

# **IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION E-NEWSLETTER**

## **ISSUE 26, February 2013**

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) e-newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year and highlights upcoming conferences, events, publications and other developments in the broad social policy area. Contact details are included below.

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### **1. ISPA NEWS**

This is the 26<sup>th</sup> e-Newsletter of the Irish Social Policy Association. There will be four e-newsletters throughout the year. The following are the scheduled dates which you will receive your copy via email:

Mid-September  
Mid-November  
Mid-February  
Mid-May

The Irish Social Policy Association is seeking support with our website and online membership functions.

We require someone with the skills to:

- manage membership applications via our website, including payment through PayPal,
- update material on our website from time to time and
- upload documents to the website when required.

It is envisaged that a commitment of up to 3 hours per month is required, for a minimum of one year. A small amount of funding is available for this work.

If you are interested in taking on this role for the Irish Social Policy Association, please email [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie) outlining your skills and availability by close of business **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**.

## ISPA PRE BUDGET SEMINAR

The ISPA held a Seminar on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 6.30pm in Management House, DIT Aungier Street. The theme of this seminar was *Minimum Income Standards for Ireland – Implications for Budget 2013*. Speakers at this event were Dr Michael Collins, Senior Research Officer, Nevin Economic Research Institute and Sister Bernadette McMahon, Vincentian Partnership, Dublin. The seminar drew on the research of the Vincentian Partnership published by Trinity College's Policy Institute (*A Minimum income Standard for Ireland*) and offered a detailed analysis of the income families of different types require to meet basic needs. This research offers a unique perspective on the implications of budgetary decisions for families – especially low-income families in Ireland today. Further details on the presentations given will be available from the members section of the ISPA website shortly. The ISPA hopes to hold another seminar soon. Please check the ISPA website [www.ispa.ie](http://www.ispa.ie) for regular updates.

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

## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS

- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

### ESRI CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Reaping the Benefits of Globalisation: Opportunities and Challenges for Europe and Ireland

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 8.30am – 1pm

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

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

#### SOCIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

**Theme:** Developing Research Outputs beyond the Final Report: This workshop will address 'why' and 'how' researchers can disseminate their findings beyond the traditional 'Final Report'. Inputs at the workshop will focus on a range of different outputs including how to pitch your research to the mainstream media.

**Speakers:** Claire O'Connell PhD, MSc Science Communications – Freelance Journalist and contributor to The Irish Times. Kate Morris MA in Communications, MSc in Social Research skills, policy and Evaluation - Project Specialist, Centre for Effective Services.

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 10am -1pm.

**Venue:** The workshop will be delivered in Dublin 2 (location of venue will be given upon confirmation of booking).

**Other Details:** To book a place, or find out more details, please contact [sra.ireland@gmail.com](mailto:sra.ireland@gmail.com)

- **UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES**

#### NEVIN ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR

**Theme:** Measuring the impact of the jobs initiative

**Speaker:** Brendan O'Connor, Economics Division, Department of Finance

**Date:** 20th February 2013, 4 pm.

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

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

#### ESRI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

**Theme:** Heterogeneity in Time Preference Among Older Households

**Speaker:** Cormac O'Dea (Institute for Fiscal Studies)

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 4 pm.

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

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

#### ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LECTURES

**Theme:** Air pollution and climate change policy: a bumpy road to climate stabilization

**Speaker:** Frank Raes, Climate Risk Management Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 6.30pm.

**Venue:** Royal Irish Academy, Academy House, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

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

**Theme:** Academy discourse: Spatial justice, housing and the financial crisis  
**Speaker:** Professor Danny Dorling, Professor of Human Geography, University of Sheffield  
**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013, 6 pm.

**Venue:** Royal Irish Academy, Academy House, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2  
**Other Details:** Please see [www.ria.ie](http://www.ria.ie) for further details  
SOCIOLOGY PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES  
**Theme:** Women, Violence and Social Change  
**Speaker:** Dr. Melanie Hoewer, UCD SPIRe and IBIS  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 1-2pm  
**Venue:** G317, Newman Building, Belfield Campus, UCD  
**Other Details:** Email: [tidi@tcd.ie](mailto:tidi@tcd.ie), Website: [www.tcd.ie/tidi](http://www.tcd.ie/tidi), or [www.ucd.ie/hdi](http://www.ucd.ie/hdi)

**Theme:** The Role of Branding in NGO  
**Speaker:** Karen Hand, PhD Candidate, School of Psychology , Centre of Global [Health](#).  
**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013, 1-2pm  
**Venue:** Seminar Room, The Luce Hall, School of Natural Sciences, TCD  
**Other Details:** Email: [tidi@tcd.ie](mailto:tidi@tcd.ie), Website: [www.tcd.ie/tidi](http://www.tcd.ie/tidi), or [www.ucd.ie/hdi](http://www.ucd.ie/hdi)

**Theme:** A Perspective on the Human Resource Issues Facing the Overseas Development Sector  
**Speaker:** Frank Flood  
**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 1-2pm  
**Venue:** Seminar Room B, Museum Building, TCD  
**Other Details:** Email: [tidi@tcd.ie](mailto:tidi@tcd.ie), Website: [www.tcd.ie/tidi](http://www.tcd.ie/tidi), or [www.ucd.ie/hdi](http://www.ucd.ie/hdi)

TCD SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES  
**Theme:** Birthing Babies  
**Speakers:** Dr Colm O'Boyle, TCD.  
**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 5.15pm

**Venue:** School of Nursing and Midwifery, The Gas Building, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2  
**Other Details:** Please email Jeni Ryan to book a place [ryanjen@tcd.ie](mailto:ryanjen@tcd.ie)  
LIVING WITH DEMENTIA PROGRAMME, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY, TCD AND THE DEMENTIA SERVICES INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
**Theme:** Redesigning Dementia Care: Small-scale homelike facilities  
**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 2pm  
**Venue:** School of Nursing and Midwifery, The Gas Building, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2  
**Other Details:** For bookings or further information, please contact Vanessa Moore (Tel: 8962914; Email [moorev@tcd.ie](mailto:moorev@tcd.ie)).

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

### 3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Central Statistics Office (2013) Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2011. A pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
- *Nevin Economic Research Institute Quarterly Economic Observer – January 2013*. A pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.ie](http://www.nerinstitute.ie)
- *Nevin Economic Research Institute Quarterly Economic Facts – January 2013*. A pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.ie](http://www.nerinstitute.ie)
- Cancer Society Ireland in collaboration with National Women's Council of Ireland (2013) *Women and smoking: time to face the crisis*. A pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.nwci.ie](http://www.nwci.ie)
- National Centre for the Protection of Older People (2012) *Older people in residential care settings: results of a national survey of staff residential interactions and conflicts*. A Pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.ncpop.ie](http://www.ncpop.ie)
- TILDA (2012) *Polypharmacy in adults over 50 in Ireland: Opportunities for cost saving and improved healthcare*. A Pdf copy of the report is available to download from [www.tcd.ie/tilda](http://www.tcd.ie/tilda)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- [\*Disability in the Irish Labour Market: Evidence from the QNHS Equality Module 2010\*](#)  
Watson, D., Kingston, G., McGinnity, F., The Equality Authority and the ESRI.
- [\*Ethnicity and Nationality in the Irish Labour Market: Evidence from the QNHS Equality Module 2010\*](#)  
Kingston, G., O'Connell, P. J., Kelly, E., The Equality Authority and the ESRI.
- [\*Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2012\*](#)  
Duffy, D., Durkan, J., Timoney, K., Casey, E., ESRI Forecasting Series
- [\*Swimming in Ireland: A Statistical Analysis\*](#)  
Kelly, E., Lunn, P., Swim Ireland, the Irish Sports Council and the ESRI.
- [\*"Financial Crisis, Economic Adjustment and a Return to Growth in the EU"\*](#)  
FitzGerald, J., *Revue de l'OFCE*, No. 127, 2013, pp.277-302

- "[What can Children's Fears tell us about Childhood? An Exploration of Data collected as part of Growing Up in Ireland, the National Longitudinal Study of Children](#)" Murray, A., *The Irish Psychologist*, Vol. 38, No. 12, 2012

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

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

- *The Squeezed Middle: the pressure of ordinary workers in America and Britain* edited by Sophia Parker. As wages stagnate but living costs keep rising, the pressure on working people grows more intense. No longer can workers assume that when the economy grows their wages will grow with it. This collection brings together for the first time leading economic and policy thinkers to analyse the impact of different policies on those on low-to middle incomes and to explain what lessons the UK can learn from America's 'lost generation'. This timely book is essential reading for everyone concerned about the living standards crisis, an issue which could decide elections as well as shaping the future for millions of working families.
- *Democracy under attack: How the media distort policy and politics* by Malcolm Dean. This book offers a unique insider's perspective and a detailed and valuable account of news production in Britain and will give readers a flavour of what goes on in news rooms, pressure groups, departmental policy divisions and parliament.
- *Mental health users in research: critical sociological perspectives* edited by Patsy Staddon. This book aims to show the value but also the difficulties encountered in the application of 'insider knowledge' in service user research. Mental health service users in research considers ways of 'doing research' which bring multiple understandings together effectively, and explains the sociological use of autobiography and its relevance. It examines how our identity shapes the knowledge we produce, and asks why voices which challenge contemporary beliefs about health and the role of treatment are often silenced. An imbalance of power and opportunity for service users, and the stigmatising nature of services, are considered as human rights issues. Most of the contributors to the book are service users/survivors as well as academics. Their fields of expertise include LGB issues, racial tensions, and recovering from the shame and stigma of alcoholism. They stress the importance of research approaches which involve mutualities of respect and understanding within the worlds of researcher, clinician and service user/survivor.

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

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

## 4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

### OIREACHTRAS RESEARCHER (SOCIAL SCIENCE)

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE POST

The Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS) is part of the Parliamentary Services Division in the Houses of the Oireachtas Service. The L&RS provides impartial information and research services to support the work of both Houses, individual Members and Committees in respect of their parliamentary duties. The L&RS corporate information role includes documents laid before the Houses, Freedom of Information and records management.

Information and research services include:

- a legislative analysis briefing service for all Members
- regular research briefings on topical issues for all Members
- research for individual Members and Committees
- information skills training
- access to collections

There are thirty members of staff working in the L&RS. The L&RS is an integrated service with researchers and librarians working on multidisciplinary teams reporting to the Head of Research or Head of Collections. The L&RS is managed by the Head of Library and Research Services. A number of services are available online 24/7.

The L&RS is open to Members until the Houses rise in the evening

Role:

Researchers under the overall direction of the Head of Research undertake research to support individual Members and Committees in respect of their parliamentary duties.

Essential Requirements:

Candidates must on or before 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013:

(a) hold a recognised honours social science degree (level 8 in the National Framework of Qualifications) or a recognised honours degree in a closely related discipline

(b) possess and be able to demonstrate;

- An extensive and broad ranging knowledge of social policy issues in Ireland.
  
- A good knowledge of social policy issues in the European Union.
  
- Relevant post-graduate research experience or experience in employment using research, analytical, statistical and evaluative skills and techniques.
  
- The ability to write and present research/information in a concise, accessible and plain English style.
  
- The requisite knowledge and skills to fulfil the duties assigned including strong information technology skills, the ability to prioritise and manage work-loads, to cope with conflicting demands on time, team working and strong interpersonal skills.



Desirable:

- Experience of policy evaluation.
- A postgraduate qualification in statistics.
- Experience in the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
- Postgraduate qualifications in a relevant discipline.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Please see <http://www.publicjobs.ie/publicjobs/campaignAdvert/7081.htm> for further information and how to apply for this position.

#### THE IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2013-2014

The Irish Research Council has launched the 2013-2014 round of its Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme, including the Enterprise Partnership and the Andrew Greene Scholarships. Following the merger of IRCHSS and IRCSET the Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship subsumes the previous IRCSET Embark Scholarship and IRCHSS Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship.

The Council funds excellent researchers across all disciplines and encourages interdisciplinary research and engagement with enterprise. The Council facilitates the career development of researchers by funding those at an early stage of their research career to associate with established research teams who have achieved international recognition for their work. The Council aims to support an expertise-driven research system in order to enhance Ireland's innovation capacity and skills base in a rapidly changing global environment where knowledge is key to economic, social and cultural development. The Council is further committed to facilitating the integration of Irish researchers in all disciplines within the European Research Area.

The Council offers three scholarship types for suitably qualified individuals to pursue a postgraduate degree at a Higher Education Institution within Ireland, including the **Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship**, the **Enterprise Partnership Postgraduate Scholarship** and the **Andrew Grene Postgraduate Scholarship in Conflict Resolution**. Applications will only be accepted through the electronic submission system, which can be accessed via [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie) All electronic applications must be submitted via the e-system following the relevant deadlines:

1. The deadline for applicants to the scheme is exactly **5pm (GMT) on Tuesday 12th March 2013**.
2. The deadline for referees and mentors is exactly **5pm (GMT) on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013**.
3. The closing date for endorsement by the research office of the proposed host institution is exactly **5pm (GMT) on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013**.

Further information on this funding scheme is available from [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)

## IRISH FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION: COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### Purpose

To undertake the planning, development and delivery of IFPA internal and external communications, including website, members newsletter, communication of IFPA programmes and publications, management of key IFPA events and media.

### Personal Specification

Excellent spoken and written English: general ability to express clearly and concisely ideas and concepts in written and oral form; specific skills in writing press releases and news articles for traditional and electronic media.

A track record and/or understanding of developing and implementing strategies to influence public opinion through the media

Demonstrated skill in development of information, education and communication material, documentation and publication (including web-based documentation)

A knowledge, understanding and commitment to sexual, reproductive health and rights in Ireland.

Strong teamwork skills with an ability to work on his/her own initiative.

An ability to work to tight deadlines.

### Applications

Applicants should send a Curriculum Vitae to [ahughes@ifpa.ie](mailto:ahughes@ifpa.ie) (Subject line: Communications and Development Officer application) to be received by 5pm, Monday 11th March 2013. Job sharing will be considered. Further information about the work of the IFPA and a full job description is available on [www.ifpa.ie](http://www.ifpa.ie).

## GENERAL CAREERS INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. CONTACTING THE ISPA

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

ISPA Secretary Lorna Roe: [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie)  
Newsletter: [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie)  
Treasurer: [treasurer@ispa.ie](mailto:treasurer@ispa.ie)

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

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## 6. MEMBERSHIP OF ISPA

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

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## 7. ISPA HISTORY AND CURRENT COMMITTEE

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

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

Association, discussions and debates have been stimulated on a variety of contemporary social policy issues.

### **CURRENT ISPA COMMITTEE**

The current ISPA committee are: Claude Delaney (Chairman), Micheal Collins (Vice-Chairman), Caroline Fahey (Secretary), Frank Mills (Treasurer), Ann Stokes (Newsletter Officer), Martin Power (Website Officer) Catherine Anne Field (Postgraduate Officer), Lorna Roe, Eithne Fitzgerald, Padraig Rehill, Geoffrey Cook, Tony McCashin, Sarah Craig, Vivienne Bryers.

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

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

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

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

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

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