

Profile of the Social Sciences in Ireland

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Foreword

This profile gives an overview of the social sciences in Ireland in order to highlight their value to researchers, users, government and the general public. The entries were composed by the higher-education institutions (HEIs) in collaboration with a Royal Irish Academy working group drawn from its Social Sciences Committee (SSC). These entries have been kept within a word limit of about 1,000 words in order to ensure manageability and comparability. The SSC acknowledges the significant contributions of the following: Linda Connolly, Hastings Donnan, Felicity Kelliher, Aisling Murray, Rosalind Pritchard, Maria Slowey and the programme manager, Pauline McNamara. We wish to thank all of these people and hope to update the entries every six months in order to keep the profile as useful as possible.

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Dublin City University (DCU)

As of 2016 DCU comprises five faculties, three of which are directly engaged in research in the social sciences:

- **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**
http://www.dcu.ie/humanities_and_social_sciences/research.shtml
- **The Institute of Education** (established September 2015) comprising the School of Education, DCU; St Patrick's College, Drumcondra; Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education.
http://www.dcu.ie/institute_of_education/research.shtml
- **DCU Business School** <http://www.dcu.ie/dcubs/index.shtml>

Additionally, social science researchers are active across several schools in the faculties of Science and Health (for example, schools of Nursing and Health and Human Performance) and in interdisciplinary elements of work within the Faculty of Engineering and Computing.

Beyond the work of individual social science researchers, the wider institutional research strategy of DCU focuses on five major themes, two of which are relevant to the social sciences: security, democracy and education; and innovation in services and business processes. These themes are supported by cross-faculty, interdisciplinary research hubs and platforms; and the potential to partner with civil society organisations and social enterprises is facilitated by DCU's Community Knowledge Exchange.

See: <https://www4.dcu.ie/community/cke/index.shtml>.

Social science research institutes, centres and units include the following:

Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction (IICRR) – brings together authoritative analysis of the Northern Ireland peace process with research and expertise on conflict and peace-building in a number of regions around the world, including West and Central Africa, Eastern Europe, and South and Central Asia.

Anti-Bullying Research Centre (ABC) – ABC leads the field of research, resource development and training in bullying in Ireland and is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in bullying research.

Centre for Evaluation, Quality & Inspection – The Centre for Evaluation, Quality and Inspection is a multidisciplinary research group focused on the thematic areas of school evaluation and inspection and culturally responsive evaluation and assessment.

Institute of Ethics – The Institute of Ethics aims to create ethical awareness in relation to all fields of the university's activities and to play a leading role in raising public awareness of, and stimulating debate about, ethical issues.

Centre for Advancement of Science Teaching and Learning (CASTeL) – CASTeL research is focused on 'the classroom and the lab' – on enhancing the impact of the full spectrum of teaching, learning and assessment activities in mathematics and science.

Higher Education Research Centre (HERC) – Located in the office of the vice-president and registrar, HERC was established in 2009 as the first university-based research centre in Ireland dedicated to research in the field of higher education, with a particular focus on comparative analysis, lifelong learning and widening access. In 2016 HERC became an Affiliated Research Centre of DCU's Institute of Education.

See: <http://dcu.ie/herc/index.shtml>.

Centre for Innovation in Work-Based Learning (IReWL) – seeks to collaborate with and empower practitioner-researchers in making explicit their implicit knowledge and strives to encourage actions based upon wise and considered practice.

Centre for Family Business – The first family business centre of excellence and learning in Ireland, translating leading Irish and international research into best practice, for this generation and future generations of Irish family businesses.

Centre for Translation and Textual Studies – pursues research in translation and textual studies, applied languages and related areas.

Irish Centre for Cloud Computing and Commerce (IC4) – a centre of excellence for innovation and applied research that accelerates the development and adoption of Cloud technology and showcases Ireland's capabilities in this field.

Socio-Legal Research Centre – based in the School of Law and Government at DCU, this centre focuses on the social, cultural and economic context in which laws are made and enforced.

FuJo – FuJo is an innovative and experimental space for journalism and media research. It provides a platform where journalists, communications scholars, social and data scientists, software engineers and philosophers can come together.

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

The Economic Research Institute was founded in Dublin in 1960, and became the Economic and Social Research Institute in 1966. Today it continues to produce research 'that contributes to understanding economic and social change in the new international context and that informs public policymaking and civil society in Ireland'.

Social sciences research in the ESRI

Research in the ESRI is organised into 12 different research streams and staff may contribute to more than one stream. A brief description of each with selected major projects/programmes (with hyperlinks) is outlined below.

Behavioural economics

Research in behavioural economics combines insights from psychology and economics to examine decision-making among consumers. Much of this work has been done in PRICE Lab, which is a consumer decision-making laboratory.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/behavioural-economics/>.

Children and young people

ESRI research in children and young people examines developmental outcomes for children and young people in Ireland, how these vary between different groups of the population and evolve over time. Research in the area of children and young people is closely tied with the Growing Up in Ireland project (see: <http://www.esri.ie/growing-up-in-ireland>) – the national longitudinal study of children, which is being carried out on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs by a team of researchers led by the ESRI and Trinity College.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/children-and-young-people/>.

Communications and transport

Research in this area provides evidence for policymakers in the areas of electronic communications and transportation systems. Recent research has included the impact of broadband on different sectors and the effect of local infrastructure on investment.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/communications-and-transport/>.

Migration, integration and demography

ESRI research in this area considers the drivers of population characteristics such as fertility, mortality and migration. Current research interests are the ageing society, the integration of migrants into Irish society and Irish people's attitudes to immigration.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/migration-integration-and-demography/>.

In addition, the ESRI is the Irish National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Migration Network. Research in this area aims to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation at European and national level (across all member states) with a view to supporting policymaking and informing the general public.

See: <http://www.emn.ie/>.

Macroeconomics

Macroeconomic analysis aims to improve the understanding of the wider economic factors influencing key issues such as domestic growth, stable taxation policy, the outlook for the property sector and the relationship between the macroeconomy and the financial sector. A major feature of macroeconomic research at the ESRI is the development and maintenance of a suite of economic

models which are used for forecasting and policy analysis. The ESRI produces a number of regular reports, including the Quarterly Economic Commentary, Consumer Sentiment Index and Housing Market Index.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/macroeconomics/>.

Education

Research in this area aims to address issues relating to the achievement of greater equality in educational outcomes and improving the experience of both students and staff in the Irish education system.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/education/>.

Internationalisation and competitiveness

In the context of increased global interdependencies, competitiveness is a key factor in sustainable economic growth. Research in this area focuses on three broad themes: (i) international macroeconomics; (ii) international trade and investment; and (iii) international diffusion of R&D, new technologies and innovation.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/internationalisation-and-competitiveness/>.

Social inclusion and equality

Social inclusion refers to the ability of individuals and households to participate in economic and social life, especially where a lack of material resources poses an obstacle to full participation. Equality research in the ESRI investigates inequalities in opportunities and in outcomes, exploring the processes that lead to inequality. The research has a strong policy focus, assessing the role of public policies in underpinning or reducing inequalities.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/social-inclusion-and-equality/>.

Energy and environment

Research in this area takes an interdisciplinary look at energy and environmental challenges including climate change, energy security and the sustainable utilisation of environmental resources.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/energy-and-environment/>.

Health and quality of life

Research in this area addresses complex policy issues critical to improving population health outcomes and promoting quality of life for people in Ireland. These include the necessity of devising appropriate financing models to deliver high-quality care and identifying the causes of persistent inequalities in healthcare outcomes across socioeconomic groups.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/health-and-quality-of-life/>.

Taxation, welfare and pensions

ESRI research on taxation, welfare and pensions examines the impact of actual policy changes on real households and models the likely impact of future and possible regime alterations. Much of the work is based around SWITCH, the ESRI tax-benefit model (Simulating Welfare and Income Tax Changes), which uses detailed data on the incomes and other tax- and welfare-relevant characteristics of the CSO's Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC).

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/taxation-welfare-and-pensions/>.

Labour markets and skills

Labour Markets and Skills research in the ESRI encompasses issues such as unemployment, pay determination and well-being in the workplace. Since the beginning of 2015, researchers have submitted a Regular Report to the European Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO), which is funded by the European Commission, on recent developments in the Irish labour market.

See: <http://www.esri.ie/research/labour-markets-and-skills/>.

Maynooth University (MU)

Maynooth University (MU) is a leading national and international centre for social science research. Research across a broad range of departments and disciplines is co-ordinated and conducted in the MUSSI (Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/social-sciences-institute>), which was established as part of the implementation of Maynooth University's ambitious Research Strategy (2012–2017). The institute incorporates and builds on the longstanding success of a number of existing research institutes and centres at MU.

MUSSI consolidates, develops and supports a number of critical national data infrastructures including the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) and Digital Repository Ireland (DRI). Component research groups and centres within MUSSI include the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. The institute is also home to Maynooth's pioneering new Education Workspace, and international research projects in areas such as human rights, sustainability, international development, migration, life course and equality issues.

Under the PRTL14 programme 2008–14, MUSSI researchers played the leading role in the establishment of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) – the all-island platform of integrated social science research and graduate training. This national platform focuses on the social, cultural and economic transformations shaping Ireland in the 21st century. Initially, ISSP brought together academics from 19 disciplines in eight higher-education institutions; subsequently two further universities across the island joined to deliver a common programme of research centred on knowledge, innovation, society and space. ISSP investigates three broad themes of national importance – creating balanced development, sustaining communities and building the knowledge economy. ISSP/MU SSI continues to provide a trusted base for policymaking and for future government investment programmes in the social sciences.

MUSSI engages with partners across the HEI sector and with social and economic stakeholders, both north and south. This is reflected in the large amount of contract research that MU undertakes for public and third sector agencies. MUSSI is now regularly asked to partner international organisations as part of transnational research bids. To date, over 300 researchers have been affiliated to MUSSI partner projects, with over 200 peer esteem projects in receipt of external funding since 2001, totalling over €55m. These awards have generated cutting-edge research for policy and society in a range of areas:

- Smart cities;
- Migration;
- Evidence-based planning;
- Data visualisations (Visualisation Partner for Census 2011 Ireland);
- Political economy, work and working lives;
- Urban/suburban studies;
- Urban and regional development;
- Economic and regional geographies;
- Human rights and equality issues;
- Community and spatial planning in the Irish border region;
- Spatial planning and territorial cohesion policies at transnational levels in Europe;

- Social policy;
- Life course and family studies;
- Digital archives.

Institute researchers have been awarded two prestigious ERC projects (Advanced and Consolidator):

- ‘The Programmable City’, an ERC-funded project which is providing a groundbreaking analysis of the emerging programmable city with respect to: (1) how the city is translated into software; (2) how software reshapes the city. It examines these processes in relation to four key urban practices – how we understand, manage, work and live in the city.
- ‘New Deals in the New Economy’, an ERC-funded study of the political economy of work, production, employment regimes and the changing worlds of capitalism.

Other significant policy-relevant projects are funded currently under the HORIZON 2020 programme or by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI):

RE-InVEST: Rebuilding an Inclusive, Value-based Europe of Solidarity and Trust through Social Investments

A European initiative that addresses social inequality and poverty by researching the experiences of vulnerable people most impacted by the global economic crisis. This has received almost €2.5m in funding from the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 research fund. The ambition of RE-InVEST is to contribute to a more balanced economic and social development model for the EU, a model based on human rights and capabilities, to generate comparative knowledge of the main social investment policies, and encourage the implementation of this innovative model by bringing together a range of stakeholders, including policymakers and people severely affected by the crisis.

RESCuE: Patterns of Resilience during Socioeconomic Crises among Households in Europe 2014–2017

RESCuE is a nine-country European research consortium investigating resilience amongst families and households in urban and rural areas. The project is using innovative qualitative research methods, including in-depth interviews, observation and participatory visual methods to hear the voices and record the experiences of families and households who have been affected by the economic crisis, and to make comparisons across different European contexts.

WaterSPOUTT: Water-Sustainable Point-of-Use Treatment Technologies

WaterSPOUTT is funded by the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration. The project seeks to transform access to safe drinking water through integrated social sciences, education and solar technologies, thus improving health, survival, societal well-being and economic growth in developing African countries. This is of relevance because WHO and UNICEF estimate that nearly 660 million people globally do not have reliable access to safe drinking water. Entire communities obtain drinking water from unsafe sources (for example, untreated surface water) and are continuously at risk of contracting disease through exposure to water-borne pathogens. The cross-disciplinary nature of the project combines expertise across the scientific and social science domains to deliver sustainable access to drinking water among some of the world’s most disadvantaged communities.

Building City Dashboards

Funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), this project tackles three sets of fundamental problems: managing complex data, showing information in a useable way and analysing or modelling data to support policy. These are some of the biggest problems in data science today and are areas in which Maynooth University researchers are global leaders. City dashboards are important because they enable start-up and small companies to create new innovative products, and allow citizens and managers to understand the functioning of their city. Cork is the first city to pilot this new work. The research will support the creation of an open data economy in Ireland by opening up real-time and public administration data, along with open source code and analytics necessary for Ireland's economic development. The project brings together expertise from computer science, spatial statistics, geocomputation and multimedia with local authorities and other agencies.

REINVENT – Reinventory-ing Heritage: Exploring the Potential of Public Participation GIS to Capture Heritage Values and Dissonance

REINVENT is an EU-funded research project which addresses the challenges pertaining to the management of cultural heritage in contested cross-border contexts in Europe, with a particular focus on the cross-border cultural landscape of Derry-Londonderry. The project engages with participatory practices in cultural heritage management and the application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to mapping heritage on a cross-border basis on the island of Ireland. Developing strategies to address these challenges in local contexts can assist spatial planning and cultural heritage management policymakers/practitioners.

National University of Ireland at Galway (NUIG)

NUIG researchers examine economic innovation and social change and different academic disciplines in the social sciences explore issues of innovation, social inclusion, balanced development and health.

Research Institutes, Centres and Units include:

- Centre for Clinical Health Services Research and Development (CCHSRD)
- Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC)
- Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR)
- Institute for Lifecourse and Society
- UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (CFRC)
- Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP)
- Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG)
- Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN)
- Health Economics and Policy Analysis (HEPA)
- Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI)
- Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change
- The Moore Institute
- National Centre for Social Research on Dementia

See: www.nuigalway.ie/our-research/listings/research-centres-institutes-and-units.html.

Whitaker Institute

The Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change is the major structure for supporting research in business and the social sciences at NUI Galway. Inspired by the themes that motivated Dr T.K. Whitaker's own life's work as an economist and public servant, the Institute has adopted a similarly innovative, multidisciplinary and transformative approach in its research on challenges facing business and society in Ireland and internationally. In particular it has identified three major themes in its new strategic plan in which it aims to be a national and international leader: business, innovation and economic development; public-sector innovation and reform; and sustainable and inclusive societies. Supporting these themes, the Institute has a range of well-established and emerging multi-disciplinary research clusters focused on evidence-based policy and practice. These are listed on the Whitaker Institute website: <http://whitakerinstitute.ie/>.

The Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS)

The Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS), under the directorship of Professor Pat Dolan, is a designated research institute for the applied social sciences at NUI Galway. The Institute supports applied research that informs policy development and practice to make a positive difference to people's lives. ILAS brings together existing work in relation to targeted populations, such as older persons, children and families, and persons with disabilities, into one domain of research, teaching and policy. The core function of the Institute is the pursuit of interdisciplinary research in the social sciences by creatively integrating the rich and diverse intellectual resources from within the university and beyond.

The Institute was established in part on the commitment, expertise and track record of its three constituent research centres in NUI Galway – UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. Additional research

communities that have joined the Institute include the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), the Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN), the Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC), Speech and Language Therapy and the Health and Well-being Cluster. Additionally, a range of stakeholders, including research centres, research clusters, community demonstration projects and individual academics drawn from an impressive range of colleges, schools and disciplines (including health, law, economics and sociology) within NUI Galway have formally expressed an interest in joining the Institute.

The Moore Institute

The Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Studies, established in 2000, received initial funding under the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTL 2). Working on behalf of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, the Institute supports interdisciplinary research excellence by PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, research projects, research centres and individual academics working across the full range of humanities disciplines (from literature, performance and language, to digital humanities, history, Irish studies, medieval studies and archaeology) and the critical social sciences (including gender, politics and geography). The Institute has received grants from the ERC, Frameworks 6 and 7, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, the Mellon Foundation, the British Academy and AHRC, among other sources.

The mission of the Moore Institute is to develop and support this research through conferences, seminars and grant applications, and to foster international networks and build a reputation for original, path-breaking research. The Institute runs a Visiting Fellowship programme which has welcomed over 130 researchers to Galway from leading institutions around the world. The Institute has worked closely with the Irish Humanities Alliance (and its predecessor, Humanities Serving Irish Society), the Irish Research Council, HERA and the ERC, to advance the strategic and public case for research in the humanities and critical social studies.

Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

The social sciences are located mainly within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, which has recently been restructured to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration as well as core disciplinary research. Five schools incorporate the disciplines of Anthropology, Education, Law, Management, Political Science, International Studies, Social Work, Sociology and Social Policy, as well as Drama, Film Studies, History, Languages and Literatures, Music and Philosophy. The Faculty also hosts the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, one of four Global Research Institutes established by the University to lead research across the institution.

Psychology, Planning and Geography are based in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and other social scientists are active in medical, health and life sciences and in other research institutes and centres.

Research institutes, centres and units in the social sciences include:*

- The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/GRI/mitchell-institute/>
- Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/cesi/about/>
- Human Rights Centre
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofLaw/Research/HumanRights/>
- Health and Human Rights Unit
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofLaw/Research/HealthHumanRights/>
- Centre for Children's Rights
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforChildrensRights/>
- Centre for European and Transnational Legal Studies
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofLaw/Research/European/>
- Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofLaw/Research/Criminology-CriminalJustice/>
- Institute of Irish Studies
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/IrishStudiesGateway/>
- Society, Space and Culture
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/NBE/Research/ResearchClusters/>
- Identities, Groups and Social Change
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/Research/ResearchInterestsandCentres/>
- Centre for Identity and Intergroup Relations
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/ciir/>
- Institute for Cognition and Culture
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofCognitionCulture/>
- Gibson Institute for Land, Food and Environment
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/GibsonInstitute/>
- Centre for Shared Education
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforSharedEducation/>
- Centre for Behaviour Analysis
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforBehaviourAnalysis/>
- Centre for Effective Education

- <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforEffectiveEducation/>
- Animal Behaviour, Health and Well-being
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/Research/ResearchInterestsandCentres/>
- Cognition, Development and Education
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/Research/ResearchInterestsandCentres/>
- Perception, Action, Communication
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/Research/ResearchInterestsandCentres/>
- Centre of Canadian Studies
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/NBE/Research/ResearchCentres/CentreofCanadianStudiesCCS/>
- Centre for Risk and Inequality

The Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice

(formerly the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice)

The Mitchell Institute responds to the unprecedented global challenge of building a peaceful, secure and inclusive world by drawing on the University's long-established expertise in conflict and peace processes. Named after Senator Mitchell, it shares his dedication to the elimination of conflict, injustice and insecurity, not only in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, but throughout the globe, and not only for societies as abstract entities but also for every ordinary man and woman struggling to come to terms with past harms. It thus seeks to deliver a better world through enhanced understanding of the processes of conflict transformation, improved analysis of the link between peace, justice and security, and by targeted practical interventions and engagements that impact directly on the lives of people emerging out of conflict.

Fellows of the Institute engage in a wide range of collaborative and interdisciplinary projects that seek to deliver on the ambitions sketched above. Research funded by the UK's Research Councils currently includes: 'Sounding Conflict: From Resistance to Reconciliation'; 'Apologies and the Past'; 'Transitional Justice and the Economic Crisis'; 'Ethics, Security and the Governance of Mobility'; 'Food Certification and Security'; and 'Tracing Risk and Uncertainty in Security Technology'. The Institute also hosts the Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Cybersecurity and Society, which brings together the Mitchell Institute and the Centre for Secure Information Technologies to support a distinctive cohort of doctoral students pursuing cross-disciplinary research on cybersecurity, borders, security technology and data gathering and protection. The ESRC Advanced Training Initiative on the Legal, Ethical and Moral Issues in Researching Conflict, Violence and Peace is also based in the Institute.

Two cross-disciplinary centres have also recently been established:

Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation

The Centre focuses on 'social innovation', understood as new and original approaches to tackling pressing societal needs and problems that lead to lasting improvements in people's lives. Social innovations are necessary precisely because many of the key challenges facing society – such as educational underachievement, antisocial behaviour and criminal activity, child abuse and neglect, obesity and poor physical health, or issues with mental health and addiction – have been stubbornly resistant to change. For many of these social problems there is now a long list of interventions that have been tried over the years. But lack of evidence means that social innovation often can take place in the dark and be characterised by the recycling and reinvention of particular approaches, with

limited learning over time. Only through the generation and application of evidence can we learn from previous efforts, be challenged to think differently and to identify and demonstrate the effectiveness of novel approaches to social problems.

Centre for Risk and Inequality

This Centre brings together researchers from across Queen's University to investigate the two-way relationship between risk and inequality; that is *risk as inequality* and *inequality as risk*. The Centre is composed of three strands across which the relationship between risk and inequality will be assessed: finance and the economy; environment; and public health.

Impact

The non-academic benefits of academic research are a priority for all researchers at Queen's and social scientists have been extremely active in delivering research that has had an identifiable influence on public policy, education and legal reform. Several very high-profile cases have attracted world-wide attention, such as the Law School's report on the Hillsborough disaster. Other work on shared education, restorative justice and public display of flags and symbols has been similarly influential. Some of this work was submitted to the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) and is publicly available via the REF 2014 database: <http://impact.ref.ac.uk/CaseStudies/Results.aspx?HEI=193>.

*Institutes that are humanities-facing or focused mainly on professional qualifications (such as the Institute for Professional Legal Studies) are not listed here.

Trinity College (TCD)

At Trinity College, University of Dublin, social science research is conducted through individual scholarship, research group centres and institutes.

Research centres

There are five main research centres co-ordinating social sciences research:

- Trinity Research in Social Science (TRiSS);
- Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI);
- Trinity Impact Evaluation Unit (TIME);
- Trinity Migration and Employment Research Centre (MERC);
- TCD Research in Childhood Centre (TRICC).

Trinity Research in Social Science (TRiSS) is based in the Sutherland Centre in the Arts Building in Trinity College and has a director (Dr Eleanor Denny) and an administrative staff. TRiSS is home to 45 PhD students from across the social sciences and post-doctoral researchers; it has a vibrant visiting scholars programme. The Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI) is based in TRiSS. TIME, TRICC and MERC are virtual research centres which provide co-ordination to social science researchers from across faculties.

There are also a number of more focused research centres in specific schools, such as the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, the Centre for Language and Communication Studies (CLCS), the Centre for Psychological Health, the Centre for Deaf Studies, the Centre for European Studies, the Centre for Innovative Human Systems and the Centre for Global Health.

Research institutes

Within the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, the Policy Institute (<https://www.tcd.ie/policy-institute/>) aims to highlight the contribution of philosophy and social sciences to current public issues. The Institute's public events programme plays a key role in enabling the public to engage with the School and its work, and in ensuring that leading academics and policymakers from around the world are publicly accessible.

Social scientists also have substantial involvement in the Loyola Institute and the Long Room Hub. The Loyola Institute is a teaching and research unit devoted to the Catholic theological tradition located within the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences of Trinity College Dublin. The Long Room Hub is the Arts and Humanities Research Institute of Trinity College Dublin and is dedicated to promoting and facilitating innovative research across its nine arts and humanities member schools.

University College Cork (UCC)

The Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21) is the flagship social science institute in the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences. ISS21 – www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/.

The Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st century is an interdisciplinary research initiative for the social sciences in UCC, established in 2008, which seeks to build, sustain and enhance research on social, economic and cultural issues that will shape Ireland during the 21st century. The Institute has a uniquely interdisciplinary governance structure, membership and profile, which means its activities are not located in a single school, department or college in the university.

ISS21 was established as part of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP), a national programme of integrated social science research and graduate education that focuses on the social, cultural and societal transformations shaping Ireland in the 21st century. With the aid of a major PRTL14 funding award of over €16m (between 2008–2013), the ISSP consortium of nine institutional partners established an all-island programme of theoretical, applied and comparative research and graduate training focused upon the core themes of knowledge, innovation, society and space, coherently linking together significant and well-established centres of social science expertise across a partnership of third-level institutions. The project focused on three inter-related areas:

- innovation and the building of the knowledge society/economy;
- social inclusion and the creation of sustainable communities;
- spatial strategies in promoting balanced development and competitiveness.

The Institute brings together social scientists from a broad range of disciplines to pursue research at Irish and international levels in interdisciplinary areas such as citizenship, childhood, innovation and creativity, family, gender, health, migration, social justice and sustainability. It involves collaboration between the following academic departments: Applied Social Studies, Applied Psychology, Chinese Studies, Economics, Education, Epidemiology and Public Health, Geography, General Practice, Government, History, Law, Nursing and Midwifery, Occupational Sciences and Therapies, Philosophy, Study of Religions and Sociology.

ISS21 has established UCC as an internationally recognised centre of excellence in collaborative social science research, graduate education and research training. Subsequent to the ISSP PRTL14 inter-institutional project (2008–13) which funded and established ISS21, the Institute is now achieving self-sustainability through research awards and activities, having secured over €7m in research funding since it was established in 2008. ISS21 is named in UCC's Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (2013–2017) as one of the university's four major research institutes.

The aims of the Institute are to:

- enhance the external profile of social science research in UCC;
- provide a platform for attracting external research funding for high-quality interdisciplinary social science research;
- contribute to the delivery of fourth-level study in the social sciences in Ireland in accordance with national policy objectives and with international best practice in graduate education;

- produce high-quality doctoral graduates who have a firm understanding of theoretical knowledge in the social sciences, possess advanced policy analysis skills, and are highly competent in a range of applied research skills;
- produce internationally excellent social science research output;
- develop inter-institutional mobility and collaboration.

There are currently over 100 social scientists from across the university actively involved, to varying degrees, in the Institute through research clusters, research projects and other Institute activities. ISS2I has co-hosted, or hosted, over 20 major research projects since its establishment and has developed seven interdisciplinary research clusters and two working groups in its areas of strength. These are:

- Children and young people;
- Family, gender and sexualities;
- Migration and integration;
- Ageing;
- Educating for the professions;
- Civil society;
- New poverties, social justice and human rights.

Working Groups:

- Mental Health and Disability;
- Quantitative Research Methods.

Projects

ISS2I Research Associates are involved in a number of ongoing and recently completed research projects, each one linked to one of our interdisciplinary research clusters.

- Childcare Proceedings in the District Court
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/researchprojects/childcareproceedings/>.
- GENOVATE: Transforming Organisational Culture for Gender Equality in Research and Innovation
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/genovate/>.
- ENTRUST <http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/researchprojects/entrust/>.
- Socioeconomic Impact of Cork Northwest Regeneration Programme
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/researchprojects/socioeconomicimpactofcorknorthwestregenerationprogramme/>.
- Impact of Local Government Reform
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/researchprojects/impactoflocalgovernmentreform/>.
- YMOBILITY <http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/ymobility/>.

Recently completed projects

- Voice, identity and participation: connecting, challenging and transforming practices in schools;
- Migration and networks of care;
- Civil society, youth and youth policy;

- Age, income and food;
- Knowledge, innovation, society and space;
- Effects of transnational child-raising arrangements on life-chances of children, migrant parents and caregivers between Africa and Europe;
- Through the glass ceiling: career progression programme and strategy for female academics and researchers;
- Young people as social actors: an examination of young people's perspectives on the impact of participation in DCYA initiatives;
- Migrant domestic workers and migration law regimes in the EU;
- Making communion: disappearing and emerging forms of childhood in Ireland's schools, homes and communities;
- Emigration and return: profiling today's generation of emigrants and their propensity to return;
- Children and housing estate regeneration: unheard voices;
- The commercialisation and sexualisation of children in Ireland: an exploratory study;
- Irish child abuse inquiries in social and cultural context: a report on reports;
- Seen and not heard? The lived realities of children and young people's participation in Ireland in their homes, schools and communities;
- Re-imagining initial teacher identity and learning;
- Examination of the structure of volunteer-led youth work in Ireland and the factors affecting volunteering;
- Karbala in London: transnational Shii networks between London and the Middle East;
- Transnational commuting.

University College Dublin (UCD)

UCD College of Social Sciences and Law

The College (<https://www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/>) strives to impact positively upon individuals and communities by enhancing understanding of the human condition through rigorous research. Areas of particular research expertise in the College include leadership, regulation and governance; identity, conflict and inclusion; innovative, ethical public policy; enhancing the public sphere; human development; child and youth well-being; smart cities. Research output by academics in these areas has already positively impacted on the public policy agenda at national and EU level. Through linkages with non-governmental organisations, and active partnerships with a wide range of universities internationally, including in developing countries, our education and research impacts on a worldwide scale. Graduates of the College hold eminent positions in a range of professions throughout the world in areas including business, law, education, government, non-governmental organisations and the media.

The College is highly research active, with a strong publication profile and grant income success. Indicative of this is the award of ERC grants to three members of the College – Ron Pinhasi, Dieter Kogler and Suzanne Kingston. Many academics in the College are attached to the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, one of Europe’s leading social science institutes. UCD is ranked in the top 100 in the world for Law, Social Policy, Archaeology, Politics and International Relations and Development Studies according to QS World University Rankings.

The UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

The UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy (<http://www.ucd.ie/geary/>) is a centre of excellence for policy-relevant, theoretically-informed, empirically-grounded research. The Institute supports research in empirical social and behavioural sciences within organised themes and research centres, and brings together researchers to stimulate discussion on theories, methodologies and empirical results. The mission of the Institute is to foster research excellence and relevance and specifically, to develop frontier methods of investigation, leading to the very best in research publication; it aims to highlight the importance and relevance of Geary’s research through interaction with policymakers and the wider society.

The Institute currently supports the work of 50 members drawn mainly from the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law and the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Science. Geary also provides support for a range of research teams, adjunct and visiting researchers, and about 50 PhD students.

The principal research themes at Geary are leadership, regulation and governance; identity, conflict and inclusion; innovative public policy and enhancing the public sphere; growth and innovation; globalisation and markets; human development/child and youth well-being/health economics; and behavioural economics.

The Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA)

The ISSDA, based at UCD Library, is Ireland's leading centre for quantitative data acquisition, preservation and dissemination. Its mission is to ensure wide access to quantitative datasets in the social sciences, and to advance the promotion of international comparative studies of the Irish economy and Irish society.

Other important UCD centres include the UCD Centre for Disability Studies, UCD Centre for War Studies, UCD Childhood and Human Development Research Centre, UCD Dublin European Institute, UCD Equality Studies Centre, UCD Institute for British-Irish Studies, UCD International Centre for Newman Studies, UCD Sustainable Development Solutions Academic Centre and UCD Women's Studies Centre.

Some recent major research projects include:

- Preparing for life early childhood intervention programme;
- The influence of new environmental governance rules on environmental compliance;
- Reconsidering European contributions to global justice;
- Equality of opportunity in practice: studies in working, learning and caring;
- Solidarity in European societies;
- From hunters to farmers: the evolution of human populations preceding the emergence of agriculture;
- Fostering human rights among European (external and internal) policies;
- The MILESTONE project: managing the link and strengthening transition from child to adult mental health care;
- Platform for European preparedness against (re-)emerging epidemics.

University of Limerick (UL)

Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology is home to:

- Gender ARC: Gender, Culture and Society;
- Hate and Hostility Research Group;
- Popular Music and Popular Culture Cluster;
- Power Discourse and Society Research Cluster;
- Sociological Research Methods Cluster.

The Centre for Applied Language Studies (CALs)

- The New Learning Environments cluster focuses on technological and other changes in the language-learning environment and their implications for both research and practice in applied linguistics.
- The Discourse, Society and Identity cluster encompasses a range of interdisciplinary projects which focus on critical analyses of spoken and written, public and private varieties of language.
- The Plurilingualism and Language Policy cluster investigates language planning and policies as well as the effects of these in a number of domains; in particular, education, media and politics.

See: <http://ulsites.ul.ie/cals/>.

The Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies pursues innovative research across disciplines on utopian thought and practice. It studies both utopian visions and utopian-informed methods and practices as articulated through a wide variety of texts (literary, legal, political, theological, filmic, visual, musical, architectural and others) and social experiences (such as religious and secular intentional communities, political movements, artistic performances and various other cultural practices). The Centre has a particular commitment to the study of utopianism in Irish culture and to developing our understanding of utopia as a method of social and cultural critique and transformation.

See: <http://ulsites.ul.ie/ralahinecentre/>.

Centre for Peace and Development Studies

The Centre for Peace and Development Studies is a multidisciplinary centre that brings together those working in the general areas of international relations, international development, community development, conflict studies, international political economy and policy studies. It fosters individual and collaborative research by creating an engagement with wide national and international networks through seminars and research partnerships. It looks to attract work from the social sciences as well as from education and business schools. Co-directors of the CPSD are Dr Owen Worth, Senior Lecturer of International Relations; Dr Chris McInerney, Lecturer in Public Administration.

Global Transformation and Conflict Research Cluster

The Global Transformation and Conflict Research Cluster provides a forum for intellectual interactions and research initiatives regarding how ongoing political and economic changes are altering the dynamics of power internationally and within nation states. It seeks to facilitate both theoretical and applied research on regionalism; political economy; international and domestic conflict; corruption; austerity and resistance; and state transformation.

The Democratic Performance Research Cluster brings together UL researchers examining democratic and administrative structures and practices, with a particular focus on European countries (including Ireland) and the EU. It seeks to understand the factors that influence the continuation, maintenance, functioning and effectiveness of democratic institutions and public administration across a number of areas. Research interests of current cluster members include public policymaking and implementation; administrative structures, performance and reforms; bureaucratic politics and politico-administrative relations; political regime stability and change; multilevel governance; public participation and civic engagement; political representation; executive-legislative relations; as well as electoral and legislative politics and the social impact of the 'knowledge' of political science.

The Centre for Criminal Justice

The Centre for Criminal Justice was established in 1997 to foster the development of independent research and ideas on crime, criminal law and criminal justice that would be of benefit to policymakers, practitioners, academics and the general public. While the Irish criminal justice system is the primary focus of the Centre's activities, particular attention is devoted to how Ireland contributes to and is affected by European and international co-operation on criminal justice matters. The Centre's research is enhanced by contributions from related disciplines including: politics, sociology, economics and European studies.

EPI*STEM – The National Centre for STEM education

The National Centre for STEM Education (Epi*Stem) was established in 2008 under the aegis of the Shannon Consortium with funding from the HEA for an initial three-year period (Phase I). During Phase I the Centre has become a nationally recognised hub for research, policy and leadership in STEM teaching and learning. The infrastructure, research and programme base, network of collaborations and associates, and alternative sources of funding, ensure that the National Centre is well positioned to move into Phase 2 and progress from a 'centre for excellence' to a nationally recognised 'centre of excellence'.

Research Centre for Education and Professional Practice (RCEPP)

RCEPP was established in 2009 and aims to advance the well-being of children, young people and adults in Ireland through research and the dissemination of knowledge which will inform policy and practice. It provides an organisational framework for the research and scholarship of staff in the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences and others who have an interest in issues of policy and practice. The Centre showcases the research undertaken by tutors involved in preparing the next generation of teachers and that of colleagues in related fields such as health care. In addition, the Centre provides a consultancy role for internal groups and external agencies.

School of Law

Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies

The Centre's research revolves around interactions between law, criminal behaviour and criminal justice. Its activities encompass internally generated projects, and projects supported by external academic funding bodies such as the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences; policy-based bodies such as the Department of Justice and Equality; and NGOs such as the Irish Human Rights Commission. Members of the Centre frequently engage as the Irish national experts in EU-wide criminal justice projects funded by the European Commission.

International Commercial and Economic Law Research Group

Broadly put, this research group deals with general areas of commercial/private law. The group's current research projects include: the impact of science, technology and innovation on traditional legal regulatory and liability frameworks, particularly in the area of autonomous driver-assisted safety devices as part of an EU Horizon 2020 funded project; intellectual property protection, management and exploitation; the changing nature of property law rights; Tort law, focused on accident compensation and private actions for the enforcement of civil rights; and the 'Uberisation of the workforce' in light of 'flexicurity' concepts.

University of Ulster (UU)

Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences is structured through research institutes: Institute for Research in Social Sciences (IRiSS), Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) and INCORE.

See: www.ulster.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-institutes.

IRiSS

The Institute for Research in Social Sciences seeks to harness and develop the highest quality research undertaken in the Faculty of Social Sciences within the broad areas of social and public policy, with social work, education, politics and international studies. It provides an institutional framework for undertaking high-quality research and for the development of a vibrant research culture through organising seminars, colloquia and lectures, funding participation by Institute members in national and international conferences and providing a forum for engaging with policymakers and those involved with service delivery in the public and voluntary sectors.

TJI

The Transitional Justice Institute (TJI), established in 2003, is a law-led interdisciplinary research institute at Ulster University.

In REF 2014, Law at Ulster was placed fourth overall in the UK law ranking and TJI ranked first for research impact with 100% of research impact rated as world leading. TJI is internationally recognised as a leading academic centre in developing the field of transitional justice – broadly, the study of law in societies emerging from conflict and repression. The Institute places research emanating from Northern Ireland at the forefront of local and global academic, legal and policy debates.

TJI has established authoritative analyses of rapidly developing legal controversies in Northern Ireland for the benefit of a global audience. TJI scholars advance cutting-edge research and practice in multiple conflicted and transitional societies including Chile, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Israel-Palestine and Colombia. The Institute brings human rights and international law expertise to bear on a range of complex issues.

TJI espouses an 'active research' model, wherein engagement with institutions, policymakers and communities (internationally and locally) generates research, and research generates engagement.

The aims of the Institute are to:

- build a theoretical and practical understanding of the role of 'transitional justice', and the underlying relationship between justice and peace;
- examine the role of the international and domestic legal systems and institutions in facilitating transition from conflict;
- make links between the experience of Northern Ireland and international experience, so as to benefit both Northern Ireland and other contexts;
- inform policymakers involved in peacemaking in local and international institutions;
- make visible and critically examine gendered experiences of transition.

INCORE – International Conflict Research Institute

Established in 1993, and celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2013, INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute) is a joint project of the United Nations University and the University of Ulster. Combining research, education and comparative analysis, INCORE addresses the causes and consequences of conflict in Northern Ireland and internationally; it promotes conflict resolution management strategies. It aims to influence policymakers and practitioners involved in peace, conflict and reconciliation issues while enhancing the nature of international conflict research.

INCORE is located within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ulster and co-ordinates the varied peace- and conflict-related activities across the University, encompassing work in disciplines such as politics, policy studies, history, international affairs, sociology, geography, architecture, communications and social work, as well as in peace and conflict studies.

INCORE works in partnership with a variety of institutions and organisations, locally and internationally. Partner organisations include community groups and civil society organisations in Northern Ireland, peace and conflict-oriented NGOs and think tanks in Northern Ireland and in academic institutions around the world.

Institutes of Technology (IOTs)

Ireland's Institutes of Technology are flexible and dynamic university-level institutes focused on teaching/learning, purpose-driven research and public service. The Technological Higher-Education Association (THEA) Ireland is the IOT representative body of the 14 Institutes of Technology in Ireland.

See: www.thea.ie.

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT)

The Department of Social Sciences and Design research interests include the right to asylum under international law, the reception conditions of asylum seekers, ethnic and minority groups, the rights of trafficked persons, children's rights, professionalisation in social care, the older person, early years care and education issues and graphic design. Research centres include:

The Parenting and Family Studies Alliance (PFSA)

Established in 2015 as a collaboration between AIT, Institute of Technology Tralee and Institute of Technology Carlow, the PFSA was set up to promote and facilitate critical inquiry into the changing nature of parenting and family life in modern society. Its focus is to generate active discourse on parenting as a shared, yet very private family activity, incorporating the views of all stakeholders.

Cork Institute of Technology (CIT)

Cork Institute of Technology is composed of two faculties, the Faculty of Business & Humanities and the Faculty of Science & Engineering. CIT also has three constituent colleges: Crawford College of Art & Design (CCAD), Cork School of Music (CSM) and National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI). The Faculty of Business & Humanities consists of the following constituent departments: Accounting and Information Systems; Organisation and Professional Development; Management and Enterprise; Marketing and International Business; Applied Social Studies; Sport, Leisure and Childhood Studies, Tourism and Hospitality. Research centres and groups include:

Project Spraoi Research Group

Research in the Project Spraoi Research Group concentrates on primary school health promotion intervention. It aims to increase physical activity, improve dietary intake and positively influence children's overall health. The research is delivered in the primary schools by a team of Energizers, who support schools in the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating among children. This is done through leading initiatives, modelling classes and providing resources and training to schools. Evaluation of the impact of various interventions enables the group to make ongoing improvements and to compare with other intervention initiatives. Spraoi researchers work in partnership with the very successful New Zealand Project Energize which has been in existence since 2004.

See: <http://projectspraoi.cit.ie/>.

Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence

The Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence is Ireland's first Centre of Entrepreneurship Excellence. In establishing this centre, CIT has extended its long-standing, strong commitment to supporting the entrepreneurship drive at regional and national level. The Hincks Centre's

overarching aim is to promote and provide entrepreneurship training and education and to foster the entrepreneurial mindset. The Hincks Centre conducts research, training and education activities in all aspects of enterprise and entrepreneurship development. Its scope covers a variety of contexts: start-ups, micro, small and large businesses, not-for-profit organisations, corporate and family businesses, educators, enterprise support agencies, students and the public sector.

See: <http://www.cit.ie/hincks>.

Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)

Research in the social sciences at DIT falls primarily within the research thematic of society, culture and enterprise, one of four institute-wide research themes at DIT. Social science research is concentrated in the School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences, and the College of Business. Key research centres include:

- Business, Society and Sustainability Research Centre (BSSR);
- Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER);
- Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice (CTMP);
- Higher-Education Policy Research Unit (HEPRU);
- Arthur Ryan Retail Centre;
- Institute for Minority Entrepreneurship;
- 3S Group.

Business Society and Sustainable Research Centre (BSSR)

Born out of research in the College of Business, BSSR is committed to critical and creative analysis and reflection on the impacts of business on the wider society and the impact of the wider society on business. Central to these impacts is the theme of sustainability, understood not only in its ecological sense but also in the sense of the ability of business to maintain ethical and political legitimacy through creating value in the long-term. Projects have been funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food Institutional Research Measure and the Irish Research Council. The Centre also hosts special interest groups such as the Discourse Analysis Group and the Consumption and Leisure Studies Group.

See: <http://www.dit.ie/researchandenterprise/ditrcentres/businesssocietyandsustainability/>.

Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER)

The CSER resides within the School of Languages, Law and Social Sciences and is focused on core areas of Social Care, Early Childhood Education, Criminology, Law and Youth Justice.

See: <http://www.dit.ie/cser/>.

Recent research projects include:

- Scoping study on sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public space. Commissioned and funded by Dublin City Council Safe City Programme, 2015;
- Together Young and Old (TOY): Young children and senior citizens learning and developing in intergenerational community spaces (funded by Grundtvig lifelong learning programme, 2012–14, and TOY-Plus, 2016–2018, funded by Erasmus+);
- EU Kids Online: a multinational research network that seeks to enhance knowledge of European children's online opportunities, risks and safety. It uses multiple methods to map children's and

parents' experience of the internet, in dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders (funded by the EC's Better Internet for Kids programme);

- Offender Compliance on Community Supervision, 2014 (funded by Irish Research Council's New Foundations Scheme);
- Promoting the Participation of Seldom Heard Young People: A Review of the Literature on Best Practice Principles. Commissioned by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (funded by the IRC, 2010–12);
- Examination of concepts of school-readiness among parents and educators in the Early Years (funded by the IRC, 2012–14);
- Judicial conceptions of prisoners' rights (funded by the IRC's New Foundations Scheme 2013);
- Being Young and Irish, 2012. President Michael D. Higgins's national youth consultation;
- Talking about Punishment: Increasing understanding of prisoners' rights and how those rights may be vindicated (funded by the IRC's Research Development Initiative, 2010–12).

The Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice (CTMP)

Located in the School of Media, the CTMP offers a distinctive, interdisciplinary postgraduate and research environment, dedicated to scholarly and public understandings of migration and globalisation, diasporic formations and transnationalism, media and civil society activism, post-conflict/border zones and transcultural identity formations in Ireland and beyond. Drawing on the fields of film, media and cultural studies, the Centre promotes the use of documentary and ethnographic modes of practice, utilising new and established media technologies. CTMP constitutes a dynamic interface between film and screen media production, the creative arts and public engagement.

See: <http://www.ctmp.ie/>.

Higher-Education Policy Research Unit (HEPRU)

HEPRU is an interdisciplinary research unit located within the Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER). As the only research group in Ireland looking at questions of strategic and policy concern to the future of higher education in Ireland, HEPRU has established a strong international reputation for comparative policy research and analysis, and higher education assessment and evaluation. HEPRU is an international partner in the Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE), based in the Institute of Education, University College London. CGHE is the largest unit in the world dedicated to researching higher education, with three broad research programmes, based on global, national and local perspectives on higher education.

See: <http://www.dit.ie/hepru/>.

HEPRU's recent projects include:

- Governance of higher education: global, national and institutional (2015–20). Project examining changing patterns of governance in higher education in the UK and the rest of Europe, ESRC-funded;
- OECD HEInnovate reviews of higher education in Ireland and the Netherlands (2015/16);
- Developing organisational and financial models for including non-formal sector qualifications in National Qualifications Frameworks (NQF-IN) (2015–17). Erasmus+ funded project;
- Review of the Oversight of Post-Compulsory Education in Wales (2015–16) for the Welsh Government;

- Governance and Adaptation to Innovation Modes of Higher Education Provision (GAIHE) (2013–16). An Erasmus-LLP-funded project researching adaptation to and role of the university management of the diffusion of innovative teaching and learning and governance practices;
- Measuring the societal impacts of universities' research into arts and the humanities (HERAVALUE) (2011–16), a HERA-funded project exploring how arts and humanities research is defined, appreciated and accounted for by multiple stakeholders.

Arthur Ryan Retail Centre

Located in the School of Retail and Services Management, the Arthur Ryan Retail Centre operates as an interface between academia and the retail sector, and aims to contribute towards the development of sustainable retail policy, effective retail education and supportive retail services for the retail and services sector. Research expertise in the Centre includes retail location analysis, retail planning, customer loyalty, service planning and retail internationalisation.

See: <http://www.dit.ie/business/schools/retailandservicesmanagement/arrc/>.

Research projects in the Institute for Minority Entrepreneurship have addressed entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurship opportunity in a range of minority contexts, including female, gay, ethnic and disability entrepreneurship. The Institute has received European funding for several projects including the Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship project, which is investigating the role of diaspora as drivers of wealth creation in entrepreneurs' countries of origin and their country of residence.

See: <http://www.ime.ie/>.

3S Group

The 3S Group (Smart Sustainable Solutions) is a multidisciplinary group specialising in business process optimisation. It applies operations research, business process analysis and operations management to complex business process issues and develops innovative solutions for a number of applied activity areas including healthcare systems, industrial supply chains and knowledge management. Many of the group's projects are funded through partnerships with enterprise and by the Mater Foundation, the Health Services Executive and the Irish Research Council.

See: <http://3sgroupn.weebly.com/>.

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT)

IADT has two faculties: the Faculty of Enterprise and Humanities and the Faculty of Film Art and Creative Technologies. Research themes in IADT include Public Cultures/Entrepreneurship and Creative Arts and Media.

Centre for Public Cultures

The Centre for Public Cultures aims to promote high-quality research, teaching and public dissemination of historical and contemporary aspects of public cultures, within national, European and international contexts. The Centre promotes multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of public cultures and society. The Centre has established links with a number of national and international organisations. The Centre focuses on a number of key themes and reflects

key issues on the national, European and international agenda, including citizenship and identity, ethics and the public sphere, public arts and cultural interactions, popular cultures, technology and culture.

See: <http://www.iadt.ie/researchandindustry/centres-initiatives/centre-for-public-cultures>.

The Faculty of Film Art and Creative Technologies

This faculty consists of three departments – the Department of Film and Media, the Department of Technology and Psychology and the Department of Design and Visual Arts. The National Film School is also located within the Faculty. Some of the research interests and clusters include: content development and design; entertainment technologies, usability, audiences and interfaces; material and visual culture; cyber psychology; music production and technology; film/animation production and design; arts policy and creative practice.

See: <http://www.iadt.ie/about/faculties-schools/faculty-of-film-art-creative-technologies>.

Centre for Creative Technologies and Applications (CCTA)

CCTA is one of the research centres for the Faculty of Film, Art and Creative Technologies at IADT. The CCTA through both taught programmes and research explores the interaction of people and technology. This goal finds expression in a range of existing disciplines, such as audio/visual technologies, gaming, multimedia, psychology, e-learning, assistive technologies, teaching and learning, and in establishing disciplines such as cyber psychology.

See: <http://ccta.iadt.ie/aboutccta.php>.

Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)

The School of Business and Humanities undertakes humanities and social science research through the Centre for Community and Social Innovation and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Research. Themes in humanities and social science research include civil society, social policy and heritage, cultural and digital humanities. The Humanities and Social Science Research Centre continuously strives to enhance its understanding of, and contribution to, these areas through establishing and maintaining research networks of international excellence. The Centre's team of researchers comprises both academic and non-academic staff, including external associates from academic institutions throughout Ireland, Europe and the USA. Collectively, the Centre's research team has a wide range of publications in the fields of social enterprise and entrepreneurship, social science and humanities that have helped inform debate and practice. Supervision of postgraduate research students working towards Master's and PhD qualifications has included research on entrepreneurship in the software industry; female entrepreneurship in Ireland; gender differences in career choices in business and enterprise; education and training needs and opportunities for lone mothers; the use of humour in child and youth care; and women's voluntary work.

The following two research groups are active in the School of Informatics and Creative Arts.

Centre for Music Research (IONAD TAIGHDE CEOIL)

This Centre engages in research and scholarship across a wide range of music disciplines including musicology, composition, ethnomusicology, Irish traditional music, music technology, music education and community and performance practice. The Centre is committed to developing a strong research ethos, underpinning and enhancing all levels of teaching and also promoting the reputation of the Centre at national and international levels in the discipline of music. It has also attracted a diverse

range of international students, researchers and visiting faculty members. The Centre fulfils the Institute's regional remit with its eminent focus on research-based community engagement. See: <https://www.dkit.ie/music-research>.

Creative Media Research Group (CMRG)

Creative Media research at DKIT is characterised by a mix of pure and applied research. Applied research is made possible by a strong base of practical skills (in, for example, film production, drawing, graphic design, tangible interface design, media production, multimedia authoring, narrative writing and game design). To date, the group has created short films, fine art productions, alternate-reality games, mobile technologies, tangible interfaces and multimedia applications. These artefacts are used to solve practical problems, and to test concepts and design principles. The current research programme of this group focuses on creative media content creation; creative pedagogies and transformative work practices; creative technologies; future communications; media-culture, community and society; media production and new-media narrative forms.

See: <https://www.dkit.ie/informatics-creative-arts/research/creative-media-research-group>.

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)

GMIT is composed of the College of Tourism and Arts and the School of Business. Social science research at GMIT is conducted within the College of Tourism and Arts and specifically, the Tourism and Arts Research Centre.

Tourism and Arts Research Centre (TARC)

TARC provides an umbrella structure that encompasses innovative cultural strategies for regional development including interdisciplinary research into food culture and heritage. Collaborative and integrative research processes are used to examine loss, identity and validation in stigmatised subject areas. Participative methodologies for civic engagement that are reflective, responsive and pertinent to a broad range of stakeholders are utilised in the social and cultural context of the west of Ireland. The Tourism and Arts Research Centre is due to be restructured (2016/17). GMIT's new College of Design and Creativity will bring together the Centre for Creative Arts and Media Cluain Mhuire Campus with the National Centre for Furniture Design and Wood Technology, Letterfrack. The new college will be focused on developing research into innovative approaches to creative practice-based research in design, fine art, creative enterprise; film-based, participative and socially engaged art. In addition to directly engaging with the past, the research interests of Heritage and Tourism Research Group are concerned with its place in the present and future. Recent work has focused on the potential of heritage to act as a catalyst for sustainable and economically viable forms of tourism (e.g. genealogy tourism), memory and commemoration of wars and rebellions, battlefield tourism and regional development in post-conflict situations, festivals and events, visitor satisfaction, archaeological surveying, urban history, Big Houses and landed estates, landscape management and governance of protected areas.

See: <http://www.gmit.ie/college-tourism-and-arts/college-tourism-arts>.

Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (ITB)

The School of Business and Humanities consists of the Department of Business and the Department of Humanities. ITB Business and Humanities researchers study entrepreneurship, project

management, organisational management, e-learning, social science, diversity and language education and cultural studies. The research community at ITB is also involved collaboratively with industry, community organisations and different agencies in the locality. Some of these include: IBM, Intel, ESB and the HSE. ITB has been successful in linking with SMEs through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Scheme.

A key research theme is integration in third-level education of those with intellectual disabilities (ID). Research incorporates aspects of social sciences and specifically focuses on the needs of those with intellectual disabilities (ID) in relation to integrated education at third-level education. The project is a joint initiative with the Daughters of Charity (DoC), one of the largest providers of day and residential services for people with ID. The project is overseen by a steering committee which comprises social workers and an educational psychologist who are employed by the DoC.

Institute of Technology, Carlow (IT Carlow)

The Department of Humanities in IT Carlow is made up of a variety of discipline areas which teach and research on a range of subjects including applied social sciences, youth studies, law and design. Social science research within the department is carried out under the auspices of the Business and Humanities Research Group, incorporating faculty and research student projects. This group focuses on applied and practice-orientated interdisciplinary research across the entire lifespan, from early years to youth and young people in Ireland (with a particular focus on youth culture and media representation of young people), families and the ageing population. A particular feature of this research is a focus on interdisciplinary research projects which include:

- Changing the way we provide care: the use of technology and social media within social care;
- Exploring advocacy services for older people in residential care;
- Embedding children's rights in early childhood education and care practice;
- Media representations of youth and young people in Ireland;
- Market-orientated organisational culture.

Other areas of particular interest include children's rights and justice and equality.

See: <https://www.itcarlow.ie/research/research-centres/business-humanities-research-group.htm>.

Institute of Technology, Sligo (IT Sligo)

The School of Business and Social Sciences offers degree, Master's and PhD programmes in accounting, finance and investment, business, early childhood care and education, and social care. Research centres and groups include:

Centre for Research in the Social Professions (CRiSP)

Established in 2012, this multidisciplinary research centre studies social policies and practices impacting on people's daily lives in partnership with social professionals and local communities. Research projects include youth and community, health, psychology, educational progression, teaching and learning, technology and learning, social and environmental sustainability, policy, interculturalism and community development. In partnership with social professionals and local communities, CRiSP has forged links with national and international organisations such as Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP), Formation d'Éducateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educator

Training (FESET), Pedagogy Learning and Education for the Early Years (PLÉ), Social Care Ireland (SCI) and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) and the Researching Early Childhood Education Collaborative (RECEC). CRiSP has also created a space for interdisciplinary work with academics from the schools of Science, Engineering, Business and Social Sciences, and the Centre for Online Learning.

See: <https://www.itsligo.ie/research-innovation/research-welcome/research-centres-and-groups/crisp/>.

Institute of Technology, Tallaght (ITT)

ITT's School of Business and Humanities offers level 6 to level 9 programmes in business, accounting and finance, management and social care practice. Supervised postgraduate research has as its current focus the area of deaf studies as well as supported housing for the older person in conjunction with South Dublin County Council. The Institute has developed a portfolio of prioritised research areas with an applied or translational focus, and key research groups include:

National Centre for Franco-Irish Studies (NCFIS)

Established in 2003, NCFIS was officially designated an Institute Research Centre in June 2006.

See: <http://www.it-tallaght.ie/ncfis>.

Social Media Research Group (SMRG)

Established in 2007, SMRG consists of an interdisciplinary team of computer scientists, linguists, marketing experts and psychologists who are conducting research in a wide spectrum of projects under the social media umbrella. Projects range from those that extend the theoretical foundations of social media to those that demonstrate novel applications of the technologies.

See: <http://www.it-tallaght.ie/socialmediaresearchgroup>.

Institute of Technology, Tralee (IT Tralee)

IT Tralee's Faculty of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences is organised into two schools: Business, Computing and Humanities and Health and Social Studies. These schools offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the areas of creative media, hotel, culinary arts and tourism, business, accounting and finance, social care, social studies, early childhood care and education, and youth and community work practice. Research studies include: the implementation of the 1991 Child Care Act, the assessment of the learner's experience of a virtual learning environment, cultural learning of students studying abroad, dance in Ireland, politics and society, leadership in higher education, learning environments for students of popular music and pre-school education. Research centres include:

Centre for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (CEED)

CEED is focused on research into entrepreneurial learning, incubation and new venture creation and sustainability. It brings together academics, spin-out enterprises, student entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and researchers for the study and practice of innovation, entrepreneurship and enterprise. The CEED's research agenda spans across all departments within the Institute in order to stimulate an entrepreneurial spirit amongst both staff and students. In 2013 CEED was awarded EU-FP7 funding as the leader of the 'Entrepreneurship Track' work package in the 'Network for the transfer of knowledge on traditional foods to SMEs' project.

See: <http://www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationAbout/Research/ResearchCentres/CEED/>.

Irish Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (IAHT)

The IAHT is a dedicated facility for the development of an applied research community directly linked to the needs of the sector, and aims to establish strategic partnerships with other third-level institutions and organisations, nationally and internationally.

See: <http://www.ittralee.ie/en/InformationAbout/Research/ResearchCentres/IrishAcademyofHospitalityandTourism/>.

Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)

LYIT's schools of Business and Tourism offer a wide range of industry-focused programmes in business studies, administrative management, graphic design, creative communication, law, languages and sports, culinary arts, hospitality and tourism programmes. In addition there are a number of funded postgraduate researchers working in small teams exploring social change, sport and well-being, social justice and supply-chain management. Funded research projects include:

- BMW SAM INTERREG funded project which in partnership with the University of Missouri, NUI Galway and the CSO constructed and tested a Social Accounting Matric for the Border Midland and Western Region;
- eConsultation HEA-funded project which in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and Maynooth University studied the tools and techniques of government online consultations;
- Wild Atlantic Way is a Connacht-Ulster-Alliance-funded research group including GMIT and IT Sligo. This is a new group and it is envisaged that a number of sub-groups will be formed in 2017 and outputs delivered towards 2020.

Research groups include:

Digital Innovation and Creative Enterprises (DICE)

The Digital Innovation and Creative Enterprises (DICE) group has a number of postgraduate researchers and focuses on industry collaboration and small-scale applied projects with micro enterprises.

21st Century Higher Education System

This group conducts small-scale research initiatives to explore the interaction between academia, learners and the labour market. A number of published papers have emerged over the last ten years.

Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT)

LIT's Faculty of Business and Humanities is organised into four academic departments: Business, Food and Tourism, Applied Social Sciences, Sport and Finance. The Faculty offers programmes leading to qualifications at level 6 (certification) to level 9 (Master's). Research centres and groups include:

Genders and Sexualities research group

This group takes an interdisciplinary approach to exploring a range of areas of interest in the field of genders and sexualities with a focus on critical and post-modern methods of investigation. Genders and sexualities are referred to in the plural as an acknowledgement of the multiplicity of gender and sexual identities that can be identified. Topics of particular interest include: sexual identities, young single motherhood, rape and sexual assault, abortion and the complex inter-relationships between

identities, sex, gender and sexualities. The group aims to support the development of research related to the work of social care professionals and to shape future sex, gender, sexuality and equality and diversity agendas in Ireland.

The Loss and Grief research group

This group promotes research around traditional topics in loss such as death, bereavement and suicide, but also focuses on non-death related losses across the human lifespan. The group takes a multidisciplinary approach towards the examination of grief and loss as it is encountered in various life events, and aims to increase public awareness of the effects of loss and to encourage effective emotional understanding and management of these experiences. Current research projects include: loss and grief for parents raising their grandchildren, cultural bereavement and resilience for migrant people in Limerick, the experiences of people who have a family member identifying as transgender, the influence of folklore and technology on modern Irish death customs, and how participating in a Death Café can shape feelings around death, bereavement and mortality.

These research groups work collectively with the Health, Education and Social Research group (HEALR). Together these three groups are known as Social Sciences ConneXions and they work collaboratively on both academic research projects and pieces of research within communities. The vision of Social Sciences ConneXions is to engage in research which promotes social inclusion, provides a voice for those who are not heard and enriches the body of academic knowledge informing social and community practitioners from a variety of sources.

See: <http://www.lit.ie/RED/Research/Centres.aspx>.

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

The social sciences at WIT fall under the schools of Humanities, Business and Lifelong Learning and Education. Each has focused resources on building centres of research excellence in areas that are strategically important for Ireland and the South-East region. These research activities have enabled WIT to develop strategic partnerships with global industrial leaders and indigenous high-potential start-ups, creating real economic benefit for the region and beyond. WIT prioritises social science research across a number of thematic areas: culture – texts, contexts and interpretation; crime and society; family and community; identity and social inclusion; enterprise development and innovation; regional SME policy; rural enterprise; management and business process innovation; adult literacy teaching methodologies; curriculum development and policy; professional development; and technology-enhanced learning. The themes support the Institute's research priorities in the areas of social and cultural inclusion and enterprise development, providing for the cultivation of innovation and the creation of new knowledge in our region. Research centres at the schools of Humanities, Lifelong Learning and Education and Business include:

- Creativity and Culture research group;
- Teaching, Education and Lifelong Learning (TELL) research group;
- DASI (research group for Design and Social Innovation);
- The AIB Centre for Finance and Business Research (CFBR);
- Research in Innovation Knowledge Organisations and Networks (RIKON);
- The Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE).

Creativity and Culture research group

The Creativity and Culture research group facilitates collaboration between researchers to investigate the concepts of creativity and culture. Key research interests include literature, philosophy and theology, design, film studies, music and cultural studies. The group examines the theoretical maxims of these concepts and then applies these to individual disciplines, to provide an in-depth insight into the nature of creativity and culture. In addition, the group considers the inter-relationship between creativity in the different disciplines to give a better understanding of how to encourage creative thinking and innovation. It also looks at the role of creativity throughout history and how it helped to shape culture.

See: https://www.wit.ie/research/centres_and_groups/research_groups/humanities/creativity_culture_research_group.

Teaching, Education and Lifelong Learning (TELL) research group

The TELL research group is at an early stage of development, currently building capacity within its staffing structures, both at doctoral level research and in the delivery of doctoral level programmes.

See: <https://www.wit.ie/schools/education/teaching-education-and-lifelong-learning-tell-research-group>.

WIT research group for Design and Social Innovation (DASI)

This group takes human and social need as its starting point and focuses on 'Design for Society', including design for social and business organisations. Current research expertise includes design in society, design thinking, instructional design and cultural theory and material culture.

See: https://www.wit.ie/research/centres_and_groups/research-group-for-design-and-social-innovation-dasi.

AIB Centre for Finance and Business Research (CFBR)

The AIB Centre for Finance and Business Research (CFBR) aims to promote high-quality research in the finance discipline and provide for advanced scholarship, research activity and knowledge transfer within the financial services industry. The nature of research activity within the centre is focused on four key theme areas; namely, behavioural finance, governance and corporate responsibility, small firm finance and personal finance. CFBR has initiated a new visiting professor model where an appointed international professor contributes to the research and knowledge development strategy of the Centre as well as supporting the research supervision capacity of the group. This has resulted in significant research output, including graduating PhD students, publications in leading finance journals and facilitation of a tripartite dialogue between academia, industry and policymakers in order to expand the knowledge horizon of a number of finance research themes.

See: https://www.wit.ie/research/centres_and_groups/research_groups/business/aib_centre_for_finance_and_business_research.

Research in Innovation Knowledge Organisations and Networks (RIKON)

RIKON is Ireland's leading applied Service Innovation Centre, located in the School of Business at WIT, incorporating a team of 36 including student and postdoctoral researchers, consultants and faculty. RIKON has developed significant working partnerships with industry, government agencies, chambers of commerce and over 1000 SMEs and has completed 350 innovation projects through Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Voucher Scheme; helping SMEs develop their innovation capabilities, growth strategies and business management functions. RIKON has generated over €8m in funding since 2008, producing significant research output including case-based teaching tools and publications

in leading small firm, tourism, marketing and innovation journals. Additionally, RIKON works with government authorities, providing insight and direction to policymakers on the innovation agenda, and has ongoing interactions with leading Service Innovation Centres across Europe and small firm research centres worldwide.

See: www.rikon.ie.

Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE)

The Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE) at the School of Business is one of the conduits of WIT's mission to be a major contributor to the economic growth and development of Ireland's South-East region. CEDRE provides a framework and environment for entrepreneurs, researchers, academics and policymakers/implementers to engage in a mutually complementary manner to support economic growth and development in the region. For example, the Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy, together with 14 partners, was awarded €2.8m to lead the project known as eDigiregion, which aims to develop smart specialisation Regional Innovation Systems (RIS). This research project will help stimulate regional economic development, job creation, new enterprise start-ups and the commercialisation of research, as well as support the long-term sustainability of the region.

See: <http://www.cedreireland.com/>.

Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP)

www.issplatform.ie

The ISSP PRTL1 4 funded inter-institutional project was co-ordinated by the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) between 2007 and 2013 and the platform continues to represent social science researchers in Ireland. ISSP is an all-island platform of integrated social science research and graduate training focusing on the social, cultural and economic transformations shaping Ireland in the 21st century. The Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) PRTL14 programme brought together academics from 19 disciplines in all the universities as well as a number of other higher-education institutions across the island into a common programme of research centred on knowledge, innovation, society and space.

A key objective for ISSP researchers is to take an active role in social, economic and cultural policy debates in the effort to sustain the economy. To that end it works closely with local communities, voluntary and semi-state agencies, and local and national government in tackling critical issues and building a prosperous future for the whole island.

ISSP's future activities entail further consolidating its role, and enhancing the visibility and reputation of the social sciences generally by:

- Conducting an audit of taught doctoral modules, to facilitate greater co-ordination/collaboration in doctoral-level training.
- Organising conferences/events highlighting the social sciences in Ireland.
- Maintaining the ISSP website, both for the day-to-day purposes of information sharing, but also to establish a greater online presence (including more routine circulation of information on events through the ISSP mailing list).
- Networking with research institutes in the various HEIs to enhance research capacity across the social sciences, also with a view to potential future research funding bids.
- Developing master classes to enhance graduate education across the social sciences, and to encourage collaboration between institutions.
- Developing, supporting and co-ordinating ISSP activities (including its advocacy role for the social sciences) and enhancing its profile.
- Editing the ISSP book series.

