

Research and Innovation Overview 2024

School of Law and Criminology

The School of Law and Criminology at Maynooth University was awarded **Law School of the Year** at the Irish Law Awards in November 2022, reflecting its growing reputation and research excellence. In 2022-23, the school continued to strengthen its research profile, with numerous publications, external grants, and prestigious awards. Among the highlights, Professor Aisling McMahon was named **Irish Research Council (IRC) Early Career Researcher of the Year**, and Dr Seth Tillman was recognised for his **Outstanding Contribution to the Preservation and Perpetuation of North Carolina History**.

Head of School: Dr Fergan Ryan



Research Themes and Focus Areas

The school's research encompasses a wide array of topics in law and criminology, with key focus areas including:

- **Human Rights and Public Law:** Faculty members are involved in groundbreaking work on issues ranging from human rights to constitutional and environmental law.
- **Criminology and Criminal Justice:** The School has made significant contributions to research on criminal justice systems, sentencing, and legal responses to contemporary societal issues.
- **International Law and Global Justice:** Faculty engage in research on international legal systems, with a focus on transitional justice, international human rights, and environmental law.



Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the school produced a strong portfolio of research outputs, with staff publishing six books, five edited collections, and two special issues. Examples include:

Publications

- Professor Aisling McMahon's paper in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* examines current and proposed global institutional mechanisms to increase equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Dr David Mangan co-authored 'Just more surveillance': The ECtHR and workplace monitoring on employees' rights to privacy. The paper was published in the *European Labour Law Journal*.
- Dr Karen Walsh's book, "Fragmentation and the European Patent System" (Bloomsbury), contributes to ongoing discussions around intellectual property law.

Awards and Grants

- In 2023, Dr John Reynolds was awarded a Connection Grant by the Canadian Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council for the collaborative project *Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) 2023: Democratizing International Law*.
- Dr David Doyle received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) Ukrainian Researcher Scheme to continue hosting postdoctoral researcher Dr Natalia Hlushchenko for her project *Jurassic Patents: Patent Law and the Value of Species in the Age of De-Extinction*.



Collaborations and Partnerships

The School of Law and Criminology engages in a wide range of collaborations with both national and international institutions. Prominent examples include:

- **Irish Penal Reform Trust:** Dr Joe Garrihy and Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche received funding from the Irish Human Rights Equality Commission and the Open Doors Initiative to explore employer attitudes towards hiring individuals with criminal convictions.
- **Spirasi Collaboration:** Dr Clíodhna Murphy worked with Spirasi on the *Impact of Medico-Legal Reports on the Asylum Process in Ireland*, providing key insights into legal procedures for asylum seekers.



Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The School's research continues to influence public policy and law reform across Ireland and beyond. Prominent examples include:

- **Public Engagement:** Faculty members contributed to a variety of policy discussions, including Professor Michael Doherty's participation in the LEEF High-Level Working Group on Collective Bargaining, which published its final report in 2022.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Dr Avril Brandon's research on *Ethnic Monitoring in the Criminal Justice System*, funded by the Department of Justice, has sparked important conversations about race and justice in Ireland.



Future Directions

The School of Law and Criminology will continue to focus on its core strengths in human rights, EU Law, criminology and criminal justice, and global justice. Future projects will expand research on legal responses to climate change, post-pandemic labour law reforms, and the intersection of technology and law.

The School of Law and Criminology at Maynooth University continues to lead in research, public engagement, and education, making significant contributions to both the academic and legal communities. Through its successful collaborations and impactful research, the School is shaping the future of law and criminology in Ireland and beyond.