

SCHOOL OF
**Social Sciences
 & Philosophy**

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Welcome to the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy's second annual newsletter which aims to give our alumni and friends an update on news and developments in the School.

Professor Peter Simons,
 Head of School



Professor Peter Simons, Head of School, speaking at the launch of the 2014 *Grattan Scholars* programme

There continues to be a huge interest in studying economics, political science, sociology and philosophy at Trinity College Dublin. This year there were record numbers of applicants for many courses, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. We were also delighted to welcome an increased number of international students to the School, with students travelling from as far afield as China, India, North America and Russia.

In this newsletter, I am pleased to highlight some of the key achievements of our staff and students who truly are the lifeblood of the School. It is also my pleasure to tell you about some of the opportunities we had to meet with our former students over the last year

Our alumni are of huge importance to us and I would like to thank the many graduates who contribute to the academic life of the School. Current students have benefited greatly from the expertise, advice and insights provided by alumni who have come back to campus to give talks and participate in student events. Alumni involvement in public events, such as the *Henry Grattan Lecture Series*, has helped to encourage debate regarding economic, political and social issues. I would also like to recognise the generosity of our alumni and friends which has enabled the School to develop *The Grattan Scholars* programme for exceptional Ph.D. students.

We are developing a varied programme of events over the upcoming year to help our graduates stay connected with each other and with the School. So do please keep in touch, you can also stay up to date with the School's latest news and activities on our website www.tcd.ie/ssp.



Alumni Around the World

The School is privileged to have had the opportunity to meet some of our over 9,000 graduates around the world over recent months.

Professor James Wickham, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, met with the members of the New York Branch in the Pace Gallery where he delivered a talk entitled *'The New Irish Emigration'*.

Later in 2013, Professor Philip Lane, Head of Department of Economics, explored *'The Post-Crisis Irish Economy'* with alumni and friends at *The Economist's* offices in London and at a briefing, hosted by the Irish Chamber of Commerce, Singapore and the Economic Society of Singapore. Professor Lane was travelling to the region as a guest of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Professor Peter Simons, Head of School, and Dr Daniel Faas, Head of Department of Sociology also had the chance to meet a number of our alumni in China and India when they travelled to these regions with Trinity's Global Relations team.

We are looking forward to continuing to connect with our graduates, friends and supporters around the world over the coming year.



Professor Philip Lane in Singapore

Henry Grattan Lecture Hosted in London

Over 100 guests including alumni and friends, representatives of London-based think-tanks, EU institutions and embassies attended the first talk in the *Henry Grattan Lecture Series* to be held outside the Trinity campus.



Alumni and friends enjoying the lecture

A lecture entitled *'British and Irish Relations in a Changing EU'* was given by Trinity alumnus and former President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox M.A. (1974), Professor Antoin Murphy, Emeritus Professor in Economics, and Charles Grant, Director of the Centre for European Reform, at the Embassy of Ireland in London on 2 May 2013. It was wonderful to see so many London based alumni, from 1947 though to 2011, at the event.

The lecture series, a flagship initiative of the School, plays an important role in enabling Trinity to engage with society and in ensuring that leading academics and policy makers from around the world are publicly accessible. Generous sponsorship from the UK Trust for TCD made it possible to host a *Henry Grattan Lecture* outside Ireland for the first time. Trinity would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support of the Embassy of Ireland in London and the assistance provided by the Embassy's Press Officer, Elizabeth McCullough B.A. (1998), and her team.

Alumni Awards Recognise School Supporter

An Alumni Award is recognition by Trinity College Dublin of the important contributions alumni have made in their particular field and as citizens of the world. A pioneering volunteer and supporter of Trinity College, John Pearson, was one of the four recipients of the 2012/2013 Alumni Awards.

John arrived at Trinity in 1952. He was very involved with the Boat Club and in 1954 he was part of the Trinity crew that won the Senior VIII Championships of Ireland. John's strong passion for education, and encouraging young people to realise their full potential has been a keynote of his involvement with Trinity over many years. He was instrumental in setting up the London Trust for Trinity College (subsequently the UK Trust) as a charity and has been a Trustee since 1980. In addition to his work as a leading volunteer, John has also contributed considerable funding to a range of research projects in College – including reports on Student Societies and the Library and Ph.D. students. Most recently, his support has been instrumental in developing the School's new flagship programme – the *Grattan Scholars*.



Alumni Award Winner John Pearson

The Grattan Scholars

The School was delighted to award three prestigious *Grattan Scholarships* to postgraduate students at a reception hosted by the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast, at the start of the academic year. Students are chosen not only for their scholarly achievements, but also for their commitment to teaching and ambition to understand and improve society through their research and education.

The *Grattan Scholars* programme aims to support exceptional Ph.D. students who have the potential to become future academic leaders. These Scholars will not only help to enrich the learning experience of our current undergraduate students but their research work will have a real impact on understanding the evolving challenges facing society. Recipients of the 2013 *Grattan Scholarships* were:

- Lisa Keenan who will undertake research entitled '*Personality, Ambition and Political Careers*', supervised by Professor Gail McElroy, Head of Department of Political Science, will examine the decision to run for elected office in the Republic of Ireland to explore why women are ruling themselves out of the electoral game.
- Katarzyna Kozien who will undertake research entitled '*Types of Return Migrants and their Reintegration Patterns*' in the Department of Sociology, a leading hub for migration research, where she will be co-supervised by Dr Peter Mühlau and Dr Antje Röder.
- Alan Walsh who will undertake research entitled '*Migration and Clustering of Creative Workers*' under the supervision of John O'Hagan, Professor of Economics.



Alan Walsh, Lisa Keenan, Dr Patrick Prendergast, Provost of Trinity College, and Katarzyna Kozien

Cultural economics has assumed increasing significance in Ireland in recent years where culture and creativity are seen as possible keys to sustained economic recovery.

Five scholarships have been awarded since the programme was established in 2012 and three more will come on stream this year thanks to the generous support of Trinity College alumni and friends.

If you are interested in finding out more about the *Grattan Scholars* programme, or if you would like information on how to get involved as a supporter please contact Eileen Punch on +353 1 896 1714 or eileen.punch@tcd.ie.

Grattan Scholars - Supporters

- Donal Donovan
- Anke Heydenreich
- Susannah McAleese
- Hamish McRae & Frances Cairncross
- JP Foundation - London
- Nicholas O'Donohoe
- Rupert Pennant-Rea
- Peter Sutherland
- The UK Trust for Trinity College Dublin
- The US Fund for Trinity College Dublin

Reunion Events

There was a fantastic turn out at the TCD Alumni Weekend 2013, including two class reunions for the School. Many thanks to:

- Des Doris who brought together a big group from the Class of 1993 for a banquet dinner.
- Donal Donovan who organised a special gathering of the Economics and Political Science Class of 1973 pictured here with their former lecturers Professor Martin O'Donoghue, Professor John O'Hagan and Professor Loudan Ryan.

Are you thinking about organising a get together of alumni from your time in College? Then drop us an email at alumni@tcd.ie as we would love to hear from you. And remember, this August graduates from the classes of 2004, 1994, 1984, 1974 and 1964 (and before!) and will be descending on campus to meet up with old friends and celebrate their anniversary years.



Class of 1973



Class of 1993

Sociology Lecturer Wins Global Achievers Award

Ronit Lentini, Associate Professor in Sociology, was awarded a 2013 Global Achievers Award for Nigeria. Dr Lentini received the award for her pursuit and promotion of human rights and for her exemplary leadership, both inside and outside the classroom, which has assisted many Nigerians in acquiring a higher education.

Political Science Lecturer Receives Polish Order of Merit



Dr Jacqueline Hayden receiving award from Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski

The President of the Republic of Poland awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland to Dr Jacqueline Hayden, Assistant Professor in Political Science. Paying tribute to Dr Hayden, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Eamon Gilmore said: *'On behalf of the Irish Government, I want to congratulate Jacqueline on the honour she has received today from the Government of Poland. Both as a journalist and as an academic, she has made an important contribution to Poland's transition to democracy and in helping to strengthen the close ties between our two countries.'*

The Use of Random Selection in Politics



Dr Peter Stone
Department of Political Science

In recent years, the democracies of the world have had to deal with a number of serious crises, from the banking collapse to climate change to the "War on Terror." All too often, existing democratic institutions seem poorly equipped to handle these crises. For this reason, a growing number of people are thinking about new and innovative forms of democratic institution.

Peter Stone studies one of those alternatives — the random selection of ordinary citizens for political office. Random selection is a very old political practice. Ancient Athens filled most of its offices in this way over two millennia ago, and practice is still used to select juries in the Ireland, the U.S., and the U.K. There are ongoing experiments all over the world with citizen's juries, "planning cells", and other randomly-selected decision-making bodies; the Irish Convention on the Constitution was filled this way in part. But such institutions tend to lurk on the margins of the political process, and they rarely have real power. Stone believes that these institutions might potentially do much more, and so he is investigating just what lotteries can bring to the political process.

Stone belongs to an international network of researchers concerned with political lotteries. He and his colleagues plan to continue this work into the future, in hopes of equipping democracies with the tools they need to cope with the major political issues of the future. For more details see *The Lottery as a Democratic Institution* report on TCD's Policy Institute website www.tcd.ie/policy-institute.

Philosophy: The Polish Connection



Professor Peter Simons

Chair of Moral Philosophy and Head of School

The beautiful Polish language is now heard on our streets more frequently than any save English. Poland boasts many considerable philosophers and especially logicians, and there are connections with Dublin going back several decades.

Poland was a philosophical backwater when in 1895 Kazimierz Twardowski, a young philosopher from Vienna, was appointed at the University of Lwów, where he trained two generations of fine thinkers. In 1915 his student Jan Łukasiewicz moved to Warsaw and he was joined after the war by Stanislaw Leśniewski and Alfred Tarski, who together made Warsaw the world's foremost centre for mathematical logic between the wars.

After 1945 the school was dispersed and at the behest of Eamon De Valera Łukasiewicz was offered a research position at the Royal Irish Academy, where he lectured from 1946 to 1953. Łukasiewicz also taught courses at UCD and Queen's Belfast, and in 1955 was awarded an honorary doctorate by Trinity, a year before his death. Professor Simons ongoing interest in Polish philosophy and logic goes back to his student days in Manchester, where the professor was a student of Leśniewski and Łukasiewicz. Simons has written numerous articles on aspects of the Polish tradition, visited Poland often, and his first visit to Dublin in 1996 was to the first international conference on Łukasiewicz. For additional information please see <https://sites.google.com/site/petermsimons>

Celebrations to Mark 50th Anniversary of Political Science Department

A gathering of Political Science graduates took place during the TCD Alumni Weekend, August 2013, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Political Science Department.

Founded in 1960 under Professor Basil Chubb, the Department produced its first graduates in 1963 – the year in which US President John F. Kennedy visited Ireland and The Beatles performed in Dublin. The anniversary programme of events included a roundtable where graduates reflected on their time at Trinity and how it shaped their lives, panellists included: Mr Kingsley Aikins, Founder and CEO of Diaspora Matters, Ms



Ed Mulhall B.A. (1978), Sara Morris B.A. (1989), Averil Power B.A. (2000), chair of the roundtable session Professor Michael Marsh and Kingsley Aikins B.A. (1974)

Sara Morris, Head of Public Affairs at the National Transport Authority, Mr Ed Mulhall, former Managing Director of News and Current Affairs at RTÉ and Senator Averil Power, Fianna Fáil Seanad Spokesperson on Education and Skills.

Speakers reminisced with great passion about their time at Trinity and the impact it had on their lives and very varied career paths. The roundtable was followed by a reception and a most enjoyable banquet in the 1592 dining room. The celebrations were a great opportunity for people to reconnect with College and to share memories with their fellow graduates.



Lance Leonard B.A. (1963), Janice Leonard and Diana Fitzsimons B.A. (1973)

What Causes Housing Market Cycles?



Mr Ronan Lyons
Department of Economics

Housing is a unique part of modern economies. It is both the most important good in the household's "shopping basket" and the dominant asset in their wealth portfolio. It is probably not surprising, then, that in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, economists are taking a closer look at the links between housing and broader macroeconomic outcomes.

Together with researchers in Oxford, LSE and elsewhere, Ronan Lyons is working to understand what causes housing market cycles and how policymakers can limit them and the damage they can cause. In particular, his research has broken down the roots of rising and falling house prices in Ireland since 1995. While much of the early growth in house prices was benign, a symptom of rising incomes and falling unemployment, from 2001-2007 almost all growth in house prices was due to easy credit, which empowered unrealistic expectations. The collapse in prices since 2007 reflects a collapse in expectations.

Recently, policymakers have changed their focus to housing supply, following a sharp rise in Dublin house prices. Over the coming year, Ronan intends to examine the relationship between demand, the supply of credit and the supply of housing in Ireland, to aid policymakers as they attempt to put Ireland's housing market on an even keel. For more details see Ronan's website www.ronanlyons.com.

Teaching Awards Recognise Commitment to Teaching and Learning

The second annual Dermot McAleese Teaching Awards were presented to teaching assistants in the School in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence.

The awards, presented by the Senior Lecturer Patrick Geoghegan, are in honour of former Whately Professor of Political Economy Dermot McAleese. These awards were established thanks to the generosity of graduates of the School who donated to Trinity in recent years and Professor McAleese, who has provided further generous financial support to sustain these awards for the decades to come.

Congratulations also to Paul Candon of the Department of Sociology who was a winner of the inaugural Trinity Teaching Award for

Postgraduate Students, a new Trinity-wide initiative which aims to recognise postgraduate students who make a substantial contribution to undergraduate student learning.



Award winners Michael Courtney (Political Science), Robert Ryan (Economics), Georg Urich (Philosophy), Martina Byrne (Sociology) with Professor Dermot McAleese

Student Economic Review News

Trinity narrowly defeated Yale in the February 2013 Trinity Student Economic Review (SER) debate on the motion, that *'This House Believes that Taxation is Theft'*, which was chaired by the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast and featured an esteemed panel of judges.

Each year the SER organise two debates in conjunction with Trinity's Philosophical or Historical Society. The debates, along with the Student Economic Review, an undergraduate journal published annually by students, are supported by four donors, all former Trinity economics graduates. Professor John O'Hagan has presided over the work of the SER since it was set-up.

Find out more on the recently revamped SER website www.tcd.ie/Economics/SER/index.php which includes details regarding sponsors, reflections from past SER Committee Members and copies of previous SER publications from over the last 27 years.



February 2013 Student Economic Review debate



Judging panel: John Kelly B.A. (2001), Carmel Crimmins B.A. (1999), Áine Lawlor B.Sc. (Clin Lang 2009), Catherine Woods B.A. (1984) & Michael O'Higgins B.A. (1975)

Academics Honoured by Royal Irish Academy



Professor Michael Gallagher, Professor Kevin Devine (School of Genetics), Luke Drury, President of the RIA, and Professor Peter Simons

Two academics from the School were elected as members of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in recognition of their significant contribution to scholarly research.

The new members were Michael Gallagher, Professor of Comparative Politics and Peter Simons, Chair of Moral Philosophy and Head of School of Social Sciences and Philosophy.

Membership of the Royal Irish Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland and a public recognition of academic achievement. It has been keenly contested for the past 228 years.

Labour Migration Policies in Western Europe



Dr Camilla Devitt
Department of Sociology

Over the past decade the EU has experienced a significant rise in immigration that the economic crisis has slowed but not stopped. Current ageing and fertility trends provide us with relative certainty that demand for foreign labour may fluctuate but will not disappear. In spite of this awareness, political institutions have demonstrated chronic difficulties in forging effective response strategies.

Which labour migration governance strategy will support a more dynamic and inclusive Europe? This remains a vital and open question for the future of European societies. A fundamental rethinking of labour migration governance thus emerges as one of the key challenges for Europe's future.

Over the past two years, the LAB-MIG-GOV project has produced a detailed and dynamic analysis of European labour migration governance in six Western European states. Trinity's Camilla Devitt, one of the project's Principal Investigators, is responsible for carrying out research on the British and French cases. The project team is now working on devising medium and long-term strategies to strengthen the effectiveness of immigration policies with the goals of stimulating economic growth, social cohesion and international cooperation. For further information, see www.labmiggov.eu/country-reports.

Students Excel at International Awards

Three students from the School were awarded the Bram Stoker Gold Medal at the prestigious 2013 Undergraduate Awards.

Open to undergraduate students across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, the Undergraduate Awards programme aims to inspire, support and celebrate high potential undergraduate students and their innovative research.

Congratulations to:

- Michael Gregg - a final-year Business and Economics student who won the Business and Economics category.
- Ríán Derrig - a 2013 Law and Political Science graduate who won the award for the Law category.
- Jack Hogan - a final-year student in Geography and Sociology who won the award for Social Sciences.

Young Economist Award

Dr Tara Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Economics, won the Denis Conniffe award for the best paper presented by a young economist at the Irish Economics Association Annual Conference. The title of the paper was *'Middlemen, Bargaining and Price Information: Is Knowledge Power?'*

Event Guide

Philosophy Alumni Talk and Reception
Professor David Berman,
Trinity College Dublin
4 April, 2014

Donnellan Lectures
Professor David Chalmers,
Australian National University
and New York University
6-8 May, 2014

Henry Grattan Lecture, London
Dr Peter Sutherland,
Special Representative of the Secretary
General of the UN for Migration
12 June, 2014

TCD Alumni Weekend
22-24 August, 2014

Spotlight on George Berkeley



George Berkeley (1685 - 1753) is widely considered to be one of the greatest philosophers of the early modern period. He is one of Trinity College's most distinguished graduates, a brilliant critic of his predecessors and a talented metaphysician famous for defending idealism, that is, the view that reality consists exclusively of minds and their ideas.

The Department of Philosophy has a rich history of research in the Philosophy of Berkeley which includes such prominent scholars as A.A. Luce and David Berman. In consecutive years, 2012 and 2013, recent Ph.D. graduates and current Philosophy adjunct Lecturers, Dr Stefan Storrie and Dr Thomas Curtin, won the prestigious Colin and Alisa Turbayne International Berkeley

Essay Prize. In addition, Ph.D. candidate Yasuaki Nakano was recently awarded a prize by the Japanese Society for British Philosophy for his paper titled '*The Language of God and Laws of Nature in Berkeley's Philosophy*'.

The Department is now organising a major international conference on the Philosophy of Berkeley, with a special emphasis on his work *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*. The opening address by Professor David Berman, titled "*Irish Philosophy: Past and Present*" should be of particular interest to Philosophy graduates. This lecture will take place on the evening of Friday 4 April, 2014 in the Royal Irish Academy. For additional details or to book a place please visit:

www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events



Remember. The power of a legacy to Trinity

There's an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you're planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You're empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You're supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You're helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations.

When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Eileen Punch.

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