

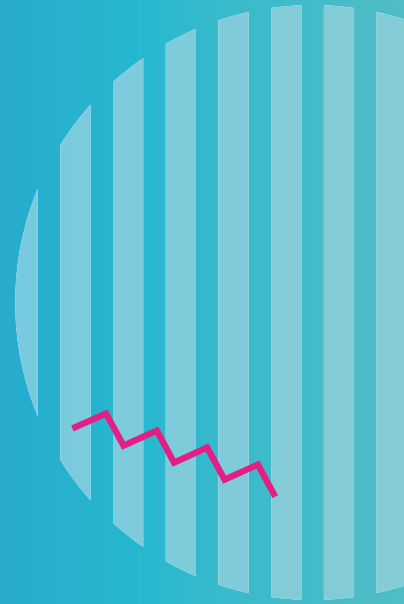


Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy

Higher Education Futures Conference Programme

Exploration and Transformation: The future of higher education on the island of Ireland

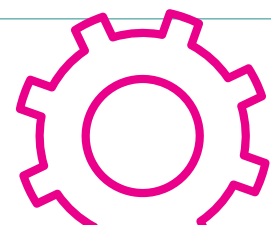
Royal Irish Academy
25 November 2022



CONFERENCE AGENDA



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- 09.45** **Opening Remarks and Welcome**
Mary Canning MRIA, President of the Royal Irish Academy
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- 09.50** **Remarks**
Gerry McKenna MRIA, Senior Vice-President RIA, Chair, HE Futures Taskforce
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- 10.00** **Keynote Address: 'The impact of reforming research assessment'**
Professor Maria Leptin, President of the European Research Council
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- 10.30 - 10.45** **Q & A** moderated by Gerry McKenna MRIA
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- 10.50 - 11.25** **Panel Discussion: Enhancing Research Structures: Funding policy, structural developments, performance and impact of the higher education research system.**
Dan Carey MRIA (Moderator)
Professor Emma Flynn, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast
Rob Kitchin MRIA, Maynooth University
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- 11.25 - 11.45** **Coffee Break**
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- 11.50 - 12.50** **Panel Discussion: Creating a more inclusive future: Universities as leaders in research, innovation, creativity and social progress.**
Dr Siobhán O' Sullivan, Executive Director, Royal Irish Academy (Moderator)
Michael D'Arcy, Programme Lead IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council
Professor Eeva Leinonen, President, Maynooth University
Michael Murphy, President, European University Association
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- 13.00 - 14.00** **Lunch**
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- 14.00 - 14.30** **Presentation: 'Higher Education and Religious Studies in Europe: challenges, opportunities, needs for a pluralistic society'**
Professor Alberto Melloni, UNESCO Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace at University of Bologna and Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Commission
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- 14.30 - 15.15** **Panel Discussion: Global Perspectives in Higher Education: Challenges to Academic Freedom and Trust in Scientific Endeavour.**
Professor Karl Leydecker, Senior Vice-Principal, University of Aberdeen, Royal Society of Edinburgh (Moderator)
Sinéad O'Gorman, European Director, Scholars At Risk
Luke Drury MRIA, Vice-President ALLEA
Professor Linda Hogan, Trinity College Dublin
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- 15.20 - 16.05** **Panel Discussion: Going Green: Climate change mitigation, adaptation, sustainability and higher education efforts to combat environmental disruption**
Jennifer McElwain MRIA, Trinity College Dublin (Moderator)
Marie Cowan MRIA, Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
Dr Karen Kerr, Queen's University Belfast and Education for Sustainable Development Forum
Dr Diarmuid Torney, Future Earth Ireland and Dublin City University
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- 16.10 - 16.30** **Closing Remarks**
Feedback: Dan Carey MRIA
Conference Close: Gerry McKenna MRIA
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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Mary Canning MRIA

Dr Mary Canning was elected President of the Royal Irish Academy in March 2020 and was appointed Chair of the Governing Authority of Maynooth University in December 2019. She holds a PhD in Literature from University College, Dublin. As a former World Bank Lead Education Specialist based in Washington DC, she worked on education policy in a wide range of countries in Europe and Central Asia from 1992-2007. She has served on numerous OECD Higher Education Examiner teams in Europe and Latin America. Dr Canning was a board member of the Higher Education Authority from 2007 to 2017 and, in 2009, she was appointed to the National Strategic Review of Higher Education in Ireland. In 2014 she was awarded a D.Litt (honoris causa) by the NUI.



Dan Carey MRIA

Professor Daniel Carey is Director of the Moore Institute at University of Galway and is chair of the Irish Research Council. He is Secretary for Humanities and Social Sciences in the RIA and served as a vice-president of the Royal Irish Academy 2017-18 and 2020-21. He was chair of the Irish Humanities Alliance 2014-16. Daniel is a graduate of McGill University, Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University. He has held grants from the Mellon Foundation, the IRC, the AHRC, British Academy, MHRA, and other sources, and has mentored 19 postdoctoral fellows funded by Marie Skłodowska Curie actions, the IRC, and other schemes. His current research is a major international project to edit the work of Richard Hakluyt and has published widely on intellectual history, colonialism, and economic thought.



Marie Cowan MRIA

Dr Marie Cowan is a Science Director with the British Geological Survey (BGS) and Director at its Belfast office, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI). GSNI is an office of the Department for the Economy (DfE) in Northern Ireland (NI) whose scientists undertake research to advise and support the geoscience responsibilities of NI government departments, Invest NI, councils. GSNI also collaborates closely on research with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and universities. Dr Cowan is also a member of the Academy's Geosciences and Geographical Sciences Committee, where she spearheaded the introduction of an MLA-Geoscientist Pairing Scheme in Northern Ireland. Marie is a certified member of the Institute of Directors and a professional geologist with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland. She is also a member of the NI Assembly All Party Group for Science and Technology and the NI Learned Societies and Professional Bodies Forum. She is a member of the Governance Board of the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences and was previously the Chairperson of Earth Science Ireland and an elected non-executive board member of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland.



Michael D'Arcy

Michael D'Arcy, Programme Lead IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council. Michael has been at the leading edge of developing an island economy underpinned by peace, stability and the Good Friday Agreement since the early 1990's. His 1995 book 'Border Crossings: Developing Ireland's Island Economy' is the seminal publication on N/S economic and business interaction and opportunity. Today this work incorporates the new dynamic of North/South economic cooperation and collaboration post Brexit. Michael is the Ibec/CBI Joint Business Council's (JBC) Programme Lead supporting their joint initiatives to enhance and sustain all island business. He is also Ibec's representative on the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) Interreg VA and PEACE Plus Programme Monitoring Committees and is on the Steering Committee of a joint Esri/Ibec/NIESR initiative to develop macro-economic modelling for Northern Ireland that is compatible with existing models for Ireland and the rest of the UK.





Luke Drury MRIA



Luke Drury is Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and a Vice-President of ALLEA, the federation of European Academies. After studying experimental physics and pure mathematics in Trinity College Dublin he obtained his PhD from the university of Cambridge in 1979. He then worked in the Max Planck Institut für Kernphysik in Heidelberg, Germany before returning to Dublin in 1986. He was President of the RIA from 2011 to 2014. He currently chairs the Open Science task force of ALLEA and is a member of the International Science Council's steering group for the future of scientific publishing project.

Professor Emma Flynn



Emma Flynn is Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise at Queen's University Belfast. Emma is a psychologist whose research investigates the production and transmission of innovation. She has extensive international collaborative links with biologists, philosophers, computer scientists and statisticians. Through her current role Emma works closely with local and national bodies to develop and utilise the world-leading research produced by Queen's to have significant disciplinary, societal, environmental and economic impact. She has academic leadership of delivery of the Innovation projects within the Belfast Region City Deal, which focus on clinical trials, advanced manufacturing and the use of secure, connected intelligence in the areas of One-Health and FinTech. She has also been a member of working groups aimed at improving international partnerships, global talent attraction and retention, and the role of place in innovation strategies. Within the university sector she has overseen international recruitment campaigns, established integrated planning and strategy structures, and led culture change agendas.

Professor Linda Hogan



Linda Hogan is Professor of Ecumenics at Trinity College Dublin. She is a theological ethicist and scholar of religion with research and teaching interests in the fields of inter-cultural and inter-religious ethics, social and political ethics, human rights and gender. Her publications include "Women's Reproductive Rights and the Legacy of Religion in Ireland: The Eight Amendment and its Repeal", Religion and Human Rights, 2021; 'Moral Leadership: A Challenge and A Celebration,' Theological Studies, 2021; Keeping Faith with Human Rights, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press 1995, reissued by Bloomsbury Academic Collections in 2016. She has been Head of School and Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin (2006-10) and served as Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and Deputy President Trinity College Dublin. (2011-16). She chaired the Expert Committee of the Creating our Future Campaign (2021-22) and was Co-PI of the INTEGRITY project, a 3-year programme funded by the EU's Horizon 2020, which has developed interdisciplinary tools for next generation research ethics (2019-21). She is the founder of Trinity College's EthicsLab and has extensive engagement with industry, NGOs and international organisations, including the World Bank and the EU's Fundamental Right's Agency, for which she provides pro bono consultancy on ethics.

Dr Karen Kerr



Karen Kerr (BEd (Hons), PhD, FHEA) is a Lecturer in Education in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's University Belfast, to include co-ordination of the PGCE Science programme. She is a qualified science teacher, and taught in nursery, primary and secondary schools in Northern Ireland, England and Spain. Dr Kerr supervises several research students at master's and doctoral level. Her research background is in science education, in particular, outdoor learning, environmental education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Dr Kerr's recent research looks at children and young people's connection to and knowledge of nature, views on environmental sustainability and their health and well-being, as outcomes of outdoor learning. Dr Kerr was the Northern Ireland lead, together with Field Studies Council NI in the Nationwide Big Lottery Funded Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) 'citizen science' project, which is a community-focused education and research programme about the environment. Her recent projects include a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) funded project on developing parents'/guardians' climate science literacy and a research project looking at the coteaching of ESD with science and English PGCE students.



Rob Kitchin MRIA



Rob Kitchin is a professor in Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, for which he was director 2002-2013 and 2021-22. He was chairperson of the Irish Social Sciences Platform and principal investigator for the Digital Repository of Ireland and the All-Island Research Observatory, and is presently an ERC Advanced Investigator for the project 'Data Stories'. He is the (co)author/editor of 34 academic books and (co)author of over 200 articles and book chapters. He has been an editor of *Dialogues in Human Geography*, *Progress in Human Geography* and *Social and Cultural Geography*, and was the co-Editor-in-Chief of the *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (1e). He was the recipient of the RIA Gold Medal for the Social Sciences in 2013.

Professor Eeva Leinonen

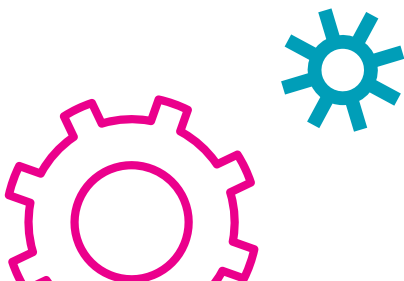


Professor Eeva Leinonen joined Maynooth University as President in October 2021, after five years of service as Vice Chancellor and President at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. Professor Leinonen was born and raised in Finland, where she completed her schooling. She and her two brothers were the first in their family to attend university. Her own experience has cemented her belief in the role of education as a social equaliser, with the power to transform for the better the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. Professor Leinonen's academic research focuses on pragmatic language processing deficits in children and young adults with autistic spectrum disorders. She also speaks and writes about higher education topics, including institutional leadership, curriculum and technology enhanced learning. Professor Leinonen has extensive experience in higher education in the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and internationally. Prior to moving to Australia in 2012, Professor Leinonen held the position of Vice-Principal (Education) and Professor of Clinical Linguistics at King's College London. She has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hertfordshire, UK, in addition to holding a number of other academic leadership positions there, including Dean of Faculty of Health and Human Sciences, Head of School of Psychology, Head of School of Humanities and Director of Health and Human Sciences Research Institute.

Professor Maria Leptin



Professor Maria Leptin, President of the European Research Council (ERC). Professor Leptin took office as president of the ERC on 1 November 2021. Prior to that, Professor Leptin served as Director of EMBO from 2010-2021. She also established a research group in Heidelberg at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory EMBL. The group studies the mechanics of shape determination during development. In 1994, Maria Leptin became Professor at the Institute of Genetics, University of Cologne, Germany, where she still leads a research group. She spent sabbaticals as a visiting Professor at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France (2001) and as visiting scientist at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK (2004-2005). Professor Leptin is an elected member of EMBO, the Academia Europaea and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina), and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. She is also Foreign Member of the Royal Society since May 2022.





Professor Karl Leydecker FRSE



Professor Karl Leydecker FRSE (Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh) has been Senior Vice-Principal at the University of Aberdeen since March 2019. Previously he was Vice-Principal Learning and Teaching at the University of Dundee, and before that Dean of Humanities at the University of Kent. His disciplinary background is German and Comparative Literature. He coordinated the development of the University of Aberdeen's award-winning Aberdeen 2040 strategy. He is the strategic lead for People, Estates and Environmental Sustainability and institutional strategic planning, and deputises for the Principal and Vice-Chancellor as required. Karl was appointed by the Scottish sector to lead Scotland's 2017-2020 QAA Enhancement Theme 'Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience', and has served on a range of Scottish and UK committees covering quality assurance, quality enhancement and student information. In 2022 Karl was appointed to the Board of the QAA. Karl served as a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Higher Education Futures Taskforce, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Tertiary Education Futures Group.

Professor Alberto Melloni



Alberto Melloni Secretary of FSCIRE.IT, holds the UNESCO Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace at UNIBO.IT and the Chair of History of Christianity at UNIMORE.IT. He is dean of the Italian national PhD in Religious Studies; Scientific coordinator of the EU research Infrastructure RESILIENCE.ORG; Founder of the European Academy of Religion; General Editor of COGD in Corpus Christianorum, member of the board of several journals (Cristianesimo nella storia, Common Knowledge Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Religions- und Kirchengeschichte, Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae, Palermo occasional papers on Islam). Since 2020 he serves as Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Commission.

Professor Michael Murphy



Michael Murphy is President of the European University Association and President Emeritus of University College Cork. A medical graduate of UCC he undertook postgraduate training in Cork and Dublin prior to doctoral research in Clinical Pharmacology at The Royal Postgraduate Medical School (Imperial College), London. Following a decade on Faculty in Pharmacology and Medicine at The University of Chicago he was appointed Professor in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Cork. He has served as Chair of the European Learning and Teaching Forum, Chair of the Advisory Board of U-Multirank and is a past chair of the Irish Health Research Board.

Jennifer McElwain MRIA



Jennifer McElwain holds the 1711 Professorial Chair of Botany at Trinity College Dublin's School of Natural Sciences. She is currently the Head of Botany within the School and Director of Trinity Botanic Gardens. Her research and teaching have focused on the development and use of palaeobotanical methods (proxies) that use fossil plants to reconstruct the evolution of Earth's atmospheric composition and climate on multimillion year timescales. Her research programme has been successfully funded through both national and international grants and awards including Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council, European Research Council, US National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Geographic and Marie Curie. She is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. In 2022 she was awarded the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in Environmental Sciences and Geosciences. She has published over 100 research papers and three books and is currently co-lead author on Ireland's first Climate Assessment Report Volume 1 to be published in 2023 with funding from the EPA. She serves on the Expert Advisory Board of Ireland's Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and is Co-Director of a new 5-year integrated undergraduate with masters degree programme in Environmental Science and Engineering at Trinity College Dublin.



Gerry McKenna MRIA



Gerry McKenna is a former Dean of Science, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), and Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Ulster. He has been centrally involved in developing many national and international initiatives including the establishment of Universities Ireland (as founding chair), and being co-founder of the Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences (HUCBMS), the US-Ireland R&D Partnership and the Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance (IUNA). He was co-founder of the Northern Ireland Science Park. He chaired the Northern Ireland Foresight: Life and Health Technologies Report. He is currently Senior Vice President of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) and President Emeritus and Honorary Executive Secretary of HUCBMS. He is chair of the RIA's North-South Standing Committee and co-chaired the RIA Brexit Taskforce as well as being author of a number of RIA papers and statements on Brexit and also on higher education policy and research. He is a member of the 7 National Academies Group which spans these islands, and a founding member and co-chair of the Celtic Academies Alliance (RIA, Royal Society of Edinburgh and Learned Society of Wales). He is chair of the Advisory Committee for Health Technology and Informatics at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Professor McKenna chaired the RIA Higher Education Futures Taskforce which reported in November 2021.

Sinéad O'Gorman



Sinéad O'Gorman directs Scholars at Risk's European office—SAR Europe—hosted by Maynooth University, Ireland. Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 600 higher education institutions in 42 countries working to protect scholars and promote academic freedom. SAR Europe engages with European human rights and higher education systems and partners to improve support in Europe for scholars at risk, and towards greater implementation of academic freedom worldwide. Ms. O'Gorman joined Scholars at Risk's New York office in 2007, previously serving as SAR's Deputy Executive Director. Before joining SAR, Sinéad held programme and research positions at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York, the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) in London and at the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) in Dublin. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics, an MA in French from the Université de Montréal, and a BA in English and French from Trinity College Dublin.

Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan



Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan was confirmed as the new Executive Director of the Royal Irish Academy in September 2022. Dr O'Sullivan has been Chief Bioethics Officer in the Department of Health since 2011 and was previously Director of the Irish Council for Bioethics between 2002 and 2010. Siobhán graduated in 1994 with a primary degree in Biomedical Science from what is now TU Dublin; her PhD is from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden; and she also holds postgraduate qualifications in Human Rights Law, Healthcare Ethics and Law, and Leadership. Siobhán's background is rooted in both the sciences and humanities and for over a decade, she has worked nationally and internationally as a policy maker in the field of bioethics. Dr O'Sullivan teaches healthcare ethics and law to multidisciplinary groups in the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

Dr Diarmuid Torney



Dr Diarmuid Torney is associate professor in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University and holds an MPhil and DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford. His focus is climate change politics, policy, and governance. Diarmuid is co-director of the DCU Centre for Climate and Society and a lead author on Ireland's first Five Year Assessment Report on climate change, commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency and due for publication in spring 2023. He is the chair of Future Earth Ireland, the national committee convened by the Royal Irish Academy of Future Earth, a 10-year global research initiative to develop knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environment change. He is a member of the Internal Steering Group of the All-Island Climate and Biodiversity Research Network and also a member of the academic advisory member on the Steering Committee of Coalition 2030 and a member of the Expert Working Group on Sustainability of Chartered Accountants, and a Research Fellow of the Earth System Governance Project.



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