

## New Foundations Awards - Strand 8

*Department of the Taoiseach, Shared Island Unit*

Engaging with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future; and delivering tangible benefits for the whole island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.

## Project Impact – Completed Projects and Publications

**Exploring the Economic, Political, Societal and Health Benefits of an All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI): Strengthening Collaboration in Cancer Research Throughout the Island of Ireland** *Dr William Gallagher, University College Dublin – 2021 Funding Call*

**Project Spotlight:** [All Island Cancer Research Institute](#) | [#LoveIrishResearch](#) | [Irish Research Council](#)

**YouTube channel:** [AICRI YouTube Channel](#)

**North South Legal Mapping Project** *Dr Oran Doyle, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin – 2021 Funding Call*

**Final report:** [Legal Convergence and Divergence on the Island of Ireland](#)

**Éire strategy for QUantum Information and Technology** *Dr Steve Campbell, University College – 2021 Funding Call*

**Paper:** [Ireland is gearing up for the next generation of quantum technologies](#)

**Quantum 2030:** [A National Quantum Technologies Strategy for Ireland \(Pillar 5\)](#)

**Negotiating difference on a shared island: agonism, commonality, or critical constitutionalism**

*Dr Jennifer Todd, University College Dublin – 2021 Funding Call*

**Report, July – September 2023:** [Mapping Diversity, Negotiating Differences: Constitutional Discussions on a Shared Island](#)

**Report:** [Presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement – 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023](#)

**Paper:** [Scaling up from everyday concerns to territorial politics and constitutional debate: deliberation among women in the Irish border area](#)

# Project Impact – Completed Projects and Publications

## **Doing Feminist Legal Work** *Dr Maebh Harding, University College Dublin – 2022 Funding Call*

**Best Practice Guides:** [Rapid Legal Policy Reactions and How to Do Them & Feminist Legal Pedagogies and How to Do Them](#)

## **Reading Rooms: Fostering Constructive & Inclusive Dialogue Between**

**Communities** *Dr Padraic Whyte, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin – 2021 Funding Call*

**Final report:** [Reading Rooms: Fostering Constructive and Inclusive Dialogue Between Communities](#)

## **Building Capacity for the Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared-Island Approach**

*Dr Victoria Durrer, University College Dublin – 2021 Funding Call*

**Final report:** [Building Capacity for Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared-Island Approach for Dance and Theatre](#)

**Workshop 1 Discussion Paper:** [Establishing Common Ground](#), 28 February 2022, University College Dublin

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**UCD Research Impact Recognition:** [Video](#)

## Public Policy Agendas on a Shared Island

*Dr Conor Little, University of Limerick*

Which policy issues receive political attention, and how does the allocation of attention shape politics and policymaking on the island of Ireland?

Public Policy Agendas on a Shared Island (PPASI) will generate new knowledge about policymaking and the allocation of attention (“agenda-setting”) to better understand how policy agendas on the island of Ireland have developed over time, and how they relate to one another.

Embedded in the international Comparative Agendas Project network, it will systematically examine the development of the agendas of the shared institutions of the Good Friday Agreement, and legislatures and political parties in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## **Strengthening the regional impact of higher education: a comparative scoping study of regional higher education strategies, policies and provision in the North-West of the island of Ireland, Scotland and Wales**

*Dr Gerry McKenna, Royal Irish Academy*

Educational migration at third level in the north-west of the island of Ireland poses a challenge to common regional policy goals to keep and attract talented people, enhance skills, and attract inward investment.

This study will explore how an integrated approach to regional and higher education policy could support stronger regional outcomes and will a) look at regional approaches to higher education policy and provision across the North-West of Ireland, Scotland and Wales; b) explore the potential for, and impact of, place-based collaborative approaches to educational provision; and c) examine trends in educational migration for third level education in the north-west.

## Doing Feminist Legal Work

*Dr Maebh Harding, University College Dublin*

Doing Feminist Legal Work (DFLW) consists of a network of legal scholars across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain addressing emerging issues of gender and law.

Building on existing, but ad hoc, North/South and East/West collaborations, DFLW will generate a sustainable network that will develop and share experience and practice as well as developing substantive research and educational tools necessary to respond swiftly and effectively to societal challenges, to engage directly with policy makers and media, and with the resilience necessary to rapidly address complex issues of law and gender in both the immediate and long term.

**Best Practice Guides:** [Rapid Legal Policy Reactions and How to Do Them](#) and [Feminist Legal Pedagogies and How to Do Them](#)

## **An All-Island consortium to foster Educational Neuroscience research and practice**

*Dr Michelle Downes, University College Dublin*

Educational neuroscience is a new interdisciplinary field that goes beyond the separate research domains of neuroscience and education. Through the establishment of the first all- island educational neuroscience research network, we will explore collaborative research questions, share ideas, form new collaborations, and disseminate findings on the current management of inattention in the classroom. This project has three objectives: a) establish teachers' and parents' understanding of inattention in early classroom contexts; b) engage with stakeholders to enhance classroom practice and make for a more inclusive start across the island's classrooms; and c) establish an all-island educational neuroscience hub of researchers and practitioners.

## **Towards an Intersectoral All-Island Network for Circular Bioeconomy Entrepreneurship (AINCBE)**

*Dr Orlagh Reynolds, Dublin City University*

This project aims to investigate and enhance current understandings of and opportunities for circular bioeconomy entrepreneurship across the island of Ireland.

Focusing on the area of willow biomass, Dublin City University, Ulster University and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute will compare entrepreneurship opportunities in the North and South, and how to leverage strengths of both through a collaborative network.

Findings from focus groups and interviews will be shared via a demonstration and networking event to inform the establishment of an intersectoral network and policy recommendations. This project will provide a strong basis for future all-island collaboration on circular bioeconomy entrepreneurship.

## **Addressing Biodiversity Loss with Sustainable Finance: An All-Island Research Initiative**

*Professor Sheila O'Donohoe, South East Technological University*

This proposal will establish a research partnership between two universities on the island of Ireland focused on sustainable finance solutions to biodiversity loss.

In May 2019 Dail Eireann declared a National Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, calling on the Citizens' Assembly to examine how the State can improve its response to this issue. Sustainable finance is increasingly being viewed as a powerful tool in the fight against climate change and it is clear that finance-based solutions are needed. This partnership will work at the intersection of these two disciplines to make policy recommendations while strengthening North-South research links.

**Workshop Article:** [Addressing biodiversity loss in Ireland through sustainable finance solutions](#)

## **Audience Data for Cultural Policy: A Shared Island Approach to the Creative Industries**

*Dr Steven Hadley, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin*

Limited statistical data currently exists on audiences for cultural events on the island of Ireland. Survey work shows that people participate in a variety of activities, but this data is not linked to actual attendance (e.g., ticket purchase) or geography and is not suited to the development of policy which promotes cultural connections and understanding on a shared island basis.

Our project brings together academics, cultural data specialists and arts sector organisations from England, Ireland and Northern Ireland to develop a data system which will revolutionize our understanding of cultural engagement and impact on policy, tourism and creative industries development.

## **All Ireland Rare Disease Inter-Disciplinary Research Network (RAiN) to Identify, and Understand Functional Status and Quality of Life and Family Management Measure for Children and Young People Living with Rare Diseases**

*Dr Suja Somanadhan, University College Dublin*

Rare disease is a collective term for disorders with a broad diversity of signs and symptoms. The impact of rare diseases is diverse and includes loss of physical function, cognitive and communication impairments and social isolation. This project will explore the challenges of children/ young people and their families living with rare diseases across the Island of Ireland. This project includes a collaborative effort between rare disease interdisciplinary researchers and community groups. The purpose is to establish an interdisciplinary research network for the exchange and synthesis of strategies to address this population's needs.

## Towards A Fair and Prosperous Island: An All-Island Network to Combat Hate

*Dr Amanda Haynes, University of Limerick*

The long-term goal of the All-Island Network to Combat Hate (AINCH) is to create a space for the conduct of policy-focused research on understanding and combating inter-group hate, and bridging societal cleavages grounded in and sustained by prejudice.

This project will be the flagship project of AINCH. It will generate baseline data on how people on the island of Ireland understand hate crime, as well as their attitudes to minority communities. The project will bring together those working in the sector north and south to leverage the findings of the research to map priorities and strategies for the future.

## Assisting the Irish churches and religious communities to develop values-based common positions on current European issues and to engage with European counterparts

*Dr Deiric Ó Broin, Dublin City University*

DCU, Irish Council of Churches and Dublin City Inter-Faith Forum aim to build on the churches' existing cooperation in support of the Good Friday Agreement by working together to develop values-based common positions on current European issues and to engage with European counterparts.

This project is significant in terms of (i) the Government's shared island agenda and (ii) current efforts at the European level to encourage a stronger voice for civil society on post-COVID challenges. Between November 2021 and May 2022, we aim to achieve sufficient common ground in selected policy areas to issue a report.

## **Appraise Curriculum Content for Entrepreneurship in Secondary Schools**

*Dr Isobel Cunningham, Atlantic Technological University*

Traditional education systems inhibit, and may in fact have prevented, the development of nascent entrepreneurs because it teaches young people to obey, reproduce information and seek employment once completing school. It is suggested that current teaching practice confines the development of entrepreneurial attitudes and behavior to the delivery of business-related subjects such as economics and accounting.

This research will aim to contribute both at a theoretical and practical level. The research aims to provide a better understanding of entrepreneurship education in the North West City Region (Derry, Tyrone & Donegal) and if similarities or differences exist across the two education systems.

**Upcoming Events:** Dr Isobel Cunningham will present this research at the University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) in May 2024.

## Negotiating difference on a shared island: agonism, commonality, or critical constitutionalism

*Dr Jennifer Todd, University College Dublin*

Dialogue about a 'shared island' is necessary whatever the future political and constitutional developments. It is therefore crucial to understand how such dialogue relates to a range of contentious political issues, including those outlined in the Good Friday Agreement.

With Scottish and international partners, we investigate how 'shared island' discussions proceed in focus groups with community partners (including National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks, and Fermanagh Women's Voices).

The project explores how diverse groups and networks negotiate contentious political issues critically and agonistically. It has direct policy relevance, substantively and procedurally in increasing the policy-impact of grass-roots organizations.

**Report, July – September 2023:** [Mapping Diversity, Negotiating Differences: Constitutional Discussions on a Shared Island](#)

**Report:** [Presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement](#)

**Paper:** [Scaling up from everyday concerns to territorial politics and constitutional debate: deliberation among women in the Irish border area](#)

**Social media accounts:**

[PIR Department twitter account](#)

Instagram: arins\_ria\_kniis

Arins twitter account: @arinsproject

## **Brexit at the Border: Intergroup Relations on the Shared Island**

*Dr Jenny Roth, University of Limerick*

The Northern Irish conflict has been amongst the most intense in Europe. The EU context helped in providing a superordinate, inclusive identity to people of different communities. Now that Brexit has turned into reality, intergroup harmony is at risk.

This project will investigate the effects of Brexit on people's identity and intergroup relations. It will add a third data point to an ongoing longitudinal study, two experiments testing whether focusing on shared goals improves intergroup relations, and an interdisciplinary networking meeting. The project will highlight psychological processes that contribute to intergroup conflict and provide means to foster cooperation.

## Providing a multi- disciplinary expert network to promote and support implementation of a circular economy on the island of Ireland, AICEG (All-Island Circular Economy Group)

*Dr Michael Morris, Trinity College Dublin*

The circular economy is an economic model focused on the continual re-use of resources avoiding waste. It is a disruptive alternative to the 'take-make-use-dispose' linear model developed since the industrial revolution.

This proposal will create a network of experts across academia, Government and industry to assess the research needed, the barriers to implementing circular economic practices and the impacts of change on the island of Ireland. We will build on existing links between interested parties so promoting development of strategy to implement circular practices. The network will enable sustainability goals through positive contribution to socio-economic and technological change.

**AMBER social media account:** <https://twitter.com/ambercentre>

## North South Legal Mapping Project

*Dr Oran Doyle, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin*

Legal systems, legal knowledge and legal networks have diverged between Ireland and Northern Ireland for a century. Lawyers in each jurisdiction know surprisingly little about the law in the other. As our common EU membership ends and as debates about future North- South and East-West relationships increase, gaps in knowledge and mutual understanding become more significant.

NSLMap will comprise legal experts from North and South who will identify and analyse legal convergences and divergences between North and South. This application concerns a pilot phase focusing on seven topics, leading to sustained engagement on broader legal themes over the coming years.

**Final report:** [Legal Convergence and Divergence on the Island of Ireland](#)

## Reading Rooms: Fostering Constructive & Inclusive Dialogue Between Communities

*Dr Padraic Whyte, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin*

This inter-disciplinary project will investigate and advance the potential of shared reading groups to promote higher levels of empathy between communities by stimulating purposeful cross-community dialogue among Northern Ireland interface communities.

Trinity College Dublin will partner with Verbal, a voluntary organisation with nearly 30 years' experience working to improve cross-community relations in Northern Ireland. The partners will design a new framework and identify suitable literary texts for cross-community groups; conduct a pilot shared reading group; seek feedback from participants on group processes in relation to health and well-being, literary texts, and shared futures; and present findings in a report.

**Final report:** [Reading Rooms: Fostering Constructive and Inclusive Dialogue Between Communities](#)



## Éire strategy for QUantum Information and TechnologY

*Dr Steve Campbell, University College Dublin*

Quantum enhanced devices, such as quantum computers, sensors, and crypto-systems, hold immense promise and are at the centre of a global push to harness and utilise quantum phenomena. Ireland is well positioned to make significant contributions in this rapidly developing arena.

In this context over its 9-month duration the partnership entailed by EQUITY aims to: provide a map of the expertise in quantum science in Ireland, develop a national cluster to enhance all-island impact in this emerging arena, and engage at all levels to demonstrate benefits of quantum science and a quantum literate society.

**Paper:** [Ireland is gearing up for the next generation of quantum technologies](#)

**Quantum 2030:** [A National Quantum Technologies Strategy for Ireland \(Pillar 5\)](#)

## Building Capacity for the Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared-Island Approach

*Dr Victoria Durrer, University College Dublin*

CI Develop responds to the precarity of the Irish cultural industries recently underlined by Brexit and the global pandemic through championing and strengthening the shared island ecology of the professional performing arts industry.

Collaborating to foster shared approaches to recovery and regional development, industry associated researchers, professionals, and policymakers will meet to share and critically discuss data regarding existing shared island operations and learn from other sectors currently engaging in all-island practices (e.g. museums, education, tourism). Industry-specific actions for capacity building, dissemination of recommendations to policymakers, and links with international partners to scope future collaboration for learning will be established.

**Final report:** [Building Capacity for Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared-Island Approach for Dance and Theatre](#)

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# 2021 Funding Call

## Exploring the Economic, Political, Societal and Health Benefits of an All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI): Strengthening Collaboration in Cancer Research Throughout the Island of Ireland

*Dr William Gallagher, University College Dublin*

One in two people living on the island of Ireland will develop cancer during their lifetime. The current Covid pandemic will lead to an increased cancer burden and many lost lives. In addition to adverse impacts on the health of the population, significant economic and societal impacts will also ensue.

There is an urgent need for greater collaboration in cancer research throughout the island, facilitated by establishment of an [All-Island Cancer Research Institute \(AICRI\)](#). We will explore how AICRI can deepen North/South collaboration, enhance cancer outcomes, and help to strengthen social, economic, and political links on the island.

**Project Spotlight:** [All Island Cancer Research Institute](#) | [#LoveIrishResearch](#) | [Irish Research Council](#)

**YouTube channel:** [AICRI YouTube Channel](#)