CONFERENCE

RELIGION IN IRISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

SATURDAY, 26TH MAY, 2018
NEILL LECTURE THEATRE, TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB
9.00  Registration, tea and coffee available

Keynote Lecture
Keynote Lecture by Professor Thorsten Knauth
University Duisburg-Essen

10.00  Paper Session
1.  James Nelson, Queens University Belfast
2.  Karl Kitching, University College Cork
3.  Daniel Faas, Trinity College Dublin

13.00  Lunch

14.00  Curriculum Panel
1.  Jones Irwin, Dublin City University
2.  Colm Ó Cadhain, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
3.  Fionnuala Ward, Educate Together
4.  Cora O’Farrell, Dublin City University

15.30  Closing Discussion

*This event is free of charge
RELIGION IN IRISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Ireland has seen rapid social change in recent years. Successive Ministers have outlined plans to address the mismatch between a largely denominational (Catholic) primary education system, and increasing ethno-cultural and religious diversity. Considering these changes, there is now a variety of beliefs among children in Irish schools, yet over 95 per cent of primary schools are denominational. Schools have a crucial role to play in terms of social integration and inclusion.

This one-day conference is organised jointly by the Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin and the special interest group “Belief Systems, Ethics and Philosophy in Education” of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI).

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

• Daniel Faas, Associate Professor, Trinity College Dublin
• Merike Darmody, Research Officer, Economic and Social Research Institute
• Patrick Sullivan, Director, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
Professor Thorsten Knauth

Biography

Thorsten Knauth is Professor for Religious Education at the Institute for Protestant Theology, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. He is also Head of the Centre for Interreligious Learning at the Institute (AiL). He was educated as a Teacher for Religion and German Literature and Language before he started his PhD on the topic of “Religious Education and Dialogue” which he finished at the University of Hamburg in 1995. From 1996 - 2002 he worked as Assistant Professor for Religious Education in Hamburg and finished his Habilitation on “Problem-oriented religious education” in 2001. Between 2002 and 2005 he worked on Professorships in Hamburg, Karlsruhe and Cologne, before he was involved as Co-Project-Leader and Research Manager in the European Research Project “Religion in Education: A Contribution to Dialogue or a Factor of Conflict in Transforming Societies of European Countries” (REDCo). In 2008 he accepted a call on the Professorship for Religious Education at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Knauth’s research interests are directed to qualitative empirical research in RE, dialogical and interreligious approaches to RE and research on the intersectionality of religions, gender and social background.
**James Nelson**

James is a lecturer in Education in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen’s University Belfast. He is currently Deputy Director of the PGCE programme and coordinator of the Masters in Education Studies as well as an Associate Fellow of the George Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. His research interests include religious education, shared education and teacher education. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Irish Centre for Religious Education.

**Karl Kitching**

Karl Kitching is a lecturer in Education and currently seconded as Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in University College Cork. His research in the fields of education, childhood and youth focus on issues of racism, gender and sexuality, and beliefs. His recent work includes the book The Politics of Compulsive Education: Racism and Learner-Citizenship (Routledge 2014). He is currently writing a book based on the intergenerational study ‘Making Communion: Disappearing and Emerging Forms of Childhood in Ireland.’ This project assesses children’s and adults experiences of First Holy Communion and asks what the practice and politics of ‘Communion’ in education, media and consumer domains tell us about childhood and schooling in contemporary Ireland.
Daniel Faas

Daniel Faas is Associate Professor in Sociology, Founding Director of the MSc in Comparative Social Change and Member of the University Council at Trinity College Dublin. He is an elected Fellow of Trinity College Dublin (2015), winner of the Provost’s Teaching Award (2012) and recipient of the Global Engagement Award (2016). His research interests are in the sociology of migration with specific emphasis on the intersection of migration and education. His work focuses on youth identities in relation to immigrant integration, national identity, multiculturalism and social cohesion, religion and schooling in Ireland and Europe, curriculum design and development, as well as comparative case study methodologies. He has published widely on these topics in high-impact peer-reviewed international journals, as well as a sole-authored monograph.

Jones Irwin

Jones Irwin is Associate Professor in Philosophy and Education at the Institute of Education, Dublin City University. He is also (since 2014) Project Officer with NCCA on the Goodness Me, Goodness You! Curriculum. He has written widely on philosophy of education and values education, including a monograph on Paulo Freire. His next book is entitled Religion After the Death of God (Taylor and Francis/Ashgate, London 2018). He is Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life to University of Leeds in 2018.
Colm Ó Cadhain

Colm is an Education Officer with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) with a particular responsibility for Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics for primary schools. Previously, he taught in a large urban junior primary in Lucan where he undertook a Masters in Education. He has also taught abroad, having spent some time teaching English in a French university. While interested in all areas of education he has a particular interest in inclusive education and the place of the child’s voice. He is currently completing a doctorate in Ethical Education in DCU Institute of Education.

Fionnuala Ward

Fionnuala Ward is Primary Education Officer with Educate Together. Fionnuala is a primary teacher and has a Masters in Equality Studies from UCD. She co-ordinates courses on Educate Together and the Learn Together Ethical Education Curriculum in the Colleges of Education as well as CPD opportunities for teachers in the network such as EPV-approved Summer Courses and Educate Together’s annual Ethical Education Conference.
Cora O’Farrell

Cora is a lecturer in Religious Education at Dublin City University. She also teaches on the Certificate in Religious Studies programme. Cora graduated from Coláiste Mhuire, Marino in 1987 and worked in three different primary schools in Dublin serving as a class teacher, learning support teacher and Home School Community Liaison coordinator. During that time she contributed to the design and delivery of a number of continuing professional development programmes provided by the DES, INTO and Drumcondra Education Centre. Cora’s research interests include Religious Education, Practical Theology and Children’s Spirituality. She has a passion for Montessori inspired forms of Religious Education and has undertaken training in both Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (levels 1 and 2) and Godly Play.