

IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 46, May 2018

Welcome to the 46th 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 46th 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

'GDPR'

You will have already received an email asking you to confirm your subscription. This is to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations. You can access our privacy policy document on our website: http://ispa.ie/images/ISPA_Privacy_Policy.pdf.

ISPA SEMINAR IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION (UK) AND ULSTER UNIVERSITY

Theme: Social Policy and the British-Irish Council

Date: 6th July 2018

Venue: Ulster University, Belfast Campus, York Street, Belfast

The British-Irish Council, established as part of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, is a forum for consultation and co-operation between eight member administrations: the UK, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland and Wales (see www.britishirishcouncil.org). Among its areas of work are a range of topics relevant to social policy, including demography, early years, housing, misuse of substances, social inclusion and transport. This seminar aims to raise awareness of this work and to provide an opportunity for academics and practitioners to exchange views on the value and future potential of the British-Irish Council as a forum for the exchange of policy and practice, as well as the overall benefit of comparing and sharing social policies and practices between the eight jurisdictions.

The final speaker list is being confirmed, but will include academics, a spokesperson from the British-Irish Council and practitioners with first hand experience of the BIC's work on social policy.

11:30 Registration opens, tea/coffee, networking opportunity

12:00 Sandwich lunch, tea/coffee, networking opportunity

12:30 Opening remarks

12:40 Guest speaker: an overview of the social policy work of the British-Irish Council

13:10 Q&A

13:30 Panel discussion: three panel speakers and chairperson. Audience participation

14:45 Concluding remarks

15:00 Event closes, tea/coffee, networking opportunity

The event is a collaboration between ISPA, SPA and UU, and is free-of-charge, but please book a place for catering purposes. Further details on this event are available from: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/seminar-social-policy-and-the-british-irish-council-tickets-45913925788?utm_term=eventurl_text

ISPA EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER CONFERENCE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) will host its biennial research conference in the Carmelite Community Centre (56 Aungier Street, Dublin 2) on Friday, 27 July 2018. The conference is intended to provide a forum for postgraduate and early career researchers in social policy and related academic fields.

We invite submissions for presentation at this conference. Potential participants (Masters or PhD students at all stages, as well as professionals less than 5 years out from their degree completion) should submit a title and brief description (max. 250 words) of their presentation topic by e-mail.

These applications, and any questions, should be sent to the association's postgraduate officer, Megan Curran events@ispa.ie by Friday 8th June 2018.

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**

IRISH AFTERCARE NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme: "Together we Can": Promoting Education, Training & Employment Opportunities for Care Leavers

Date: 25th May 2018

Venue: Sheraton Athlone Hotel, Athlone

Other Details: For more information, please see www.aftercareconference2018.eventbrite.ie

DEMENTIA IRELAND CONFERENCE

Theme: Living with Dementia in Rural Ireland

Date: 28th May 2018

Venue: Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Kentfield, Bushypark, Galway City, Co. Galway

Other Details: For more information, please see www.eventbrite.ie/e/living-with-dementia-in-rural-ireland-tickets-44751322410

IRISH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AGM AND CONFERENCE

Theme: Transformative Education for Global Citizenship - SDG 4.7 in Ireland

Date: 6th June 2018

Venue: The President's Hall, Blackhall Place, Arran Quay, Dublin 7

Other Details: For more information, please see www.eventbrite.ie/e/living-with-dementia-in-rural-ireland-tickets-44751322410

FEPS/TASC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme: Redistribution in an Austere World: The Joy of Tax and the Mystery of Productivity

Date: 22nd June 2018

Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre

Other Details: For more information, please see www.ideaonline.ie/latest/event-detail/idea-agm-conference-2018

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND: EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

Theme: The Constitutional Role of Parents as the Primary Educators of their Children

Date: 13th June 2018

Venue: National College of Ireland, Mayor Street, IFSC, Dublin 1

Other Details: For more information, please see <https://eventgen.ie/eli-early-years-conference>

DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND CONFERENCE

Theme: Unlocking Freedom Through Adult education

Date: 25th June 2018

Venue: Gibson Hotel, Dublin 1

Other Details: For more information, please see www.eventbrite.ie/e/unlocking-freedom-final-conference-tickets-44110828676

ESRI CONFERENCE

Theme: Planning for the Future Irish healthcare System
Date: 31st May 2018
Other Details: For more information, please see www.esri.ie

ESRI CONFERENCE

Theme: Exploring Developments in the Irish Housing and Mortgage Market
Date: 21st June 2018
Other Details: For more information, please see www.esri.ie

ESRI CONFERENCE

Theme: 21st Budget Perspectives Conference
Date: 10th July 2018
Other Details: For more information, please see www.esri.ie

UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES

GENDER STUDY GROUP OF THE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND: THINK-IN

Theme: Gender Justice: An adequate frame for the empowerment of women?
Date: 1-5pm, 1st June 2018
Venue: John Hume Board Room, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Other details: For more details please see www.gender-justice.eventbrite.ie

ESRI SEMINAR SERIES

Theme: What Shapes Great Expectations? Gender, Social Origin and Cross-Country Differences in Students' Expectations of University Graduation
Speaker: Luis Ortiz, Associate Professor, Pompeu Fabra University
Date: 4pm, 14th June 2018
Venue: ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2
Other details: For more details please see www.esri.ie

Theme: Do Trade Bans Protect Endangered Species? Evidence from the World's First Possession Ban
Speaker: John Lynham, Economics Department, University of Hawaii
Date: 4pm, 21st June 2018
Venue: ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2
Other details: For more details please see www.esri.ie

SAGE/INSTITUTE OF BANKING SEMINAR

Theme: Nothing About You / Without You – Protecting and enhancing the rights of vulnerable adults and older people
Speakers: **The Hon. Mary Laffoy, former Supreme Court Judge and Chair: The Citizens' Assembly; Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chair: National Safeguarding Committee; Áine Flynn, Director Decision Support Service**
Date: 30th May 2018, 6-8pm
Venue: Institute of Banking, 1 North Wall Quay, North Dock, Dublin
Other details: For more details please see www.sageadvocacy.ie

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE IN 21ST CENTURY (UCC)/ CARE ALLIANCE SEMINAR

Theme: Maximising The Potential Of Carer Research And Knowledge
Speaker: Dr Mary Larkin, Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care with the Open

University, and Reviews Editor for the International Journal of Care and Caring
Date: 19th June 2018, 11am-1pm
Venue: The Carmichael Centre, 4 North Brunswick St., D7
Other details: For more details please see www.carealliance.ie

CARE ALLIANCE IRELAND SEMINAR

Theme: Identifying and Supporting Young Carers: A Seminar (part of the EPYC project for young carers)
Date: 12th June 2018, 10.30-12.30
Venue: The Carmichael Centre, 4 North Brunswick St., D7
Other details: For more details please see www.carealliance.ie

- **UPCOMING LAUNCHES**

Launch of a new 'Taxation and Social Policy Group'

A meeting to launch a new Taxation and Social Policy Group will take place on June 12th June 2018, 11am to 4pm at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK (Hugh Aston Building Room 1.51).

Historically, social policy has focussed on the benefits and public services provided through the welfare state rather than on the taxation system through which the welfare state is funded. The taxation system, however, has, as Richard Titmuss long ago noted, significant implications for the distribution of resources, a major preoccupation of social policy specialists. Moreover, the shift to a post-industrial society has contributed to and been influenced by changes to the taxation system which now fundamentally shape the current austerity backdrop to all policy initiatives. The Taxation and Social Policy Group will create a forum in which social policy researchers and practitioners with an interest in taxation can share their insights, deepen their appreciation of the role of taxation in social policy and, over time, raise the profile of taxation work in the social policy community.

The meeting is being organised by Micheál Collins (UCD), Sally Ruane (De Montfort University) and Adrian Sinfield (University of Edinburgh) and is supported by the Social Policy Association.

Confirmed speakers:

Professor Richard Murphy, City University and Tax Research UK
Professor David Byrne, Durham University
Dr Howard Reed, Landman Economics

Further details are available from Sally Ruane sruane@dmu.ac.uk

- **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Growing Up in Ireland – the National Longitudinal Study of Children, will hold its tenth annual research conference on Thursday 8th November 2018 in the Gibson Hotel in Dublin's docklands area.

The conference will focus on research based on Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) data. The Keynote address at this year's conference will be delivered by Professor Ingrid Schoon who holds the Chair of Human Development and Social Policy at the Institute

of Education, University College London, and is a Research Professor at the Social Science Centre in Berlin, and Visiting Professor at the the Royal Netherlands Academy of the Arts and Science.

The Growing Up in Ireland team invites abstracts for papers from researchers working on Growing Up in Ireland data.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to gui.conference@esri.ie by 27th July. Abstracts should include (where possible): the paper title; context; methods; results and conclusions. They should also include the name(s) of the author(s), affiliation and email address. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Steering Committee and authors of selected papers will be notified by 25th August. In selecting papers preference will be given to those with applied policy relevance. For more details please see www.esri.ie

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

- Goldrick-Kelly, P. & T. Healy (2018) *Equality in Irish Healthcare - Time for a New Deal*. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.nerinstitute.net
- Nugent, C. (2018) *Wages in Ireland, 2008-2016*. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.nerinstitute.net
- TASC (2018) *Living with uncertainty: The social implications of precarious work*. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.tasc.ie
- Conlon, C., V. Timonen & G. Dowling (2018) *Supporting Parents Communicating with Children Aged 4–9 Years about Relationships*. Sexuality and Growing Up. HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme Report. A PDF copy of the report is available to download from www.tcd.ie/swsp

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- Connolly, S., A. Nolan, B. Walsh, M. Wren (2018) *Universal GP care in Ireland: potential cost implications*, *ESRI Research Bulletin*.
- McGuinness, S. & P. Redmond (2018) *Estimating the effect of an increase in the minimum wage on hours worked and employment in Ireland*.
- Dempsey, S., S. Lyons & A. Nolan (2018) *Urban green space and obesity in older adults*, *ESRI Research Bulletin*.
- 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)

- *Exploring welfare debates: Key concepts and questions* by Lee Gregory. Written by an experienced and inspiring lecturer, this book is suitable for undergraduate students of social policy, sociology, politics, public policy, social work, health and social care, particularly those taking courses on

'welfare theory', 'principles of social policy', 'key issues in welfare policy' and similar. Using some of the hottest current debates about the problems and benefits of state-funded welfare, this book develops students' social science understanding and analytic skills.

- *Life in the debt trap: Stories of children and families struggling with debt* by Sorcha Mahony and Larissa Pople. The first hand stories in this book offer a unique understanding of life for families and children fighting a daily battle against poverty and debt. They give voice to some of the most underrepresented people in society, who are too often portrayed cruelly in the media and elsewhere. Drawing on research data collected through The Children's Society's Debt Trap campaign, this book explores the causes, implications and impacts of problem debt, challenges pejorative public attitudes and encourages more compassionate policy making to help families escape poverty and debt.

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

4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

THRESHOLD: POLICY OFFICER

Threshold is seeking to recruit a Policy Officer who will be responsible for providing evidence-based policy proposals and engaging in lobbying and campaigning to support Threshold's objectives on reforming the housing system for the most vulnerable households.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Policy Development

- Develop specific, practical policy proposals based on research findings for presentation to Government and other policy makers;
- Produce policy submissions and research papers in support of Threshold's policy objectives;
- Monitoring and analysing trends from Threshold's advice and housing services and identifying case studies of particular policy interest;
- Organise and host seminars, workshops and other policy related events;
- Maximise Threshold's access to international research through the European Network of Housing Research (ENHR) and support Threshold's role in coordinating the ENHR Working Group on Private Rented Markets
- In conjunction with the CEO and Chair, co-ordinate Threshold's research programme, including conducting and commissioning original research;
- Provide ongoing support to the CEO and the Chair in their public roles by sourcing data, providing research papers and briefings as requested.

Achieving Policy Advocacy and Reform:

- Conduct lobbying and campaigning on issues related to Threshold's strategic policy objectives in the areas of housing and homelessness;
- Liaise and maintain regular contact with Government officials, politicians and policy makers on key policy issues;
- Communicate policy positions effectively to external audiences including media;
- Represent Threshold, where appropriate, at policy making fora, joint work with like-minded organisations, conferences and in the media;
- Work closely with and support the Chief Executive and Chair of Threshold to champion the cause of the most vulnerable households in Irish society.

Acting as a Policy Resource:

- Manage staff resources, and others who from time to time may be assigned to the research and formulation process;
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of relevant housing legislation, policies and practices;
- Monitor the external housing environment and ensure that this is internally communicated to Management, Staff and Board of Directors of Threshold;
- Prepare documents and reports as required by the Chief Executive, Chair and Board;
- Assist in any other duties requested by the Chief Executive.

Policy Officer: Person Specification

Essential

Qualifications: Third level qualification in relevant discipline, with a strong academic background in research

Experience: At least two years' experience in a similar policy or research role, preferably in the not-for-profit sector

Skills:

High level of communications skills, especially excellent writing and presentation skills

Ability to conduct and commission research and develop practical policy proposals

Experience in analysing policy documents, interpreting and identifying implications for various actors

Experience in writing reports and briefing documents

Ability to absorb, analyse and present key policy positions

Ability to think strategically

Initiative, enthusiasm, and good project management and co-ordination skills

IT proficiency

Desirable

In-depth knowledge of housing policy in Ireland, especially the regulatory environment for the private rented and social housing sectors

Prior experience of lobbying elected representatives and senior officials

Knowledge and understanding of the Irish political structures and decision-making processes within such

Experience of media inputs in order to communicate policy positions

A post-graduate qualification in a related or relevant field

Policy Officer: Main Terms and Conditions

Main Terms

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Hours: 37.5 hours per week

Holidays: Annual leave entitlement is 22 days

Probation: Six months

Contract: Until June 2019

Location: Threshold National Office, 21 Stoneybatter, Dublin 7 but the scope of the position is national.

How to Apply

CVs and letter of application should be submitted to:

John-Mark McCafferty, Chief Executive Officer, Threshold, 21 Stoneybatter, Dublin 7, D07 KV61

Email: john-mark@threshold.ie Phone: 01 635 3606

Closing date: Monday 4th of June 2018

PIETA HOUSE: RESEARCH MANAGER

Reporting to the CEO, the Research Manager will be responsible for designing, assessing and evaluating Pieta's research and education programmes, managing all research projects, both internal and external. Establishing new areas of research, for collaborating of relevant institutions and agencies, disseminating PH research. The role also involves researching and maintaining factual information, statistics, trends, new pieces of research and reporting on various projects undertaken.

Education & Experience

The candidate should ideally have the following;

A PHD in Psychology or masters in Psychology or related field.

More than 5 years' experience at manager level in a related field.

More than 5 years' experience in project management.

Excellent organisational and inter-personal skills with excellent attention to detail.

Excellent ICT skills with the capacity to maximise technology to increase efficiencies in processes and procedures.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and written.

Be highly organised, analytical, accurate and detail oriented.

Be knowledgeable of standard reference/information sources and library skills

Interpret financial, technical, and trade documents, and journals, including annual reports.

Must be able to work under pressure to meet deadlines; must be able to analyse and prioritize assignments; also must judge the amount of time to spend for the expected outcome, according to the importance of a project and the type of information needed.

Must be able to work independently, as well as with a team.

The ability to maintain confidential information in an appropriate manner is essential, as is an ability to use judgment in the wording and inclusion of pertinent and sensitive information.

Please Note: GARDA VETTING is a requirement (of the successful candidates) for this post.

Applications for all of the above positions should be made via email, attaching a cover letter (outlining your particular suitability to the role) with an updated Curriculum Vitae to sylvia.hegarty@pieta.ie on or before Friday 8th June 2018.

THE JESUIT CENTRE FOR FAITH AND JUSTICE: POLICY AND RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (JCFJ) requires a Policy and Research Intern. Minimum 3 days per week, six months in duration (negotiable).

The ideal candidate would have a passion for social justice issues (such as rights and needs of people in prison, desire to solve homelessness or stop climate change), be a self-starter and have excellent organisational skills.

Interns within the Centre receive a contribution towards their living costs.

The Intern will be involved in supporting the Centre's policy and research work, particularly in the areas of prisons, homelessness and climate change. This will include undertaking research, analysing government policy documents and providing material for the Centre's websites and www.jcfj.ie (Further duties outlined below).

A key purpose of this Internship is to offer the holder an opportunity to experience a range of learning opportunities in policy and research functions of a voluntary organisation.

Essential Criteria

A third level qualification (or considerable involvement in a relevant area) e.g. social science, sociology, criminology, law.

Respect for the Jesuit ethos and a commitment to social justice

Proficiency in IT

Ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative

Knowledge and interest in at least one of the core policy areas of the Centre

Analytical and drafting skills

General computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Desirable Criteria

Previous experience of report writing and research in a core policy area of the Centre

Experience of direct work with people who are discriminated against or marginalised, e.g. people who are homeless.

Experience of working in a professional environment

Applying (Deadline: 5:00pm, 15th June 2018 – Interviews last week in June).

Applications, via email: info@jcfj.ie or in writing to: Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, 26 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1. Queries: 01 855 6814/ecarroll@jcfj.ie (Eoin Carroll).

Applications should include

Covering letter, one page (making reference to the essential/desirable criteria outlined above),

Full Curriculum Vitae (max. two pages).

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 email.

ISPA Secretary Marcella McGovern: 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 2017-2018 is as follows: Eoin Carroll (Chair), Eithne Fitzgerald (Vice-Chair), Marcella McGovern (Secretary), Michelle Murphy (Treasurer), Ann Stokes (Newsletter), Megan Curran (Post Grad Officer), Eamon Murphy (Website), Micheál Collins, Lorna Roe, Vivienne Byers, Geoffrey Cook, Sarah Craig, Catherine-Anne Field, Nat O'Connor and Justyna Szewczyk.

8. JOINING THE ISPA MAILING LIST

We are working on our online sign up form, in the meantime, please email Secretary@ispa.ie if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

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

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