

# **IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION**

## **E-NEWSLETTER**

### **ISSUE 30, February 2014**

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) e-newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year and highlights upcoming conferences, events, publications and other developments in the broad social policy area. Contact details are included below.

### **CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE**

- 1. ISPA News**
  
- 2. Upcoming Events**
  
- 3. Recent publications**
  
- 4. Careers in Social Policy**
  
- 5. Contacting the ISPA Newsletter**
  
- 6. Membership of ISPA**
  
- 7. ISPA History and Committee members**
  
- 8. Joining/Leaving the ISPA Mailing List**

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## 1. ISPA NEWS

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> e-Newsletter of the Irish Social Policy Association. There will be four e-newsletters throughout the year. The following are the scheduled dates which you will receive your copy via email:

Mid-September

Mid-November

Mid-February

Mid-May

The ISPA is planning to hold a Spring Seminar over the coming weeks. Details are currently being finalised, so be sure to check out [www.ispa.ie](http://www.ispa.ie) for any updates.

**Queries regarding the newsletter, any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. UPCOMING CONFERENCES

8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL GERONTOLOGY

**Theme:** Meaning and Culture(s): Exploring the life course

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Venue:** NUI Galway

**Other Details:** Please see <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences> for further details

## EDUCATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Imagining and innovating for sustainable futures – education in challenging times

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Venue:** Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esai.ie](http://www.esai.ie) for further details

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NERI LABOUR MARKET CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH UCC SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014

**Venue:** UCC School of Economics, UCC, Cork city /

**Call for Papers:** Presentations from researchers, academics, and labour market practitioners are invited for this forthcoming conference. Those interested should submit a title and brief abstract (max 200 words) to [rori.ofarrell@NERInstitute.net](mailto:rori.ofarrell@NERInstitute.net). The submission deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. A keynote lecture will be given by Pádraig Dalton, Director General of the CSO. Proposed topics include: Employment and Unemployment; Earnings and Labour Costs; Labour Market Institutions (Minimum wages and collective bargaining); Labour Market Transitions, Migration and Gender; Pensions and Pensions Policy.

**Other Details:** Please see [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net) for further details

## 3<sup>rd</sup> BIENNIAL IRISH SEXUALITY STUDIES CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Self, selves and sexualities

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Venue:** Dublin City University

**Other Details:** Please see <http://www.dcusexualitystudiesconference.com> for further details.

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

**Theme:** What's working for young people?

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Venue:** Chartered Accountants House, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.whatsworkingforyoungpeople.org](http://www.whatsworkingforyoungpeople.org) for further details

## DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Citizen Engagement – Local Government by Local People

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

**Venue:** Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie) for further details

## GROWING UP IN IRELAND DATA WORKSHOP

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's quay, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) for further details

## THE Y FACTOR/ USI JOINT CONFERENCE

**Theme:** GENCON 2014: First national student conference on gender

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Venue:** NUI Galway

**Other Details:** Please see [www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie) for further details

- **UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES**

NEVIN	ECONOMIC	RESEARCH	INSTITUTE	SEMINARS
<b>Theme:</b>	The Irish Labour Market	Since the	Recession	
<b>Speaker:</b>	Rory O'Farrell		(NERI)	
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> March	2014,	4pm	
<b>Venue:</b>	INTO Learning Centre,	38 Parnell Square,	Dublin	1

**Other Details:** Please see [www.nerininstitute.net/events](http://www.nerininstitute.net/events) for further details

SAFE IRELAND, EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY, NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND RAPE-CRISIS NETWORK JOINT SEMINAR

**Theme:** Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 10am - 1pm

**Venue:** Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please contact SAFE Ireland on (0906) 479078 or email [info@safeireland.ie](mailto:info@safeireland.ie) for further details

SOCIAL SCIENCES CONNEXIONS: SPRING SERIES LUNCHTIME TALKS

**Theme:** Research, Publishing & Ethics: Journeys in an Uncertain Terrain

**Speaker:** Dr. Frank Houghton - HEALR - Health & Social Research Group

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 1pm

**Theme:** Do the Irish Stare at the Sun? Research and Conversations on Grief and Death

**Speaker:** Jennifer Moran Stritch - Loss & Grief Research Group

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 1pm

**Theme:** Genders and sexualities: effecting change in an Irish context

Lisa Scott - Genders & Sexualities Research Group

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 1pm

**Other Details:** The Spring Series lectures take place in the Executive Boardroom at Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Campus. For further information please contact [jennifer.stritch@lit.ie](mailto:jennifer.stritch@lit.ie) or call 061-293-488.

FOCUS IRELAND AND THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY, TCD  
MONTHLY LUNCHTIME TALKS

**Theme:** Homelessness, Ageing and Dying

**Speaker:** Dr Kathy Walsh

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 1 pm.

**Venue:** Focus Ireland, The Chapel, George's Hill, Halston Street, Dublin 7

**Other Details:** Please see [www.focusireland.ie](http://www.focusireland.ie) for further details

ESRI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

**Theme:** How Nord Pool works and its relevance to the Irish system

**Speaker:** Odd Håkon Hoelsæter

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 1 pm.

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) for further details

**Theme:** The Link Between The Early Life Environment and Allostatic Load: Evidence Of Biological Embedding Over The Lifecourse

**Speaker:** [Dr Michelle Kelly-Irving](#), The French Medical & Health Research Institute/Université Toulouse III

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 1 pm.

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) for further details

NUIM DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

**Theme:** Aid, Social Services and Conflict Dynamics: A Comparative Analysis

**Speaker:** Dr Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 4.30pm

**Venue:** Anthropology Seminar Room, Rowan House, NUIM Maynooth

**Other Details:** Please Contact: [anthropology.office@nuim.ie](mailto:anthropology.office@nuim.ie) or call 01 708 3984 for further details

- **UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS/ EVENTS**

8<sup>th</sup> AONTAS ADULT LEARNERS' FESTIVAL

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

**Other Details:** From Kerry to Kildare, Longford to Louth and Waterford to Wicklow, the momentum is building for the 2014 festival with hundreds of events being organised nationwide. The events are being held by a range of providers including libraries, Education and Training Boards, community groups, museums, galleries and private businesses. Events include talks, tours and taster classes, to name just a few and all of the events are free. These events will provide people with an opportunity to explore some of the great learning opportunities that are available in their local area. So keep an eye out for all the wonderful learning opportunities coming your way and find an event near you on their website [www.adultlearnersfestival.com](http://www.adultlearnersfestival.com).

**If you have a submission or suggestion on any upcoming events, seminars, presentations, launches or conferences and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

### 3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Collins, M.L. (2014) *Household income distribution in the Republic of Ireland*. NERI Research Brief, (no.9) A Pdf copy of this publication is available to download from [www.neriinstitute.net](http://www.neriinstitute.net)

- O'Farrell, R. (2013) *The Irish Labour Market since the Recession: Lifting the Veil on Long Term Trends*, NERI Working Paper no.7. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- Nevin Economic Research Institute (2013) *Quarterly Economic Observer–Winter 2013*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- Nevin Economic Research Institute (2013) *Quarterly Economic Facts –Winter 2013*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- Disability Federation of Ireland (2014) *Access to life: Personal assistant services in Ireland and independent living by people with physical and sensory disabilities*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie)
- TILDA (2014) *The over 50's in a changing Ireland: Economic circumstances, health and well-being*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.tcd.ie/tilda](http://www.tcd.ie/tilda)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- [Activity in Acute Public Hospitals in Ireland, 2012 Annual Report](#)  
Health Research and Information Division, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 49.
- [Keeping Them in the Game: Taking Up and Dropping Out of Sport and Exercise in Ireland](#) .  
Lunn, P., Kelly, E., Fitzpatrick, N., ESRI Research Series No. 33.
- [Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2013](#). Duffy, D., FitzGerald, J., Timoney, K., Byrne, D., ESRI Forecasting Series.
- [Social Transfers and Poverty Alleviation in Ireland, 2004-2011](#). Watson, D., Maître, B., Dublin: ESRI and Department of Social Protection.

For details on any of the above ESRI publications and a comprehensive list of all recent ESRI publications please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

#### UPCOMING/RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE POLICY PRESS (UK)

- *World Report 2014: Events of 2013* by Human Rights Watch. This is the global rights watchdog's flagship 24th annual review of global trends and news in human rights. An invaluable resource for journalists, diplomats, and citizens, it features not only incisive country surveys but also hard-hitting essays highlighting key human rights issues and striking photo essays by award-winning photographers.
- [Changing children's services: Working and learning together, 2e](#) by [Pam Foley](#) and [Andy Rixon](#). Changing children's services: working and learning together focuses on the on-going and fundamental changes to children's services across the U.K. in the context of the drive towards increasingly integrated ways of working. The new edition of this bestselling textbook critically examines the potential and reality of closer 'working together' and asks whether such new ways of working will be able to respond more effectively to the needs and aspirations of children and their families.

[Foundations for youth justice: Positive approaches to practice](#) by Anne Robinson. This exciting new book outlines the state of practice now in flux within structures created by New Labour but moving in a different direction under the Coalition Government. It explores opportunities for a fresh orientation that places young people at the centre and works collaboratively to nurture strengths, competences and capital.

Further details on the above publications are available from [www.policypress.org.uk](http://www.policypress.org.uk)

**If you wish to have a recently published book/paper listed in this section of future newsletters please e-mail details formatted as above to [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

#### **4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY**

##### TASC, POLICY ANALYST

TASC has an exciting opportunity for a dynamic professional to fill a vacancy in our core team at our Dublin city centre office. He or she will be responsible for analysing and advising on public policy from an economic perspective, including the quantitative analysis of economic inequality. A postgraduate qualification and 3+ years' work experience required, as well as a highly developed ability to communicate and to advocate proposals that would reduce inequality.

Remuneration (c.45K) commensurate with experience. For detailed job specifications and application form, see [www.tascnet.ie](http://www.tascnet.ie)

All applications should be made using the Application Form on TASC's website and submitted by 5pm, Friday 28th February.

Save and email, or print and post, the application form to TASC, Castleriver House, 14-15 Parliament Street, Dublin 2, [contact@tascnet.ie](mailto:contact@tascnet.ie)



## CANCER RESEARCH OFFICER, IRISH CANCER SOCIETY

The Irish Cancer Society has funded cancer research since its establishment more than 50 years ago. Continued support for cancer research is integral to achieving our vision of a future without cancer. One of our strategic goals is to lead excellent, collaborative cancer research. The role of Cancer Research Officer is central to achieving this goal by; engaging with senior researchers in the development of collaborative initiatives and programmes; developing a governance structure to ensure maximum efficiency and collaboration between Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centres; and developing strong partnerships with research organisations both within Ireland and abroad.

### QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE:

- Educated to PhD level in a science-related discipline.
- Minimum of three years' experience in a similar role, ideally with experience of managing large-scale research grants.
- Good knowledge of research environment including funding procedures, hospital and university structures.
- Experience in interpreting highly technical and scientific material.

### PERSON SPECIFICATION:

- High level of organisational ability, accuracy and attention to detail.
- Ability to work on own initiative and to meet deadlines.
- Ability to cope with ambiguity and change and maintain high level of professionalism when working under pressure.
- Ability to manage competing priorities.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.
- Excellent writing and editing skills, ability to draft and edit reports.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with proven ability to communicate and liaise diplomatically at all levels.
- Possess the highest degree of integrity and confidentiality at all times.
- Highly computer literate, with considerable experience in Microsoft Office suite, with a particular emphasis on Excel.

HOW TO APPLY: If you are interested in applying for this position, please send curriculum vitae and cover letter including current remuneration package to: Aoife Foley, HR Assistant, Irish Cancer Society, 43/45 Northumberland Rd., Dublin 4. Please see [www.cancer.ie](http://www.cancer.ie) for further details. The closing date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

## CAMPAIGNS OFFICER, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

The primary role of the My Body My Rights (MBMR) Campaigns Officer (maternity cover) will be to deliver the comprehensive strategy for Amnesty International Ireland including but not limited advocacy, lobbying, mobilisation, outreach and capacity building of members. The strategy will have already been developed by the existing post holder but refinement may be necessary as the campaign progresses.

The MBMR Campaigns Officer has primary responsibility for leading in the development and implementation of the MBMR campaign including the identification of goals, planning of tactics, building relationships with partner organisations, liaising with the relevant teams in the International Secretariat, carrying out high level and other forms of lobbying as required, monitoring and evaluation and report writing.

Ideally, the successful candidate will have:

- Demonstrated relevant experience in social justice campaigning;
- Experience and knowledge of NGOs and human rights/social justice campaigning environment in general;
- Knowledge and support of Amnesty International's mission;
- Organisational skills: ability to organise, prioritise and plan a demanding workload;
- Ability to think strategically and work within a team context;
- Communication skills: Good writing skills with the ability to edit/summarize documents and make campaigning materials "user friendly", with experience writing for websites an advantage;
- Interpersonal skills: Ability to get on with a wide range of people at all levels of the organisation, including members of groups and the public;
- Administrative skills and computer literacy including Microsoft Office and the internet;
- Flexibility: some weekend and evening work is required.

The salary for this full-time temporary maternity leave cover contract of 35 hours per week is approximately €31,000 per annum pro rata, depending upon experience.

Applicants are required to complete the Amnesty International application form and forward it to Agata Senkara, Human Resources Manager, at [positions@amnesty.ie](mailto:positions@amnesty.ie).

## ECONOMISTS, ESRI

Research Officer(s) and Research Analyst(s): The Institute undertakes a major programme of research on Taxation, Welfare and Pensions based mainly on SWITCH, the ESRI tax-benefit model. The scope of the programme is broad, dealing with the cost, distributional and incentive implications of alternative reforms to tax, welfare and pension policy and identifying the impact of recent budgetary policies. Results are published and disseminated in both academic and policy-related fora.

Applications are invited for positions at Research Officer and Research Analyst levels to work on the microeconomic analysis of public policy. Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to a variety of projects including exploration of options for future tax and welfare policies, measurement of financial incentives to work, and the analysis of Irish tax and welfare policies in an EU context. Support for users of the model within government departments is part of the remit. There will also be opportunities for the successful candidates to contribute to the development of new research projects and to other areas of Institute research, in line with their skills and funding opportunities.

Candidates should have a strong background in public economics and the labour market, a facility for the construction and analysis of complex datasets, a firm understanding of how tax-benefit models operate, and the skills to contribute independently to research output in the areas of taxation, welfare and pensions. Excellent quantitative skills are required, together with interest and skills in the analysis of public policy issues.

#### Qualifications and Experience

- a relevant Ph.D. or equivalent for the Research Officer level
- relevant primary and postgraduate qualifications in economics for the Research Analyst level
- excellent technical skills (SAS programming skills would be an advantage)
- relevant experience in analysing large scale surveys
- strong skills in writing, presentation and communications
- proven ability to work effectively as part of a team and to deliver outputs to tight deadlines
- flexibility and capacity to contribute to other areas of ESRI research

The appointees will also hold adjunct positions at Trinity College Dublin.

The application form is available to download below and must be submitted, along with a current CV and covering letter, to [jobs@esri.ie](mailto:jobs@esri.ie) by 5pm on Friday 7 March 2014.

#### GENERAL CAREERS INFORMATION

The following websites are a good source of information on career opportunities in the social policy and research/social policy related area:

[www.activelink.ie/ce](http://www.activelink.ie/ce)

[www.publicjobs.ie/ce](http://www.publicjobs.ie/ce)

[www.irishjobs.ie](http://www.irishjobs.ie)

Also, many of the main third level institutions offer a wide range of social policy and research opportunities. We hope that future editions of the ISPA e-Newsletter will contain further lists of current vacancies in the field of social policy.

**If you have a submission or suggestion on any current vacancies and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

## 5. CONTACTING THE ISPA

The following are the contact details of the association. We strongly encourage communication by e-mail.

ISPA Secretary Lorna Roe: [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie)

Newsletter: [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie)

Treasurer: [treasurer@ispa.ie](mailto:treasurer@ispa.ie)

**PLEASE NOTE** that all submissions, suggestions, events and job vacancies should be sent to the [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) address. The closing date for receipt of submissions for the next issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

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## 6. MEMBERSHIP OF ISPA

If you or your organisation would like to become a member of ISPA, please complete the [membership registration form](#) (return address on the document). Alternatively, contact the ISPA secretary at [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie)

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## **7. ISPA HISTORY AND CURRENT COMMITTEE**

The Irish Social Policy Association, which was established in 1997, aims to provide a forum for the analysis, discussion and development of social policy in Ireland, North and South. The inspiration to form a cross border Association dedicated to social policy in Ireland came from Dr Patricia Kennedy and Dr Nessa Winston from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University College Dublin.

The Association endeavours to broaden the debate on social policy by providing a forum for discussion that embraces the views and opinion of a wide range of relevant actors. ISPA brings together professionals and non-professionals with an interest in social policy, academics, policy makers, officials in the civil service and public service bodies, employer and trade union organisations as well as organisations and groups in the not-for-profit sector. Through the Association, discussions and debates have been stimulated on a variety of contemporary social policy issues.

### **CURRENT ISPA COMMITTEE**

The The ISPA Committee for 2013-2014 is as follows: Micheal Collins (Chair), Lorna Roe (Vice Chair), Frank Mills (Treasurer), Caroline Fahey (Secretary), Ann Stokes (Newsletter Officer), Marcella McGovern (Postgraduate Officer), Martin Power (Website officer), Claude Delaney, Eithne Fitzgerald, Tony McCashin, Geoffrey Cook, Pdraig Rehill, Catherine Anne Field, Vivienne Byers, Sarah Craig, Michelle Murphy, Eoin Carroll and Eamon Murphy.

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## **8. JOINING/LEAVING THE ISPA MAILING LIST**

If you wish to have your details added to the ISPA mailing please e-mail the following address with the word “ADD” in the subject line: [mailinglist@ispa.ie](mailto:mailinglist@ispa.ie)

To have your details removed from the ISPA mailing please e-mail the following address with the word “REMOVE” in the subject line: [mailinglist@ispa.ie](mailto:mailinglist@ispa.ie)

The ISPA updates our mailing list approximately once every six weeks.

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**A pdf copy of this and previous newsletters is available on the ISPA website  
at [www.ispa.ie](http://www.ispa.ie)**

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