Minister for Education and Skills launches New Trinity Research Centre to focus on Higher Education Policy

Details:

January 21st, 2015 – A new research centre that will focus on higher education policy was launched today [January 21st] by the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan TD, in the Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin. The Cultures Academic Values and Education Research Centre (CAVE) is a newly recognised research centre within Trinity’s School of Education, founded by Dr Aidan Seery, Dr Andrew Loxley and Dr John Walsh.

Speaking at the launch, Minister O'Sullivan said “We are fortunate to have educational institutions such as Trinity College that do not just disseminate data but give their students the space to think and grow as rounded human beings. In this way Ireland can nurture its capacity to generate new knowledge within and across our academic institutions. I wish everyone associated with the CAVE research centre every success and I want to put on record my appreciation for the work Trinity is doing in making Ireland a renowned country for research excellence.”

“Academic research on higher education is even more crucial at a time when the higher education sector is undergoing major policy and institutional changes – there has often been a ‘disconnect’ between public commentary on higher education, particularly in the media and the evidence informed by critical research. At a time of significant policy change, it is crucial that policy-making and new policy initiatives are informed by evidence-based research and this is a key part of the mission of the CAVE,” said Co-director of CAVE, Dr John Walsh.

In formally launching the Centre, the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast commented: “The higher education sector in Ireland has an impressive track record in preparing a very significant number of high quality graduates and more recently in widening participation. Yet many of the mechanisms of higher education at a system, institutional and even individual level have not been researched in any great depth. CAVE will help to ensure that Trinity College continues to play a key role in contributing to policy debate on the national stage.”
Prof. Carmel O’Sullivan, Head of School of Education, added: “The new research centre will have national and international impact, through an impressive range of publications and established collaborations with other research organisations.”

ENDS
For further information contact John Walsh on 087-6486228

Notes for Editor

Higher education (HE) is the primary research focus of the CAVE Research Centre, not least because higher education as a site for the production, organization and management of knowledge corresponded well with the principles of the CAVE. HE is an area that has been relatively neglected until recently within various fields of scholarship in Ireland. The Centre’s research themes include exploring the global, European, national and local dimensions of higher education.

Recent CAVE initiatives include:
- the compilation of the most special issue of Irish Educational Studies – jointly edited by researchers within CAVE and the ESRI – which was launched by Minister Jan O’Sullivan TD in October 2014.
- International conference on ‘Unlearning’ in the University, September 2014.
- A conference in November 2012 (in the Long Room Hub) to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Investment in Education report, initiated under the joint auspices of the Department of Education and OECD in 1962.
- Launch of the Ben Bishop Scholarship on academic work in higher education, funded by Teachers’ Union of Ireland (TUI), January 2015.

Recent publications

Members of CAVE Centre:
Dr. Aidan Seery (founding Director)
Dr. Andrew Loxley (co-director)
Dr. John Walsh (co-director)
Dr. Stephen Minton
Dr. David Limond

Adjunct Members:
Prof Selina McCoy (ESRI), Prof Maria Slowey, Dr. Jennifer Edmond.