



PhD Scholarship in Sociology:

Explaining the 'Migrant Gap' Among Children in Ireland

Post specification

Post Title:	PhD Scholarship in Sociology
Post Status:	48 months , Full-time
Starting Date:	September 2018 (ideal start, but with degree of flexibility)
Department/Faculty:	Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Reports to:	Dr Jan Skopek; Prof. Richard Layte
Location:	Trinity College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland)
Salary:	PhD Student. Net monthly payment of about 1700 € for the total period of 48 months
Closing Date:	Monday 16th April 2018

Post Summary

Ireland's migrant population has grown quickly in both absolute and relative terms. From 224k in 2002, the migrant population grew quickly peaking at almost 545k in 2011 before falling back during the economic recession. According to the latest (2016) Census, non-Irish nationals now make up 11.6 per cent of the total population, a slight decline from 12.2 per cent in 2011 (CSO, 2017). There has also been a marked increase in the numbers of immigrant origin children and young people attending Irish primary and second-level schools. In 2016, non-Irish children made up 11 per cent of students in primary schools and 12 per cent in second-level schools (Darmody 2018). Evidence suggests that the children of migrants to Ireland are not randomly distributed across Irish schools and local areas and this has given rise to concerns about the emerging segregation of migrant children in schools and the possible consequences of this. Initial evidence on 9 year old children from the Growing Up in Ireland Study (GUI) raises concerns that a 'migrant gap' may be emerging with the children of migrant parents achieving lower educational results. This presents something of a paradox as foreign-born mothers in Ireland are educated to a higher level than native-born mothers, although levels of attainment vary by national group. Foreign-born parents also tend to have high educational expectations for their children. More worryingly, data also suggest that migrant children may be experiencing higher levels of social isolation as they report lower numbers of friendships at nine years of age than native children and that they feel more negative on dimensions such as popularity, happiness and body image.

The availability of longitudinal data on a younger cohort of 11,134 children born in 2007 in the GUI study provides an ideal opportunity to study the situation of the children of migrants to Ireland and the factors that account for the emergence of any 'migrant gap'. The project will examine how

family and child characteristics interact with institutional factors such as migrant composition of the child's school as well as the educational and religious ethos of the school.

Candidates must have a master's level qualification in sociology, economics, psychology, education or a cognate field and have advanced training in statistical analysis including experience using social surveys. We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic PhD candidate who would like to receive professional training that will provide the foundations for a career in sociology. Informal enquiries are welcome and can be made directly to Prof. Richard Layte (layter@tcd.ie) or Dr Jan Skopek (skopeki@tcd.ie).

Standard duties of the post

- Critical, systematic and analytical review of relevant literature for the project;
- Writing academic pieces (articles/dissertation chapters) in English
- Conducting empirical research using statistical methods with longitudinal data
- Actively writing and submitting research papers for publication and contributing to joint projects or related submissions with the PhD supervisor/s;
- Organising and attending meetings, workshops and conferences;
- Present and disseminate academic work in front of specialised or general audiences

Person Specification

Qualifications

- MA, MSc or MPhil in Sociology, Population Studies, Economics, Psychology, Social Policy, Education or in any cognate fields (thesis should be either defended or submitted)

Essential Research skills

- excellent analytical skills;
- high levels of quantitative methods for a start a PhD in quantitative social science;
- basic (preferable solid) knowledge on the literatures of family, social demography or social inequality research;
- experience in the management and analysis of micro-level quantitative data (preferably longitudinal data also);
- advanced technical skills in Stata or comparable statistical packages or willingness and competence to acquire such skills in a short amount of time;
- solid statistical training or knowledge in advanced multivariate statistical methods, and preferably high competence in longitudinal research design

Other essential skills

- excellent written and verbal communication skills in English;
- willingness to contribute proactively on the development of the project;
- strong motivation to publish in academic journals;
- good organisational skills;
- ability to work effectively in a team.
- interpersonal and relational skills

The Department of Sociology

Sociology is a member of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, one of 24 Schools within Trinity College. The Department's principal research clusters are: Employment, education and stratification; Migration, integration and identities; Power, conflict and resistance; Social network analysis and digitalisation. The Department shows a great variety of international sociologists with a high profile, becoming increasingly international, and combining the use of advanced quantitative methods applied to real-world data with the use of sophisticated and diverse qualitative methodologies. Our research links to several College priority research themes: 'International Integration' centred within Trinity Research in Social Science (TRISS), 'Identities in Transformation', within the Trinity Long Room Hub (TLRH), and 'Inclusive Society'. The Department has a long-standing collaboration with one of Ireland's premier research institutes, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Members of the Department have successfully obtained NORFACE or H2020 funding.

The Department has an active postgraduate programme. It is home to an MSc in Comparative Social Change, delivered jointly with University College Dublin, as well as an MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict. It has a structured PhD programme combining advanced methodological training with transferable skills workshops. There are over 20 PhD students and our doctoral graduates have positions in academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Further information on the Department of Sociology is available at: www.tcd.ie/sociology

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy was formed in 2005 and comprises the Departments of Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology, together with the Policy Institute. With over 45 full-time academic staff, the School has an international reputation in research and is committed to the dissemination of its knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the wider community, with the Policy Institute providing an important channel for policy analysis and evaluation. The School is home to the unique undergraduate degree in PPES (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology). It also contributes to undergraduate degrees in Business, Economic and Social Studies (this includes Political Science and Sociology), Philosophy, History and Political Science, Philosophy and Political Science, Law and Political Science, Geography and Political Science, Sociology and Social Policy, European Studies and to the TSM programmes in Economics, Philosophy and Sociology. Over 100 graduate students are conducting research across the four disciplines.

Further information on the School is available at: www.tcd.ie/ssp

About The Grattan Scholars

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy has developed a prestigious scholarship programme - The Grattan Scholars - with the aim of advancing high-quality social science research and teaching in Trinity. Scholarships are awarded to PhD students of outstanding talent from around the world, with sixteen scholarships having been awarded since the programme was established in 2012.

Each scholarship is fully-funded, including fees and an annual stipend of €20,000 for four years. Students will gain invaluable research and teaching experience, preparing them to take their place as academic leaders of the future.

The Grattan Scholars programme supports exceptional PhD students who have the potential to become future academic leaders and influential voices for social and economic development.

Grattan Scholars are chosen not only for their academic achievements, but also for their commitment to teaching and ambition to understand and improve society through their research and education. Grattan Scholars also play a vital role in delivering high-quality and engaging teaching enriching the learning experience of our undergraduate students.

The Grattan Scholars programme, which honours the Irish statesman Henry Grattan a celebrated graduate of Trinity College, has been established with the generous support of Trinity's alumni and friends.

Further information is available at: www.tcd.ie/ssp/grattan-scholars

Trinity College Dublin

Founded in 1592, Trinity College is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread across 47 acres in Dublin's city centre, Trinity's 17,000-strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity's campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland's leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is known for intellectual rigour, excellence, interdisciplinary approach, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new. Trinity accounts for one-fifth of all spin-out companies from Irish higher education institutions, helping to turn Ireland into an innovation-intensive, high-productivity economy. That culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of our campus as we help shape the next generation of job creators.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit:

- a motivation letter clearly indicating how their profile and skills fit the requirements of the job position (max. 2 pages);
- a full curriculum vitae
- the names and contact details of 2 referees (with email addresses);
- at least one example of a written piece (expected in English) that shows the analytical and writing skills of the candidate in a social science discipline.
- via email to **Dr Jan Skopek** (skopekj@tcd.ie) and **Prof. Richard Layte** (layter@tcd.ie) by the **16th April 2018**.

