Dr. John Walsh contributed to a policy debate on the theme of ‘The value of investment in researchers’ at the IRCSET/CareerZoo symposium on Saturday, 10th September, in the Guinness Storehouse. Dr. Walsh called for greater recognition of the long-term benefits of investing in research in promoting a better, more prosperous and more equal society, while seeking a greater focus on appropriate career development for researchers. Dr. Walsh was a member of a panel, which also included Prof. Thomas Mitchell (Founding Chair of IRCSET and former Provost of TCD) and Dr. Eoin O’Leary (Economics Department, UCC): the debate was moderated by Dr. Patrick Geoghegan (Department of History, TCD).