

IHA welcomes the announcement of additional funding to the Irish Research Council

29 January 2021

Irish Humanities Alliance



Irish Humanities Alliance welcomes the announcement of additional funding to the Irish Research Council to benefit its early-career researchers

As an all-island body representing the humanities research community across the island of Ireland, the Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) [welcomes the announcement today](#) (29 January 2021) of an increase in the value of the Irish Research Council research scholarships and fellowships. We believe that the announced increase of funding, worth €3.2 million to the Council, represents a vital endorsement of the value of research across the spectrum of disciplines, including the Humanities. The principle of parity of esteem reinforced by this funding decision is crucial. These are key commitments in the [IHA's strategic objectives](#) and we therefore congratulate the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, on this important announcement.

Since its establishment in 2013, [the IHA](#) has been working to generate public awareness of the importance of humanities research and teaching within higher education and wider society. The funding landscape for the arts and humanities in Ireland has proved challenging, especially in terms of supporting early- and mid- career researchers. In pursuit of these objectives the IHA continues to work closely with the Irish Research Council, the main funding body for the humanities research community in Ireland.

The IHA's Chair, Dr Niamh NicGhabhann, stated that 'In a funding landscape that has been challenging for our disciplines, the Irish Research Council has played a key role in furthering the cause of humanities scholarship in Ireland. This is evidenced by its mission statement "to enable and sustain a vibrant research community in Ireland by supporting excellent researchers across all disciplines and career stages". We see the Irish Research Council as vitally important in the promotion and development of Irish humanities scholarship, nationally and internationally, and welcome today's announcement. Today's announcement is excellent news for our postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers in the humanities'.

The IHA sees today's announcement of increased funding for the Irish Research Council as an investment in the future of Irish research excellence and as a means of ensuring greater equity across the Irish research co-system. We would urge the Council to consolidate funding of humanities research in Ireland and that steps now be taken to ensure there is adequate support for those scholars at the mid-career stage.

Further information

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