Name: John O’Malley

Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Minton


Abstract: This research investigates the potential of alternative school models of second-level education to play a significant role in improving achievement in urban areas of educational disadvantage. The writer will conduct a semi-longitudinal case study in six different second-level institutions, three in Boston (USA) and three in the Republic of Ireland. Four of the institutions are considered alternative educational models, while the remaining are traditional second-level schools. The study will culminate with a blueprint for an education model that could play a role in balancing achievement amongst the socio-economic classes.