

ESRI REVIEW OF RESEARCH 2017



ABOUT THE ESRI

The Economic and Social Research Institute is an independent research institute working towards a vision of '**Informed policy for a better Ireland**'. The ESRI seeks to support sustainable economic growth and social progress in Ireland by providing a robust knowledge base capable of providing effective solutions to public policy challenges.

The Institute was founded in 1960 by a group of senior civil servants, led by Dr T.K. Whitaker, who identified the need for independent and in-depth research to support the policymaking process in Ireland. Since then, the Institute has remained committed to independent research and its work is free of any expressed ideology or political position. The Institute publishes all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

The ESRI brings together leading experts from a variety of disciplines who work together to break new ground across a number of research initiatives. The expertise of its researchers is recognised in public life and researchers are represented on the boards and advisory committees of several national and international organisations.

ESRI researchers uphold the highest academic standards. The quality of the Institute's research output is guaranteed by a rigorous peer review process. Research is published only when it meets the required standards and practices. Research quality has also been assessed as part of two peer reviews of the Institute, in 2010 and 2016.

ESRI research findings are disseminated widely in books, journal articles and reports. Reports published by the ESRI are available to download, free of charge, from its website. ESRI staff members communicate research findings at regular conferences and seminars, which provide a platform for representatives from government, civil society and academia to discuss key findings from recently published studies and ongoing research.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising a minimum of 11 members and a maximum of 14 members, who represent a cross-section of ESRI members: academia, civil service, state agencies, businesses and civil society.

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Alan Barrett (right) chaired the National Economic Dialogue on 27 and 28 June. He is pictured here with Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, and An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

Tionól
bránach



The Citizens'
Assembly



(left to right) Liam Delaney, AIB Chair of Behavioural Economics, UCD, Micheál Collins, Senior Economist at the Nevin Economic Research Institute, and Alan Barrett pictured at the Citizens' Assembly on 8 July. Alan Barrett addressed the Citizens' Assembly on the topic of *The implications of pensions and retirement policy on the wider economy and society*.

INTRODUCTION

Ireland is facing a time of extraordinary change. In 2019, Brexit could well change the way many Irish companies do business and potentially lead to long-lasting ramifications for Ireland's economic performance. A growing and ageing population will test our provision of infrastructure and public services. Climate change obligations will require significant investment. Some challenges are not new and have persisted for some time, such as the issue of inadequate housing supply.

Progress on these issues is not inevitable. It requires policies that are grounded in evidence and therefore likely to act as effective solutions to complex problems. The role of the ESRI is to provide the evidence to support the development of such policies. Our independence, commitment to facts and dedication to the highest academic standards mean that we are never distracted from our vision: informed policy for a better Ireland. The primary motivation for our work is our responsibility to support through our research a sustainable economy, an improving quality of life and greater equality of opportunity in Ireland. For this reason, policymakers have turned to the ESRI for almost 60 years.

ESRI RESEARCH HAS LESSONS FOR HOW WE CAN HELP FIRMS SURVIVE AND THRIVE IN THE POST-BREXIT WORLD.

I would like to highlight a number of initiatives and outputs that demonstrate how the ESRI continued this work in 2017. I should stress that the highlights are in no way exhaustive. The remainder of this Review of Research provides a more comprehensive overview of the Institute's outputs throughout the year.

At this point, it is important to thank our funders, our members and our research partners for their valuable support.

The work highlighted below and throughout the report is undertaken through research programmes and individual projects funded by many government departments, state agencies and others. I would like to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Preparing for Brexit

The potential impact of Brexit ran through much of the Institute's work in 2017. It was discussed in each of the ESRI's *Quarterly Economic Commentaries* and by researchers at the Oireachtas Committee on European Union Affairs in May, at the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight in September and at the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit also in September. Researchers explained relevant research findings on topics including trade tariffs, the geographical and sectoral impact of Brexit and Ireland's increased attractiveness to foreign direct investment.

Given the closely linked energy systems between Ireland and the UK, research published in June examined potential threats to Ireland's energy supply and priorities for future infrastructure developments.

Research published in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation highlighted the difficulties faced by Irish exporters when diversifying to new markets. This obviously has lessons for how we can help firms survive and thrive in the post-Brexit world.

In fact, Brexit has presented an opportunity for Ireland to investigate new and innovative approaches to supporting businesses.

01 INTRODUCTION

Laying the foundations for a sustainable housing supply

In May, the ESRI commenced a three-year joint research programme on the economics of housing with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The programme builds on the ESRI's substantial body of work in this area with the objective of developing an accurate and comprehensive understanding of interconnected factors at play in the housing market. The end goal is to provide policymakers with the knowledge required to develop policies which will contribute to achieving a sustainable, affordable housing supply in Ireland. The first output was published in December, providing projections for house prices to the year 2020.

The ESRI worked with the Rental Tenancies Board to accurately identify areas throughout Ireland that are experiencing severe rent pressure. In 2017, researchers developed a new methodology to estimate average rents at both the county level and local electoral level.

In another branch of research on the housing sector, research for the Quarterly Economic Commentaries monitored new mortgage lending and credit conditions to assess risk in order to ensure that sufficient credit is flowing so that new investments can be made and to ensure that lending activity does not become unsustainable or imprudent.

National planning

The ESRI produced work with significant implications for spatial planning in Ireland that fed into Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework, the Government's policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of the country. Published in early 2018, the research carried out in 2017 provided projections for population growth, jobs growth and employment growth across every region in

Ireland. The research findings indicate the necessity of investing strategically in towns and cities outside of Dublin as a basis for promoting the overall economic health of Ireland and facilitating population growth.

RESEARCH FINDINGS INDICATE THE NECESSITY OF INVESTING STRATEGICALLY IN TOWNS AND CITIES OUTSIDE OF DUBLIN TO PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF IRELAND AND FACILITATE POPULATION GROWTH.

Demographic projections were also used in a major piece of research to assess the likely demand for healthcare and social care services in Ireland up to the year 2030. The projections highlighted the stark realities of caring for an older population. The number of people aged 85 and over is expected to double. As a result, demand for nursing homes and home help is projected to increase by more than 50 per cent.

Such work is essential in order to target investment effectively, particularly in the face of the rapid population growth and ageing expected for Ireland. The ESRI's modelling expertise and its recently developed model of the macroeconomy, COSMO, means that the Institute is uniquely positioned to contribute to effective national planning.

Tackling inequality

Promoting social progress, in tandem with economic growth, is core to the work of the ESRI. In 2017, researchers built on a considerable body of ESRI research on equality and discrimination issues as part of a research programme funded by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). In November, the first output from the programme documented who experienced

discrimination in recruitment, in the workplace, and across a range of public and private services. The programme with IHREC has continued into 2018 and will be critical in monitoring how minorities are faring in Ireland.

In January, we published research that highlighted inequalities experienced by members of the Traveller community. The research pointed to particularly high levels of disadvantage in four areas: education, employment, housing and health. The research provided policymakers with a knowledge base in the lead-up to the state's recognition of Traveller ethnicity in March 2017.

KNOWLEDGE AND FACTS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL PROBLEM-SOLVING TOOLS FOR POLICYMAKERS.

Analyses of the distributional impacts of tax and welfare policies were also undertaken in 2017, under the SWITCH programme of research.

Promoting a better start in life

Now in its 11th year, the Growing Up in Ireland study continued to shine a light on areas where children and young people need help to enjoy a better start in life. For the first time, the study published results measuring how much time children spend in front of a screen, which is a valuable contribution to the growing debate around potentially negative effects of the increased screen time experienced by younger generations.

In 2017, research findings once again indicated that children from lower-income families are faring less well across a range of indicators, including health, education and socio-emotional wellbeing. This pioneering

study of children across the country points to the urgent need for interventions to stem the tide of inequality of opportunity and outcome that begins early in life for many Irish children.

There is much more work yet to be done to tackle the public policy challenges outlined above. The ESRI believes that knowledge and facts are the most powerful problem-solving tools for policymakers. In 2018 and into the future, the ESRI remains committed to producing knowledge that can translate into effective solutions for policymakers and better lives for people across Ireland.



Professor Alan Barrett,
Director of the ESRI

02 ESRI CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The ESRI holds conferences and seminars to examine key research topics. These events are open to the public, normally free of charge, and often held in conjunction with the release of a publication.

Additionally, the ESRI organises a public seminar series connecting experts from other institutions with researchers and policymakers. These seminars provide access to specialised knowledge and promote informed debate on a wide range of economic and social issues.

Visit esri.ie/events for more information, including presentations from previous conferences.



(from left to right) Éimear Fisher, Assistant Secretary, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Alan Barrett, Emer Smyth, Katherine Zappone, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, and James Williams, launch *Off to a Good Start? Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level Education* on 19 October.

CONFERENCES

A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland, January.

Geary Lecture – Fixing the Euro, Patches Won't Do, Professor Charles Wyplosz, The Graduate Institute Geneva and International Center for Monetary and Banking Studies, January.

Launch of the Monitoring Report on Integration 2016, March.

Enterprise Exporting, Innovation and Productivity, April.

Growing Up in Ireland Data Workshop, May.

6th Annual ESRI/Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy/University College Cork Seminar on Energy Policy Research, May.

Risk-Taking and Accidents on Irish Farms, May.

Budget Perspectives 2018, June.

2nd ESRI/University College Dublin Energy Policy Research Workshop, September.

Off to a Good Start? Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level Education, October.

Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference, November.

Geary Lecture – Precarious Lives: Insecurity, Exclusion and Well-Being in Advanced Capitalist Democracies, Professor Arne L. Kalleberg, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, November.

Growing Up in Ireland Data Workshop, November.

Migrant Family Reunification: Policy and Practice, November.

Poverty Transitions in Ireland, December.

SEMINARS

Why Did I Do That? Investigating Decision-Making Processes Using Eyetracking and Computer-Mouse Tracking, Dr Denis O'Hora, National University of Ireland Galway, February.

Equality and Human Rights Monitoring in Britain: Theory and Practice, Dr Tania Burchardt, The London School of Economics and Political Science, March.

Applying Behavioural Science to Policy, Professor Cass Sunstein, Harvard Law School and Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs from 2009 to 2012, March.

Entering the Labour Market When the Economy Is Weak: Does It Scar and Is It Insured Against? Rob Joyce, Institute for Fiscal Studies, April.

Job Polarisation and Progression from Entry-Level Jobs, Professor Steve McIntosh, University of Sheffield, May.

Labour and Product Market Reforms in Advanced Economies: Fiscal Costs, Gains and Support, Dr Davide Furceri, International Monetary Fund, May.

Oil Prices, the Paris Agreement and the Endgame for Fossil Fuels, Professor Dieter Helm, University of Oxford, May.

Do Variations in Emergency Admission Rates Explain Variations in Hospital Mortality? Professor Matt Sutton, Manchester Centre for Health Economics, University of Manchester, May.

Arne L. Kalleberg (centre), Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, delivered the Geary Lecture on the topic of *Precarious Lives: Insecurity, Exclusion and Well-Being in Advanced Capitalist Democracies* 16 November. He is pictured here with Alan Barrett and Frances McGinnity.



Pike Stock Management in Designated Brown Trout Fisheries: Anglers' Preferences, John Curtis, ESRI, May.

The Economic Value of Attendance at a Museum with No Admission Fee, Professor Vincent G. Munley, Lehigh University, June.

Brexit: Implications for the UK, EU and Globalization, Dr Thomas Sampson, The London School of Economics, September.

Mobility and the Lifetime Distributional Impact of Tax and Transfer Reforms, Barra Roantree, Institute for Fiscal Studies, November.

Water-Based Leisure Activity: The Benefits of Good Water Quality, John Curtis, ESRI, November.



(from left to right) Martin O'Halloran, Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Authority, Pat Breen, TD, Minister of State for Employment and Small Business, and Alan Barrett at the launch of *Risk-taking and Accidents on Irish Farms* on 24 May.

2017 IN NUMBERS

PUBLICATIONS



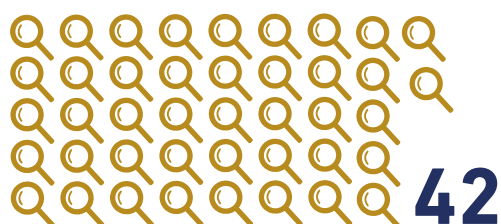
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS



NEW



COMPLETED



ONGOING

OIREACHTAS



ESRI RESEARCHERS ADDRESSED OIREACHTAS COMMITTEES

2 TIMES

THE ESRI WAS MENTIONED IN OIREACHTAS PROCEEDINGS

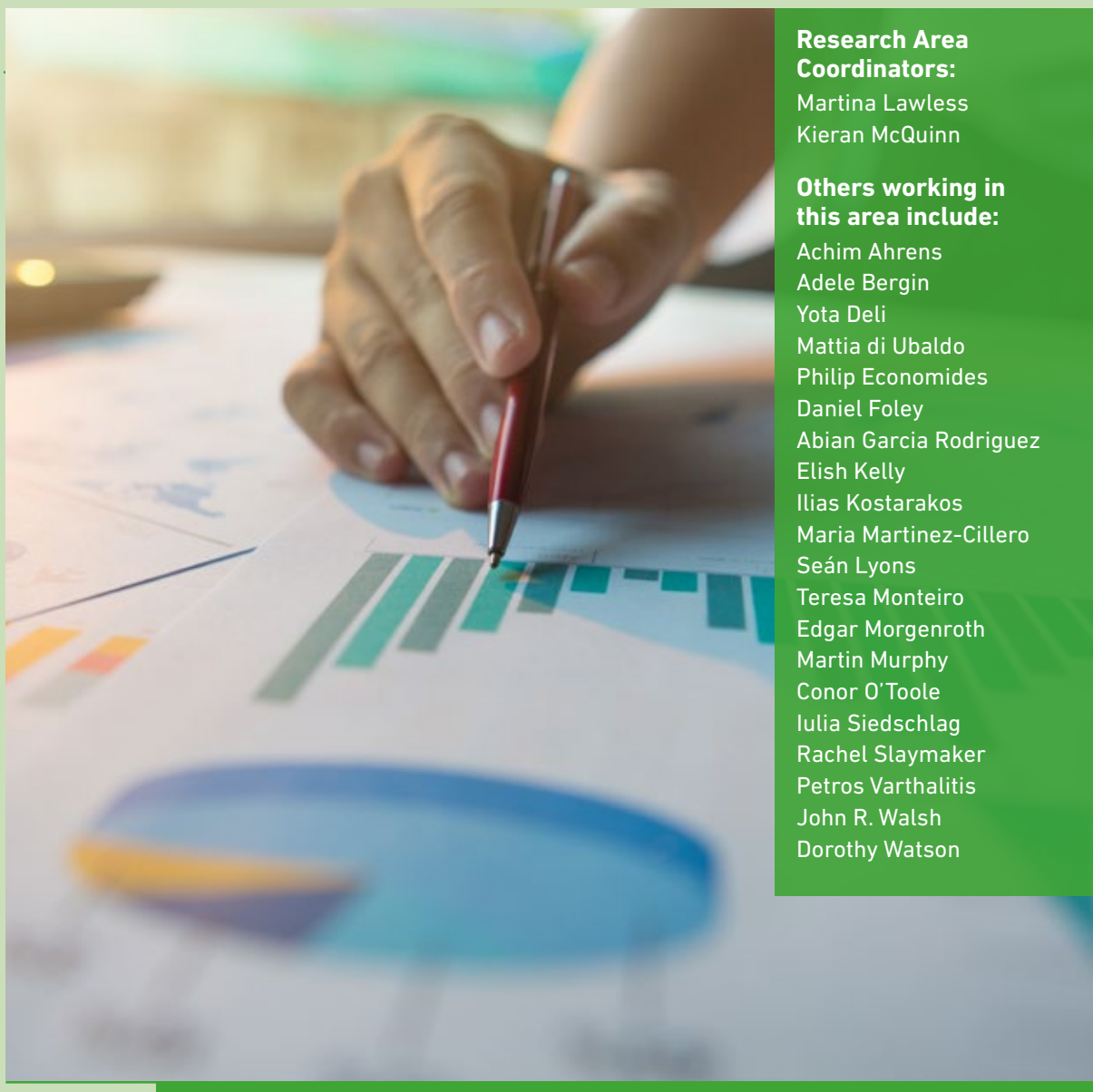
320 TIMES

MEDIA



EVENTS





Research Area Coordinators:

Martina Lawless
Kieran McQuinn

Others working in this area include:

Achim Ahrens
Adele Bergin
Yota Deli
Mattia di Ubaldo
Philip Economides
Daniel Foley
Abian Garcia Rodriguez
Elish Kelly
Ilias Kostarakos
Maria Martinez-Cillero
Seán Lyons
Teresa Monteiro
Edgar Morgenroth
Martin Murphy
Conor O'Toole
Iulia Siedschlag
Rachel Slaymaker
Petros Varthalitis
John R. Walsh
Dorothy Watson

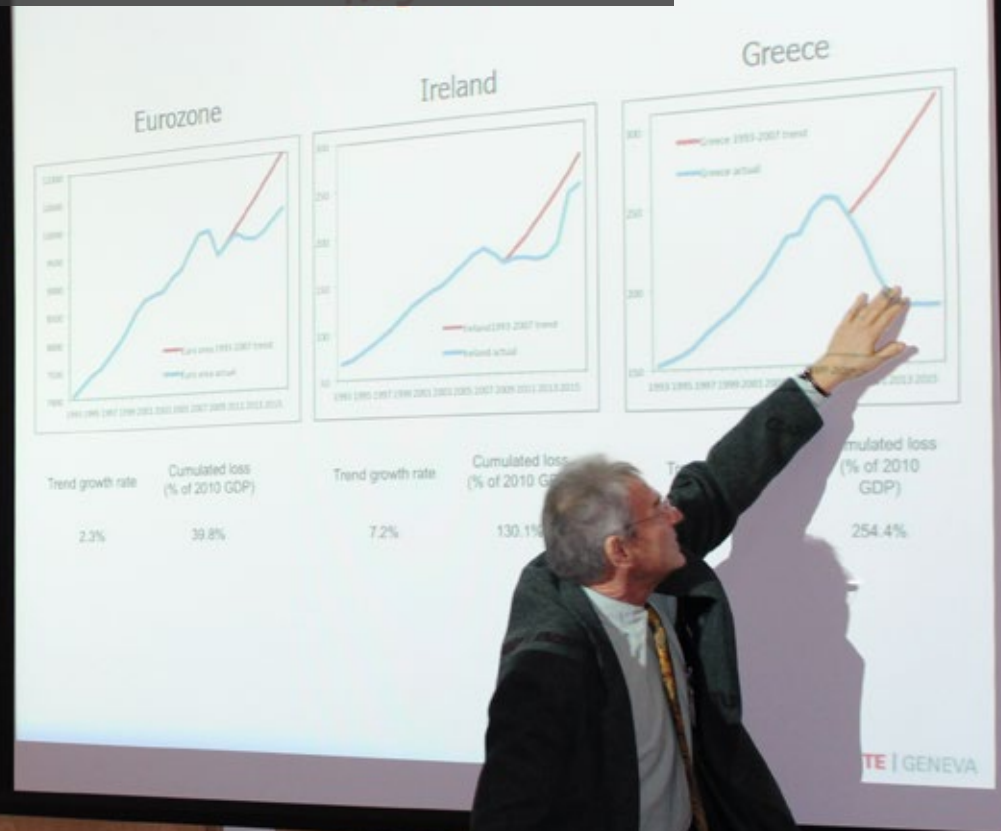
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- House prices could rise by 20 per cent between 2017 and 2020 if strong economic growth and the slow rate of housing supply continue.
- Analysis using the ESRI's model of the macro-economy indicated that a 'hard' Brexit would reduce Irish potential output by more than 3 per cent over the medium term.

(from left to right) Conor O'Toole, Philip Economides, Teresa Monteiro and Kieran McQuinn launching the *Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2017* on 13 December.



Charles Wyplosz, Professor at The Graduate Institute Geneva and the International Center for Monetary and Banking Studies, delivered the Geary Lecture on the topic of *Fixing the Euro, Patches Won't Do* on 24 January.



The macroeconomic research area in the ESRI covers a wide range of issues that impact on the overall performance of the Irish economy. Research aims to improve understanding of factors affecting priority issues, including domestic growth, stable taxation policy, the property sector and the relationship between the macroeconomy and the financial sector.

Throughout 2017, research focused on developments in the housing market. In May, the ESRI and the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** commenced a three-year joint research programme. Work began to develop estimates of housing demand, supply, affordability and social housing supports. In November, a Special Article assessed the stability or otherwise of recent house price developments. The study provided medium-run forecasts of future price changes. It found that house prices in Ireland could increase by 20 per cent from 2017 to 2020 if projections for strong economic growth over the period are realised and if the slow rate of housing supply continues.

Research has also focused on the rental sector. A new hedonic rent index was produced for the **Residential Tenancies Board** to incorporate more detail on the location of rental properties across the country. This new index provides information on average rents at a county level as well as a local electoral area level.

As part of an ongoing joint research programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Office of the Revenue Commissioners**, research covered a range of macroeconomic and taxation issues in Ireland. This included an examination of how exchange rate variations and differing prices of motoring fuels between Ireland and Northern Ireland incentivise consumers to purchase motoring fuels across the Border. Work in this research programme also estimated income tax elasticities, showing how these

can vary across time, type of taxpayer and income level. Research examining the sensitivity of VAT revenues to economic activity found that income tax revenues are more sensitive to economic fluctuations than revenue arising from the Universal Social Charge. This research programme also examined the role that gifts and inheritances play in household wealth and property acquisition.

WORK BEGAN TO DEVELOP ESTIMATES OF HOUSING DEMAND, SUPPLY, AFFORDABILITY, AND SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORTS.

Further work was undertaken on the potential impact of Brexit on the Irish economy, focusing on transport connections and the role of the UK as a land-bridge to other trading partners. The scope of the research programme with the **Department of Finance** was expanded during the year to cover topics relating to banking and financial stability. Research will focus on investment patterns and financing requirements of small and medium-sized enterprises, and also on developing stress-testing tools for the mortgage market in order to monitor the financial stability of the Irish economy.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary* continued to be a core output of the Institute throughout 2017. The ongoing improvement in Ireland's economy was discussed in each issue, along with potential threats such as Brexit. The Institute's model of the macroeconomy, COSMO, continued to be used to inform our analysis of economic developments. COSMO was also used by the Department of Finance in its analytical work underpinning Budget 2018.



(from left to right) John McCarthy, Secretary-General at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, and Alan Barrett sign an agreement for a new research programme on housing economics in May.

03 MACROECONOMICS

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Joint research programme on the macroeconomy, banking and taxation	Department of Finance; Office of the Revenue Commissioners	K. McQuinn M. Lawless E. Morgenroth I. Siedschlag A. Rodriguez M. Murphy M. Di Ubaldo S. Lyons P. Varthalitis R. Slaymaker M. Martinez-Cillero	In progress
Sentiment indices	Bank of Ireland; KBC; AIB; Nationwide Building Society	K. McQuinn D. Watson D. Foley C. O'Toole P. Economides T. Monteiro	In progress
Joint research programme on housing economics	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	K. McQuinn C. O'Toole R. Slaymaker D. Watson E. Morgenroth	In progress
Spatial economic and demographic modelling	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	E. Morgenroth A. Rodriguez A. Ahrens	In progress
Residential Tenancies Board average rent report	The Housing Agency	K. McQuinn M. Lawless C. O'Toole D. Foley J. Walsh T. Monteiro	In progress
The impact of Brexit on consumer prices	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	M. Lawless E. Morgenroth	Completed
Dublin sentiment index	DKM	C. O'Toole K. McQuinn T. Monteiro	In progress
Micro, small and medium enterprises in Vietnam: access to finance	World Institute for Development Economics Research at the United Nations University	C. O'Toole	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Assessing the level of cross-border fuel tourism”, *Irish Journal of Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability*, Vol. 1, Issue 2, 19 February 2017, pp. 4–22, Sean Kennedy, **Sean Lyons**,¹ **Edgar Morgenroth**, Keith Walsh.

“Deleveraging in a highly indebted property market: who does it and are there implications for household consumption?”, *Review of Income and Wealth*, Vol. 63, Issue 1, March 2017, pp. 95–117, Yvonne McCarthy, **Kieran McQuinn**.

“Fiscal consolidation and its cross-country effects”, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, Vol. 83, October 2017, pp. 55–106, Apostolis Philippopoulos, **Petros Varthalitis**, Vangelis Vassilatos.

“Fiscal consolidation in an open economy with sovereign premia and without monetary policy independence”, *International Journal of Central Banking*, Vol. 13, No. 4, December 2017, Apostolis Philippopoulos, **Petros Varthalitis**, Vangelis Vassilatos.

“How sensitive is Irish income tax revenue to underlying economic activity?”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 3, Autumn 2017, pp. 317–336, **Yota Deli***, **Derek Lambert**, **Martina Lawless**, **Kieran McQuinn**, **Edgar L.W. Morgenroth**.

“Investment financing and financial development: evidence from Viet Nam”, *Review of Finance*, Vol. 21, Issue 4, July 2017, pp. 1639–1674, **Conor O’Toole**, Carol Newman.

“Modelling the medium- to long-term potential macroeconomic impact of Brexit on Ireland”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 3, Autumn 2017, pp. 305–316, **Adele Bergin**, **Abian Garcia-Rodriguez**, **Edgar Morgenroth**, Donal Smith.

“Price expectations, distressed mortgage markets and the housing wealth effect”, *Real Estate Economics*, Vol. 45, Issue 2, Summer 2017, pp. 478–513, Yvonne McCarthy, **Kieran McQuinn**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Income Tax Revenue Elasticities in Ireland: An Analytical Approach, ESRI Research Series No. 59, ESRI, Dublin, Jean Acheson, **Yota Deli***, **Derek Lambert**, **Edgar Morgenroth**.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn**, **Conor O’Toole**, **Elish Kelly**.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn**, **Daniel Foley**, **Conor O’Toole**.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn**, **Conor O’Toole**, **Philip Economides**, **Teresa Monteiro**.

Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn**, **Conor O’Toole**, **Philip Economides**, **Teresa Monteiro**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

“Business”, Frank Barry, **Adele Bergin** in William K. Roche, Philip J. O’Connell, Andrea Prothero (eds.), *Austerity and Recovery in Ireland: Europe’s Poster Child and the Great Recession*, Chapter 4, pp. 62–84, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

“Examining consequences for trade: integration and disintegration effects”, **Edgar Morgenroth** in David Bailey, Les Budd (eds.), *The Political Economy of Brexit*, Chapter 2, Newcastle upon Tyne: Agenda Publishing, 2017.

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

“Irish house prices: déjà vu all over again?”, *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, Winter 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

“A measure for identifying substantial geographic concentrations of economic activity”, ESRI, Dublin, Chris Van Egeraat, **Edgar Morgenroth**, Rutger Kroes, Declan Curran, Justin Gleeson.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

“COSMO: a new COre Structural MOdel for Ireland”, ESRI, Dublin, **Adele Bergin**, Niall Conroy, **Abian Garcia Rodriguez**, Dawn Holland, **Niall Mc Inerney**, **Edgar Morgenroth**, Donal Smith.

“Credit conditions and tenure choice: a cross-country examination”, ESRI, Dublin, **David Cronin***, **Kieran McQuinn**.

“Gifts and inheritances in Ireland”, ESRI, Dublin, **Martina Lawless**, Donal Lynch.

¹ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

03 MACROECONOMICS

"Identifying rent pressures in your neighbourhood: a new model of Irish regional rent indicators", ESRI, Dublin, **Martina Lawless, Kieran McQuinn, John R. Walsh.**

"The changing relationship between affordability and house prices: a cross-country examination", ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn.**

"The cyclical nature of Irish fiscal policy ex-ante and ex-post", ESRI, Dublin, **David Cronin*, Kieran McQuinn.**

OTHER PAPERS

"Assessing the level of cross-border fuel tourism", MPRA Paper No. 76961, ESRI, Dublin, Sean Kennedy, **Seán Lyons, Edgar Morgenroth,** Keith Walsh.

"Brexit will have regionally differentiated effects", *Regions Magazine*, Vol. 307, Issue 1, August 2017, p. 5, Informa Group plc, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Brexit: implications for the agri-food sector", *Brexit and the Agri-food Sector*, IMPACT/SIPTU, Dublin, April, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

"Current macroeconomic issues: upside and downside risks", *Budget Perspectives 2018*, ESRI, Dublin, June, **Martina Lawless.**

"Economic projections for Ireland in 2040: towards a national planning framework", Eolas/Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Dublin, March, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

"Economic prospects for Ireland post-Brexit", *Colmcille Winter School*, Donegal, February, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

"Europe's growth prospects: with and without reforms", *Structural Reforms and European Integration*, European Institute, The London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK, May, **Kieran McQuinn.**

"Fiscal consolidation and its cross-country effects", *Xenophon: Economists at Work*, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece, December, **Petros Varthalitis.**

"Future Housing Needs", *Social Housing Summit*, Dublin, February, **Kieran McQuinn, Dorothy Watson.**

"House prices, credit conditions and macroprudential policy", *Microdata and Macroeconomics*, Central Bank of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, September, **Conor O'Toole.**

"Internal migration and housing cycles", European Regional Science Association congress, Groningen University, Groningen, The Netherlands, August, **Abian Garcia-Rodriguez, Edgar Morgenroth.**

"Ireland 2040: issues, options and implications", *Dublin Economics Workshop Policy Conference*, Wexford, September, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

"Leverage, borrower behaviour and macroprudential policy", *An Integrated View of Financial Regulation*, International Finance and Banking Society, Oxford, UK, July, **Conor O'Toole.**

"Macroeconomic context for Budget 2018", *Budget Perspectives 2018*, ESRI, Dublin, June, **Kieran McQuinn, Abian Garcia-Rodriguez, Adele Bergin, Daniel Foley.**

"National Economic Dialogue macroeconomic outlook", *National Economic Dialogue*, Department of Finance, Dublin, June, **Daniel Foley, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.**

"Prospects for the Irish economy", *Austerity and Recovery in Ireland*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, May, **Adele Bergin.**

"Territorial cohesion in Ireland and the EU", *Great Regional Awakening*, Regional Studies Association, Dublin, June, **Edgar Morgenroth.**

"The potential regional impact of Brexit in Ireland", *Great Regional Awakening*, Regional Studies Association, Dublin, June, **Edgar Morgenroth.**



Research Area Coordinator:
Iulia Siedschlag

Others working in this area include:
Mattia Di Ubaldo
Martina Lawless
Edgar Morgenroth
Zuzanna Studnicka
Manuel Tong Koecklin

Work was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliates Paul Gorecki and Frances Ruane.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Research on Irish exporting firms finds that it is very risky to enter a new market or launch a new product. Firms are most likely to exit within the first year.
- Investment in knowledge-based capital is an important driver of labour productivity. The evidence shows that a 10 per cent increase in investment leads to a 2 per cent increase in firm productivity.

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on the key factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of increased European and international integration.

THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF INDIGENOUS FIRMS IS KEY TO ENSURE THEY CAN BENEFIT FROM THE ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS.

In 2017 research in this area addressed the following themes:

(i) *Productivity spillovers from multinational activity to indigenous firms in Ireland:* This research was funded as part of a joint research programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Office of the Revenue Commissioners**. Research results indicated that the absorptive capacity of indigenous firms is key in order to ensure they can benefit from advanced knowledge and technologies associated with multinational firms. This research provided background empirical analysis for the *OECD Ireland Economic Survey 2018*.

(ii) *Studies on competitiveness:* This research was funded by the **European Commission**. One study examined the extent and intensity of production linkages between firms across EU countries and their underlying factors. The results suggested that strengthening the quality of legal systems, lowering barriers to foreign direct investment (FDI), and increasing the flexibility of labour markets could enable and intensify the sourcing of inputs via FDI across EU countries. A second

study analysed and compared the performance of indigenous and multinational firms operating in Ireland with respect to productivity, investment in R&D and innovation, trade, and access to finance. The evidence provided by this study was used to put forward policy guidelines for Ireland in the context of the European Semester.

(iii) *Investment in knowledge-based capital and productivity:* As part of a joint research programme with the **Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation** and **Enterprise Ireland**, research examined investment in intangible assets and its impact on productivity. The key results for Ireland indicated that investment in knowledge-based capital was positively associated with productivity across firms. This suggests that it could be beneficial to develop policy measures designed to incentivise investment in a broader range of intangible assets beyond R&D.

(iv) *Impact of Brexit:* In collaboration with the **Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation** and **Enterprise Ireland** research examined the potential impact of the UK exit from the EU on aspects of the Irish economy, focusing on the contribution of imported intermediate inputs from the UK to Irish exports. Other analysis examined services trade flows between Ireland and the UK and the degree to which this sector could be affected by Brexit.

(v) *Cross-border trade:* Research funded by **InterTradeIreland** analysed current trading patterns between Ireland and Northern Ireland at a detailed product level. This study was motivated by a need to understand how possible post-Brexit trade arrangements could impact on overall trade flows. The key result demonstrated the particular exposure of the agri-food sector to increases in trade costs.



(from left to right) Martina Lawless with guest speaker Thomas Sampson, Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics, who delivered a seminar titled *Brexit: Implications for the UK, EU and Globalization* on 28 September.

Exporting, Innovation and Productivity

On 4 April, Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary-General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, launched a series of ESRI research outputs examining exporting activity and investment patterns, particularly focusing on knowledge-based capital at the firm level.

Exporting

The study examined how Irish exporters launch, adapt, diversify and grow their exports with the aim of providing insights into the opportunities, risks and challenges of operating in the global marketplace. It found that exporting is highly concentrated in a small percentage of firms – export values are driven by a small group of export “superstars”. Eleven per cent of highly globalised firms (exporting more than 20 products to over 20 destinations) account for 46 per cent of the exports of Irish-owned firms. Most exporters sell a small number of goods to few markets, with the UK accounting for 40 per cent of exports by Irish firms.

The study found that exporting is extremely dynamic. Exporting firms continually adjust product and market mixes and have high levels of entry and exit at the product and destination level. Every year, 15 per cent of exported products are new to the firm.

Export growth is largely driven by product and market changes. In the short and medium run, export volumes may be largely explained by sales of existing products to their current markets. In the long run, it is expansion of market and product portfolios that drives export growth.

Exporters outperform non-exporters across many indicators. Irish-owned exporters have on average 26.5 per cent higher employment compared to Irish non-exporters and have labour productivity that is around 8 per cent higher.

However, exporting activity has a high risk of exit. The first year of export activity for Irish small firms is particularly challenging, with a high risk of immediate exit from the market.

From a policy point of view, the findings point to the ongoing supports required by firms to grow an exporting business, to introduce new products and to diversify to new markets. Firms also require assistance with monitoring changes in the external environment in order to take advantage of opportunities and to mitigate potentially negative moves.

Knowledge-based capital

While international evidence indicated that investment in knowledge-based capital (KBC) resulted in greater innovation and productivity, this was the first study to provide firm-level evidence from Ireland.

The findings showed that investment in KBC is an important driver of labour productivity in Ireland’s enterprises. The evidence shows that the impact is substantial, with a 10 per cent increase in investment in KBC per employee found to boost firm productivity by 2 per cent.

EXPORTERS OUTPERFORM NON-EXPORTERS ACROSS MANY INDICATORS. IRISH-OWNED EXPORTERS HAVE ON AVERAGE 26.5 PER CENT HIGHER EMPLOYMENT COMPARED TO IRISH NON-EXPORTERS AND HAVE LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY THAT IS AROUND 8 PER CENT HIGHER.

Investments in various types of KBC have different effects on productivity across Irish- and foreign-owned firms. The largest productivity gains for Irish-owned firms are found for investment in R&D intangible assets and in organisational capital. For foreign-owned firms, the largest productivity increases are linked to investment in non-R&D intangible assets such as computer software, intellectual property assets and organisational capital. Incentivising further investment in knowledge-based capital could lead to stronger enterprise innovation and productivity performance.

This new evidence highlights that while policy measures aimed at incentivising investment in R&D are important to enhance productivity growth, a comprehensive approach is needed to also foster investments in other intangible assets such as computer software, copyrights, patents and licences, as well as firm-specific human capital and organisational capital.

Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary-General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, opened the *Enterprise Exporting, Innovation and Productivity* Conference on 4 April.



(from left to right) Iulia Siedschlag, Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary-General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Alan Barrett, Martina Lawless, Zuzanna Studnicka and Mattia Di Ubaldo at the *Enterprise Exporting, Innovation and Productivity* Conference on 4 April.



PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Research programme on exporting, innovation and productivity	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	M. Lawless I. Siedschlag M. Di Ubaldo Z. Studnicka	In progress
Research programme on enterprises and cross-border trade	InterTradelreland	M. Lawless	In progress
Procurement of economic studies and analysis related to impact assessment and evaluations	DG GROW, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	I. Siedschlag M. Di Ubaldo	In progress
Studies in the area of European competitiveness	DG GROW, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	I. Siedschlag M. Di Ubaldo M. Tong Koecklin	In progress
Study on competitiveness, intra-EU linkages and European value chains	DG GROW, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	I. Siedschlag M. Di Ubaldo Z. Studnicka	Completed
Study on comparative performance of indigenous and multinational firms operating in Ireland	DG GROW, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	I. Siedschlag M. Di Ubaldo M. Tong Koecklin	Completed
Innovation as a driver of firm performance	International Labour Organization	I. Siedschlag	Completed

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Do foreign mergers and acquisitions boost firm productivity?", *International Business Review*, Vol. 26, Issue 6, December 2017, pp. 1124–1140, Marc Schiffbauer, **Iulia Siedschlag**, **Frances Ruane**.²

"Employment protection and industry innovation", *Industrial and Corporate Change*, Vol. 26, No. 3, 2017, pp. 379–398, Gavin Murphy, **Iulia Siedschlag**, John McQuinn.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Drivers and Obstacles to Competitiveness in the EU: The Role of Value Chains and the Single Market, Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Vienna, Klaus S. Friesenbichler, Christian Glocker,

Werner Hölzl, Serguei Kaniovski, Agnes Kügler, Andreas Reinstaller, Gerhard Streicher, **Iulia Siedschlag**, **Mattia Di Ubaldo**, **Zuzanna Studnicka**, Robert Stehrer, Roman Stöllinger, Sandra Leitne.

Expanding and Diversifying the Manufactured Exports of Irish-Owned Enterprises, ESRI, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Enterprise Ireland, Dublin, **Martina Lawless**, **Iulia Siedschlag**, **Zuzanna Studnicka**.

Investment in Knowledge-Based Capital and Its Contribution to Productivity Growth: A Review of International and Irish Evidence, ESRI, Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation and Enterprise Ireland, **Iulia Siedschlag**, **Martina Lawless**, **Mattia Di Ubaldo**.

² Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

Potential Impact of WTO Tariffs on Cross-Border Trade, InterTradeIreland, Newry, **Martina Lawless, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

Services Exports and Exporters of Services, ESRI, Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation and Enterprise Ireland, Dublin, **Martina Lawless, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

Study on Investment Needs and Obstacles along Industrial Value Chains, European Commission, Luxembourg, WIIW, Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovacao (SPI), IDEA Consult, IWE, **Iulia Siedschlag, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

"Innovation in firms and labour market outcomes", *World Employment and Social Outlook 2017*, Chapter 4, pp. 119–145, Geneva: International Labour Organization, Pelin Sekerler Richiardi, Ira Postolachi, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

"Investment in knowledge-based capital and its impact on productivity", ESRI, Dublin, **Iulia Siedschlag, Martina Lawless, Mattia Di Ubaldo**.

"Irish enterprise exporting patterns in goods and services", ESRI, Dublin, **Martina Lawless, Iulia Siedschlag, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Investment in knowledge-based capital and its contribution to productivity growth: a review of international and Irish evidence", ESRI, Dublin, **Iulia Siedschlag, Martina Lawless, Mattia Di Ubaldo**.

"Ireland's international trade and transport connections", ESRI, Dublin, **Martina Lawless, Edgar Morgenroth**.

"The impact of investment in innovation on productivity: firm-level evidence from Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Mattia Di Ubaldo, Iulia Siedschlag**.

"The impact of investment in knowledge-based capital on productivity: firm-level evidence from Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Mattia Di Ubaldo, Iulia Siedschlag**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Determinants of intra-firm trade: evidence from Ireland", *European Trade Study Group Annual Conference*, European University Institute/University of Florence, Florence, Italy, September, **Iulia Siedschlag, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

"Export diversification and growth in manufacturing and services", *Enterprise Exporting, Innovation and Productivity*, ESRI/Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation/Enterprise Ireland, Dublin, April, **Martina Lawless, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

"Export market entry and initial values", *European Trade Study Group Annual Conference*, European University Institute/University of Florence, Florence, Italy, September, **Martina Lawless, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

"Firms' exporting under financing constraints", *Irish Economic Association Annual Conference*, Institute of Banking, Dublin, May, **Iulia Siedschlag, Gavin Murphy**.

"From innovation to exporting in times of crisis", *Society for International Trade Theory Conference*, University College Dublin, Dublin, April; *Economics of Innovation and Patenting*, Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim, Germany, May and *Ljubljana Empirical Trade Conference*, Forum for Research in Empirical International Trade, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, June, **Mattia Di Ubaldo**.

"How can we make globalisation more inclusive?", *Vision Europe Summit*, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, Italy, November, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

"Investment and integration in global value chains: evidence from EU countries", *Towards EU-MENA Shared Prosperity: Platform for Advanced and Emerging Economies Policy Dialogue*, Bruegel, Brussels, Belgium, April, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

"Investment in knowledge-based capital and its impact on productivity", *Enterprise Exporting, Innovation and Productivity*, ESRI/Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation/Enterprise Ireland, Dublin, April, **Mattia Di Ubaldo, Martina Lawless, Iulia Siedschlag**.

“Investment in knowledge-based capital and its impact on productivity: firm-level evidence from Ireland”, *Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service Annual Conference*, Dublin, June and *Innovation and Industrial Dynamics: Challenges for the Next Decade, 6th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation*, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Seville, Spain, September, **Mattia Di Ubaldo**, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

“Old firms and new products: does experience improve survival?”, *European Economic Association Annual Congress*, Lisbon, Portugal, August, **Martina Lawless**, **Zuzanna Studnicka**.

“Opportunities and threats for Irish foreign direct investment”, *Institute of International and European Affairs Seminar*, Dublin, February, **Martina Lawless**.

“SMEs’ internationalisation strategies”, *Global expansion strategies*, Global Expansion Summit, London, UK, June, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

“The potential economic impact of Brexit on Ireland”, *Brexit: What Impact on Member States?*, European Network of Economic Policy Research Institutes and Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium, February, **Iulia Siedschlag**.

“What’s next? Returning to export after a failure”, *European Trade Study Group Annual Conference*, European University Institute/University of Florence, Florence, Italy, September, **Mattia Di Ubaldo**, **Zuzanna Studnicka**.



Iulia Siedschlag and Mattia Di Ubaldo presented new research findings at the *Exporting, Innovation and Productivity* conference on 4 April.

(from left to right) Valentin Bertsch, Paddy Teahon, Strategy Director of the UCD Energy Institute, Seán Kyne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment at the 2nd ESRI-UCD Energy Policy Workshop on 8 September.





Research Area Coordinators:

Valentin Bertsch
John Curtis
Seán Lyons.

Others working in this area include:

Achim Ahrens
Adele Bergin
Maxime Bercholz
Philip Carthy
Matthew Collins
Kelly C. De Bruin
Seraphim Dempsey
Mel Devine
Valeria di Cosmo
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Gianluca Grilli
Jason Harold
Marie Hyland
Dana Kirchem
Pete Lunn
Muireann Lynch
Edgar Morgenroth
Martin Murphy
Áine Ní Choisdealbha
Anne Nolan
Marianna Russo
Petr Spodniak
Aykut Mert Yakut

Work was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliate John Cullinan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Research proposed a new mechanism for allocating capacity payment among generators in order to incentivise firms to increase their reliability. Increased reliability would lead to fewer blackouts and reduce electricity prices.
- Under current market conditions, photovoltaic (PV) energy and battery investments are not profitable in Ireland.

05 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Research in this area is financed by multi-annual research programmes and research projects with a specific purpose. Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, ESB, Ervia, Eirgrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, Commission for Energy Regulation, Science Foundation Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** and the **Gas Innovation Group**. Environmental research is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency, Health Service Executive and Inland Fisheries Ireland**. Collaborations are ongoing with UCD, TCD, UL, UCC, NUIG, QUB, and several universities abroad. The research area co-hosted conferences on the topic of energy policy with UCC in May and UCD in September.

- The energy research programme is structured into four areas. Several projects were carried out in each area in addition to the following examples.
- *Market design and regulation:* A paper proposed a new mechanism for allocating capacity payment among generators, incentivising firms to increase their reliability. Consumers would benefit from a reduced probability of blackouts/brownouts and lower electricity prices.
- *Energy services:* Research examining residential energy retrofits found that the best value for money occurs in retrofits of less energy-efficient and larger homes where retrofit types include cavity wall insulation paired with either a boiler with heating controls or heating controls only.
- *Energy infrastructure:* Research exploring different types of feed-in tariffs for renewable electricity found that designs that divide the risk of uncertain wholesale electricity prices between consumers and investors are preferred rather than flat-rate or premium feed-in tariff designs. This was especially the case when consumers and investors were risk-averse.
- *Interface with society and environment:* A paper found that, under current market conditions and regulation, PV and battery investments are not profitable in Ireland. However, this may change soon, which would lead to increasing levels of self-sufficiency.

As part of the environment research programme, carried out in partnership with the **Environmental Protection Agency** and the **Health Service Executive**, a study was completed on the environmental effects of selected fiscal instruments. A paper was published showing that households in high radon risk areas have higher rates of lung cancer, after taking other factors into account. New research began, which conducts a valuation of urban green spaces and coastal amenities using house price data. Other ongoing research includes a choice experiment exploring the aspects of green spaces that people value and that encourage healthy behaviours.

Other environmental research demonstrated the impact of water quality on water-based recreational activity, examining how it impacts both the choice of recreational site and duration of visit.

HOUSEHOLDS IN HIGH RADON RISK AREAS HAVE HIGHER RATES OF LUNG CANCER, AFTER TAKING OTHER FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT.

Within the fisheries research programme, papers identified facilities that are important for attracting visiting anglers, in addition to the economic benefits associated with angling competitions and several destination fishery sites. Ongoing research includes an examination of the relationship between effort and catch among sea bass anglers, as well as their views on stock conservation for this important recreational species.

Dieter Helm, Professor at the University of Oxford, spoke at an event titled *Oil Prices, the Paris Agreement and the Endgame for Fossil Fuels* on 16 May in the ESRI.



2nd ESRI–UCD Energy Policy Research Workshop

The energy system in Ireland and globally is undergoing a transformation as it becomes decarbonised and increasingly integrated across sectors and markets.

In this context, the 2nd ESRI–UCD Energy Policy Research Workshop took place in September. Economic and engineering perspectives were presented on research carried out by the ESRI and UCD Energy Institute relating to future electric power systems, sustainable energy communities, new energy technologies, residential energy efficiency and energy markets. The audience included 80 participants from government, industry and academia who work in the energy sector and whose work aims to tackle the challenges of the future energy system. The workshop was opened by Seán Kyne, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and sessions were chaired by Una Nic Giolla Choille, Principal Officer at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and Marian Troy from SSE Ireland.

Muireann Lynch, ESRI, presented key findings from her paper *Re-evaluating Irish energy policy in light of Brexit*. Dr Lynch emphasised that, while it is certainly reasonable to re-evaluate policy on an ongoing basis and in light of major global events such as Brexit, policymakers should exercise caution in determining their priorities. While Brexit will impact on the policy landscape, there are many opportunities for improving Irish energy policy that should be addressed regardless of Brexit, including, for example, a thorough cost–benefit analysis of new infrastructural projects such as gas and electricity interconnection.

Policymakers should not focus to an excessive degree on the real or perceived threats of Brexit while potentially ignoring other pressing issues.

Mel Devine, ESRI, presented his joint work with Valentin Bertsch, ESRI, on the value of demand response. The work is a collaboration with meteorologists and mathematicians from UCD, which emerged from the Energy Systems Integration Partnership Programme (ESIPP). Dr Devine concluded that demand response helps to reduce the curtailment of wind power and increases profits of renewable generation. However, he also said that consumer savings from the energy market are likely to be outweighed by an increase in costs from the capacity market and support payments for renewable generation.

POLICYMAKERS SHOULD NOT FOCUS TO AN EXCESSIVE DEGREE ON THE REAL OR PERCEIVED THREATS OF BREXIT WHILE POTENTIALLY IGNORING OTHER PRESSING ISSUES.

Petr Spodniak, ESRI, presented research in relation to determinants of power spreads in liberalised electricity markets, which compares three European electricity markets. Dr Spodniak explained that the increase in solar and wind generation reduces the hedgeable profit margins of dispatchable power plants by 3–22 per cent between 2009 and 2016. He said that the overall decline of profit margins is also driven by the dynamics of the CO₂ and fuel prices. He concluded that traditional hedging methods might be insufficient to stimulate adequate risk management in the future.

Presentation slides from this event are available to download from esri.ie/past-events/.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Energy System Integration Partnership Programme	Science Foundation Ireland; University College Dublin	V. Bertsch P. Spodniak	In progress
Sustainable energy electrical system	Science Foundation Ireland; University College Dublin	S. Lyons M. Russo	Completed
Collaborative research on decentralisation, electrification, communications and economics	Science Foundation Ireland	V. Bertsch J. Harold	In progress
Residential gas networks connections	Gas Innovation Group; Science Foundation of Ireland; University College Cork	J. Curtis D. McCoy	In progress
Research programme on climate, energy and the economy	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	J. Curtis E. Morgenroth K. DeBruin A. Bergin	In progress
Environment research programme	Environmental Protection Agency; Health Service Executive	S. Lyons J. Curtis Á. Ní Choisdealbha S. Dempsey M. Murphy A. Nolan E. Morgenroth P. Lunn A. Ahrens	In progress
Demand for water-based activity	Environmental Protection Agency	J. Curtis	Completed
Energy Policy Research Centre	ESB; Bord Gais; Eirgrid; Commission for Regulation of Utilities; Energia; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	J. Curtis V. Bertsch S. Lyons M. Lynch M. Devine M. Bercholz	In progress
Irish fisheries programme	Inland Fisheries Ireland	J. Curtis G. Grilli	In progress
Fellowship	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	J. Curtis M. Collins	Completed



(from left to right) Paul Deane (UCC), Alan Barrett, ESRI Director, Michael Manley, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Valentin Bertsch, Muireann Lynch, and Fionn Rogan (UCC) at the 6th Annual ESRI/Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy/UCC Seminar on Energy Policy Research on 23 May.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"A natural language generation approach to support understanding and traceability of multi-dimensional preferential sensitivity analysis in multi-criteria decision making", *Expert Systems With Applications*, Vol. 83, 2017, pp. 131–144, David Wulf, **Valentin Bertsch**.³

"A simulation model for the management and expansion of extended port terminal operations", *Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review*, Vol. 98, February 2017, pp. 105–131, Radu Cimpanu, **Mel Devine**, Conor O'Brien.

"Inducing truthful revelation of generator reliability", *Energy Economics*, Vol. 64, May 2017, pp. 186–195, **Mel Devine, Muireann Á. Lynch**.

"Optimising feed-in tariff design through efficient risk allocation", *Sustainable Energy, Grids and Networks*, Vol. 9, March 2017, pp. 59–74, **Mel Devine, Niall Farrell**, William T Lee.

"Irish coarse and game anglers' preferences for fishing site attributes", *Fisheries Research*, Vol. 190, June 2017, pp. 103–112, **John Curtis, Benjamin Breen**.

"On long-term transmission rights in the Nordic electricity markets", *Energies*, Vol. 10, No. 3, 295, 2017, pp. 1–19, **Petr Spodniak**, Mikael Collan, Mari Makkonen.

"Recreational angling tournaments: participants' expenditures", *Journal of Sport & Tourism*, Vol. 21, Issue 3, 2017, pp. 201–221, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, Paul O'Reilly, **Benjamin Breen**.

"Recreational boating site choice and the impact of water quality", *Heliyon*, Vol. 3, Issue 10, Article e00426, October 2017, pp. 1–21, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, **Benjamin Breen**.

"The economic contribution of a recreational fishery in a remote rural economy", *Water Resources and Rural Development*, Vol. 10, December 2017, pp. 14–21, **John Curtis, Benjamin Breen**, Paul O'Reilly, Cathal O'Donoghue.

"The income elasticity of household energy demand: a quantile regression analysis", *Applied Economics*, Vol. 49, Issue 54, 2017, pp. 5570–5578, **Jason Harold, John Cullinan***, **Seán Lyons**.

"Unintended outcomes of electricity smart-metering: trading-off consumption and investment behaviour", *Energy Efficiency*, Vol. 10, Issue 2, April 2017, pp. 299–318, **Daire McCoy***, **Seán Lyons**.

"Value for money in energy efficiency retrofits in Ireland: grant provider and grant recipients", *Applied Economics*, Vol. 49, Issue 51, 2017, pp. 5245–5267, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

"What are the factors that discourage companies in the Irish commercial sector from investigating energy saving options?", *Energy and Buildings*, Vol. 146, No. 1, July 2017, pp. 243–256, Matthew Clancy, **John Curtis**, Brian Ó Gallachóir.

"What drives people's opinions of electricity infrastructure? Empirical evidence from Ireland", *Energy Policy*, Vol. 106, July 2017, pp. 472–497, **Valentin Bertsch, Marie Hyland, Michael Mahony**.

³ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (cont.)

"What drives the profitability of household PV investments, self-consumption and self-sufficiency?", *Applied Energy*, Vol. 204, October 2017, pp. 1–15, **Valentin Bertsch**, Jutta Geldermann, Tobias Lühn.

"What factors drive inequalities in carbon tax incidence? Decomposing socioeconomic inequalities in carbon tax incidence in Ireland", *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 142, December 2017, pp. 31–45, **Niall Farrell**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Advances in Energy System Optimization: Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Energy System Optimization, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, **Valentin Bertsch**, Wolf Fichtner, Vincent Heuveline, Thomas Leibfried.

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

"Re-evaluating Irish energy policy in light of Brexit", *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, Summer 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Muireann Á. Lynch**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

"Anglers' preferences for fishing site attributes", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**, **Benjamin Breen**.

"Designing fair support schemes for renewable electricity", ESRI, Dublin, **Mel Devine**, **Niall Farrell**, William T Lee.

"Household investments into solar PV and battery storage: an analysis of profitability and impact", ESRI, Dublin, **Valentin Bertsch**, Jutta Geldermann, Tobias Lühn.

"How much extra energy does a household use when its income rises? The answer depends on how much energy it uses in the first place", ESRI, Dublin, **Jason Harold**, **John Cullinan***, **Seán Lyons**.

"Irish residents' views of energy-related technologies", ESRI, Dublin, **Valentin Bertsch**, **Marie Hyland**, **Michael Mahony**.

"More information, lower costs: a new electricity market mechanism", ESRI, Dublin, **Mel Devine**, **Muireann Á Lynch**.

"Recreational angling tournaments: participants' expenditures", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, Paul O'Reilly, **Benjamin Breen**.

"The economic contribution of recreational fishing: Waterville, Co. Kerry", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**, **Benjamin Breen**, Paul O'Reilly, Cathal O'Donoghue.

"Value for money in energy efficiency retrofits in Ireland: grant provider and grant recipients", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins**, **John Curtis**.

"Water quality and recreational use of public waterways", ESRI, Dublin, **Benjamin Breen**, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes.

"Water quality and water-based recreational activity", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, **Benjamin Breen**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Advertising and investment spillovers in the diffusion of residential energy efficiency renovations", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins**, **John Curtis**.

"Anglers' views on stock conservation: sea bass angling in Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli**, **John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, Paul O'Reilly.

"Can tenants afford to care? Investigating the willingness-to-pay for improved energy efficiency of rental tenants and returns to investment for landlords", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins**, **John Curtis**.

"Determinants of power spreads in electricity futures markets: a multinational analysis", ESRI, Dublin, **Petr Spodniak**, **Valentin Bertsch**.

"Determinants of residential heating system choice: an analysis of Irish households", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**, **Daire McCoy**, **Claudia Aravena Novielli***.

"Financial incentives for residential energy efficiency investments in Ireland: should the status quo be maintained?", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins**, **Seraphim Dempsey**, **John Curtis**.

"Identification of the information gap in residential energy efficiency: how information asymmetry can be mitigated to induce energy efficiency renovations", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins**, **John Curtis**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS (cont.)

"Pike (*Esox lucius*) stock management in designated brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) fisheries: anglers' preferences", ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis**.

"Recreational use of public waterways and the impact of water quality", ESRI, Dublin, **Benjamin Breen, John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes.

"Residential energy efficiency retrofits: potential unintended consequences", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins, Seraphim Dempsey**.

"Sea bass angling in Ireland: a structural equation model of catch and effort", ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis**, Stephen Hynes, Paul O'Reilly.

"The effect of Demand Response and wind generation on electricity investment and operation", ESRI, Dublin, Sheila Nolan, **Mel Devine, Muireann Á. Lynch**, Mark O'Malley.

"The role of community compensation mechanisms in reducing resistance to energy infrastructure development", ESRI, Dublin, **Marie Hyland, Valentin Bertsch**.

"The value of tourist angling: a travel cost method estimation of demand for two destination salmon rivers in Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

"Who pays for renewables? Increasing renewable subsidisation due to increased datacentre demand in Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Muireann Á. Lynch, Mel Devine**.

OTHER PAPERS

"Determinants of power hedging mechanisms in liberalized electricity markets", *2017 14th International Conference on the European Energy Market (EEM)*, 6–9 June 2017, IEEE, Dresden, **Petr Spodniak, Valentin Bertsch**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"A looming revolution: implications of decentralised electricity generation and self-consumption for suppliers' risk exposure and market efficiency", *3rd Applied Financial Modelling Conference*, Asia-Pacific Applied Economics Association/Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kampar, Malaysia, November, **Marianna Russo, Valentin Bertsch**.

"A national grant aid scheme for residential energy efficiency retrofits: application abandonment, retrofit depth and free-riding", *European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy Summer Study*, Hyères, France, June, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

"Advertising and investment spill overs in the diffusion of residential energy efficiency renovations", *ESRI–MaREI–UCC Seminar on Energy Policy Research*, Dublin, May, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

"Behavioural aspects of decision-making in energy systems: a selection of current topics", *21st Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies*, University of Quebec, Quebec, Canada, July, **Valentin Bertsch**.

"Can tenants afford to care? Investigating the willingness to pay for improved energy efficiency of rental tenants", *Irish Economic Association conference*, Dublin, May, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

"Determinants of power hedging mechanisms in liberalized electricity markets", *14th International Conference on the European Energy Market*, Technische Universität, Dresden, Germany, June, **Petr Spodniak, Valentin Bertsch**.

"Determinants of power spreads in European electricity markets", *3rd Applied Financial Modelling Conference*, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia, November and *2nd ESRI–UCD Energy Policy Research Workshop*, ESRI, Dublin, September, **Petr Spodniak, Valentin Bertsch**.

"European natural gas markets integration and the relationship between natural gas and crude oil markets", *5th International Symposium on Environment and Energy Finance Issues*, IPAG Business School/Paris Dauphine University/International Association for Energy Economics, Paris, France, May, **Marianna Russo**.

"Evidence, drivers and sources of distortions in the distribution of building energy ratings prior to and after energy efficient retrofitting", *European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy Summer Study*, Hyères, France, May, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis**.

05 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES (cont.)

"Identifying the information gap in residential energy efficiency: how information asymmetry can be mitigated to induce energy efficiency renovations", *ESRI-MaREI-UCC Seminar on Energy Policy Research*, Dublin, May, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis.**

"Optimal investments in increasingly variable power systems", *Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School*, Oxford, October, **Muireann Lynch, Mel Devine, Valentin Bertsch.**

"Reducing resistance to energy infrastructure development: an analysis of potential community compensation mechanisms", *First International Conference on Energy Research and Social Science*, Sitges, Spain, April, **Valentin Bertsch, Marie Hyland.**

"The effects of home energy-efficiency upgrades on social housing tenants: evidence from Ireland", *ESRI-MaREI-UCC Seminar on Energy Policy Research*, ESRI, Dublin, May, **Seán Lyons.**

"Value for money in energy efficiency retrofits in Ireland: grant provider and grant recipients", *Irish Economic Association Conference*, Dublin, May, **Matthew Collins, John Curtis.**

(from left to right) Paddy Teahon, Strategy Director of the UCD Energy Institute, Eamon Ryan, Leader of the Green Party, and Alan Barrett at the 2nd ESRI-UCD Energy Policy Workshop on 8 September.





Research Area Coordinators:

Seán Lyons
Edgar Morgenroth

Others working in this area include:

Philip Carthy
Seraphim Dempsey
Selina McCoy
Pete Lunn

Research in this area was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliate Paul Gorecki.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Fuel purchased in the Republic of Ireland by residents of Northern Ireland during the years 2013 to 2015 was worth €230 million in tax receipts and generated 1.17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Research examining if broadband increases firm productivity finds mixed evidence. There were positive and significant effects for some industries, including information and communication services and administrative and support services.

Leonie Allen, Commission for Communications Regulation, Seán Lyons, and Daire McCoy, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment collaborated on research examining if broadband attracts new businesses to a local area.



The **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment** and the **Commission for Communications Regulation** fund the programme of research in communications.

ONGOING RESEARCH WILL CONSIDER HOW GREATER USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS HAS AFFECTED CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

In 2017 a draft paper was completed on the factors affecting consumer switching in Irish telecoms markets. This paper is still under peer review, but the results suggest that long-standing subscribers who have never switched are exceptionally resistant to switching in future. Receiving an unexpectedly high bill is strongly associated with intention to switch, especially among those more inclined to switch. A similar effect arises for expected gains from switching, especially gains over 20 per cent. These results are consistent with both a preference for fair treatment and behavioural barriers to switching that require large gains to overcome. The effects of service bundling and of the few socioeconomic, supplier or application use characteristics that are statistically significant are smaller and not consistent across markets. This implies that willingness to switch is not simply a characteristic of certain social groups, but is more complex and context dependent.

A draft paper explored how the rollout of basic broadband (in the form of "digital subscriber line" or DSL services) affected the productivity

of firms. While broadband is widely believed to boost productivity, firm-level evidence is mixed. Work concentrated on the services and distribution sector in Ireland from 2006 to 2012, linking CSO data on firms' total factor productivity to spatial information on the rollout of DSL. While significant effects were not found for services as a whole, there were positive and significant effects for information and communication services and administrative and support services. A related study started this year on how broadband availability has affected employment among domestic- and foreign-owned firms in Ireland, using data provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Research began into how use of the internet and mobile applications has affected children in Ireland. This study extends work previously done on use of the internet at home and in class by 9-year-old children. It looks at the same children at age 13, when they had moved to secondary school and many more had access to mobile devices.

This work will consider how greater use of digital technologies and applications has affected children's academic, social and personal development.

In collaboration with the Macroeconomics research area, a paper was published on cross-border fuel sales, which showed that petrol stations sell more fuel the closer they are to the border. The research found that fuel sold in the Republic of Ireland to residents of Northern Ireland during the years 2013 to 2015 was worth €230 million in tax receipts and generated 1.17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Programme of research in communications	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	S. Lyons P. Lunn S. McCoy E. Morgenroth S. Dempsey P. Carthy	In progress
Smarter Travel Area sample design consultancy	Amarach	D. Watson	Completed

06 COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Competition and vested interests in taxis in Ireland: a tale of two statutory instruments", *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, Vol. 101, July 2017, pp. 228–237, **Paul Gorecki***.⁴

"The price of broadband quality: tracking the changing valuation of service characteristics", *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, Vol. 26, Issue 6, 2017, pp. 516–532, **Seán Lyons**, **Bryan Coyne**.

OTHER PAPERS

"Consumer switching intentions for telecoms services: evidence from Ireland", MPRA Paper No. 77412, Munich Personal RePEc Archive, Munich, **Pete Lunn**, **Seán Lyons**.

⁴ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Consumer switching intentions for telecoms services: evidence from Ireland", *28th European Regional Conference*, International Telecommunications Society, Passau, Germany, August, **Seán Lyons**.

Alan Barrett (second from left) with members of the Labour Party, Jan O'Sullivan, TD, Brendan Howlin, TD, and Senator Aodhán Ó Riordáin at a briefing in the ESRI. ESRI researchers provided a briefing on research findings across a number of policy areas.





Research Area Coordinator:
Seamus McGuinness

Others working in this area include:

Adele Bergin
Merike Darmody
Judith Delaney
Raffaele Grotti
Elish Kelly
Claire Keane
Bertrand Maître
Selina McCoy
Sanna Nivakoski
Anne Nolan
Paul Redmond
Helen Russell
Michael Savage
Emer Smyth
John R. Walsh
Dorothy Watson
Adele Whelan

Work in this area was also undertaken with Research Affiliate Philip J. O'Connell.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Women, non-Irish nationals and young people were more likely to earn minimum wage, according to a study using data from 2014.
- Under-utilisation of employee skills is a problem in Ireland, with 46 per cent of full-time Irish employees reporting that their skills are greater than those required to do their job.

During 2017 research was undertaken on a range of issues. Two reports were undertaken on the National Minimum Wage for the **Low Pay Commission**, while two previously completed reports were published. Three studies on educational mismatch in low-income and middle-income countries were completed for the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and will be published as chapters in a forthcoming **ILO** book. The team completed a report on the distribution and determinants of a number of potential barriers to social inclusion for **Pobal** as part of a research programme on community development. Work also commenced on a new programme of research, funded by the **Department of Rural and Community Development** and managed by **POBAL**, designed to evaluate Pobal's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

A new comparative study on contingent employment, commissioned by the **Workplace Relations Commission**, was largely completed during the period while an evaluation of the Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme, carried out on behalf of **SOLAS**, was finalised and subsequently published in early 2018.

The **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection** funded two studies. The first was a major study examining the impact of the activation system Intreo, which was largely completed in 2017. The second was a study on retirement behaviour.



(from left to right) Paul Redmond and Adele Whelan launching *Educational Attainment and Skill Utilisation in the Irish Labour Market: An EU Comparison* on 5 December.

During the year, the team undertook a scoping study for the development of a statistical profiling model for the Philippines labour market on behalf of the Asian Development Bank. Researchers also continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour market progress to the European Commission's Employment Policy Observatory.

THE TYPES OF PLC COURSES OFFERED HAVE NOT CHANGED MARKEDLY OVER TIME DESPITE THE DRAMATIC SHIFT IN THE TYPES OF JOBS AVAILABLE.

In collaboration with researchers from the Education area, researchers completed a study evaluating outcomes from the PLC programme, as mentioned above. PLC courses represent the largest component of full-time further education and training provision in Ireland, with over 32,000 learners enrolled in such courses in 2015/16. The evaluation found that the programme was generally highly effective in delivering its core goals of enhancing both employment prospects and transition rates to higher education. However, the study also reported that the types of PLC courses offered have not changed markedly over time even though there has been a dramatic shift in the kinds of jobs available in the Irish labour market. Decisions around which course to offer tend to be driven by student demand rather than skill needs in the economy. The analysis identified a need to develop systems to ensure that PLC courses focused on the labour market are aligned with employer requirements and responsive to changing labour market needs.

The research produced for the **ILO** consisted of a comprehensive analysis of the current position of the literature on skills mismatch, highlighting areas that are relatively underdeveloped and may warrant further research. A second study involved a major comparative analysis of over-education in low-income and middle-income countries, while a third synthesised the findings of a number of studies on educational mismatch commissioned by the **ILO**.

New Research Asks Which Workers Are Paid Minimum Wage in Ireland

On 1 November 2017, the ESRI and the Low Pay Commission published research examining the characteristics of workers earning the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in Ireland.

The research found that 4.9 per cent of employees were in receipt of the minimum wage in 2014. However, the percentage was substantially higher among particular sub-groups of workers.

- 9 per cent of female employees were in receipt of the NMW, compared to 2.7 per cent of male employees.
- At 9 per cent, the incidence of minimum wage pay among non-Irish nationals was over twice that of Irish employees (4.2 per cent).
- Young people aged 18–29 are more likely than people in other age groups to be on the minimum wage (13.9 per cent).

Further analysis revealed that most of the higher exposure to NMW employment among females and young people was driven by characteristics of the jobs which they are more likely to hold. Females on the NMW were more likely to work in part-time jobs, in smaller firms or in sectors such as accommodation and food. Jobs with these characteristics raise the likelihood of minimum wage employment.

The greater likelihood of being on the NMW among young workers disappeared when account was taken of tenure, job type, occupation and sector.

This suggests that the higher NMW incidence among young people is explained entirely by factors such as lower levels of experience and the type of employment undertaken. However, non-nationals were found to experience a higher incidence of up to 3 percentage points relative to Irish employees even after job characteristics were controlled for.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES BENEFIT A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT FROM ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED HOUSEHOLDS. THEREFORE RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE WILL HAVE ONLY A LIMITED EFFECT ON REDUCING POVERTY.

Contrary to what might be assumed, economically disadvantaged people make up a minority of the total population of minimum wage employees. For example, 28 per cent of employees on the minimum wage in 2014 were from deprived households, with the remaining 72 per cent coming from households that were not classified as being deprived. In comparison, 19.5 per cent of workers earning above the minimum wage were from deprived households. Therefore, minimum wage increases will also benefit a large number of individuals who are not from economically disadvantaged or deprived households. The NMW will have only a limited effect on reducing poverty.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Research programme on the evaluation of SICAP	Pobal/Department of Rural and Community Development	S. McGuinness M. Darmody E. Smyth H. Russell A. Bergin A. Whelan	In progress
Research programme on community development and social inclusion	Pobal	S. McGuinness H. Russell F. McGinnity A. Bergin A. Whelan	Completed
Research programme on issues impacting minimum wage and low pay in Ireland	Low Pay Commission	S. McGuinness E. Kelly B. Maitre P. Redmond	In progress
Evaluation of the PLC programme	SOLAS	S. McGuinness A. Bergin E. Kelly S. McCoy E. Smyth D. Watson A. Whelan	Completed
Evaluation of the effectiveness of activation reforms	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	S. McGuinness E. Kelly J. Walsh M. Savage P. Redmond	In progress
Retirement patterns	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	A. Barrett E. Kelly P. Redmond S. McGuinness A. Nolan S. Nivakoski	Completed
Measuring contingent employment in Ireland	Workplace Relations Commission	S. McGuinness A. Bergin C. Keane	Completed
Strategic Transitions for Youth Labour in Europe (STYLE)	European Commission, 7th Framework Programme	S. McGuinness H. Russell A. Bergin A. Whelan R. Grotti	Completed

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Study on mismatch within low-income and middle-income countries	International Labour Organization	S. McGuinness A. Whelan A. Bergin P. Redmond	In progress
Research programme on mismatches between jobs and skills	International Labour Organization	S. McGuinness A. Whelan P. Redmond	Completed
Synthesis report	International Labour Organization	S. McGuinness P. Redmond J. Delaney	Completed
Development of a statistical profiling model for unemployed people in the Philippines	Asian Development Bank	S. McGuinness E. Kelly	Completed
Atypical employment	Economic and Social Research Trust	E. Kelly A. Barrett	Completed
Preparation of a "European Centre of Expertise" thematic review on inequalities	ICF Consulting Services	S. McGuinness	Completed

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Atypical work and Ireland's labour market collapse and recovery", *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 463–488, **Elish Kelly, Alan Barrett**.⁵

"Determinants of regional differences in rates of overeducation in Europe", *Social Science Research*, Vol. 63, March 2017, pp. 67–80, Maria A. Davia, **Seamus McGuinness, Philip J O'Connell***.

"Using monitoring data to assess community development: evidence from Ireland", *Local Economy*, Vol. 32, No. 6, 2017, pp. 539–564, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A Study of Minimum Wage Employment in Ireland: The Role of Worker, Household and Job Characteristics, ESRI and The Low Pay Commission, Dublin, **Bertrand Maître, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond**.

An Examination of Early Retirement in Ireland Pre and Post the Great Recession, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 61, ESRI, Dublin, **Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond**.

Employment and Hours Impacts of the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage in Northern Ireland, Low Pay Commission, London, Duncan McVicar, Andrew Park, **Seamus McGuinness**.

How Useful Is the Concept of Skills Mismatch?, International Labour Organization, Geneva, **Seamus McGuinness, Konstantinos Pouliakas, Paul Redmond**.

Labour Market Policy Thematic Review 2017: An In-Depth Analysis of the Impact of Reforms on Inequality – Ireland, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Paul Redmond**.

⁵ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

“Assessing the stability of employment among young people in Ireland after the Great Recession”, Floro Ernesto Caroleo, Olga Demidova, Enrico Marelli, Marcello Signorelli (eds.), *Young People and the Labour Market: A Comparative Perspective*, Chapter 10, Abingdon: Routledge, **Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan**.

“Career opportunities the ones that never knock: are some employers more ‘youth friendly’ than others?”, *Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, Jacqueline O’Reilly, **Raffaele Grotti, Helen Russell**.

“Deconstructing theories of overeducation in Europe: a wage decomposition approach”, Solomon W. Polachek, Konstantinos Pouliakas, Giovanni Russo, Konstantinos Tatsiramos (eds.), *Skill Mismatch in Labor Markets (Research in Labor Economics, Volume 45)*, pp. 81–127, Bingley: Emerald Publishing, **Seamus McGuinness, Konstantinos Pouliakas**.

“How has the recession affected young people’s well-being in Europe?”, *Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, **Helen Russell, Janine Leschke, Mark Smith**.

“Introduction: skills and education mismatch”, *Youth Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, **Seamus McGuinness**.

“Is there a role for higher education institutions in improving the quality of first employment?”, *Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Adele Bergin**.

“Overeducation among European university graduates: a constraint or a choice?”, Miguel Ángel Malo, Almudena Moreno Mínguez (eds.), *European Youth Labour Markets*, 2017, pp. 157–174, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Luis Ortiz Gervasi, **Seamus McGuinness**.

“Overeducation in the Irish labour market”, *Economic Insights on Higher Education Policy in Ireland: Evidence from a Public System*, 2017, pp. 165–196, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, **Seamus McGuinness, Ruth O’Shaughnessy, Konstantinos Pouliakas**.

“Skills and education mismatch: policy themes”, *Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, **Seamus McGuinness, Lucia Mýtna Kureková, Vladislav Flek**.

“What are the drivers of overeducation?”, *Employment: STYLE Handbook*, 2017, Brighton: CROME, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan**.

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

“Did increasing the state pension age in Ireland affect the overall retirement rate of 65 year olds?”, *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, Autumn 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly**.

“Educational attainment and skill utilization in the Irish labour market: an EU comparison”, *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, Winter 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Paul Redmond, Adele Whelan**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

“Improving the employment prospects of graduates: what can universities do?”, ESRI, Dublin, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Adele Bergin**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

“Does a satisfied student make a satisfied worker?”, ESRI, Dublin, **Adele Whelan, Seamus McGuinness**.

“Female participation increases and gender segregation”, ESRI, Dublin, **Claire Keane, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth**.

ESRI SUBMISSIONS

“Submission to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on the role and methodology of the Public Service Pay Commission”, ESRI, Dublin, **Seamus McGuinness, Elish Kelly**.

OTHER PAPERS

“Does a satisfied student make a satisfied worker?”, IZA Discussion Paper No. 10698, IZA, Bonn, **Adele Whelan, Seamus McGuinness**.

“Overeducation in Europe: trends, convergence and drivers”, IZA Discussion Paper No. 10678, IZA, Bonn, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Atypical work and Ireland's labour market collapse and recovery", *Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Inaugural Conference*, National University, Canberra, December and *28th Australian Labour Market Research (ALMR) Workshop*, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, December, **Elish Kelly**.

"How useful is the concept of skills mismatch?", *International Conference of Jobs and Skills Mismatch*, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, May and *Workskills conference*, International Labour Organisation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, October, **Seamus McGuinness**.

"Is there a role for higher education institutions in improving the quality of first employment?", *Queen's University Belfast School of Management seminar series*, March, **Seamus McGuinness**.

"Profiling the unemployed and second-chance education schemes", *Policy learning forum: vocational training for the long-term unemployed*, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), Thessaloniki, Greece, June, **Seamus McGuinness**.

"Recent developments in the Irish labour market: is it all good news?", *Irish Economic Association conference*, Dublin, May, **Elish Kelly, Alan Barrett**.

"Skills mismatch in developing labour markets", *Jobs and Skills Mismatch Conference: Job-Rich Growth for Sustainable Development*, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, November, **Seamus McGuinness**.

"The effectiveness of a second-chance education scheme as an unemployment activation measure: evidence from Ireland", *Workshop on Economic Policy in Ireland and Scotland*, University of Stirling, UK, March, **Elish Kelly**.

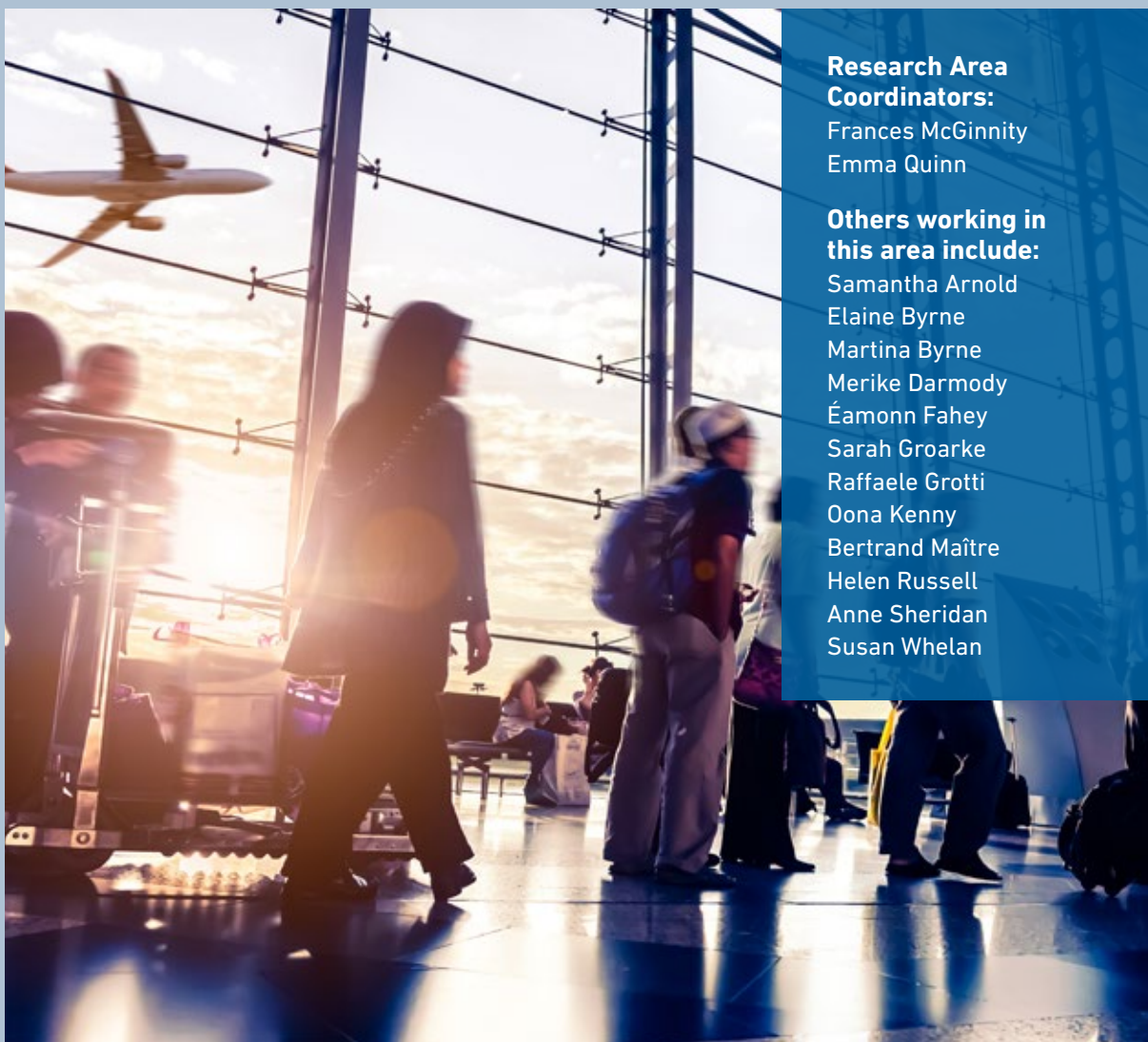
"The gender wage gap in Europe: job preferences, gender convergence and distributional effects", *Association of Italian Labour Economists conference*, Cosenza, Italy, September, **Paul Redmond**.



Seamus McGuinness presented at an International Labour Organization Conference in Geneva in May. He discussed research findings in a presentation titled *How Useful is the Concept of Skills Mismatch?*

(from left to right) Emma Quinn and Samantha Arnold, authors of *Family Reunification of Non-EU Nationals in Ireland* at the EMN Ireland conference on 27 November.





Research Area Coordinators:

Frances McGinnity
Emma Quinn

Others working in this area include:

Samantha Arnold
Elaine Byrne
Martina Byrne
Merike Darmody
Éamonn Fahey
Sarah Groarke
Raffaele Grotti
Oona Kenny
Bertrand Maître
Helen Russell
Anne Sheridan
Susan Whelan

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Research discussed the impact of new legislation that has restricted family reunification of refugees to nuclear family members only. While refugees can still apply for other dependent family members to join them, they now have to show that they can financially support them.
- Over 121,100 non-Irish nationals acquired Irish citizenship between 2005, when records began, and the end of 2015. Data for adults of non-EU origin living in Ireland at the end of 2015 show that 45 per cent had acquired adult citizenship.

Research in the area of Migration, Integration and Demography is conducted under a number of strands. The first strand relates to the ESRI's role as Ireland's National Contact Point for the European Migration Network (EMN) and the related funding provided by the **European Commission** and the **Department of Justice and Equality**.

The EMN Ireland team produced four studies on migration and international protection in Ireland. A study on family reunification of non-EU nationals highlighted its significance as a safe legal route of migration, and its role in supporting the integration of migrants already resident in Ireland. The team worked closely with the **Department of Justice and Equality**, the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** and other parties to produce the report. Family reunification was also the subject of the annual EMN conference in November.

A STUDY PROVIDED THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE MAPPING OF PROCESSES INVOLVED WHEN A MIGRANT PRESENTS AT THE IRISH BORDER.

Working in consultation with the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, the Workplace Relations Commission and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, EMN Ireland compiled a study on the illegal employment of non-EU nationals in Ireland. The report showed that the majority of undocumented migrants enter the state legally, often as students or tourists. The study also highlighted that despite increased regulation of the student immigration regime, international students in Ireland may be working outside of their permitted hours.

Two studies on return processes (deportation and voluntary return) were produced in 2017. This research identified that key challenges related to identifying and documenting returnees and effective cooperation with countries in readmitting their own nationals. Finally, a study on establishing the identity of non-EU nationals provided the first comprehensive mapping of the processes involved when a migrant presents at the Irish border, as well as in the context of applications for visas, residence permits, international protection and deportation.

The second strand of research in the area is on immigrant integration. Research funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality** considered immigrant integration in four key life domains: employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship. It highlighted the very significant proportion of non-EU nationals who have acquired Irish citizenship: 121,000 since records began in 2005. In December, a new two-year programme of research in the area of integration and equality was agreed with the **Department of Justice and Equality**. Research is ongoing, which uses 2016 Census data to examine migrant integration and residential segregation of migrants in Ireland.

In other work on integration, researchers looked at factors predicting satisfaction among international students in higher education in Ireland. The findings show that students' satisfaction with study while abroad is shaped by a number of factors including their satisfaction with their education institution and also by their subjective rating of their health. Research based on the **Norface**-funded Socio-cultural Integration Processes project found that new Polish migrants were more likely to experience discrimination in the Netherlands than in Ireland, and their experience also became more negative over time.



(from left to right) Jonathan Chaloff, OECD, Michael Walsh, Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, Patrick Corcoran, International Organization for Migration, and Daniela Cicchella, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, pictured at the *Migrant Family Reunification: Policy and Practice* conference on 27 November.

Monitoring Report on Integration 2016

On 1 March 2017, Mr David Stanton, TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, launched a new report titled *Monitoring Report on Integration*, published jointly by the ESRI and the Department of Justice and Equality.

In order to measure the inclusion of immigrants in Irish society, the research used the indicators of citizenship, employment, education and poverty. The results point to some of the progress made and some of the challenges that remain for Ireland in integrating its large number of new immigrants.

Citizenship

Over 121,100 non-Irish nationals acquired Irish citizenship through naturalisation between 2005, when records began, and the end of 2015. In 2015, naturalisation certificates were issued to 13,500 non-Irish nationals. This was 46 per cent lower than the 2012 peak, when 25,100 certificates were issued. It is estimated that up to 45 per cent of the estimated adult immigrant population of non-EU origin who were resident in Ireland at the end of 2015 had acquired Irish citizenship.

Employment

In 2015, non-Irish nationals had a slightly lower employment rate (60 per cent) than Irish nationals (63 per cent). However, employment rates varied across national groups and the employment rate was very low for African nationals (circa 40 per cent). The unemployment rate was higher for non-Irish nationals (13 per cent) compared to Irish nationals (just under 10 per cent).

Education

Data from the National Assessment Tests at primary level show lower reading scores among immigrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds than their Irish peers for both second class and sixth class students. For mathematics scores, the difference between immigrant students and Irish students is statistically significant only for second class students.

Poverty and deprivation

In 2014, 21 per cent of non-Irish nationals were living below the income poverty line, drawn at 60 per cent of median household income. In comparison, 16 per cent of Irish nationals were living below the income poverty line.

However, rates of basic deprivation and consistent poverty were similar for Irish nationals and non-Irish nationals. Basic deprivation refers to enforced lack of two or more items relating to food, clothing, heating and family/social life. Consistent poverty refers to living in income poverty and experiencing basic deprivation at the same time.



(from left to right) Frances McGinnity, David Stanton, TD, Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, Emma Quinn, and Philip J. O'Connell (UCD) at the launch of the *Monitoring Report on Integration 2016* on 1 March.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Integration and equality research programme	Department of Justice and Equality	F. McGinnity E. Quinn H. Russell É. Fahey B. Maître S. Arnold R. Grotti	In progress
European Migration Network 2017–18	European Commission; Department of Justice and Equality	E. Quinn A. Sheridan S. Whelan S. Arnold E. Byrne M. Byrne S. Groarke F. McGinnity	In progress
ALFIRK: Collaborative Networks for Migrant Parent Empowerment	ERASMUS+	M. Darmody	In progress
International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network	COST: European Cooperation in Science and Technology	F. McGinnity	In progress
Peer review on "Integration of refugees into the labour market"	ICF Consulting Services	E. Quinn	Completed

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"An Irish welcome? Changing Irish attitudes to immigrants and immigration: the role of recession and immigration", *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 3, Autumn 2017, pp. 253–279, **Frances McGinnity**,⁶ Gillian Kingston.

"What predicts international higher education students' satisfaction with their study in Ireland?", *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, Vol. 41, Issue 4, 2017, pp. 545–555, Mairead Finn, **Merike Darmody**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2016: Ireland, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 65, ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Sheridan**.

Establishing Identity of Non-EU Nationals in Irish Migration Processes, ESRI Research Series No. 69, ESRI, Dublin, **Samantha Arnold, Anne Sheridan, Martina Byrne**.

Family Reunification of Non-EU Nationals in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 62, ESRI, Dublin, **Emma Quinn, Samantha Arnold**.

Illegal Employment of Non-EU Nationals in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 64, ESRI, Dublin, **Samantha Arnold, Susan Whelan, Emma Quinn**.

Monitoring Report on Integration 2016, ESRI/ Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin, **Alan Barrett, Frances McGinnity, Emma Quinn**.

Returning Rejected Asylum Seekers: Practices and Challenges in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 65, ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Sheridan**.

⁶ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

"Ireland in context of large-scale immigration: how do immigrant-origin children fare?", *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2017–2018*, pp. 243–249, Dublin: Education Matters, **Merike Darmody**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"A children's rights approach to the interpretation of the Refugee Convention", *Annual Socio-legal Studies Association Conference*, Newcastle University Law School, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, April and *World Congress on Family, Law and Children's Rights*, Dublin, June, **Samantha Arnold**.

"Educational aspirations and achievement of migrant children and young people in Ireland", *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI, Dublin, November, **Merike Darmody**.

"Family reunification law and policy in the EU member states", *Migrant Family Reunification: Policy and Practice*, European Migration Network Ireland, Dublin, November, **Emma Quinn**.

"Family reunification of non-EU nationals: Ireland in an EU context", *Migrant Family Reunification: Policy and practice*, European Migration Network, Dublin, November, **Samantha Arnold**.

"Immigration and education: the case of Ireland", *Maynooth University Education Forum*, Maynooth, June, **Frances McGinnity**.

"Key findings from the *Monitoring Report on Integration*", *Launch of the Monitoring Report on Integration 2016*, ESRI, Dublin, March, **Frances McGinnity**.

"Key findings of European Migration Network study on family reunification of third-country nationals in the EU plus Norway", *European Migration Network/COFACE Families Europe Conference on Family Reunification*, Brussels, Belgium, May, **Samantha Arnold**.

"Unaccompanied minors in Europe and Ireland", The Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, November, **Samantha Arnold**.



(from left to right) Emma Quinn, Samantha Arnold, Julie Wington, Ministry of Interior France, Hans Lemmens, Immigration and Naturalisation Service Netherlands, and Tamara Buschek-Chauvel, Ministry of Interior France, pictured at the *Migrant Family Reunification: Policy and Practice* conference on 27 November.

(from left to right) Emer Smyth with Katherine Zappone, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, at the launch of *Off to a Good Start? Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level Education* on 19 October.





Research Area Coordinators:

Selina McCoy
Emer Smyth

Others working in this area include:

Joanne Banks
Merike Darmody
Seamus McGuinness
Jessica O'Sullivan
Adele Whelan
Amanda Quail

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Students with strong maths skills and positive relationships with teachers are more likely to settle in well to second-level education.
- Students with special educational needs have fewer friends in school compared to their peers. They are also more likely to have poor-quality peer relations compared to students without additional needs.

The ESRI education research programme covers all levels of the Irish education system, including early childhood, primary, second-level, further and higher education. Research in 2017 focused on the transition to second-level education, religious and moral education, children with special educational needs, the role and impact of digital technologies in the lives of children, and the Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme.

The ESRI prepared a report as part of a consultation process undertaken by the **National Council for Curriculum and Assessment** in relation to a primary school curriculum called Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics. The research analysed data generated by an online survey targeted at educators, parents and members of the general public. The study found strong support for aspects of the curriculum relating to promoting diversity, tolerance, social justice and understanding of the impact of discrimination. However, there was a lack of consensus on how the proposed curriculum fits with the ethos of denominational schools.

The *Growing Up in Ireland (GUI)* study has provided an invaluable resource for educational research. New analyses for the **Department of Children and Youth Affairs** looked at the way in which primary school experiences can provide a crucial foundation for a successful transition to second-level education. The study findings indicated the importance of providing an engaging primary school experience for all as a basis for later engagement. Early experience of maths emerged as particularly important, pointing to the potential value in rethinking approaches to maths teaching at primary level to enhance interest and skills.

Other research based on *GUI* data found that children with special educational needs had fewer friends in school and poorer-quality peer relations compared to their peers. Children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and those with multiple disabilities were more likely to have poor-quality peer relations. The findings suggest the need for specific programmes to encourage positive peer interactions for this group of students.

In collaboration with researchers in the Communications and Transport area, research investigated the impact of digital technologies within and outside school on academic skills development among children and young people.

Working with researchers in the Labour Market and Skills area, work continued on the evaluation of PLC programme provision. Funded by **SOLAS**, the research includes analyses of the nature and distribution of PLC courses, participants' experiences of the programme and their educational and labour market outcomes.

Education researchers continued to be involved in international networks, including *Understanding Inequalities*, funded by the UK-based **Economic and Social Research Council**, the Network of Experts on the Social Dimension of Education and Training (NESET 2) and the **Directorate General for Education and Culture's** Network of Independent Experts in Education and Training. The Education team also contributed three articles to the annual *Yearbook of Education*.



Alan Barrett with Richard Bruton, TD, Minister for Education, at a briefing in the ESRI on 8 September. ESRI researchers briefed Minister Bruton on recent research findings in relation to education.

Off to a Good Start?

Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level Education

The transition to second-level education is a major landmark in young people's lives, as they adjust to new teachers, new school subjects and new friends.

Research published in October by the ESRI and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs examined how primary school experiences can provide a crucial foundation for a successful transition to second-level education. The findings are based on interviews conducted with young people aged 9 and 13, and their parents, in addition to questionnaires completed by their principals and teachers.

The study found that providing an engaging primary school experience for all students forms the basis for a successful early transition to second-level school. A positive early experience of maths is particularly important, pointing to the potential value in rethinking approaches to maths teaching at primary level to enhance interest and skills. Children who were better at maths at the age of nine settle into second-level education more easily. Having low maths test scores and more negative attitudes to maths at the age of nine are found to be particularly important in shaping later engagement with the subject.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEACHERS ARE CRUCIAL. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED MORE REPRIMANDS AND LESS POSITIVE FEEDBACK WERE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL.

Social background shapes young people's experiences and outcomes. Transition difficulties are greater among those from more disadvantaged backgrounds and among young people with special educational needs. The majority of students from disadvantaged backgrounds do not attend DEIS schools, highlighting the importance of providing some assistance for disadvantaged groups across all schools.

Students with special educational needs have more negative attitudes to school than their peers, lower levels of engagement and poorer academic self-image. This highlights the challenges involved in ensuring the inclusion of young people with special educational needs in mainstream second-level schools.

The study found a dip in student engagement in second year, which reinforces the case for junior cycle reform and for a broader repertoire of teaching and assessment methods to engage young people. The findings highlight the importance of underpinning such reform with a more positive school climate, including a move away from the use of more negative sanctions, as such sanctions appear to further alienate young people.

Relationships with teachers are crucial. Students who received more reprimands and less positive feedback from their second-level teachers were more likely to have negative attitudes to schools and school subjects. Social relationships also play a protective role over this period of change. Young people have fewer transition difficulties if they have more friends and if they have better communication with their parents.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Evaluation of the National Youthreach Programme	Solas	E. Smyth J. Banks J. O'Sullivan S. McCoy S. McGuinness	In progress
The effects of the new Leaving Certificate grading bands on the school experience and environment: an early impact study	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment	S. McCoy E. Smyth J. O'Sullivan	In progress
Children's wellbeing and their experiences adapting to primary school	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment	E. Smyth	Completed
Leaving Certificate Applied Programme discussion paper	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment	J. Banks E. Smyth S. McCoy	In progress
Digital classroom observation of student teachers	Hibernia	J. Banks E. Smyth S. McCoy	In progress
Applied Quantitative Methods Network: Phase II – AQMeN	Economic and Social Research Council (UK)	E. Smyth S. McCoy	Completed
Analysing multi-dimensional and multi-scale inequalities in Scottish society	Economic and Social Research Council (UK)	E. Smyth	In progress
Support for Directorate-General Education and Culture's country-specific expertise in the area of education through independent national experts located in the 28 EU Member States	Ecorys UK Ltd	S. McCoy	In progress
Network of Experts Working on the Social Dimension of Education and Training (NESET II)	Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania	M. Darmody E. Smyth	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"An Irish solution...? Questioning the expansion of special classes in an era of inclusive education", *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 441–461, **Joanne Banks**, **Selina McCoy**.⁷

"Curriculum choices and school-to-work transitions among upper-secondary school leavers in Scotland and Ireland", *Journal of Education and Work*, Vol. 30, Issue 7, 2017, pp. 731–740, Cristina Iannelli, **Emer Smyth**.

"Effectively maintained inequality in educational transitions in the Republic of Ireland", *American Behavioral Scientist*, Vol. 61, Issue 1, January 2017, pp. 49–73, Delma Byrne, **Selina McCoy**.

"Examining student immobility: a study of Irish undergraduate students", *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, Vol. 39, Issue 4, 2017, pp. 423–434, Mairead Finn, **Merike Darmody**.

"Structuring student behaviour: discipline policy in primary schools", *Irish Teachers' Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 1, December 2017, pp. 9–24, **Emer Smyth**, **Amanda Quail**.

⁷ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics: Views of Teachers, Parents and the General Public Regarding the Proposed Curriculum for Primary Schools, ESRI, Dublin, **Merike Darmody, Emer Smyth**.

Off to a Good Start: Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level, ESRI and Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, **Emer Smyth**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

"Educational disadvantage and the DEIS programme", *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2017–2018*, pp. 175–179, Dublin: Education Matters, **Emer Smyth**.

"Playing catch-up or overspending? Managing the cost of Special Education", *Ireland's Yearbook of Education 2017–2018*, pp. 236–242, Dublin: Education Matters, **Joanne Banks, Selina McCoy**.

"Student retention in higher education", *Economic Insights on Higher Education Policy in Ireland: Evidence from a Public System*, 2017, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, **Selina McCoy, Delma Byrne**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

"School-based friendships among students with special needs", ESRI, Dublin, **Joanne Banks, Selina McCoy, Denise Frawley**.

"Social relationships and the transition to second-level education", ESRI, Dublin, **Emer Smyth**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Working at a different level? Curriculum differentiation in Irish lower secondary education", ESRI, Dublin, **Emer Smyth**.

OTHER PAPERS

"Working at a different level? Curriculum differentiation in Irish lower secondary education", Centre for Longitudinal Studies Working Paper 2017/4, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, UCL Institute of Education, London, **Emer Smyth**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Access to higher education in Ireland", *European Social Fund at 60 years*, Department of Education and Skills/European Union European Social Fund, Dublin, November, **Selina McCoy**.

"Educational inequality: is 'free education' enough?", *Reflecting on Fifty Years since the Introduction of Free Post-Primary Education*, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, April, **Emer Smyth**.

"Gender and education: why do girls 'do better' than boys?", *David Hume Institute Seminar Series*, Edinburgh, UK, April, **Emer Smyth**.

"Gender and social inequalities in cultural participation among children and young people", *Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies Annual Conference*, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, October, **Emer Smyth**.

"Inclusion in Irish schools: special classes", *Education Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference*, University College Cork, April, **Selina McCoy, Joanne Banks**.

"Research and lower secondary reform: unpacking the relationship in the Irish context", *Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies Annual Conference*, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, October, **Emer Smyth**.

"School engagement and disengagement: beyond school drop-out?" *School Drop-Out, School Alienation and Diversity*, University of Luxembourg, Belval, Luxembourg, January, **Emer Smyth**.

"Shaping educational expectations: the perspectives of 13-year-olds and their parents", *European Network on Transitions in Youth Annual Conference*, University of Leuven, Brussels, September and *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, November, **Emer Smyth**.

"Social differences in educational outcomes: the role of family, social class and school social mix", *School of Education Seminar Series*, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK, November, **Emer Smyth**.

"The role of religion in educational processes", *Belonging from the Margins: Exploring the Role of Religion and Immigrant Background in Social Integration of Migrant Children and Youth in Irish Schools*, European Educational Research Association, Copenhagen, Denmark, August, **Merike Darmody, Manuela Heinz**.

"'They know what's ahead of them in September': protective factors in the transition from primary to secondary school for students with special educational needs", *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, November, **Selina McCoy, Joanne Banks, Michael Shevlin**.

"Widening access to higher education: balancing supply and demand in Ireland", *Higher Education, Social Policy and Funding Regimes: International Perspectives*, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, August, **Emer Smyth**.

(from left to right) John McHale, National University of Ireland Galway, Tim Callan, Martina Lawless, and Gabriel Fagan, Central Bank of Ireland, at the ESRI's 20th annual *Budget Perspectives 2018* conference on 9 June.

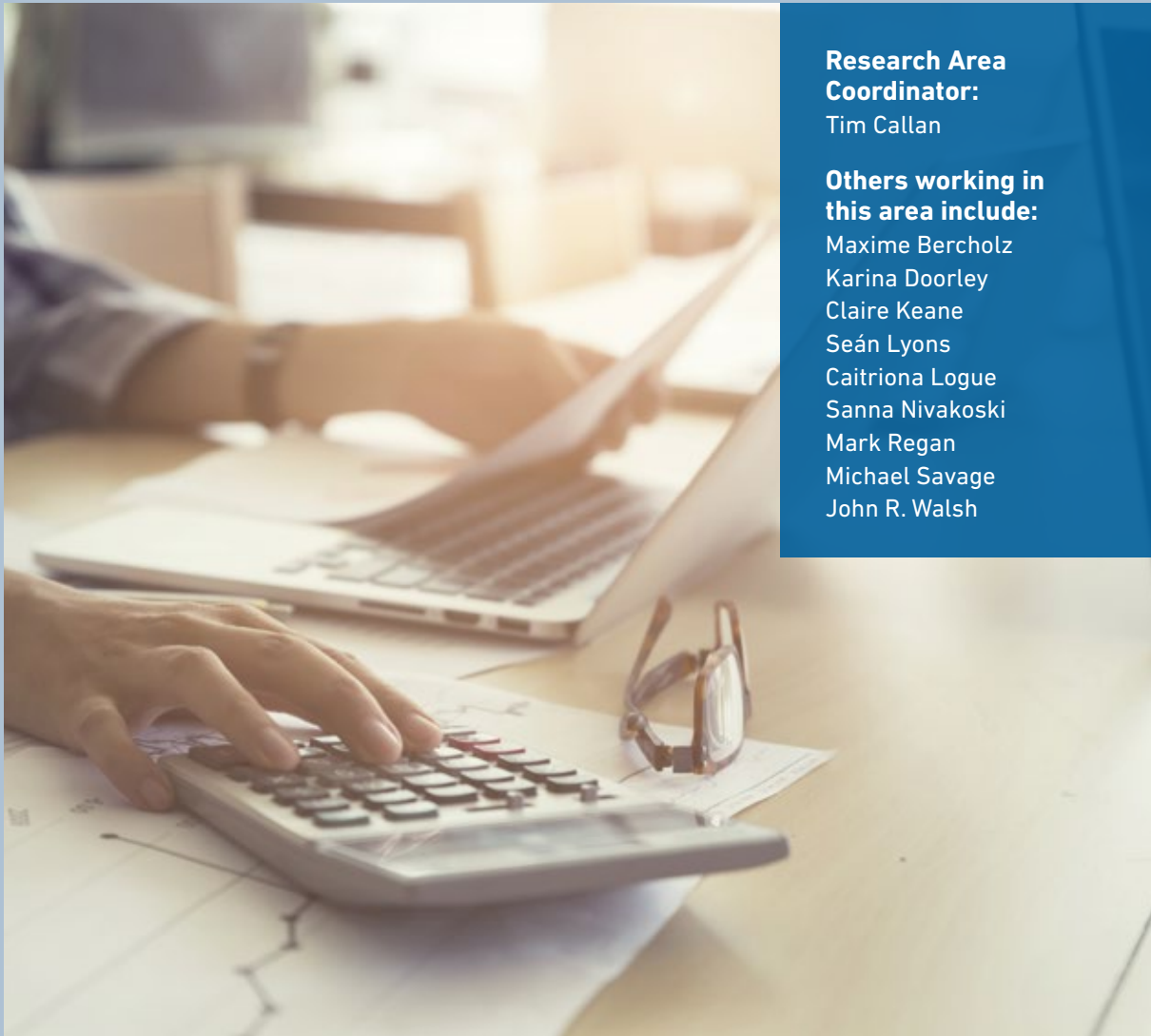


Mark Regan presenting research findings from a new publication titled *Income Distribution in Ireland: Through Recession, Towards Recovery* at the *Budget Perspectives 2018* conference on 9 June.



Family Income Supplement

- In-work benefit scheme similar to the Jobseeker's Allowance
- Aimed at reducing the number of people on high replacement rates
- Families receive 60% of the income limit (dependent on family size and family income)
- Example:
 - Income after tax, PRSI is €10,000
 - Income limit for 2 children is €16,667
 - FIS payable is therefore 60% of €16,667 = €10,000 per week



Research Area Coordinator:

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Claire Keane

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Sanna Nivakoski

Mark Regan

Michael Savage

John R. Walsh

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Income inequality remained stable during the recession as a result of the progressive tax-transfer system. Ireland avoided the rise in income inequality seen in many other countries.
- The SWITCH model was extended to analyse income-tested cards in addition to age-contingent cards for people under 6 and over 70 years old. The model was also developed to provide policy-relevant analyses of the new Affordable Childcare Scheme.

10 TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS

In 2017, research on Taxation, Welfare and Pensions continued to span a broad range of topics. New perspectives were developed on the evolution of Ireland's income distribution and on the role of tax and welfare policy in shaping that distribution. Research explored the role of in-work benefits in shaping financial support and financial incentives for working families. Research based on the SWITCH model also contributed to the analysis of policy options for medical cards and GP visit cards. The model was extended to analyse not only income-tested cards but also the newer age-contingent cards for people under 6 and over 70 years old. The model was also further developed to provide policy-relevant analyses of the new Affordable Childcare Scheme.

The SWITCH (Simulating Welfare and Income Tax Changes) research programme was supported by funding by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection**, the **Department of Health**, the **Department of Children and Youth Affairs** and the **Department of Finance**, and the grant-in-aid provided by the **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**.

Most analyses of income distribution are based on "snapshots" – cross-sectional data for different years. ESRI research goes beyond that, using the longitudinal element of EU-SILC data to identify patterns of income movement from year to year.

In June, key research findings were summarised in papers for the *Budget Perspectives* conference. The research found that income inequality rose somewhat between 2008 and 2013, but fell back to its earlier levels by 2015. Sharp falls in the income of the bottom decile during the recession arose mainly from falls in income for those who were initially at higher income levels – not from falls in the income

of those already at the bottom of the distribution. The research also found that the "automatic stabilisation" impact of Ireland's tax-transfer system, inherent in its progressive structure at the outset of the recession, played a strong role in limiting the increase in inequality during the recession. Further work on this topic commenced, broadening the analysis to other EU crisis countries.

MOST ANALYSES OF INCOME DISTRIBUTION ARE BASED ON "SNAPSHOTS". ESRI RESEARCH GOES BEYOND THAT, IDENTIFYING PATTERNS OF INCOME MOVEMENT FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

The SWITCH model was also used, with support from the SWITCH team, for policy analyses within the Departments of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Social Protection, including a Social Impact Assessment of Budget 2017. A collaborative project with the Department of Finance also expanded the capacity of both organisations to analyse the impacts of indirect tax changes, and further developments in this area are planned for 2018. Regular analysis of the distributive impact of budgetary policy continued, with the model database restructured to use almost 8,000 households from the CSO's nationally representative Survey on Income and Living Conditions for 2013 and 2014.

A new programme of research with the **Pensions Authority** commenced, examining issues associated with pensions and retirement in the older population in Ireland.



Tim Callan presenting research findings from a new publication titled *Supporting Family Incomes: Getting the Balance Right* at the *Budget Perspectives 2018* conference on 9 June.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
SWITCH (Simulating Welfare and Income Tax Changes) research programme	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection; Department of Health; Department of Children and Youth Affairs; Department of Finance; Department of Public Expenditure and Reform	T. Callan C. Keane J. Walsh M. Savage K. Doorley M. Regan M. Bercholz	In progress
Financial dimensions of retirement using data from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)	The Pensions Authority	A. Barrett A. Nolan K. Doorley S. Nivakoski	In progress
The impact of tax systems on gender equality	European Commission	K. Doorley	Completed
A review of Ireland in EUROMOD, the EU's tax-benefit microsimulation model	University of Essex	T. Callan C. Keane J. Walsh M. Savage K. Doorley M. Regan	In progress
Gender impacts of budgetary policies	The Parliamentary Budget Office	T. Callan K. Doorley J. Walsh C. Keane M. Bercholz	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Changes in income distributions and the role of tax-benefit policy during the Great Recession: an international perspective", *Fiscal Studies*, Vol. 38, Issue 4, December 2017, pp. 559–585, Olivier Bargain, **Tim Callan**, **Karina Doorley**, **Claire Keane**.⁸

"Fiscal sustainability and demographic change: a micro-approach for 27 EU countries", *International Tax and Public Finance*, Vol. 24, Issue 4, August 2017, pp. 575–615, Mathias Dolls, **Karina Doorley**, Alari Paulus, Hilmar Schneider, Sebastian Siegloch, Eric Sommer.

"Integrated modelling of the impact of direct and indirect taxes using complementary datasets", *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 2, Summer, 2017, pp. 171–205, **Michael Savage**.

"The effect of social benefits on youth employment: combining RD and a behavioral model", *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 52, No. 4, Fall 2017, pp. 1032–1059, Olivier Bargain, **Karina Doorley**.

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

"Distributional impact of tax and welfare policies: Budget 2018", *Quarterly Economic Commentary*, Winter 2017, ESRI, Dublin, **Tim Callan**, **Maxime Bercholz**, **Karina Doorley**, **Claire Keane**, **Mark Regan**, **Michael Savage**, **John R. Walsh**.

⁸ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

10 TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

"Analysing the distributional impact of indirect taxes: a new approach for Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Michael Savage**.

"Fiscal sustainability and demographic change", ESRI, Dublin, **Karina Doorley**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Estimating, and interpreting, retirement income replacement rates", ESRI, Dublin, **Sanna Nivakoski, Alan Barrett**.

OTHER PAPERS

"Income distribution in Ireland: through recession, towards recovery", Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2018/2, ESRI, Dublin, **Tim Callan, Mark Regan, Michael Savage, John R. Walsh**.

"Supporting family incomes: getting the balance right", Budget Perspectives Paper No. 2018/1, ESRI, Dublin, **Michael Savage, Tim Callan, Mark Regan, John R Walsh**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Decomposing changes in inequality: market incomes, automatic stabilisers and discretionary policy", *Irish Economic Association Conference*, Dublin, May, **Michael Savage**.

"Income distribution in Ireland: through recession, towards recovery", *Budget perspectives 2018*, ESRI, Dublin, June and *Dublin Economics Workshop annual policy conference*, Wexford, September, **Tim Callan, Mark Regan, Michael Savage, John R. Walsh**.

"Income-tested health entitlements: microsimulation modelling using Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) income-tested health entitlements", *Using Statistics on Income and Living Conditions*, Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland/Central Statistics Office, Cork, March, **Tim Callan, Claire Keane**.

"Inequality in EU crisis countries: identifying the impact of automatic stabilisers and discretionary policy", *Growth and inequality in the EU*, EUROFRAME/German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin, Germany, June; *International Microsimulation Association Global Congress*, Turin, Italy, June; *IZA Brown Bag seminar*, Institute for Labor Studies, Bonn, Germany, November; *Maynooth University Department of Economics Seminar*, November and *SimDeco Closing Workshop: Understanding International Differences in Income Inequality*, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg, December, **Karina Doorley, Tim Callan, Michael Savage**.

"Marital instability and retirement", *Irish Economic Association Annual Conference*, Dublin, May, **Karina Doorley**.

"Panel discussion on growth and inequality", *Growth and inequality in the EU*, EUROFRAME/German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin, Germany, June, **Michael Savage**.

"Supporting family incomes: getting the balance right", *Budget Perspectives 2018*, ESRI, Dublin, June, **Michael Savage, Tim Callan, Mark Regan, John R. Walsh**.

"The impact of various tax systems on gender equality", *The EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality Seminar*, European Commission, Stockholm, Sweden, June, **Karina Doorley**.



Research Area Coordinators:

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Dorothy Watson

Others working in this area include:

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Éamonn Fahey
Raffaele Grotti
Bertrand Maître
Selina McCoy
Helen Russell
Emer Smyth

Work was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliate Christopher T. Whelan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Lack of flexible working arrangements, high work pressure and a long-hours culture deter women from seeking senior positions in the civil service.
- Almost one in eight people in Ireland report that they have experienced discrimination at work, in recruitment or in accessing public or private services.

(from left to right) Frances McGinnity, David Stanton, Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration, and Integration, Dorothy Watson, and Oona Kenny at the launch of *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland* on 17 January.



Research on social inclusion and equality investigates factors influencing access to the material and other resources required to participate in economic and social life, in addition to the processes that lead to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes.

In 2017 two reports were published as part of the research programme on equality and integration funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality**. In January David Stanton, TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, launched *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland*. The study highlighted extreme disadvantage among Irish Travellers in terms of education, employment, housing and health. A study of gender balance in the civil service, published in December, found that men were twice as likely as similarly qualified women to occupy senior positions. The research identified lack of flexible working arrangements, lack of structured handovers, gender differences in task assignments and a long-hours culture among the barriers to promotion for women.

A two-year programme of research began with the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**. The first study, published in November, found the highest levels of perceived discrimination among those with disabilities, those of black ethnicity and Travellers. Women were almost twice as likely as men to report discrimination at work. A second study is under review and explores changing attitudes to immigrants and to specific groups including Muslims and Roma. A third study commenced on inequality in housing conditions and discrimination in access to housing.

Ongoing research for the **National Disability Authority** examined the impact of disability on employment-related transitions as Ireland moved from recession to recovery.

Research funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection** published in December found a considerable amount of movement into and out of poverty: of those deprived in either of two years, about half were deprived in both years with the other half evenly divided between those entering and exiting deprivation. Vulnerable groups including lone parents and those with a disability were more likely to be poor and their poverty was more likely to be persistent.

A STUDY FOUND THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AMONG THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, THOSE OF BLACK ETHNICITY AND TRAVELLERS.

Ongoing research worked to provide an overview of social housing provision in the context of the broader housing market, in addition to reviewing the evolution of housing quality since 2004. As part of a research programme funded by the **Low Pay Commission**, an updated analysis was completed on the minimum wage, using data from the Quarterly National Household Survey and EU-SILC 2015.

Under a research programme on community development and social inclusion, funded by **Pobal**, a study investigating mothers' employment and the cost of childcare in Ireland (drawing on the first three waves of the *Growing Up in Ireland* infant cohort) is due to be published early in 2018.

ESRI researchers contributed to the **International Panel on Social Progress**, submitting a chapter on the future of work to *Rethinking Society for the 21st Century*, which will be published online by Cambridge University Press in May 2018.



(from left to right) Raffaele Grotti, Frances McGinnity and Helen Russell with Emily Logan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, at the launch of *Who Experiences Discrimination in Ireland?* on 9 November.

A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland

In January 2017, David Stanton, TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, launched a new report examining whether certain groups of Travellers, in terms of gender, age and region, experience particularly high levels of disadvantage in four areas: education, employment, housing and health. The Traveller population consists of just under 30,000 individuals or 0.6 per cent of the population in Ireland, according to Census 2011.

Education

The research found that Travellers are more likely to have left school early and are much less likely to have reached Leaving Certificate level. Only 8 per cent of working-age Travellers have completed the Leaving Certificate, compared to 73 per cent of non-Travellers.

Levels of education have been increasing over time for both Travellers and non-Travellers. However, the improvement over time was not as great for Travellers. Only 9 per cent of Travellers aged 25–34 have completed second-level education, compared to 86 per cent of non-Travellers in this age group. This suggests that Travellers benefited less from the general improvement in education since the 1960s.

Employment

Travellers aged 25–64 have a lower employment rate than non-Travellers, which is mainly driven by their higher rate of unemployment rather than by a lower rate of labour market participation. Travellers had an unemployment rate of 82 per cent, compared to 17 per cent among the non-Traveller population.

Differences in education are very important in accounting for the employment gap between Travellers and non-Travellers. The employment rate of non-Travellers is about six times higher than that of Travellers. Where the two groups had similar levels of education and other characteristics, the gap is significantly reduced to 1.9 times higher. The chance of being in a job improves markedly as the level of education increases.

The Traveller employment rate is just 9 per cent among those with primary level education, 15 per cent for those with Junior Certificate education, 27 per cent for those with Leaving Certificate education and 57 per cent for the very small number with further or higher education.

This points to the importance of education in enabling Travellers to move out of unemployment and poverty.

ONLY 8 PER CENT OF WORKING-AGE TRAVELLERS HAVE COMPLETED THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE, COMPARED TO 73 PER CENT OF NON-TRAVELLERS.

Housing

The analysis indicated that 88 per cent of Travellers lived in standard housing while just 12 per cent of Travellers lived in a caravan or mobile home in 2011. Although associated with their traditionally nomadic way of life, the research found that the latter type of accommodation is likely to be overcrowded and to lack central heating, piped water and sewerage facilities. It is also more likely to lack internet access.

Health

Travellers have a higher incidence of poor health. In the 35 to 54 age group, 29 per cent of Travellers reported fair, bad or very bad health compared to 8 per cent of non-Travellers who reported this. Poor health increased more steeply with age among Travellers. There is very little difference in the health status reported by Travellers and non-Travellers under 15 years of age. However, in the 55–64 age group, 50 per cent of Travellers report poor health, compared to 22 per cent of non-Travellers. This suggests that poor health among Travellers is a problem that cumulates or worsens across the life course.

A Study of Gender in Senior Positions in the Civil Service

While there have been significant improvements in the past 20 years, women are still under-represented at the highest levels of the civil service.

While just under two-thirds of civil servants are female, only 21 per cent of those at Secretary General level and 33 per cent of those at Assistant Secretary level are female.

A study published by the ESRI in December examined the potential reasons behind this. The analysis draws on a combination of administrative data, reanalysis of the Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey conducted in 2015, in-depth work history interviews with 50 civil servants across four Departments and 11 interviews with people working in HR in the Civil Service.

The study highlighted a number of potential barriers to promotion that are likely to impact on women. Lack of flexible working arrangements at senior grades can deter, or delay, women from applying for promotion because of the difficulties of balancing work demands with child or elder care. This pattern is reinforced by the long-hours culture described by many interviewees and by the high levels of work intensity reported by those at senior grades, especially women. This suggests a need to assess the workload and task organisation in senior positions.

Lack of self-confidence is a potential barrier, with women often feeling that they have to excel in relation to all of the promotion criteria before applying for the position. The lack of a handover and a “sink or swim” approach for those newly promoted to senior roles discourage women from applying for promotion. This points to the importance of having a structured period of induction or handover for people moving to more senior roles, reinforced by mentoring and coaching.

Promotion chances are seen as being enhanced by having certain kinds of experience. Women at senior levels are more likely than men at the same grade to be involved in service delivery or corporate support, which are roles that may lack the visibility to enhance promotion chances. Therefore, it is important to provide a systematic approach to career development for all so that civil servants have the chance to develop their skills and competencies across a range of functions.

Lastly, regular monitoring of gender differences in senior grades is critical to ensure that progress is made.



(from left to right) Robert Watt, Secretary-General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Fiona Tierney, Chief Executive of the Public Appointments System, Niall Burgess, Secretary-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Ortaigh Quinn, Secretary-General of the Department of Business, Innovation and Enterprise, pictured at the launch of *A Study of Gender in Senior Civil Service Positions in Ireland* on 12 December.

11 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Research programme on community development and social inclusion	Pobal	S. McGuinness H. Russell F. McGinnity A. Bergin A. Whelan O. Kenny É. Fahey	Completed
Research programme on human rights and equality	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	F. McGinnity H. Russell D. Watson O. Kenny R. Grotti É. Fahey	In progress
Research programme on gender equality	Department of Justice and Equality	H. Russell D. Watson E. Smyth S. McCoy O. Kenny R. Grotti	Completed
Research programme to measure and analyse household income and living conditions	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	D. Watson B. Maître H. Russell R. Grotti	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Gender equality in the Irish labour market 1966 – 2016: unfinished business?”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 393–418, **Helen Russell, Frances McGinnity, Philip J. O’Connell**⁹.

“In the eye of the beholder: can counter-stereotypes change perceptions of older adults’ social status?”, *Psychology and Aging*, Vol. 32, Issue 6, September 2017, pp. 531–542, **Deirdre Robertson, David Weiss**.

“Non-monetary indicators and multiple dimensions: the ESRI approach to poverty measurement”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 369–392, **Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan*, Bertrand Maître, James Williams**.

“Poverty, economic stress and quality of life: lessons from the Irish case”, *International Review of Economics*, Vol. 64, Issue 2, June 2017, pp. 125–143, **Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître, Christopher T. Whelan*, Helen Russell**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 56, ESRI, Dublin, **Dorothy Watson, Oona Kenny, Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell**.

A Study of Gender in Senior Civil Service Positions in Ireland, ESRI Research Series No. 66, ESRI, Dublin, **Helen Russell, Dorothy Watson, Emer Smyth, Selina McCoy, Raffaele Grotti, Oona Kenny**.

Employment Transitions among People with a Disability in Ireland: An Analysis of the Quarterly National Household Survey, 2010–2015, ESRI Research Series No. 58, ESRI, Dublin, **Dorothy Watson, Martina Lawless, Bertrand Maître**.

Poverty Transitions in Ireland: An Analysis of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Longitudinal Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), 2004–2015, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Dublin, **Raffaele Grotti, Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan***.

⁹ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

Who Experiences Discrimination in Ireland? Evidence from the QNHS Equality Modules, ESRI and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Dublin, **Frances McGinnity, Raffaele Grotti, Oona Kenny, Helen Russell**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

"Children in the economic crisis: Ireland", Bea Cantillon, Yekaterina Chzhen, Sudhanshu Handa, Brian Nolan (eds.), *Children of Austerity: Impact of the Great Recession on Child Poverty in Rich Countries*, Chapter 7, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Brian Nolan, **Bertrand Maître**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

"The intergenerational impact of the Great Recession on economic stress in Ireland in a comparative perspective", ESRI, Dublin, **Bertrand Maître, Christopher T. Whelan***, Brian Nolan.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Making centralised data work for community development: an exploration of area-based training programmes in a unified framework", ESRI, Dublin, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Deprivation dynamics of social risk groups in the EU, 2005–2014", *European Consortium for Sociological Research Annual Conference*, Milan, Italy, August–September, **Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître, Helen Russell, Raffaele Grotti, Christopher T. Whelan**.

"Fuel poverty, deprivation and dwellings across welfare regimes in Europe", *Toward an Integrated Approach to Fuel Poverty?*, University of Paris–Dauphine, Paris, France, May, **Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson**.

"Future housing needs", *Social Housing Summit*, Dublin, February, **Kieran McQuinn, Dorothy Watson**.

"Key findings from *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland*", Launch of *A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland*, ESRI, Dublin, January, **Dorothy Watson, Frances McGinnity, Oona Kenny**.

"Multidimensional poverty, social exclusion, and quality of life", *United Nations Development Programme Expert Group Meeting: Expanding Multidimensional Poverty/Deprivation Measures*, Geneva, Switzerland, April, **Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan**.

"Polarisation or convergence? Contrasting relative and absolute measures of group differences", *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI, Dublin, November, **Dorothy Watson**.

"Poverty and deprivation dynamics of social risk groups in the EU, 2005–2015", *Institutions, Inequality and Social Dynamics*, European Consortium for Sociological Research, Milan, Italy, September, **Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître, Helen Russell, Raffaele Grotti, Christopher T. Whelan**.

"Poverty transitions in Ireland: an analysis of the longitudinal Central Statistics Office Survey on Income and Living Conditions, 2004–2015", *Launch of a report titled Poverty Transitions in Ireland*, ESRI, December, **Raffaele Grotti, Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan**.

"Still out of work? Genuine state dependency and unemployment inertia in Europe", *ESPAnet Conference*, University of Lisbon, Portugal, September, **Raffaele Grotti, Giorgio Cutuli**.

"Shaping economic inequality: the starring role of the household in the 'welfare triad'", *9th UL Winter School in Social Science Research Methods*, University of Limerick, January, **Raffaele Grotti**.

"The relationship between fuel poverty and poverty", *Toward an Integrated Approach of Fuel Poverty?*, University of Paris–Dauphine, Paris, France, May, **Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson**.

"The research–policy interface: what works and what are the challenges?", *Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies Annual Conference*, Stirling, UK, October, **Dorothy Watson**.

"What you do versus who you are: home learning activities, social origin and cognitive skills among young children in Ireland", *ECSR Annual Research Conference*, Milan, Italy, September and *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI, Dublin, November, **Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell, Aisling Murray, Patricia McMullin**.

"Where do young people work? The impact of recession on the sectoral distribution of youth employment in Europe", *Transition in Youth Conference*, Faculty of Economics and Business, KU Leuven University, Brussels, Belgium, September, **Raffaele Grotti, Helen Russell, Jaqueline O'Reilly**.

"Who employs young people?" *Strategic Transitions for Youth in Europe Workshop*, Economic University Krakow, Krakow, Poland, January, **Raffaele Grotti, Helen Russell, Jaqueline O'Reilly**.

HOW WILL POPULATION INCREASE AND AGEING AFFECT DEMAND FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THE YEARS TO 2030?



PROJECTED
POPULATION INCREASE
640,000 - 1.1m
FROM 2015-2030

POPULATION
AGED 65+



2015 1 IN 8



2030 1 IN 6

PROJECTIONS FOR 2030 COMPARED TO 2015 LEVELS

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

INPATIENT BED DAYS
↑ 32-37%
UP TO **1.20m EXTRA**

DAY PATIENT CASES
↑ 23-29%
UP TO **0.30m EXTRA**

PRIVATE HOSPITALS

INPATIENT BED DAYS
↑ 25-32%
UP TO **0.20m EXTRA**

DAY PATIENT CASES
↑ 24-28%
UP TO **0.13m EXTRA**



GP VISITS
↑ 20-27%
UP TO **4.8m EXTRA**



PRACTICE
NURSE VISITS
↑ 26-32%
UP TO **1.9m EXTRA**



PRESCRIPTION ITEMS
(PUBLIC SCHEMES)
↑ 34-37%
UP TO **27.4m EXTRA**



NURSING HOME
RESIDENTS
↑ 40-54%
UP TO **15,600 EXTRA**



HOME CARE
PACKAGES
↑ 44-66%
UP TO **10,000 EXTRA**



HOME HELP HOURS
↑ 38-54%
UP TO **7.7m EXTRA**



PUBLIC
PHYSIOTHERAPY
VISITS
↑ 24-30%
UP TO **0.23m EXTRA**



PUBLIC
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY VISITS
↑ 33-38%
UP TO **0.13m EXTRA**



Research Area Coordinators:

Anne Nolan
Helen Russell
Maev-Ann Wren

Others working in this area include:

Joanne Banks
Adele Bergin
Aoife Brick
Sheelah Connolly
Nora Anne Donnelly
James Eighan
Conor Keegan
Elish Kelly
Pete Lunn
Seán Lyons
Bertrand Maître
Gretta Mohan
Edgar Morgenroth
Sanna Nivakoski
Samantha Smith
Brendan Walsh
Dorothy Watson
Richard Whyte

Work in this area was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliate Christopher T. Whelan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, substantial work took place to develop the Hippocrates model to formulate projections of demand for healthcare in Ireland.
- Research using the Hippocrates model found that rapid population increase and ageing will increase demand for health and social care across all sectors, especially for services for older people.

In 2017, health research focused on the themes of the development of a projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure; the impact of changes in acute bed capacity on hospital length of stay; costing post-stroke cognitive impairment; inequities in access to GP care; the relationship between the environment and health; and pensions, retirement and financial security among the older population.

Quality of life research in 2017 focused on occupational injury and illness within sectors including construction, agriculture, the health sector and industry; risk taking and work accidents on Irish farms; the effects of unemployment on quality of life among young people; and participation in sports/physical activity.

FARMING IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCUPATION IN IRELAND IN TERMS OF FATALITIES. THE MOST COMMON RISKS ARE NOT GETTING HELP WITH DIFFICULT JOBS AND NOT CHECKING MACHINERY.

Under a research programme funded by the **Department of Health**, the ESRI developed the demand phase of the Hippocrates projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure. A report published in October contained projections of demand from 2015 to 2030, based on new ESRI projections for population growth. The report contained the most comprehensive mapping of public and private activity in the Irish healthcare system ever published. The research found that the population of Ireland is projected to grow by between 14 to 23 per cent. The share of population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from one in eight to one in five. The demand for health

and social care is projected to increase across all sectors, with the greatest increases for services for older people.

Three research projects funded by the **Health Research Board** continued in 2017, on costing post-stroke cognitive impairment; inequalities in access to GP services; and determinants of hospital utilisation including the supply of non-acute services.

The ESRI expanded its research focus on ageing in 2017. A project on financial security in the older population continued, which the Health Service Executive funds.

In 2017, the research programme on environmental economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency**, examined the association between radon and lung cancer, and between green space and obesity, using geo-coded data on environmental features matched to health outcomes data from TILDA.

In May, a study of risk-taking in Irish farms was published as part of the research programme with the **Health and Safety Authority**. It reported that farming was the most dangerous occupation in Ireland in terms of fatalities. The study found that the most common risks taken by farmers were not getting help with difficult jobs and not using safety equipment. The report also highlighted the significance of checking machinery in reducing the risks of farm accidents.

Commissioned by the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Gaelic Players Association, a study began examining the commitments of senior inter-county players. Research is investigating the impact that playing at this level is having on players' lives, both positive and negative, and also on their club involvement. Results will be published in 2018.



Noel Connors, Dermot Earley, Chief Executive of the Gaelic Players Association, Alan Barrett, Aogán Ó Fearghail, President of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and Conor McManus at the launch of a new research programme examining the work-life balance of inter-county players on 10 January.

Projections of Demand for Healthcare

A study published in October provides annual projections of demand for public and private health and social care services in Ireland for the years 2015–2030.

The projections are based on ESRI projections for population growth, which were the first projections published based on data from the 2016 Census.

The research found that the population of Ireland is projected to grow by between 14 and 23 per cent, which will add 640,000 to 1.1 million people. The share of population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from one in eight to one in six. The number of people aged 85 and over is projected to almost double.

Demand for health and social care is projected to increase across all sectors, with the greatest increases for services for older people. Demand for home help care and for residential and intermediate care places in nursing homes and other settings is projected to increase by up to 54 per cent between 2015 and 2030.

Demand for public hospital services is projected to increase by up to 37 per cent for inpatient bed days and up to 30 per cent for inpatient cases. Demand for GP visits is projected to increase by up to 27 per cent.

The report also provides projections for maternity services, public hospital emergency department and outpatient services, private hospital services, pharmaceuticals, pharmacy consultations, home care packages, public health nursing, and public community therapy services.

Additionally, the report contains the most comprehensive mapping of public and private activity in the Irish healthcare system ever published. The research found that public hospitals delivered approximately 85 per cent of total inpatient bed days and private hospitals delivered 15 per cent. People paid privately for 27 per cent of total home help hours.

DEMAND FOR HOME HELP CARE AND FOR PLACES IN NURSING HOMES AND OTHER SETTINGS IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY UP TO 54 PER CENT BETWEEN 2015 AND 2030.

The additional demand projected in this report will give rise to demand for additional expenditure, capital investment and expanded staffing, which will in turn have major implications for capacity planning, workforce planning and training. Additional investment will be required in most forms of care to meet the needs of a rapidly growing and aging population. However, the projected population growth will also increase numbers at work and contribute to national income and the revenue base to fund healthcare.



(from left to right) Conor Keegan, Adele Bergin, Maev-Ann Wren, James Eighan, and Brendan Walsh launching *Projections of Demand for Healthcare in Ireland, 2015–2030: First Report from the Hippocrates Model* on 26 October.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Research programme in healthcare reform	Department of Health	M.-A. Wren S. Connolly C. Keegan A. Brick B. Walsh J. Eighan D. Watson J. Banks A. Bergin A. Nolan R. Whyte	In progress
Research on the salaried dental service	Department of Health	A. Nolan	In progress
Alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare: potential costs, outcomes and challenges	Health Research Board	M.-A. Wren S. Connolly C. Keegan A. Brick R. Whyte	In progress
Inter-sectoral analysis by geographic area of the need for, and supply and utilisation of, health services in Ireland	Health Research Board	M.-A. Wren E. Morgenroth R. Layte B. Walsh J. Eighan S. Smith	In progress
Inequalities in access to GP care in Ireland	Health Research Board	A. Barrett A. Nolan S. Lyons	In progress
The StrokeCog study: modelling and modifying the consequences of stroke-related cognitive impairment through intervention	Health Research Board	M.-A. Wren N. Donnelly	In progress
Do we die as we live? Age, socioeconomic status, healthcare utilisation and pathways to death in Ireland	Health Research Board; The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing	A. Nolan R. Kenny (TCD) C. Normand (TCD)	In progress
Research programme on health, safety and wellbeing at work	Health and Safety Authority	H. Russell D. Watson B. Maitre O. Kenny	In progress
Welfare of inter-county players	Gaelic Athletic Association; Gaelic Players Association	P. Lunn E. Kelly D. Watson J. Banks S. McGuinness	In progress
Financial security in the older population in Ireland: assessing the impact of austerity and policy change	Health Service Executive	A. Nolan S. Lyons R. Kenny (TCD) S. Nivakoski	In progress
Participation in golf in Ireland	Confederation of Golf in Ireland	P. Lunn	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Addressing market segmentation and incentives for risk selection: how well does risk equalisation in the Irish private health insurance market work?”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 61–84, **Conor Keegan**,¹⁰ Conor Teljeur, Brian Turner, Steve Thomas.

“An approach to estimating the effects of financing system change on Irish healthcare expenditure”, *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, Vol. XLV, 2016, pp. 1–15, **Maev-Ann Wren**, **Sheelah Connolly**, **Nathan Cunningham**.

“Availability and pricing new medicines in Ireland: reflections and reform”, *PharmacoEconomics*, Vol. 35, Issue 10, October 2017, pp. 981–987, **Paul Gorecki***

“Costs of formal and informal care in the last year of life for patients in receipt of specialist palliative care”, *Palliative Medicine*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 2017, pp. 356–368, **Aoife Brick**, **Samantha Smith**, Charles Normand, **Sinéad O’Hara**, Elsa Droog, Ella Tyrrell, **Nathan Cunningham**, Bridget Johnson.

“Disparities in cancer care and costs at the end of life: evidence from England’s National Health Service”, *Health Affairs*, Vol. 36, No. 7, July, pp. 1218–1226, **Brendan Walsh**, Mauro Laudicella.

“Public healthcare entitlements and healthcare utilisation among the older population in Ireland”, *Health Economics*, Vol. 26, Issue 11, November 2017, pp. 1412–1428, Yuanyuan Ma, **Anne Nolan**.

“The impact of frailty on healthcare utilisation in Ireland: evidence from the Irish longitudinal study on ageing”, *BMC Geriatrics*, Vol. 17, Issue 203, September 2017, pp. 1–12, Lorna Roe, Charles Normand, **Maev-Ann Wren**, John Browne, Aisling M. O’Halloran.

“The impact of transitions in insurance coverage on GP visiting among children in Ireland”, *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 180, May 2017, pp. 94–100, **Anne Nolan**, **Richard Layte**.

“Unmet healthcare needs in Ireland: analysis using the EU–SILC survey”, *Health Policy*, Vol. 121, Issue 4, April 2017, pp. 434–441, **Sheelah Connolly**, **Maev-Ann Wren**.

“‘We don’t have the infrastructure to support them at home’: how health system inadequacies impact on long-term care admissions of people with dementia”, *Health Policy*, Vol. 121, Issue 12, December 2017, pp. 1280–1287, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, Niamh Humphries, Anne Hickey, Frank Doyle.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Golf in Ireland: A Statistical Analysis of Participation, ESRI Research Series No. 63, ESRI, Dublin, **Pete Lunn**, **Elish Kelly**.

Projections of Demand for Healthcare in Ireland, 2015–2030: First Report from the Hippocrates Model, ESRI Research Series No. 67, ESRI, Dublin, **Maev-Ann Wren**, **Conor Keegan**, **Brendan Walsh**, **Adele Bergin**, **James Eighan**, **Aoife Brick**, **Sheelah Connolly**, **Dorothy Watson**, **Joanne Banks**.

Risk-Taking and Accidents on Irish Farms: An Analysis of the 2013 Health and Safety Authority Survey, ESRI Research Series No. 60, ESRI, Dublin, **Dorothy Watson**, **Oona Kenny**, **Bertrand Maître**, **Helen Russell**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

“Health: funding, access and efficiency”, John O’Hagan, Francis O’Toole (eds.), *The Economy of Ireland: Policy-Making in a Global Context*, 2017, Basingstoke: Palgrave, **Anne Nolan**.

“Health insurance and healthcare utilisation and screening”, Christine McGarrigle, Orna Donoghue, Siobhan Scarlett and Rose Anne Kenny (eds.), *Health and Wellbeing: Active Ageing for Older Adults in Ireland: Evidence from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing*, Chapter 3, pp. 47–69, Patrick Moore, Siobhan Scarlett, **Anne Nolan**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

“Addressing market segmentation and incentives for risk selection: how well does risk equalisation in the Irish private health insurance market work?”, ESRI, Dublin, **Conor Keegan**, Conor Teljeur, Brian Turner, Steve Thomas.

“The experience of economic stress among families with children during the Irish recession”, ESRI, Dublin, **Dorothy Watson**, **Christopher T. Whelan***, **Bertrand Maître**, **James Williams**.

“Unmet healthcare needs in Ireland”, ESRI, Dublin, **Sheelah Connolly**, **Maev-Ann Wren**.

¹⁰ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

"Do youth access control policies stop young people smoking? Evidence from Ireland", ESRI, Dublin, **Michael Savage**.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

"Acute care utilisation patterns post-stroke: an analysis from Ireland", *European Health Psychology Society Conference*, Padua, Italy, August, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, Niamh Merriman, Eithne Sexton, Kathleen E. Bennett, Anne Hickey, **Maev-Ann Wren**.

"Addressing post-stroke cognitive impairment through innovative application of health psychology principles", *European Health Psychology Society Conference*, Padua, Italy, August, Anne Hickey, Daniella Rhode, Eithne Sexton, Niamh Merriman, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, **Maev-Ann Wren**, David Williams, Kathleen E. Bennett.

'Does better health insurance coverage impact the demand for health care? A French natural experiment', *Health Economics Study Group Summer Meeting*, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK, June, **Anne Nolan** (discussant).

"Drivers of future demand for hospital services: what role for population growth, ageing, and unmet need?" *International Health Economics Association Conference*, Boston, USA, July, **Conor Keegan**, **Maev-Ann Wren**, **Sheelah Connolly**, **Aoife Brick**.

"European late starter: lessons from the history of reform in Irish health care", *International Health Policy Conference*, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK, February, **Maev-Ann Wren**, **Sheelah Connolly**.

"Examining frail older persons' use and experience of the Irish healthcare system: a mixed methods study", *Changing Perspectives in Gerontology: The Next 65 Years*, Irish Gerontological Society, Wexford, September, Lorna Roe, John Browne, **Maev-Ann Wren**, Aisling O'Halloran, Charles Normand.

"Risk-Taking and accidents on Irish farms", *Launch of Risk-Taking and Accidents on Irish Farms*, ESRI, Dublin, May, **Dorothy Watson**, **Helen Russell**, **Bertrand Maître**, **Oona Kenny**.

"Financial incentives and healthcare utilisation in an ageing society", *American-European workshop on health economics*, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, July, **Anne Nolan**.

"Healthcare financing and undiagnosed and uncontrolled illness among older adults in Ireland", *Society for Lifecourse and Longitudinal Studies Annual Conference*, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, October, **Anne Nolan**.

"Insurance and child health", *Health Economics Study Group Summer Meeting*, University of Aberdeen, June and *Irish Economics Association Annual Conference*, Dublin, May, **Anne Nolan**.

"Insurance and health in the older population", *Centre for Health Research at the Management School Annual Workshop*, Queen's University Belfast, June, **Anne Nolan**.

"Israel – addressing queues for elective treatment in public hospitals", *World Health Organisation Barcelona course on health financing for universal health coverage*, Barcelona, Spain, March, **Conor Keegan**, **Maev-Ann Wren**, Ofir Aviv (Ministry of Health, Israel), Dimitri Varsamis (NHS, UK), Federico Paoli (European Commission), Angelos Tropis (NHS, Cyprus).

"Modelling the substitutability of community, long-term and hospital care and their impact on acute hospital length of stay in Ireland", *International Conference on Integrated Care 2017*, International Foundation of Integrated Care/Health Service Executive, Dublin, May, **Brendan Walsh**, **Samantha Smith**, **Maev-Ann Wren**, **James Eighan**.

"Population ageing in Ireland and Scotland", *Retirement and Health Workshop on Economic Policy in Ireland and Scotland*, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, March, **Anne Nolan**.

"Post-stroke cognitive impairment: a systematic review of disease progression models", *European Health Psychology Society Conference*, Padua, August, Eithne Sexton, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, Niamh Merriman, Anne Hickey, **Maev-Ann Wren**, Kathleen E. Bennett.

"Perspectives of healthcare professionals involved in providing stroke care on impact of post-stroke cognitive impairment", *European Health Psychology Society Conference*, Padua, Italy, August, Niamh A. Merriman, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, Eithne Sexton, **Maev-Ann Wren**, Kathleen E. Bennett, Niall Pender, David Williams, Frances Horgan, Anne Hickey.

"Prevalence of cognitive impairment no dementia (CIND) post-stroke: systematic review and preliminary meta-analysis", *3rd European Stroke Organisation Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic, Eithne Sexton, Niamh A. Merriman, **Nora-Ann Donnelly**, Daniela Rohde, Anne Hickey, David Williams, **Maev-Ann Wren**, Kathleen E. Bennett.

“The impact of changes in acute and non-acute healthcare supply on inpatient length of stay”, *International Health Economics Association Conference*, Boston, USA, July, **Brendan Walsh, Samantha Smith, Maev-Ann Wren, James Eighan.**

“The StrokeCog study: modelling and modifying the consequences of stroke-related cognitive impairment through intervention”, *The SPHeRE Network 3rd Annual Conference*, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, January; *Psychology, Health and Medicine Conference*, Dublin, March; *Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Research Day*, Dublin, March; *Irish Heart Foundation Stroke Conference*, Dublin, March; *Stroke Survivors’ Conference*, Irish Heart Foundation, Dublin, April; and *3rd European Stroke Organisation Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic, May, **Nora-Ann Donnelly, Maev-Ann Wren.**

“Understanding use of GP services among children in Ireland”, *Growing Up in Ireland annual conference*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, November, **Anne Nolan, Richard Layte.**



Pat Breen, TD, Minister of State for Employment and Small Business, is interviewed by George Lee, Agriculture and Environment Correspondent for RTÉ at the launch of Risk-Taking and Accidents on Irish Farms on 24 May.



(back row left to right) Eoin McNamara, Claire Finn, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Aisling Murray, James Williams, (middle row) Alan Barrett, (front row left to right) Carina Bradley and Liam Horan at the *Growing Up in Ireland* Research Conference on 7 November.



Aisling Murray presents the latest set of Key Findings on the lives of 7/8-year-olds at the *Growing Up in Ireland* Research Conference on 7 November.



Research Area Coordinator:

James Williams

Others working in this area include:

Merike Darmody
Richard Layte
Caitriona Logue
Bertrand Maître
Selina McCoy
Frances McGinnity
Eoin McNamara
Bertrand Maître
Aisling Murray
Daráine Murphy
Anne Nolan
Desmond O'Mahony
Amanda Quail
Helen Russell
Emer Smyth
Maeve Thornton
Dorothy Watson

Work was also undertaken in collaboration with Research Affiliate Christopher T. Whelan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Overweight and obesity remain a major health problem, particularly among children from low-income families.
- Boys and children whose mothers have lower levels of education are the most likely to have more than three hours of screen time per day.

Work in this area principally examines the developmental outcomes for children and young people and how these vary between different groups in society. A substantial proportion of the research in this field is closely tied to the *Growing Up in Ireland*¹¹ project, the national longitudinal study of children.

Substantial progress was made throughout the year in progressing *Growing Up in Ireland*. Interviewing was completed with over 8,000 9-year-olds and their families in the project's younger infant cohort while a pilot study was completed with the 20-year-olds in the older child cohort. Approximately 7,000 20-year-olds will be interviewed in their homes in 2018.

In October Katherine Zappone, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, launched research on the transition process from primary to secondary school, based on data from the child cohort at 13 years of age. Findings from the study indicated the importance of providing an engaging primary school experience for children as the basis for subsequent positive engagement at second level.

The *Growing Up in Ireland* 2017 Annual Research Conference was held in November. The keynote address was given by Professor Yvonne Kelly, Professor of Lifecourse Epidemiology at University College London and Associate Director of the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health. Her keynote address was titled *An equal start: the importance of evidence from longitudinal studies to support children's healthy development*.

¹¹ *Growing Up in Ireland* is largely funded by the Irish government, with a generous contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Three *Key Findings* reports from the 7/8-year-old wave of the infant cohort were launched at the conference. These focused on health and development, school and learning, and socio-emotional development and play. These recent findings indicate that most 7/8-year-olds are in good health. However, overweight and obesity remain a major health problem, particularly among children from lower income families. Dietary quality was linked to family social class. Most children adjust well to primary school, but children who find it difficult to initially settle into school continue to experience difficulties with school over the following years. Most 7/8-year-olds are also doing well in terms of their socio-emotional development, with girls having higher scores on measures of social skills (assertion, empathy, responsibility and self-control) than boys.

CHILDREN WHO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SETTLE INTO SCHOOL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES WITH SCHOOL OVER THE FOLLOWING YEARS.

A report on healthcare utilisation among young children was also launched at the conference. The report found that at both 9 months and 3 years of age, children with a full medical card or GP visit card had a significantly higher number of GP visits per annum than children who had no medical cover, i.e. no medical card, GP visit card or private health insurance. This was the case after adjusting for the child's health needs, other child characteristics and family characteristics.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Growing Up in Ireland (Phase 2)	Department of Children and Youth Affairs; The Atlantic Philanthropies	J. Williams A. Murray A. Quail M. Thornton A. Nolan D. Watson S. McCoy	In progress

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Early skill formation and the efficiency of parental investment: a randomized controlled trial of home visiting”, *Labour Economics*, Vol. 45, April 2017, pp. 40–58, Orla Doyle, Colm Harmon, James Heckman, **Caitríona Logue**,¹² Seong Hyeok Moon.

“Event-related potentials discriminate familiar and unusual goal outcomes in 5-month-olds and adults”, *Developmental Psychology*, Vol. 53, No. 10, pp. 1833–1843, Christine Michel, Katharina Kaduk, **Aine Ní Choisdealbha**, Vincent M. Reid.

“Out-of-school social activities among immigrant-origin children living in Ireland”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 419–439, **Merike Darmody**, **Emer Smyth**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Growing Up in Ireland: Health & Development at 7/8 Years of Age, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 63, Infant Cohort at 7/8 Years – Key Findings No. 2, ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

Growing Up in Ireland: Report on the Pilot Phase of Wave Three, Infant Cohort (at 5 Years of Age), Growing Up in Ireland Technical Series No. 5, **Maeve Thornton**, **James Williams**.

Growing Up in Ireland: School & Learning at 7/8 Years of Age, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 62, Infant Cohort at 7/8 Years – Key Findings No. 1, ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

Growing Up in Ireland: Socio-emotional Development & Play at 7/8 Years of Age, ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series No. 64, Infant Cohort at 7/8 Years – Key Findings No. 3, ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

Understanding Use of General Practitioner Services among Children in Ireland, The Stationery Office, Dublin, **Anne Nolan**, **Richard Layte**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

“Growing Up in Ireland and longitudinal research on educational transitions”, Helga Fasching, Corinna Geppert, Elena Makarova (eds.), *Inklusive Übergänge: (Inter)nationale Perspektiven auf Inklusion im Übergang von der Schule in weitere Bildung, Ausbildung oder Beschäftigung*, pp. 299–312, Bad Heilbrunn: Julius Klinkhardt, **Aisling Murray**.

“Child poverty in a period of austerity”, Emma Heffernan, John McHale, Niamh Moore-Cherry (eds.), *Debating Austerity in Ireland: Crisis, Experience and Recovery*, Chapter 10, pp. 145–157, Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, **Dorothy Watson**, **Bertrand Maître**, **Christopher T. Whelan***, **James Williams**.

“Social inequality in cognitive outcomes in Ireland: what is the role of the home learning environment and childcare?”, Hans Peter Blossfeld, Nevena Kulic, Jan Skopek, Moris Triventi (eds.), *Childcare, Early Education and Social Inequality: An International Perspective*, pp. 109–132, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, **Frances McGinnity**, Patricia McMullin, **Aisling Murray**, **Helen Russell**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

“Early skill formation and the efficiency of parental investment”, ESRI, Dublin, Orla Doyle, Colm Harmon, James Heckman, **Caitríona Logue**, Seong Hyeok Moon.

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

“Arts and cultural participation among children and young people”, *Places Matter*, Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin, January and *Arts in Education National Portal Day*, Dublin City University, May, **Emer Smyth**.

“Gender and social inequalities in cultural participation among children and young people”, *Educational Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference*, Cork, April, **Emer Smyth**.

“Inequality among children in Ireland: 1916–2016”, *University College Dublin social policy seminar*, Dublin, April, **James Williams**.

“Maternal age and child outcomes”, *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, November, **Daráine Murphy**, **James Williams**.

“Neighbourhood matters: neighbourhood effects on children’s emotional and behavioural outcomes”, *Growing Up in Ireland Annual Research Conference*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, November, **Amanda Quail**.

“Off to a good start? Primary school experiences and the transition to second-level education”, Launch of a *Growing Up in Ireland* report titled *Off to a Good Start? Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-Level Education*, ESRI/Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, October, **Emer Smyth**.

¹² Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

(from left to right) Claire Finn, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Emer Smyth, Clare Farrell, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, James Williams, and Aisling Murray at the launch of *Off to a Good Start? Primary School Experiences and the Transition to Second-level Education* on 19 October.



(from left to right) James Williams, Aisling Murray, Yvonne Kelly, Professor of Lifecourse Epidemiology at University College London and Associate Director of the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health, Elizabeth Nixon, Trinity College Dublin, and Alan Barrett pictured at the *Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference* on 7 November.



Research Area Coordinator:
Pete Lunn

Others working in this area include:
Cameron Belton
Terry McElvane
Féidhlim McGowan
Martin Murphy
Áine Ní Choisdealbha
Deirdre Robertson
Shane Timmons

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Experimental results showed that consumers struggle to understand Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) plans.
- Experiments confirmed that consumers were more able to identify and choose cheaper energy packages when an estimated annual bill was shown.

Cass Sunstein, Professor at Harvard Law School and Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs from 2009 to 2012, spoke at an event titled *Applying Behavioural Science to Policy* on 31 March in the ESRI.



Providing Evidence
for Policy

esri.ie

The ESRI's Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) uses controlled laboratory and field experiments to investigate economic decisions across multiple policy areas. In 2017, the BRU won the competition to supply behavioural insights services to the **OECD**. This three-year programme involves designing and conducting behavioural experiments to support the OECD's efforts to improve the use of evidence in regulatory policy.

The BRU also obtained a new contract to work with the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** and **Irish Water**, to develop behaviourally informed interventions to assist households in replacing lead pipework.

More findings were generated by PRICE Lab, funded by the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission**, the **Commission for Communications Regulation** and the **Commission for Energy Regulation**. Experimental results obtained in autumn 2017 showed that consumers struggle to understand Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) plans. A method was also developed to test how accurately consumers can trade off search and switching costs against potential gains.

RESEARCH ON THE ECONOMICS OF PENSIONS SHOWED THAT PEOPLE SYSTEMATICALLY UNDERESTIMATE MONEY GROWTH, ESPECIALLY ON REGULAR SAVINGS.

Experimental findings were produced in relation to two issues under a research programme on the economics of pensions, funded by the **Pensions Authority**. First, results showed that people systematically underestimate money growth, especially on regular savings. Second, experiments revealed that when deciding whether to receive a

pension as a lump sum or a guaranteed regular monthly income (an annuity), individuals display a large bias that depends on how the choice is framed. Further experiments will test ways to assist people to overcome these two problems.

A behavioural strand of a research programme on healthcare reform, funded by the **Department of Health**, is now well underway. Eye-tracking equipment will be used to assist in a pre-test of the format for the introduction of calorie posting in restaurants. The health programme also involves collaboration on a series of randomised controlled trials designed to improve the management of hospital waiting lists.

Results were obtained for the **Environmental Protection Agency** from an experiment showing that willingness to pay for hybrid and electric cars is altered by altering respective tax rates. A pilot experiment was also undertaken for a study of whether the habits of transition year students are affected by participation in the Green Schools scheme at primary level.

Work undertaken for the **Central Bank of Ireland** reviewed a large volume of evidence from behavioural economics in relation to the design of financial products. This study, to be completed in early 2018, will draw conclusions about whether certain financial product features have harmful effects on consumers' decision-making.

Under the programme funded by the **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine**, a farm-level model of the risk of violating the nitrates regulations was developed using administrative data.

Lastly, three two-day training courses were delivered for the **European Commission**, introducing the methods of behavioural economics and training officials in their application to policy problems.

Price Transparency in Residential Electricity

In 2017 the Behavioural Research Unit published a novel piece of research. The Unit experimentally pre-tested a new regulation on energy pricing for the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU).

This is the first time that a regulation has been experimentally pre-tested like this in Ireland. The work was carried out as part of PRICE Lab, which is a programme of research funded by CRU, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, and the Communications Regulator, ComReg.

The new regulation was designed to help consumers to compare prices for domestic gas and electricity. In the market, energy packages are generally sold to new customers as discounts from standard unit rates. These standard rates vary between the companies, so comparing a discount from one company with a discount from another is not straightforward.

In a first experiment, PRICE Lab tested whether consumers were able to make these kinds of comparisons. The results suggested that they found it hard. For instance, when prices were expressed as unit rates for electricity, consumers chose the company with the cheapest rate 80 per cent of the time. But when the same choices were given with the prices expressed as discounts, this dropped to almost 50 per cent.

The follow-up experiment tested whether a regulation requiring providers to display an Estimated Annual Bill (EAB) would help. The idea of the EAB is to make providers display prices in a comparable way. The experiment confirmed that consumers were more able to identify and choose cheaper energy packages when the EAB was shown.

CONSUMERS WERE MORE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND CHOOSE CHEAPER ENERGY PACKAGES WHEN AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL BILL WAS SHOWN.

This regulation has now come into force, having been pre-tested in PRICE Lab.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Are perceptions of greatness accurate? A statistical analysis of Brian O’Driscoll’s contribution to the Irish rugby team”, *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Spring 2017, **Pete Lunn, David Duffy**.¹³

“Reaching back: the relative strength of the retroactive emotional attentional blink”, *Scientific Reports*, 7, Article Number 43645, 2017, pp. 1–9, **Áine Ní Choisdealbha**, Richard M Piech, John K Fuller, David H. Zald.

¹³ Bold type indicates ESRI staff members. An asterisk (*) indicates an ESRI Research Affiliate.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

“Measuring participation or participating in measurement? The cautionary tale of an accidental experiment in survey accuracy”, Victoria M. Ateca-Amestoy, Victor Ginsburgh, Isidoro Mazza, John O’Hagan, Juan Prieto-Rodriguez (eds.), *Enhancing Participation in the Arts in the EU Challenges and Methods*, 2017, pp. 67–78, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, **Pete Lunn**.

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Project or Programme Title	Client/Funding Agency	Researchers	Status [EOY 2017]
Price Lab research programme: Phase 2	Central Bank of Ireland; Commission for Communications Regulation; Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Water and Energy; Competition and Consumer Protection Commission	P. Lunn Á. Ni Choisdealbha D. Robertson F. McGowan T. McElvaney S. Timmons C. Belton	In progress
Best practice product design in financial services	Central Bank of Ireland	P. Lunn F. McGowan	In progress
Joint research programme on generating experimental evidence on pension decisions	The Pensions Authority	P. Lunn F. McGowan D. Robertson	In progress
Behavioural science and the national obesity plan	Department of Health	P. Lunn D. Robertson	In progress
Applying behavioural science to compliance with nitrate regulations	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	P. Lunn D. Robertson M. Murphy	In progress
Regulatory compliance among Irish farmers	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	P. Lunn	Completed
Study on energy saving framings	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	P. Lunn	In progress
An OECD PRICE Lab	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	P. Lunn D. Robertson C. Belton	In progress
Geological Society of Ireland	Horizon 2020	P. Lunn	In progress
College of Europe training course	College of Europe	P. Lunn	In progress

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS READ TO CONFERENCES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

“Behavioural economics and digital financial services”, *Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Central Bank of Ireland FinTech Conference*, Dublin, April, **Pete Lunn**.

“Behavioural economics and regulation in Ireland: establishing criteria for good consumer decision-making”, *Launch of Behavioural Science Centre, Geary Institute*, UCD, Dublin, September, **Pete Lunn**.

“Can consumer protection policy have a scientific basis?” *Application of Behavioural Economics Conference*, Government of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark, November, **Pete Lunn**.

“Many years from now: measuring misperception and misunderstanding of pensions”, *10th annual Irish Economics, Psychology, and Policy Conference*, Irish Behavioural Science and Policy Network, Dublin, December, **Pete Lunn**.

“Review of Cass Sunstein’s *The Ethics of Influence*”, *Irish Behavioural Science and Policy Network seminar*, Dublin, February, **Pete Lunn**.

“Using behavioural science to reduce non-compliance with the Nitrates Directive”, *European Commission Nitrates Committee meeting*, Brussels, Belgium, June, **Pete Lunn**.

Liam Horan and Carina Bradley, both age seven, launching the latest *Key Findings*, focusing on the lives of children aged seven and eight years at the *Growing Up in Ireland* Research Conference on 7 November.



GROWING UP IN IRELAND

Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland. It is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, with a contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. The research is conducted by a consortium of independent researchers at the ESRI and Trinity College Dublin.

The study follows almost 20,000 children throughout Ireland as they grow up. The objective of the study is to provide evidence to inform the development of effective policies and services for children, young people and families. To do this, the study monitors the physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development of children and identifies factors that help or hinder their wellbeing. Data collection focuses on four areas: health and physical development; socio-emotional development; cognitive and educational development; and (from 17 years of age) economic and civic participation.



Anne Nolan presented research findings from a report titled *Understanding Use of General Practitioner Services among Children in Ireland* at the *Growing Up in Ireland* research conference on 7 November.

Information is collected from children, their caregivers, principals and teachers by face-to-face interviews and postal questionnaires. Growing Up in Ireland emphasises direct participation in the study by children themselves from as early an age as possible, to ensure that it captures the voice of the child – in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. From the age of three, children complete cognitive tests. As they grow older, they record their views in detail, using age-appropriate methods and questionnaires.

There are two cohorts in the study. In 2007/08, 8,500 9-year-olds were recruited and interviewed. These form the child cohort. Subsequent data sweeps for this cohort took place in 2011/12 and 2015/16, when the children were 13 and 17/18 years of age. The next data sweep will take place from June to December 2018, when the young people are 20 years old.

COMPARING BOTH COHORTS AT 9 YEARS OLD WILL SHED LIGHT ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHILDREN WHO GREW UP IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC BOOM AND THOSE WHO GREW UP IN TIMES OF RECESSION.

In 2008/09, 11,100 children were recruited and interviewed at 9 months of age. These form the infant cohort. Subsequent face-to-face interviews took place in 2010/11 and 2013 when the children were 3 years and 5 years old. A postal survey was also carried out with their main caregiver in 2015/16, when the children were 7/8 years of age.

In 2017/2018, face-to-face interviews were conducted with the children in the infant cohort at 9 years of age. The first results from this data sweep will be published in three *Key Findings* in November 2018, focusing on physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development. As the study's first ever data sweep in 2007/08 focused on 9-year-olds in the child cohort, the latest results from the infant cohort will provide an opportunity to directly compare the experiences of both cohorts at the same age. This will shed light on differences in child wellbeing and development between those whose early formative years were in a period of economic boom and those whose early years were in a time of economic recession.

16 EXTERNAL COMMITMENTS OF STAFF

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