



Post Specification

Post Title:	PhD Studentship
Post Status:	Full-time or Part-time.
Research Group / Department / School:	Geoformations Research Project, School of Natural Sciences, Geography, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Museum Building, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Susan Murphy, Principal Investigator
Terms & Conditions:	Full EU Fees and PhD Stipend
Hours of Work:	Full time
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), [08 May 2024]

NOTE: Applicants must have been resident in an EU member state for 3 out of the last 5 years to be eligible for EU fees

Post Summary

PhD project description:

This PhD project is embedded within the GEOFORMATIONS project, an exciting multi-disciplinary project that examines transnational organisational assemblages and supporting governance processes designed to facilitate collaborative civil society action and engagement in development cooperation.

Practices to achieve sustainable development objectives and respond to humanitarian needs are changing. With enhanced efforts to drive locally led and owned solutions, the size, scale, diversity, and density of non-governmental and civil society transnational collaborations and partnerships have increased substantially. However, little is known about the governance

processes and ecosystems supporting this community of practitioners in the civic space. The ERC-funded GEOFORMATIONS project seeks to enhance the efficacy of governance processes supporting collaborative civic actions by examining how and why multi-partner arrangements form; the nature and structure of partnerships and power relations; how governance arrangements are evaluated in civic spaces; and the extent to which the voices of affected populations influence decision-making and strategic goals of collaborating partnerships.

This PhD project will focus on questions *of how and why assemblages form and how they function and flow across institutions, scales, spaces and specific places*. The project will focus on assemblages engaging in place-based practice and actions across the climate-humanitarian-development nexus.

GEOFORMATIONS: Geographies of dynamic governance assemblages in development cooperation civil society spaces project description:

GEOFORMATIONS will provide radical new insights into the governance geographies of place-based development cooperation practices which can be used to radically redesign international development cooperation governance theory, policy, and practice. The project entails five core interconnected research objectives which, when synthesised together can unlock new thinking and ideas to inform in the transformation of development governance effectiveness, accountability, and coherence through enhanced, dynamic governance processes and structures within and between collaborating entities. The overarching aim of GEOFORMATIONS is to understand how governance processes and structures within and between civil society organisations can and should be understood, conceptualised, and operationalised in this age of complexity, interconnectivity, and uncertainty.

Research Objective 1: to map the governance regulatory and policy landscape governing NGO relations and partnership models at multiple-scales.

Research Objective 2: to examine processes that enable and influence international NGO and domestic NGO collaborations to form using assemblage thinking and methodologies.

Research Objective 3: to examine how intersecting governance functions flow across spaces and territories, how governance responsibilities and processes are distributed, how power

and decision making are balanced, what technologies are used in the operationalisation of governance processes, and how information between entities flows.

Research Objective 4: to evaluate governance structures and processes using critical realist evaluation methodologies.

Research Objective 5: to use issue framing through micro stakeholder assemblies to explore the ways in which affected populations are engaged in INGO/CSO governance structures and processes, and their opportunities to input into and have oversight of strategic planning activities.

Further information is available here on GEOFORMATIONS – <https://geoformations.eu>

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- The PhD will be based in the discipline geography and will be connected with a vibrant research community within the discipline and across the school. Further information about geography at Trinity can be found here - <https://www.tcd.ie/Geography/>
- This is a full time PhD position and so would require approximately 40 hours dedicated research time per week.
- The PhD candidate will be part of a vibrant research team and so will be expected to participate in team meetings and to provide support to project activities.
- The candidate will be provided with opportunities for teaching, career development, and the development of a comprehensive range of multidimensional skills over the course of their doctoral studies training.
- Further information on the structure PhD at Trinity can be found here - <https://www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/students/research/>

Funding Information

European Research Council Starter Award 2022 - 101077353

Person Specification

Qualifications

Candidate must have graduate training to master's degree in geography, sociology, economics, law, politics, development, management, or other relevant social sciences area of study.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

- Knowledge of international development policy and practices; understanding of multilateralism and the international non-governmental sector
- Knowledge of theories of development, humanitarianism, peace studies, development governance, civic space and participatory research approaches
- Research/field experience in sustainable development and community development research and practice
- Experience with digital data collection methods including GIS
- Experience with quantitative data collection methods and analytical tools; familiarity with statistics and statistical analysis
- Experience using qualitative data collection methods
- Experience using NVivo, SPSS or other qualitative data analysis software

Skills & Competencies

- Strong skills in core social science research methodologies and methods
- Excellent organisational and time-management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Evidence of strong research competencies, in particular, in qualitative research techniques
- PhD students will work as a team and so evidence of effective team working and communication skills are required.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:-

Dr Susan P. Murphy, Associate Professor in Development Practice and ERC Principal

Investigator of GEOFORMATIONS

Susan.p.murphy@tcd.ie

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 12th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and is also the highest ranked university in Ireland.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is 1st in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook University Report 2021-2022).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The

Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 98th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 146th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University (QS World University Ranking 2023, Times Higher Education Rankings 2022)
- Trinity is ranked 98th in the World (QS World University Ranking 2023)
- Trinity is ranked No.1 in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row Pitchbook 2021-2022

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Application Procedure

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Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae and Cover Letter outlining your interest in and suitability for this post and to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:-

Dr Susan Murphy

Susan.p.murphy@tcd.ie

