



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

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy Newsletter

2022/2023

Welcome from the Head of School

Greetings from the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. It's my pleasure to introduce this newsletter at the end of my first year as Head of School. The School is one of the biggest in college and it has been a steep learning curve for me to get to grips with all its complexity. Partly this is due to size, with over a hundred staff between lecturing, administrative and research cohorts. But it is also due to the degree of activity, innovation and sheer energy exhibited by the four constituent departments. Colleagues have won prestigious ERC grants, bringing in millions of euros to the Irish economy. New research centres have been set up, such as the Centre for Economic Policy and History (CEPH). We have won prizes for teaching, supervision,

equality and inclusion and research excellence. Prestigious lectures have been given by figures such as Sir John Major, Paschal Donohoe and Philip Lane under the aegis of the School. School staff gave online lectures to staff and students in Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv with future collaborations envisaged. New campus companies were set up to disseminate research-led computer games dealing with equality, diversity and inclusion. Black studies has been embedded as a very popular area of study across college. Colleagues are working on issues of equality in education, life cycle studies, gender, and employment. New staff are being recruited in areas such as ethics, environmental economics, political violence, and Black Studies. We are actively seeking funding for PhD



Professor Paul O'Grady

awards in the context of the difficulties of working and living in Dublin experienced by so many young people. And we are more than grateful to our generous donors and supporters who help make this possible. It's a privilege to represent such an enthusiastic and accomplished team of scholars and I hope you enjoy the various stories that follow.

Professor Paul O'Grady
Head of the School of Social
Sciences and Philosophy

Inspiring Generations

Trinity College Dublin

RESEARCH FOCUS

Professor Pablo Gracia secures ERC Consolidator Grant



Professor Pablo Gracia

Professor Pablo Gracia, Associate Professor in Sociology, has secured a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant of €2 million for a five-year project entitled DIGINEQ – Digital Time Use, Adolescent Well-Being and Social Inequalities. This project will tackle a fundamental question in our unequal and digitalised world – ‘How does adolescent digital use link to the reproduction of social inequalities?’, with his work exploring links between digital use and social inequalities in adolescents’ well-being. The highly competitive ERC Consolidator Grants are awarded to academics to build research teams to conduct pioneering research across all disciplines.

Professor Pablo Gracia, Associate Professor in Sociology, said:

‘I am incredibly excited that my DIGINEQ project has been awarded an ERC Consolidator Grant. This grant will allow my team to develop an innovative scientific framework to understand a major challenge of our times: how digital and social inequalities are interrelated and shape unequal trajectories in adolescents’ well-being.

This grant will allow me to apply unconventional approaches and methodologies in my field and to hire the most talented PhDs and postdoctoral researchers to consolidate a vibrant team of researchers working together on this exciting agenda. I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to understanding these important scientific and societal challenges through this ERC grant.’

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New All-Ireland Centre of Excellence Launched



The Directors of CEPH (Left to right: Marvin Suesse (TCD), John Turner (QUB), Gaia Narciso (TCD), Ronan Lyons (TCD) & Chris Colvin (QUB)

In September 2022, the Centre for Economics, Policy, and History (CEPH) was established between the Department of Economics in Trinity College Dublin and the School of Management in Queen’s University Belfast. Funded by the North-South Research Programme that was established by the Higher Education Authority of Ireland, CEPH’s objective is to become the all-Ireland centre of research excellence in economic history and policy.

The Centre will play a leading role in contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals by connecting economic theories to real world applications through three foundational pillars: Research, Outreach and Data. CEPH will also provide training to new generations of economic historians, offer internship opportunities for undergraduate students, and provide doctoral and postdoctoral experience for early career researchers.

Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of the new All-Ireland Centre, commented:

‘We are excited about starting this new four-year project that builds on the existing strengths of our two universities. This injection of high-quality funding from the North-South Research Programme will enable us to expand our activities with ambitious new policy-relevant research and education programmes across the island of Ireland.’

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Professor Jesse Dillon Savage to receive IRC Laureate Award



Professor Jesse Dillon Savage

Jesse Dillon-Savage, Ussher Assistant Professor in Political Science, received an Irish Research Council Laureate Consolidator Award for his project UNCO - The Unintended Consequences of Security Assistance. The goal of the project is to gain a comprehensive understanding of how security assistance affects the behaviour of the military in recipient states.

Professor Savage was one of 11 Trinity researchers to receive funding for cutting-edge projects equally divided across the fields of the humanities; physical sciences and engineering; life sciences; and social sciences. The Laureate programme encompasses two streams of funding, namely ‘starting’ funding for early-career researchers who are to receive €400,000 each and ‘consolidator’ funding for mid-career researchers who are to receive €600,000 each.

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Professor Alison Fernandes honoured in IRC Research Ally Awards



Professor Alison Fernandes

Research Ally prizes are awarded to mark the crucial role played by higher education personnel in supporting the academic research community across all career levels. Postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, academic and research-active staff were invited to nominate the mentors, supervisors, research officers and technical support staff who have supported their work and careers and improved the Irish research ecosystem.

Professor Fernandes said:

‘I’m delighted with the award. It’s great to see recognition for the work we do in mentoring the next generation of researchers.’

Alison Fernandes is an Assistant Professor in Philosophy. Her research focuses on why we reason about the world using scientific relations, including laws, causation and probabilities, and how these relations relate to the posits of fundamental physics.

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Trinity Research Excellence Awards 2023



Vasilis Politis with Dean of Research Professor Sinead Ryan

Professor Vasilis Politis was honoured with a Research Excellence Award at a special ceremony held in the College on June 1. Launched in 2020, the Research Excellence Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of researchers and those who support research in Trinity.

The awards are aligned to the seven core principles of Trinity’s Research Charter which sets out a vision to engage in research with the quality, intensity, depth, diversity, and openness that leads to fundamental breakthroughs, new understandings, key insights, and that can make translational and transformative advances. A call out to Trinity staff was made in March to nominate colleagues who best embody the spirit of a specific principle. Professor Politis won in the category ‘Pushing the Boundaries of Knowledge’.

Professor Vasilis Politis said:

‘I am sincerely grateful and glad to have received this research award together with the other awardees and would like to thank John Divers for putting me forward when I least expected it, to the Committee for looking at my work, and to the Dean of Research for her kind words.’

Martina Zanella Wins Irish Society for Women in Economics (ISWE) Prize



Professors Martina Zanella & Oana Peia (UCD)

The Irish Society for Women in Economics (ISWE) prize for the best paper presented by a female economist was awarded to Martina Zanella, Assistant Professor in Economics, in May 2023. The prize was awarded during the Irish Economics Association Annual Conference for Martina’s paper ‘Stereotypical Selection’.

The Irish Society for Women in Economics (ISWE) is a platform seeking to inspire, empower and increase women’s visibility in economics in Ireland to ensure that the role of economists in public debates, policy decisions, and education is more representative of Irish society. In Ireland, women represent approximately one-third of undergraduate and postgraduate students and account for 41% of academic economists and 32% of full professors.

Professor Zanella joined the Department of Economics in August 2022 as an Assistant Professor after completing her PhD at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research explores causes and consequences of inequality in education, labour markets, and political bodies, drawing insights from psychology and sociology to provide evidence-based suggestions for policy.

Professor Zanella said:

‘I am extremely grateful for this prize. It is very rewarding to see this paper recognised. I hope this will help in fostering the debate around inequality to bring us a little step toward understanding how we can level the playing field.’

Sir John Major delivers 2023 Henry Grattan lecture in London



Gail McElroy, Deirdre Fraser, Martin Fraser, Sir John Major, Linda Doyle, Paul O'Grady & Rory Carroll

Former British Prime Minister, Sir John Major, addressed the UK-Ireland relationship at the 2023 Henry Grattan London Lecture on 24 May 2023. The lecture, titled 'The Peace Process and Beyond' was organised by the Embassy of Ireland in London in association with the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin.

The event was hosted at the Embassy in London and was attended by Irish Ambassador Martin Fraser, Provost Linda Doyle, and Sir John Major. Provost Linda Doyle emphasised the ongoing connections and collaborations between Trinity and British universities, praising Sir John's leadership qualities as an example for Trinity students.

The Henry Grattan lecture series, initiated by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy in 2013, has featured notable speakers such as Christine Lagarde, former President of the European Central Bank; Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland; and former Taoiseach John Bruton.

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Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason delivers Henry Grattan Lecture



Professor Gail McElroy, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason & Professor C  il  n Parsons

Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason, delivered the Henry Grattan Lecture in Washington DC in April 2023 in the Ambassador's Residence. An initiative of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, the Henry Grattan lecture series has been running since 2013, featuring speakers including former Taoiseach Mr John Bruton, EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness, former President of Ireland Mary McAleese and Mario Draghi, former President of the European Central Bank. This was the second lecture hosted in Washington; the inaugural lecture was held in 2019 with keynote speaker Congressman Richard Neal, Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee.

In the wide-ranging discussion with Professor C  il  n Parsons, Director of Global Irish Studies at Georgetown University, the Ambassador reflected on Ireland-US Relations from a political, economic, and cultural perspective. Professor Gail McElroy, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Trinity, chaired the event.

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Minister Paschal Donohoe returns to the School



Professors Gail McElroy, John O'Hagan, Minister Paschal Donohoe & Eleanor Denny

The School welcomed Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, President of the Eurogroup, and alumnus Paschal Donohoe (BESS, Political Science, 1996) on March 2nd, 2023. The Minister was invited by Professor John O'Hagan on behalf of the School to speak at the Synge Theatre as part of the Grattan Lecture Series.

Minister Donohoe examined the 'Eurozone and the Permacrisis.' His address focused on how the Eurozone has fared in the era of the so called 'permacrisis', which he defines as various overlapping crises including Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine. He also examined European leadership, the Eurozone response to crises, the development of the euro area economic architecture, and assessed the outlook for the euro area.

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ECB Chief Economist Philip Lane speaks on Inflation



Agust  n B  n  trix & Philip Lane

The Department of Economics welcomed ECB Chief Economist and alumnus Philip Lane to the Jonathan Swift Theatre on March 6th, 2023. Philip Lane is an Irish economist who has been serving as a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank since 2019 and concurrently as ECB chief economist. He previously served as Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland from 2015 to 2019. Previously, he was the Professor of International Macroeconomics and Director of the Institute for International Integration Studies (IIIS) at Trinity College Dublin.

Philip provided in-depth analysis on post-covid inflation and hinted strongly at further rate hikes. These hints came to fruition ten days later when the ECB increased their three key interest rates by 50 basis points. Professor John O'Hagan was also instrumental in organising this lecture, which was well covered by media outlets.

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Inaugural John O'Hagan Grattan Scholarship Awarded



The Henry Grattan Statue on College Green

Established in 2012 to serve as a catalyst for attracting and inspiring the best and brightest postgraduate students from around the world, The Grattan Scholars programme has succeeded beyond all expectations. We are delighted to welcome the 22nd Grattan Scholar (and Inaugural John O'Hagan Grattan Scholar) to Trinity in 2022 – Elijah Kipkech Kipchumba.

Elijah's research interests and publications are broadly related to gender and labour economics and he has many years' experience working in development economics in Eastern Africa. Elijah obtained his BSc in Applied Statistics from Maseno University and his MSc in Quantitative Economics at Makerere University. He has worked as a research associate at BRAC International and Save the Children International. As a Grattan scholar, Elijah will be collaborating with his supervisor, Professor Selim Gulesci of the Department of Economics, a team of international researchers, and BRAC (an NGO) in Uganda to evaluate a new program that provides training in soft skills to female farmers.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Athena SWAN Awards Reception



Professor Lorraine Leeson, Dr Jemimah Bailey, Professor Gizem Arikan, Professor Paul O’Grady & Provost Linda Doyle

A reception was held in the Provost’s garden in June 2023 to celebrate Trinity Schools’ Athena Swan Award successes and the ongoing work across College contributing to gender equality and equality, diversity and inclusion.

The Athena Swan Charter is a framework which is used across the globe to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research. Established in 2005 to encourage and recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and

medicine (STEMM) employment, the Charter is now being used across the globe to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women.

Professors Gizem Arikan, Paul O’Grady, and Dr Jemimah Bailey were on hand to receive the award for the School. Trinity holds 18 bronze Athena SWAN awards, 14 of which were awarded between 2020 and 2022, meaning this is the first opportunity to celebrate these successes in person as a group.

Dermot McAleese TA Award Winners Honoured

The 2022/2023 winners of the Dermot McAleese TA Awards were honoured at a presentation in the TRiSS Seminar Room in May 2023. Professor McAleese, former Whately Professor of Political Economy and much-respected teacher within the School, attended the ceremony and spoke about his time at Trinity and the often-unrecognised importance of effective teaching assistants. The award recognises TA’s that are creative in delivering tutorials and stimulate critical thinking amongst students. Paul O’Grady led proceedings and the awards were presented by Undergraduate Director of Teaching and Learning Michelle D’Arcy. Senior Lecturer David Shepherd and Dean of Graduate Studies Martine Smith



Award winners Markéta Odlová (Political Science), Peter Maher (Philosophy), Dermot McAleese, Michael McRae (Economics) & Suri Li (Sociology)

also spoke at the event, which was well attended by School staff.

Liam Kneafsey wins Trinity Excellence in Teaching Award



Professors Liam Kneafsey, Brendan O’Connell, Yvonne Lynch, Jonathan Dukes & Provost Linda Doyle

The recipients of the Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards & School Awards for Teaching Excellence were announced by the Provost Dr Linda Doyle at a ceremony in the Provost’s House in June 2023. Professor Liam Kneafsey of the Department of Political Science won the award for the School.

Student Nomination:

‘When he gives a lecture, it feels like he is explaining something he cares about and wants you to understand too... Dr Kneafsey has helped me truly enjoy the study of Political Science, and I am sure many other students as well... Dr Kneafsey is undoubtedly the best lecturer I have had and has a clear love and understanding for the material he teaches’

The Trinity Excellence in Teaching Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate those who have made an outstanding contribution to the pursuit of teaching excellence. ‘Teaching excellence’ can be defined as achieving and sustaining outstanding quality of teaching and positive educational impact through the effective use of pedagogies that engage and enhance student learning. The prestige of the award reflects the value that Trinity places on promoting teaching as a scholarly activity and the importance placed on enriching the learning opportunities of its students.

Philosophy and Politics named in Top 100 Rankings



for research from various sources - including Government - and the ability of our talented community to respond during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This increased support enabled strong research outputs which are reflected in a significant improvement in Trinity’s performance in the Citations per Faculty metric. Trinity also, once again, performed well in the Academic Reputation metric. This is based on survey responses

The QS World Rankings named Philosophy and Politics in the Top 100 in their QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2023. Trinity College Dublin was ranked 81st in the world for 2024 and was named Ireland’s leading institution (subject rankings were not yet available for 2024 when this newsletter went to press). Trinity’s improved performance is based in part on an injection of funding

from international academics and indicates the high esteem in which Trinity researchers are held worldwide.

The QS rankings measure the performance of the world’s top 1,499 universities in 104 countries.

Trinity’s Dean of Research Dr Sinéad Ryan said

‘Researchers in Trinity have always produced excellent, impactful research of the highest standard that is recognised by their peers around the world. However, they do this with infrastructure and equipment that is crumbling and in a system that has been chronically underfunded for years.

While a good performance is always welcome, this year’s rankings highlight the need for more sustained government funding to keep Ireland’s universities internationally competitive and to continue nurturing talent, enabling discovery, and pushing the boundaries of human knowledge.’

Laura Muñoz Blanco Wins 2022 Young Economist Award



Laura Muñoz Blanco

Economics PhD candidate, Laura Muñoz Blanco, won the prestigious 2022 European Economic Association (EEA) Young Economist Award. The award, which recognises outstanding research by authors who are no more than three years past their PhD defence, was presented at the EEA Congress in Milan which took place from 22nd to 26th August.

Laura won the award for her research project: ‘Shifting Marriage Timing for Women: Natural disasters and Forced Displacement’, which was supervised by Professor Nicola Mastroiocco of the Department of Economics. The award committee consisted of Monica Costa Dias, Giacomo Ponzetto and Paolo Surico.

The paper studies what happens when natural disasters forcibly displace local communities. Large earthquakes deal a huge blow to the finances and economic circumstances of affected communities and can induce mass relocations. In communities where the marriage of a daughter carries a bride price, or where newly formed couples live with the bride’s family (matrilocal), the marrying of young daughters can be an important insurance mechanism against negative income shocks. It can also serve as a means of facilitating social integration in receiving communities when families lose their networks after relocation.

This award-winning study then shows novel evidence of the role of benefits in attenuating the importance of economic drivers of early marriage. Exploiting the introduction of unconditional cash transfers targeted at the poorest families, estimates show that financial transfers attenuate the impact of displacement precisely among families that face the strongest incentives to anticipate their daughters’ time of marriage due to the traditions they observe.

Harry Hartford Capstone Project Prize



Clockwise from top left: Tom Fleming (Economics), Ellen McHugh (Political Science), Yiming He (Sociology), Harry Hartford & Martin Emsens (Philosophy). Not pictured: Ronan Dunne (Economics)

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy was delighted to host the second annual Harry Hartford Capstone Project Awards virtually in October. The Awards were presented to the four best Capstone Projects in the Departments of Economics, Political Science, Sociology and Philosophy which focus on research applicable to public policy issues. The awards have been made possible due to the vision and generosity of Harry Hartford, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy alumnus (1982) and long-time supporter of the School.

The event was hosted by Professor Michelle D’Arcy, Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) and was attended by the award winners and their supervisors, Harry Hartford, the Head of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy and other representatives from within the School.

Trinity Monday 2023



Trinity College Dublin was founded as a corporation consisting of the Provost, the Fellows and the Scholars. Scholars are elected annually in various subjects on the result of an examination held in Trinity term. Scholarship or research achievement of a high order is the primary qualification for Fellowship, coupled with evidence of the candidate’s contribution to the academic life of the College and an effective record in teaching.

Traditionally, the election of new Fellows and Scholars is announced by the Provost on Trinity Monday (24 April 2023) at 10.00 a.m. from the steps of the Public Theatre. This year, three new Fellows were elected from the School:



Sharyn O’Halloran received a BA degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of California, San Diego. Professor O’Halloran then received her MA and PhD from the University of California, San Diego, and an MSc in Enterprise Risk Management from Columbia University. Professor O’Halloran’s work focuses on formal and quantitative methods and their application to politics, economics, and public policy.



Constantine Boussalis focuses on environmental politics and political communication. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University and has been a vital member of the University community since joining Trinity College Dublin in 2014.



Peter Stone received his BA from Pennsylvania State University and his MA and PhD from the University of Rochester. Professor Stone taught at Stanford University and held a Faculty Fellowship at Tulane University’s Center for Ethics and Public Affairs before coming to Trinity College Dublin. He works in political theory, and for many years has studied the role of random selection in politics.

School Welcomes Delegation from IMF



Chief of Mission Paul Mathieu, Professor Agustín S. Bénétrix, Deputy Chief of Mission Tumer Kapan, Marvin Suesse & Joe Kopecky

The Department of Economics welcomed a delegation from the IMF in September 2022 to present their findings from the Financial Sector Assessment Program. The FSAP is a financial stability assessment undertaken every five years that examines the risks facing the Irish financial sector. The IMF meets with the Central Bank, Department of Finance, and private sector participants to conduct stress tests.

Following publication of this work, the IMF engages with financial industry representatives, members of academia, and think tanks to explain their findings and recommendations, and discuss any questions or observations that may arise.

The paper highlighted the additional complexity due to Brexit and Ireland’s status as a European base for large financial groups. It also made recommendations for Irish bank’s resiliency, including additional supervisory resources and capacity and upskilling on new areas such as climate, non-bank lending, and Fintech.

[Read Here](#)

Professor Marvin Suesse added:

‘The presentation by the IMF delegation provided a hands-on opportunity for students to gain exposure to the policy analysis process at one of the most important institutions governing the modern world economy. I was very impressed with the cogent and critical questions asked by our students and the fruitful discussion this engendered.’

TIME Hosts Joint Conference in Tokyo



Michael King, Gaia Narciso & Carol Newman

Following three years of delay due to the pandemic, the Trinity Impact Evaluation Research Centre (TIME) co-hosted a conference on international development at the University of Tokyo on April 1st and 2nd 2023. The conference involved presentations from researchers from 16 countries from Asia, North America, and Europe, and was co-hosted by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Europe’s leading network of Economic Policy Researchers, and the Japanese Association of Development Research (JADE).

The event complemented the annual CEPR-TIME conference on development economics and represented the first venture outside of Europe to link with researchers from other regions.

Inaugural lecture of Sharyn O’Halloran



Professors Paul O’Grady, Gaia Narciso, Vice-Provost Orla Shiels, Sharyn O’Halloran, Provost Linda Doyle, Dean Gail McElroy & Peter Stone

The inaugural lecture of Sharyn O’Halloran took place on November 1st in the Robert Emmet Theatre. An inaugural lecture is a significant event in an academic staff member’s career. Inaugural lectures provide newly appointed Professors with the opportunity to showcase their research to the College community and members of the public. At Trinity College, inaugural lectures are a ceremonial occasion, which is why academic robes are worn by the Inaugural Professor and the rest of the platform party.

Professor Sharyn O’Halloran joined the School as Strategic Academic Leadership Initiative (SALI) Professor of Political Economy from Columbia University, where she served as the George Blumenthal Professor of Political Economy and Professor of International and Public Affairs. A political scientist and economist by training, O’Halloran has written extensively on issues related to the political economy of international trade and finance, regulation and institutional reform, economic growth and democratic transitions, and the political representation of minorities.

The lecture examined ‘How can Artificial Intelligence Improve Public Policy?’

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School meets with industry partners to develop CPD Programme

Members of the School's Continuing Professional Development Programme met with industry partners in May to discuss our CPD courses, which are designed to cater to the evolving needs of professionals seeking to upskill, gain new knowledge, or make a career change. Industry professionals had the opportunity to provide valuable feedback on the courses, which cover a range of topics related to Social Data Analytics and Behavioural Science.

Applied Behavioural Science

This course equips working professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the drivers of human behaviour and the necessary skills to apply these insights to enhance decision-making, engagement, and performance within their organisations. The course teaches students how knowledge of Behavioural Science theory and frameworks can be used to immediately add value to organisations.

Python for Social Data Science

This course aims to provide foundational knowledge of computer programming concepts and software engineering practices with a particular focus on working with data. The course reviews not only key programming concepts (such as algorithm and functions) but also how these abstract tools are integrated into modern design of workflow for data analysis. The course is beneficial both to those who have some experience with Python, other programming languages or statistical packages as well as complete beginners who are looking for ways of improving their workflow.

R for Social Data Science

Aimed at introducing participants to the R programming language, this course offers a powerful tool for statistical analysis that is open-source and cross-platform. It also aims to teach participants how to make sense of complex information generated from businesses, governments, NGOs, and policymakers.

Big Data, AI, & Ethics

This programme aims to equip working professionals with fundamental knowledge and skills in social data analysis while addressing the ethical considerations surrounding big data and artificial intelligence. On this module we will be asking questions such as:

- Do tech companies violate our right to privacy when they harvest our data through their products?
- Is it morally objectionable for them to use this data to nudge us into interacting more profitably with their platforms?
- What, if anything, should we do about this? Is government legislation appropriate?

Social Data Analysis

Focusing on quantitative methods, this course teaches participants how to conduct causal impact analysis using data. This course tries to open the learner's eyes on what a causal link is using real life examples (e.g., how to decide when a vaccine is effective?) and rigorous academic research (e.g., what is the return on taking one extra year of school?)

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Philosophy Across Borders



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In April, the Department of Philosophy embarked on an exciting new collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine.

The project, named Teaching Philosophy for Intercultural Dialogue, aims to promote knowledge sharing between the two institutions by sharing academic best practices and facilitating international student and staff mobility.

As part of this project, staff from Trinity's Department of Philosophy delivered a series of open online lectures to Philosophy students at

TSNUK. The lectures covered four key disciplines, including Medieval Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, Modern Logic, and Political Philosophy and consisted of four lectures per discipline delivered over two weeks in April.

Paul O'Grady, Professor in Philosophy and Head of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, was one of the lecturers involved in delivering the talks. Speaking after the series he said:

'This was a worthwhile and enriching project for both sides. It was a pleasure meeting fellow philosophers from Kyiv, hard to hear of the difficult circumstances they find themselves in and enjoyable to engage with their enthusiastic students'.

School welcomes new staff



[Diane Pelly](#), [Lisa Keenan](#), [Will Ratoff](#), [Laura Acosta-Gonzalez](#), [Ibrahim Kekec](#), [Martina Zanella](#) & [Iman Abboud](#) (not pictured: [Sharyn O'Halloran](#))

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy continues to grow, welcoming staff in all Departments in advance of the 22/23 academic year.

- Sharyn O'Halloran joined the School as the Strategic Academic Leadership Initiative (SALI) Professor of Political Economy from Columbia University.
- Diane Pelly joined the Department of Sociology as an Assistant Professor after completing her PhD at UCD.
- Lisa Keenan joined the Department of Political Science as an Assistant Professor. Lisa holds a PhD in Political Science and an MLitt in Economics, as well as a BA in Economics and Sociology from the School.
- Will Ratoff joined the Department of Philosophy as an Assistant Professor after a stint as a postdoctoral research associate at Dartmouth College. He leads the CPD course 'Big Data, AI, and Ethics'.
- Laura Acosta-Gonzalez joined the Department of Sociology as a Teaching Fellow. Laura is also a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University.
- Ibrahim Kekec joined the Department of Economics as a Teaching Fellow after completing a PhD from Michigan State University.
- Martina Zanella joined the Department of Economics as an Assistant Professor after completing her PhD from the London School of Economics.
- Eman Abboud joined the Department of Political Science as a Teaching Fellow, where she is also a PhD candidate.

Please join us in wishing all new staff the best of luck in their new roles.

Professor Carol Newman Chairs National Economic Dialogue



[Professor Carol Newman](#) with [Minister for Finance Michael McGrath](#), [Taoiseach Leo Varadkar](#) & [Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform Paschal Donohoe](#)

Professor Carol Newman chaired the National Economic Dialogue on Monday, June 12th at Dublin Castle. The National Economic Dialogue is the principal institutional forum for public consultation and discussion on the Budget. This annual stakeholder engagement event is hosted jointly by the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Professor Newman said:

'It was an honour to chair the 2023 National Economic Dialogue. The Dialogue allowed for an engaging discussion between government and key stakeholders, not only on the immediate short-term issues facing the economy, but also on how to prioritise and begin to address the medium to longer term structural challenges. This a key step in the annual budgetary cycle and sets the stage for continued dialogue and engagement on these crucial issues into the future.'

The Dialogue provides a deliberative forum for stakeholders to participate in an open and inclusive exchange on the competing economic and social priorities facing the government. Themes of this year's Dialogue included sustainability, housing, climate change, and maximising the impact of public spending. Professor (And College Bursar) Eleanor Denny also led a breakout group on charting a sustainable path towards achieving our national climate action objectives.

STUDENT REVIEWS

Student Economic Review
Launches 37th Edition



Top row, left to right: Constantine Iordanov, Evan Carron-Kee, Dónal Mangan & Tom Comer.

Bottom row, left to right: Claire Reynolds, Sanjana Pradheep, Bryony Hoyle & Rachel Kane.

On 11 April 2023, the launch of the 37th edition of the *Student Economic Review* took place in the Graduate Memorial Building. One of the oldest undergraduate journals in the world, founded in 1987, the *Student Economic Review* provides a platform to showcase the exceptional work being undertaken by Trinity’s Economics students who seek to explore and challenge conventional economic wisdom and to apply economic theories in new ways and to new areas.

Professor Agustín Bénétrix, Head of the Department of Economics, opened the launch with a discussion of the importance of the SER in Trinity and the commitment from the Department to support this important initiative. The Launch also featured speeches from SER Committee members and two guest speakers - Dr Ivan Pastine and Dr Sarah Parlane - from UCD.

Oisín McConway was awarded Best Overall Essay for his outstanding difference-in-differences paper looking at the effect of institutional transition on the patent rate in Alsace-Lorraine. Cian Hennigan was awarded the Best Applied Economics Essay for his econometric investigation into the effect on income inequality on economic growth in the US, and Conal Gillespie received the Best Fresher Essay Prize for his examination of the ‘Golden Age’ of prosperity in Western Europe following World War II.

Student Economic Review and
Philosophical Society host Yale
in ‘Big Tech’ Debate



Naomi Panovka

Trinity’s *Student Economic Review* and the University Philosophical Society hosted the Yale Debate Association in February in the Graduates Memorial Building (GMB). The Phil, purportedly the world’s oldest debating society, and Yale considered the motion ‘This House Would Break Up Big Tech’. The Phil were on the proposition bench.

One speaker who stood out was Visiting Political Science student Naomi Panovka. She was rewarded with a particularly loud round of applause from the chamber at the end of her speech, impassioned engagement throughout, and finally, best speaker at the end of the night. She responded to Yale’s points of information such as ‘you can literally choose not to use Facebook’ with an eloquent and profound directness, and along with the Trinity debate team, used data cohesively, and with delineated explanation.

Naomi won the inaugural ‘John O’Hagan Medal and Prize’, which rewards the best speaker at the annual debate series. This prize was set up to commemorate John O’Hagan’s contributions to College. John has worked in Trinity since 1970 and was appointed Professor of Economics in 2005 (Professor Emeritus from October 2016) and is a patron of the SER. He has been heavily involved with the SER over the years. Professor O’Hagan was present on the night to present the medal.

First Trinity Student
Philosophical Review launched



Professor John Divers, Head of the Department of Philosophy & Odran Farrell, Final Year PPES student and Editor-in-Chief of the *TSPR*.

The inaugural edition of the *Trinity Student Philosophical Review (TSPR)* was launched at the start of May 2023. The *TSPR* is a student run publication that aims to highlight the highest quality undergraduate essays in philosophy and provide a platform for emerging scholars to showcase their work.

Speaking after the launch, Professor John Divers, Head of the Department of Philosophy, commended the students on their accomplishment:

‘This is a wonderful achievement by our students. Odran approached me back in the Autumn about publishing a review filled with high quality essays, in hard copy and online, within six months. I was happy to advise and wanted to support the project in any way I could.’

‘By the standards of academic publishing, the ambition seemed (to me) beyond feasible. But I was wrong. Odran and his team have delivered exactly what they envisaged. I sincerely hope that many further volumes of TSPR will be produced by resourceful, dedicated, talented and passionate final year students of Philosophy at Trinity.’

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33rd Edition of the Social and
Political Review launched



Senator Lynn Ruane

The latest edition of the *Social and Political Review* was launched on April 4th, 2023, in the College Historical Society in the Graduates Memorial Building. They were joined by guest speakers Lynn Ruane, a Senator and social justice advocate, and Professor Stephen Mennell, the Professor Emeritus of Sociology at UCD.

Founded in 1990, the *Social and Political Review* was established to offer a platform to Trinity’s best students in the disciplines of sociology and political science to publish their work. The mission of the *SPR* is to foster social and political discourse and discussion. The Director is Dr Elaine Moriarty of the Department of Sociology.

The edition starts with a foreword by Editor-in-Chief Muireann Carton, detailing various sociological issues facing the world at the moment. The essays in this volume discuss a diverse range of topics. There is new research on the factors driving expat voter turnout, and an exploratory investigation into the role of personality traits in educational inequality. There are theoretically engaged analyses of the complexity of modern portrayals of Irish masculinity, and of the co-optation of Irish student unions. There is a new theoretical understanding of the relationship between colonialism and ethnic conflict developed, and there is an examination of the place of NGOs in post-development practices.

Evan Carron-Kee, incoming Editor in Chief of the Social Political Review, said:

‘The Social and Political Review encourages students to engage with and contribute to the literature they spend so long studying, making it a vital part of the sociology and political science learning experience at Trinity. The launch event is the highlight of the SPR’s year, where the production team, the editorial team, faculty members, special guests, interested members of the college community, and most importantly, the contributors, meet to celebrate the publication of the journal.’

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POSTGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

New Postgraduate Degrees



The School is always evolving with the world and the workplace to meet the demand for knowledge in Social Sciences and Philosophy. 2024 sees the introduction of a new MSc in Applied Social Data Science and a second intake for our MSc in Economic Policy.

Applied Social Data Science (MSc/PG Dip)

Starting this September, this is a one-year, full-time programme based in Political Science which introduces students to fundamentals in quantitative social science research methods and state-of-the-art analytic approaches from the fields of statistics and machine learning. Graduates of the course will acquire a rich repertoire of social scientific research design skills – grounded in the scientific method and data analytic methods that are widely sought after in the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

MSc in Economic Policy

Now in its second year, this is a two-year part-time postgraduate programme designed to equip graduates, who do not necessarily have a background in Economics, with the skills to engage with evidenced based policy making. This is a jointly delivered programme between the Department of Economics at Trinity College Dublin and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). This is the only Masters programme in Ireland which has been specifically designed for those working in the public sector and/or policy design and evaluation who do not have a strong background in Economics to allow them to better engage with international and national economic research with relevance for Irish policy formation.

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