

**IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION**

**E-NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 36, September 2015**

Welcome to the 36<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.

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**1. ISPA NEWS**

This is the 36<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

**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**

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## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS

- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

### SAGE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Venue:** Croke Park Conference Centre, Croke Park, Dublin 1

**Other Details:** The Sage (Support and Advocacy Service for Older People) National Conference will formally launch the Quality Standards for Support and Advocacy Work with Older People which were developed through a process of stakeholder and public consultation. You can register to be part of this event at

[www.sagenationalconference2015.eventbrite.ie](http://www.sagenationalconference2015.eventbrite.ie) You can actively participate and raise awareness of your organisation by exhibiting at the Sage National Conference.

To book your exhibition stand, please contact [bookings@sage.thirdageireland.ie](mailto:bookings@sage.thirdageireland.ie) for more information. Further information on the work of Sage Support and Advocacy Service for Older People can be found at [www.sage.thirdageireland.ie](http://www.sage.thirdageireland.ie)

### ESRI CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Workplace Risks and Worker Health and Safety – Research Results for Ireland Over Time and in a European Perspective

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

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

**Other Details:** For more information please go to [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

### EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HOUSING RESEARCHERS COMPARATIVE HOUSING POLICY WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Housing and welfare regimes after the global financial crisis

**Date:** 26-27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Venue:** IPA, Landsdowne Road, Dublin 4

**Other Details:** For more information please go to [www.enhr.net](http://www.enhr.net)

### CONFERENCE FOR LAUNCH OF NEW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE UCD

**Theme:** Inquire, Inspire, Transform: New Pathways in Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 2-6pm

**Venue:** Tom Roche Theatre, UCD Quinn Business School

**Other Details:** Confirmed speakers include: Professor John Pinkerton, Prof. Kate Nash, Senator Aideen Hayden, Sinead Gibney, IHREC. For more information please go to [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)

### CARE ALLIANCE IRELAND CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

A one-day conference will take place on Friday 20th November and the date will coincide with International Carers' Rights Day. The theme of this conference is "20 Years of Family Carer Research in Ireland".

Abstracts are now being accepted for this conference. Presentations which are retrospective in nature are encouraged, to take account of the conference theme, in addition to current and recent projects. Student presentations by current students or recent graduates are all encouraged. A nominal €20 fee will be charged for attending the conference. Full-time students can apply by email ([zoe@carealliance.ie](mailto:zoe@carealliance.ie)) for a waiver. Abstracts can be submitted for either a poster or oral presentation. Please submit abstract via email to Policy & Research Officer Zoe Hughes-

[zoe@carealliance.ie](mailto:zoe@carealliance.ie)- by 5pm October 2, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by October 16th.

- **UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES**

UCD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY, SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
PUBLIC LECTURES

**Theme:** Racialising Migration

**Speaker:** Professor Tukufu Zuberi, University of Pennsylvania

**Date:** 6-8pm, 13th October 2015

**Venue:** UCD Food Science Bldg, FS01

**Other Details:** For more information about this event please go to [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)

**Theme:** Basic Income

**Speaker:** Jurgen De Wispelaere, McGill University, Canada

**Date:** 1pm, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

**Venue:** UCD Sheehy Skeffington Building, A201

**Other Details:** For more information about this event please go to [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)

NERI POST BUDGET SEMINAR

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

**Venue:** INTO Learning Centre, Parnell Square, Dublin 1

**Other Details:** For more information please go to [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)

NERI SEMINAR

**Theme:** Fiscal Priorities for Long-Run Growth

**Speakers:** Dr Tom McDonnell (NERI)

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 4pm

**Venue:** INTO Learning Centre, 38 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

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

ESRI SEMINAR SERIES

**Theme:** Psychotic Symptoms in Adolescence – Mechanisms and Meanings

**Speaker:** Prof Mary Cannon RCSI

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 4pm

**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:** How Financial Innovations and Accelerators Drive Booms and Busts in U.S. Consumption (Updated from 2010 to End 2014)

**Speaker:** Anthony Murphy (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas)

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 4pm

**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:** Email fraud: The scammers reply (and how to educate consumers)

**Speaker:** Stephen Lea

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 4pm

**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:** Aging, Physical Activity, and Subjective Well-Being: The Changing Impact of Participation Intensity

**Speaker:** Bernd Frick

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 4pm

**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

**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. (2015) *Earnings and Low Pay in the Republic of Ireland: A Profile and Some Policy Issues* NERI Working Paper, 2015/29 A PDF copy is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- McDonnell, T & R. O'Farrell (2015) *Internal Devaluation and Labour Market Trends during Ireland's Economic Crisis*, NERI Working Paper, 2015/28. A PDF copy is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- Collins, M. (2015) *A Profile of those on the Minimum Wage*, NERI Working Paper, 2015/27. A PDF copy is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- Watson, Dorothy / Maître, Bertrand / Russell, Helen *Transitions into and out of Household Joblessness, 2004 to 2014: An Analysis of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS)*
- Gusciute, Egle / Quinn, Emma / Barrett, Alan *Business Migration to Ireland*, ESRI Research Series 43
- Watson, Dorothy / Banks, Joanne / Lyons, Seán *Educational and Employment Experiences of People with a Disability in Ireland: An Analysis of the National Disability Survey*, ESRI Research Series 41
- Smyth, Emer *Wellbeing and School Experiences among 9- and 13-Year-Olds: Insights from the Growing Up in Ireland Study*, ESRI and NCCA

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)

- *The short guide to social policy* (John Hudson, Stefan Kuhner, Stuart Lowe). This fully updated edition of an essential introductory text offers a concise guide to the key structures and concepts in social policy and is designed to work in partnership with unique, innovative digital content that adds depth and provides a truly integrated way of learning.
- *Social policy in times of austerity: Global economic crisis and the new politics of welfare* (Kevin Farnsworth, Zoë Irving). The 2008 global economic crisis

has led to a new age of austerity, based more on politics than economics, which threatens to undermine the very foundations of the welfare state. However, as resistance to the logic of austerity grows, this important book argues that there is still room for optimism.

- *Access to justice for disadvantaged communities* (Marjorie Mayo, Gerald Koessl, Matthew Scott, Imogen Slater). This unique study explores how strategies to safeguard the provision of legal advice and access to welfare rights to disadvantaged communities might be developed in ways that strengthen rather than undermine the basic ethics and principles of public service provision.

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

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

##### **ESRI RESEARCHERS – ESRI HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

The ESRI is now inviting applications for four research positions in its Health Research team:

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Post- doctoral Research Fellow ( 2 roles)

Research Assistant (1 role)

Research Officer (1 role)

The Economic and Social Research Institute, founded in 1960, is located in Dublin's South Docklands area. Its mission is to produce high quality research, relevant to Ireland's economic and social development, with the aim of contributing to knowledge and informing policymaking and public debate. It has over 100 staff including economists, sociologists and other social scientists, in addition to support and technical staff.

The Health Research Programme at the ESRI has three overall objectives: to examine the pattern of variation in health and well-being across the population and its relationship to factors such as socio-economic position; to analyse the structure and functioning of the Irish health-care system and its implications for the quality of individual care, economic efficiency and sustainability and the equity of health-care utilisation; and to analyse health and social spending: what drives spending, its macroeconomic effect on the national finances and the economy, and at a microeconomic level, the cost of disease and the cost effectiveness of treatment. As

well as carrying out high-quality academic research in pursuit of these objectives, ESRI researchers also contribute to the development of public policy across a range of issues in health by contributing evidence which shapes national and international debates and through interaction and collaboration with policy makers and practitioners. The ESRI is involved in the development and collection of some of the key data sources in health in Ireland including the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) Study and the National Longitudinal Study of Older People (TILDA).

Further details of the individual role specifications, requirements and terms may be seen by following the relevant links above. Prospective candidates who may require further information are encouraged to contact [jobs@esri.ie](mailto:jobs@esri.ie). Candidates for the post-doctoral positions should note that their applications will be considered for both roles.

Application forms for these positions are available to download from [http://www.esri.ie/job\\_opportunities](http://www.esri.ie/job_opportunities) and must be submitted, along with a current CV and covering letter, to [jobs@esri.ie](mailto:jobs@esri.ie) by 5pm on Wednesday 14th October 2015. All applications will be acknowledged.

## NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

The National Disability Authority (NDA) is the independent statutory body that provides expert advice to the Minister for Justice and Equality on policy and practice relating to persons with disabilities. In practice, the NDA delivers on this role through advising officials in the Department of Justice and Equality, and in other Government Departments and key state agencies, as well as direct advice to the Minister.

The temporary Senior Research Officer will work, under the direction of the Head of Policy and Research, as part of a team, with a focus on applied research on disability, and in support of the National Disability Authority's roles of policy advice, standards development and monitoring.

The position is offered as a 2/3 year contract subject to satisfactory completion of probation.

Minimum criteria for consideration for the post are:

- A relevant post-graduate qualification
- At least five years experience of applied research and research management in a relevant field.

The essential requirements for the post as Senior Research Officer include:

- Excellent quantitative and data analysis skills, including regression and factor analysis, with appropriate computer skills. A high degree of statistical competence will be required, a capacity to identify and quantify effects and relationships along with a keen appreciation of hypothesis testing and statistical significance.
- A sound knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, evaluation methods and quality criteria
- A sound knowledge of financial evaluation and costing methodologies

- The ability to successfully and effectively manage a number of projects concurrently
- A sound capacity to review research and synthesise findings, paying attention to methodologies and validity of such findings
- An understanding and appreciation of the policy environment and of the public service
- Capacity to respond efficiently to urgent requests for data
- The capacity to write simply and clearly, and to explain research findings to a non-technical audience
- Good judgement and a practical problem-solving approach
- Flexibility, commitment and capacity to work as a member of a team
- Ability to work as a self-starter
- Ability to get to grip with new work areas in a short space of time
- Capacity to lead, develop and motivate staff
- A track record in project management and delivery of research in time
- A clear thinker with an aptitude for precision and attention to detail
- Good oral communication skills
- Evidence of an ability to work on own initiative
- Good interpersonal skills and capacity to develop partnerships
- Experience of preparing and assessing research briefs/tenders/proposals
- Experience of managing commissioned research
- Experience in the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation studies, including the identification of appropriate performance indicators and development of survey tools

A knowledge of disability-related policy, research and statistics in the Irish context is desirable.

A curriculum vitae and detailed cover letter should be forwarded to the Corporate Services Manager, National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Dublin 4, or by email to [recruitment@nda.ie](mailto:recruitment@nda.ie) , by 12 noon on Monday, 12 October 2015.

CHRCE RESEARCH OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Research Officer in the centre for Human Rights and Citizenship Education (CHRCE), St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, for a period of 6 months commencing in October 2015, as part of the Global Schools: Primary Education for a Just World Project.

The project is informed by a research component which will be carried out in four countries involved in the project, including Ireland. The research officer will be required to supervise and assist in the collection of data of 2/3 other European countries. The research will primarily be desk-oriented, however there will be a need for a small number of interviews with key Irish informants and policy makers in order to gain contextual insight.

The successful candidate must have a graduate qualification with proven research experience and knowledge of Global Citizenship. They must have excellent IT, interpersonal and communication skills, a commitment to ethical research and confidentiality and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Further information is available on [www.spd.dcu.ie/vacancies](http://www.spd.dcu.ie/vacancies)

To apply, applicants should submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae (including the name and contact details of two referees) to: Human Resources Department, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra, Dublin 9 by 12 noon on Friday, 25th September 2015. St. Patrick's College does not accept electronic applications

#### 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**

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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](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 2014-2015 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, Padraig Rehill and Justyna Szewczyk.

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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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