

IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 41, February 2017

Welcome to the 41st 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.

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1. ISPA NEWS

This is the 41st 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

ISPA AGM and Seminar: Funding Higher Education: Why and How

Seminar hosted by the Irish Social Policy Association in association with the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice UCD

Wednesday, 15th February 2017, (Seminar 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm)
Carmelite Centre, Aungier Street, Dublin 2.

The Seminar will be preceded by the ISPA AGM at 6:00pm (Details below)

Peter Cassells (Maynooth University) will present at the seminar

The seminar will consist of a presentation from Peter with an opportunity for questions and debate. The seminar is free to all and ISPA Membership forms will be available on the night. To register your interest in attending and for further details please contact the ISPA Secretary, Eoin Carroll at secretary@ispa.ie

Date/Time/Venue:

Wednesday, 15th February 2017, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm. Carmelite Centre, Aungier Street, D. 2.

Speaker biography

Peter Cassells is Executive Director at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University. He also chaired the recent Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education.

Presentation Abstract

Investing in National Ambition – A Strategy for Funding Higher Education, the report of the Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education was published in March 2016. This presentation, based on the report and its findings, sets out the scale of long-term funding requirements for the higher education system. It identifies three funding options which can deliver the increased investment for institutions and students. They each have relative strengths and weaknesses but each one, depending on your perspective, is a credible and feasible option provided that it is implemented fully and in a committed and coherent manner. The choice between them will require careful consideration. The full report is available here:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Investing-in-National-Ambition-A-Strategy-for-Funding-Higher-Education.pdf>

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 6:00pm (15th February 2017) in Carmelite Centre, Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Current ISPA members are eligible to vote in proceedings and to be elected to the Committee of the ISPA. The Committee consists of the following Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Officer, Postgraduate Officer, Website Officer, Events Officer and Royal Irish Academy Representative. In addition there are five ordinary Committee members.

All nominations for Officer positions and ordinary Committee membership should have a proposer and seconded. Nominations may be submitted to the Secretary or from the floor of the AGM. For further information please contact Eoin Carroll, secretary@ispa.ie

ISPA Membership (see: <http://www.ispa.ie/membership>)

New and renewal of membership will be available at both the AGM and Seminar. Membership fees cover costs incurred from the running of the ISPA. Membership runs from AGM to AGM; categories are as follows:

- Individual members: €30 per year
- Student/unwaged: €10 per year
- NGO: €60 per year
- Corporate membership: €100 per year
- Life member: Once off fee of €350

For further details see: <http://www.ispa.ie/membership> or contact: Eoin Carroll, secretary@ispa.ie

Queries regarding the newsletter, any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions please email 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

- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY IRELAND: NATIONAL CARERS CONFERENCE

Theme: Building Resilience, Valuing Myself as the Carer

Date: 15th February 2017

Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 1

Other Details: For more information, please see www.abiireland.ie

SOCIAL CARE IRELAND 2017 CONFERENCE

Theme: The Changing Face of Social Care

Date: 22nd and 23rd March 2017

Venue: Galway Radisson Hotel, Galway City

Other Details: For more information, please see www.socialcareireland.ie

NEW COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme: Message Sent is Not Always Message Received - Improving outcomes for families from new communities and professionals in child protection interventions

Date: 30th March 2017

Venue: Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

Other Details: For more information, please contact Angelisa Zerpa at angelisa@newcommunities.ie

ST PATRICKS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PIETA HOUSE CONFERENCE

Theme: Let's talk about self-harm

Date: 1st March 2017

Venue: Aviva Stadium, Dublin 4

Other Details: For more information, please see <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/self-harm-awareness-conference-tickets-31354881294?aff=es2>

7TH WORLD CONGRESS ON WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Theme: Rights, Resilience, Recovery

Date: 6-9th March 2017

Venue: RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Other details: For more details please see <http://iawmh2017.org/wp/>

- **UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES**

SOCIAL JUSTICE IRELAND GLOBAL JUSTICE 2017 SEMINAR

Theme: An Index for Sustainable Communities and a Sustainable Planet

Speakers: Dr Catherine Kavanagh, UCC, Professor Charles M.A. Clark, St John's University, New York

Respondents to the paper (Sara Burke of the Centre for Health Policy in TCD and

Lorna Gold of Trocaire) will review the progress outlined from both a national and a global perspective, and there will be opportunities to discuss the key issues and how we in Ireland can make a real contribution to building sustainable communities and a sustainable planet.

Date: 10am-12.30pm, 20th February 2017

Venue: Carmelite Centre, Aungier Street Dublin 2

Other details: Please visit here to reserve a place: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/world-social-justice-day-what-is-irelands-progress-on-the-global-goals-tickets-31282245037>

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE SEMINAR

Theme: Gender equality initiatives in Irish universities: prospects and possibilities

Date: 1-6pm, 22nd February 2017

Venue: Renehan Hall, South Campus, Maynooth University

Other details: For more details please see <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/social-sciences-institute>

TCD DISABILITY RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Theme: Supporting people with psychosocial disabilities in the workplace: A comparative analysis of the EU member states

Speaker: Prof. Mark Bell, School of Law, Trinity College Dublin

Date: 9-10am, 13th February 2017

Venue: Room 4012, Arts Building, TCD, Dublin 2

Theme: Partnerships between people with intellectual disabilities and academic researchers: A critical examination of inclusive research practices

Speaker: Dr Ederne Garcia Iriarte, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

Date: 9-10am, 20th February 2017

Venue: Room 4012, Arts Building, TCD, Dublin 2

Other details: For a full list of all seminars in the 2017 series, please see

<http://www.tcd.ie/swsp/assets/pdf/2017%20Disability%20Research%20Seminar%20Series%206-2-2017.pdf>

ESRI SEMINARS

Theme: Equality and Human Rights Monitoring in Britain: Theory and Practice

Speaker: Professor Cass Sunstein, Harvard Law School and Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs from 2009 to 2012

Date: 31st March 2017, 3-5pm

Venue: Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

Other details: Please see www.esri.ie

Theme: Applying Behavioural Science to Policy

Speaker: Tania Burchardt, The London School of Economics and Political Science

Date: 23rd March 2017, 4pm

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

Other details: Please see www.esri.ie

- **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The 5th Annual NERI Labour Market Conference will be held on Friday 12th May 2017 in association with Maynooth University's Department of Applied Social Studies, the Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting and the Department

of Sociology. The conference will run from 10:00-16.00 and will include research papers on various aspects of the Irish labour market and Irish labour market policy.

Presentations from researchers, academics, and labour market practitioners are invited for this forthcoming conference. Those interested should submit a title and brief abstract (max 400 words) to tom.mcdonnell@nerinstitute.net

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Employment and Unemployment
- Precariousness and Low Pay
- Earnings and Labour Costs
- Productivity and Human Capital
- Labour Market Participation, Demographics and Labour Supply
- Labour Market Institutions (Minimum wages and collective bargaining)
- Labour Market Transitions, Migration, Age and Gender
- Pensions and Pensions Policy

Registration

The conference is open to all who are interested and is free to attend. However, you must register your intention to attend the conference through Eventbrite or by contacting info@nerinstitute.net Submission Deadline: 31st March 2017

The Irish Gerontological Society (IGS) is delighted to issue the Call for Abstracts for their 65th Jubilee Annual & Scientific Meeting. This event will take place in Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford Thursday 28th (evening) to Saturday 30th September 2017. The theme of the meeting is *Changing Perspectives in Gerontology – the Next 65 Years*. Abstract submissions deadline: Friday 19th May 2017 (midnight) Further details: <http://www.irishgerontology.com/events/igs-65th-annual-scientific-meeting-sept-2017>

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 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

- Bassett, M. (2017) *Towards a Fair State Pension for Women Pensioners*. Dublin: Age Action. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.ageaction.ie
- Care Alliance Ireland (2016) *We Need to Talk About It- Stigma & Family Care*, Discussion Paper 5. A PDF copy is available to download from www.carealliance.ie
- Nugent, C. (2016) *Employment Trends in the Republic of Ireland - A regional perspective*. NERI Research in Brief, 42. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.nerinstitute.net
- McDonnell, T. (2017) *Innovative Competence, How does Ireland do and does it matter?* A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.nerinstitute.net
- One Family (2017) *Ireland's First National Shared Parenting Survey: Results & Recommendations*. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.onefamily.ie

- CSO (2017) *Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2015*. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.cso.ie

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- Watson D., O. Kenny, F. McGinnity & H. Russell (2017) *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland*. ESRI Research Series.
- Kelly E. & S. McGuinness (2017) *A Study of Sub-Minimum Wage Rates for Young People*. ESRI and the Low Pay Commission joint publication.

For details on any of the above ESRI publications and a comprehensive list of all recent ESRI publications please see www.esri.ie

UPCOMING/RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE POLICY PRESS (UK)

- *Beyond Brexit? How to assess the UK's future* by Janice Morphet. As the UK negotiates Brexit, what are the effects, implications and challenges that lie ahead? Janice Morphet takes a long term view on the range of institutional and operational options that may be deployed by the UK, EU and other international institutions seeking to influence the negotiations and outcome. The book offers a context for the current debate and a new framework with which to assess and discuss the forthcoming negotiations taking into account the likely effects on the UK of forthcoming EU policies, and an analysis of the implications of policies foregone. The book includes discussion of what Brexit means for the devolved nations, and the island of Ireland, where the Good Friday agreement and border management are serious enough to give pause to the whole process.
- *Good times, bad times: The welfare myth of them and us* by John Hills. Two-thirds of UK government spending now goes on the welfare state and where the money is spent – healthcare, education, pensions, benefits – is the centre of political and public debate. Much of that debate is dominated by the myth that the population divides into those who benefit from the welfare state and those who pay into it – 'skivers' and 'strivers', 'them' and 'us'. This ground-breaking book, written by one of the UK's leading social policy experts, uses extensive research and survey evidence to challenge that view. It shows that our complex and ever-changing lives mean that all of us rely on the welfare state throughout our lifetimes, not just a small 'welfare-dependent' minority. Using everyday life stories and engaging graphics, Hills clearly demonstrates how the facts are far removed from the myths. This revised edition contains fully updated data, discusses key policy changes and a new preface reflecting on the changed context after the 2015 election and Brexit vote.

Further details on the above publications are available from www.policypress.co.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 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

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4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM: RESEARCH OFFICER

Mental Health Reform is the national coalition driving reform of Ireland's mental health services and social inclusion of people with mental health difficulties. Our vision is of an Ireland where people with mental health difficulties can recover their wellbeing and live a full life in the community. With more than 50 member organisations and 10,000 individual supporters, MHR provides a coordinated voice to Government, its agencies, the Oireachtas and the general public on mental health issues.

The opportunity has arisen for a skilled and experienced researcher to develop the evidence base for Mental Health Reform's policy and advocacy work towards better mental health and related services. Reporting to the Director, the Research Officer will be responsible for delivering a research programme in line with Mental Health Reform's Strategic Plan 2015-2017 and Operational Plan for 2017.

The successful candidate will have a strong track record of designing and conducting quantitative research to publishable standard and experience of conducting qualitative research. Highly organised, with excellent written and verbal communications skills and IT skills, the successful candidate will be able to work with initiative and autonomy, taking responsibility for a functional role within a small team. Candidates will have significant experience in a similar role and will possess a third level qualification in social science research methods. The position is a one-year, fixed-term contract. An attractive remuneration package commensurate with knowledge, skills and experience is available.

Application is by submission of a cover letter supporting your candidacy and curriculum vitae via email to info@mentalhealthreform.ie For further information contact Mental Health Reform's office at 01 874 9468 or via email at info@mentalhealthreform.ie The deadline for applications is 5pm, Friday, 10th February 2017

NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY: POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR

The temporary Policy & Public Affairs Advisor will be a member of the NDA's Research & Policy team, reporting to the Head of Research, Policy & Public Affairs or her nominee. The position is offered as a 10-month (approximately) full-time specified purpose contract to replace the established role holder who is absent on a secondment. The date on which this specified contract ends is 24 January 2018, however the overall duration of this contract will depend on the earliest date that the role can be occupied.

To apply, complete an application form (see www.nda.ie) and forward with a covering letter (max. 2 pages) outlining your suitability for the role, by email to recruitment@nda.ie, or by post to Corporate Services Manager, National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Dublin D04 E409. Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 10th February 2017, at 5pm (GMT).

TASC: DIRECTOR

TASC is looking to appoint an experienced and dynamic Director who will lead the organisation through the next exciting phase of its development. TASC has recently

secured significant multi-annual funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies, which will enable the organisation to successfully implement its forthcoming strategic plan.

Role and Responsibilities of the Director

- Internal Leadership
- Implementing, monitoring and updating TASC's strategic plan and developing operational plans.
- Proposing research priorities on economic inequality to the Board and developing research strategies to advance TASC's vision and mission.
- Advising the Board on the relevant macro environment and its implications for TASC's policy direction.
- With the Chair, enabling the Board to meet its governance responsibilities.
- Building and managing a structure to support the effective implementation of the organisation's strategy and ensuring that the appropriate systems and processes are in place to support staff to carry out their functions effectively.
- Overseeing the development of a strategic approach to the performance management and development of staff to build a high performance culture.
- Promoting and modelling TASC's values in action, and creating an environment where staff feel valued and have the opportunity to do meaningful work and contribute to the development and improvement of the organisation.
- External Leadership and Representation
- Leading TASC in influencing public policy change leading to greater economic equality.
- Communicating TASC's vision and analysis to external stakeholders and constituencies, continually building relationships with relevant organisations and groups, and advocating the organisation's positions and perspectives on economic inequality to civil society organisations, politicians, the general public and the media.
- Promoting TASC by consistently representing the organisation, its mission and programmes to external stakeholders, and seeking beneficial collaboration with similar bodies in Ireland and abroad.
- Maintaining and developing strong relationships with TASC's main funders and collaborators.
- Managing TASC's Resources
- Developing annual operational plan and budget, for approval by the Board.
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of TASC on an ongoing basis and taking corrective action as required.
- Providing leadership, motivation and direction to the staff and fostering a positive collegiate and empowering culture in the organisation.
- Creating an environment of continued improvement and innovation.
- Implementing best practice HR policies and procedures within TASC in line with relevant legislation.
- Overseeing the resources and finances of the organisation, ensuring proper financial governance, and reporting and managing the organisation's resources within budget guidelines so as to ensure the best use of funds.
- Ensuring that TASC complies with all statutory and other appropriate regulations, and working with the Board to put appropriate internal controls and measures in place to ensure effective governance.
- Overseeing TASC's fundraising planning and implementation, including identifying resource requirements, researching funding sources, establishing

strategies to approach funders, submitting proposals, and administering fundraising records and documentation.

- Ensuring the effective management of risk through the development and management of a risk register, establishing procedures to mitigate key risk and developing a crisis management plan.
- Participating in Board meetings and meetings of Board sub-committees as required.
- Undertaking all other relevant ascribed responsibilities.

Requirements for the Post

Candidates for the post of Director should demonstrate:

- Significant senior leadership and strategic management experience.
- A track record of successful delivery at a senior level in socio-economic research.
- Experience of successfully operating at management and board level.
- A track record which demonstrates the ability to lead, plan and deliver transformational change, including the capacity to engage staff and drive performance improvement.
- A proven ability to build excellent working relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders and to work in partnership with other organisations.
- An ability to effectively manage resources and to oversee effective financial management and corporate governance systems.
- A track record of informing public policy change.
- Knowledge of the fundraising environment.
- Flexibility, adaptability and openness to working effectively in a changing environment.
- Excellent communication, influencing and negotiation skills, and an ability to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders, including the media, in relation to complex issues.
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to evaluate complex information to identify solutions and make effective decisions.
- A high level of commitment and resilience, and an ability to deal with the competing demands and challenges of this role, including the flexibility and willingness to deal with issues outside of normal office hours.

Essential Experience

A postgraduate qualification (preferably PhD) in a relevant field.

Duration

This is a full-time post and is being offered for a period of four years in the first instance.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted by email to recruitment@tasc.ie Closing date for applications is 5pm, Friday 24 February 2017.

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

www.publicjobs.ie/ce

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
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5. CONTACTING THE ISPA

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

ISPA Secretary Eoin Carroll: secretary@ispa.ie

Newsletter: newsletter@ispa.ie

Treasurer: treasurer@ispa.ie

PLEASE NOTE that all submissions, suggestions, events and job vacancies should be sent to the newsletter@ispa.ie address. The closing date for receipt of submissions for the next issue is the 1st of the month.

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

[Membership rates for 2016 are:](#)

- **Individual members: €30 per year**
- **Student/unwaged: €10 per year**
- **NGO: €60 per year**
- **Corporate membership: €100 per year**
- **Life member: Once off fee of €350**

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 2016-1017 is as follows: Micheál Collins (Chair), Lorna Roe (Vice Chair), Eoin Carroll (Secretary), Michelle Murphy (Treasurer), Ann Stokes (Newsletter), Marcella McGovern (Post Grad Officer), Eamon Murphy (Website), Vivienne Byers, Geoffrey Cook, Sarah Craig, Catherine-Anne Field, Eithne Fitzgerald, Tony McCashin, Frank Mills, Nat O'Connor, Ciaran O'Donnell, Pdraig Rehill and Justyna Szewczyk.

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

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

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

A pdf copy of this and previous newsletters is available on the ISPA website at www.ispa.ie

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