CAROLINE: Collaborative Research Fellowships for a Responsive and Innovative Europe
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Exploring Reputational Battles between Controllers of Government and Government: a Comparative Analysis of Ombudsmen, Audit Offices, and Data and Information Commissioners in Ireland, Uruguay, Jamaica and Costa Rica

REA Site Visit 28th May 2018, Irish Research Council, Dublin

Background - education

- *Background*: Political Science
  Specialisation: Public administration, regulation, integrity policies.

- Came to **UCD** (for CAROLINE MSCA) from **LSE**   2017

- PhD in Political Science, **LSE**   2016
- MRes in Political Science, **LSE**   2011
- MSc Public Policy & Administration, **LSE**   2010
- BA in Political Science, **University of Belgrade**   2009

* Nationality: Serbian

Teaching experience

Undergraduate

LSE, *Politics of Economic Policy*	2013-14; 2014-15
UCL, *Introduction to Public Policy and Engineering*	2016-17

Postgraduate

UCL, *Public Management: Theories & Innovations*	2016-17
UCL, *Agenda Setting and Public Policy*	2016-17

Commercial & executive programmes, summer-schools

LSE Summer School*, Capitalism, Democracy and Inequality*	2014, 2015
LSE ITAM Programme, *World Trade and WTO*	2014, 2015, 2016
LSE Basque Programme, *Internationalisation of Public Policy*	2014, 2015, 201

Training to Serbian civil servants

Policy process and policy cycle (by US National Democratic Institute)	2013

About the project

- Looks at the interplay between oversight bodies (ombudsmen, information and data commissioners, state audit offices) and government

- What are the patterns in this interplay? Do the two sides (govt. controllers vs govt) rely on statutory tools in their work or they deploy reputational strategies as well?

- Can govt. controllers advance horizontal accountability (of the government) through crafty reputational management? Can governments 'bend' the conduct of oversight bodies?

- 4 countries: Ireland, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Jamaica (all under 5m population)

  Comparative strategy:
  - Developed (Ireland, Uruguay) vs developing (Costa Rica, Jamaica)
  - Presidential (Uruguay, Costa Rica) vs parliamentarian democracies (Ireland, Jamaica)

- Advanced statistical methods used to find the patterns

- Impact: contribution towards the 16th SDG 'Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions'

- Academic contribution: theories of democratic control; theories of bureaucratic autonomy and bureaucratic responsiveness; study of public sector oversight.

Home host organisation

Host organisation - **UCD, Sutherland School of Law**

- Excellent mentor (Professor Colin Scott), a leading scholar in the field.

- Interdisciplinary opportunities (law and socio-legal studies, plus other fields)

- Interdepartmental collaboration (School of Politics and International Relations); Research centres (Centre for Ethics in Public Life; Centre for Latin America & Caribbean)

- Outstanding skill development programme
  - Research and methodology software (UCD Library Training)
  - Quantitative methods (taught courses; training workshops)
  - Writing & publishing support

- Career planning support – UCD Research Careers

- International environment

- Excellent campus facilities

- Alumni networks

Main partner organization – Transparency International Ireland

- A leading think-tank, internationally recognised;

- Specialised in the area of anticorruption, including public sector oversight;

- In-house expertise;

- Excellent understanding of the Irish context related to my area of research;

- Have chapters all over the world (helpful for fieldwork in the Americas & Caribbean);

- Ongoing projects – learning opportunities;

- Supportive environment.

Progress to date

- Desktop research
  - Developed theoretical and conceptual framework
- Empirical research
  - Ireland (desktop research; interviews with senior civil servants)
  - Jamaica (desktop research; 11 interviews in Jamaica)
- Presentations
  - Conference paper: ECPR Joint Sessions (Nicosia, 2018);
  - Workshop presentation: UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life, 2018;
  - Workshop presentation: Oversight of the Public Sector (presented to the Irish Ombudsman and Head of Lobbying and Ethics Regulation), UCD 2018.

- UCD events and engagement
  - Attended nearly 20 public seminars and lectures, at the School and beyond;
  - Audited a master course on EU Law and Regulation;
  - Liaised with colleagues from the School of Law, School of Politics and International Relations, Geary Institute for Public Policy, and other schools; a forthcoming collaborative paper with a colleague from the School of Law, at a major international conference (ECPR Reg Gov, Lausanne 2018)
  - Liaised with a number of Irish policy makers, scholars, NGO actors.
- Publications:
  - Book for *Palgrave McMillan* (based on my doctoral thesis; forthcoming 2018)
  - Journal article for *Public Administration* (forthcoming, available in Early View)

Training experience to date

Research methodology
- Course (for PhD students) *Quantitative Methods 1* (co-run by TCD & UCD)
- Course (for PhD students) Advanced *Quantitative Methods 2* (co-run by TCD & UCD)
- 3 Day course on quantitative methods and quantitative analysis (UCD, Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research)

Project management skills
- Project management workshop (4 days, certified based on assessment)

Language
- Spanish A1+A2 (Cervantes Institute)

Publishing
- Writing strategies and getting published (3 days of workshop)

Secondment at Transparency International Ireland
- Familiarised with their projects
- Learned about how they prepare public communication on major projects
- Introduction to Irish integrity system

Expected career impact of the fellowship

Increased skill set

- Quantitative skills

- Project management skills

- Spoken languages

Expanded networks

- Academic networks (at UCD and beyond)

- Policy networks (among analysed institutions and beyond)

- Within the Irish private sector (UCD Research Careers Orientation/Fair)

- Developed networks among developing countries (the Americas & Carribean)

- Contact with staff from international organisations working on developing projects

Publications

- Stronger publication record (2-3 papers in leading journals + a book, from the CAROLINE project)

- 'Tangential' publications, related but not central to the CAROLINE project (2 to 3 journal journal articles)