



2014/15

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SCHOOL OF

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy's third 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

I would like to begin by thanking the many alumni who have contributed to the academic life of the School this year. Students benefit enormously from the exchange of ideas with alumni and we count on you for your support, ideas and expertise. In this Newsletter you will find out more about one such initiative, the School's *GradLink Mentoring Programme*, which connects current undergraduate students with our alumni. I am also pleased to have the opportunity to showcase some of the key achievements of staff, current, and past students from the disciplines of economics, philosophy, political science and sociology.

I find it hard to believe that my term as Head of School ends this summer. During this time we have experienced a period of great global, societal and economic upheaval which, in my view, reinforces the importance of providing a high-quality education in the social sciences and philosophy. The School is committed to educating the next generation of global citizens who - like many of our alumni - will have a real impact on society and will enhance public debate and understanding of key economic, political, moral and social issues.

I have greatly enjoyed meeting many of our former students over the last three years. Our alumni are of huge importance to us so please do continue to keep in touch. You can also find out more about the School's latest news, activities and alumni events on our website

www.tcd.ie/ssp.



School Graduate Conferred with Honorary Degree



David O'Sullivan conferred with Doctor in Laws (LL.D)

David O'Sullivan, EU Ambassador to the United States, has been conferred with an Honorary Degree by Trinity College Dublin. David, who graduated from Trinity in 1975 with a B.A. (Mod) in Economic and Social Studies, has been an outstanding European public servant who has dedicated his career to the practical promotion of the European ideal.

Formerly Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service (EEAS), his contributions to Europe's external relations have had an immensely positive impact on the citizens of Ireland, the EU and beyond.

As the top civil servant at the EU's diplomatic corps, David helped bring greater coherence and efficiency to the EU's international presence, defending our values and interests in the world. David has also maintained his links with Trinity, by acting as a consultative board member for the IIS, participating as a speaker in the School's *Henry Grattan Lecture Series*, helping to organise class reunions and launching an edition of Trinity's *Student Economic Review*. He is a current Vice-President, ex auditor and medallist of the Hist.

Researchers Receive Major Funding for Innovative Global Healthy Ageing Project

A European team including Trinity College researchers Professor Richard Layte, from the Department of Sociology, and Professor Rose Anne Kenny, Principal Investigator of TILDA, have been awarded six million euros in funding, under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, for a new project called LIFEPAATH.



Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast with Professor Richard Layte prior to his inaugural lecture

The project team hopes to show that healthy ageing is an achievable goal for society, as it is already experienced by individuals of high socio-economic status. Commenting on the project, recently appointed Professor of

Sociology, Richard Layte said: "This project brings together biological and social science researchers to shed light on the complex pathways through which low income and social deprivation influence the risk of chronic illness and disease in later life. Our results will be crucial for the development of more effective policy interventions both in Ireland and the European Union."

Professor Layte joins Trinity from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). His research centres on the way in which education, work and institutional factors, such as social welfare systems, affect the risk of poverty, disadvantage, and poor health.

www.tcd.ie/sociology

Alumni Event - Irish Philosophy: Past and Future

On 4 April 2014, over fifty philosophy graduates attended a special lecture by David Berman, Emeritus Professor in Philosophy, entitled 'Irish Philosophy: Past and Future'.

The talk marked the launch of a major international conference on George Berkeley one of Trinity College's most distinguished graduates. Ireland's greatest philosopher, Berkeley is generally regarded as the father of modern idealism who made major contributions in mathematics, theology and the study of language.

The lecture was followed by a reception where philosophy graduates, from 1945 through to

2011, enjoyed reconnecting with College and catching up with old friends and lecturers.



Philosophy alumni from across the decades

School Strengthens Partnership with ESRI

A strategic partnership was established in 2010 to enable Trinity and the ESRI to build collaborative and complementary strengths in the social sciences and to make a greater contribution to understanding economic and social change.

Building on this partnership, the School is delighted to welcome guest lecturers from the Institute to the Department of Sociology. In the Gender, Work and Family module, ESRI researchers explore issues such as the gender wage gap and work-life conflict while in the Social Inequality module students are introduced to inequality research and its policy context.

The Grattan Scholars Develops as a Prestigious International Scholarship Programme

Thanks to the generous support of Trinity College alumni and friends, *The Grattan Scholars* is developing as a prestigious international scholarship programme which is helping to attract exceptional Ph.D. students to Trinity from around the world. In just three years it has grown into an international community of eight scholars - from Ireland, Germany, Poland, USA, India and the Ukraine - who are committed to understanding and

improving society through their research, teaching and education.

Grattan Scholarships support outstanding Ph.D. students who have the potential to become future academic leaders and influential voices for social and economic development. Their research spans a range of areas, aligned with Trinity's research expertise, including: The Global Financial System, Migration, Cultural Economics, Political Careers and Development

Aid. Current undergraduate students also benefit from the Scholars' expertise through their high-quality and engaging teaching on modules such as the Economy of Ireland, Social Inequality and Politics and Irish Society. If you are interested in finding out more about the programme or if you would like information about how to get involved, please contact:

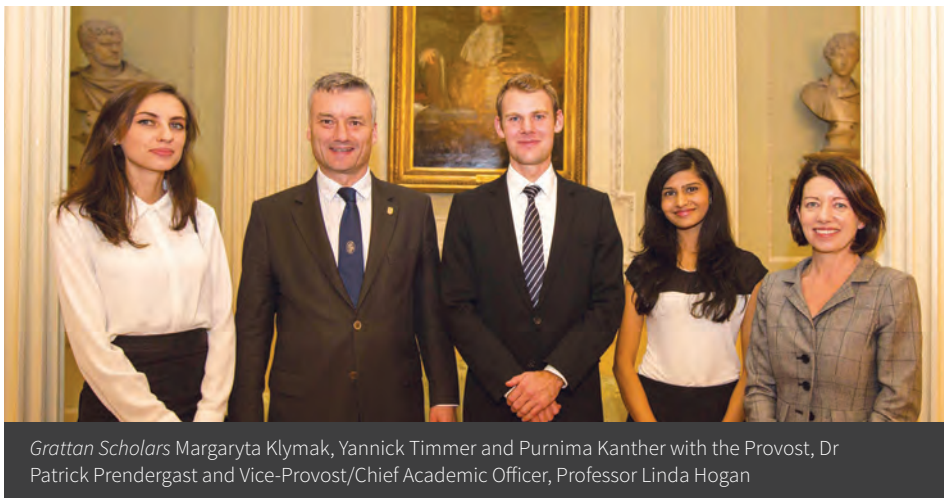
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www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars



Grattan Scholars Margaryta Klymak, Yannick Timmer and Purnima Kanther with the Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast and Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Professor Linda Hogan

Ph.D. Students Attend Prestigious Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting

Two Trinity Economics Ph.D. students, Michael Curran and Sara Mitchell, were chosen to represent Ireland at the prestigious *5th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences*. Approximately 20,000 young economists from around the world applied for just 460 places at the meeting which explored 'How useful is economics – how is economics useful?'

Participants in Lindau meetings attend master classes held by Nobel Laureates and take part in discussion sessions, to exchange experiences and opinions, with Laureates and the next generation of leading economists and researchers.

Foundation Scholar and recipient of an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship, Michael is undertaking research on 'Understanding Uncertainty, Volatility and Macroeconomic Performance' under the supervision of Whately Professor of Political Economy, Philip Lane.

Sara, one of the School's first *Grattan Scholars*, is researching 'Synergies from Geographic Clustering of Creative Workers' under the supervision of Professor of Economics, John O'Hagan.



Ph.D. students Sara Mitchell and Michael Curran

Alumni Interviews

Many accomplished alumni are now in leading roles in fields as diverse as business, entertainment, education, journalism, government and public service. Take a look at the varied career paths of two graduates from the BESS Class of 1996:



Patricia Callan

Economic and Social Studies (BESS)
Single Honors Economics

One-to-One with Patricia Callan

What are you doing with yourself these days?

I am the Director of the Small Firms Association, “The Voice of Small Business” in Ireland, with responsibility for the overall leadership and management of the Association.

Why did you choose your current career?

I want to make a difference. Small businesses employ more than 900,000 people and it’s vitally important that they are put at the heart of government policy making. Giving advice and helping owner-managers in every sector and part of the country makes for a varied and satisfying working day.

What did you like most about being a Trinity student?

The people. Whilst the history and atmosphere of the place were stunning, and I particularly liked living in rooms in my final year, it is the people I met whilst there, that inspired me, challenged me, and entertained me, and most importantly taught me to respect every viewpoint, that have left the lasting legacy.

Who were your fellow students? Are you still in touch with any of them?

I studied BESS, specialising ultimately in economics, but as I was involved in the Student’s Union and many societies, I have a broad network of friends from all disciplines across the College. I even met my husband there!

Do you have any advice for current students?

Use the opportunity to try everything you can and be involved. Whilst the academic work is important, the practical lessons that help you succeed in life, particularly understanding how to build networks and work with a diverse range of people, can best be found through the fantastic network of societies. And it’s a lot of fun learning how to get elected, shoot rifles, edit newspapers, run campaigns, acquire budgets and organise class parties!



Minister Paschal Donohoe

Economic and Social Studies (BESS)
Joint Honors Economics and Political Science

One-to-One with Minister Paschal Donohoe

Why did you choose your current career?

Because I wanted to make a difference and I’m still doing my best to do that as Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

What are your strongest memories of Trinity?

Studying in the Lecky Library, drinking coffee in the arts block and writing an essay on economic security as a component of national security.

Who made an impression on you while a student in Trinity?

Professor Dermot McAleese (economics) and Dr Ben Tonra (now UCD) who gave me a lifelong interest in European integration.

Are you still in touch with other alumni?

Yes. I went to a Six Nations rugby match with one of them recently.

How did studying at Trinity influence you?

When I learned about the tragedy of the commons economic theory, the consequences of that insight and the challenge that it poses, when individuals neglect the well-being of society in the pursuit of personal gain, continues to live with me.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I like to spend my free time relaxing with my wife and children.

Political Science Academic Receives Journal of Peace Research Award

Thomas Chadeaux, Assistant Professor in War and International Bargaining, has been awarded the 2014 Journal of Peace Research (JPR) Best Visualization Award for his article titled 'Early warning signals for war in the news'. There have been more than 200 wars since the start of the 20th century, leading to about 35 million battle deaths. However, efforts to forecast conflicts have performed poorly. Professor Chadeaux's research demonstrated how measuring tensions based on conflict-related news could be a reliable early warning signal for predicting the onset of a war – giving policymakers significant additional warning time.

Commenting on his prize-winning article Professor Chadeaux said "The number of conflict-related news items increases dramatically prior to conflicts. Wars rarely emerge out of nowhere. Using only the information available in newspaper articles available at the time, you can predict the onset of a war, within the next few months, with up to 85% confidence."

Thomas Chadeaux lectures on Contemporary International Relations, International Negotiations and International Conflict and his research work focuses on the causes of interstate conflict and on their prediction.

www.tcd.ie/political_science



Award winner Thomas Chadeaux

M.Phil. Race, Ethnicity, Conflict Alumni Conference



M.Phil. alumni reception in Trinity's Global Room

Since 1997, graduates from the Department of Sociology's M.Phil. Race, Ethnicity, Conflict have played a significant role in shaping social policy, improving the lives of minority groups and advancing research on immigration, ethnicity and anti-racism both in Ireland and overseas.

A special event was held for M.Phil. graduates in June 2014 which celebrated the success and impact of the programme and its alumni. The conference, which explored the theme of 'Power, Conflict, Resistance', included an alumni reception, round table discussions and presentations of papers by former students. Veteran political and civil rights activist Bernadette McAliskey delivered the keynote lecture which explored the treatment of migrant workers in Northern Ireland.

Alumni Appeal Supports Summer Internship Programme



Research Assistants: Barra McCarthy (economics), Peter Kiernan (philosophy), Aideen O'Shaughnessy (sociology) and David Beatty (political science)

The School's 2014 Summer Internship Programme enabled four undergraduate students to gain invaluable research experience working as Research Assistants within the disciplines of economics, philosophy, political science and sociology. These ten-week paid internships were made possible thanks to the generosity of School graduates who have donated to the Alumni Appeal over recent years.

The students found it an incredibly rewarding experience, learning skills such as research design, statistical analysis, interview techniques, data collection and analysis and report writing. Under the dedicated supervision of School academics, students were exposed to research themes such as development economics, parliamentary voting behaviour in the European Parliament and social media and digital technology. The students were challenged to tackle new ideas in a practical environment, rather than the more passive lecture theatre setting, gaining experience which will be relevant to final year theses, postgraduate studies and research based employment opportunities.

GradLink Mentoring Programme

In November 2014, the School launched the *GradLink Mentoring Programme* which aims to develop current students' knowledge of the labour market and their career options by developing nurturing mentoring relationships with alumni.

Following the launch event, students were assigned a graduate mentor based on their area of interest. Students had the opportunity to choose mentors who are pursuing careers in business, technology, marketing, journalism, public service and the voluntary sector and

who are currently working for employers such as Goodbody Stockbrokers, Google, Department of the Taoiseach and Proctor & Gamble.

Mentors and students will meet two to three times over the course of the academic year to consider issues such as deciding on what to do after college, exploring particular roles and sectors, networking and CV preparation. Students are already benefitting enormously from the exchange of ideas with alumni and are gaining useful insights into how they can

best manage their career development.

The School is extremely grateful to the 20 graduate mentors participating in the inaugural *GradLink Mentoring Programme*, for volunteering their time and for providing invaluable guidance to current Junior Sophister students.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor in next year's programme please contact our GradLink Coordinator, Helen Murray at sspalum@tcd.ie or visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring



Alumni mentors at the 2014-15 *GradLink Mentoring Programme* Launch



Students at the *GradLink* launch



Students Excel in Irish Times Debating Competition



TCD team winners Rónán O'Connor (left) and Hugh Guidera

Congratulations to Rónán O'Connor (third year TSM Economics and Sociology) of Trinity's Philosophical Society who was part of the winning team at the 2015 Annual *Irish Times* debating competition and to William Dunne (fourth year PPES) of the Trinity Historical society who was a runner up in the individual competition. Now in its 55th year, the *Irish Times* debating championship was established to promote excellence in oratory and debating.

PPES Student Elected President of the Student's Union

Lynn Ruane, a third year PPES student, has been elected President of Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (TCDSU). Lynn will be the first female President since 2003-2004 and the first mature student president since the early 1990s. She follows in the footsteps of School graduates Fianna Fáil Senator Averil Power (BESS, 2000) and Storyful founder Mark Little (BESS, 1990), in becoming TCDSU President. Alex White (BESS, 1981), Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources served as Deputy President.



Lynn Ruane elected TCDSU President

New Development Research Group Established by Department of Economics

Building on Trinity's strong research record in development, the Department of Economics has established a new research group which will bring together economics researchers, development practitioners, and policy makers in a collective effort to estimate and understand the impact of development aid and investments. The Trinity Impact Evaluation Unit (TIME) aims to provide strong evidence of what works, so that better investments that have real impact on the development process can be made.

The five founding members, in Trinity's Department of Economics, Professors Fadi Hassan, Michael King, Tara Mitchell, Gaia

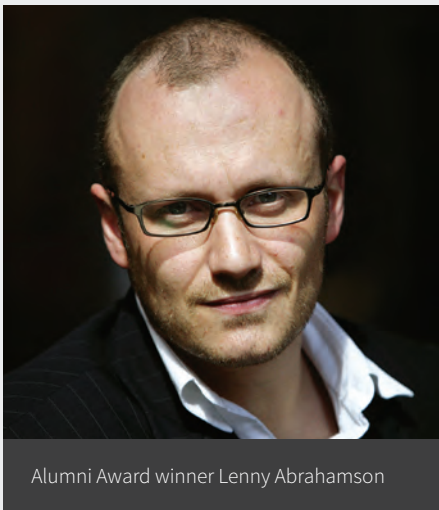
Narciso and Carol Newman are undertaking research projects in Uganda, Senegal and Kenya. Current research work includes evaluating the impact of nutritional information campaigns, utilising e-recording technology in savings groups and migrant remittance behaviour.

Speaking on behalf of the research group, Professor Carol Newman said: "By producing research of the highest academic standard TIME will contribute to the global debate on the economic development process and the underlying mechanisms at work."

www.tcd.ie/economics



Professor Fadi Hassan conducting an interview in Olelai Primary School, Kenya



Alumni Award winner Lenny Abrahamson

Alumni Awards Recognise Lenny Abrahamson

An Alumni Award is recognition by Trinity College of the important contributions alumni have made in their particular field and as citizens of the world. An acclaimed film director, Lenny Abrahamson, was one of the four recipients of an Alumni Award which were presented on 27 March 2015.

Lenny graduated from Trinity in 1991 with a First Class Honors degree and a Gold Medal in Philosophy. While at Trinity he also developed his interest in filmmaking, co-founding the Trinity Video Society with Ed Guiney. He was awarded funding from Trinity's Visual and Performing Arts Fund to make the short film *3 Joes*. The film, which featured performances from fellow Trinity students Gary Cooke, Michael Murfi and Dominic West, subsequently won the Best European Short Film Award. Lenny has gone on to national and international success with his short and feature filmmaking and his work for television. His award winning work includes: *Adam and Paul* (2004), *Garage* (2007), *Prosperity* (2007), *What Richard Did* (2012), and *Frank* (2014). Lenny's next project is an adaptation of Emma Donoghue's critically acclaimed novel *Room*.

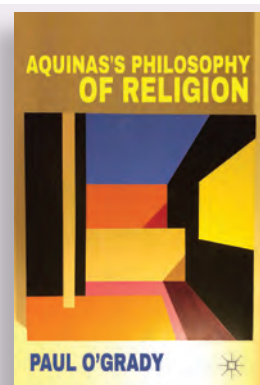
New Head of Department Publishes Book on Philosophy of Religion

Professor Paul O'Grady recently published a book titled *Aquinas's Philosophy of Religion* (Palgrave 2014) deriving from his Junior Sophister course on Philosophy of Religion. Aquinas's influence on Western thought is considerable, and much of modern philosophy of religion was conceived in development or opposition to his ideas. In his book, Professor O'Grady examines Aquinas's contributions to that field, exploring his responses to the problem of evil, his positive account of divine goodness, knowledge and power and arguments for the existence of God.

Professor O'Grady, who became Head of

the Department of Philosophy in early 2015, researches on two areas of analytical philosophy - epistemology and philosophy of religion. He recently produced the Oxford Bibliography Online annotated bibliography on Relativism, which is a state-of-the-art survey of the topic. His new research project is on the topic of wisdom. What is it, how does it differ from knowledge, and why do philosophers, by and large, ignore it as a topic? He will draw on his work on Aquinas, Asian philosophy, epistemology and psychotherapy to attempt to answer these questions.

www.tcd.ie/philosophy



Head of Department of Philosophy's recent publication



Peter Sutherland, John O'Hagan and Gideon Rachman

Event Guide

TCD/UCD Sociology Public Lecture Series

Professor Nan Lin, Duke University
28 April, 2015

Henry Grattan Lecture, London

Dr David O'Sullivan
EU Ambassador to the United States
22 June, 2015

TCD Alumni Weekend

21-23 August, 2015

Other Upcoming Events

www.tcd.ie/alumni/events

Second Henry Grattan Lecture Hosted in London

The School was honoured to be invited to organise a second talk in the *Henry Grattan Lecture Series* at the Embassy of Ireland in London in June 2014. The lecture, on the challenges of EU migration, was given by Dr Peter Sutherland, UN Special Representative for International Migration to which Mr Gideon

Rachman, Chief Foreign Affairs columnist for the *Financial Times* responded.

The lecture series 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. Over 100 guests, including alumni and friends, listened to introductory remarks from the Deputy Ambassador John McCullagh, presentations by the guest speakers and participated in

a lively Q&A session moderated by John O'Hagan, Professor of Economics at Trinity.

Trinity would like to thank the Embassy for their invaluable support in hosting the only *Henry Grattan Lectures* to be held outside Ireland. The event is a wonderful opportunity for Trinity's many London-based economics, philosophy, political science and sociology graduates to connect with the School and each other.



*Oregon Maple
Library Square
Planted early
1800s*

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.

Phone +353 1 896 1714

Email eileen.punch@tcd.ie

www.tcd.ie/development

Stay in Touch

Get connected with Front Gate Online. Update your details, search and contact fellow alumni, register for events, join the career network and other groups, all in one place! Register today!

www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline

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

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www.tcd.ie/ssp

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