IHA Research Stakeholder visit to EU Institutions: Horizon 2020

IHA research stakeholder visit to the EU institutions December 2015

Stakeholder visit participants with Mairead McGuinness, MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament, in advance of meetings on SSH integration and Societal Challenges

On 2-3 December 2015, the European Commission Representation in Ireland organised a research stakeholder visit with members of the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) to the European Commission and European Parliament in Brussels. The focus of the visit was on the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and the participation of researchers in the wide range of disciplines concerned in Horizon 2020 – the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever, with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). The development and the launch of Horizon 2020 prompted an unparalleled engagement on the part of the SSH community in the development of research and innovation policy in Europe. The key role to be played by SSH research in the mobilization of transdisciplinary research competence to tackle key societal challenges has likewise been repeatedly emphasized by members of the European Commission and senior Commission staff. This report aims to contribute to continuing efforts fully to embed SSH disciplines in the development of research policy and research support at EU level.

Over the 2 day visit we exchanged ideas with Commission staff on issues ranging from the level of participation by SSH researchers in Horizon 2020; Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions; European Research Council; Higher Education and Research in the EU MS; the newly established EU Science Advisory Mechanism; and the European Group on Ethics, amongst other issues.

We also met with MEPs, including European Parliament Vice President Mairead McGuinness and Seán Kelly, member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee.

The material and information collected during the trip will be distributed to all IHA HEIs to assist in funding applications, to update academics and research offices regarding the latest policy developments in Brussels, and to equip them to lobby for greater SSH funding being made available in Horizon 2020's Societal Challenges for Irish researchers.

The IHA's EU and Horizon 2020 Working Group consists of Professor Jürgen Barkhoff (Chair, TCD); Dr Allen White (UCC); Dr Marc Caball (UCD); Professor Patrick O'Donovan (UCC); Dr Valerie Heffernan (MU); Professor Sean Ryder (NUIG) and Dr Aoibhín de Búrca (IHA).

We would especially like to thank Alicia O' Rourke, in her (then) role as Research Liaison Officer with the European Commission Representation in Ireland, for all her organisation, assistance and policy advice regarding this trip. It was very much appreciated. We would also like to thank all the officials and public representatives whom we met during the trip and who gave so generously of their time in meetings and presentations.

For more information regarding the IHA and the EU/Horizon 2020 please contact:

Dr Aoibhín de Búrca, Communications and Outreach Manager

Email: a.deburca@ria.ie
Website: http://www.irishhumanities.com/
Twitter: @IrishHumanities
Address: Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: 00 353 (0) 1 609 0666 (direct line)

Report Table of Contents

- ➢ Note on SSH concern (initial briefing document prepared by IHA)

- ➢ Meetings list (officials and politicians in Commission and Parliament)

- ➢ Summaries of meetings and associated presentations

- ➢ Follow up action points

- ➢ Biographies of participants in the SSH Stakeholder trip to Brussels

Note on SSH Community concerns

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) has welcomed the European Commission's commitment to excellent science in Horizon 2020, and also celebrates Ireland's SSH successes in the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions in particular.

Despite these very welcome developments, there has been a notable lack of delivery, and structures to deliver, SSH integration in the latest Work Programmes, under the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership pillars. This follows the already very disappointing trend of the previous Work Programmes in 2014-2015.

As the European Commission's own report on '*Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020*', namely its monitoring report on SSH-flagged projects funded in 2014 under the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership (European Commission, 2015, 9-16), shows:

- The share of budget going to SSH partners amounted to 6 per cent (i.e. €236million) of the total 2014 budget of €4 billion (i.e. only 21 per cent of the budget of SSH-flagged topics);
- This is despite the fact that 37 per cent of topics were initially flagged as SSH;
- When results were evaluated under topics flagged for SSH, the humanities and arts accounted for only 9 per cent of those funded projects with an SSH dimension;
- 29 per cent of projects funded under the SSH-flagged topics did not have SSH partners;
- 28 per cent of the projects funded under the SSH-flagged topics did not have SSH contributions; and
- Furthermore, 11 per cent of the projects funded under topics flagged for SSH were classified as weak.

Specific to Ireland, despite SSH subjects performing strongly in international university rankings, Ireland only represents 2 per cent of SSH partners, whereas the combined top seven countries account for 64 per cent of the SSH partners (European Commission, 2015, 11-13).

The Commission's report recommends that future Work Programmes explicitly call for SSH contributions and for the SSH to be an integral part of the solution. In addition, it states that the range of disciplines invited to contribute needs to be significantly broadened, especially the humanities (European Commission, 2015, 6). However, it must be reported that the current Work Programmes for 2016/2017 show few if any signs of progress on this important front, despite the continuing reassurances and claims made by the Commission.

Ireland and a number of other EU member states voted not to approve the proposed SC6 Work Programme 2016/2017, primarily because:

- The unduly low level of the budget and incursions made on it by other funding priorities from unrelated areas;
- The plan to fund 'one large project' in Europe and not a number of representative projects; and
- The notable scientific deficiencies in the formulation of the call in relation to this area.

In addition, the IHA was very disappointed that the advice paper of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for Societal Challenge Six (SC6) and the final version of the Work Programme for SC6 differed so significantly. The IHA engaged very actively with national delegates and national experts in the preparation of the calls for 2016/17, in substantial part by drawing on the recommendations for a more resilient Europe formulated by the EAG.

The IHA is committed to working with national and international partners and research infrastructures to assist the Commission in its stated aims to improve the quality of topics, evaluations, feedback and communication surrounding the integration of SSH across the whole spectrum of H2020 and of any future framework programmes.

In doing so the IHA would like to emphasise that:

- SSH research has highly focused, informed and timely answers to the big societal challenges, and current political issues, facing the EU such as migration, terrorism, Brexit, the cohesion of the EU, and the role of the EU vis-à-vis citizenship, culture, values and religion;

- However, in the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership pillars in 2014, the share of the budget going to SSH partners amounts to 6 per cent. Purported SSH flagging of 37 per cent for 2014 was highly questionable and suggestions of 41 per cent for 2016-2017 are even more so, in view of the substance of the topics, the formulation of which has clearly not benefited from informed input on the part of SSH researchers;

- The evidence thus far has shown that 'talk is cheap' regarding SSH integration and that compulsory embedding is therefore required, with strong cross-cutting mechanisms to achieve results. There is also a need for SSH experts on all EAGs and evaluation panels;

- There should be a mix across the range of work programmes of a large number of small to intermediate projects, rather than only large projects, so as to harness as much SSH expertise as possible in this key transitional phase of the development of transdisciplinary capacity in Europe;

- Consultation with the SSH community in the EU in advance of the 2021-2027 research programme needs to extensive and the recommendations of the SC6 EAGs, NCPs and National Experts should be heeded; and

- There is a very real possibility that the Societal Challenges model will end in failure if these issues are not resolved in advance of the 2021-2027 research programme. The Societal Challenges approach has the potential to be truly transformative and SSH researchers are very keen to play a significant role.

Meetings list (officials and politicians in Commission and Parliament)

Ms	Isabella	Malaise-Weckerle	European Commission's Visitor' Centre
Mr	Juergen	Wettig	Deputy Head, European Commission's Visitors' Centre
Ms	Stefanie	Kalff-Lena	DG Research and Innovation
Ms	Monica	Menapace	DG Research and Innovation, Unit B6 Reflective Societies
Ms	Louise	Byrne	Research Executive Agency - MSCA
Dr	Fiona	Kernan	ERC Executive Agency
Ms	Anette	Bjornsson	DG Research and Innovation
Mr	Simon	Roy	DG Education and Culture
Mr	Gregor	Novak	Executive Agency for SMEs
Ms	Geraldine	Barry	Joint Research Centre
Mr	Jeremy	Bray	Scientific Advice Mechanism
Dr	Jim	Dratwa	European Group of Ethics in Science and New Technologies
Ms	Sarah	Sheil	Head of Unit, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)
Mr	Anno	Aedmaa	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Ms	Julia	Prikoszovits	Seconded National Expert
Mr	Eamonn	Noonan	EPRS
Mr	Peter	McGuigan	Parliamentary Assistant to Marian Harkin MEP
Mr	Joe	Dunne	Incoming Director of the of the EP Library
Mr	Philippe	de Backer	MEP, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
Mr	Seán	Kelly	MEP, EPP (Ireland)
Mr	Paul	Rübig	MEP, EPP (Austria) and Chair of STOA
Mr	Kevin	Keary	Policy Adviser to Commissioner Phil Hogan
Ms	Mairead	McGuinness	MEP, EPP (Ireland) and Vice President of the European Parliament
Dr	Philippe	Keraudren	Deputy Head of Unit at DG Research and Innovation in Unit B6

Summaries of meetings and associated presentations

(Day One: European Commission officials)

Ms Stefanie Kalff-Lena, DG Research and Innovation

Summary: Stefanie Kalff-Lena gave an overview of Horizon 2020 generally and stressed that 37 per cent of topics in Societal Challenges were flagged for SSH in the 2014-2015 WP, and 41 per cent have been flagged for 2016-2017. She then outlined the lessons learned from 2014-2015 and strategic issues in the design and content of the 2016-2017 WP. Modifications included 'Expected Impact' being tightened and better tailored to the type of action and programme, and 'Evaluation' being clarified. Two dates to note: the Interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 will be at the end of 2017 and the adoption of WP 2018/19/20 will be the second half 2017.

Presentation: click here.

Ms Monica Menapace, DG Research and Innovation (Unit B6 Reflective Societies)

Summary: Monica Menapace gave an in-depth presentation of the 2016-2017 SC6 Work Programme and SSH integration within the 2014 Work Programme, as well as the upcoming Work Programme. Of particular concern regarding SSH researchers was that the finding that in the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership pillars, the share of the budget going to SSH partners amounts to 6 per cent (i.e. €236million) of the total 2014 budget of €4 billion (i.e. 21 per cent of the budget of SSH-flagged topics). In addition Ireland represented only 2 per cent of SSH partners by country in 2014, despite the very strong international university rankings of SSH in Ireland. Based on the findings of the Unit's SSH integration evaluation report a number of suggestions have been made to ensure integration of SSH in the 2016-2017 WP. The IHA is very concerned about the role of SSH within the previous and current work programmes, and queried if the mechanisms suggested were robust enough, given previous promises by the Commission on SSH integration.

Presentation: click here.

Ms Louise Byrne, Head of Sector, Unit A4 Marie Sklodowska-Curie COFUND, Researchers Night & Individual Fellowships, Research Executive Agency

Summary: Louise Byrne gave an overview of the MSCA programme within Horizon 2020. She stressed that Ireland was doing particularly well in COFUND. There have been some changes in the new MSCA work programme and she detailed them in her presentation, notably the issue of Impact and how it is defined. She also strongly encouraged engagement and participation in Researchers Night, which takes place yearly on the last Friday of September.

Presentation: click here.

Dr Fiona Kernan, Starting Grant Call Co-Ordinator, Scientific Department, ERC Executive Agency

Summary: Fiona Kernan spoke about the funding opportunities presented by the ERC in 2016. As well as a general overview of ERC and what it offers researchers, she also specifically covered Ireland's performance and success rates in the ERC in Horizon 2020 and FP7. Her presentation gave practical advice and information regarding how to make an application and how applications are evaluated.

Presentation: click here.

Ms Anette Bjornsson, DG RTD, Unit ERA Policy

Summary: Anette Bjornsson presented the European Research Area priorities and how they will be achieved through:

1. More effective national research systems:
2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition:
3. An open labour market for researchers:
4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research; and
5. Optimal circulation and transfer of knowledge, including via Digital ERA.

International cooperation will be a cross cutting priority. The ERA Roadmap was adopted by the Competitiveness Council in May 2016 and next steps will include national actions plans.

Presentation: click here.

Mr Simon Roy, DG Research and Innovation

Summary: Simon Roy set out the policy frameworks for the European Commission's role in Higher Education. He also discussed the priorities of the modernisation agenda for Higher Education and the challenges that exist. In order to renew the agenda a consultation process is underway with member states, linked to the Skills Agenda (May/June 2016) in preparation for a renewed policy framework. The broad aims and themes are to:

- Promote relevant learning and teaching;
- Help HEIs become strong regional innovators; and
- Ensuring education and research functions mutually reinforcing (including EHEA / ERA).

Presentation: click here.

Mr Gregor Novak, Executive Agency for SMEs

Summary: Gregor Novak introduced the SME Instrument, the different phases and themes for 2016 and 2017, and the benefits of participating. He also gave practical advice regarding applications, such as how they are evaluated and what had been learnt from unsuccessful applications. Despite Ireland initially having one of the best success rates, increased competition from other countries is a challenge.

Presentation: click here.

Ms Geraldine Barry, Head of the Joint Research Centre Communication Unit

Summary: The Joint Research Centre is the European Commission's in-house science service, with over 3000 staff, 7 institutes, 42 large scale research facilities and more than 100 economic, biophysical and nuclear models. It is independent of national, commercial or private interests and is policy-neutral. It provides expertise on a wide range of areas and provides support throughout the whole policy cycle. Some EU policies it is involved in are: reducing experiments on animals, sustaining EU soil, and making the EU's electricity grids smarter.

Presentation: click here.

Mr Jeremy Bray, Deputy Head of Unit for the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism

Summary: Jeremy Bray gave a briefing regarding the newly established Scientific Advice Mechanism, and the aim that it will provide high quality, timely, independent scientific advice to policy making. It comprises a High Level Group (HLG) of seven academics and a secretariat within DG RTD, which facilitates HLG access to all sources of scientific knowledge, in particular through a structured relationship with European learned societies and academies. The exact structures and how all elements will engage have yet to be decided and they are a work in progress.

Presentation: click here.

Dr Jim Dratwa, Head of the European Group of Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) Office

Summary: Jim Dratwa gave an overview of the policy and political framework regarding ethics in the EU. The main focus of the presentation was the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE), which is an independent, pluralist, multidisciplinary body advising the European Commission on ethics in science and new technologies in relation to EU legislation and policies. It recently published on the Ethics of Security and Surveillance Technologies. The European Group on Ethics will be looking for new members shortly, in particular Ethics and Law academics.

Presentation: click here

(Day Two: European Parliament officials and MEPs)

Session One: European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) staff

Ms Sarah Sheil, Head of Unit, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

Summary: Sarah Sheil gave an overview to how policy formation works in the European Parliament, and welcomed the active engagement of the research stakeholder group with the process. She stressed that policy takes a huge amount of time and it is very important to engage on a constant basis, to be well informed regarding latest developments and to feed material through. It is essential for good policy formation, for citizens and groups to engage with the systems of the European Parliament and European Commission. She said that although the systems can appear very complicated, it is important to specifically know who the rapporteurs and co-ordinators in committees are, and to liaise with MEPs and key contacts.

Mr Anno Aedmaa, Administrator, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Summary: Anno Aedmaa spoke about the role of research in the [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](). Energy policy is the most discussed research area at the committee and research plays a large role in legislation development; e.g. roaming at the EU level came through this committee. In terms of understanding the committee it is important to monitor appearances and examine how amendments are tabled and accepted/rejected. Liaise with your MEPs and propose solutions if you wish to make amendments. The EU is required to do large-scale forward planning, so always try to stay ahead and be aware of developments in advance.

Mr Vincent Reillion, Policy Analyst, EPRS

Summary: Vincent Rellion explained the role of the [Members Research Service]() in policy formation, which gives independent advice and answers questions that MEPs may have. The reports of the EPRS are all made available online and can be consulted by the public, and can give indications of longer term planning and developments. E.g. his document entitled [Horizon 2020 budget and implementation]() is available online.

Ms Julia Prikoszovits, Seconded National Expert

Summary: Julia Prikoszovits said the Societal Challenges offer great potential for SSH research and there should be a significant role for SSH within the Societal Challenges model. If SSH researchers are concerned they need to make those concerns heard, and make suggestions regarding the model and structures. It is possible to do so now because the model is new and must be reviewed and

evaluated. It is essential to liaise with Irish MEPs and other MEPs who share your concerns, in advance of reviews and evaluations.

Mr Eamonn Noonan, EPRS

Summary: Eamonn Noonan is based in the Global Trends Unit of the EPRS. This is a unit that concerns itself with foresight research and it identifies, tracks and analyses long- and medium-term global trends which impact the EU. For 2016 and 2017 it will be working on projects related to Societal and Geopolitical issues. An example of this work is the Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU meet the challenges ahead? Following the economic crash this type of foresight management is now necessary, as opposed to management by crisis.

Mr Joe Dunne, Director of the European Parliament Library

Summary: Joe Dunne was the acting Director of the Impact Assessment and European Added Value Unit and is now the Director of the European Parliament Library. He presented an overview of the Impact Assessment section within EPRS. He encouraged academics and researchers to engage with EPRS and the European Parliament Library, and to seek alliances and partnerships. However he was very concerned about the lack of Irish graduates with language skills, in the context of potential employment in Brussels and the EU.

Session Two: MEPs and political staff

Peter McGuigan, Parliamentary Assistant to Marian Harkin, MEP (ALDE, Ireland)

Summary: Peter McGuigan gave advice on the European Parliament committee system and the most effective ways to input into policy formation. He observed that the more active you are, the more influential you are at lobbying. He said it would be wise to focus on committee co-ordinators because they set the pace regarding policy and dictate what will be on the agenda, but it is best to contact and speak to all the MEPs because any MEP can vote or put down an amendment.

Philippe de Backer, MEP, ALDE, Belgium

Summary: Philippe de Backer is on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and said the discussions about STEM versus SSH taking place in HEIs, were also occurring in the European Parliament. He said Societal Challenges are here to stay, but evaluation will be a key element to influence the direction it goes in. Communicating the issues of the SSH community will be very important, especially in the context of the Mid-Term Review of Horizon 2020.

Seán Kelly, MEP, EPP, Ireland

Summary: Seán Kelly said he was aware from researchers of the issues and concerns they had regarding Horizon 2020 and he sits on the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. He is very happy to raise questions for Irish researchers and engage on their behalf. For him there are a number of pressing issues: simplifying the process of getting funding, ensuring researchers get an indicative guide of success in advance of applying, that there is more availability of smaller grants, that researchers are consulted and the issue of repeat success for certain HEIs, to the disadvantage of others is addressed.

He had specific advice on what SSH researchers should do, but said that policy moves slowly and not to get too frustrated. The benefits of research are enormous and research is needed to make good decisions. You must keep repeating your messages, you must build alliances and make noise. There is nothing wrong with engaging and making the case for SSH, so stop being so reserved. You are competing in a crowded and noisy space and you need to make yourself heard. Build your coalition, have your facts to hand in a one page briefing note and state the consequences. Repeat yourself over and over, and be specific.

Paul Rübig, MEP, EPP, Austria

Summary: Paul Rübig is the Chairman of Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel (STOA) and he encouraged **all** academics to get involved in STOA and the Science meets Parliament sessions run by the European Parliament. He also encouraged involvement through the MEP Scientist Pairing Scheme. He said EU scientists must remain internationally excellent, and it was crucial to have solidarity and programmes on the European level to do so.

Kevin Keary, Policy Adviser to Commission for Agriculture & Rural Development, Phil Hogan

Summary: Kevin Keary said there was a great value in building relationships and this should not be underestimated, especially when it comes to working politically at the EU level. He spoke about the experience of working for a Commissioner and how the office operates. He said that the Societal Challenges model has obvious potential and benefits, and gave the example of combining humanities research on why young people do not stay farming, with social science research on demographics, and life sciences research regarding agri-food, and the impact that type of research could have on policy formation to deal with these issues.

Mairead McGuiness, MEP, EPP, Ireland and Vice President of the European Parliament

Summary: Mairead McGuinness said SSH research and politics has much in common: both are about people. She said the pressing political issues facing Europe currently are migration, terrorism and Brexit, all of which require SSH research. In addition she said the EU itself needed SSH research to deal with the extremes that are emerging on both the left and right politically, in order to understand why it was happening, and to propose solutions and to learn from the past. In particular

she said the contentious entanglement of issues surrounding fears of migration, terrorism and religion required humanities research regarding Islam and an understanding of the processes involved in this framing. She said it was very fraught but there needs to be understanding and informed debate.

Session Three: HSS Integration Unit

Dr Philippe Keraudren, Deputy Head of Unit at DG Research and Innovation in Unit B6 ("Reflective Societies")

Summary: Phillippe Keraudren said SSH researchers should not be shy about lobbying, especially given how many others are doing it. His advice was that you need to lobby for your cause, and you need to do it repeatedly and continuously, nationally and in the EU. There are lobbyists from industry, ICT and the NGO sector etc. who are very effective and active, and they are constantly meeting Commission staff and MEPs. You need to be diplomatic and smart and ensure you make a good case, and ask to meet staff and politicians also. However it is important to continue to input into the work programmes for 2018-2020 and be proactive about suggesting new and better topics if you have issues with the current topics. But bear in mind the EAG is only one voice, at one time. You need to organise, to create alliances across the EU and to make your voice heard.

Follow up action points

We will make the report of the stakeholder visit available to all research committees, research officers and academic councils in the IHA HEIs to ensure they are kept fully informed of most recent developments regarding policy and funding opportunities in Horizon 2020.

We will monitor developments relating to the mid-term review of H2020 and respond to them through our EU and Horizon 2020 Working Group. This will happen throughout 2016. Please get in contact if you wish to raise any issues.

We will continue to advance the issues of concern to Humanities academics through the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities, EASSH, which we have recently joined. We have also been elected, with two other groups, to be member representatives of the Group of Higher Education and Research Institutions, Associations and Academies to the Board of Trustees of EASSH. Professor Patrick O'Donovan (UCC) is our representative.

European Commission staff encouraged more HSS academics apply to be evaluators and we will be encouraging this also.

We intend to draft a brief letter that we can ask other EU and national SSH to support and send to the EU Commission, and to do likewise through our HEIs and Irish MEPs.

Biographies of participants in the stakeholder trip to Brussels

Professor Ailbhe Ó Corráin

Ailbhe Ó Corráin is Professor of Irish at Ulster University and Director of the Irish and Celtic Studies Research Institute. He was formerly lecturer in Celtic at the University of Bonn and Head of Celtic Languages and Literature at Uppsala University, Sweden. He was made a Docent of the University of Uppsala in 1992, appointed Visiting Professor at Uppsala in 1997 and was made a Senior Distinguished Researcher at Ulster in 2009. He has published extensively on the syntax and semantics of the Irish language and was commissioned by the Dept. of Education along with two colleagues to write the Northern Ireland Languages Strategy.

He is editor of *Studia Celtica Upsaliensia*, Vice-President of *Societas Celtologica Nordica* and a former president of the European Society for Irish Studies. He has sat on the Management Board of the School of Celtic Studies (DIAS), the Advisory Board of *An Foras Feasa* (NUI Maynooth), the Irish Humanities Alliance, Digital Arts and Humanities Programme (TCD) and the Digital Humanities Observatory (RIA). He is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College (UK) and was formerly on the Advisory Board of the UK Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies.

Dr Allen White

Allen White has worked in UCC since 2006 on successive externally funded research projects (Migrant Children Project and the Transnational Child-raising Arrangements between Africa and Europe [or TCRAf-Eu project]) and as research co-ordinator for the Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st Century (ISS21).

He is currently Research Officer for the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, University College Cork. This role involves assisting researchers develop plans and applications to various calls in Horizon 2020. As part of this role he has worked with National Delegates and National Contact Points to develop channels of communication between SSH researchers and the national research support infrastructures. A key element in this work has been his central involvement in consultations about and feedback on the content of the 2016-17 SC6 (and the other Societal Challenges) Work Programmes. This work involved both the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) and the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP). He is currently one of the Irish Management Committee members of the COST Action TD1408 Interdisciplinarity in research programming and funding cycles (INTREPID)

He has worked as postdoctoral researcher and national co-ordinator of the TCRAf-Eu Transnational Childcare project (2010-2012), involving researchers in the Netherlands (P.I. Valentina Mazzucato), Portugal, Norway, Ireland, Nigeria and Angola funded by a 1.5 million euro grant from NORFACE Transnational Programme on Migration. He played a central role developing and co-ordinating the Irish input into this funding bid. Prior to this (2006-2009) he was was a postdoctoral fellow on Marie

Curie Excellence Grant Project (Title: Migrant Children, funded by Marie Curie Excellence Grant MEXT-CT-2004-014204).

Prior to coming to Cork he worked as a full-time member of lecturing staff in Nottingham Trent University (2001-2006) and the University of Wales in Lampeter (1998-2001).

Dr Aoibhín de Búrca

Aoibhín de Búrca is the Communications Manager for the Irish Humanities Alliance, based in the Royal Irish Academy's Policy and International Relations Department. She is also a Special Adviser (Policy) in that department with responsibility for political outreach.

As the Irish Humanities Alliance's Communications Manager she is responsible for stakeholder management, co-ordination of IHA policy development and advocacy, and managing IHA activities. In addition she is a member of the IHA's EU and Horizon 2020 Group. The IHA has been consulted by Irish National Experts, Delegates and Contact Points in the development of work programmes for Horizon 2020.

She was an Ad Astra Research Scholar in University College Dublin, where she received her PhD in Politics and International Relations. Previous to this she was a news and current affairs researcher and producer with Newstalk Radio. She was also RTÉ's 2011 General Election Monitor and a Research Associate for news and current affairs programming from 2012-2013 before joining the RIA.

Dr Caitriona Curtis

Caitriona Curtis has been the Institute Manager of Trinity College Dublin's research institute for the Arts and Humanities, the Trinity Long Room Hub, since 2012. This institute houses 60 research students and staff including staff partnering in and leading EU funded (both FP7 and H2020 Infrastructures and People) projects: Digital Humanities projects such as CENDARI (2012-16), ECLOUD and PARTHENOS (2016-20); Environmental humanities projects such as EV-IMPACT and Oceans Past Platform; and Marie Curie IRES such as SPECTRESS. She has participated in the preparation of several EU grant applications led by the Institute Director as PI, including MSCA COFUND fellowship applications to build on the institute's current programme, a social platform for reflective societies (SHEPHARD) under Reflective 9 2014, and under Reflective 2 in 2015, a project to explore the emergence and transmission of European cultural heritage (CHIMERAS). She is responsible for the development and delivery of programmes to support the Institute's mission to advance interdisciplinary research led by the Arts and Humanities in addressing society's major challenges, to encourage and support greater engagement by researchers with EU funding programmes, and to enable more effective translation, and co-creation, of new knowledge between the Arts and Humanities and other stakeholders in society.

Professor Daniel Carey

Daniel Carey is Chair of the Irish Humanities Alliance. He is Director of the Moore Institute for the Humanities and Social Studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and Professor of English in the School of Humanities. He was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2014. He has been the lead scientist for three EU-funded projects (MSCIF): 'Networks of Trade and Religion in Richard Hakluyt's Principal Navigations' (2014-16); 'Info-Craving in the European Enlightenment' (2013-15); 'Asian Revolutions in European Discourse, 1644-1800' (2005-7). He is author and editor of six books on the history of travel, intellectual history, the history of economic thought, postcolonialism, and English literature. He has received grants from the Mellon Foundation, the Irish Research Council, the British Academy, and the AHRC, and has mentored 10 postdoctoral fellows. He has been a *professeur invité* at Paris-Diderot and a visiting fellow at Columbia, Oxford, and Glasgow.

Professor Diane Negra

With research expertise concentrating in media studies, gender studies and Irish Studies, Professor Diane Negra is the author, editor or co-editor of ten books including the forthcoming *The Aesthetics and Affects of Cuteness* (with Joyce Goggin, Joshua Dale, Julia Leyda and Anthony McIntyre, Routledge, 2017). In addition to serving as Head of Subject in Film Studies at UCD, she is Co-Editor of the journal *Television and New Media* in which capacity she is well placed to observe disciplinary developments in media studies. Professor Negra has a twenty-year track record of seeing funded research through to completion, organizing conferences and symposia and supervising doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars. A former Fulbright Scholar, she has undertaken significant global leadership roles in the profession as a member of the Boards of Directors for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies and the Console-ing Passions Conference on Television, New Media and Feminism, and as a Commissioner on the UK Commission on Gender Inequality. She is thus plugged into a broad range of national and international discussions about how best to place and promote humanities research in the twenty-first century university.

Dr Inmaculada Higueras

Inmaculada Higueras is the EU research development manager for Humanities and Social Sciences at Queen's University Belfast, and Northern Ireland H2020 Contact Point for the area. She has more than 10 years involvement in Framework programmes, first as a researcher, then as an innovation and research development manager in the areas of interactive media, ICT, Tourism, e-administration, innovation and transfer of technology. She has worked in academic environments and private companies in Finland, Spain and the UK and has developed expertise in the planning and management of large research and innovation

projects particularly for the public sector with a strong applied ICT focus. She also acquired expertise on the most recent EU regional policy as a result of her strong involvement in the development of the Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3), closely working with the JRC Institute for Prospective Technological Studies.

In her current role, she is raising awareness of the opportunities for researchers across H2020 in the Humanities and Social Sciences. She identifies the most suitable funding schemes for the candidates, supports consortium creation and development of the application since idea outlining until the final submission and provides full support to academics so that they can make the most of the competitive European funding available for their projects.

Professor Juergen Barkhoff

Juergen Barkhoff is Professor in German at the Department of Germanic Studies and Head of School of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. He is also Vice-Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group of European Universities. His main research area is questions of identity in the German speaking world and Europe as reflected in literature and culture. From 2002-2005 he was Director of the Centre for European Studies, from 2007-2011 Registrar of the University, from 2006-2011 Chair of the Culture, Arts and Humanities Task Force of the Coimbra Group. From 2012-2015 he was Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute. In that capacity, within the Coimbra Group, as a Board member of the Irish Humanities Alliance and as Chair of its Horizon 2020 Working Group he has been involved in commenting on European research funding and policies especially in relation to SSH. Over the last three years he was coordinator and lead applicant of five Horizon 2020 applications.

Dr Máire Leane

Máire Leane (PhD) is Vice- Head (Research) of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences

at University College Cork. In this role she leads the development and delivery of research strategy and operational plans to support the consolidation and development of research activity among staff within the college. She combines this role with her academic work in the area of Social Policy. Her research explores how policy and legislation impact on peoples' lives with particular reference to the spheres of sexuality, feminism, gender and disability.

Máire has been involved in the following EU funded activities:

EU - FP7 Science in Society Strand (2009 – 2011) - Project Title: European Patient Organisations in a Knowledge Society (EPOKS). The project explored the knowledge related activities of patient

organisations in four condition areas namely, Alzheimer disease, maternity services, ADHD and orphan diseases. Irish, French, Portuguese and UK partners were involved.

European Science Foundation (ESF) Exploratory Workshop (2010/11) - Assisted Reproduction and Changing European Family Structures: Current and Future Challenges. This workshop considered how developments in reproductive technology influence the creation of new forms of parenthood, family life and legal status and explored how these issues were being addressed in 9 EU countries.

Dr Marc Caball

Marc Caball is a Senior Lecturer in University College Dublin (UCD) School of History. He is an early modern historian and has published widely in the area of cultural history. A former research scholar of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, he holds a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. From 2001 to 2005, he was Director of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) during which time he was involved in the establishment of NORFACE and HERA. He was the Principal Investigator on the IRCHSS and Department of the Taoiseach-funded major research project 'Protestants, print and Gaelic culture in Ireland, 1567-1722' and was a recipient of an IRCHSS New Ideas Award for a research project entitled 'Book history, print and design: a knowledge transfer workshop' and an Irish Research Council New Foundations award for a 'Dublin Book History App'. With Professor Clare Carroll (CUNY), he was co-director of the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded Summer Institute 'Researching early modern manuscripts and printed books' (New York, 2013). Marc Caball was Chairman of COST Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH) Domain Committee from 2008 to 2014. With colleagues in COST, he directed a strategic initiative in relation to Open Access and its policy implications for researchers. He has also served as an evaluator for FP6; Marie Curie Fellowship awards and the European Science Foundation.

Ms Martha Shaughnessy

Martha Shaughnessy has fourteen years' experience as Development Manager at the Moore Institute in National University of Ireland, Galway where she provides strategic leadership advice to the academic community in the area of Humanities Research. She has many years of experience in research funding and management to include FP6, FP7 and H2020.

Martha is responsible for the Hardiman Research Building at NUI Galway (funded by the Higher Education Authority) which hosts postgraduate students within the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies and the College of Business Public Policy & Law. The Hardiman Research Building is a new and unique international and national resource that integrates research and training in the Humanities, Digital Cultures, Creative Industries, Business, Social Sciences, Rights, Advocacy, and Public Policy.

Martha has played a leadership role in numerous developments in fourth-level education, including the implementation of two natiaonal structured PhD programmes 'Texts, Contexts, Cultures' and Digital Arts and Humanities, and the setting up of the Irish Humanities Alliance.

Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan

Marie-Louise Coolahan is a Professor of English at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She is currently Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded project, RECIRC: The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern Women's Writing, 1550-1700 (July 2014-June 2019). With supplementary funding from the Irish Research Council and NUIG, the RECIRC team now comprises 7 postdoctoral researchers and 2 PhD students, as well as the PI. She is Co-Investigator on the Leverhulme-funded project, 'Women's Poetry 1400-1800 in English, Gaelic, Scots, Scots Gaelic and Welsh' (with colleagues at the University of Aberystwyth, Wales, and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 2013-2016). She was Secretary (Management Committee), and Leader, Working Group 2 (Tools and Interconnectivity), for the collaborative European research network, 'Women Writers in History: Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture', funded by COST, 2009-2013. She is the author of *Women, Writing, and Language in Early Modern Ireland* (Oxford University Press, 2010), 14 published and 4 forthcoming peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, as well as various digital publications. She is currently co-editing two special issues of the peer-reviewed journal *Women's Writing*. She is on the steering committee of the Irish Renaissance Seminar, and currently serving on evaluation panels for the COST Association and HERA.

Dr Noel Fitzpatrick

Noel Fitzpatrick (doc ès lettres, Paris VII) is the Head of Research for the College of Arts and Tourism at the Dublin Institute of Technology and the Dean of the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media. Noel gives seminars on phenomenology, hermeneutics, philosophy and technology at the Graduate School. He is a leading member of the European Artistic Research Network, SHARE and European Society of Aesthetics. He is regularly invited to speak and host seminars internationally and is visiting lecturer at ZKM Karlshue, Germany, Saint Lucas University, Antwerp, Belgium, Valaand Academy, University of Goteborg, Sweden. Noel is a member of Ars Industrialis, (Founded by Bernard Stiegler) and represents the DIT on the Digital Studies Network at the l'institut de recherche et innovation (IRI) at the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

Noel managed a translational research project 'Comenius2.0' (2009-2011) with the National Digital Research Centre (www.NDRC.ie), this project won the European Language Technology award in 2012. He has also been successful in obtaining funding for 5 doctoral and 2 post doctoral researchers through the Irish Research Council and through internal Dublin Institute of Technology.

His research interests are: Hermeneutics, Philosophy of Technology, Aesthetics, Digital Humanities, Practice Based Research, Artistic Research, Technology enhanced Learning.

Professor Sean Ryder

Sean Ryder is Professor of English at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has published chiefly in the area of nineteenth-century literary and cultural studies. He is a member of the Irish Research Council, and currently chairperson of HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area), a consortium of 24 humanities-funding national research agencies. He is also an expert delegate to the Programme Committee for Societal Challenge 6 in Horizon 2020.

Dr Valerie Heffernan

Valerie Heffernan is Head of German at Maynooth University. She graduated with a Masters in German from University College Dublin in 1995. After two years of research in at the Université de Lausanne (Switzerland) and the Humboldt-Universität Berlin (Germany), she returned to Ireland to complete her PhD in German in 2004. She has been working for the School of Modern Languages, Literatures & Cultures at Maynooth University since 2004 and has been Head of German since 2012. Her research interests encompass 20th and 21st century German-language literature, feminist literary theory and cultural studies. Recent research projects concentrate on contemporary literature, with a particular focus the representation of motherhood in contemporary European literature and culture; she was awarded funding from the Irish Research Council in 2014-15 for a project in this area. She is also developing a new project on the representation of Alzheimer's and dementia in contemporary European literature and film.

Valerie Heffernan has been a member of the Experts Panel for the evaluation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships since 2011, and she has been Vice-Chair for the evaluation since 2013.