



2015/16

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SCHOOL OF  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AND PHILOSOPHY**

While the financial crisis in Higher Education continues to present significant challenges for the School and University, we take this opportunity to celebrate some wonderful achievements over the course of the academic year 2015-2016 - two large School-led EU funded Horizon 2020 grants, the 30th anniversary celebration of the Student Economic Review; our first International Summer School and the graduation of our first class of *Grattan Scholars*.

Our continued commitment to educating the best and brightest from home and abroad was underscored by an international review of the BESS programme that took place in February 2016. The panel commended the 'enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism' of School staff, the brand recognition of the degree and the exceptional quality of the students admitted to the course.

Despite the difficult environment in which we find ourselves, our commitment to research excellence is undiminished. Our global reputation is very strong and the four departments in the School continue to rank highly in their respective fields.

As this academic year draws to a close, the School marks the retirement of two of our esteemed Professorial staff; the former Head of School and Professor of Moral Philosophy, Peter Simons, and Professor of Economics, John O'Hagan. We wish both a happy and productive retirement, they will be greatly missed by colleagues and students alike. Looking forward to the new academic year, I am delighted to welcome ten new academic staff to the School, across each of our four disciplines.

We look forward to meeting you over the course of 2016-2017 and we hope some of you will join us for our *Gradlink Mentoring Programme* launch on October 27th. Our alumni are integral to the continued success and future expansion of Social Sciences and Philosophy in Trinity and we urge you to stay in touch.



### Professor Gail McElroy

Head of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Professor McElroy, who was appointed Head of School in July 2015, is Professor in Political Science and a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin. Her primary research interests are in the fields of legislative behaviour and party politics.

## Researchers Receive Funding for Virtual Reality Peacekeeping Game



Principal Investigator Dr Anne Holohan

A new virtual reality game to train international military and police in peacekeeping skills is being developed by an EU-wide consortium led by a team of researchers from sociology, computer science and psychology at Trinity College.

The game, which will allow users to develop communication, gender awareness and cultural competency skills by experiencing simulations of challenging scenarios from conflict and peacebuilding missions, is being funded by a €2 million grant from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme.

The Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator, Assistant Professor in Sociology, Anne Holohan noted that: "Training a large number of personnel before deployment is expensive and logistically difficult and many

personnel get little training in soft skills such as communication and cultural awareness. The 'Gaming for Peace' project will produce a curriculum and associated role playing game that is accessible at minimal cost".

It is planned that all military, police and civilian personnel being deployed in EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding missions, such as those to Afghanistan, will be able to receive training through the virtual reality game.

Dr Anne Holohan's research and teaching interests include the inter-related topics of globalisation, social networks and digital technologies.

[www.tcd.ie/sociology](http://www.tcd.ie/sociology)

## School Academics Excel in Provost's Teaching Awards



Dr D'Arcy receiving the Provost's Teaching Award

Congratulations to Dr Michelle D'Arcy, Assistant Professor in Political Science, and Dr Michael King, Assistant Professor in Economics, who were recognised in the 2016 Provost's Teaching Awards. The awards are Trinity's principal means of celebrating academic staff who have made an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence.

Dr Michelle D'Arcy, who joined Trinity in 2013, won an Early Career Award in recognition of her ability to create true dialogue in large lectures and for enthusing her students about political science. Dr D'Arcy,

who lectures on the African Politics and Democracy and Development modules, was also praised for her commitment to students beyond the classroom through initiatives such as her Career Advice portfolio for students who are interested in pursuing a career in international development. Dr D'Arcy, whose research focuses on governance and development, also recently won a €500,000 award from the Swedish Research Council to investigate different paths of democratisation.

As one of the final short-listed candidates, Dr Michael King was presented with a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his tremendous commitment to teaching and learning. Dr King, whose research focuses on banking and household finance in developing countries, also recently won a \$300,000 award supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to investigate the impact of innovative flexible loan products on female market vendors in India.

## Global Engagement Awards Success

Congratulations to Dr Daniel Faas, Head of the Sociology Department, who received one of this year's College Global Engagement Awards, which recognise staff who play an active role in developing global education.

Dr Daniel Faas's research interests are in the sociology of migration with specific emphasis on the intersection of migration and education. His most recent published work titled 'Religious Diversity in Primary Schools' compared policy developments in Ireland to other European jurisdictions.



Award winners Dr Mauro Ferreira (Physics) and Dr Daniel Faas (Sociology)

## In the Spotlight - The Inaugural Grattan Scholars



Christina Kinghan and Sara Mitchell with the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast

The *Grattan Scholars* programme supports outstanding Ph.D. students who are committed to understanding and improving society through their research, teaching and education. The 11 scholarships awarded to date have helped to attract some of world's leading students to Trinity. The Scholars not only undertake research on issues of global societal and economic importance – such as migration and the global financial system – they also enrich the learning experience of undergraduate students by delivering high-quality and engaging teaching.

In October 2012, the two inaugural *Grattan Scholars* were welcomed to Trinity's Ph.D. in Economics programme. As their studies near completion, these exceptional students tell us what the Scholarship has meant to them:

### **Christina Kinghan**

Christina is undertaking research focused on household, micro, small and medium enterprises in Vietnam under the supervision of Associate Professor in Economics, Dr Carol Newman.

'I am in the final year of my Ph.D. in Development Economics funded by a *Grattan Scholarship*. The aim of my research is to examine potential factors outside of

mainstream topics, such as formal access to credit and education, to discern whether these could assist firms in enterprise development.

During my Ph.D., I had the opportunity to teach on two undergraduate economics courses and was nominated for a teaching award in both modules. In my third year, I completed a three month internship at UNU Wider - *World Institute for Development Economics Research* - and was an invited guest at their 30th Anniversary Conference, which was a valuable opportunity to develop networks with like-minded colleagues. I have also co-authored a chapter for a book on the Vietnamese economy which will be published by Oxford University Press in early 2017. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the *Grattan Scholarship*, which has contributed to an enriching Ph.D. experience, for which I am incredibly grateful.'

### **Sara Mitchell**

Sara's research explores the synergies from geographic clustering of literary artists in historical UK and Ireland, under the supervision of Professor John O'Hagan in the Department of Economics.

'My research combines elements from cultural economics, urban economics and economic

history to explore how geographic and social factors influence innovation and cultural production.

During my studies, I have had the opportunity to present my research at a range of specialised workshops and conferences. I was also selected as one of just three young Irish researchers to attend the *5th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting of Economic Sciences*. Inspired by these experiences, I collaborated with Trinity's School of English to organise a conference on Creative Networks and Cultural Output.

The *Grattan Scholarship* has been fundamental to my success during my Ph.D., as it has enabled me to tailor my Ph.D. experience to the needs of my research project. Perhaps more importantly, the Grattan programme has established a community of interdisciplinary scholars who support and challenge one another, allowing me not only to engage with talented researchers but also to develop friendships I hope to maintain long beyond my Ph.D.'

The *Grattan Scholars* programme has been established with the generous support of Trinity's alumni and friends. For further details, please visit:

[www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars](http://www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars)

# Celebrating 30 Years of the Student Economic Review



2016 Editor Gillian O'Connell presents the 30th Edition to founding editor John Fingleton

A highlight in the 2016 alumni calendar was the launch of the 30th volume of the *Student Economic Review* (SER) in March. All former committee members were invited to mark this milestone with over 200 guests ultimately joining the celebrations including, current students, their families, returning alumni and current and retired staff.

Every year the SER features many outstanding essays and today former committee members and contributors are leading figures in business, finance, research and academia globally. At the event, ten past committee members spoke about their College memories and their outstanding career successes. Speakers included CEO of the Wexford Festival Opera, a senior member of the World Bank, Director of the Small Firms Association, Business Editor of the Sunday Business Post, and international academics and business leaders.

The 2016 Review was formally launched with speeches from the 2016 Editor and General Manager, third year students, Gillian O'Connell (Economics and Psychology) and Kate Hayes (Economics and Mathematics). The first SER editor, and former Chief Executive of the Office of Fair Trading in the UK, John Fingleton, gave a poignant response.

A social followed in the Dining Hall and a post-social at the Pav, enabling everyone to experience the company of past friends in familiar surroundings!

The response to the evening was remarkable with a large number of messages being sent



Professor John O'Hagan addresses guests in the Dining Hall



SER 1991 Committee Members Eddie Dowse, Paul O'Connell, Tadhg Cashman and Billy Stamp

afterwards to Professor John O'Hagan who has presided over the SER since its inception. Messages such as this were received which wonderfully capture what the evening and the SER meant for so many people:

*'The evening brought to vivid life, so many forgotten but precious memories of toil, late nights, exuberance, friendships, triumphs and so much more. It condensed and weaved 30 years of collective experiences into a shared, yet very personal tapestry linked by two common*

*threads - Professor John O'Hagan and the SER. And the evening did this in such an incredibly emotional and entertaining way.'*

Founded in 1987, the SER is one of the world's oldest undergraduate journals. With a reputation for academic excellence, it provides a platform to showcase the exceptional work being undertaken by Trinity's Economics students.

[www.tcd.ie/economics](http://www.tcd.ie/economics)

# Alumni Interviews

Two Economics graduates reflect on their time in Trinity and their involvement in the Student Economic Review:



**Jean Acheson**  
BA Economics and History (2010)

## One-to-One with Jean Acheson - 2009 SER Editor

### What career path have you taken?

I left Ireland immediately after college and worked firstly in the UK's Office for National Statistics and then for Rwanda's Ministry of Finance. I moved back to Dublin late last year and now I am working as an economist in the Department of Finance.

### Why did you choose your current career?

I chose to study economics because it just seemed to click as a framework for viewing and comprehending the world around me. Going into the public sector made sense because I think it is where a person can have the greatest impact on other people's lives (unless I invent a new Facebook).

### What did you like most about being a Trinity student?

Any college that is large enough will have a decent social scene and range of clubs and

societies to join. But for me, Trinity's setting was really important. The beautiful squares and the fading away of the city's noise when you went through Front Gate. I once had to get a librarian to cut open a book from Early Printed Books as its pages had never been opened before. Perhaps that says more about lazy students than history, but Trinity's unique past and physical landscape really made it for me.

### What did being involved in the SER mean to you?

The SER was a fantastic experience. I made new friends in my year, and we managed to both have a lot of fun and produce a journal and debates that were popular with students and staff alike. Getting to know staff better, particularly John O'Hagan, was great. It was important to have someone believe in you, and give you the opportunity to prove yourself.



**Harry Hartford**  
BA Economic and Social Studies (1982)

## One-to-One with Harry Hartford - Lead Sponsor of the Student Economic Review

too great and I left Ireland again in 1994. I joined a firm in Los Angeles and 5 years later co-founded an investment management company, Causeway Capital Management - named after the Giant's Causeway in Co Antrim. Today we manage over \$41 billion for clients as far afield as Abu Dhabi, Australia, China, Italy, and the US. No Irish clients - yet - though we have two Dublin registered UCITS funds - Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities.

### What are your strongest memories of Trinity?

I have many fond memories of my years at Trinity. Looking back, I realise how fortunate I was to get my undergraduate education in a globally recognized university; and credit my ability to find a job in the US, to Trinity's academic standing all over the world. I played rugby (at a very junior level, may I add) and enjoyed the many friendships that came from being a member of the oldest rugby club in

the world. And finally, being around both academics and students who were always ready and willing to challenge me and help me satisfy my curiosity.

### Who made an impression on you when you were in Trinity?

I don't want to single out anyone in particular. In my junior and senior sophomore years, I was generally in small classes and was lucky enough to get to know all of my professors quite well; including time outside lectures!

### Why did you get involved in supporting the SER?

Professor O'Hagan for sure - I had him as a lecturer for three years - and a desire to give something back to the institution that gave me the essential tools, and not just the academic ones, to succeed in my career. I credit much of my career success, over the last 30 years, to a first class education and the work ethic I developed in order to succeed at a great university like Trinity.

### Can you tell us about your career?

Following graduation in 1982, I studied in the United States for 2 years and then returned to Ireland where I spent 10 years working at Bank of Ireland Asset Management. The lure of the US, and the challenge of managing money in the world's largest and most competitive investment management industry, was

## Political Scientist Explores Why Climate Change Denial Persists

According to new research conducted by Dr Constantine Boussalis, in collaboration with Dr Travis Coan at the University of Exeter, arguments against the science of climate change have been on the increase with many conservative US think tanks vociferously promoting a denial position on global warming.

The research, which was published in the journal of *Global Environmental Change*, analysed more than 16,000 publications about climate change produced by 19 conservative US think tanks from 1998 to 2013 – the largest study of such material to date.

Using approaches from the fields of computer science and artificial intelligence, the study sheds light on the climate change messages that are influencing public opinion. The data suggests that the era of climate change denial is not over.

Commenting on his research Dr Boussalis said: “How the science is communicated is a major issue. About a third of people in the US do not accept human-induced climate change is happening. With a pivotal US Presidential election this year, the issue of climate change science denial is more relevant than ever”.

Constantine Boussalis is Assistant Professor in Political Science specialising in international relations, environmental politics and quantitative methods. His research examines how political and social institutions influence prosperity, public health, and sustainable development.

[www.tcd.ie/political-science](http://www.tcd.ie/political-science)



Dr Constantine Boussalis

## Summer School in Contemporary Global Politics

In June 2016, the Department of Political Science was pleased to welcome 17 students from Brown University, Rhode Island to Trinity. These Ivy League students travelled to Dublin to undertake a new nine week summer school on the topic of global politics which aimed to provide a solid grounding in contemporary international politics.

The programme, which was developed in collaboration with Trinity's Global Relations

Office, offers an overview of contemporary topics in international politics, as well as themes related to Irish politics and society. Political Science staff Dr Constantine Boussalis, Dr Thomas Chadefaux and Dr William Phelan developed and delivered the programme, which addressed issues including international conflict, global environmental politics and human rights, through a series of lectures, seminar-style discussions and in-class simulations.

A number of academic field trips, including a trip to the Houses of the Oireachtas, complemented the classroom experience. The students also had the opportunity to complete an internship in fields such as non-governmental organisations, politics and journalism.



Brown Summer School students with Dr William Phelan, Political Science Department

# GradLink Mentoring Programme



2015-2016 Gradlink Mentoring Programme mentors

The School's *GradLink Mentoring Programme* aims to help students in their personal and career development by establishing supportive mentoring relationships with alumni. In 2015-2016, the School was delighted to see a significant increase in interest from students with 40 more Junior Sophisters taking part than in the previous year.

At the October launch event students had the opportunity to hear from graduates who are pursuing careers in fields such as finance, law, technology, consulting, public relations and public service. Students were then matched

with a mentor, based on their area of interest, who they met at least twice during the year. Students benefitted enormously from the exchange of ideas with their graduate mentors, who helped them explore issues such as deciding what career path to pursue after college, particular roles and sectors and CV preparation.

The School is extremely grateful to this year's mentors for volunteering their time and providing invaluable guidance to current students. It is also reassuring to hear that alumni find the programme a rewarding experience:

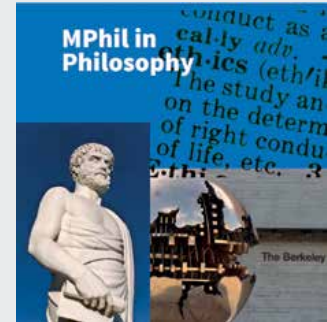
*'I loved my years in Trinity and this was a great way of giving back and helping current students. My student was very capable and bright but it can be hard to know where to find experience, what areas offer the most opportunities and how to perfect a CV. Being able to help and share your insight can make a real difference to students in getting started with their career.'*

The 2016-2017 GradLink programme launch will take place on 27 October, 2016. If you are interested in getting involved as a mentor please visit [www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring) or email [sspalum@tcd.ie](mailto:sspalum@tcd.ie)



Student-mentor discussions at the GradLink launch networking reception

## New MPhil in Philosophy



The Department of Philosophy is looking forward to the inaugural group of students undertaking its new MPhil in Philosophy which starts in September. The purpose, of this course, which comprises taught modules and a research thesis, is to enable students deepen their knowledge of philosophy and prepare for further scholarship in the field. The modules that students will study are a mixture of topics in contemporary systematic philosophy coupled with historically themed content.

One of the systematic areas is Ethics, which will be taught by Dr Ben Bramble who joins Trinity as an Assistant Professor in Philosophy from Sweden's Lund University this autumn. Dr Bramble is an expert on issues about well-being and his published research has explored topics such as the moral complexities of eating meat, the ethics of selective reproduction and the role of pleasure in well-being.

A historically oriented module will be devoted to George Berkeley, one of Trinity's most distinguished graduates. Taught by another newcomer to the department, Dr Kenneth Pearce who joins Trinity, from Valparaiso University in Indiana, as Ussher Assistant Professor in Berkeley Studies. Students will benefit from his considerable expertise in early modern philosophy and philosophy of religion. We are delighted the long tradition in Berkeley studies at Trinity continues and welcome our two new colleagues at an exciting stage in the history of the Philosophy Department.

[www.tcd.ie/philosophy](http://www.tcd.ie/philosophy)

## London Henry Grattan Lecture

The *Henry Grattan Lecture*, hosted by the Embassy of Ireland in London, is now a regular fixture in the School's event calendar. The event is looked forward to with great anticipation each year, as it is a wonderful opportunity to meet our many London-based graduates and to hear from influential public figures such as David O'Sullivan, EU Ambassador to the United States, Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration and Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament. The contributions from the respondents which have included Gideon Rachman and Philip Stephens from the Financial Times and Charles Grant, Director of the Centre for European Reform have been equally thought provoking over the years.

Now in its fourth year, the 2016 lecture titled *Reflections on the Irish Economy – 1916-2016* was delivered by former Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, Professor Patrick Honohan, to which Hamish McRae, journalist



Mr Hamish McRae, Prof Patrick Honohan, Ambassador Dan Mulhall and Prof John O'Hagan

and author, responded. Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Daniel Mulhall, chaired proceedings and moderated a lively and stimulating questions and answers session.

Trinity College is deeply grateful to the Embassy for their continued support in



Susannah McAleese, Vinay Nair and Anke Heydenreich at the London Henry Grattan Lecture

hosting the only *Henry Grattan Lecture* to be held outside Ireland. It was a particular honour to be invited to deliver this year's lecture as part of the Embassy's *Ireland 1916 commemorations programme*.

## Event Guide

All alumni are welcome to attend the School's public lectures and evening courses, where you can hear from Trinity academics and other thought leaders from around the world. In 2016, our public lectures series tackled topical and contentious issues such as the migrant crisis, Brexit and the Irish general election. We have a varied programme of events planned so please do keep in touch to see what's coming up.

### Evening Course: Great Philosophers

Starts 27 September, 2016

### Evening Course: Race, Ethnicity, Conflict

Starts 27 September, 2016

### 2016-2017 GradLink launch

27 October, 2016

### Christmas Commons

7 and 14 December 2016

Other Upcoming Events:

[www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/events](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/events)

## Social Media

 @tcdalumni

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## Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, see

[www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer)

## Class Notes

Do you have any news or updates that you'd like to share with your fellow alumni? Submit your news with an image, subject of study and year of graduation to [alumni@tcd.ie](mailto:alumni@tcd.ie). For more information see [www.tcd.ie/alumni](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni)

[www.tcd.ie/ssp](http://www.tcd.ie/ssp)

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