



'Doctoral Supervision and Career Mentorship'



24 September, 2014
Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

HUMANITIES DOCTORAL SUPERVISION LUNCHTIME WORKSHOPS 2014/2015



The first workshop of the series is jointly hosted by the Irish Humanities Alliance and the Royal Irish Academy. Speakers will discuss their supervision experiences, best practice and the latest developments in the area of 'Doctoral Supervision and Career Mentorship'. Supervisors, early stage career researchers and students will benefit from the discussions and policy suggestions offered.

This workshop is part of a series of lunchtime workshops focusing on Doctoral Supervision in the Humanities subject areas. The workshops will cover topics including: career mentorship, managing the student-supervisor relationship, planning for life after the doctorate and how this can all be assisted by new technology.

The workshops are an initiative of the Humanities Institute (UCD), and are a collaboration between it and the Moore Institute (NUIG), the Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities (QUB) and the Royal Irish Academy. The workshops are co-ordinated by the Irish Humanities Alliance.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

12:00-12:30 Registration and Tea & Coffee in the Council Room

12:30-14:30 Workshop (Presentations and Q&A Discussion) in the Meeting Room

14:30-15:00 Lunch in the Council Room

SPEAKERS

Facilitator: PROFESSOR DANIEL CAREY, Director of the Moore Institute, MRIA and Vice Chair of the Irish Humanities Alliance



Professor Daniel Carey, MRIA, is Director of the Moore Institute for the Humanities and Social Studies at NUI Galway and Professor of English in the School of Humanities. He was educated at McGill University, TCD and Hertford College Oxford (D.Phil) and has had visiting fellowships at Glasgow, Columbia and Oxford. He has mentored eleven postdoctoral fellows (in the fields of English, History, French, and Politics) under funding schemes in Ireland, Britain and the EU, and has supervised five PhDs.

PROFESSOR MARY E. DALY, President of the Royal Irish Academy and Professor of History at the School of History and Archives in University College Dublin



Professor Mary E. Daly was educated at University College Dublin (BA, MA) and Nuffield College Oxford (D. Phil.). During her academic career at UCD she also held visiting positions at Harvard Boston College and EUI Florence. She was also the first Director of the Humanities Institute (UCD). During her career she has supervised over thirty PhDs to completion. She has also been a member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission (1993-2005), National Archives Advisory Council (1995-2006) and Higher Education Authority (2008-2012), and is currently a member of the Taoiseach's Expert Advisory Committee on Commemorations.

This paper stresses the importance of engaging intellectually with university life and networking widely, during the doctoral process. In addition, she advises students to use the time wisely to develop transferable skills, consider non-academic careers and experience interdisciplinary research and methods.

DR JOHN WALSH, Ussher Lecturer in Higher Education, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin and Past Chairperson of the Irish Research Staff Association



Dr John Walsh is Ussher Lecturer in Higher Education with the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin, and is a member of the Cultures Academic Values and Education research centre (CAVE). He is also the author of *Patrick Hillery: the official biography* (2008) and joint editor of *Higher Education in Ireland: Practices, Policies and Possibilities* (2013).

This paper explores the place of early career researchers, particularly in the Humanities, within the Irish higher education system: it is informed by initial findings of the first national study of postdoctoral researchers' lives in Ireland, which is currently being completed by the Cultures, Academic Values and Education (CAVE) research centre within the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin. Among the issues examined will be the tension between the potentially significant role of early stage researchers in contributing to the European 'knowledge economy' and the uncertain status of such researchers in higher education.

DR JENNIFER BRENNAN, European Advisor, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Irish Universities Association



Dr Jennifer Brennan is the European Advisor for the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, at the Irish Universities Association. She is responsible for promoting the Actions to researchers and research-active organisations, advising potential applicants and contributing to policy initiatives in her role as National Delegate to the MSCA Programme Committee. She has a background in research and has worked in academia in the UK, USA and Ireland. Prior to joining the IUA, she held the post of Scientific Officer at the IRC, where she co-ordinated two successful proposals for co-funding from the FP7 Marie Curie Actions COFUND Call in 2007 and 2011, each with a value of approximately €5m, the largest amounts leveraged by Ireland from FP7 to-date.

Recent years have seen a strong policy focus on doctoral training, resulting in a move away from the traditional master-apprentice approach to the emergence of structured PhD programmes. The career trajectories of PhD graduates have become highly diversified across all sectors, in part due to the stagnating or decreasing number of academic positions and growing numbers of PhD graduates. As the vast number of PhDs will move on to careers outside of academia, doctoral education must also meet the needs of the wider employment market. The issue of employability of graduates has come into sharp focus on the ERA agenda, together with the question of how doctoral training can be improved to better prepare candidates for a future both within and outside of research. This paper will explore recent European policy in the area of doctoral training, and the potential impact on the Irish system.

PROFESSOR MARGARET TOPPING, Chair of French in Queen's University Belfast



Professor Margaret Topping is Professor of French in the School of Modern Languages at Queen's University Belfast with research interests that increasingly centre on the social and ethical impact of the Arts and Humanities. She is a member of the Studentship Committee for the AHRC-funded Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership (comprising Queen's, Durham and Newcastle Universities), and she collaborates closely with the Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities at QUB which supports the Northern Bridge cohort, as well as post-doctoral researchers. She currently supervises eight PhD students working on a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects, including an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award with PRONI, the Public Records

Office of Northern Ireland, which engages with the ethical challenges for the archive in post-conflict societies.

Her presentation will focus on the QUB experience of BGP2 (the Block Grant Partnership funding scheme out of which the Northern Bridge DTP emerged), considering the challenges it presents, but above all the opportunities it offers from recruitment, through to cohort building, placements, and collaboration with non-HEI partners. She will also present the new interdisciplinary research methods module for Masters students at QUB which she has assisted in developing. The new module which will be taken by all Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences students seeks to foster engagement beyond disciplinary boundaries from PGT level and thus to prepare students for an increasingly professionalised doctoral experience or for employment.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE SERIES

Humanities Doctoral Supervision Lunchtime Workshop Series 2014/2015

24 September 2014: The Royal Irish Academy and Irish Humanities Alliance will host 'Doctoral Supervision and Career Mentorship'

10 November 2014: The Moore Institute in NUIG will host 'Advances in Digital Technologies: New Possibilities and Challenges for Doctoral Supervision'

February 2015: The Humanities Institute in UCD will host 'Managing the Doctoral Supervisor-Student Relationship'

April 2015: The Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities in QUB will host 'The Role of Doctoral Supervision in Planning for Life after the Doctorate'

The organising committee consists of Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD), Ms. Martha Shaughnessy (NUIG), Professor John Thompson (QUB) and Dr Aoibhín de Búrca (IHA & RIA).

Travel bursaries will be made available to the first ten registered doctoral students, and doctoral students who are between the Viva and graduation stages, for each event. This is to enable students to travel to the workshops in the different institutions and to be part of the discussion.

Students, supervisors and staff from all HEIs are encouraged, and welcome, to attend. The events are free of charge but require registration. The workshops will also be streamed live by each institution and podcast on the IHA website.

For further information, or to get in contact:

Website: <http://irishhumanities.com/> Twitter: @IrishHumanities/Email: info@irishhumanities.com

