

Irish Research Council Collaborative Research Fellowships for a Responsive and Innovative Europe "CAROLINE" - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND fellowships*

Call 2 awardees (2018)

Researcher	Home host organisation	Main partner organisation	Project title	Abstract
Abdul-Wadood Moomen	University College Dublin	United Nations Environment Programme	Development of Time-Robust Geospatial Information for enhancing Sustainable Mining in Northwest Ghana	<p>Mineral resource-rich developing countries, who are challenged with growing populations and food security issues, look towards the mining sector for economic diversification. However, decisions about mineral resource development are often made in these countries without understanding the environmental and social realities on the ground. This project aims to develop local-level geographical information and models for enhancing sustainable mineral resource development, to empower local communities and local governments. Regulatory acts and standard practices are used to supervise activities of the mining industry, agriculture, urban growth and other land-uses. Nonetheless, the applicability of these measures is weak in developing countries due to a dearth of geographic information, especially at the local level. This prevents identification of potential threats posed by mining to sources of livelihood, such as farmlands, in remote areas. Without local data, it is difficult to develop comprehensive mediation tools for environmentally and socially responsible mining. Hence, this study shall use a systems engineering approach; which involves environmental, economic and social analysis to develop five major land-use categories based on physical and socioeconomic factors. The project focuses on the emerging northwest gold province of Ghana, where little geographic information is available and mining is a new land-use activity, to develop basic geographic data for sustainable mining. The findings will aid local government and policymakers with regards to generating relevant information for natural resource management and provide evidence-based resource development constraints and opportunities in the landscape. It will include testing of the MapX platform for data management, visualization and communication to stakeholders. This will subsequently provide opportunity for integrated planning at the district and community levels. The project will also contribute to the relevance of Goals 6, 11 and 15 of the global sustainable development goals under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for shared economic prosperity, social development, and environmental protection.</p>

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Alberto Arribas Lozano	Maynooth University	PROYECTO ANDINO DE TECNOLOGÍAS CAMPESINAS - PRATEC	Emerging pedagogies for 'Buen Vivir': environmental sustainability, bio-cultural diversity and intercultural higher education institutions in the Andean region	<p>Education is a key tool to achieve and promote "sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity" (Sustainable Development Goals, Target 4.7).</p> <p>This project will explore the innovative ways in which the Buen Vivir ('good living') paradigm is being integrated into teaching, learning and research processes in Intercultural Higher Education Institutions across the Andean region.</p> <p>Buen Vivir is based on notions of reciprocity, complementarity, and harmony between human beings and nature. It is linked to multiple dimensions of social life: protection of bio-diversity and natural resources, sustainable production and consumption, local governance and democracy, and cultural diversity and intercultural education, operating as a key framework to help us imagine and create sustainable and inclusive futures. How is Buen Vivir translated into pedagogical approaches, curricula, teaching materials, forms of assessment and research methodologies? What models are being put into practice, and what possibilities, challenges and limitations do they face?</p> <p>The project will be based at the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University; with a secondment at the Development NGO 'Andean Project for Peasant Technologies' (PRATEC), in Peru; and shorter research trips to selected organizations in Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador.</p> <p>In order to achieve and expand its impact, the project will produce and disseminate multiple outcomes: academic articles, educational resources, social media profiles, short videos about the different organizations participating in the research, best practice reports, etc., engaging both the scientific community and non-academic publics, and formulating recommendations for policy and action.</p>

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CAROLINE OCHIENG	National University of Ireland, Galway	The World Bank	A grounded theory analysis of the drivers of adoption of clean cooking technologies in Low and Middle Income Countries	<p>For three billion people in the world mostly in the low and middle income countries (LMICs), biomass in the form of charcoal, firewood, dung and crop residues is the main source of fuel for cooking and heating. These fuels are typically burnt in open fires or simple traditional stoves that do not provide optimum conditions for burning. As a result, large quantities of products of incomplete combustion comprising of health damaging pollutants are emitted as smoke, leading to 4 million deaths a year according to the WHO. Reliance on biomass fuel has impacts beyond health and include climate, deforestation and vegetation loss during fuel harvesting, and loss of time and hardships for women and girls who gather the fuels. The need for access to clean household energy has been recognized in the SDGs, specifically in SDG 7 which has set a target for ensuring universal access to clean household energy by 2030. The SDGs have also highlighted how access to clean energy is crucial for achieving almost all of the other SDGs.</p> <p>Intervention measures to date have focused on dissemination of clean cookstoves that are designed to maximize combustion efficiency, leading to lower emission of pollutants and fuel use. However, the cookstove programmes have been characterised by low adoption rates and unsustainable use, and many have failed to achieve their intended benefits. In spite of these findings, there is an increasing push for clean cookstoves, and major organizations such as the UN and the World Bank have ambitious goals and targets on getting clean cookstoves to households in LMICs. This research is aimed at understanding why these past interventions have failed by using rigorous social science research procedures that allows for deeper engagement with the cookstove beneficiaries. The research will inform policy and programs that disseminate clean cookstoves globally.</p>

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Cathriona Kearns	University College Dublin	Cancer Trials Ireland	TACTIC - Tailoring the Communication of risk To Individual breast Cancer patients	<p>Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in the world and the most frequent cancer among women, with an estimated 1.67 million new cases diagnosed in 2012. The majority of newly diagnosed breast cancers are early stage. These patients usually undergo surgery to remove the tumour, followed by chemotherapy to remove any remaining tumours cells in their system to prevent recurrence of the disease. It is estimated that 30% of women with early stage disease will develop a recurrence after surgery, meaning 70% of women with early stage breast cancer do not need chemotherapy, and only a minority will benefit from this treatment. Due to difficulties in differentiating between those whose disease will or will not recur, the majority of early stage breast cancer patients are treated with chemotherapy, despite many not benefiting from such treatment, thereby exposing these individuals to severe side effects. This decision can affect quality of life, increase risk of death due to the treatment and increase risk of future cancer.</p> <p>Molecular prognostic tests, such as OncoMasTR (from OncoMark), classify early stage breast cancer patients as having a low or high risk of recurrence. While these tests can help inform treatment recommendations, a key challenge for both oncologists and patients is interpreting and communicating the results. There is a need to make the communication of diagnostic tests more understandable to reduce patient anxiety and fear of recurrence. This project aims to develop a tool to improve and tailor the communication of these test results to ensure they are understood and interpreted correctly. This will benefit patients by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing premature morbidity by preventing needless chemotherapy 2. Promoting mental well-being of patients as their risk of recurrence is understood and they are confident and comfortable with their treatment decisions.

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Christopher O'Connell	Dublin City University	Anti-Slavery International	Contemporary slavery in an Era of Climate Change: State and Civil Society Responses in the Andean Region	Recent statistics from the ILO indicate that over 40 million people worldwide are subject to contemporary slavery. However, efforts to address contemporary slavery have been criticised for treating it as a stand-alone issue, largely unrelated to the prevailing economic model. This project examines the effect of climate change on contemporary slavery. The ILO has noted that climate change is driving volatility, thus escalating migration, poverty and landlessness – all acknowledged as conditions that contribute to contemporary slavery. In his 2015 Encyclical on the Environment, Pope Francis called for a joint approach to tackling climate change and contemporary slavery. In spite of such calls, research on the relationship between contemporary slavery and climate change is scarce. Meanwhile, high-profile anti-slavery and climate change campaigners like Professor Kevin Bales, treat climate change as an effect of contemporary slavery, failing to analyse the effect of economic models. This research project will address this shortfall by collecting data from two countries affected by both climate change and contemporary slavery: Peru and Bolivia. In particular, it seeks to answer the question of the importance of the state and civil society in articulating responses to these complex issues. These countries share common features, but differ in terms of economic model. This project will examine responses to these issues at state and civil society levels; will assess their effectiveness; and analyse the degree to which approaches to contemporary slavery are connected to the wider issue of climate change. This research will make an original and important contribution to the understanding of the complex and multi-faceted phenomena of climate change and contemporary slavery, and advance knowledge of their intersectionality which will aid NGO's, policymakers and researchers.

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David Horan	University College Dublin	SDSN Association	Data and Governance Framework for Achieving Environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>In broad terms, the project has the potential to contribute to a priority area for global, EU and national public policy, that of achieving the SDG goals. It will focus on one important element of those goals, its environmental targets, and assist government in developing a road-map for achieving those targets. As a signatory to Agenda 2030, Ireland has specific commitments under the terms of the resolution. Of the 169 targets, 62 are in the environmental area meaning achieving environmental targets in the future will go a significant way towards achieving the goals set out in Agenda 2030.</p> <p>This project will provide a governance, reporting and data needs framework for transitioning Ireland towards achieving environmental targets for the SDGs. It will focus on the environmental data and public governance approach required to deliver the environmental SDGs. This will represent the first such attempt in Ireland and will establish an important benchmark for understanding future SDG requirements in the environmental area.</p> <p>The project will synthesize fine grained environmental data from a variety of sources on the UN SDG indicator set. A selection of the 232 indicators will be made for data collection and to identify crucial data gaps for indicators that 1) have a primary or secondary link to the environment, and 2) are particularly significant to Ireland. The project will construct a national environmental SDG index in line with international best practice to assess Ireland's status on the environmental SDGs and identify priority areas for environmental policy.</p> <p>Although the potential benefits of multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) are well documented, evidence on their effectiveness is mixed. The project will review relevant literature and interview policy makers and stakeholders with experience in MSPs to deliver practical recommendations on factors shaping their effective design and ways for incorporating them in Irish environmental policy structures.</p>

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Esther Hennchen	University College Dublin	International Labor Organisation	Whose responsibility is it, anyway? From organized irresponsibility to shared responsibility in global supply chains	<p>Whose responsibility is it, anyway? A building collapses in a developing country and thousands of workers die who are producing clothes for Western consumers under appalling conditions. Is it local factory owners breaking national laws, local governments failing to enforce these laws, multinational buyers squeezing suppliers, international organizations failing to intervene or consumers demanding ever cheaper prices and fast fashion?</p> <p>The question of responsibility attribution is particularly intriguing for complex and interrelated social challenges such as decent working conditions due to their systemic and interrelated nature. These 'wicked problems' are caused by a network of actors who contribute to, enforce, or mitigate harm through their actions and interactions. Consequently, identifying cause(s) and actor(s) becomes difficult due to the intractable patterns of cause-and-effect relationships. While academics and policy makers praise inclusive collaboration and shared problem-solving within multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) as the panacea for solving these problems, these initiatives suffer from a limited stakeholder view and it is unclear how responsibilities can be shared and managed among MSI partners.</p> <p>This research project is set up as a research collaboration with the University College Dublin and the Better Work Program of the International Labor Organization and the International Finance Corporation. The primary goal of this research project is to provide a comprehensive conceptual framework for better understanding shared responsibilities within MSI and its implications for society at large. Notably, it takes the first empirical steps in the fields of Supply Chain Management and Corporate Social Responsibility to provide concrete recommendations and management information about innovation for multi-stakeholder partnerships in times of persistent social challenges in global supply chains. This research project is also crucial for translating the UN agenda, EU policies and MSI efforts such as BW into meaningful action and scale their impact in and beyond the garment sector.</p>

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Greg Beechinor	University College Cork	CAWST	Improving access to safe and sustainable drinking water through the use of biosand filters in developing countries	<p>Water is vital for human health and economic development, however access to safe drinking water remains a major global challenge because 1 in 10 people still remain without access to a safe drinking water supply and have to resort to drinking untreated water from rivers or lakes. This leaves millions of people vulnerable to contracting a water related disease which could potentially be fatal. This proposed research will look at biosand filters, which are small-scale sand filters, that enable households to treat their drinking water in their own homes. Biosand filters are one of the most effective domestic drinking water treatment methods for regions that remain without access to safe piped water supply. More than 600,000 biosand filters are in use globally; however it is unknown whether these biosand filters are being used correctly, consistently and continually in the long-term. This proposed research will assess filter efficiency (determined by analysing the feed and filtered water using microbiological indicators and physico-chemical characteristics) and the links between filter performance, filter use, the nature of the biological community structure on the filter surface and the sand characteristics. Important outcomes of the proposed research project will be identification of the challenges faced by filter users and recommendations on how to achieve the sustained long-term use of the filters to protect the health of household members.</p> <p>In 2015, the United Nations agreed the Sustainable Development Goals which build on the Millennium Development Goals. Target 6.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to achieve “universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” by 2030 and this proposed research will make a real contribution to achieving this target. It will also help low-income countries to break the faecal-oral disease cycle and achieve safe drinking water for all.</p>
Javier Caballero Villalobos	Teagasc	Animal Health Ireland	The impact of bovine-specific Staphylococcus aureus genetic variability on mastitis control and milk processing	<p>Mastitis is a disease that represents an indicator of the udder health status. In domestic animals worldwide this intramammary infection is mainly caused by the bacteria Staphylococcus aureus, and has great impact on animal welfare and production. Mastitis caused by S. aureus can lead to massive economic losses in the dairy sector, due to the decrease of milk production, a worsening of milk sanitary conditions and the cost of prevention and control protocols. In addition, antimicrobial treatment not only involves a cost, but also an important issue for public health and an evident concern for consumers. We believe that different varieties of Staphylococcus aureus can affect milk production in multiple ways, having also a great effect on the success of treatment protocols. Thus, we propose a deeper study of genetic variability of this bacteria in order to establish its influence on milk production and processing, and to improve knowledge that will lead to tailored therapeutic protocols to control mastitis.</p>

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João Frias	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group	Managing for microplastics: a baseline to inform policy stakeholders (IMP.act)	<p>Human-made marine litter, a novel emergent pollutant with global distribution, and has been recognised as a global problem by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and by the G7 Leaders Summit, for its effects on "marine and coastal life, ecosystems and potentially human health". Its persistence in the marine environment is a major cause for concern and despite recent efforts to map and estimate amounts; there is still a considerable lack of knowledge on its sources, distribution and effects on ecological functioning.</p> <p>This project, managing for MicroPlastics: A baseline to inform poliCy sTakeholders (IMP.act), intends to use a reference coastal site as a case study, in order to develop a long term management plan, which can establish a working framework for managing microplastics pollution. The research will involve a ecosystem-based targeted survey in Galway Bay and environs, on the West of Ireland. Sampling will focus on microplastics in several habitats including the benthos (intertidal and subtidal) and a variety of marine fauna from different marine habitats. Sources of microplastics will be identified through monitoring several of the major inputs from both outside and within the Bay itself including the River Corrib. Through developing a model of the ecosystem, containing both the new field data and previously collected data the hotspots of accumulation and distribution patterns of microplastics will be assessed.</p> <p>The resulting model can be used as a management tool to inform both managers and policy makers of its potential to not only identify high risk inputs but also to identify areas where a reduction of input can work towards mitigating and minimising the impacts of microplastics in this area. This baseline data will directly contribute to the 10th descriptor of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/CE) and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14: Life Below Water.</p>

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John Devaney	Trinity College Dublin	Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice	Future Mangroves; effects of climate change on mangrove forests in semi-arid regions and consequences for coastal communities	Mangroves are trees or shrubs that grow in coastal seawaters in tropical, sub-tropical, and semi-arid areas. These mangrove forests provide multiple benefits to coastal communities, including storm protection, supply of building material, and creating habitat for fish. Globally, coastal mangrove forests have declined by 30-50% in the past 50 years due to widespread destruction from development, shrimp farming, and over-harvesting. Climate change is further changing these forests, including causing the expansion of tropical mangroves into temperate regions due to rising temperatures. Mangroves also occur along semi-arid coastlines, yet we know very little about how climate change might impact their growth in these regions. Increased CO2 in the atmosphere may make semi-arid mangrove forests more resilient to climate change by increasing the efficiency with which they exchange water for carbon. Semi-arid mangroves forests occur in regions particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, including member states of the Climate Vulnerable Forum such as Senegal, Kenya, and Madagascar. Knowing how climate change will affect future mangroves forests is key to ensuring successful community-led sustainable development projects such as reforestation. The aim of this study is to assess the effects of elevated atmospheric CO2 on mangrove forests and the consequences for coastal communities in semi-arid regions. Using an interdisciplinary approach involving experimental plant science and field-based community case studies, the "Future Mangroves" project will encompass multiple themes of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, including the Climate Action, Life on Land, Gender Equality, and No Poverty sustainable development goals. Working with TCD and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, this project will combine experimental and humanitarian approaches to ensure that future sustainable development activities are underpinned by scientific evidence.

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Keshav Parajuly	University of Limerick	United Nations University - Vice Rectorate in Europe, Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme	Behavioral Change for the Circular Economy (BC4CE)	<p>Circular economy (CE) is a concept that aims at slowing down the consumption rate of resources by circulating them in the society for the longest time possible (e.g. by reuse and recycling). CE is considered essential to address challenges in sustainable supply of resources for growing demands of electrical and electronic products (e-products) and in managing the resulting end-of-life (EoL) e-products (known as e-waste). E-waste is not only the fastest-growing solid waste stream globally, but also a complex mixture of valuable resources and hazardous substances that demands careful handling. Despite available technologies, infrastructure, and policies, the performance of existing e-waste management systems is not satisfactory, and far from being circular.</p> <p>CE is an integrated system of stakeholders including manufacturers, users, and waste managers. While many stakeholders are driven by monetary rewards or legislative requirements, certain transactions solely rely on users' behavior (e.g. repairing instead of replacing, recycling instead of storing or wrongly discarding). Such behaviors have considerable impact on the performance of EoL collection and recycling. Although the techno-economic aspects of EoL management have advanced, social and behavioral dimensions that define the success of a circular system remain to be understood.</p> <p>In this context, the proposed research will investigate the rationale behind users' actions and the significance of user behaviors in product lifecycle and e-waste management and explore possibilities of matching and influencing user behaviors through interventions. This will be undertaken by interpreting user actions through the prism of behavioral science to design behavioral 'nudges'. Such insights can help businesses in designing products and services to achieve optimal economic and environmental performance. EoL managers (e-waste collectors and recyclers) can benefit from utilizing this knowledge in adopting strategies to match user behaviors. The research outcomes will also support authorities in implementing behaviorally informed policies in order to achieve the desired results.</p>

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Mairead Foody	Dublin City University	Friends International Center against Bullying	SEXED: Investigating online SEXual harassment and Exploitation in relation to the UN Sustainable Developmental goals	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) relate specifically to the reduction in violence against, and exploitation of, children and teenagers (SDG.16.2). Dangers in digital and online environments fall within this remit and as such, this project is particularly concerned with the prevalence and impact of online sexual harassment and exploitation of teenagers. While previous research in the area of cyberbullying (or online harassment) has highlighted important issues for prevention (e.g., the need for friendships and strong social networks), there is little evidence available on the specific risk factors of online sexual harassment or exploitation. Such negative experiences are far reaching and some examples of what they entail include unwillingly receiving images of a sexual nature or having personal images shared online without one's consent. Research is also limited on the role of gender in these experiences and in the effect they can have on a victim's mental health. As such, the current project aims to conduct a large-scale cross-sectional study of the prevalence of online sexual harassment and exploitation in teenagers in Sweden and Ireland, with particular attention to gender and psychological outcome. This data will be collected with the help of a Swedish NGO called Friends International Center Against Bullying (FICAB). Findings will be used to inform policy solutions and recommendations with support from the United Nations specialized agency for information and communications technologies (ITU). The current work plan and research objectives falls under the umbrella of the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the United Nations Agenda 2030. Academics and NGOs working with victims of sexual harassment and exploitation will benefit significantly from the results and recommendations of this project
Nan Yu	University College Dublin	CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research	Ultra-precision machining and measurement for freeform Intraocular Lenses	Freeform Intraocular Lens (IOL) manufacture will be the next generation of eye replacement lens technology that will significantly improving vision by fully correcting spherical aberration. This study focuses on the fundamental research of the IOL manufacturing processes and measurement technologies. An ultra-precision machining method will be investigated to realise the complex customised surfaces. This work will be mainly carried out in the applicant's host organization, University College Dublin (UCD). The novel measurement method combining an interferometer and tactile probes will be developed at CERN, the main partner organisation. Finally, an optimised process chain, including a novel measurement technology, will be created. The accuracy of the surface shape and roughness will be on the nanometre scale – as small as a few atoms. Achieving these proposed research goals will allow the rapid growth of the premium IOLs market, which will be worth US \$ 4.7 billion by 2020 and will result in the improved quality of vision for all people.

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Nicholas Wasonga Orago	University College Cork	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Linking natural hazard vulnerabilities and poor sustainable development outcomes: A comprehensive analysis of disaster risk reduction legal frameworks and practices in Africa and their impact on the realisation of the sustainable development Goals in Africa.	<p>Africa faces natural hazard risks due to vulnerabilities like unplanned urbanisation, climate change, conflicts, livelihood insecurities and poverty. Efforts have been made at the global level to create legal frameworks to respond to these hazards. The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 channels global commitments to building natural hazard resilience for sustainable development. At the regional level, the African Union adopted the African Regional Strategy for DRR (2004) and Program of Action 2006-2015. It further adopted a Program of Action in November 2016 to implement the Sendai Framework, but without undertaking a baseline study to determine the current natural hazard risks and vulnerabilities in Africa or reviewing the 2004 Regional DRR Strategy to ensure that it effectively responds to these risks and vulnerabilities. At the national level, African countries have failed to adequately build natural hazard resilience and disaster preparedness due to ongoing failures to enact and implement effective DRR frameworks. This has exposed the African people to unmitigated adverse impacts of natural hazards and constrained sustainable human development.</p> <p>The researcher will undertake a comprehensive analysis of the nature and characteristics of natural hazard risks and vulnerabilities facing Africa; the DRR frameworks that have been put in place to enhance disaster resilience at the national (a detailed analysis of four case study countries: South Africa, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Mauritius) and regional levels; the effectiveness of these DRR measures in ensuring the realisation of sustainable development in Africa as per the SDGs; and the recommendations for effective DRR frameworks to achieve sustainable development. The researcher will achieve this in conjunction with UCC-CCJHR, IFRC and the National Red Cross/Crescent Societies by working in collaboration with the relevant institutions within the African Union, especially the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.</p>

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Robert Hamm	Maynooth University	Berliner Institut für kritische Theorie e. V.	Memory-Work. Researching the Historical Adaptations and Adjustments, Derivations and Developments in Memory-Work as Method and Methodology and its Potential as a Method in Lifelong Learning Processes.	<p>Memory-Work (MW) is a method for research in social sciences and a method of lifelong learning. It involves a group of participants researching/reflecting on a topic of shared interest. Central to MW is the critical and analytical engagement with short self-generated texts.</p> <p>MW was developed by feminist researchers in a context shaped specifically by the goal of gender equality. From the outset it was intended to be a method with a consciously open form. Over three decades the method was successfully used in academic research in a large variety of fields, thereby undergoing significant adaptations and adjustments.</p> <p>However, as a method in lifelong learning environments it is not used as much.</p> <p>The aim of the proposed study is to make MW more accessible to non-academic lifelong learning environments, and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p> <p>For this purpose I will scrutinise the various applications of MW. This will be done in dialogue with some of the founders and leading practitioners of MW. A strong focus will also be on the learning experiences of participants in MW-groups. Selected adaptations of the method will be practically applied and the learning experiences of participants documented and evaluated.</p> <p>An important aspect of the research is the organisation of expansive knowledge exchange on MW across geographical and disciplinary boundaries. An international symposium on MW, and interdisciplinary workshops on MW in cooperation with Maynooth University, the Berlin Institute of Critical Theory, and Manchester University will provide the fora for such exchange.</p> <p>Making a method for transformative and emancipatory lifelong learning more accessible to the non-academic sector will contribute directly to goal 4 of the UN Agenda 2030, and due to the conceptual basis of MW as a method indebted to tackling gender bias indirectly also to goal 5.</p>

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Ruari-Santiago McBride	University of Limerick	Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI)	Researching and Advocating for Quality Education: Achieving Equality for Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth in Schools	<p>Transgender or gender-diverse (TGD) youth (15-24) do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Estimates suggest that there are 12,485–29,964 assigned females and 5,304–15,912 assigned males who identify as TGD among Irish youth. This group is diverse yet commonly experiences exclusion and marginalisation in school settings. Such experiences confirm that the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) of Quality Education (Goal 4) is not being met.</p> <p>To date there has been no published research into the post-primary school experiences and concerns of TGD youth in the Republic of Ireland. The proposed research will attend to this gap in knowledge through a qualitative research design, which will include: (a) a review of national policy, international best practice and research evidence; (b) creative workshops and interviews with TGD youth; and, (c) interviews with parents/guardians, teachers, and school principals/leaders. The data gathered will be interpreted using gender theory and analysed with an intersectional approach, which takes into account how gender identity is shaped by other biographic factors, such as age, class, income-level and religion. The data gathered will be disseminated in academic journals and conferences.</p> <p>In collaboration with Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), research findings will be used to develop a 'Post-Primary School Toolkit' that contributes to UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of Quality Education (Goal 4) and Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10). The Toolkit will achieve this by identifying: (a) benchmarks for reducing the educational inequalities that TGD youth face; (b) strategies for meaningfully incorporating gender identity and gender equality into post-primary school policy and practice; and, (c) interventions to create stigma-free school environments and gender sensitive pedagogical practices. In so doing, this research aims to advance TGD youth inclusion and equality in post-primary school settings.</p>

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Sarah Jay	University of Limerick	International Federation of Workers' Education Associations	A novel Social Identity Approach to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, equality and education	<p>Political disillusionment and disengagement are among the biggest threats to achieving the United Nations Agenda, to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies' sustainable development goal sixteen, 'reduced inequality', goal ten and 'quality education' goal four. This research speaks to this need to promote empowered citizenship, to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. The research straddles politics, psychology and education, and takes a novel social identity approach to evaluate the effectiveness of two interventions that aim to promote empowered citizenship among participants, through group participation. A wealth of evidence shows how group interventions can promote a real source of collective identity, belonging, agency and solidarity and these resources can have powerful, 'social cure' effects for positive health outcomes. This research is innovative and ground breaking because it explores the identity processes that are potentially important in effecting empowered citizenship, arising from a group intervention.</p> <p>The 'Be Heard' #Youth Engage network projects supported young people to develop a series of workshops aiming to promote empowered citizenship among young people, in two pilot groups in Limerick and Cape Town, in Spring 2017. This initiative will now roll out in Limerick, Cape Town and Boston using shared centralized, co-created, workshop resources and activities. The second empowerment intervention is the collective approach to solidarity education among members of the Indian Academy of Self-Employed Women (IASEW) in Ahmedabad, India. The research will be progressed in three interrelated work-packages using both qualitative and quantitative designs. Work-package 1 uses focus groups to explore if collective identities develop, and have any relation to empowerment. Work-package 2 employs observation and ethnography to explore intervention experiences. Work-package 3 uses a longitudinal online questionnaire with waitlist and non-participant control group to assess the effectiveness and process of the Be Heard workshops. The findings will add to our fundamental understandings of empowered citizenship.</p>

Irish Research Council Collaborative Research Fellowships for a Responsive and Innovative Europe "CAROLINE" - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND fellowships*

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Sarah Culhane	Maynooth University	Age Action Ireland CLG	Irish Cinema Audiences (1950-1960): Engaging older audiences and sustaining Ireland's cultural heritage. [IRCA 1950-1960]	<p>This project investigates the history of cinema-going in 1950s Ireland by addressing the urgent need to preserve the memories of cinema-goers of that generation. These oral history testimonies will provide a rich cultural heritage resource for current and future generations. The period from 1950 to 1960 represents a significant moment in Irish cultural history when, prior to the widespread adoption of television, attendance at Irish cinemas peaked with people frequenting the cinema on average 18 times per year. Recent studies have shown that today Irish people attend the cinema on average 3.3 times per year (making us the most frequent cinema-goers in Europe). While viewing habits have undoubtedly undergone significant change with the advent of digital technologies, the stark contrast between these averages gives an indication of the significance of cinema-going as a social activity in 1950s Ireland. The 1950s also marked the opening of Ardmore Studios (1958) and the launch of the Cork Film Festival (1956). Despite the existence of a burgeoning film and cinema-going culture, there has been no systematic research of the cultural, social and political impact of cinema on national audiences.</p> <p>Working in collaboration with AAI, this project will use questionnaires and video-interviews to gather the memories of ordinary cinema-goers over-65. This oral history approach will explore cinema-goers memories of the cinemas they attended, the atmosphere within these spaces, the rituals of cinema-going, their responses to the films shown and the social and political climate that surrounded the practice of cinema-going. Their memories will form the basis of an online archive where the public can learn about the impact that cinema had on Irish society. This project will also collaborate with researchers from universities across Europe to explore how the experiences of Irish audiences in the 1950s compared with their fellow cinema-goers in other countries.</p>

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Stefano Marcuzzi	University College Dublin	Carnegie Europe	The EU and NATO, Towards a Common Strategy for the Central Mediterranean and Libya	This innovative and interdisciplinary research project will break the silos of existing analyses and offer both incisive analysis of the root causes and implications of the Libyan crisis but also propose innovative policy responses. In recent years, the Mediterranean basin has become a theatre of socio-political turmoil involving in particular the Middle-East and North-Africa (MENA) region. In some cases, this led to armed conflicts that affect the European continent and transatlantic stakes in the region. Libya, the country closest to European shores, is an emblematic case where the Mediterranean problems – social turmoil, civil war, the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism, and the spread of refugee emergencies – are epitomised. Such issues are of crucial interest for both the EU and NATO. These organisations work side by side in crisis management, capability development and political consultations on the problems affecting the Mediterranean. Yet neither organisation has provided a really credible response to the security needs of the central Mediterranean, and Libya more specifically. Why? This project aims to address the root causes of this failure, not only through a critical and integrated analysis of official sources, but also, through several interviews, bringing the perspective of both state and non-state actors, to the fore. This interdisciplinary approach will overcome the sectoral research horizon of previous studies on the matter, leading to the uniquely comprehensive analysis of the Libyan problem within the broader context of central Mediterranean security needs. In so doing, the applicant will exploit his historical background as well as the experience acquired in the fields of Politics, International Relations and Strategic Studies at the EUI Florence. He will take full advantage of the tripartite structure of the Caroline Fellowship to integrate the perspectives of the EU and NATO with UCD's academic expertise, to produce a really inter-sectoral and comparative research.

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Researcher	Home host organisation	Main partner organisation	Project title	Abstract
Theodor Cojoianu	University College Dublin	Sustainable Nation Ireland	Building Cleantech Finance and Innovation Ecosystems: From Asset Owners to Entrepreneurs	<p>Limiting global warming to under 2°C requires an investment of US\$5.2 trillion in clean technology over the next 25 years in addition to the infrastructure needs to support the future economy. Overcoming this hurdle has been put in the hands of governments around the world to help catalyse the low carbon economy and in those of international financial centres to provide the required capital. However, it is unclear through which financial instruments and which actors in global financial centres are best suited to address this investment gap, which has already resulted in a significant delay in deploying the much-needed capital in cleantech innovation and infrastructure.</p> <p>This research project will unveil and analyse the growth drivers and barriers of cleantech finance and innovation ecosystems. It also seeks to identify which different financial instruments and financial markets facilitate significant progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly in the area of affordable and clean energy, clean water and sanitation, industry, innovation and infrastructure and climate action, and what are the main barriers to their use. Clean technologies here are defined as any product, process or service that reduces negative environmental impacts through efficient or sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable resources.</p> <p>The knowledge and insights gained through the project will benefit governments and financial institutions worldwide and in particular the Irish government, financial institutions in Ireland and Irish NGOs involved in the transition to a low carbon economy.</p>