, P.M., **Thorne, P.** + 57 others (2024).

Indicators of Global Climate Change 2023: annual update of key indicators of the state of the climate system and human influence. *Earth System Science Data*, 16(6): 2625-2658. DOI: 10.5194/essd-16-2625-2024. 123 *Scopus citations*, *FWCI* = 34.02.

Hiltner, S., Eaton, E., Healy, N., Scerri, A., **Stephens, J.C.**, & Supran, G. (2024). Fossil fuel industry influence in higher education: A review and a research agenda. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 15(6). DOI: 10.1002/wcc.904. 18 *Scopus citations*, *FWCI* = 5.48.

Fusco, E., Libório, M.P., Rabiei-Dastjerdi, H., Vidoli, F., **Brunsdon, C.** & Ekel, P.I. (2024). Harnessing Spatial Heterogeneity in Composite Indicators through the Ordered Geographically Weighted Averaging (OGWA) Operator. *Geographical Analysis*, 56: 530-553. DOI: 10.1111/gean.12384. 8 *Scopus citations*, *FWCI* = 2.61.



## School of Law and Criminology

The School of Law and Criminology is delighted to showcase its research activities for 2024-2025. This past year has been another very successful year in the School's research journey. We have continued to strengthen our research capacity and have made a substantial impact in a range of fields related to our disciplines, both in academic and policy contexts. The school has also invested strategically in research supports through RIF funds aimed at providing research assistance and supports for dissemination activities, such as conferences and workshops.

2024-2025 saw continued success for the school in the areas of research and research engagement. Our first ERC-funded project DANCING concluded its very successful five years, having made a huge contribution to the understanding of access to culture for people with disabilities in an EU Law context. The project included innovative arts-based initiatives including the ground-breaking *Lived Fiction* production in the Lir Theatre and novel dissemination tools such as cartoons and interactive online tools. The ERC-funded PatentsInHumans project continues to innovate and attract significant attention and acclaim, having hosted multiple workshops this past year.

This success in funded research has been mirrored in the success of colleagues in obtaining (for instance) Horizon Europe funding for the SWINS, P2Green and GGN projects, as well as two Research Ireland COALESCE-funded projects (Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges) and 5 New Foundations-funded initiatives.

Colleagues continue to publish prolifically in high-ranked journals and with top publishers, with 8 new books published by colleagues in the last year.

We hosted two major conferences – the Irish Association of Law Teachers in November and the North South Criminology conference in June – alongside multiple innovative workshops and research seminars.

Since January 2024, we have continued to build our research capacity, welcoming 8 new permanent academic staff members, Dr Cormac Behan, Professor Ted Dove, Dr Jiangyuan Fu, Dr RV Gundur, Dr Hilary Hogan, Dr Stewart Manley, Dr Leanne O'Leary, and Dr Christopher Schreck. A number of international professional appointments have been announced on internationally renowned scientific research committees in addition to publications in multiple highly regarded international journals.

This success is also mirrored in the achievements of our postgraduate research students, with record PhDs registering in the school in 2024-5, and a steady pipeline of students approaching the end of their PhD studies. We look forward to celebrating their successes at future graduation ceremonies.

### Engaged Research and Impact

Several colleagues have been invited to speak at national and international policymaker meetings over the last year. Dr John Reynolds was invited to give expert evidence to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade. Dr Ian Marder presented at the Department of Justice in Dublin at a conference and spoke at a conference in the Åland Islands in Finland. Hosted by the Åland Islands Peace Institute, the conference established RJ NORD, a new network of restorative justice service managers, practitioners, researchers and policymakers across the Nordic countries.



Dr Karen Lynch Shally was invited by the Irish Agri-Food Regulator (An Rialálaí Agraibhia) to participate as a panellist at their inaugural conference. PhD candidate Sarah Reynolds was invited to participate on a panel at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels. Dr Clíodhna Murphy was invited to speak at the launch of Ireland's Modern Slavery Council and contributed to the June edition of the programme 'Oireachtas TV Debates'.

Prof Michael Doherty has contributed to a new UNI Europa report on the state of play in the transposition of the EU's Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages.

Dr Mary Dobbs and Dr Orla Kelleher launched two policy reports: "Constitutionalising Environmental Rights – Practical Insights Into the Irish Context" with a panel consisting of Senator Alice-Mary Higgins, Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Cliona Kimber SC, Seán McCabe, and Beth Doherty; and The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) independent research report titled "The Environment, Human Rights and the Windsor Framework."

Dr Avril Brnadon co-authored a new research report entitled, "An Evidence Review on Ethnic Monitoring in the Criminal Justice System". Dr Amina Adanan published a report on "Access to Justice: Legal Pathways to Justice for the Rights of People in Prison." Dr Joe Garrihy & Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche launch their report "Boxed Out: Higher Education, Criminal Convictions, and Perceptions of Risk."

Prof McMahon hosted a very successful IRC-funded workshop with Breakthrough Cancer Research on the hospital exemption pathway for the development of ATMPs for patients with 'unmet need' and co-organised a multi-disciplinary conference at the Royal College of Surgeons Dublin on "Enabling access to the

use, re-use and sharing of health data for research in Ireland".

Many of our colleagues have appeared in prominent media outlets both in Ireland and abroad communicating on important issues with the general public as well as multiple stakeholders in influential positions and civil society.

Dr Ian Marder featured in the RTÉ One documentary *Natasha*. *Natasha* is the story of Natasha O'Brien, a young woman from Limerick who survived a violent assault by a serving soldier, and whose retraumatising experiences of criminal justice led to her engaging in advocacy relating to the rights and needs of victims of crime more broadly.

Dr Bríd Ní Ghráinne interviewed on Raidió na Gaeltachta, RTÉ's 'Fóram', Nuacht TG4 and Nuacht RTÉ about the Genocide in Gaza. Dr Sinéad Ring was an invited contributor to Liveline. Dr Lynsey Black has appeared on 'Talking History', the popular Newstalk show, to discuss the centenary of the execution of Annie Walsh. Dr John Reynolds was interviewed on The Last Word with Matt Cooper on Today FM, the Pat Kenny Show on Newstalk FM, and in the *Guardian* in relation to the ongoing occupation of Palestine and the genocide in Gaza.

Prof Tobias Lock was invited to RTÉ Radio 1 Drivetime with John Cooke to discuss the German Election and the front-running parties. Seth Barrett Tillman, Associate Professor, has been interviewed by multiple US outlets regarding the imbroglio between the Texas legislature's Republican majority and the quorum-breaking Democratic minority. Dr David Cowan published articles in multiple media outlets including the *Law Society Gazette* and a book commentary in *The Critic*, as well as multiple other media appearances over the last year.

Our colleagues have been invited to present, chair and give keynotes at multiple external conferences over the last year. Prof Aisling McMahon was invited to speak at the European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology (ESHRE) Pre-Congress Course in Paris and as a visiting researcher at Victoria University of Wellington. She also delivered an invited seminar at the New Zealand Intellectual Property Office.

Dr Ian Marder gave the keynote presentation at a symposium, Restorative Approaches to Policy in Higher Education, hosted by the Trinity College Dublin CAVE Research Centre and School of Education. Prof Michael Doherty recently presented at the IX Ibero-American and European Congress of Labour and Social Security Law.

Dr Conor Crummey chaired a seminar co-hosted by Tri-CON and the Irish Jurisprudence Society. Dr Mariana Velasco-Rivera attended the Comparative Public Law Roundtable organized by the Centre for Comparative and Public Law. Dr Donal Coffey was invited to speak at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies as part of the International Symposium on Law in Early Modern European Colonies. Dr John Reynolds was invited to the University of Antwerp in March 2025 to lead a set of joint LLM hybrid lectures on Third World Approaches to International Law & the Question of Palestine.

Prof Delia Ferri was invited to give a seminar at the Centre for Judicial Cooperation at the European University Institute in Florence, deepening the discussion on actors in EU Disability Law by focusing specifically on the role of the European Ombudsman. She also delivered the keynote address and two invited seminars at the University of Florence, the Sant'Anna Legal Studies (STALS) research cluster.

A delegation of members from the School of Law and Criminology had the honour of visiting the residence of the Brazilian Ambassador to Ireland, in Dublin, on 8 May 2025. Three School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University students attended the prestigious BRICS Legal Studies School in Belo Horizonte, Brazil with full scholarships. Dr. Jiangyuan Fu attended the programme, delivering lectures and contributing as a speaker in a panel discussion.

A high-level delegation from the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL), China, visited the School of Law and Criminology on 24 June 2025. Facilitated and organised by our colleague Dr Jiangyuan Fu, this visit was of strategic importance in laying the foundation for further collaboration between the two universities, with a view of strengthening international academic ties.

School of Law and Criminology students have shone in prestigious Summer Internships with some of our students earning internships on the Chief Justice's Summer Placement Programme, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Law Reform Commission, and the Chief State Solicitor's Office.

The School External Relations Officer, Dr Elaine Burroughs has secured several prominent scholarships and placements with some of the top legal firms in Ireland. Together with our colleague Marie Therese Ward, Elaine coordinates the Peer Mentoring programme and is project lead on the Dentons Legal insights project which was awarded the President's Award for Service Innovation 2025.

## Significant Events

To mark the beginning of the new semester we hosted a celebration of international research, marking marked several achievements. We have been successful in attracting a significant amount of funding for various projects (both

from an international and domestic perspective). We successfully launched the first BRICS Summer School and awarded scholarships to 3 students to travel to Brazil and participate in a fully funded summer school offered by one of the most prestigious Law Schools in Brazil.



On 19-20 June 2025, the ERC DANCING Project, led by PI Prof. Delia Ferri, held its Final Conference, celebrating the research and arts-based initiatives completed during the five years of the project. The Final Conference was also a great occasion to discuss the objectives and results of DANCING and highlight the numerous artistic collaborations that DANCING organised during its 5-year duration. The two-day conference involved the participation of numerous outstanding scholars, stakeholders and collaborators of the project.

Among the highlights of the event, Prof. Adam Bodnar, Minister of Justice of Poland, spoke on behalf of the Polish Presidency to the European Union, for which Prof Delia Ferri and the DANCING team were grateful and honoured. This was followed by the salutations of Prof. Rachel Msetfi and Prof. Fergus Ryan and an inspiring speech by Prof. Delia Ferri who introduced DANCING. The first day of the

conference was also marked by an incredibly insightful keynote from Emeritus Professor Bruno De Witte.



The very last event of the day was the unveiling of the DANCING-commissioned artwork 'Odisseo-Ulysses', marked by a speech of the President of Maynooth University Prof. Eeva Leinonen. In her engaging speech, President Leinonen highlighted the role of creativity and inclusion both for the research conducted within DANCING and for the whole Maynooth University ethos. The unveiling was also attended by the Honourable Mr Justice John MacMenamin.



In June, the School also hosted the 10th Annual North South Criminology Conference led by Prof Claire Hamilton. We welcomed to Maynooth over 200 delegates from a multitude of countries to both present at and attend this highly successful conference. The general theme of the conference was: **'Beyond the Penal State: Exploring the Boundaries of Punishment.'** Reflecting various contemporary challenges to the traditional notion of



punishment, the conference featured papers which sought to explore conceptions of punishment beyond the criminal justice system and also beyond the nation state.

In November 2024, the School hosted the Annual Conference of the Irish Association of Law Teachers, led by IALT President and Maynooth University Associate Professor Dr Mary Dobbs. The conference welcomed nearly 100 academics from all over the island of Ireland and overseas and featured a keynote lecture by Prof. Deirdre Ahern from TCD School of Law on the topic of AI and legal education. 2024 was the fifth time a Maynooth legal academic has presided over and organised the conference, but the first time this prestigious national conference has been hosted in Maynooth.



During the year, Prof Aisling McMahon and Dr Karen Lynch Shally organised a workshop on “Private Law Beyond the Market: Leveraging Private Law to Engage with Social Justice and Public Interest Concerns.” Over the course of two days, the workshop brought together over fourteen speakers to consider the role of private law mechanisms across a range of legal areas, including in the context of financial services, health, employment, environmental and clinical negligence areas. In doing so, the workshop focused specifically on how private law, broadly defined to include contract law, intellectual property law and tort

law, could be interpreted and leveraged to better engage with and embed social justice and broader public interest concerns, and the challenges and limitations in this context.

In March 2025, we had the great honour of welcoming Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, for a public lecture, during her visit to Ireland to raise awareness about the situation in Palestine. Chaired by Dr John Reynolds, Ms Albanese addressed an audience of over 400 people on campus in a lecture titled: “Genocide in Palestine: A Tragedy Foretold — What's Next and What is Ireland's Role?”



The school also hosted INPAL's First In-Person Gathering. The event brought together representatives involved in peer mentoring programmes from several Higher Education Institutions, creating a valuable opportunity to learn from well-established initiatives and explore common goals. Discussions focused on developing sustainable models for peer mentoring and enhancing student engagement across diverse campus communities.





Prof Tobias Lock held a one-day “work in progress” workshop with featured papers from colleagues and external speakers. Topics included the rule of law, judicial independence, EU values (Article 2 TEU), strategic litigation in EU law, the relationship between climate assessments and national framework laws, lobbying regulation, gold-plating of directives, waste management law, social rights and the right to an effective remedy.



Prof Michael Doherty and Dr David Mangan organised a seminar on 'The Legal Challenges in the Digitalisation of Work'. The seminar was attended by multiple external stakeholders as well as a number of colleagues. Panellists for the event included: David Mangan (Chair of panel, Director of the Technology Law & Policy Centre, Maynooth University), Michael Doherty (Maynooth University, Chair Employment Law Review Group), Julie Galbraith (Partner, Head of Employment and Labour, Eversheds Sutherland), Gareth Murphy (Head of Industrial Relations and

Campaigns, Financial Services Union), Cécile Nicod (Université Lumière Lyon 2), and Harry Wall (Ibec).

Dr Clíodhna Murphy hosted a seminar entitled "On the Borders of Migration and Labour Regimes: EU Temporary Labour Migration, Challenges, and Precarities". The seminar brought together scholars from Maynooth University and the University of Strasbourg to explore temporary labour migration as a multifaceted phenomenon in the EU, which both shapes and is shaped by the intersection of migration and labour regimes. The Strasbourg researchers presented findings from their projects associated with the European Research Council-funded European Birds of Passage project, led by Marco Rocca.



The Research Centre for Criminology hosted an event, “The Criminology of Policing Protests, Riots and Civil Disorder,” with the keynote lecture by Professor Ed Maguire.

Prof Delia Ferri and Dr Charles O’Sullivan launched a new Horizon Europe project entitled SWINS- Sustainable Well-being through Investment in Social Services. To celebrate the beginning of this wonderful project, we hosted a symposium in Maynooth. Coordinated by Università di Firenze - PIN ARCO, the project involves Maynooth University as part of its consortium and sees Professor Delia Ferri and Dr Charles O’Sullivan as members of the Maynooth

research team. The aim of the project is to create a new framework for measuring the return of social services investment from both an economic and social point of view.



This is a small snippet of events hosted by the school to highlight our research.

## Funded Research

From January 2025 to date colleagues in the school have received over 20 funded research awards from national and international sources, including Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland (formerly IRC and SFI), Environmental Justice Network Ireland Ltd, the HEA, and European Union Horizon Europe.

Since January 2025 colleagues have received almost **€1 million in research funding**. Several colleagues have also been notified that they have been successful in high profile and prominent funding rounds that will continue to enhance and grow the school's already stellar trajectory as a leading voice in legal and criminology scholarship.

### Sustainable Wellbeing Through Investment in Social Services (SWINS)

SWINS focuses on the rapid changes that European society has undergone in the past 15 years, and the role that social services as social investment can play in addressing these. It aims to develop a toolbox for *ex-ante* measurement of the economic and social return on investments in social services,

working at both the micro and macro level. Consequently, SWINS seeks to help policymakers determine where to allocate their resources, to be sustainable and yield the highest social returns. The project is funded by the EU's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme (HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04). The Maynooth team, led by Prof. Ferri and Dr. O'Sullivan, will conduct a 'legal mapping' exercise of all areas of EU law relevant to social services, focusing on state aid, competition, and free movement law, and investigate how EU law can support the deployment and delivery of sustainable social services. They will also identify gaps within the EU legal framework, as well as assessing their impact on national legal systems.



### SPIRS - Studying Prison In-Reach Services

This study will examine the user experience and opportunities for service development in the Irish Prison Service (IPS). The Research Team will analyse the experiences of those in prison engaging with 'in-reach' services, which provide essential supports to people in custody. Key agencies that are involved include the Education Training Boards (ETBs), Merchant's Quay Ireland (MQI), the Samaritans, and the Irish Association for Social Inclusion Opportunities (IASIO). The project explores the collective centrality of these services in supporting people in prison and addressing their intersecting needs. The experiences of service users and staff

throughout their engagement and outcomes are underexplored yet it is vital to consider their efficacy and impact. This study will address this lacuna through comprehensive analysis across multiple in-reach services. This will be achieved through the voices of the service users and staff, in addition to other stakeholders including prison officers, psychologists, and others. This mixed methods two-year study is funded by the Irish Prison Service with a Research Team led by Principal Investigator, Dr Joe Garrihy, a Postdoctoral Researcher, and a Research Assistant.



**Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland (formerly IRC and SFI)** has awarded the New Foundations 2024 awards. Maynooth University has received 7 awards this year, of which 5 are based in the School of Law & Criminology.

#### **VICINFO: Enabling VICTim access to restorative justice through INFORMATION sharing**

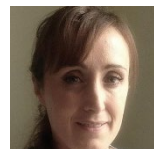


Led by Dr. Ian Marder, Associate Professor, **VICINFO** will identify how information sharing can maximise access to restorative justice for victims of crime. It will study the challenges for information sharing in Ireland and across Europe, with a focus on victims' contact details, and identify enabling laws, policies and procedures from other countries on which Ireland can draw.

#### **The Role of Medical Evidence of Torture in the Irish International Protection Process**

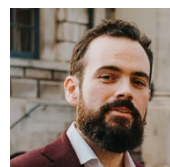


Led by Dr Clíodhna Murphy, Associate Professor, Clíodhna's research examines the role, operation and impact of human rights in migration law and policy. **Neurodiversity and Mental Health: Cultural Barriers Experienced by International Protection Applicants and Other Immigrant Populations in Ireland**



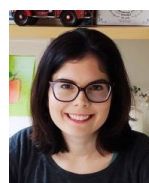
This project is a collaborative initiative between ADHD Ireland and Maynooth University, led by Dr Etain Quigley, Lecturer in Law. Dr Quigley's research centres on neurodiversity among vulnerable populations, particularly within the youth justice system and, more recently, among international protection applicants.

#### **Role of Crime and Security Journalism in Democracy.**



The study, funded by Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland (formerly the Irish Research Council), and led by Dr Cian Ó Concubhair, is inspired by recent developments around the legal protections for confidential journalist sources in Ireland, and high-profile examples of state surveillance and intrusion into journalistic activities North and South.

#### **Criminalizing Asylum in Ireland**



This project is led by Dr Bríd Ní Ghraíne, Associate Professor, in partnership with the Irish Refugee Council. Bríd is an expert in the Law of Forced Migration, particularly on the topic of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Under international law, asylum-seekers cannot be penalized for landing in a state without a valid travel



document (e.g. visa or passport). Their flight from persecution means that obtaining such documents will likely be dangerous or impossible. Yet, since January 2024, there has been a spike in the number of prosecutions in Ireland of asylum-seekers for arrival without such documents. The 'Criminalizing Asylum in Ireland' project asks to what extent these prosecutions are compatible with international law. Specifically, it aims to determine the circumstances in which these prosecutions happen, their effect on asylum-seekers, and their compatibility with the Refugee Convention, EU, and international human rights law.

**Dr. Ian Marder & Dr. Threase Kessie received funding from [Restorative Justice Services \(RJS\)](#) to design the RJS Strategic Plan for 2025-2028.**

In February 2025, [Dr. Threase Kessie](#) (Assistant Professor in Design Innovation, [Department of Design Innovation](#)) and [Dr. Ian Marder](#) (Associate Professor in Criminology, [School of Law and Criminology](#)) received funding from [Restorative Justice Services \(RJS\)](#) to design the RJS Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. RJS is a community-based organisation, funded by the Probation Service to deliver restorative justice in Dublin and the surrounding counties. Threase and Ian delivered three workshops with RJS staff, volunteers, board members and colleagues from across the criminal justice and community sectors to explore their goals



and wishes for RJS and the actions they think RJS should take to achieve those goals.

## Significant appointments

Dr David Mangan, Visiting Professor at the Marco Biagi Foundation.

Dr Noelle Higgins appointed to Research Cluster at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

Dr Clíodhna Murphy appointed to Education and Training Committee of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority.

Dr John Morrison appointed as the new co-editor of '*Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*' Journal.

Dr David Mangan appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Warsaw.

Prof Michael Doherty appointed by the Minister for Trade, Enterprise and Employment (DETE) as Chairperson of the new Employment Law Review Group (ELRG).

Professor Aisling McMahon invited to join International Advisory Board of Legal Studies.

## Awards and Honors

Our Dentons Legal Insights Programme won the Excellence in Service Innovation Award along with two other School projects being shortlisted and acknowledged.

Dr Brian Flanagan of Maynooth University and Professors Erin Solovey and Daniel Chen of Harvard University won the Best Paper Award at CHIWORK '25 – 4th Annual Symposium on Human-Computer Interaction for Work.

## Celebrating Student Achievements

Final year LLB student **Zoe Walsh Gibb** was awarded this year's [Legal Undergraduate of the Year Award](#) at the gradireland Undergraduate of the Year Awards, sponsored by William Fry LLP.



The award was announced at a ceremony in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin on 9 April 2025. The William Fry Excellence Award recognises students who have demonstrated outstanding performance in their studies, including maintaining a high GPA, excelling in challenging courses, receiving top marks in exams and assignments and contributing to academic research projects. The award also recognises leadership roles in student organisations and involvement in internships and professional experiences. Zoe has held leadership positions in university societies, completed legal internships across several practice areas, and was also a competitor on the Maynooth Jessup International Law Moot Competition Team 2025.



On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Carpi issued three awards for the best theses of 2024 within the Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, for students residing in the area. We are proud to say that the winner under the humanities and economics field, Alessia Palladino, partly developed her thesis here at Maynooth University.

Alessia worked with Dr. Orla Kelleher and Dr. Mary Dobbs as part of her Erasmus+ Traineeship and the research she conducted informed her thesis, titled “The recognition of Rights of Nature in the European Union legal order - Il Riconoscimento dei Diritti alla Natura nel panorama legale dell'Unione Europea”, supervised by Prof. Marco Gestri.



Maynooth University Law and Criminology PhD graduate **Dr Mariza Avgeri** has been awarded the Walter Benjamin postdoctoral position by the German Research Foundation. This prestigious 2 year position will be carried out at the University of Göttingen in Germany, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Sabine Hess.

Dr Avgeri's postdoctoral research project is entitled 'Epistemic injustice in the refugee status determination of disabled asylum claims: a critical sociolegal analysis of Germany, Greece and the UK'.

Dr Avgeri previously was the joint winner of the prestigious European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) Award for the Best Doctoral Thesis on European Law for 2023 for a thesis completed at Maynooth University entitled 'A transgender studies approach to gender identity and expression-based asylum claims based on a critical doctrinal and discourse analysis of CJEU and ECtHR Jurisprudence' (Supervisor: Prof. Fergus Ryan).



## Publications

The School of Law and Criminology has 252 claimed publications in 2025 to date. This includes 4 books, 4 edited books, 13 book chapters, 87 peer reviewed journal articles alongside a myriad of other publication types. One of our colleagues, Prof Edward Dove was also listed in the Scopus World's top 2% Scientists rankings. We are incredibly proud of the commitment to thought-leading expertise that our colleagues continue to display through their research and publications.

Some examples of publications in 2024-5 include:

- Crummey, C.** *The Principle of Legality: A Moral Theory* (Oxford Legal Philosophy, 2025).
- Bandiera, R.** *Neoliberalism, State-Corporate Power and Regulatory Failure* (Routledge, 2025).
- Ferri, D., Krolla, E. (Eds.).** *Actors and Roles in EU Disability Law (Modern Studies in European Law* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025)
- Cowan, D.** *Law and Technology* (Bloomsbury, 2025).
- Ferri, D., Leahy, A. (Eds.).** *Dismantling Barriers and Advancing the Right of Persons with Disabilities to Participate in Cultural Life: A Socio-Legal Analysis* (1st Edition, Routledge, 2025) - highly rated on Scopus.
- Hamilton, C. (2025).** 'Wider and deeper'? Reflections on the challenges of doing European criminology in a demagogic age. *European Journal of Criminology*, 22(5), 723-729.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14773708251355560>
- Garrihy, J. (2024).** 'It's a Very Clannish Type of a Job': Entitativity and Identity in Prison Officers' Occupational Cultures and Identities. In: Arnold, H., Maycock, M., Ricciardelli, R. (eds) *Prison Officers. Palgrave Studies in Prisons and Penology*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41061-1\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41061-1_7)
- McMahon AM.** Intellectual Property Rights and Global Access to Health Technologies During Pandemics: Reflecting on Vaccine Nationalism, COVID-19 & the WHO Pandemic Agreement Negotiations — The Need for Collective Action and Institutional Change. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. Published online 2025:1-17.  
[doi:10.1017/jme.2025.10149](https://doi.org/10.1017/jme.2025.10149)
- Schreck, C. J., Wilcox, P., & Frazier, J. D. (2025).** Dysfunctional Fear? Explaining (Mis)alignment among the Emotive and Cognitive Dimensions of Reactions to Victimization Threat. *Victims & Offenders*, 20(5–6), 1031–1058.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2025.2485133>
- McMahon, A.M.** Patents over 'technologies' related to how we treat, use, and modify the human body: An urgent need for greater bioethics scrutiny, *Medical Law Review*, Volume 33, Issue 3, Summer 2025, fwaf015,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/medlaw/fwaf015>
- Hortoğlu Grant, Y.** Arbitral fraud and the power of arbitrators in the Nigeria v P&ID case: all that glitters is not gold, *Arbitration International*, 2025, aiaf013,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/arbint/aiaf013>
- Doyle, D. M., Garrihy, J., & Cleary, M. (2025).** Foreign national prisoners and language barriers in Irish prisons. *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 1–16.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10345329.2025.2510553>
- Marder, I. D., Kenny, T., & Kurz, K. (2025).** Restorative practices and relational prison leadership in Ireland. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 28(1), 110–132.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2025.2512070>
- Doyle, D. M., Higgins, N., & Murphy, M. (2025).** Non-governmental organisations, the United Nations Human Rights System and access to education in Europe. *International Journal of Discrimination and the Law*, 0(0).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/13582291251340937>
- Susi, M., & Marder, I. D. (2025).** Conceptualising and assessing a human right to access restorative justice in European criminal law. *New Journal of European Criminal Law*, 16(1), 97-119.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/20322844251325723> (Original work published 2025)

**Wozniak, K. H., Pickett, J. T., & Brown, E. K. (2025).** Public opinion about the shadow carceral state: A study of support for criminal justice fees. *Punishment & Society*, 0(0).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14624745251336392>

**Flanagan, B.** Collective Mental Action: Turning Texts into Statutes, *The American Journal of Jurisprudence*, Volume 70, Issue 1, June 2025, Pages 21–31,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ajj/auaf002>

Guilherme da Franca Couto Fernandes de Almeida, Brian **Flanagan**, Ivar Rodriguez Hannikainen, Trait empathy predicts a preference for the spirit of the law: Nationally representative survey evidence, *Journal of Research in Personality*, Volume 116, 2025, 104605, ISSN 0092-6566,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2025.104605>.

**Marder, I. D. (2025)** Who is a victim of what? Societal reactions to harms caused and experienced by children in war as teaching materials for critical victimology. *Criminological Encounters*  
<<https://www.criminologicalencounters.org/index.php/crimenc/article/view/163>> accessed 05 September 2025

Cleary, M., **Doyle, D. M., & Garrihy, J. (2025).** ‘You no have to treat me with your hate’: The needs and experiences of female foreign national prisoners in an Irish prison. *European Journal of Criminology*, 0(0).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14773708251320241>

**McMahon, A.M.** Opeyemi I Kolawole, Intellectual property rights over ‘integrated’ medical devices: the potential health impacts and bioethical implications of rightsholders’ control, *Medical Law Review*, Volume 33, Issue 1, Winter 2025, fwaf001, <https://doi.org/10.1093/medlaw/fwaf001>.

## Notable achievements

### Maynooth University’s School of Law and Criminology ranks first on the Social Science Research Network

Maynooth LawCrim is ranked **first** among Irish departments/faculties/schools of law (including Northern Ireland) by total download count, with over **133,500** downloads (June 1, 2025) (ranked **#55** of 500 internationally ranked law schools, and 51 authors). Second ranked, University College Dublin, has over 132,000 downloads (June 1, 2025) (ranked **#58** of 500 internationally ranked law schools, and 55 authors). Third ranked, Queen’s University Belfast (Northern Ireland, UK), has over 104,600 downloads (June 1, 2025) (ranked **#75** of 500 internationally ranked law schools, and 43 authors).

**The School of Law and Criminology has signed a partnership agreement with the Irish Women Lawyers’ Association (IWLA),** strengthening opportunities for female students in law and criminology. The signing ceremony took place on March 25, 2025, with key representatives from both organisations in attendance. As part of this collaboration, the IWLA has introduced the prestigious IWLA Scholarship, aimed at supporting and empowering women in law and criminology. Open to Year 2 undergraduate students registered with the MU Access Programme, the scholarship provides financial assistance, hands-on legal experience, and invaluable mentorship opportunities. We are pleased to announce that the placement provider for the scholarship this Summer will be the Innocence Project.



### **Maynooth University wins 'Best Memorials' Award at Irish finals of Jessup Moot Court Competition**

Maynooth University has won the award for best memorials (written pleadings) at the Irish finals of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court competition. This highly prestigious competition represents the pinnacle of interscholastic mooting. We would like to warmly congratulate the students - **Lauren Hayden, Zoe Walsh Gibb, Emma Conway, Ethan Johnson, and Martha McArtain** – as well as their coach, Dr Bríd Ní Ghráinne, on this remarkable achievement.

Congratulations also to the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, Queen's University Belfast, who were the overall winners of the final. The students took part in the competition through the International Mooting module, which provides academic credit for participation in the Jessup moot. The team and their coach are very grateful to the wonderful support they received throughout the Jessup experience, particularly from Prof Fergus Ryan, the School of Law and Criminology, Dr Oisín Suttle, Dr Hubert Smekal, Rashmi Dias Goonewardena, Kate Coneely, Dr John Morrison, Aoife Murphy, and Jaya Duignan.





# Department of Sociology

## Centre for the Study of Politics

The Sociology Department and Centre for the Study of Politics are widely acknowledged as a centre of research excellence as well as an exemplar of public sociology and engagement.

Tá cáil bainte amach ag Roinn na Socheolaíochta agus ag an Lárionad don Staidéar ar Pholaitíocht mar cheannáras don sármhaitheas taighde chomh maith le heiseamláir den tsocheolaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht phoiblí.

Since 2024 this research excellence has continued to be reflected in research around key themes of politics, power and policy; culture and identities, particularly transnationally; institutions and social inequalities; and analyses of research, engagement and teaching practice. Furthermore, engagement with policy makers and civil society has continued to be a fundamental element of the research practice of the department.

The department's high standing is reflected in ongoing external funding for research projects, postdoctoral research, postgraduate research and engaged research work – including from sources such as Research Ireland, the European Research Council and Marie Curie Scholarships.

The research capacity and methodological expertise of the department has been further enhanced by the development of a new M.Sc. in Social Research, blending the research and policy strengths of the department into an exciting new programme.

Recent years have brought the retirements of two colleagues who continue to build on their outstanding careers as Emeritus staff, Mary Corcoran and Eamonn Slater. We are also delighted to welcome Daryl Martin, Elena Zambelli and Jenny Dagg to the academic staff of the department.

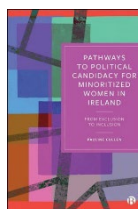
Welcome to this report which gives a sense of the range of the department's research activities, with examples of much of that work.

## Publications

Central to any research activity and contribution is the publication of top-quality research in widely recognised venues. The department's research in 2024-25 clustered within a number of broad themes, reflecting the contribution of departmental researchers to understanding and tackling key concerns of contemporary society.

### Politics, Power and Policy

Our research explores the ways that politics is organised and how this shapes the world around us and our 'choices' of futures, in a deeply uncertain and troubled time.



Professor Pauline Cullen published an article on minoritized mother politicians in Ireland, linked to her forthcoming book with Bristol University Press:

**Cullen, Pauline.** 2025. "Minoritized Mother Politicians in Ireland: Subjectivities and Subjectivation in the Political Workplace." *Gender, Work & Organization* 32(1): 389–407.

Barry Cannon also explored political subjectivities and activism, of a quite different kind, in his research on Far-Right protest in Ireland:

**Cannon, B.; Murphy, S.** (2024) "We're not right-wing or racist but...': Far-right myth and distributive conflict in asylum seeker related protest in the Republic of Ireland, November 2022–July 2023'. *Irish Journal of Sociology* 32(1-2), 225-234.

John Brown's research explores the dynamics of political movements, across state and civil

society. As part of his Research Ireland Pathway award, he published 6 articles including an article in *Critical Sociology* titled “Trajectories and legacies of outsider party-building: The rise and fall of Spain’s Podemos” and “The Decline of Greece’s SYRIZA: Moderation, Factionalism, Oligarchization, and Weak Popular Counterpower” in *New Political Science*.

Other colleagues explored the relationship between social class and political conflict and change, with Colin Coulter explaining how social class shaped the conflict in Northern Ireland while Laurence Cox explored how the political action of social movement can reshape the dominant class ideologies:

**Coulter, C.** (2025). ‘Class and Conflict in Northern Ireland,’ in James W. McAuley, Máire Braniff and Graham Spencer (eds.), *A Companion to Conflict and Peace in Northern Ireland*, pp. 251-266.

**Cox, L.** (2024) ‘Social movements and hegemonic struggle’ In: *The Elgar Companion to Antonio Gramsci* pp. 370–387.

Other research investigated the politics that underpin different policy patterns. Seán Ó Riain explored how a political growth strategy based on foreign investment shaped broader aspects of Irish society, while Pauline Cullen investigated the politics of the privatisation of care. Mary Murphy explored Ireland’s potential for a ‘just transition’ and an ‘eco-social contract’ in a number of articles and edited journal issues.

**Ó Riain, S.** (2024) ‘Key Features and Vulnerabilities of the Irish Growth Model’. *Studies*, 113: 458-467.

**Cullen, P.** (2024) ‘Discursive Strategies of Private Home Care Providers in Ireland Public funding for Private Care’. *Revue des politiques sociales et familiales*, 150 :135-151.

**Murphy, M.** editor (2024). “Changing the Conversation about Climate Change: Special Issue” *Administration* 73 (2).

Dukelow, F. and M.**Murphy** (2024) “An Eco-Social Careful Political Economy: Making the Links between Care, Equality, and Climate” *Studies*, 113: 500-514.

Elena Zambelli’s research investigated the complex vulnerabilities of mixed-status and asylum-seeking people and families in the UK migration system after Brexit:

**Zambelli, E., Benson, M., Sigona, N.** (2024) ‘Brexit Rebordering, Sticky Relationships and the Production of Mixed-Status Families’. *Sociology* 58(3), 605-622.

Benson, M., Sigona, N., **Zambelli, E.** (2024) ‘The UK’s ‘Safe and Legal’ Humanitarian Routes: from Colonial Ties to Privatising Protection’. *Political Quarterly*, 95: 263-271.

Related themes were explored by Daryl Martin in his analysis of how debates about architecture involved intertwined debates about citizenship:

Yardimci, O; **Martin, D** (2024) ‘Fragments of citizenship: contested mosque architecture in the North of England’. *City*, 28 (3-4):539-555.

## Identities and Intimate Lives

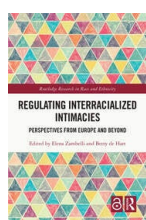
Another key focus of departmental research is the social creativity and power relations that shape our identities – our ways of thinking about who we are and to who, where and what we feel attached. A critical element in our most recent research is the importance of transnational cultural flows and social connections.

Rebecca King-O’Riain’s research explored these questions in relation to new forms of media and communications and how they have part of the construction of new social identities but also new forms of social relationships. She also explored racialised experiences in Irish academia.

**Chiyoko King-O’Riain, R.** (2025) “‘Hot Asian Boy Summer’: Performing Asian Irish Masculinities on TikTok” In: *Irish Digital Cultures: Identities, Contexts, Space*. London: Routledge.

**Chiyoiko King-O'Riain, R.** (2024) 'Hallyu Dreaming: Making Sense of Race and Gender in K-dramas in the Midwestern USA and Ireland' In: *Korean Pop Culture Beyond Asia: Race and Reception*. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press.

**Chiyoiko King-O'Riain, R.** (2025) 'On Being 'Not Quite White' in Irish Academia' In: *Equity in the Workplace: Stories of Black Irish Women in Academia and the Teaching Profession*. Dublin, Ireland: Rising Voices Publishing.



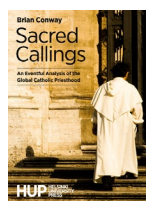
Linking to this emphasis on the politics of racialised identities, Elena Zambelli co-edited a recently published book *Regulating Interracialized Intimacies: Perspectives from Europe and Beyond*, which is available online in open access format.

John O'Brennan, with Aphra Kerr and colleagues, investigated the role of sports media in childrens' understanding of gambling:

Kitchen, P., McEvoy, E., **Kerr, A.**, and **O'Brennan, J.**, 2024. 'Understanding mediated sports consumption by Irish children: a qualitative study exploring their exposure and understanding of gambling marketing, risks and harms', *BMC Public Health* 24(1):2478.



Brian Conway's research explored the place of religion in society, with a particular interest recently in its relation to bureaucracy and law. this includes a new edited volume entitled *Religion, Law, and COVID-19 in Europe: A Comparative Analysis* and a book exploring factors shaping the Catholic priesthood around the world.



**Conway, B.** 2025. *Sacred Callings: An Eventful Analysis of the Global Catholic Priesthood*. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press.

Laurence Cox has explored many aspects of Buddhism globally and in Ireland, including co-

authoring an article with recent PhD John Ó Laoidh.

**Cox, L.**, Dessì, U. and Pokorny, L/ (Eds.). (2024). *East Asian Religiosities in the European Union: Globalisation, Migration, and Hybridity*. Leiden: Brill.

Ó Laoidh, J., **Cox, L.** (2025). 'Buddhism in Ireland' In: *Handbook of Buddhism in Europe*. Leiden: Brill.

## Organisations and Inequalities

One of the central issues in any society is how inequality is constructed – or reduced – through its dominant institutions. This continues to be an area where Maynooth Sociology makes major contributions. Delma Byrne's research explores the many ways in which the organisation of education affects educational outcomes, including a recent article on the impact of grinds and other forms of 'shadow education'. Relatedly, Seán Ó Riain (with Amy Healy) analysed the inequalities in job security associated with different kinds of workplaces across Europe.

McCoy, S.; **Byrne, D.** (2024) 'Shadow Education Uptake in Ireland: Inequalities and Wellbeing in a High-Stakes Context'. *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 72 (6): 693-719.

Healy, A.E.; **Ó Riain, S.** (2025) 'Workplace regimes and contractual insecurity in European employment'. *European Journal of Industrial Relations* 31(3), 393-413

Access to healthcare and services was also explored in other Maynooth Sociology research. Paul Ryan investigated sex workers' interaction with Ireland's mental health services, while Daryl Martin analysed how the design of healthcare facilities shaped the social delivery and access of care.

**Ryan, P.**; McGarry, K.; Leacy, B.; Leahy, P. (2024) "'I don't think I can help you anymore.'" Sex workers' experiences of accessing mental health services in Ireland'. *Sexuality, Gender and Policy*, 7(4), 366–381.

**Martin, D.**, Brown, N., Buse, C., Nettleton, S. and Lewis, A. (forthcoming) An architecture of risk:

how the past breathes in the design of future clinical space. Ephemera: theory & politics in organization. [An architecture of risk: How the past breathes in the design of future clinical space | Ephemeral Journal](#)

**Martin, D;** Ivanova, D; Simonsen, T (2025) 'Moving beyond clinical imaginaries: Technogeographies of the everyday urban'. *Journal of Medical Humanities*

Other research showed that social inequalities can both shape and be created through leisure and cultural activities, with Pauline Cullen exploring the gendered experiences of rugby and Eoin Flaherty analysing how the production of heavy metal music is shaped by the form of capitalism in different countries:

Eoin **Flaherty** (2025) 'The three worlds of heavy metal: Inequality and the political economy of metal music'. *Metal Music Studies*, 11 (1).

Dane, K.; Foley, G.; **Cullen, P.**; Wilson, F. (2024) "'Women shouldn't play rugby'" – the gendered and embodied experiences of women players in rugby union'. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 16(5), 487–502.

### Practice, Teaching and Pedagogical Development

Departmental research has also explored the various ways that sociology and politics engage with their various 'audiences' – through practitioners, students and civil society. Bary Cannon's research analysed an exercise of creative engagement with development professionals around notion of global citizenship, while Jenny Dagg applied a human rights perspective to the work of justice for people with disabilities:

**Cannon, B.** (2024) 'Going Global: Defining, Characterising and Constructing Global Citizenship'. *Policy and Practice – A Development Education Review*, (38):86-102.

**Dagg, J.**, 2024. *Using a Disability Human Rights Research Method to Explore Reproductive Justice for Persons with Disabilities*. London: Sage Publications.

Laurence Cox co-edited a handbook of methods directed at social movements as active participants in the research process:

**Cox, L.,** Szolucha, A., Arribas, L., Chattopadhyay, S. (Eds.). (2024) *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications for Social Movements*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar

Rebecca King-O'Riain published and presented with her undergraduate students on their research experiment in a sociology module as a part of her GenAI Teaching Fellowship.



**Chiyoko King-O'Riain, R.** (2025). 'Is GenAI Reproducing or Solving Social Inequality' In: *Using GenAI in Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Irish Universities*. Cork, Ireland: University College Cork.

### Engaged Research and Impact

A deep and constructive engagement between departmental researchers and various groups and organisations outside the university is central to the activity and contributions of Maynooth Sociology and takes many forms.

### Published Industry/Policy Reports

Several published reports were linked to engaged research. The Department of Culture, Sport and Communication published Jenny Dagg's (2025) '*The Basic Income for the Arts in Ireland: Qualitative Report*'. Dublin: Stationary Office, which she discussed in an interview for Pro Creative available on YouTube.



*“Women Beyond the Dáil: Access, Representation, and Retention in Irish Local Government”*, published by the National Womens’ Council and co-authored by Pauline Cullen, examined the motivations and deterrent factors for women who served in local government between 2019-2024.



Seán Ó Riain worked with researchers from trade unions and the Nevin Economic Research Institute to co-author “A New Economic Model” which was published and formally ratified by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in 2025.

### **Engagement with External Bodies, Civil Society and the Public Sphere**

Publication is only one of the many forms of engagement linked to departmental research. Formal appointment to consultative bodies is



often important. For example, Jenny Dagg has acted as Senior Expert with the [European Disability Expertise](#) network for the European Commission from June 2024. Pauline Cullen joined the newly established Research Advisory Group of

An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Ireland’s independent electoral commission, in February 2024.

Much of the work in this area involves ongoing dialogues. For example, Colin Coulter participated in a sequence of four public events designed to foster dialogue between the GAA and people from Northern Pro-Union backgrounds. These discussions were held in Croke Park, Dublin, Silverbridge GAA Club,

south Armagh, the Connaught GAA Centre of Excellence, County Mayo, and the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Limerick City. He also participated in “Debating the Constitutional Question”, a roundtable discussion organised by the North West Cultural Partnership, 29 March 2025, New Gate Arts & Culture Centre, Derry/Londonderry.

John O’ Brennan participated in a wide variety of discussions on issues relating to international relations, in particular. He was a guest speaker (along with the ambassadors of Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland) at a roundtable on ‘What future for Ukraine?’ in Dublin, 25 March 2025.

He was also a member of the panel which assessed the 2024 State of the Union speech by European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen at an event hosted by the Irish Institute for International and European Affairs and the European Commission Representation in Ireland, on 27 November 2024.

John O’ Brennan was also an invited speaker on the theme of Irish and German priorities for the new EU mandate, hosted by the European Movement Ireland and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, held at the Royal Irish Academy, 21 October 2024.

John O Brennan spoke about developments within the European Union at a conference organised by the Department of Social Protection. John also spoke at the Annual General Meeting of the Brussels Employer Employee Relations Group in Sitges, Spain.

These dialogues were complimented by his ongoing participation in public debates on all the major national print and broadcast channels.

Eoin Flaherty completed two podcast episodes for Jessica Wilson’s U.S.-based ‘Making it Awkward’ podcast and was interviewed by

U.S.-based *Wired* about conspiracy theories surrounding Covid 19 and 5G.

As part of an ongoing engagement with the issue, in October 2024, Eoin was discussant at an event for the Galway 'Architecture at the Edge' festival on new models of Irish housing. The event, titled 'Clachans: Narratives for New neighbourhoods' featured London-based architecture firm Proctor and Matthews, and was based around their experience of designing a new residential development at Wilkinson's Brook, Tyrrelstown Co. Dublin based on the design principles of the Irish 'Rundale' farming system.

The festival also exhibited a display on Irish Farming 'The Landscape Rehearsals' completed by the architecture collective BothandGroup, for which Eoin served as authorial collaborator. The exhibit was previously entered and exhibited at the International Venice Biennale exhibition.

### **International Collaborations**

Our external and engaged collaborations are also strongly internationalised.

In October 2024, the European Research Council funded project, LINLOSS, was pleased to welcome a distinguished guest, Professor Sali A. Tagliamonte, Canada Research Chair in Language Variation and Change, from the University of Toronto, Canada, marking the beginning of a collaboration under an 'implementing arrangement' between the European Commission and the Canadian Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS).

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the National Open Research Fund project QSA\*Net hosted an online workshop for 58 participants on 'Building an International Network for Qualitative Secondary Analysis.' The event aimed to establish strategies for promoting open research in qualitative social science.

Elena Zambelli organized and managed the first and second edition of the Bianca

Pomeranzi Prize, which is a multistakeholder initiative involving national and international institutions and NGOs that offers a paid internship to graduates of a Master taught at an Italian university and whose dissertation focused on feminist and gender approaches to international development. The prize for the first edition (awarded 3 October 2024) consisted of an internship with Oxfam Italy; the second edition (awarded 19 June 2025) consisted of an internship with UNFPA- West and Central Africa and another with AIDOS.

Eoin Flaherty and Eamonn Slater led discussion with Prof. Kevin Anderson of UC Santa Barbara following the publication of his book 'The Late Marx's Revolutionary Roads'. Eoin will join Kevin at SOAS in London, November 2025, to host a panel discussion on their work.

Mary Murphy undertook a variety of in collaboration with the European Trade Union Institute, including particularly work on Gender, Care, Work and Climate. This work connected to research on the Eco-Social Contract internationally, including international workshops with OSE Sebastino Sabato Just Transition knowledge community, Green Economic Foundation Academy, and the Forum for Caring Societies (Hot or Cool Berlin).

Daryl Martin has co-led a networking grant awarded this year with colleagues from Denmark and the Netherlands, investigating the intertwining of technology, identities and care:

Ivanova, D., Martin, D. and Simonsen, T. (2025). Digital Technogeographies of Care and Belonging. EASST Fund. €3000

Brian Conway continued his work as correspondent for Ireland in EUREL, a University of Strasbourg-based network of scholars of religion and law. He also led a multi-country research project studying the impact of COVID-19 on religion in Europe, which culminated in an edited volume on the topic.

John O'Brennan delivered an Invited Lecture on EU Enlargement and the rule of law, at Boston College, Boston, on 21 November 2024. This followed his appearance at a major roundtable event at Boston College a few days earlier on the implications of the Trump election win for Ireland and Europe.

John O'Brennan was an Invited Speaker on European security and military neutrality, hosted by the Austrian Institute for European Security Studies, in Vienna, 5 June 2025. He also delivered guest lectures on the future of European Security at Minho University, Portugal, on 23 April 2025 and a similar talk at Granada University, Spain, on 17 March 2025.

John O' Brennan engaged in a fieldtrip to the Baltic States in February 2025, as part of a new project, 'Mapping the Irish footprint in Central and Eastern Europe'. As well as visiting partner universities he also held meetings with the Irish ambassadors to Estonia and Lithuania and a number of experts from leading think tanks in the Baltic region.



## Significant Events

The Sociological Association of Ireland (SAI) held its 2024 Annual Conference at Maynooth University on May 10-11. The conference, themed "Sociological Imagination: Creating Hopeful Futures" was organised by the

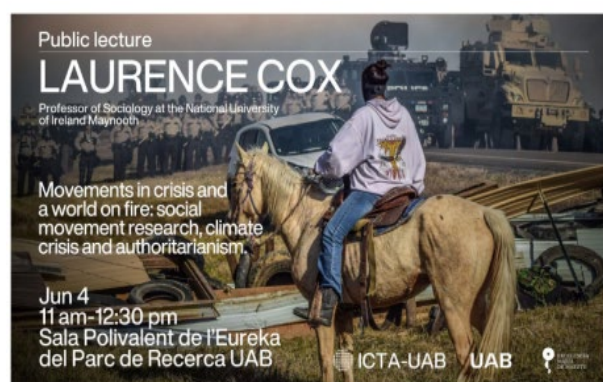
Sociology Department with help from MUSSI colleagues and was a great success.

The Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, the Department of Sociology Maynooth and Atlantic Technological University also combined to organise a festival of three events to celebrate Micheál Mac Gréil S.J and his life's work. The festival kicked off in Maynooth in March 2024 with a packed audience for a seminar on Mícheál's classic study of "Prejudice and Tolerance in Ireland".



Colin Coulter was the coordinator of the inaugural Maynooth Festival of Palestinian Culture, twelve events across four days (7-10 April 2025) on campus and in the town.

Among other discussions of the work, to mark the publication of the *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications for Social Movements*, Laurence Cox organised a global online symposium bringing together 28 of the chapter authors in 7 separate sessions following the sun from Jakarta to Melbourne (24-25 April 2024).







The Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies co-hosted a packed roundtable event with the Department of Sociology in February 2025 on 'Trump 2.0: how scared should we be?' in February 2025.

To celebrate the publication of *Religion, Law, and COVID-19 in Europe: A Comparative Analysis* bringing together 19 country case studies from across Europe, Brian Conway organised a talk/launch at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 11 September 2025.

Prof Pauline Cullen gave the keynote address at the All-Island Women's Forum Event, Reimagining Political and Civic Spaces, which took place in Queen's University Belfast on September 3rd, 2025. At this event feminist activists, political leaders, and community organisers discussed how to achieve greater representation of women in politics and explored the various forms of feminist leadership.



'Transformative change: unlocking institutional imagination' was hosted by the Department of Sociology and Maynooth University Social Science Institute in April 2024. The event was facilitated by ReSource at the Burren College of Art (BCA) and proved a useful and inspiring day, with proceedings published in a special issue of *Administration*.

On a related topic, Mary Murphy, Pauline Cullen (Sociology) and Mags Crea (Applied Social Studies) organised a workshop for civil society to reflect on current threats to democracy and equality and discuss strategies to move on solidarity and struggle.



Mary Murphy gave the 12th Annual NERI Dónal Nevin Lecture on 5 December 2024 on 'A new all island social settlement: An eco-social future of care and equality'. This was accompanied by the launch of special issue of *Studies* on the 'Irish Models of Development'. A further launch event included dialogues in June 2025 on Changing the Conversation on Climate Action.





## Selected Research Projects

The Department of Sociology has a large number of ongoing research projects, some supported through external funding while others are not and typically at a wide variety of scales and using a diverse range of methodologies.

LINLOSS: Disposals and Dead-Ends in Lineages of Social Innovation and Change, is an Advanced European Research Council project (No. 101098100), funded by the European Union. The Principal Investigator is Professor Jane Gray, and the project Research Partner is Dr. Witold Mandrysz, University of Silesia in Katowice. The project runs from 2023-2028. The research team includes three post-doctoral researchers (Dr. Siresa Lopez Berengueres, Dr. Milena Komarova and Dr. Maria Waclawik), two research assistants (Viola Di Bucchianico, Gabriela Styrkowicz) and a postgraduate student (Saif Ali). LINLOSS is a comparative study of two communities, one in Ireland (Carrickmacross, County Monaghan), and one in Poland (Suszec, Silesian Voivodeship). The project aims to understand how ways of life discarded at moments of crisis and uncertainty shape the futures of individuals, families and communities.

*QSA\*Net: Promoting Open Research in Qualitative Social Science* (2023-2025) is funded by the National Open Research Forum, Open Research Fund, 2023. The Principal Investigator is Professor Jane Gray, and the Post-Doctoral Researcher is Dr. Rong Bao. Professor Kahryn Hughes (University of Leeds) and Dr. Lisa Moran (Technological University of the Shannon) are research partners. Highlights to date include:

- International Online Training Workshop in Qualitative Secondary Analysis, conducted as part of the [RUN-EU](#)

[Immersive Research Institute](#), in collaboration with TUS (May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025). Fifteen researchers from across Europe attended.

- Panel convened at the Sociological Association of Ireland, Cork 8-9<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.
- Project abstract presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR2025), 4-6 February, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.

Seán Ó Riain received a Low Pay Commission Bursary in 2024, which has produced two reports which are currently being finalised on the institutional determinants of levels of low pay in the EU-27 and on how workplace organisation shapes low pay outcomes in Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Eoin Flaherty and Colin Coulter have received MUSSI funding to support continuing research on religion and non-response in the Northern Irish census.

Barry Cannon is leading a project along with Joseph Timoney (Maynooth International Engineering College), with Nessa Ni Chasaide as postdoc researcher, on the impact of the emergence of the Far Right in Ireland on minoritised populations. The project is funded by Research Ireland COALESCE funding stream.

Seán Ó Riain and Amy Healy are involved in a European network, coordinated by Bruno Palier and Paulus Wagner. on how workplace organisation shapes political attitudes and behaviour, particularly Far Right voting. This is only one of a myriad of international collaborations and unfunded projects undertaken by departmental researchers.

## Significant appointments

John O'Brennan was awarded the Maynooth University Individual Award for Public Engagement. MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen commented that John "has made significant

contributions to public engagement, particularly in European Union politics and international affairs. Since joining MU in 2007, his work across media, research, and academic partnerships has helped shaped political discussions both in Ireland and internationally”.

Rebecca King-O’Riain was appointed Chair of the Race Equality Strategy Steering Group for MU.

John Brown was selected as the Fulbright Ireland Camus Ambassador for Maynooth, and he was also invited to join the advisory board for the *Journal of Global Studies: Historical Analysis and Social Change*.

Mary Murphy is a member of the Council of State, Chair of the Board of Oxfam Ireland and a Board Member of the St Stephen’s Green Trust.

John O’ Brennan is a Member of the Brexit Stakeholder Group (2017-present) and Vice-President, Irish Association for Contemporary European Studies.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

The department hosts a wide range of postgraduate and postdoctoral researcher awards – including Government of Ireland Postgraduate, Postgraduate Enterprise and Postdoctoral Awards; European Research Council awards; and Marie Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship awards to doctoral candidates **Niall Sheil** and **Eamonn Sullivan** were celebrated in Maynooth University in October 2024. We also celebrated PhD viva examination passes for a number of students. We are also extremely proud of a recent research publication by our own prize-winning undergraduate student, Nathan Lee:

**Lee, Nathan** (2025) “Pink Pins: Queering the Map and Digital Community” *Liberated Arts: a*

*journal for undergraduate research* 12, 1, Article 7.

## Department Institutes/Centres

**The Centre for the Study of Politics** remains our institutional home for the study of politics in the department, evident in publications, engagement and our teaching.

Departmental researchers continue to be central to the Maynooth University Social Science Institute. Itself led by Prof. Linda Connolly (details elsewhere in this report).

**The Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies** continues to be very active, particularly in its external academic and public engagement.



For example, the Centre hosted a ‘Mitterand Breakfast’ with the guest of honour, the Ambassador of Czechia, His Excellency Pavel Vošalík, in December 2024. The Centre hosted Dr Hassan Ould Moctar (SOAS, University of London) on 10 February 2025, on his new book, ‘After Border Externalization: Migration, Race and Labour in Mauritania’ (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024). Hassan is a graduate of Maynooth Politics and a former winner of the NUI Travelling Studentship.



## Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)

In 2024-25, the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) has continued to deliver impactful, policy-relevant, and societally engaged research. Drawing on the expertise of our affiliated centres - including the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG), the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), the Centre for Mental Health and Community Research (CMHCR), the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and major externally funded projects such as LINLOSS, QSA\*Net and ESPON - our researchers have engaged with national and international partners, advanced methodological innovation, and influenced public debate and policymaking. This report summarises key achievements across research, engagement, collaborations, and impact.

### Engaged Research and Impact

**The Research for Policy Seminar Series**, led by Prof. Mark Boyle and Seán Ó Foghlú and Dr John O'Connor, brought together academics and policymakers to reflect on pensions, justice reform, behavioural science, education policy, and more.

**The Centre for Mental Health and Community Research (CMHCR)** Led by Prof. Sineád McGilloway co-hosted the Diversity and Intercultural Education Network (DIEN) conference, launching the final report of the SALaM Ireland project on Arabic-speaking students in Irish schools.

**AIRO** created tools such as the Women for Election Data Hub (2024 elections), the MU External Engagement Hub, and a Vacant Lands and Land Activation Dashboard with Dublin City Council.

**The Grass to Gas Project**, a collaboration with Kildare County Council, developed a

biomethane assessment platform and has been nominated for a 2025 Public Sector Digital Transformation Award. Led by Dr. Stephanie Keogh, Prof. Rowan Fealy and Prof. Tim McCarthy.

### NCG's Drone Innovation Partnership (DIP)

engages local government and aviation stakeholders on urban drone integration, highlighted at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport (July 2025).

### International collaborations

The **LINLOSS Project** (ERC Advanced Grant, PI Prof. Jane Gray) began a collaboration with Prof. Sali A. Tagliamonte (University of Toronto, Canada) in October 2024 under an EU–Canada TIPS agreement. A follow-up visit is scheduled for October 2025.

The **QSA\*Net Project** (NORF, PI Prof. Jane Gray) hosted an online workshop (May 2025) with 58 international participants to build a global network for Qualitative Secondary Analysis, with partners from Leeds and TUS.

NCG participates in the **ESA Atlantic Pathfinder Maritime Surveillance project** with Skytek, Tyndall (UCC), and Strathclyde, advancing Ireland's contributions to marine monitoring and hybrid threat analysis.

The **Data Stories Project** funded by an advanced ERC grant (PI Prof Rob Kichin) continued to produce many outputs and publications after a couple of years of fieldwork:

Dawkins, O. and Kichin, R. (in press) Urban digital twins for participatory steering. *New Media & Society*.

Kayanan, C.M. (2025) Housing Need and Demand Assessment Policy Report. *Data Stories Working Paper* 7, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/id/eprint/19481/>



Kitchin, R. (2025) *Critical Data Studies: An A to Z Guide to Concepts and Methods*. Polity Books. [Open access download](#).

Kitchin, R. and Dawkins, O. (2024, online first) Digital twins and deep maps. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. 1-7. doi: [10.1111/tran.12699](https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12699)

Kayanan, C., Mutter, S., Davret, J. and Kitchin, R. (2024) The digital turn in planning and ‘good enough’ planning systems, data and outcomes. *Data Stories Working Paper* 6, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/19278/>

Kitchin, R., Davret, J., Kayanan, C. and Mutter, S. (2024) A genealogy of a data ecosystem: The digitalisation of the Ireland’s planning development and control, 2000-2024. *Data Stories Working Paper* 5, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/19264/>

Kitchin, R., Davret, J., Kayanan, C. and Mutter, S. (2024) Assemblage theory, data systems and data ecosystems: The data assemblages of Irish planning system. *Data Stories Working Paper* 4, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/19238/>

Kitchin, R., Davret, J., Kayanan, C. and Mutter, S. (2024) Data mobilities: Rethinking the movement and circulation of data. *Data Stories Working Paper* 3, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/18716/>

Kitchin, R. and Murphy, A. (2024) Library Services for Housing and Planning Publications in Ireland. *Data Stories Working Paper* 2, <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/18612/>

Ash, J., Kitchin, R. and Leszczynski, A. (2024) *Researching Digital Life: Orientations, Methods and Practice*. Sage, London.

Kitchin, R. (2023) Arts-based methods for researching digital life. *Data Stories Working Paper* 1. <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/16870/>

The Digital Repository of Ireland continued to develop a national digital repository for Ireland’s humanities, social sciences, and cultural heritage data. DRI was built by a

research consortium of academic partners working together to deliver the repository, policies, guidelines and training. Core academic institutions continue to manage the repository and implement its policies, guidelines and training. These are the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MU PI, Prof Linda Connolly and researcher Dr Aileen O’Carroll). For more information, please go to [www.dri.ie](http://www.dri.ie)

### Appearance in the Media

- DecaMap (NCG) was profiled on RTÉ News for its role in AI-driven wildfire response.
- Drone research at Maynooth University featured on RTÉ Prime Time (3 July 2025).
- An upcoming feature on RTÉ’s Futureville (autumn 2025) will showcase MU’s drone and emergency management research.
- Work on perinatal mental health by CMHCR scholars featured in the Irish Examiner (January 2025).

### Published Industry/Policy Reports

AIRO launched the National Census Atlas with the three Regional Assemblies, recognised at the #europecooperates forum and awarded Highly Commended at the Irish Planning Institute Awards 2025.

AIRO maintained the Regional Development Monitor (RDM), hosting 15 training workshops with assemblies, regulators, local authorities, and elected officials.

Data Stories produced multiple working papers on planning data, housing, and ecosystems, alongside journal contributions and book publications.

### Publications in the Media

- Dr. Kevin Credit and Conor O’Driscoll authored an article for RTÉ Brainstorm: *Here’s*

*the real cost of your morning rush hour commute (2025)*

### Engagement with Industry/Practice

- AIRO delivered extensive training on the RDM for policymakers, planners, and elected members.
- DecaMap was central to the EU MODEX wildfire simulation (March 2025), engaging multiple emergency services.
- The Drone Innovation Partnership continues to develop frameworks for drone applications in urban environments.

### Membership in Industrial/Public Sector Bodies

Dr. Kevin Credit serves as a committee member of the Irish Transportation Research Network (ITRN).

Prof. Tim McCarthy serves as a Board Member of the Marine Institute and National Scientific Representative to the EU Copernicus Committee.

AIRO plays a sustained role in providing evidence-based expertise to multiple public bodies. In 2024-25, the team engaged with the Eastern and Midlands, Southern, and Northern & Western Regional Assemblies through the Regional Development Monitor (RDM). Training workshops were also delivered to the Office of the Planning Regulator, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Central Statistics Office, the Western Development Commission, An Coimisiún Pleanála, and professional associations including the Irish Planning Institute and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

### Significant Events

MUSSI hosted ten **Research for Policy seminars** between September 2024 and November 2025, featuring contributions from

academics and policymakers on pensions reform, justice partnerships, education policy, climate governance, and more. The series will continue into 2026.

The Centre for Mental Health and Community Research (CMHCR) and DIEN organised a national conference on diversity and intercultural education (April 2025), supported by the MU Impact through Dissemination Fund, launching the SALaM Ireland report.

The Data Stories Project contributed to public-facing events, including a Dublin community archiving event with CATU and NCAD (May 2025), and creative workshops at the AAG 2025 conference in Detroit.

The QSA\*Net Project convened a panel at the Sociological Association of Ireland (Cork, May 2025) and presented at the 9th World Conference on Qualitative Research (Kraków, February 2025).

NCG demonstrated the DecaMap platform during the EU MODEX wildfire exercise in the Wicklow Mountains (March 2025), with participation from over a dozen national emergency services and agencies.

AIRO showcased the Regional Development Monitor (RDM) internationally at the *Europe, Let's Cooperate* forum (2025), where it was presented as a best-practice example of evidence-informed regional planning.

### Funded Research

- QSA\*Net (2023–2025, NORF, PI Prof. **Jane Gray**, Postdoc Dr. **Rong Bao**) delivered international workshops and panels promoting qualitative secondary analysis.
- LINLOSS (2023–2028, ERC Advanced Grant, PI Prof. **Jane Gray**) is conducting comparative research in Ireland and Poland, completing initial fieldwork with 55 participants and hosting a July 2025 training workshop.

- DecaMap transitioned from Research Ireland (€1.2m) into an Enterprise Ireland commercialisation phase (€675k).
- Drone Innovation Partnership (Research Ireland LERO Centre, PI Prof. **Tim McCarthy**) continues research on urban drone use.
- Atlantic Pathfinder Maritime Surveillance (ESA, PI Prof. **Tim McCarthy**) integrates satellite, drone, and acoustic data for marine monitoring.
- AgAdapt: MU is a co-applicant in a €40m Teagasc-led Research Ireland Centre proposal, shortlisted in September 2025.

## Significant appointments

Dr. Kevin Credit: invited to editorial board of Information Geography; guest editor for Journal of Geographical Systems special issue on spatial machine learning.

Dr. John Brown: Fulbright Ireland Campus Ambassador; advisory board member of Journal of Global Studies.

Prof. Tim McCarthy: Board Member of the Marine Institute; National Scientific Rep to EU Copernicus Committee.

Justin Gleeson was appointed as a committee member of the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation 'Public Service Data Strategy Working Group'.

## Awards and Honors

Dr. **Kevin Credit**: Best Paper Award (*Journal of Geographical Systems*, 2024); shortlisted for AESOP Best Published Paper Award (2025).

Prof. **Tim McCarthy & John McDonald**: received LERO Centre Collaborative Research and R&D Impact Award (2024).

AIRO's National Census Atlas: Highly Commended Award, Research & Innovation category, Irish Planning Institute Awards 2025.

CMHCR: Irish Research Council-funded 'MoreThanASelfie' project selected as an outstanding societal impact case by the IUA (2025).

Professor **Linda Connolly** was invited to attend a conversation with President Michael D Higgins at Áras an Úachtaráin on Narrative Hospitality on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## Celebrating Research Student Achievements

PhD completion: **Seán O'Kane** (supervisors Prof. Tim McCarthy & Prof. Rowan Fealy), with a thesis on EO-ML frameworks for coastal water quality monitoring, partly undertaken with Stockholm University. Thesis Title: 'Developing and Validating Satellite Remote Sensing Methods for the Retrieval of Optical Water Constituents from Optically Complex Coastal Waters, including the Northwestern Baltic Sea and Dublin Bay'. Supported by Research Ireland award 16/IA/4520

## Select Publications

**Brunsdon**, C. et al. (2025). *An Introduction to R for Spatial Analysis and Mapping* (3rd ed.). SAGE.

**Kitchin**, R. (2025). *Critical Data Studies: An A to Z Guide to Concepts and Methods*. Polity Books.

Dawkins, O. & **Kitchin**, R. (in press). Urban digital twins for participatory steering. *New Media & Society*.

**Ó Foghlú**, S., **Boyle**, M., Doyle, M. (2025). The Contribution of Knowledge Brokerage to Building an Effective Evidence for Policy Infrastructure in Ireland – Lessons Learned from the Initial Series of Pathfinding Knowledge Brokerage Events in Ireland, 2022 to 2024 (MUSSI Working Paper No 25)

**Connolly, L.** (2025). What Now After the March the 8th Referendums? The Future of Family, Caring and Women's "Life in the Home". MUSSI Working Paper No 26

**Connolly, L.** (2024), two contributions in the award-winning *Atlas of the Irish Civil War* (Cork: Cork University Press), including "Case Study – Violence against Women during the Irish Civil War."

**Brown, J.** (2024–25). Six peer-reviewed articles including in *Critical Sociology* and *New Political Science*.

**McCarthy, T. et al.** (2024–25). Publications on wildfire modelling, hydrology, and marine solutions.

Data Stories Working Papers – see list above (Kitchin, Davret, Kayanan, Mutter, et al.).



## Innovation Value Institute



IVI's research and applied programmes consistently demonstrate real-world relevance. Through the EMPOWER Spokes

Programme, we advanced

ethical data governance across Ireland and Europe, contributing to the European Health Data Space, co-developing tools with the HSE and Department of Health, and influencing international standards in secure data access. Our projects—Fidelity, GoGreenRoutes, and GoGreenNext—illustrate the breadth of our impact: improving urban wellbeing, enabling climate-neutral planning, and supporting professional and societal standards in AI and data governance. Across sectors, IVI continues to drive innovation. From the ReThink | ReDesign programme for SMEs, to sustainable software development toolkits, digital health initiatives, and advanced training for the next generation of data leaders through programmes like DIGI+ and EnTrust, we combine research excellence with applied impact. Our collaborations with national and international partners—including the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum, Age Friendly Ireland and European research consortia—amplify Ireland's influence in ethical AI, data governance, and smart city development.

IVI's commitment to engaged research is matched by our focus on developing talent and leadership. Through micro-credentials, doctoral networks, and postdoctoral training programmes, we empower professionals and researchers to lead digital transformation, applying knowledge to solve pressing societal and organisational challenges. Our students' achievements, including awards at the IEEE Cyber Research Conference Ireland 2024 and recognition at the IVI Summit Research

Symposium, underscore our focus on nurturing the innovators of tomorrow.

As we approach IVI's 20th anniversary in 2026, this year's accomplishments demonstrate the enduring power of collaboration, innovation, and socially responsible research.

## Engaged research and impact

### Policy and Public Service Impact

The **EMPOWER** Spokes Programme, funded by Research Ireland, is a pioneering initiative designed to develop systems and methods that enable effective data governance in real-world applications of data-driven solutions. In partnership with the Health Service Executive, UCD's ADAPT Centre designed and implemented the first formal data-steward structures within the organisation, together with governance guidelines and IT requirements for the Quality and Patient Safety Directorate. This collaboration produced a prototype Health DCAT-AP Data Catalogue for population-health indicators, presented at SEMANTiCS 2025 (Vienna), and documented in Brennan et al., NXDG 2025 Workshop Proceedings. At the European level, EMPOWER researchers contributed to the TEHDAS2 Joint Action and Health Data Access Body (HDAB) project, supporting Ireland's preparation for the European Health Data Space (EHDS). Working with the Department of Health, the team co-authored technical specifications for Health Data Access Bodies (including the Data Access Application Management System - DAAMS) and is helping shape Ireland's national policy position on opt-out mechanisms for secondary data use.

### Professional Services Impact

The Fidelity Investment project has advanced Data Governance practices through an innovative Process Science approach, supporting the development of AI-driven data

sharing and compliance management across multiple sectors.

The research conducted at the ADAPT Centre as part of the EMPOWER Spoke Programme, researchers collaborating with IVI strengthened these efforts by contributing to international standardisation initiatives, including ISO/IEC 27560 and the W3C Data Privacy Vocabulary. Together, these contributions provide globally applicable guidance for responsible, transparent, and trustworthy data management.

### Societal Impact



Led by Associate Professor **Tadhg MacIntyre** as PI, the Horizon Europe **GoGreenRoutes** project brought together 40 partners across Europe to advance nature-based

solutions for healthier, more connected communities. The team co-designed 10 new urban green spaces, including one in Limerick, using innovative “walking interviews” with local citizens to shape the spaces and assess their impact on health and wellbeing. Communities with access to these spaces experienced greater social interaction, reduced polarisation, and increased commitment to the long-term stewardship of sustainable environments.

This year marked the launch of **GoGreenNext**, a new Horizon Europe project led by Tadhg MacIntyre. The project aims to support European cities in progressing toward carbon neutrality, with a focus on integrating green spaces and nature-based solutions into urban planning.

A central feature of the project is the use of immersive virtual reality, which allows citizens, policymakers, and decision-makers to visualise proposed environmental changes and

immediately understand their potential impact. In Ireland, the project is being implemented in Cork, where the work is contributing to future climate-neutral strategy development and sustainable city planning.

### International Engagement Impact

EMPOWER’s international collaborations continue to elevate Ireland’s reputation as a leader in ethical data and AI governance.

Through IVI’s participation in the TEHDAS2 initiative, the programme is directly contributing to harmonised European frameworks for cross-border data access and secondary use of health data, reinforcing Ireland’s strategic role in the implementation of the EHDS. EMPOWER’s participation in European policy fora, including the Health and Innovation Summit and the TEHDAS2 General Assembly (Warsaw 2025) where Denise Mantoan and Markus Helfert represented IVI, further amplifies Ireland’s voice in international debates on data governance, trust, and responsible innovation.

### Health & well-being Impact

The **Genomic Data Infrastructure Ireland** (GDI Ireland) project is Ireland’s contribution to the broader European GDI (European) Project initiative. It aims to build a secure, federated environment for the discovery and analysis of genomic and related health data in support of research, clinical care and public health. GDI Ireland will build a proof-of-concept infrastructure using synthetic genetic data initially, aligned to Irish national strategy for genomics, and guided by European best practice. Its vision is to enable precision medicine and improved treatments for cancer, rare and other diseases via safe data sharing and analysis of DNA .

In 2025, IVI delivered four key outputs that together establish the foundational

operational, governance, legal and maturity structures for the Pilot Node:

- **Operating Procedures & Workflow Templates:** a full seven-stage data access model—from Beacon-based discovery and Life Science Login authentication to Trusted Research Environment (TRE) analysis and controlled results export—supported by templates, regulatory mapping, and a sustainability model.
- **Risk-Based Governance Framework:** clearly defined governance roles and a four-dimensional risk model, accompanied by auditable checklists, RACI matrices, escalation rules, and long-term evidence retention requirements.
- **Maturity Model Recommendation:** a five-level maturity framework across ten domains, guiding Ireland’s progression toward a fully interoperable, EHDS-aligned national node.
- **Legal Instruments Package:** legal documents including access authorisation, TRE Terms of Use, confidentiality undertakings, processor and joint-controller agreements, and a results-export policy.

## Innovation

The IVI developed the **ReThink | ReDesign** programme, an applied business support initiative created to help companies address pressing business challenges and build more resilient, future-ready organisations. Eligible companies can access the programme with full funding through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher scheme. Through this programme, IVI equips companies with the tools and insights needed to evolve, grow, and thrive in a rapidly changing business landscape.

IVI collaborates closely with the **All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum**, contributing research insights, frameworks, and thought leadership

that support the development of forward-looking smart city initiatives. Through this partnership, IVI and the Forum foster an ecosystem of collaboration across local authorities, academia, industry, and international partners—ensuring that cities across the island are equipped to innovate, share best practices, and shape the future of urban living through strategic cooperation and applied innovation.



Dr

**Marco Alfano** has been actively advancing IVI’s digital health and responsible AI research, and person-centred wellbeing, with a strong emphasis on immersive and interactive technologies such as virtual reality (VR) and digital showcases. His work included creating a digital demonstration space at the IVI Summit 2024, showcasing applications such as CHAPE and providing visitors with an interactive, near-VR experience of person-empowerment tools for integrated health and wellbeing. He also presented an Intelligent Agent for Person Empowerment at the Horizon Europe conference in Brussels (July 2024), offering an engaging, hands-on demonstration of how immersive digital technologies can support wellbeing. Across multiple Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) sessions, Marco used interactive prototypes and digital scenarios to help older adults visualise and experience technology-enabled support.

The **Sustainability Toolkit for Green Software Development** was funded in collaboration with the TIA Skillnet: [techiaskillnet.ie](https://techiaskillnet.ie). Its

primary purpose is to help organisations and developers adopt environmentally responsible practices in software engineering through the introduction of green software development principles, cloud carbon footprint measurement, energy-efficient coding practices, implementation strategies, and continuous improvement. The toolkit serves as an educational and practical resource for reducing the environmental impact of software development through frameworks, tools, and best practices.

The **VISION Project**, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), explores strategies to reduce reliance on virgin materials in Ireland's construction sector. By adopting a **value-centric, circular business approach**, the project aims to support more sustainable construction practices while informing policy and industry decision-making.



Coordinated by Prof. **Markus Helfert** and Dr. **Claudia Roessing**, a key achievement of the project is the development of a system-dynamics-based simulation model

that accurately replicates the behaviour of complex real-world systems. This model enables stakeholders to analyse interactions between materials, processes, and policies, forecast the impact of different interventions, and evaluate alternative scenarios to optimise the recycling and reuse of concrete and soil materials. The project has resulted in a comprehensive assessment of circular business models and best practices for reducing virgin material use in the construction sector, guidelines for applying circular practices within the Irish construction industry, and a user-friendly software tool to model,

simulate, and support circular decision-making: [VISION Tool](#).



Leading **digital health innovation**, Prof. **Martin Curley** drives with his pioneering work the mission to make healthcare more human-centred

and preventive. Through his **“Stay Left, Shift Left, 10x”** strategy, Curley has driven transformative results, from a 48-hour rollout of remote monitoring during the pandemic to a 14-fold reduction in hospital stays for stroke patients and the adoption of 95% accurate diagnostic tools. His work demonstrates that true healthcare transformation is built on trust, collaboration, and compassion, proving that technology guided by humanity can deliver life-changing outcomes.

## Funded Research/ Research Projects: Examples

### Age Friendly Ireland – Research Project

This project supports the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) by reviewing national ageing-related policies and funding programmes in Ireland aiming to understand their impact on older people, identify key actors involved, and assess how well these policies align with Age Friendly Ireland priorities. The project has completed a full stakeholder mapping exercise and an analysis of national ageing-related policies. The next phase will examine the cause-and-effect relationships between policy priorities and the lived experiences of older adults. Progress is also underway across all work packages, including the development of a digitally enabled shared service model, the establishment of data governance best practices, and early-stage research on housing



and social connection. These advancements lay the groundwork for an evidence-based, nationally aligned framework to strengthen Age Friendly Ireland's service delivery.

## Skills



The IVI hosted the **STEFORA** Training event in Maynooth University from 24-26 January. This

hybrid event is on the 'Professional Digital Footprint' principle of Digital Citizenship. During day 2 of the event, several case studies from the 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' Department at MU, an EU-wide 'Women in STEM' foundation and an in-house student-led initiative were presented.



**EnTrust** is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network

under Horizon Europe, designed to develop a new generation of Data Executives capable of shaping the future of data sharing in fair, transparent, and trusted ways. The programme brings together 11 Doctoral Candidates in a highly interdisciplinary, international, and intersectoral environment spanning computing, information systems, and the social sciences. The central mission of EnTrust is to empower farmers as equal partners in the agridata value chain by investigating how agricultural data can be responsibly gathered, governed, and utilised. Through its innovative training programme and applied research, EnTrust addresses key challenges in agridata sharing while contributing to broader scientific, economic, and societal impact.

Doctoral Candidates benefit from a rich combination of academic supervision, industry collaboration, secondments, and short scientific visits across the network's partners. The programme equips future leaders with the technical, legal, managerial, and

entrepreneurial skills needed to drive trustworthy data practices and advance sustainable innovation across the agridata ecosystem.



**DIGI+** is a prestigious MSCA postdoctoral programme embedded

within Ireland's leading SFI research centres, Lero and ADAPT. Bringing together world-class expertise and exceptional research environments, the programme offers outstanding career development opportunities for early-stage and experienced researchers. Focused on driving sustainable digital transformation, DIGI+ will support 20 postdoctoral fellows through two-year, interdisciplinary and intersectoral fellowships. The programme equips researchers with a tailored blend of technical, research, and transferable skills, preparing them to become future leaders capable of shaping resilient, sustainable digital ecosystems.

**DIGIFABS** continues to advance digital transformation within the European food and beverage sector, with a strong focus on supporting SMEs through research, skills development, and applied learning initiatives. In 2025, the project strengthened its network of industry, academic, and policy partners while building capacity for digital adoption and sustainability across the sector. Key highlights from the year include hosting a high-profile workshop at the IVI Summit, June 2025, which brought together leaders to discuss digitalisation challenges and future opportunities. The consortium also held its third transnational meeting at Maynooth University, progressing plans for the SME Goes Digital Challenge and Summer School activities.

Training and capacity-building remained central to the programme, with online bootcamps for SMEs and educators and a

highly successful international summer school in Slovakia, which provided hands-on experience with key Industry 4.0 technologies. The SME Goes Digital Challenge launched in autumn, pairing students with real companies to accelerate innovation through design thinking and applied solutions. As the project moves into 2026, the focus will shift toward evaluating impact, supporting the sustainability of the programme outcomes, and concluding with a showcase pitch event in January.

## Key highlights 2024/2025



Our third IVI Thought Leader Interview is now available on the IVI website.

Journalist Claire O'Connell, PhD, MSc Science Communication, interviewed **Mark Crosbie**, Vice President and Data Protection Officer at Dropbox.



*A Data Governance Roadmap for Ireland* was launched at the **IVI Summit 2024**, inaugurated by

Minister of State Seán Fleming TD. This strategic initiative sets a national vision for responsible data and AI governance, aiming to foster fair value sharing, enhance data literacy, and align standards across sectors. The roadmap supports Ireland's digital leadership and sustainable innovation, and is aligned with EU Digital Decade targets and key legislation, positioning data governance as a cornerstone of ethical and effective AI development.

**Community of Practice.** Additional value has been achieved through the National Data Governance Community of



Practice, its specialist working groups and the Data Governance Roadmap Initiative, all of which have been expertly facilitated and coordinated by **Denise Manton** and **Lee-Anne Kallam**. These activities have strengthened engagement between researchers, policymakers and industry, building a strong foundation for responsible data use and innovation in Ireland. The launch of Ireland's Data Governance Roadmap—aligned with EU Digital Decade targets and key legislation such as the Data Governance Act, Data Act, and AI Act—underscored Ireland's commitment to leadership in digital innovation, transparency, and equitable data use.



**IVI** were delighted to host the book launch for Professor **Piero Formica's** new book *Human and Artificial Intelligence* at Renehan Hall, **Maynooth University**, on the evening of 26th June 2024. Piero

gave the enlightenment presentation on Human and Artificial Intelligence, which was followed by the Awards ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Digital Health Summer School. Markus Helfert, the director of IVI, and Professor Martin Curley, the Digital Health Lead of IVI, presented the awards to **Annette McElligott**, **Maxine Radcliffe** and **Karen Kelly** for their outstanding contribution in Digital Health.



On 24 September, the IVI welcomed Dr Hyrmet Mydyti from Kosovo as part of the STEFORA

project. Dr Mydyti, an Assistant Professor at the International Business College Mitrovica, brings more than 18 years of experience in process digitalisation and system modernisation. She delivered an engaging seminar titled “Digital Transformation and Data Science: A Journey Through Innovation and Expertise.” Her presentation highlighted her extensive expertise in data-driven decision-making, digital transformation leadership, and advanced data analytics, demonstrating how these capabilities can enhance business operations and create organisational value. STEFORA, an ERASMUS capacity-building initiative, aims to strengthen STEM participation in Kosovo and Albania by advancing digital citizenship, universal design, and positive social norms.

### **EMPOWER - Community of Practice Symposium, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025.** Another inspiring



gathering of the Data Governance Community of Practice brought together vibrant discussions and forward-thinking ideas. We

opened with a keynote from Barry Lowry, Government CIO, who highlighted Ireland’s digital foundations, the Life Events initiative, and the evolving European regulatory landscape. Lucy Cawley, Director of Global



Data and Analytics at Kellanova, closed the day with insights about the importance of transparency, accessibility, and communication in data governance. Prof. Markus Helfert shared updates on

the EMPOWER Programme, highlighting the shift toward ecosystem-level thinking and AI’s impact on service interaction.



Innovation Spotlights featured impactful case studies from the HSE

(Dr Rob Brennan) and Meta (Dr Delaram Golpayegani), showcasing real-world applications of data governance. Two engaging workshops rounded out the day: *Building Stories* – Led by Dr Philip Crowe and Dr Rob Brennan, exploring data governance in housing and GHG emissions; and *Data Governance Roadmap for Ireland* – Led by Samarth Santosh.

Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless opened Maynooth University’s Digital Health Summer School on 12 May, which unveiled a new vision for digital health in Ireland.



Opening the Innovation Value Institute’s 3rd International Digital Health Summer School, Minister Lawless said: "Today's

event exemplifies higher education's potential to impact society profoundly, showcasing Maynooth University’s commitment to innovation beyond academia."

The Summer School, chaired by Prof. **Martin Curley**, unveiled a digital health initiative, named Mission 10X, to deliver healthcare in Ireland that is 10 times faster, cheaper and smarter than that offered by the current system, and that also enables comprehensive patient-managed care.

In May 2025, Prof. Markus Helfert hosted a high-level delegation from Austria representing more than 30 organisations across research, industry, government, innovation, and media



sectors. Participants included national research institutes, federal ministries, technology agencies, SMEs, media outlets, and innovation bodies such as the Austrian Institute of Technology, AVL List GmbH, Austrian Cooperative Research, Austrian Research Promotion Agency, and AdvantageAustria, as well as representatives from the Austrian Embassy in Dublin.

## Memberships, affiliations and awards

**Prof. Jan vom Brocke**, Distinguished Professor at Maynooth University and the IVI, was elected President of the Association for Information Systems (AIS), the global representative body for the Information Systems community. His appointment reflects his outstanding leadership and contributions to the field.

**Prof. Markus Helfert** has been nominated to be the University's official contact person and representative to the General Assembly of Data, AI and Robotics (DAIRO) Aisbl.



IVI was proud to celebrate **Professor Piero Formica** at a Gala Dinner on Thursday, 12 June, presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his

exceptional contributions and enduring collaboration with the Institute. His vision, expertise, and commitment have left a lasting impact on IVI's research, innovation, and international partnerships, and this award honours his remarkable legacy in advancing the Institute's mission over many years.

### IVI Advisory Board members

To strengthen our connection with members, uphold the relevance of our research, and maintain a holistic and forward-looking perspective, IVI has established an International Advisory Board. Board meetings

were held in March, June, and November, each proving highly successful. The Board expressed strong support for IVI's future direction, commending the clarity of our vision, the quality of our work, and the momentum of our activities. Members include: Edwina Fitzmaurice, Former EY Global Innovation Markets Lead; Anne Flanagan, Boyd Strategy; Prof. Jan vom Brocke, University of Muenster; Prof. Matt Mullarkey, University of South Florida; Prof. Iris Junglas, College of Charleston; Prof. Rachel Msetfi, MU; Pdraig O'Neill, UNUM; Prof. Anita Mirijamdotter, Linnaeus U; Dr Cornel Klein, Siemens; Alistair Russell, Laing Russell; Dr Christoph Strnadl, Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud AISBL; John Collins, Beyonder; Dr Mihai Bilauca, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Dr Ruth Buckley, Cork City Council.

## Celebrating research student achievements



PhD researchers **Leidiane Silva** and **Fjolla Berisha** were honoured with the **Best Speaker Award** at the IEEE Cyber Research Conference

Ireland 2024, hosted by Southeast Technological University (SETU). Their award-winning presentation, "Creating Secure and Trustworthy Agri-Data Sharing Environments," showcased pioneering research that addresses one of the most pressing challenges in digital agriculture — ensuring data integrity, privacy, and collaboration across the agritech ecosystem.

**Rozita Hashemi** received the **Best Poster** presentation award at the IVI Summit, acknowledging the quality, originality, and





impact of her research contribution. The session brought together academics and practitioners from diverse sectors, creating a vibrant

environment for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional networking.

The success of the Innovation Value Institute and the achievements highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the contributions of many. We extend our sincere thanks to all members and collaborators of the Innovation Value Institute, our academic

affiliates, and the wider community for their invaluable support—whether through financial contributions, time, collaboration, research, or expertise.

We are particularly grateful to all staff, researchers, and students hosted at IVI. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the core IVI team—**Paul Heynen, Carol Connolly, Lee-Anne Kallam, Denise Manton, Rajat Singh, Roshmita Kanungoe, and Michael Hanley**—whose remarkable efficiency, professionalism, and dedication have enabled the delivery of a wide range of activities and services to the research community.

## Inaugural lectures

The Faculty of Social Sciences hosted two Professorial Lectures in 2024 and 2025 as part of the MU Inaugural Lecture series.



On October 25, 2024, **Professor Jan vom Brocke**, an Honorary Distinguished Professor of Process Science within the Distinguished

International Collaborator Program, gave an Inaugural Lecture entitled, “**Process Science- Leveraging Digital Trace Data for Service Innovation.**” Professor vom Brocke is a renowned expert in information systems and the co-founder of process science. His lecture attracted a large audience from the academic community and industry. Professor vom Brocke is hosted by the Innovation Value Institute.



On March 6, 2025, **Professor Jennie Stephens**, Professor of Climate Justice in the Irish Climate Analysis and Research UnitS (ICARUS) and the

Faculty of Social Sciences, gave her Inaugural Lecture, entitled, “**Climate Justice: Hope and Transformation in a Time of Despair and Disruption.**” Professor Stephens is a leading expert in climate justice and feminist environmental research. Her lecture highlighted the role of justice-centered climate solutions in addressing systemic crises in ecological health, human well-being and inequalities. The thought-provoking lecture was well-received by a large audience of academics, policymakers and the wider community. Professor Jennie Stephens joined Maynooth University in the summer of 2024 from Northeastern University.



## Service in Research

We would like to acknowledge the service in research by our dedicated colleagues across the faculty.

### Faculty service

#### FSS Research Committee

The FSS Research Committee was active in the 2024-25 academic year. Comprised of representatives from each academic department, MUSSI, the RDO, the Library, and research students, the committee reviews and provides input into research-related policies and practices, the implementation of the faculty and university strategic plans, liaises with the research community, coordinates with relevant Academic Council committees, and assists with selection and review panels for research-related awards. All FSS staff can access the minutes of the committee and may provide input and feedback via any current member.

The members of the FSS Research Committee in 2024-25 were:

Professor Audra I. Mockaitis, Professor Bernie Anne Grummell, Dr Jamie Saris, Breda O'Driscoll, Professor Elaine Wallace, Dr Threase Kessie, Dr Irene Mosca, Dr Tom Delahunty, Professor Emma Pearson, Dr Kevin Credit, Dr Hubert Smekal, Professor Colin Coulter, Paul O'Sullivan, Professor Rob Kitching, Ciarán Quinn, Dr Bernadette Wrynn, Professor Mary Purphy, Dr Treasa Kenny, Dr Patrick Boyle, Alison Campbell and Stephen Doran.

### Department service

We would also like to thank colleagues for the valuable work they do within their departments and schools. These colleagues have served in leadership roles as research directors and postgraduate research and PhD directors:

Dr Fergal Finnegan, Professor Bernie Grummell, Dr Jamie Saris, Dr Ciara Bredley, Dr Sinéad McMahon, Dr Calvin Swords, Dr Marian Crowley-Henry, Dr Nicola Mountford, Dr Linzi Ryan, Dr Threase Finnegan-Kessie, Dr Bruno Morando, Professor Sharon Todd, Dr Majella Dempsey, Dr Gerard McCarthy, Dr Rowan Fealy, Dr David Doyle, Professor Delia Ferri, Dr Laurence Cox, Professor Rob Kitchin

### University service

Several members of the faculty have served on the Research Committee of the Academic Council during 2024 – 2025: Professor Audra I Mockaitis, Professor Linda Connolly, Dr Tatiana Andreeva and Dr John Reynolds, and Professor Markus Helfert.





## Bookshelf

