



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

2017/18

SCHOOL OF Social Sciences and Philosophy

WELCOME

It has been an exciting twelve months for the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The year was bookended by visits from two of the leading figures in the world of international finance, Mario Draghi and Christine Lagarde. President Draghi gave a keynote talk in September, in the *Henry Grattan Lecture Series*, on youth unemployment in the Euro area, while Madame Lagarde addressed a gathering of Irish women leaders in June.

It has also been a time of changeover for the School leadership, as we welcome two new Heads of Department: Professor William Phelan who takes over in Political Science and Professor Carol Newman who takes the helm in Economics. We thank Professor Francis O'Toole for his steadfast service, as Head of Economics, for the past three years.

And, after almost forty years of service, we sadly announce the retirement of Professor Michael Gallagher from the Department of Political Science this September. He will be remembered by generations of students, who took his Irish Politics and Political Parties classes, for his encyclopaedic knowledge of elections, both at home and abroad. As the undisputed holder of the title of 'Ireland's leading psephologist', Professor Gallagher will continue to be heard on the airwaves, at election and referendum time.

It is also a time of change and renewal for the Trinity undergraduate experience, with the launch of the Trinity Education Project. Perhaps the most immediate and noticeable change will be that Freshers' week will start on September 3rd this year, quite a change for many of us who remember sitting in Front Square manning stalls in a chilly mid-October!

Finally, I am delighted to write that the research achievements of School staff have been recognised in the latest QS

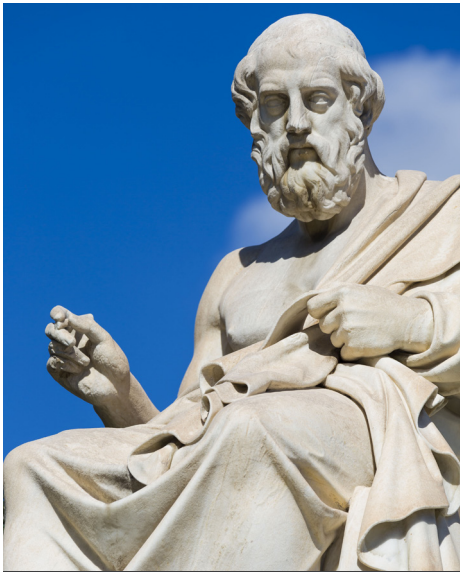
subject rankings, which place Philosophy and Sociology in the World's top 100, with Political Science, even more impressively, in the world's top 50. We are continuing to compete and hold our own with world-class universities.



Prof Gail McElroy and Trinity social science students welcome IMF Managing Director, Christine Lagarde to Trinity

Professor Gail McElroy
Head of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Philosophy Public Lecture Series Explores Great Questions Facing Humankind



Greek philosopher Plato - a pivotal figure in the development of western philosophy

‘What is the basis of morality?’ and ‘Do we have free will?’ are just two of the questions that will be explored in a series of evening lectures being held in 2018-19. Following on from last year’s highly successful Big Questions in Philosophy course, each lecture examines a stand-alone topic and does not require any prior knowledge of philosophy.

A second evening course, on Great Philosophers, will consider the crucial ideas about values and humankind’s place in the world which were developed by philosophers such as Aristotle and Friedrich Nietzsche. Each lecture introduces the life, work and impact of an influential philosopher who helped form Western civilisation.

Lectures are given by Department of Philosophy academics such as Professor

Vasilis Politis, who recently published an innovative study of ancient Greek philosophy, *The Aporetic Tradition in Ancient Philosophy*, Dr Lilian Alweiss, who organized a highly successful public event about international justice and the Nuremberg Trials in Trinity Term and Professor Paul O’Grady, Head of the Department of Philosophy.

Lifelong learning is a continual process, so whether you are a former philosophy student, have a personal interest in the subject or just want try something new, the evening lectures are a great opportunity to stimulate your grey matter and question assumptions.

These lectures will take place on Tuesdays from 7.30-9.00 pm starting on 11 September, 2018 and the cost for each series of 11 lectures is €100. For additional details please visit: www.tcd.ie/philosophy/events

Global Politics Summer School Welcomes Ivy League Students



Summer School students on a field trip to Newgrange

Originally developed for students from Brown University, this year’s Summer School in Contemporary Global Politics has attracted students from two further prestigious universities, Harvard and Cornell, for the first time.

The programme is now open to students in eleven leading research universities in the United States and Australia who are members of The Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA). A non-profit consortium, CASA was created for the purpose of organising and delivering rigorous education abroad programmes which provide unique learning opportunities for students; Trinity is CASA’s only European partner institution.

As part of the syllabus students are challenged to explore questions such as ‘Are wars becoming more infrequent?’, ‘Is a comprehensive climate change agreement possible?’ and ‘Are international courts effective?’ Commenting on the academic content, which is delivered by lecturers in the Department of Political Science, Assistant

Professor Constantine Boussalis said: “The module offers an overview of contemporary topics in international politics, as well as themes related to Irish politics and society. It aims to build an understanding of the domestic and international political forces that determine the international political economy, effectiveness of development policy, and global environmental cooperation.”

During the summer programme, which is run by Trinity College Dublin, Brown University, and EUSA Academic Internship Programs, students not only participate in academic lectures, seminars and in-class simulations, they are also placed in a six week internship, and enjoy an extensive schedule of educational field trips and social events organised by Trinity’s Global Relations Office.

Interview with Alumnus - David O'Sullivan



Tell us a bit more about your role as Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

As Ambassador, I am also Head of the EU's Delegation in Washington DC, directing all its work on the important transatlantic trade, economic and foreign policy matters that unite, confront and sometimes even frustrate us. I also represent the EU Presidency, in the US, and meet regularly with Ambassadors of all 28 member states to coordinate our work and ensure we

speak with a single voice. Because the US is such an important political and economic partner, my office receives many high-level visits from Headquarters so I am often on Capitol Hill or at the White House meeting our opposite numbers and advancing EU interests.

What excites you most about your work?

My first two years coincided with the final two years of President Obama's second mandate. I worked with that administration to conclude the first ever transatlantic free trade and investment agreement and was involved in diplomatic back-and-forth that preceded the conclusion of the Iran nuclear agreement and the Paris Climate Treaty. We are now focused on building relationships with President Trump's Administration and on building a new understanding of the EU not just with the Administration but also with people around the country who may not realise how important we are to each other economically.

How did studying at Trinity influence you?

I had great lecturers from whom I learned a huge amount. John O'Hagan and Dermot McAleese did their best to make me a halfway decent economist and I am forever grateful. It was also there that I learned the importance of testing ideas, mastering the substance and the value of debate in public life and public policy.

What are your strongest memories of Trinity?

I have lots of memories of debating at The Hist fuelled by no small amount of adrenalin and the certainty of youth. There are many stand-outs from faculty and friends which are too numerous to mention. I also remember the sights and sounds, like the warmth of Buttery on a wet day, drinks at the Pavilion and all the other stuff that students get up to that probably shouldn't be repeated here. It was a magical time.

Interview with Alumna - Catherine Woods



What has your career path been?

After University, I joined JP Morgan in London where I worked in Merger & Acquisitions and Equity Research. I returned to Ireland for a career break in 2000. Currently, I have a plural Non-Executive Director (NED) portfolio.

Why did you choose your current career?

I find the NED role challenging and stimulating as it involves setting and

implementing a company's strategy, selecting and assessing senior management and being a guardian of the culture.

I joined the AIB Board as a NED in October 2010 as I believed that I could leverage my international banking knowledge and experience to Ireland's advantage. My other current NED roles are with Blackrock Asset Management and Beazley Insurance - a Lloyds of London company.

What did you like most about being a Trinity student?

I really appreciated the history of Trinity and its many traditions. I was lucky enough to become a Scholar in 1982 so experienced Commons regularly and can still vividly remember grace being said in Latin and the daily bottle of Guinness with dinner!

Other abiding memories include the lifelong friendships I made at Trinity; the support

and encouragement of so many lecturers; the wonderful setting of the University which seemed like an oasis of peace compared to the bustle of Dublin City centre; sitting with friends under the shade of the (sadly now fallen) Maple Tree in Library Square as exams loomed and my room in the Graduate Memorial Building 28-33!

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

My economic lecturers - so many of them gave freely of their time and advice outside of lectures and were such inspirational figures. To name a few: John O'Hagan who encouraged me to sit the Schol exams; Alan Matthews who employed me as a summer research assistant and Frances Ruane who was one of the few female role models in the Department.

Economics Research Centre Strengthens Partnership with Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs



TIME study aims to improve learning outcomes for Indian primary school children

The Trinity Impact Evaluation Unit (TIME), a research centre based in the Department of Economics, brings together economics researchers, development practitioners and policy makers in a collective effort to estimate the impact of development aid and investment. TIME has entered a partnership with Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) which

will help establish Ireland as a key player in international development research in Europe.

The partnership with Irish Aid/DFA provides support for an annual Workshop in Development Economics and a Summer School on Impact Evaluation which focuses on developing the skills required to conduct,

evaluate and manage programmes on impact evaluation. The workshop, which attracts leading development economists from across the globe, examines issues such as climate change, conflict and migration.

Commenting on the research centre's work, Associate Professor in Economics and Director of TIME, Gaia Narciso said: "TIME contributes to global debate and understanding of the economic development process by producing research of the highest academic standard and facilitating the dissemination of research more widely. By providing strong evidence of what works, TIME enables better investments to be made that have a real impact on the development process."

TIME consists of nine academic members with collaborations in 22 countries. For details regarding upcoming events please visit:

www.tcd.ie/time

www.tcd.ie/economics

Political Science Academic Receives Prestigious New Book Award

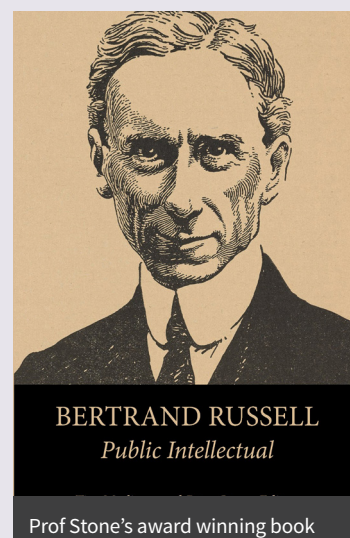
Peter Stone, Associate Professor in Political Science, was the winner of the 2017 Bertrand Russell Society Book Award for the book *Bertrand Russell: Public Intellectual*, which he co-edited with Tim Madigan, Professor of Philosophy at St. John Fisher College, New York.

The book is devoted to the life of Bertrand Russell (1872-1970), a founder of modern analytic philosophy and also a leading humanist, critic of religion and crusader for peace. Covering topics such as Russell's anti-war activism (during World War I and in the nuclear age) and the controversial legal case which deprived Russell of a position at City College of New York, the publication is an invaluable resource for students of Russell's life and thought.

Commenting on his award-winning book, Professor Stone said: "Russell's life and work dealt with many issues, such as progressive education, academic freedom and political activism, which remain strikingly relevant today. This anthology of papers aims to reflect the breadth and depth of the contributions from one of the 20th century's leading philosophers."

Peter Stone, who has studied the political thought of Bertrand Russell for 25 years, specializes in political theory, and has particular research interests in democratic theory, theories of justice and the philosophy of social science.

www.tcd.ie/political_science



The Grattan Scholars - Outstanding Postgraduate Educators and Researchers

Thanks to the continued generous support of Trinity's alumni and friends *The Grattan Scholars* programme has flourished since it was established by the School in 2012. It is now an international community of exceptional Ph.D. students who are committed

to contributing to society and the University through their research and education.

The 16 scholarships awarded to date have helped to attract some of the world's most talented students to Trinity. The Scholars not only undertake research on issues of

global societal and economic importance, such as migration, inequality and financial globalisation, they also enrich the learning experience of undergraduate students by delivering high-quality and engaging teaching.

Enhancing Trinity's World Class Undergraduate Teaching Programmes

Grattan Scholars are having an immensely positive impact on undergraduate students as role models and mentors. They have demonstrated both a professional and innovative approach to teaching and a tremendous commitment to their students. A number of *Grattan Scholars* have been awarded the School's Dermot McAleese Teaching Award in recognition of their

outstanding teaching abilities. In 2018, Stefano Ceolotto received the award for his inspiring approach to teaching the Mathematical and Statistical Methods freshman module. This is a particularly impressive achievement as Stefano is in the first year of his Ph.D. studies, having been awarded the first *Grattan Scholarship* in Energy Economics last September.

Forging International Research Links

International research collaboration has never been more important as society faces wide-ranging and interlinked global challenges. *Grattan Scholars* are afforded the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from the foremost academics in their fields, both at Trinity and internationally. For example this year Benoit Voudon's scholarship enabled him to spend a term as a Visiting Research Scholar in Columbia University, studying under the supervision of Professor Michael Riordan, one of the world's preeminent authorities in vertical relationships between firms. Next year Katharina Bergant will join Harvard University as a Research Fellow where she will work with leading international macroeconomist Professor Carmen Reinhart.

"During my Ph.D. studies, I have had fantastic experiences that would not have been possible without the prestigious *Grattan Scholarship*. My first paper was published in the *Journal of Financial Economics*. I have been an intern at the IMF and a visiting student at Princeton University, where I worked with leading scholars."

Grattan Scholar, Yannick Timmer

Academic Leaders of the Future



Grattan Scholars in the Trinity Alumni Room

At the core of *The Grattan Scholars* programme is the ambition to support and nurture exceptional students who have the potential to become future academic leaders. We are extremely heartened that, upon completion of their Ph.D. studies, a number of Scholars have chosen to further their burgeoning academic careers at

leading institutions around the world, such as 2014 Scholar Margaryta Klymak, who will shortly take up a Lectureship in Development Economics at the University of Oxford.

For further details please visit:
www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars

Interdisciplinary Research Reveals Negative Impact of the Recession on Children's Health



Prof Richard Layte speaking at Trinity's Fusion Research Showcase in Boston

Professor of Sociology, Richard Layte has undertaken the first longitudinal study on the impact of the recent financial crisis on the health of young children in Ireland.

Using data from the 'Growing Up in Ireland Infant Cohort Study', which assessed almost 20,000 children before, during and after the recession, the research examined the impact of life-events such as job loss or a reduction in welfare benefits on child health and well-being.

Commenting on the research Professor Layte said: "Our study provides important evidence that social policy responses are critical: reductions in welfare benefits due to budget cuts in the aftermath of the recession were associated with increases in asthma and atopy symptoms as well as worse mental health. These impacts on child health and development may have long-lasting consequences for future socioeconomic and health outcomes."

The research was carried out as part of the EU-wide LIFEPAATH project which is

investigating the pathways which link economic and social experiences to social differences in premature ageing. LIFEPAATH experts, such as Professor Layte, are developing original study designs that integrate social science research with biological measures and big data analysis.

Professor Layte is Head of the Department of Sociology. His research focuses on the fundamental processes which influence the distribution of health and well-being in societies and how these are shaped by the political economy.

www.tcd.ie/sociology
www.lifepathproject.eu

School Graduates Debate the Future of News in an Age of Social Media



Mark Little, Gail McElroy, Rupert Pennant-Rea, Olivia O'Leary and Vinay Nair

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy has a long history of outreach and engagement with Irish society both through its research, which plays an important role in public policy development and its public lectures which regularly tackle topical and contentious issues.

This year as part of Trinity Week 2018, 'The Future of News in an Age of Social Media' was discussed by leaders in business and media at a packed event which was attended by students, members of the wider College community and the general public.

The lively and informative debate considered the effect of social media on news reporting and whether traditional news outlets needed to re-position themselves to adapt to the reality of the internet age. They also questioned whether social media is a force for good or a negative force, contributing to civilisation's decline.

The distinguished panel of speakers included social media entrepreneurs, and political science and economics graduates Mark Little, CEO of NevaLabs and Vinay Nair, CEO of Lightful, and economics graduate Rupert Pennant-Rea, Chairman of The Economist Group. Renowned journalist and broadcaster, Olivia O'Leary completed the line-up at the event which also celebrated Ms O'Leary's award of an Honorary Doctorate by Trinity.

2017-18 *Henry Grattan Lecture Series* Attracts World-Class Speakers

The lecture series, a flagship initiative of the School, plays an important role in enabling wider society to engage with Trinity and in helping to ensure that thought leaders

and influential public figures from around the world are publicly accessible.

This year the School was delighted to host events both on the Trinity campus and in the

Embassy of Ireland in London. Building on the success of events this side of the Atlantic, plans are now underway to host an event in the Irish Embassy in Washington DC next year.

Mario Draghi Delivers Lecture on Youth Unemployment



Mr Mario Draghi, Prof Philip Lane and Trinity Economics Students

In September 2017, the School welcomed European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi to Trinity where he delivered a keynote address on 'Youth unemployment in the Euro area'. In his speech, Mr Draghi highlighted the need to address structural causes of youth unemployment and the unfair burden that young people carry in relation to the economic crisis.

Mr Draghi's address was followed by an insightful ECB Youth Dialogue, with 30 Trinity Economics students, which was moderated

by Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland and Whately Professor of Economics, Philip Lane. Students had the opportunity to pose their questions directly to Mr Draghi on topics as diverse as whether new technologies, such as blockchain, have a role in monetary policy and how the teaching of economics could be improved. The event concluded with the presentation of Trinity's Philosophical Society's Gold Medal of Honorary Patronage to the ECB President.

Mary McAleese Considers 'Ireland-UK Relations, Past, Present and Future'



Former president Mary McAleese in conversation with Tommie Gorman

not only provides a platform for world-class speakers to address issues of significant public interest, it is also a wonderful opportunity to meet our many London-based graduates in the most convivial surroundings.

The June event was opened by Ambassador of Ireland to Britain, Adrian O'Neill. Mary McAleese then delivered her talk in conversation with RTÉ's Northern Editor, Tommie Gorman. During the course of the evening, former president Mary McAleese rejected the suggestion that Brexit was caused by the remoteness of the European institutions and affirmed her confidence in the European project of political integration. She also reflected on the historic visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland



Alumni and friends enjoying the post lecture reception

The annual *Henry Grattan Lecture*, kindly hosted by the Embassy of Ireland in London,

and on the possibility of a referendum on a united Ireland taking place in her lifetime.

New Online CPD Course Targets Property Market Knowledge Gap



Course Director Dr Ronan Lyons

The Department of Economics has launched a new online Continuous Professional Development (CPD) course in 'The Economics of the Property Market' with Assistant Professor in Economics Ronan Lyons. Dr Lyons, whose research focuses on property markets, is also a frequent contributor to media and public debate on Irish housing and the broader economy.

Designed for professionals working in the Irish housing market, as well as interested members of the public, this four-week introductory e-learning course will equip participants with the tools needed to apply economic analysis in the property market – addressing core concepts such as shifts in demand and supply, opportunity cost and general equilibrium effects.

Course Director, Dr Lyons explains the significance of the course: "Perhaps unusually, given the recent history of the Irish housing market, no introductory course existed on the economics of the property market. Property is central to the work undertaken by a wide range of professionals, from engineers and architects to estate agents and solicitors. Professionals engaging with housing are often under-resourced for their day-to-day work and this course aims to fill this knowledge gap."

The next intake starts on October 1, 2018 and course fees are €300. Trinity alumni can avail of a discounted rate of €250, by using the code **alum2018** on the registration page. Please note that the closing date for applications is 5.00pm on 17 September, 2018. For additional details or to register please visit:

www.tcd.ie/economics/cpd

Events and Courses

Evening Course:

Great Philosophers

Starts 11 September 2018

Alumni-to-Student Mentoring events

26 September 2018

27 September 2018

Online Course:

The Economics of the Property Market

Starts 1 October 2018

Evening Course:

Big Questions in Philosophy

Starts 22 January 2018

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, please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni Weekend
24-26 August 2018

Other Events

www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/events

www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring/

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

For more information please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/publications

www.tcd.ie/ssp

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