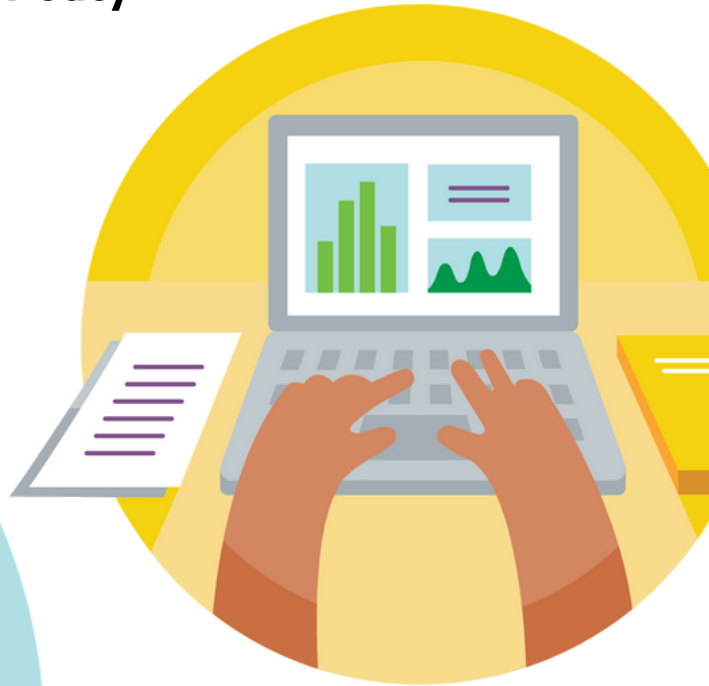




UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE



ACTIVITY REPORT

2024-2025

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

The UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy is a recognised centre for research that is relevant to policy, theoretically informed, and empirically based. The Institute promotes empirical research in the social and behavioural sciences and convenes researchers to foster discourse on theories, techniques, and empirical findings. The primary fields of study at Geary encompass demographics, economics, education, environmental policy, law, political science, psychology, public health, social policy, and sociology. The Institute enhances and broadens the fundamental research proficiency of UCD Schools and Institutes, integrated with both international and national collaborations.

VISION

The Geary Institute for Public Policy aims to lead in policy-relevant, empirically based research within the social and behavioural sciences at UCD and across Ireland, focussing on the intersection of academic research and public policymaking and implementation. Our vision is to establish a platform of excellence for examining issues pertinent to policy discourse and decision-making. This vision is actualised through the three pillars of People, Papers, and Policy. The Geary network of research fellows exemplifies rigorous excellence, producing cutting-edge research via working papers and peer-reviewed publications that inform policy innovation and development.



MISSION

By disseminating high-quality empirical research to inform important academic and policy debates, we hope to support policy-relevant research in the empirical social and behavioural sciences, bring researchers together to foster discussion on theories, methodologies, and empirical results, and deliver broader socio-economic and research impact across the policy lifecycle. Research dissemination and support activities include:

- The weekly Geary Seminar Series;
- The Geary Institute Research Skills Initiative (GIRSI) – a series of free masterclasses focusing on specialist research tools, professional skills, and methods;
- The Institute’s online policy analysis dissemination platform: PublicPolicy.ie;
- Interaction with the general public, scholars, and decision-makers via conferences, masterclasses, training sessions, seminars, and our working paper series.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

EPEX

The Geary Institute for Public Policy has launched a new initiative called Empowering Policy Excellence (EPEX), which is intended to strengthen ties between policymakers, foster innovation in policy development, build research impact capacity, and provide educational programmes.

EPEX aims to enable policymakers to achieve excellence in policymaking, implementation and evaluation by: 1) Building stronger links between policymakers and UCD researchers to strengthen the evidence base for policy; 2) Enabling UCD researchers to maximise the policy impact of their research; and 3) Strengthening policymakers' capacity to commission, conduct, interpret and use research effectively to inform their work.

Under EPEX, there are currently four key initiatives under way at the Geary Institute:

- PublicPolicy.ie - an online research dissemination platform
- A EPEX expert residency programme which allows industry professionals to spend three months at the Institute,
- A mobility programme to bring researchers from public policy institutes in universities abroad to UCD, and
- A webinar series for policymakers that will examine the latest innovations in thinking about formulating and implementing policy more effectively.



Bob Jordan is the Geary Institute's first EPEX expert in residence

Bob Jordan, a key figure in Ireland's housing sector and former CEO of The Housing Agency, has joined the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy as its first expert in residency.

As part of a new initiative aimed at strengthening ties between policymakers and fostering innovation in policy development, the Geary Institute has launched the Policy and Practice Expert Reflections (PAPERS) series. This programme allows industry professionals to spend three months at the Institute, offering insights into critical policy challenges they have encountered.

Open to individuals from Ireland's civil and public service, as well as relevant NGOs and commercial entities, the expert residency scheme provides an opportunity for policymakers and practitioners to produce a 5,000-10,000-word analysis on a significant policy or practical issue they have faced.



Professor Kate Robson Brown, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, with Professor Michelle Norris, Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy, and Bob Jordan, Geary Expert in Residency and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

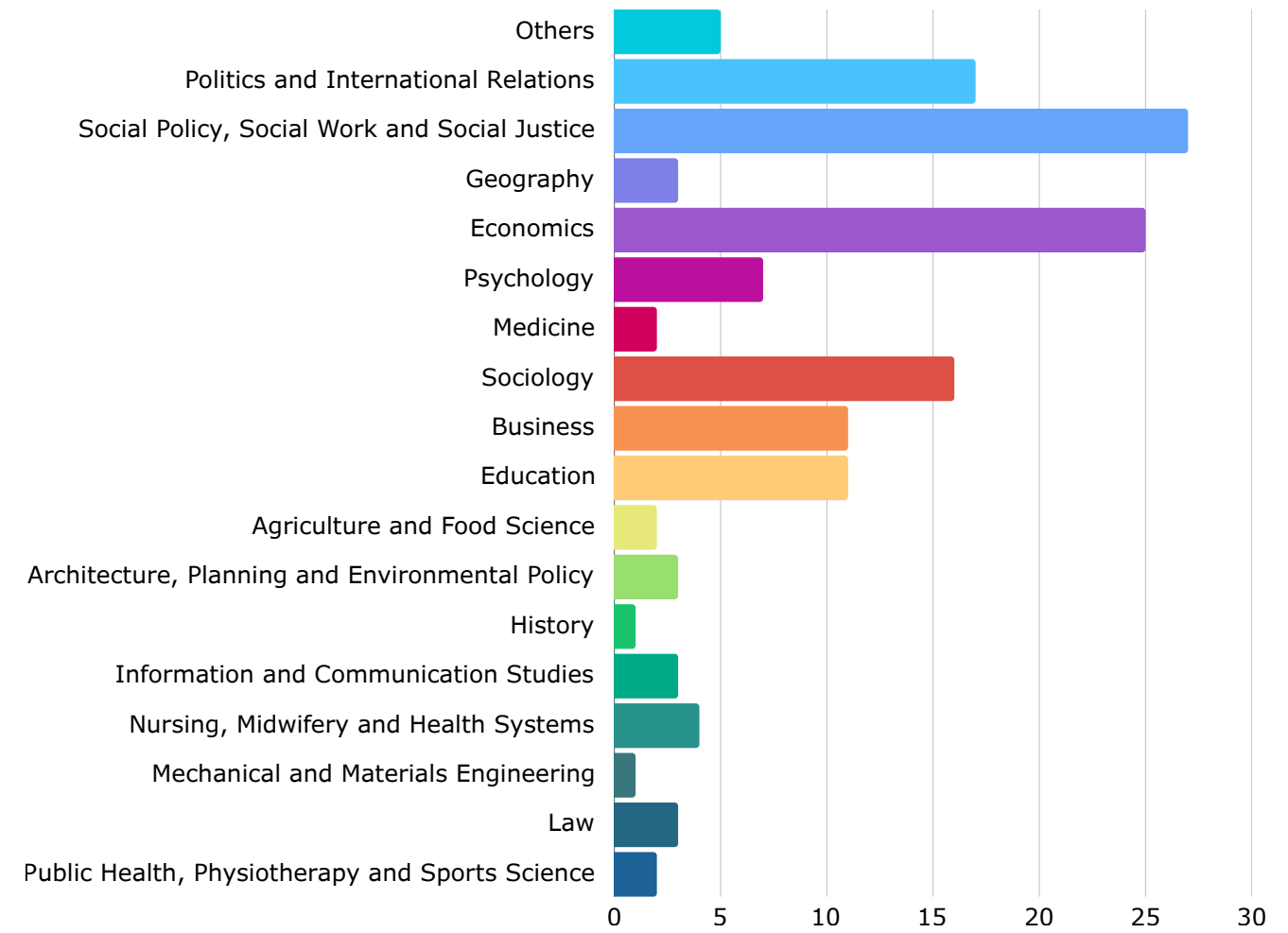
MEMBERSHIP

The Institute aims to balance relevance by providing solid facts to support policy decisions and discussions with excellence by publishing in prestigious international journals. The Institute currently has more than 142 researchers as members, and it accommodates more than 30 researchers (PIs, their teams, and related research guests) in addition to more than 50 doctoral students from various fields.

The UCD School of Sociology, UCD School of Chemistry, UCD School of Psychology, UCD School of Education, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, and UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice were among the new members appointed in 2024–2025.

In addition to actively participating in the Geary Institute Research Skills Initiative Masterclasses and weekly seminar series, members also contribute to the working paper series and the PublicPolicy.ie distribution platform. Through events and the Geary Institute weekly bulletin, the Directorate regularly interacts directly with members. Nine members are chosen from among the schools represented on the Institute's Executive Committee. To give direction on research priorities, funding streams, visiting and adjunct appointments, buildings and research infrastructure, etc., the Executive meets every two years.

Geary Institute Membership by UCD School



MEMBERSHIP BY COLLEGE	NUMBER	%
Social Sciences and Law	111	78
Health and Agriculture Sciences	11	8
Business	11	7
Engineering and Architecture	4	3
Arts and Humanities	1	1
Others	5	3
TOTAL	143	100





RESEARCH

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

WORKING PAPERS

Members can publish preliminary versions of their findings through the Institute's working paper series. The series' primary goals are to promote current scientific discoveries and disseminate knowledge.

The articles are available on the Institute's website and on Research articles in Economics (Ideas), a platform committed to disseminating economics and related social science research (www.repec.org).



As of 1 September 2024, the Institute's working paper series on www.repec.org had over 160,217 abstract views and 42,706 downloads.

RESEARCH FUNDING

During the 2024/25 academic year the following new research projects availed of office accommodation and project management support at the Geary Institute.

From Housing Inequality to Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable Housing Solutions - (Acronym: EqualHouse) was approved for funding under the Horizon Europe RIA call. The project is a pioneering research project funded by the EU that is set to revolutionise our understanding and approach to housing inequality. Prof. Michelle Norris, Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy, is the PI for the project, and Dr Muireann Ní Rahallaigh, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, is also a work package lead. This is a twelve-partner project with a total budget of €3.4 million, of which the UCD share is €650,000. The project commenced in January 2024. Ms. Emma Barron of Geary Institute for Public Policy manages the project.

Seasoned academics from a variety of European countries and disciplinary backgrounds, policymakers, affordable housing and homeless service providers are analysing the myriad aspects of housing inequality that have previously been studied in isolation. By doing so, we will provide comprehensive insights and robust guidance to policymakers at all levels across Europe.

The consortium kick-off meeting, held in Athens, Greece, on 7 April 2024, provided fruitful collaboration and plans for the future of the 48-month project.

A full list of research projects and their funding can be seen in Appendix II.



RESEARCH CENTRES BASED AT GEARY

UCD Childhood and Human Development Research Centre (CHiLD-RC)

The CHiLD-RC at UCD is a collaborative interface across the Bio–Psycho–Social Sciences that aims to enhance our understanding of children’s well-being and human development by producing an integrated interdisciplinary knowledge base. Research on childhood and its consequences for life-course well-being has reached a point where collaborations between numerous disciplines are needed to produce ground-breaking research and inform policy.

The CHiLD-RC aims to create a space for such collaborations to respond to important challenges and create insights into how early biological, psychological and social mechanisms affect life-course health and well-being. Through its research, the Centre aims to contribute to this knowledge base, which policymakers and practitioners can use to enhance child well-being. The Centre brings together UCD-based researchers who apply a range of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodological approaches in researching all aspects of children’s lives, from the early years to adulthood.

UCD Centre for Democracy Research

The Geary Institute also hosts the UCD Centre for Democracy Research (CDR), led by Dr Joseph Lacey of the School of Politics and International Relations. The Centre Democracy Research (CDR) is an interdisciplinary unit now based in the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin.

The main purpose of the Centre is to a) foster connections between researchers working on democracy across the university, b) enhance the visibility of the work being carried out by democracy scholars at UCD, and c) engage the public on current debates that are central to democracy in Ireland, Europe and the wider world.

UCD Behavioural Science and Policy Group

The behavioural science and policy group is a research and collaboration centre focused on incorporating behaviourally informed concepts into public policy. Dr. Vessela Daskalova leads the group. The research team is made up of a core group of faculty, researchers, and PhD students, as well as a diverse network of research affiliates and other stakeholders.

The Centre’s goals are to make a significant contribution to the international growth of behavioural science and to serve as a vital venue for the field’s integration into public policy. The Centre conducts research on the following subjects using techniques like surveys, economic theory, secondary data analysis, and lab and field experiments:

- Psychological determinants of decision-making (e.g. self-image and identity, social image, emotions, self-control)
- Subjective well-being
- Economics and mental health
- Ethical uses of behavioural insights
- Administrative burden and ‘Sludge’
- Political behaviour and preferences
- Discrimination
- Online social influence



UCD Ageing Network

UCD Ageing Network focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration and emphasises the value of ageing research, bringing together researchers from various fields, including medicine, physiotherapy, psychology, dietetics, public health, and more. UCD Ageing Network, with the help of the Geary Institute, is working on gaining more visibility online and is planning exciting workshops and events in the coming term.

Their mission is to harness inter- and transdisciplinary intellectual capital, creativity and curiosity to create optimum environments (political, social, physical, health, and technological) that enable older people to age well within their communities and contribute to a just and fair society.

Dr Sarah Donnelly, Associate Professor in Social Work at UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, leads the project.



Democracy Challenged

Democracy Challenged is a 5 year project funded by the European Research Council (ERC) to investigate the role of legal-technical power in shaping corporate tax avoidance and the wealth inequalities that undermine democracy.

Prof Aidan Regan's ERC-funded Democracy Challenged project focuses on corporate tax avoidance as a catalyst for inequality. It employs innovative methods like forensic accounting and survey experiments. Through empirical analysis, the project shows how global capital circumvents democratic fiscal checks. Divided into four work packages, it unravels the intricate web of big tech and pharma's tax avoidance strategies. By dissecting legal-technical mechanisms and media narratives, the project aims to disrupt wealth protection strategies.

The Geary Institute welcomed the project in 2024.

UCD Centre for the Advancement of Wellbeing in Education

Led by Dr Seaneen Sloan (UCD School of Education), the Centre for the Advancement of Wellbeing in Education is an interdisciplinary hub for wellbeing research, intervention development, and education. It is unique within UCD and Ireland, adding value by focusing on wellbeing across the lifespan and channeling UCD's expertise to play a leading role in addressing wellbeing as a major global issue.





Dr Jen Keane, WP Engine, during the seminar 'Ireland's Gender Pay Gap Portal' on 1st October 2024

SEMINARS AND EVENTS

The Geary Institute for Public Policy's vibrant programme of seminars continued in 2024/25, with average weekly attendances of 20–30 from faculty members, researchers and policy practitioners. A full listing of the seminars held can be found in Appendix III.



Dr Adrian Byrne, CeADAR, UCD, during the seminar 'The risks and rewards of using Generative AI and avoiding unwanted bias' on 11th February 2025

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EVENTS HOSTED/ CO-HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTE ARE LISTED BELOW:

Pizza & Policy

On 11 September 2024, the Geary Institute hosted its annual Pizza & Policy get to know you event to welcome new PhD students. The gathering provided a relaxed environment for students to discuss their research with faculty and staff while fostering stronger connections between the PhD cohort and the Geary office team. The event served as an opportunity to build a sense of community, facilitate academic exchange, and ensure the students felt supported as they embarked on their doctoral journey. With pizza as a backdrop, the evening encouraged collaboration and networking, helping to strengthen the institute's academic and social fabric.

Welcome Coffee Morning

On 18th September 2024, the Geary Institute hosted a Welcome Coffee Morning, inviting current members and prospective collaborators to connect over coffee. The event provided an informal setting for networking and discussion, while also serving as a platform for the Institute's director, Professor Michelle Norris, to launch the Geary Institute's annual activity report for 2023/2024. The report highlighted the Institute's achievements and future goals, offering insight into the vibrant academic community and the impactful work being done at Geary. The morning fostered a welcoming atmosphere, encouraging new connections and strengthening the Institute's sense of community.



Professor Michelle Norris during the Welcome Coffee Morning event on 18th September 2024

Insights into the European Social Survey (ESS) Self-Completion Pilot

On Monday, 7th October 2024, Assistant Professor of Social Policy Micheál Collins and Assistant Professor in Sociology, Sarah Carol ran a seminar focused on the shift to self-completion surveys in the European Social Survey. In particular, the participants reflected on the self-completion of the ESS12 pilot in Ireland and its implications for methods, response rates, timelines, and costs. Dr Collins then invited the guests to lunch.

The event was part of the European Social Survey (ESS) Round 11 National Coordination Activities based at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. The ESS will become a self-completion survey from Round 12 onwards.



Insights into the ESS Self-Completion Pilot, 7th October 2024



Dr Ieva Zumbyte presenting on Ireland's compliance with the EU Work-Life Balance Directive

Work-Life Balance Policy Making in Ireland

The Geary Institute for Public Policy hosted an event on Work-Life Balance Policy Making in Ireland on October 15 at MoLI. The event featured a presentation by Ieva Zumbyte (Geary Fellow) on Ireland's compliance with the EU Work-Life Balance Directive, followed by a panel discussion. The panel included Pauline Cullen (Associate Professor of Sociology, Maynooth University), Alice-Mary Higgins (Senator, Seanad Éireann), Laura Bambrick (Head of Social Policy & Employment Affairs, ICTU), and Donal Swan (Women's Economic Equality Coordinator, NWC), with moderation by Dorota Szelewa (Geary Fellow). The discussion explored key issues related to care, gender, and work in Ireland. A key takeaway from the roundtable was the need to shift the perception of care policies from being seen as concessions or obstacles to economic competitiveness, to recognizing and valuing care as a cornerstone of societal prosperity.

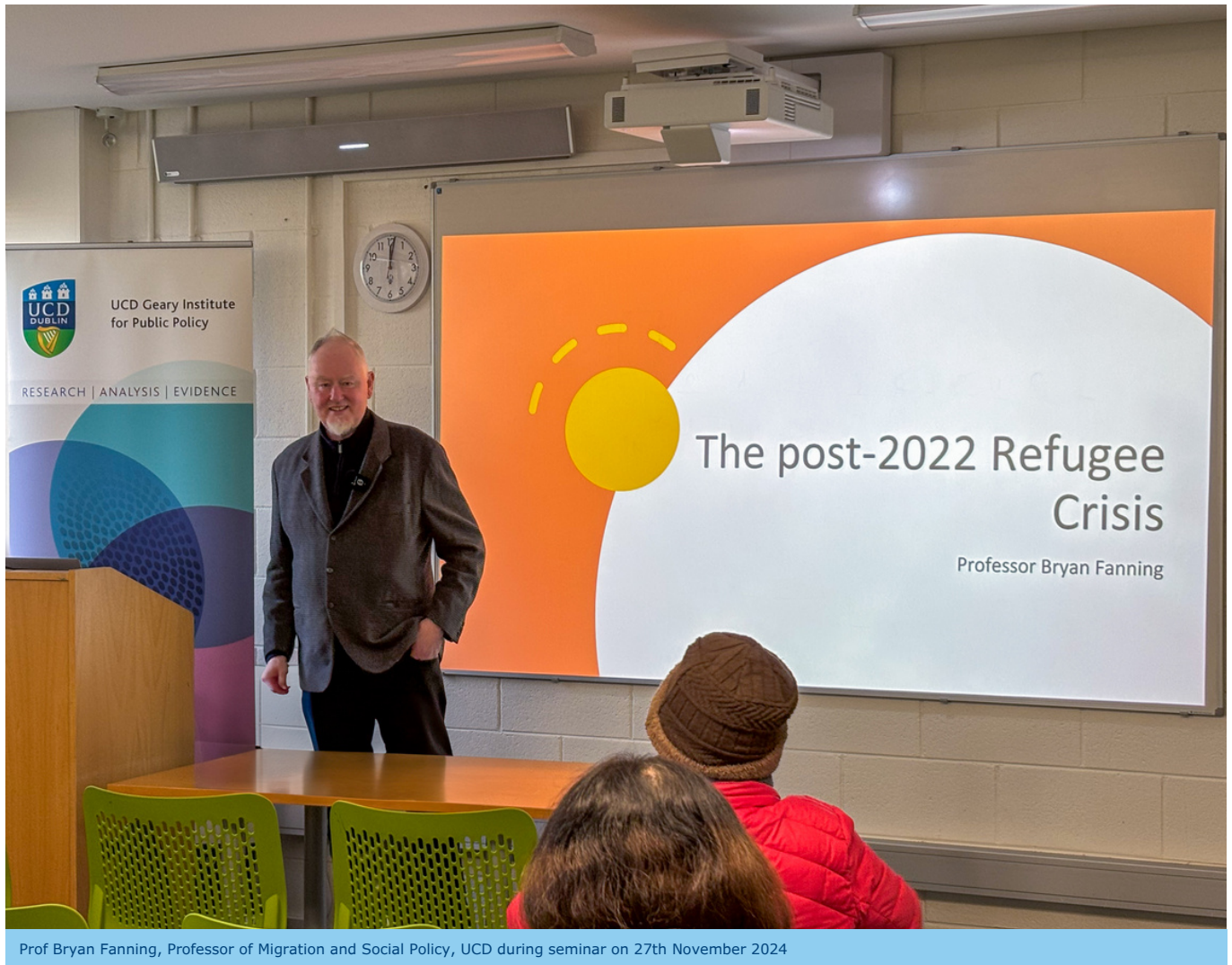
Using Algorithms to Detect Gerrymandering and Improve Legislative Redistricting: Cases from the United States and Japan

On 5th November 2024, the Geary Institute hosted an insightful event titled **Using Algorithms to Detect Gerrymandering and Improve Legislative Redistricting: Cases from the United States and Japan** at the Old Physics Theatre, Museum of Literature Ireland. The event, which drew attention to the critical role of legislative redistricting in ensuring fair representation in democracies, explored how computational algorithms and granular data can be used to detect gerrymandering and evaluate partisan bias in redistricting. The speaker, drawing from first hand involvement in U.S. redistricting court cases, also compared the use of these algorithms in Japan, where political influence over redistricting is less pronounced.

The discussion provided a deep dive into the intersection of technology, politics, and democratic processes.



Dr Steffen Rimner, Assoc. Prof. Jos Dornschneider-Elkink, Prof Kosume Kai, Assoc Prof Naonori Kodate, Prof Michelle Norris and Prof Emma Sokell



Prof Bryan Fanning, Professor of Migration and Social Policy, UCD during seminar on 27th November 2024

Policy and Political Responses to Ireland's Refugee Crisis

On 27th November, Professor Bryan Fanning from University College Dublin presented a seminar titled Policy and Political Responses to Ireland's Refugee Crisis. The discussion explored Ireland's evolving policies on refugee protection, political discourse surrounding migration, and the challenges of integration. Professor Fanning examined government responses, public attitudes, and the broader social implications of the crisis. The seminar provided critical insights into the intersection of migration policy and politics, highlighting key issues shaping Ireland's approach to refugees and asylum seekers.

A 'proper' woman? One woman's story of success and failure in academia

On 21st November 2024 Professor Pat O'Connor, Professor Emeritus of Social Policy at the University of Limerick and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Geary Institute presented a seminar on her recently published book, A 'proper' woman? One woman's story of success and failure in academia. Her lecture explored the gendered challenges women face in academia, offering critical insights into structural inequalities and personal resilience. The lecture was hosted jointly by the Geary Institute for Public Policy and the UCD Centre for Gender, Feminisms and Sexualities.

The Costs of Uncertainty: Towards a New Paradigm

On February 12th, the Geary Institute Seminar Room hosted a thought-provoking seminar titled “The Costs of Uncertainty: Towards a New Paradigm.” The speaker, Professor Claire A. Hill, James L. Krusemark Chair in Law at the University of Minnesota and Visiting Professor at UCD School of Law, explored the distinction between risk and uncertainty in legal and financial contexts. Drawing on her research and industry experience, she examined how uncertainty influences decision-making, with particular reference to financial markets and the 2008 crisis. The seminar, jointly hosted by the Geary Institute and the BSP Group, provided a compelling discussion on the implications of uncertainty in law and policy.

Education for All? Literature, Culture and Education Development in Britain and Denmark

On February 20th, a thought-provoking seminar titled “Education for All? Literature, Culture and Education Development in Britain and Denmark” was held in the Geary Institute Seminar Room. The event featured Cathie Jo Martin, Professor Emerita of Political Science at Boston University, as the speaker, and Stefan Müller, Associate Professor of Political Science at UCD, as the discussant.

Organised by the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and supported by the Geary Institute, the seminar explored why Denmark established mass education for all in 1814, while Britain delayed a public-school system until 1870, focused mainly on academic achievers. Drawing from a multidisciplinary perspective, Martin argued that nineteenth-century literary narratives played a crucial role in shaping education policies, with Danish writers portraying mass education as essential for societal and economic growth, while British authors often depicted it as a potential threat to social stability and national culture.

Making Rental Housing Affordable: International Perspectives Webinar Series

This topical webinar series was organized by Dr. Michael Byrne and Dr. Sarah Sheridan, drawing on international experts to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the Irish housing system.

The series was funded by the Housing Agency and the College of Social Sciences and Law, and supported and hosted by the Geary Institute. With five webinars running between March and June 2025, the webinars looked at housing acquisition in the UK, Cost Rental housing in Austria and Denmark, and rent regulation in Spain and Germany. Average attendance across the webinars was 55 participants. Participants included many staff at key agencies involved in policy making, including the Department of Housing, the Housing Agency, Local Authorities, and members of the Oireachtas.

All webinars were recorded and have been made available online, and so far have generated almost 5,000 views.

UCD Ageing Network Meeting

On Thursday, 20th March, members of the UCD Ageing Network, coordinated by Dr Sarah Donnelly from the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice, gathered at the Geary Institute for Public Policy for a productive planning meeting.

This gathering provided an invaluable opportunity to discuss future research directions, collaborations, and initiatives to strengthen our collective efforts in the field of ageing studies.

Writing Retreats

The 'Interdisciplinary Writing Solidarity Group' (IWSG) project was launched in March 2025. This is a joint initiative between the Geary Institute for Public Policy (Dr Laura Foley) and the School of Psychology (Dr Glen Jankowski, Pat Mulvaney, and Isabelle Nic Craith) that is funded by UCD ReCLAIM fund.

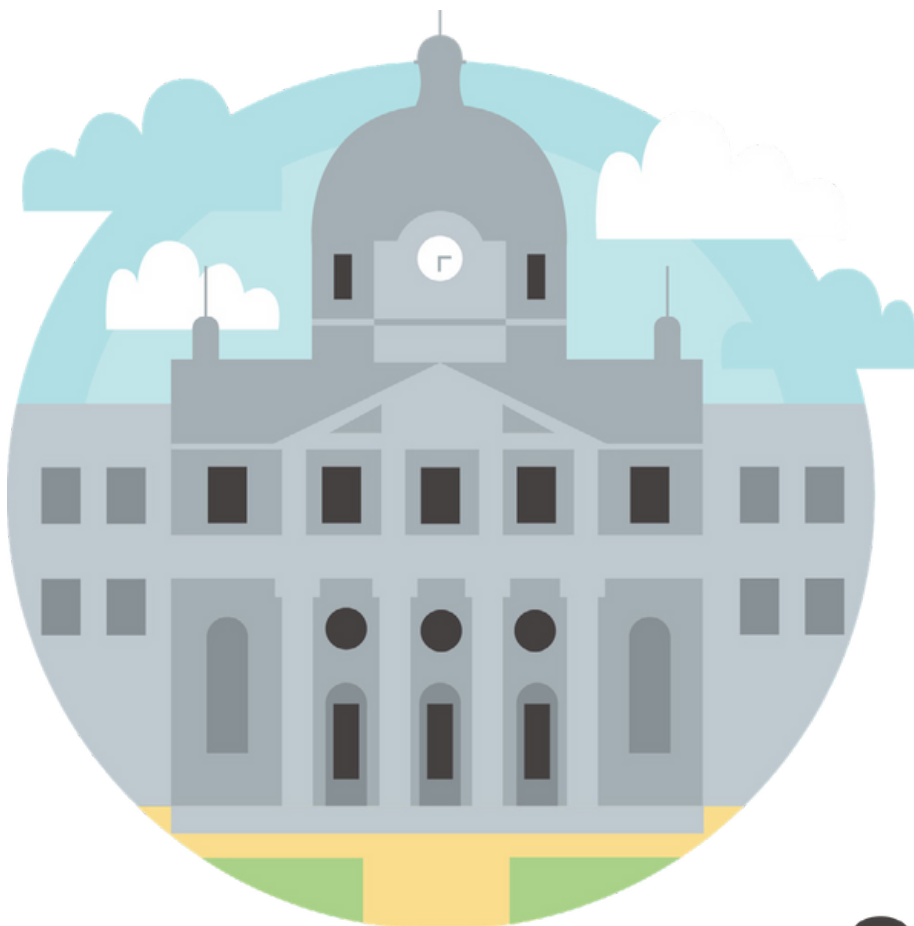
At the core of the IWSG is the idea that working alongside others in a supportive, distraction-free environment provides an opportunity to advance progress on journal articles, PhD chapters, conference papers/abstracts, and funding proposals.

The programme of events for 2024/25 included 13 writing retreats and three workshops.



IWSG Writing Retreat, Ashling Hotel, 8th April 2025





GEARY INSTITUTE RESEARCH SKILLS INITIATIVE (GIRSI)

The Geary Institute Research Skills Initiative (GIRSI) is a series of free masterclasses focusing on specialist research tools, professional skills, and methods. The masterclasses are for UCD staff and research students and they take place in the Geary Institute for Public Policy. The 2024-2025 schedule is below:

- 24th April 2025 - Qualitative Research Methods, Prof Ronnie Moore, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, UCD
- 3rd March 2025 - Experimental Economics Methods, Dr Diogo Geraldes, School of Economics
- 16th January 2025 – Graphics with R, Dr Isabella Gollini, School of Mathematics and Statistics
- 12th December 2024 – Excel refresher, Michael Hackett
- 20th November 2024 – Key ethical considerations in qualitative research, Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
- 30th and 31st October 2024 - NVivo Training, Ben Meehan



PUBLICPOLICY.IE

PublicPolicy.ie is an online platform for informing academic and contemporary debates about public policy in Ireland. Established in 2012 with support from Atlantic Philanthropies, it was incorporated into the Geary Institute for Public Policy in 2019. The aim of the PublicPolicy website is to provide independent evidence to inform economic, social and environmental policies by communicating policy-related research findings and information in an accessible way to policymakers, non-specialist academics and members of the public. The platform is independent, has no party-political association or view, and is not aligned with any sectional interest.

The online platform is a resource for research and information which is disseminated in two main ways. First, it highlights key policy-relevant reports that have been published externally, through the website’s ‘External Reports’ function. Between July 2024 and July 2025, 61 External Reports were featured on the website.

Second, it disseminates original research papers that have been written in a clear, accessible way for non-specialist audiences and which cover an array of policy-related issues. Between July 2024 and July 2025, 42 papers were published on the website. Most of these papers focused on one (or more) of the following areas: health, education, the environment, AI, and housing.



Since January 2022, Dr Laura Foley, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Geary Institute, has been managing the content on PublicPolicy.ie.

From July 2024 - July 2025, the website had over 75,000 views. The top five viewed papers were:

- Data Centres in Ireland (4,551)
- Gender-Based Violence in Ireland (4,092)
- Equity in Teacher's Pay: Will new entrants ever catch up? (2,705)
- The Loneliest Nation in Europe? Ireland as a Case Study, and Implications for Policy (2,440)
- Bias in AI: tackling the issues through regulations and standards (2,288)

The full list of papers and authors is below.

July 2025	Towards Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Energy Trading: A Policy Pathway for Ireland’s Decentralised Energy Future	Dr Sweta Malik, Dr Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, John Doody, Prof Andrew Keane, NexSys UCD
July 2025	Extending the AI Talent Pipeline and Exploring Responsible Approaches to Inclusive Upskilling	Christina Todorova, Donghyeok Lee, Yilin Li, and Alireza Dehghani, CeADAR (UCD)
July 2025	Inclusion4EU: Co-Designing Digital Futures for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities	Dympna O’Sullivan (TU Dublin) Emma Murphy (TU Dublin) Sarah Boland (St John of God Community Services Liffey) Julie Doyle, Dundalk Institute of Technology Anna Becevel (TU Dublin) Ulla Geisel, SAP Accessibility and Inclusive Design Patrick Fitzgerald (St John of God Community Services Liffey)

June 2025	Wellbeing in Children's School Lives - The Importance of Belonging	Seaneen Sloan, Dympna Devine, Gabriela Martinez-Sainz, Olga Ioannidou, Jennifer Symonds, UCD School of Education
June 2025	Towards Inclusive Governance: Bridging Gaps in Local Integration in Dublin	Dr Sofia Ntaliou, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
June 2025	Public Participation Networks and Local Democracy: Addressing Challenges and Amplifying Opportunities	Dr Matthew Donoghue and Khalil Moran, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
May 2025	Barriers to non-EU migrant integration in Ireland and pathways forward	Dr Mohammad Altaf Hossain, UCD Geary Institute
May 2025	Housing Policy Actions to Address Discrimination Against Migrants in Ireland	Valesca Lima, Dublin City University
April 2025	Accounting for Acres: Land, Data, and Accountability in Ireland	Dr Mary Curtin, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick
April 2025	Gender in Children's School Lives	Dympna Devine, Gabriela Martinez-Sainz, Olga Ioannidou, Jennifer Symonds, Seaneen Sloan, UCD School of Education
April 2025	The Ideational Pillars of the US Administration's Health Agenda	Prof Susi Geiger, College of Business, UCD
April 2025	Children's climate participation and voice: Games as a way to amplify children's participatory rights in Ireland	Gabriela Martínez Sainz, Marijke Rebel, Olga Ioannidou, Ítalo Sousa de Sena, and Chiara Cocco, UCD
April 2025	Hair Loss Requires Support, Not Products and Exploitation	Dr Glen Jankowski, School of Psychology, UCD
March 2025	Building Trust in Large Language Models: Navigating the EU AI Act, Global Standards, and Sustainability Challenges	Donghyeok Lee, Christina Todorova, and Alireza Dehghani, CeADAR, UCD
March 2025	Social Inequality in Children's School Lives	Dympna Devine, Gabriela Martinez-Sainz, Olga Ioannidou, Jennifer Symonds, Seaneen Sloan, UCD School of Education

March 2025	PeatSense: Facilitating Evidence-based policy-making for Nature-centric EU Regulations and Irish Peatlands	Corrado Grappiolo (CeADAR, UCD School of Computer Science and AI2Peat Project) Katie Smirnova (AI2Peat Project) Shane Regan (National Parks and Wildlife Service and AI2Peat Project) Tony Williams (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) John Connolly (Trinity College Dublin)
March 2025	Administrative frictions in Ireland's Shared Island Sports Club EV Charging Scheme	Ms Patricia Lentz (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Cara Augustenborg (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Leonhard Lades (Economics and Behavioural Science at the University of Stirling and UCD Environmental Policy - Visiting)
March 2025	Relying on AI in Judicial Decision-Making: Justice or Jeopardy?	Raisul Sourav, Doctoral Researcher in Legal Analytics, School of Law, University of Galway
February 2025	Industry Funding of Irish Universities	Conchúr Ó Maonaigh, Laurie Reilly, Jennie C Stephens, ICARUS Climate Research Centre, Maynooth University
February 2025	Key policy actions for the sustainable management of Ireland's peatlands	Dr Florence Renou-Wilson, Dr David Wilson, and Dr Kate Flood, UCD
February 2025	Reporting on Ireland's Gender Pay Gap	Jennifer Keane, WP Engine & PayGap.ie
February 2025	The Loneliest Nation in Europe? Ireland as a Case Study, and Implications for Policy	Joanna McHugh Power PhD (Maynooth University) Christopher Swader PhD (Lund University)
January 2025	Improving engagement with Ireland's solar schools scheme by reducing administrative frictions	Ms Patricia Lentz (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Leonhard Lades (Economics and Behavioural Science at the University of Stirling and UCD Environmental Policy - Visiting) Dr Cara Augustenborg (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Lucie Martin (Economic & Social Research Institute)

January 2025	A Focus on Mind-wandering in Early Classroom Settings: An All-Island Perspective	Maisie Flynn (UCD School of Psychology) Olivia Wynne (UCD School of Psychology) Agnieszka Graham (Queen's University Belfast) Teresa McCormack (Queen's University Belfast) Joyce Senior (UCD School of Education) John McMullen (Queen's University Belfast) Michelle Downes (UCD School of Psychology)
January 2025	Educaring for Wellbeing – A Transformative Approach for a Thriving Society?	Dr Deirdre McGillicuddy, UCD School of Education
December 2024	Linking the Irish Environment: Exploring the role of civil society in promoting cross-border environmental cooperation	Ciara Brennan, Finbarr Brereton, Mary Dobbs, Viviane Gravey, Hannah Gould, Alison Hough & Lisa Claire Whitten
December 2024	Reducing administrative frictions in Ireland's afforestation scheme	Ms Patricia Lentz (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Cara Augustenborg (UCD Environmental Policy) Dr Leonhard Lades (Economics and Behavioural Science at the University of Stirling and UCD Environmental Policy - Visiting)
December 2024	The Next Government Could Eliminate Consistent Poverty by 2030	Dr Nat O'Connor, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
November 2024	Mandatory Reporting of Adult Disclosures of Child Sexual Abuse: Ireland's Policy and Legal Quandary	Dr Joseph Mooney (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) Clare Daly (Solicitor, CIPP/E)
November 2024	Marginalised experiences in Ireland's energy transition – moving towards a just and inclusive policy agenda	Dr Conchúr Ó Maonaigh (Maynooth University) Laurie Reilly (Maynooth University) Dr Louise Fitzgerald (Dublin City University)
October 2024	Advancing Gender Equality through EU Regulation: Work-Balance Directive	Dr Ieva Zumbyte (UCD Geary Institute & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) Dr Dorota Szelewa (UCD Geary Institute & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)
October 2024	Addressing the Dementia Challenge in Ireland: Technology Solutions for Self-Management	Dympna O'Sullivan (TU Dublin) Julie Doyle (Dundalk Institute of Technology) Siobhan O'Neill (Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda)

October 2024	Bias in AI: tackling the issues through regulations and standards	Adrian Byrne (CeADAR, UCD) Donghyeok Lee (CeADAR, UCD) Quan Le (CeADAR, UCD)
October 2024	Research Funding Organisations' Policies on Open Research in Ireland	Kalpna Shankar (UCD School of Information and Communication Studies) Sara Dunny Fox (Teagasc) Gail Sheppard (School of Business, Maynooth University)
October 2024	Data Centres in Ireland	Tammana Joon, Intern, UCD Geary Institute
September 2024	The Hidden Downside of Tax Cuts and Energy Credits for Controlling Inflation	Nat O'Connor MA PhD FHEA, Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Social Policy, UCD
September 2024	The Financial Context of Farming – Financial barriers to female farm ownership in Ireland	Dr Mary Curtin, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick
September 2024	Rebuilding Local Authority housing capacity: a design for an apprenticeship guarantee scheme	Cillian Doyle, Houses of the Oireachtas and PhD Student, School of Business (Trinity College Dublin)
August 2024	Closing the Gap – Strategies to Improve Refugee Children's Learning Experiences and Social Integration in Ireland	Tammana Joon, Intern, UCD Geary Institute
August 2024	Towards a plurilingual Ireland: planting the seeds of linguistic social justice in Education	Áine Kavanagh (National College of Ireland) Craig Neville (University College Cork)
July 2024	Using Generative AI: issues and considerations	Adrian Byrne, Donghyeok Lee, and Quan Le, UCD
July 2024	Student Carers in Higher Education Institutions in Ireland: An Emerging Policy Issue	Dr Maria Pierce, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice



POLICY ENGAGEMENT

The Geary Institute seeks to strengthen engagement between researchers and policy practitioners in Ireland and internationally. During the 2024–25 academic year the Institute undertook the following policy engagement activities.

ACTIVITIES

Place-based indicators for Well-being Project (Dept of Community and Rural Development & Dept of An Taoiseach)

Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry was invited to be the only independent / non-government department expert on the steering group. The research project aimed to scope the availability and conceptualization of local level data and identify potential indicators which bridge rural and community development policy level indicators with the national Government of Ireland Well-being Framework. The project ran from July 2024-March 2025.

Ministerial Action plan on Planning resources (Dept of Housing and Planning)

The Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources focuses on the requirements of local government and the public sector generally and is aimed at ensuring that there is a sustainable pipeline of planning and related expertise to address resourcing needs over the short, medium and longer-term. A Steering Group has been established for the purposes of co-ordination and oversight of action plan development and implementation including representation from the local government sector, An Bord Pleanála, The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), the Department and DFHERIS. Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry has been invited to serve as a 3rd level representative member of the Steering Group.



Dr Alessia Paccagnini, in the middle, with her PhD students at UCD, Sinian Zheng (left) and Mingchuan Zhou (right) who presented their PhD chapters at the IFS 2025.

Planning for the Next Disaster : A Data-Driven Approach for Policy Evaluation with an Application to COVID-19

Geary Fellow, Dr Alessia Paccagnini was the invited Speaker at IFS 2025 – Planning for the Next Disaster: A Data-Driven Approach for Policy Evaluation with an Application to COVID-19 (joint with Annunziata Esposito Amideo, UCD and Luca Pistilli, UCD). The event took place from 29th June and 2nd July in Beijing, China.

The event stimulated high-level discussion on integrating high dimensionality techniques with policy evaluation frameworks; demonstrated the practical relevance of combining optimization and econometrics in crisis response. The work attracted interest from policy institutions exploring preparedness strategies for future systemic shocks.

IAAE 2025

The IAAE 2025 - Dealing with the Statistical Representation of DSGE Models took place from 25th to 27th June 2025 at the University of Turin, Italy. Dr Alessia Paccagnini was invited to speak at the event. The IAAE 2025 contributed to the ongoing debate on the empirical application of DSGE frameworks; received feedback that informed further refinement of the methodology.

ICEEE 2025

The IAAE 2025 - Dealing with the Statistical Representation of DSGE Models took place from 25th to 27th June 2025 at the University of Turin, Italy. Dr Alessia Paccagnini was invited to speak at the event. The IAAE 2025 contributed to the ongoing debate on the empirical application of DSGE frameworks; received feedback that informed further refinement of the methodology.

The Land Use Review Phase 2

The Land Use Review Phase 2 is a government initiative to identify the key demands on land (both public and private) to inform policies for land use across key government objectives, improving socioeconomic, climate, biodiversity, water, and air quality outcomes. The Review ran from October 2023 to April 2025.

The Review was directed by an Oversight Group, which reports to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications; the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform. The Oversight Group was chaired by Geraldine Tallon, retired Secretary General of the Department of the Environment. Other members included Prof Mark Scott, Professor of Planning and Dean of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy in UCD, Prof Rory O'Donnell, retired Director of NESC and a Fellow of the Geary Institute, and representatives of the three government departments. The work of the Oversight Group was supported by a Technical Working Group, chaired by Prof Scott and a Citizens Engagement Group, chaired by Prof O'Donnell.

The final report, A Living Land: Report of Phase Two of the Land Use Review, was submitted to the three ministers on 30th April 2025.

UACES 55th Annual Conference

During the UACES 55th Annual Conference that took place in Liverpool between the 31st August and 2nd September, the chair of the UACES, Toni Haastруп, had the pleasure of presenting the 2025 winners with their awards, recognising their exceptional contributions to European studies. The best book award went to Politicising Commodification - European Governance and Labour Politics from the Financial Crisis to the Covid Emergency, by Geary Fellow, Roland Enre, Sabina Stan, Darragh Golden, Imre Szabó and Vincenzo Maccarrone



UCD Ageing Network Launch Event

On 25 June 2025, the UCD Ageing Network supported by the Geary Institute for Public Policy was officially launched with an event attended by many distinguished guests. The vision of the UCD Ageing Network is to contribute to an age-attuned world and to prepare for the economic and social shifts associated with population ageing in Irish Society and globally.

Network Coordinator Assoc. Prof Sarah Donnelly, from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, delivered the opening remarks, joined by Prof Michelle Norris, Director of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, who warmly welcomed all attendees. The event brought together researchers, educators, professionals, academic partners, civil society actors, and third-sector organisations representing older people. Our key presentations included Dr Nat O'Connor, who gave a talk on responding to ageing populations, followed by presentations from Dr Carmel Davies and Assoc Prof Sarah Donnelly on the importance of Patient and Public Involvement in ageing research.

Other members of the UCD Ageing Network also shared their current projects and research, showcasing the range and diversity of expertise across the university. These included Assoc. Prof. Caitríona Cunningham, Professor Corina Naughton, Dr. Méadhbh Brosnan, Dr Niamh Merriman, Professor Clare Corish, Professor Helen Roche, Dr. Marie-Victoire Guillot-Sestier, and Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald. A special moment was the launch of the UCD Age Well Podcast, introduced via a recorded message from Olayinka O. Aremu, Lecturer and Assistant Professor in General Nursing at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, its founder and host, who was unable to attend in person.

The meeting included representatives from the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament, Active Retirement Ireland, ALONE, the Patient Advocacy Service, Age Action Ireland, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Care Alliance Ireland, and Care Champions. Their attendance highlighted the network's collaborative and inclusive vision.



UCD Ageing Network Launch Event, 25th June 2025

BSP Workshop on Research Culture

On the 30th April 2025 the BSP Group hosted the first workshop from the series “Supporting a Positive Research Culture in Experimentation” funded by a UCD Research Culture ReCLAIM award. The workshop was organised by members of the BSP Group consisting of Diogo Geraldés, Margaret Samahita, Oana Peia, Marta Talevi, Yung-Shiang (Jasmine) Yang, Sinéad Flannery, Oscar Barrera-Rodríguez and Vessela Daskalova.

Experimentation is a crucial tool for research and collecting causal evidence in various fields such as economics, psychology, environmental science, agriculture, biology, medicine, and many others. Recent concerns about the trustworthiness and replicability of findings in various fields have highlighted that how we do experiments matters.

The goal of this proposal was to establish a positive and reflective research culture around experimentation. There are experts across different Schools in UCD for whom experimentation is an important part of research. However, we do not necessarily know much about the best practices of experimental researchers in other disciplines and often also of researchers using different types of experiments within a discipline (laboratory, field, online).

The group started a bottom-up discussion from an interdisciplinary group of researchers doing experimentation in order to support each other and learn from our experiences. The format was through a series of 3 workshops in which they discussed best practices for experimental research. The first two workshops were UCD internal, the third one featured invited speakers from abroad who are key figures from different disciplines in this debate. A positive and reflective research culture raised questions around the role of pre-registration, replication, publication biases, ethics, pilot experiments, incentivization in experiments, interpretation of findings, reacting to challenges and learning from failures. A key objective of the proposal was to develop a positive and nurturing research environment for the next generation of researchers.

Staff shortages in the social and healthcare sector: Europe's business too!

Geary Fellow, Prof Roland Erne was invited to give a talk together with Sabina Stan on EU Governance Interventions & Healthcare: Working Conditions & Staff Shortages. EU Competences, EU Crisis Interventions and Future Developments at the conference 'Staff shortages in the social and healthcare sector: Europe's business too!' in the European Parliament, organised by the European Network: ‘Our Health is not for sale’ and the European Public Service Union (EPSU).

The event took place on 7th April 2025 at the European Parliament, Brussels.



ReCLAIM workshop - Supporting a Positive Research Culture in Experimentation, 30 April 2025



Prof Roland Erne during a talk at the European Parliament, 7th April 2025

The Future of Survey Research

Assistant Professor in Social Policy and Geary Fellow Dr Micheál Collins from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Assistant Professor in UCD School of Sociology Dr Sarah Carol, and Geary Institute's Dr Olga Li attended the European Social Survey conference 'The Future of Survey Research' in Warsaw on 4th April 2025.

Dr Collins and Dr Li presented a talk titled 'Implementing the ESS Self-Completion Mode in Ireland: Results from the Pilot Study'.

University of Chicago fellowship

Geary member Dr. Diogo Geraldles has been awarded the University of Chicago JILAEE Fellowship, which includes research stays in both Buenos Aires and Chicago during the Spring quarter.

While in these locations, Dr. Geraldles will conduct research in his focus area—experimental and behavioral economics—addressing policy-relevant questions.



Dr Collins and Dr Li during the talk 'Implementing the ESS Self-Completion Mode in Ireland: Results from the Pilot Study', 4th April 2025.

Membership of the Royal Irish Academy

On 23 May 2025, the Geary Institute's director, Prof Michelle Norris, was admitted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy for her exceptional contributions to humanities and social sciences as well as to public service.

'We are delighted to welcome the newly elected members of the Royal Irish Academy. Our mission is to recognise and foster academic excellence, and to create, curate and share knowledge for the good of society. Your election today embodies this mission, and your insights and achievements will enrich the work of the Academy as we continue to lead trusted and independent dialogue and analysis across the island for the benefit of all.' - Pat Guiry, President of the Royal Irish Academy said.

Prof Norris was one of the 28 new members admitted to the Royal Irish Academy.



27 of the newly elected members are pictured with Professor Pat Guiry, President, Royal Irish Academy. Photo credit: RIA

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research Award

Dr Boróka Bó, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the UCD School of Sociology, was awarded funding from the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). Dr Bó specifically received the 'CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar in CIFAR's Innovation, Equity & The Future of Prosperity program' award, which will be administered by the Geary Institute with Emma Barron as project manager. The award is CAN\$ 100,000.

Constitutional visions from the grassroots: cross-border and cross community deliberation

Between September 2024 and November 2025, Geary Fellow, Prof Jennifer Todd worked in the project 'Constitutional visions from the grassroots: cross-border and cross community deliberation', funded by DFAT Reconciliation Fund (July 2024) and the University of Notre Dame, Keogh Naughton Institute, ARINS (August 2024). The project had as co-investigators, Prof Joanne McEvoy, University of Aberdeen and Dr Shelley Deane, DCU.

The project's interim was presented to the Councils, to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and to politicians with further dissemination events in MidUlster in September and a final report launch schedule for November 2025. The work was reported in local and national newspapers, including The Irish Times.



Preparing for Life at 14

Led by Geary Fellow, Prof Orla Doyle, the Preparing for Life 14 study has its results launched on 23rd May 2025.

The PFL research has had a direct impact on Government policy and spending. It is included in 'First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families' and contributed to the investment of >EUR40M in Area-Based Childhood (ABC) Programmes and the Prevention, Partnership & Family Support Programme. In 2022, the ABC programmes, including PFL, worked with 10,127 parents and 27,274 children. These impacts were achieved by engaging with Government ministers and policymakers via policy events and policy briefs, as well as PFL's involvement in the Home Visiting Alliance, which has been credited for the Government's decision to expand home visiting services and develop the National Home Visiting Programme. Monitoring the roll-out of this national initiative will demonstrate the long-term reach of this research.

The PFL findings have led to its expansion to 10 other Irish communities serving >450 families in Bray, Athy, Newbridge, Balbriggan, Finglas, Ballinasloe, Castlebar, Bagenalstown, Kiltrush, and Ballaghaderreen. PFL's research has also received international recognition. The US Department of Health & Human Services officially recognised PFL by including it in the "Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness" list based on a review of PFL studies conducted by Professor Doyle. It is the only Irish programme eligible for US federal and state funding. In partnership with Nobel Laureate, Professor James Heckman, a second PFL study, called Creciendo Juntos, began in 2023. Working with the local community in Chicago, PFL has been culturally and socially adapted to serve 250 Latino families.

Labour Politics and the EU's New Economic Governance Regime

In collaboration with the Geary Institute, the ERC project hosted the final conference of their project "Labour Politics and the EU's New Economic Governance Regime" on the 5th September 2025, in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, Ireland, including a book discussion of Politicising Commodification-European Governance and Labour Politics from the Financial Crisis to the Covid Emergency.

The invited critics included Andreas Bieler (Nottingham, UK), Claire Kilpatrick (EUI Florence, Italy), Esther Lynch (General Secretary, ETUC, Brussels), and Angela Wigger (RU Nijmegen, Netherlands). The Director of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Prof Michelle Norris, facilitated the discussion with Esther Lynch.



Angela Wigger (RU Nijmegen, Netherlands) and Andreas Bieler (Nottingham, UK), 5th September 2025

CONUNDRUM Project

The CONUNDRUM project funded by Research Ireland through the Sustainable Communities National Challenge Fund, aims to understand mobility issues in Irish towns and to reimagine how we could achieve more sustainable transport and mobility outside of our cities. Our purpose is to support more resilient urban areas and sustainable communities by enabling government, citizens and enterprise to work more effectively together. For communities without significant public transport infrastructure or financial resources to upgrade to private electric vehicles, a push to decarbonise mobility has the potential to further marginalise our most vulnerable groups particularly in smaller towns with less developed infrastructure. As such, while decarbonisation may be the ultimate policy objective, achieving just transitions to more sustainable mobility is key to meeting wide-spanning policy goals.

The project is managed by Geary Fellow, Prof Niahm Moore-Cherry, Dr Dean Phelan, Dr Rachel McArdle, Dr Kieran Harrahill and Mr Zikang Ji (UCD) and Prof Brian Caulfield, Dr Abhilash Singh, Dr Conor Mark Dowling (TCD) and has successfully completed the Concept and Seed phase of funding in February 2024 and was one of only 5 projects that successfully progressed to the Grow phase. The project team are now working in two more towns to develop the process and tools as they compete for the Prize phase of the Challenge. A key output was the Enniscorthy Community-led mobility strategy launched in November 2024, and 6 of the 9 actions identified are now underway by various stakeholders.

The team have supported Local Link with a survey to provide the evidence base for a new town bus service, have been invited to present to the Department of Transport Sustainable Mobility team, and will be featured in the 10 Things to Know About TV series to air this autumn.

BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE AND POLICY EVENTS

The Behavioural Science and Policy Events bring together researchers, students, and others from Ireland and beyond to talk to each other about using behavioural insights to improve policy making. Some events are organised in collaboration with the UCD School of Economics.

Autumn Events 2024

October 4th

Economics Seminar with Demid Getik (Durham) at Newman Th. P

October 23rd

Walsh-Neary lecture with Andrew Oswald (Warwick) at the UCD Village

October 29th

Geary Seminar with Diego Marino Fages (Durham) at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B004)

November 8th

Economics Seminar with Hannah Schildberg-Hörisch (Düsseldorf) at Newman Th. P

November 20th

BSP Seminar with Oscar Barrera-Rodríguez (UCD) at Quinn Q117

November 22th

Economics Seminar with Dennie van Dolder (Essex) at Newman Th. P

December 4th

BSP Seminar with Bob van Ruge (UCD) at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B004)

December 11th

17th Annual Irish Economics, Psychology, and Policy Conference at the ESRI

Spring Events 2025

January 16th

BSP Seminar with Emma Howard (TU Dublin) at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B004)

February 12th

BSP & Geary Seminar with Claire Hill (Minnesota) at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B004)

February 12th

BSP Seminar with Deirdre Robertson (ESRI) at Quinn Q115

February 25th

Geary Seminar with Paul Smeets (Amsterdam) at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B004)

February 26th

Economics Seminar with Yan Chen (Michigan) at Newman F102

February 27th

Economics Seminar with Melis Kartal (Vienna) at Newman D201

March 5th

BSP Seminar with Vivek Nallur and Stephen Pilli (UCD Computer Science) at Quinn Q011

March 26th

BSP Seminar with Suhas Vijayakumar (UCD Smurfit) at Quinn Q011

April 9th

BSP Seminar Oscar Barrera-Rodríguez (UCD SPIRE) at Quinn Q115

April 11th

Economics Seminar with Thomas Buser (Amsterdam) at the Newman Theatre P

April 30th

BSP Workshop on "Supporting a Positive Research Culture in Experimentation" at the Geary Institute Seminar Room (B003/B00)

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT

The Geary Institute building offers the following support for researchers.

COMPUTER LAB

The Geary Computer Lab is dedicated to experimental economics and economic psychology. It features 16 participant terminals and one for the experimenter, all privately separated. The computers are equipped with Windows 10 and z-Tree, additional software can be requested.

BOARDROOM

Our library/meeting room is suitable for meetings of up to 20 people. PhD students and Geary Fellows can book to use the space at any time. The space offers a white board for group studies and technological equipment to facilitate blended meetings.

ZOOM ROOM

As most PhD students and researchers work in shared offices, we have a dedicated Zoom room on the first floor of the Institute's building. It can accommodate up to 2 people and is equipped for blended meetings.

PhD Spaces

To accommodate the increased number of PhD space applicants, the Institute added an extra office to give additional desk space, as well as an open plan space for 50 PhD students. Desk space applications are accepted each summer for the upcoming school year. The PhD students run a regular seminar.

SUPPORT AND IMPACT



BICS (Building International Collaboration Supports) seed funding Scheme

Our seed funding program, BICS, or "The Building International Collaborations Supports," led to a number of foreign partners visiting us for exchanges. The BICS program was created to encourage publications, research funding applications, and international collaborations.

Researchers from different academic and research institutions throughout the world were invited by members of the UCD Geary Institute. Consequently, the following BICS-funded activities were held at Geary Institute during the 2024–2025 academic year.

1. "Facilitating Grassroots Constitutional Deliberation, North and South" seminar took place on 8th October, 2024. It was presented by Prof Joanne McEvoy from University of Aberdeen. Prof McEvoy was invited by Prof Jennifer Todd from UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy.

2. “Gender and Migrant Worker (Im)Mobility: A Global Crisis” seminar took place on 22nd October, 2024. It was presented by Prof Nicola Piper from School of International Studies, Korea University and Dr Laura Foley. Prof Piper was invited by Dr Laura Foley from UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy.

3. “Motivated Forecasts: Evidence from the Presidential Elections in Argentina” seminar took place on 29th October, 2024. It was presented by Dr Diego Marino-Fages from Business School, Durham University. Dr Marino-Fages was invited by Dr Margaret Samahita from UCD School of Economics.

4. “Understanding Families’ Experiences of Poverty: Results of a Qualitative Study Exploring the Perspectives of Children and their Parents” seminar took place on 5th November, 2024. It was presented by Prof Rashmita Mistry from UCLA. Prof Mistry was invited by Dr Vivian Liu from UCD School of Psychology.

5. “The Implications of overturning Roe V Wade” seminar took place on 19th November, 2024. It was presented by Prof Negin Fouladi from University of Maryland School of Public Health. Prof Fouladi was invited by Assoc Prof Kate Frazer from UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems.

6. “Creative approaches to student supervision” seminar took place on 21st January, 2025. It was presented by Prof Kristina Urbanc from University of Zagreb. Prof Urbanc was invited by Dr Elaine Wilson from School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

7. “Applying the AFDiT Framework to Transracial and Transcultural Fostering in the Republic of Ireland” seminar took place on 21st January, 2025. It was presented by Dr Tam Cane from Department of Social Care and Social Work, University of Sussex. Dr Cane was invited by Prof Prospera Tedam from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

8. “Why do donors give to less effective charities?” seminar took place on 25th February, 2025. It was presented by Prof Paul Smeets from University of Amsterdam. Prof Smeets was invited by Dr Diogo Geraldes from UCD School of Economics.

9. “Bugged Out: Locust Plagues, Migration, and Adaptation in 19th Century US” seminar took place on 25th March, 2025. It was presented by Prof Eric Strobl from University of Bern. Prof Strobl was invited by Assoc Prof Frank Walsh from UCD School of Economics.

10. “Pushing the Limit: How Borrowers Tackle the Belgian LTV Cap” seminar took place on 1st April, 2025. It was presented by Prof Selien De Schryder from University of Bern. Prof Strobl was invited by Assoc Prof Frank Walsh from UCD School of Economics.



Following its notable success last year, the Geary Institute announced in May 2025 the reinstatement of the BICS funding scheme for the 2025/2026 academic year. In response, we received numerous excellent funding applications. Launched in 2023/24 with support from UCD Research, the Geary Institute funded its third call for the 2025/2026 academic year. Through the BICS funding call, UCD Geary Institute members hosted researchers from academic and research centres worldwide. The aim of the BICS scheme is to support international collaborations, promote publications, and facilitate research funding applications. The joint research and activities contribute to the Geary Institute Seminar Series.

The Geary Institute awarded a total of €31,874.00 in funding to the following researchers:

- Dr Laura Foley of the UCD Geary Institute for the visit of Andrea Pettrachin, Assistant Professor in Tenure Track (RTT)
- Assoc Professor Seaneen Sloan of the UCD School of Education for the visit of Professor Ingrid Schoon, Chair of Social Policy, University College London
- Dr Arjumand Younus of the UCD School of Information and Communication Studies for the visit of Dr Heba Ismail, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, College of Technological Innovation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Assoc Professor Sara Benedí Lahuerta of the UCD School of Law for the visit of Professor Antonio J Morales, University of Malaga
- Assoc Professor Kate Frazer of the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems for the visit of Professor Mark Exworthy, University of Birmingham
- Dr Lucia Tiscornia of the UCD School of Politics and International Relations for the visit of Associate Professor Guy Lamb, Stellenbosch University
- Dr Elifcan Celebi of the UCD School of Politics and International Relations for the visit of Dr Volkan Yilmaz, Ulster University
- Assoc Professor Laura Taylor of the School of Psychology for the visit of Professor Christine Merrilees, State University of New York
- Assoc Professor Michelle Downes of the UCD School of Psychology for the visit of Dr Joana Baptista, University Institute of Lisbon
- Dr Elaine Wilson of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Dr Claudia Psaila, University of Malta
- Professor Karen Anderson of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Professor Alison L. Johnston, Oregon State University
- Dr Micheál L. Collins of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Dr Michal Kotnarowski, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Assoc Professor Naonori Kodate of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Assoc. Prof. Mei-chun Cheung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Chung Chi College)
- Dr Prospera Tedam of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Professor Lambert Karel Engelbrecht, University of Stellenbosch
- Assoc Professor Sarah Donnelly of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Professor Lorna Montgomery, Queen's University Belfast
- Assoc Professor Stephan Köppe of the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for the visit of Dr Diego Muñoz Higuera, University of Valencia
- Dr Margaret Samahita of the UCD School of Economics for the visit of Juan S Morales, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Dr Gabriela Martinez Sainz of the UCD School of Education for the visit of Professor Guadalupe Francia, University of Gävle



POLICIES

Geary Institute Research Administrative Support Policy

The Geary Institute offers members pre- and post-award support for funded research projects. This support is dedicated solely to research administration and financial and project management. It includes, but are not limited to: Project Administration, Budget Complication Advice, Financial Management and HR Assistance. It does not include the scientific or technical aspects of research project design or implementation.

We are confident that our research community will profit from these supports, and we strongly advise you to investigate their advantages. Without a doubt, using these resources will improve the efficacy and efficiency of your research projects.

Geary Institute Event Organisation Strategy and Policy

At the Geary Institute, we aim to streamline the organisation of events, enhance communication with stakeholders, and ensure successful outcomes for all our hosted events. The Event support policy offers a guide for event organisers and outlines the steps to be taken by organisers and Geary staff to ensure that we can advertise and organise the event to a high standard.

Support for Maximising Research Impact

Maximising the influence of its members' research on public policy in Ireland and abroad is one of the main goals of the Geary Institute for Public Policy.

In December 2023, the Institute released two more policy impact resources for members in order to further this goal:

- A manual for developing and optimising the impact of policies, and
- A manual on how to write policy briefs.

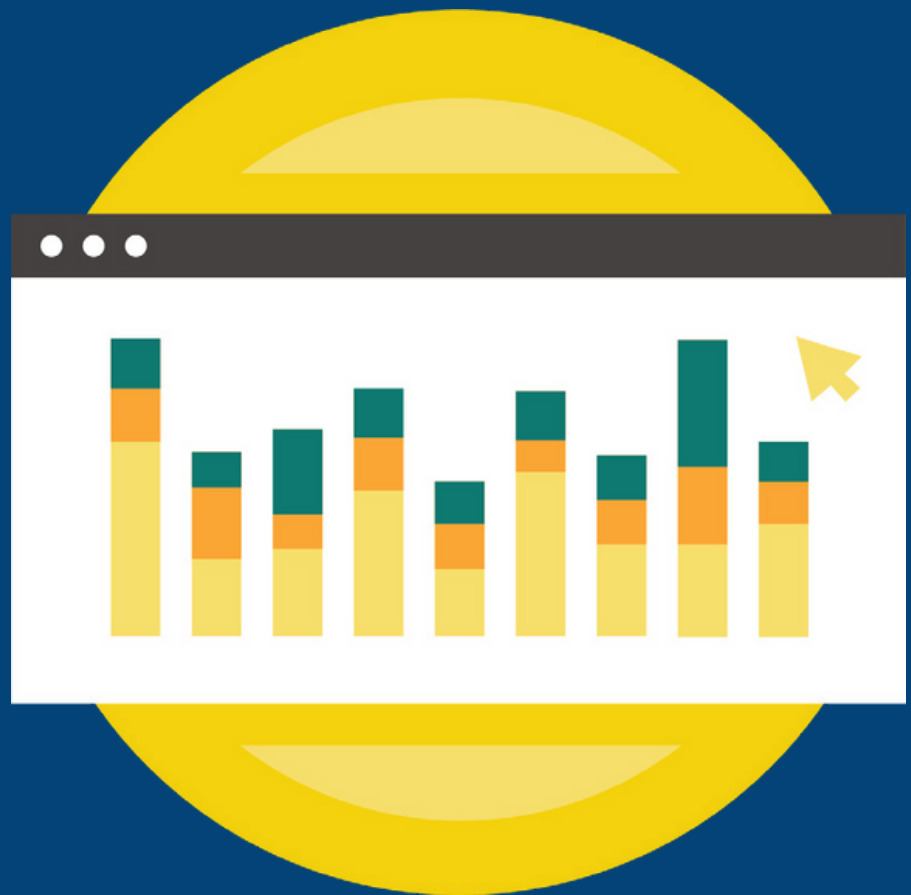
A detailed list of all the support we offer can be found on our website.

We also surveyed members' current impact-related activities to assist us improve our support for maximising the impact of our research. The findings will guide the creation of further member support initiatives, such as networking and training sessions.

IT Policy

The Geary Institute offers members IT support for funded research projects. The support provided include, but are not limited to: Project Design, Software and Hardware Procurement, Workspace Setup. It does not include support for the core IT services that are provided by UCD centrally. Support for these services is provided by UCD IT support.





TESTIMONIALS

We are proud to share some of the experiences and reflections from students and researchers who have been part of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. Their testimonials highlight the vibrant academic community, the opportunities for collaboration, and the support available throughout their journey with us.



My time at the Geary Institute has been dramatically enhanced by the excellent research environment it provides. The dedicated workspace, including personal desks in a quiet open-plan office, enables focused, undisturbed work—even during evenings and weekends. This flexibility is particularly valuable given the often irregular—and at times isolating—nature of doctoral research. The Institute also fosters intellectual exchange through a regular seminar series, facilitating meaningful interactions between PhD students and researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds.

Importantly, the administrative and support staff are consistently approachable and do their utmost to accommodate our often-complicated requests, despite the constraints of limited resources. These elements combined make the Geary Institute an ideal setting for rigorous, sustained academic work.

- Sam Deegan, postgraduate



I am Marryam Jahangir, a public policy professional, social worker and Intern at the Geary Institute for Public Policy who is passionate about research, promoting human rights and social justice. At Geary, I was involved in conducting desk-based research and drafting two policy relevant papers on "Inequality in Housing- International students in Ireland" and "Healthcare Hierarchy in Ireland". Moreover, I sourced external policy relevant reports to be published on the publicpolicy.ie website. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences to work as part of the team.

- Marryam Jahangir, Intern, Geary Institute
May-August 2025



Marryam Jahangir, Intern, Geary Institute May-August 2025



My research visiting experience at the Geary Institute was truly enriching and highly productive. I was fortunate to have access to a comfortable workspace, including a dedicated desk, a well-equipped Zoom room, and a cozy kitchen — everything I needed to focus and thrive. The vibrant research environment, alongside the brilliant colleagues I met, provided numerous opportunities and practical tools that significantly contributed to my professional and personal development.

Thanks to the Geary Institute, I was able to successfully engage in several key activities:

- *Collaborating with peers on their research projects, which taught me the importance of peer feedback and provided valuable insights into relevant topics and methods, enhancing my own research understanding.*
- *Attending the weekly seminars organized by the Geary Institute for Public Policy, which broadened my perspectives and deepened my knowledge.*
- *Participating in the Research Skills Masterclasses, including sessions on “Key Ethical Considerations in Qualitative Research,” “NVivo Training,” “Systematic Reviewing,” “Excel Refresh Course,” “Graphs with R,” and “Linking Research and Policy.”*
- *Taking part in writing programs and networking events, which further supported my growth and expanded my professional connections.*

I am grateful for the support and resources provided by the Geary Institute during my visit, which have greatly advanced my research and professional development.

- Elena Tubertini, postgraduate



My name is Petru Calenici and I am a PhD student at the School of Economics. Since September 2024 I’ve had a desk space at the Geary Institute, and I really enjoy working here. The shared office for PhD students is calm, spacious and a great environment to focus. I’ve also used other facilities, like the boardroom, which has been useful when working together with other colleagues. It is a nice space where we can discuss without disturbing the others.

Whenever I have a question or problem, I can always count on the administration office, and especially on Juliana, for help. It is really nice to know that we are supported when needed.

I also try to use most opportunities that Geary offers. I regularly attend the weekly seminar series, which is a great way to discover interesting research from outside economics. On top of that, there are other engaging activities for researchers at any stage and, for instance, I’ve joined the masterclass on experiments in social science research last March.

Overall, having my desk at Geary and being part of its community has been a really positive and valuable experience during my PhD. In the future I’d also like to participate in the writing retreats, hopefully contribute to the PublicPolicy.ie initiative and also, why not, become a fellow at some point during my journey!

- Petru Calenici, postgraduate



APPENDIX I

RESEARCH FUNDING

European Commission - Horizon Europe

From Housing Inequality To Sustainable, Inclusive And Affordable Housing Solutions (Equalhouse) - PI, Professor Michelle Norris. Budget €2,731,782

Housing Precarity Pathways Meanings Influences And Responses Among South Asian Migrants To Dublin (Housing Precarity) - PI, Professor Michelle Norris. Budget €215,534

From One Closed Door To Another: Cumulative Discrimination And Prejudice Against Marginalised Groups In Europe (EqualStrength) - PI, Associate Professor Mathew Creighton. Budget €2,394,901

Growing Up In Digital Europe Preparation Phase (Guideprep) PI, Dr Seaneen Sloan. Budget €2,379,738

Cohort Community Research And Development Infrastructure Network For Access Throughout Europe (Coordinate) - PI, Professor Orla Doyle. Budget €5m, with €364,000 allocated to UCD.

Moral Agency in Election Campaigns (ELECT) - PI, Dr Joseph Lacey. Budget €1,500,000

European Commission - Horizon 2020

Labour Politics And The EU's New Economic Governance Regime (European Unions) PI, Professor Roland Erne. Budget €1,997,132

Irish Research Council

Artificial Intelligence Enhanced Collective Intelligence (Annette) - PI, Dr Taha Yasseri. Budget €592,521

European Social Survey Round 11 - PIs, Dr Michael Collins and Associate Professor Mathew Creighton. Budget €400,000

European Social Survey Round 12 (ESS12). PIs: Dr Sarah Carol of UCD School of Sociology, budget €337,440.40 and Dr Micheál Collins of UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, budget €337,440.40

Irish Foundation - Northside Partnership

Preparing For Life - Age 13 Follow Up - PI, Professor Orla Doyle. Budget €96,000

Housing Agency

Twenty Years Of Social Change In Seven Social Housing Neighbourhoods - PI Professor Michelle Norris. Budget €20,000

An Analysis Of Clustered And Dispersed Social Homes In Mixed Tenure Estates - PI, Professor Michelle Norris. Budget €18,036

Higher Education Authority (HEA)

Increasing The Voice Of Women Economists In The Media And Public Discourse Through Training And Promotion - PI, Professor Orla Doyle. Budget €31,808

Other Funding

Internal UCD Funding Scheme. Project: Empowering Policy Excellence (Epex) - PI, Geary Institute Director, Professor Michelle Norris, budget €49,750

Internal UCD Funding Scheme. Project: Interdisciplinary Writing Solidarity Group. - PI, Geary Institute Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Dr Laura Foley, budget €14,682

Funder: University Of Notre Dame. Project: Part 2: Constitutional Visions From The Grass Roots. - PI, Prof. Jennifer Todd, UCD School of Politics & International Relations, budget €23,700

Funder: Department of Foreign Affairs. Project: Constitutional Visions From The Grass-Roots - Towards A Deliberative Ecology Beyond Group Division. - PI, Prof. Jennifer Todd, UCD School of Politics & International Relations, budget €25,800

Funder: Enterprise Ireland. Project: Older Entrepreneurs And Climate Change Adaptation (Sage). - PI, Dr Boroka Bo, UCD School of Sociology, budget: €15,909

Funder: Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). Project: Innovation, Equity and the Future of Prosperity. PI, Dr Boróka Bó, UCD School of Sociology. Budget \$100.

APPENDIX II

INSTITUTE SEMINAR SERIES 2024/25

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
17/09/2024	Dr Miguel Flores, NCI	University-to-work transition and work placements: Evidence of heterogeneous pay dynamics
24/09/2024	Prof Michelle Norris, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy	Land Policy's Influence on the Resilience and Fragility of Social Housing Systems: a comparative analysis of Austria, England and the Netherlands
01/10/2024	Dr Jen Keane, WP Engine	Gender Pay Gap Portal
08/10/2024	Dr Leeanne O'Hara, Centre for Public Health, Queen's University, Belfast	Frailty on the island of Ireland: evidence from the NICOLA and TILDA studies
15/10/2024	Prof Joanne McEvoy, Professor of Politics, University of Aberdeen	Facilitating Grassroots Constitutional Deliberation, North and South
22/10/2024	Prof Nicola Piper, Korea University and Dr Laura Foley, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy	Gender and Migrant Worker (Im)Mobility: A Global Crisis
29/10/2024	Dr Diego Marino-Fages, Business School, Durham University	Motivated Forecasts: Evidence from the Presidential Elections in Argentina
05/11/2024	Prof Rashmita Mistry, Professor of Education, UCLA	Understanding Families' Experiences of Poverty: Results of a Qualitative Study Exploring the Perspectives of Children and their Parents
12/11/2024	Dr Egle Gusciute, UCD School of Sociology	A field experiment in the rental housing market examining ethnic discrimination against refugees in Ireland
19/11/2024	Prof Negin Fouladi, School of Public Health, University of Maryland	The Implications of overturning Roe V Wade
26/11/2024	Prof Jean-William Laliberté, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Calgary, Alberta	Parental Income in the Labor Market

21/01/2025	Prof Kristina Urbanc, University of Zagreb	Creative approaches to student supervision
28/01/2025	Dr Boroka Bo, School of Sociology, UCD	Times that Bind: Organizational Change and the School Schedules of Unaccompanied Migrant Children in the United States
04/02/2025	Dr Barra Roantree, Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin	Poverty, income inequality and living standards in Ireland
11/02/2025	Dr Adrian Byrne CeADAR, UCD	The risks and rewards of using Generative AI and avoiding unwanted bias
12/02/2025	Prof Claire A. Hill, James L. Krusemark Chair in Law at the University of Minnesota & Visiting Professor at the UCD School of Law	The Costs of Uncertainty: Towards a New Paradigm
18/02/2025	Dr Tam Cane, Department of Social Care and Social Work, University of Sussex	Learning from lived experience: non-traditional families' experiences of birth registration, and its potential future, in England and Wales
25/02/2025	Prof Paul Smeets, University of Amsterdam	Why do donors give to less effective charities?
04/03/2025	Dr Eylem Kanol, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre	Can culture explain prejudice? Theory and evidence from the reactivation of antisemitic stereotypes in Germany
25/03/2025	Prof Eric Strobl, University of Bern	Bugged Out: Locust Plagues, Migration, and Adaptation in 19th Century US
01/04/2025	Prof Selien De Schryder, Ghent University	Pushing the Limit: How Borrowers Tackle the Belgian LTV Cap
08/04/2025	Dr Miguel Flores, NCI Panagiotis Arsenis, University of Surrey	Key factors shaping the quality of work placement experience
15/04/2025	Dr M. Altaf Hossain and Prof Michelle Norris, Geary Institute for Public Policy	Housing Precarity Pathways, Responses and Meanings Among Bangladeshi Migrants in Dublin

NOTES

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