




Charlemont Grant Report

Recipient Name:	Dr Diarmuid Griffin	
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences	
Amount and year awarded:	€1,540 in 2019	
Title of Project:	The Net-Widening Impact of Adopting the Life Sentence as the Ultimate Penalty	

Summary of findings:	This research examined the growth in the use of life imprisonment, particularly in the context of discretionary life sentences. The research focused on an empirical analysis of cases at trial and appeal level in Ireland and examining the judicial rationales for imposing discretionary life sentences. The US was used as a comparator as a state where discretionary life sentences are frequently employed. The Charlemont Grant facilitated a collaboration with the leading academics and activists in the field. While there, I presented my research at a workshop and received feedback from other researchers on the findings. It also allowed me time to draft articles for submission to journals (see below).
Plans for continuing collaboration:	There are no definitive plans for collaboration at this point although the channel of communication remains open.
Publication plans:	<p>Paper delivered to the Sentencing Project: The Politics of Parole: Life Imprisonment and Parole in Ireland.</p> <p>Life imprisonment and the Parole Act 2019: Assessing the impact of legislative reform. (Submitted to the Irish Judicial Studies Journal) - currently under review.</p> <p>Dangerous and Devious: Assessing judicial rationales when sentencing an offender to life imprisonment. (Still in draft form but it is my intention to acknowledge the funding of the RIA when this research is published).</p>
International dissemination:	Research presented to staff members and researchers at the Sentencing Project: The Politics of Parole: Life Imprisonment and Parole in Ireland.
Outreach:	I was recently the recipient of NUIG's President's Award for Societal Impact for my work in relation to the reform of the parole process and working with life sentence prisoners. My international contribution, including being awarded the RIA Charlemont Grant to work with advocates of sentencing reform, was a part of this acknowledgement. The award ceremony has yet to occur so no media coverage is available at this point.