2017 Annual Report: Executive Overview

Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change

October 2018
Table of Contents

Director’s Message ........................................................................................................ 6
Scholarly Outputs .......................................................................................................... 7
Media Coverage/Selected News Items ............................................................................. 8
Institutional Events ....................................................................................................... 14
Selected Events during 2017 ......................................................................................... 14
Competitive Funding .................................................................................................... 16
Major Research Projects ............................................................................................... 17
Research Infrastructure ................................................................................................. 19
Effective Research Supports ......................................................................................... 20
Named after Dr T.K. Whitaker, the Whitaker Institute at NUI Galway brings imagination and innovation to influence some of the great challenges facing Ireland and Europe now and in the future. Sadly, we said goodbye to Dr Whitaker in January 2017, a month after his 100th birthday. His legacy inspires us all at the Whitaker Institute to continue to produce rigorous and relevant research to help to shape modern Ireland as a sustainable economy and an inclusive society.

2017 was another busy and productive year across the Whitaker Institute’s research clusters, as detailed in this annual report. Whitaker members continued to produce excellent, impactful research on some of the world’s most pressing issues. The Institute’s members during 2017 published nearly 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, 10 books, around 50 published reports and 270 conference outputs.

We continued to engage with policymakers and inform the public discourse on key issues, as evidenced in the media coverage of the Institute’s activities. We published 15 Policy Briefs on key public policy issues that brought background and recommendations to policymakers, journalists and the public. The Institute organized nearly 50 events during the year, including national and international conferences, public lectures, seminars and workshops.

The Institute continued to encourage and support members with applications for external research funding. This annual report documents the success that members of Whitaker had in 2017 in securing national and international research funding, including funding under Horizon 2020. The report also shows how the Institute continued to build a vibrant research environment that empowers our members to fulfil their potential in producing excellent research and helps to train the next generation of researchers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Institute’s Executive Management Team (Elaine Wallace, Stephen Hynes, Angela Sice and Gwen Ryan) for their dedication and hard work during the year.

Prof. Alan Ahearne
Director
### Scholarly Outputs

**Table 1: 2017 Whitaker Institute Publication Counts derived from NUI Galway’s Institutional Research Information System** (Report run October 25, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Type</th>
<th>Total for 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Chapter</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Contribution</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Publication</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited Book</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Journal</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Publication</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Reviewed Journal</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published Report</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>863</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minister Creed Launches Report on Ireland’s Strong Performing Ocean Economy

The Whitaker Institute’s Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) published its fourth report on Ireland’s Ocean Economy as part of their ongoing process of collection and analysis of marine socio-economic data in Ireland. The report was launched on Friday, 30 June, 2017 by Minister Michael Creed. Congratulations to Stephen, Dr Amaya Vega, and all at SEMRU on their ongoing success.

Consensus Research Team Launches Report on 1st June 2017 - CONSENSUS II

The CONSENSUS research team, funded through the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Research Programme 2014-2020 and led by Professor Anna Davies from Trinity College Dublin, in collaboration with Dr. Frances Fahy from National University of Ireland Galway and Professor Henrike Rau from Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, launched its report:

The CONSENSUS Project developed and tested novel ways to better understand and respond to the complex challenges created by
household consumption: lifestyle segmentation, mobility biographies and home-based living laboratories (HOMELABS).

Geologocal Society of Ireland bestows Lifetime Achievement Award upon Adjunct-Professor of Migration and Societal Change, Mary Cawley

Congratulations to Professor Mary Cawley, emerita in the School of Geography and Archaeology and Whitaker Institute Adjunct-Professor of Migration and Societal Change, who was chosen as the 2017 recipient of the Geological Society of Ireland Lifetime Achievement Award.

NUI Galway Hosts 21st McGill International Entrepreneurship Conference

The Marketing Discipline and the Whitaker Institute jointly hosted the 21st McGill International Entrepreneurship (IE) Conference from 30 August to 1 September at NUI Galway. Held for the first time in Ireland, this year’s McGill IE conference theme focused on “Speed, diversity and complexity in international entrepreneurship”.

Chaired by Dr. Natasha Evers, a lecturer in the Marketing Discipline and member of Whitaker’s Innovation and Structural Change and Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) research clusters, the conference brought together IE research from approximately 100 academic scholars in more than 20 countries, including Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. The event featured leading scholars as keynote speakers, such as Prof. Alistair R. Anderson of Robert Gordon University, Scotland, and Prof. Antonella Zucchella of the University of Pavia, Italy. The conference also hosted an industry academic workshop evening at the Portershed to kickstart the three-day event.
Whitaker Policy Brief Series

This year saw continued success with Whitaker’s popular Policy Brief Series. The briefs, provide succinct yet informative analyses on some of Ireland’s current public policy issues reflecting a variety of research topics being conducted by Institute-affiliated members. 2017 saw the launch of thirteen new policy briefs, to bring the total in the series to thirty-one. Topics ranged from salmon farming consensus in Ireland, economic impact from expansion of the Irish aquaculture sector, what impacts employee pension decision making, in addition to many others.

Whitaker Research Day 2017

The Whitaker Institute hosted its second annual Research Day on 6th April. More than 100 staff and PhD students registered for the event, which took place at the Alice Perry Engineering Building, NUI Galway. The day was structured around the three themes of the Institute: Sustainable & Inclusive Societies; Business, Innovation & Economic Development; and Public Sector Innovation & Reform.
The keynote speaker, Professor Liam Delaney, AIB Professor of Economics at University College Dublin, gave a thought provoking and inspiring talk titled ‘Back to Hume: Economics, the Behavioural Sciences, and Public Policy.’ Prof. Delaney’s presentation invited an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of behavioural science that many clusters could identify with, and emphasized the public policy implications of this research.

Whitaker Lecture Series Hosts Eamon Gilmore

The Whitaker Institute hosted Mr. Eamon Gilmore on 20 November at a special lecture held in the Aula Maxima. The former Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and current EU Special Envoy for the Peace Process in Colombia, spoke to an audience of 100+ students, staff, and members of the public about Europe’s role in peace-making. Mr. Gilmore discussed his experience with the peace processes in Northern Ireland and Colombia, and the importance of the EU’s peace work in the modern world and Ireland’s key place in that context.

The lecture was chaired by Whitaker Institute Director Alan Ahearne, while Dr. Niall Ó Dochartaigh (School of Political Science and Sociology, and lead of the Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security research cluster) and Dr. Anita Ferrara of the Irish Centre for Human Rights gave responses to the lecture before the floor was opened to questions from the audience.

Whitaker Ideas Forum

The year brought another successful round of the weekly Whitaker Ideas Forum, which saw seventeen speakers from eleven different research clusters. There was a wide range of topics discussed including the dark side of enterprise social media, a spatial economic perspective on higher education choices, does International humanitarian law have a blind spot, and valuing coastal amenities. Each seminar was followed by a dialogue between the presenter and attendees, whereby the audience was encouraged to ask questions and engage in dialogue.
President’s Research Excellence Awards for Whitaker Members

The Whitaker Institute was delighted to see four of its members receive President’s Research Excellence Awards at the annual Research and Innovation Symposium on 4 September. Dr. Kieran Conboy, lead of the Whitaker’s Agile and Open Innovation (Lero) research cluster, received a Research Supervisor award. An Established Researcher award was presented to Dr. Frances Fahy—cluster leader of the Environment, Development and Sustainability research cluster—and Prof. Brian McGuire of the Health and Well-being research cluster. Dr. John Cullinan of the Population and Migration research cluster also received an Early Stage Researcher award.

OpenSym 2017

Leading open innovation researchers from around the world gathered at NUI Galway for the 13th International Symposium on Open Collaboration (OpenSym 2017) from 23–25 August. OpenSym is a premier conference on open collaboration research and practice. The conference was sponsored by the Whitaker Institute, Science Foundation Ireland, the John Ernest Foundation and the Association for Computing Machinery. OpenSym 2017 was chaired by Dr. Lorraine Morgan of Whitaker’s Agile and Open Innovation (Lero) research cluster.
Lero's international reputation for open innovation and policy research was reflected in the notable keynote speakers, including Prof. Chris Lintott of Oxford University and co-presenter of the BBC’s Sky at Night, and Danese Cooper of Paypal and Node.js. A doctoral consortium chaired by Dr. Kieran Conboy, lead of Lero, was held prior to the commencement of the main conference, which featured participation from both Irish and international students.

**Visiting Scholars for Lucerna Project, October 2017**

Funded by the NUI Galway Research Grant for Returning Academic Careers and the College of Business, Public Policy and Law Millennium Research Fund, Dr. Majella Giblin—Lecturer in Management and a member of Whitaker’s Innovation and Structural Change research cluster—hosted Mr. Öner Tulum from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (U.S.A.), and Dr. Satyasiba Das of the Indian Institute of Management, Raipur, India, as visiting scholars during October for the development of a novel database that aims to capture innovation capabilities.

Using fine-grained product data as a proxy for measuring innovation, the Lucerna Project—originally an EU Marie Curie-funded project—aims to understand the evolution of technological capabilities and innovations, in particular, the high-tech sectors of the Irish economy over time. Dr. Giblin was recently awarded funding to update the Lucerna project database for 2017. Using the Irish medical technology sector as one case, the project seeks to reveal where Ireland’s strengths and potential opportunities lie, as well as help identify where potential risks or challenges may arise.

**RTÉ Brainstorm Articles by Whitaker Members**

RTÉ is partnering with Irish third-level institutions, including NUI Galway, for **RTÉ Brainstorm**. This new site invites the academic and research community to contribute to public debate, reflect on what is happening in the world around us, and communicate fresh thinking on a broad range of issues.

Since October, Whitaker members that have published through Brainstorm include:

Declan Coogan, *“I'm afraid of my child - what can I do?”*

Stacey Scriver, *“Taking action against gender violence home and away”*

Ray Murphy, *“Mladic trial marks end of an era”*

Niall Ó Dochartaigh, *“The secrets behind a peace process”*

John Walsh, *“Mind your language: talking loud at Oireachtas na Gaeilge”*

Pat Dolan, *“Unfinished business: corporal punishment in Irish schools”*
Ray Murphy, "A controversial legacy: the United Nations and Haiti"
Aidan Kane, "A history of Irish budgets"

**Institutional Events**

**Table 2: 2017 Events Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Total for 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Conferences</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colloquiums and Symposiums</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Conferences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Lectures</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch Events</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Selected Events during 2017**

**National Conferences, Colloquiums and Symposia**
- Whitaker PhD forum
- OpenSym 2017: The International Symposium on Open Collaboration
- ICE Conference
- mHealth

**Selected National and International Guest Speakers**
- Jaap Boter, Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands
- Niamh M. Brennan, University College Dublin, Ireland
- William De Lone, Kogod School of Business, USA
- Professor Vincent Dutot, Paris School of Business, France
- Professor Bob Galliers, Bentley University, USA
- Tom Groot, Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands
- Pekka Kettunen, Abo Akademi University, Finland
- Yvonne Krabbe, Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands
- Dominika Kwasnicka, Curtin University, Australia
• Dr Ruth Lane, Monash University, Australia
• Daniel le Roux, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
• Muhammad Ovais Ahmad, University of Oulu, Finland
• Doug Parry, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
• Prof Susan Sherer, Lehigh University, USA
• Dr Xiaofeng Wang, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
• Bill Zwicker, Union State College, USA
## Competitive Funding

Table 3: Some Selected Details of Funding Awards During 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Title of Project</th>
<th>Principle Investigator</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total €2,700,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union (Horizon 2020)</td>
<td>IMAJINE</td>
<td>Marie Mahon</td>
<td>€290,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union (Horizon 2020)</td>
<td>INCluSilver: Innovation in personalised Nutrition through Cluster cooperation in the Silver economy</td>
<td>Jane Walsh</td>
<td>€410,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union (Horizon 2020)</td>
<td>Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE): a Strategic Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond</td>
<td>Christine Domegan</td>
<td>€293,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Research Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total €352,370.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship</td>
<td>IRC Postdoctoral Fellowship 2017 Thomas McDermott - Spatial Adjustment to Climate Impacts and Economic Development</td>
<td>Stephen Hynes</td>
<td>€91,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major Research Projects

**IMAJINE**

IMAJINE aims to formulate new integrative policy mechanisms to enable European, national and regional government agencies to more effectively address territorial inequalities within the European Union. It responds to evidence that spatial inequalities within the EU are increasing, contrary to the principle of territorial cohesion embedded as a third dimension of the European Social Model in the Treaty of Lisbon, and is particularly timely in examining the geographically differentiated impacts of the post-2008 economic crisis and the
adoption of austerity policies. IMAJINE uniquely proposes to address the problem of territorial inequalities through an inter-disciplinary and multi-scalar approach that integrates perspectives from economics, human geography, political science and sociology and combines macro-scale econometric analysis and the generation and analysis of new quantitative survey data with regionally-focused qualitative empirical case study research in 11 EU member states, delivered by a multi-disciplinary and multi-national consortium.

**INCluSilver**

The INCluSilver project aims to support collaboration between key stakeholders from different sectors to facilitate the development of innovative ideas in the field of personalised nutrition for the silver population. Personalised nutrition offers a new approach for helping citizens to adjust their dietary behaviour by advising food choices and eating patterns that fit their individual needs and are in line with personal preferences. The Silver Economy is driven both by the emergence of new consumer markets and by the need to improve the sustainability of public expenditure linked to ageing. Thus, stimulating the market of personalised nutrition products and services addressing the needs of the silver society can create a massive pull-effect on existing or emerging markets, as well as a huge impact on Health Care systems.

**SEAFUEL - Sustainable integration of renewable fuels in local transportation**

SEAFUEL aims to demonstrate the feasibility to power local transportation networks using fuels produced by renewable energies and seawater, with no net carbon footprint as promoted by the resource-efficient flagship initiative COM (2010) 2020. It will cover technical innovation by a demonstration plant, a framework for policy implementation and a sustainability analysis of production, distribution and usage of hydrogen as an alternative fuel in remote Atlantic regions. The energy required will provide from renewable resources available across the Atlantic Area such as solar, wind and marine.

**Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE): a Strategic Research Agenda for Europe and Beyond**

As a maritime continent, conducting research in this area is important for Europe, its inhabitants, and its Ocean. So the European Commission has funded Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE), a research programme which will help protect the ocean, harness its health benefits, and reduce its risks. SOPHIE will bring marine
and environmental scientists together with medical and social scientists, public health and other experts to tackle these complicated issues. SOPHIE is nurturing a network of people and organisations interested in the links between oceans and human health, and exploring how marine tourism and citizen science can contribute to this exciting area of research.

**Research Infrastructure**

**MIDSS**

The Measurement Instrument Databank for the Social Sciences is an open access repository of shareable assessment instruments used to collect data from across the social sciences. It currently contains in excess of 530 instruments, and researchers worldwide have submitted their measurement instruments to the database. The ambition is that it will become the go-to repository of shareable assessment instruments across the social sciences, and that it is the first place that researchers consult when looking for measurement tools to conduct their own research.

MIDSS contains measurement instruments that have been used in peer reviewed journal papers and technical reports. In providing an open access repository, it reduces duplication of research effort and increases the likelihood that proven measurement instruments will be used by others in future. It also increases author impact by making primary data collecting tools available to others. This leads to increased citations for instruments used. That benefits individual researchers and strengthens the rigor of data collection and analysis across business and the social sciences.

The development of MIDSS is supported through funding by the Irish Social Sciences Platform, funded under the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions, administered by the HEA and co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund.

**Duanaire**

The Duanaire project is building a unique repository of research data for Irish economic history. Led by Dr Aidan Kane, the aim is to open up a wealth of historical data on topics ranging from trade and public finances to exchange rates and shipping by making each dataset accessible online in flexible forms to diverse audiences. The project will construct a unique infrastructure for the imaginative curation, exploration, and sharing of significant tranches of Irish economic history data.
Duanaire is supported by the technical, academic, and management resources of the Whitaker Institute and partners closely with the James Hardiman Library and the Moore Institute at NUI Galway. Duanaire continues to work closely with the University Library and other partners to enhance provision for data management processes and facilities.

Effective Research Supports

A broad range of Institutional supports designed to build capabilities within the Institute and aimed at advancing both the research agenda and academic career of our research members continued during 2017.

Whitaker Institute PhD Forum

In May, the Whitaker Institute hosted a PhD Forum, targeted at students in all stages of their PhD. The day was split into four informative sessions. The first morning session was called ‘Coaching yourself to success: How to manage the PhD journey (and beyond)’. Led by Dr Alma McCarthy, this interactive session encouraged peer-to-peer discussion and learning, and identified common challenges faced by PhD students, including time management, work/life balance, and motivation. Following this, a session titled ‘Research funding during and after your PhD’ featured presentations from Dr Denis Dennehy (Agile and Open Innovation Cluster (LERO); Ms Angela Sice, (Development Officer, Whitaker Institute); and Dr Ann Ryan (Head of Research Development, Research Office).

In the afternoon, the opening session featured advice about the Viva. The presenters were Dr Rachel Hilliard (Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Cluster Leader, Innovation and Structural Change); Dr Gabriela Gliga (Marketing Discipline); and Professor Mary Cawley (Adjunct Professor of Migration and Rural Societal Change, Whitaker Institute).

The final session of the day was called ‘Your PhD: advice on research output and impact’. Three presenters: Dr John Danaher (Cluster Leader, Technology and Governance), Dr Ashley Piggins (Cluster Leader, Group Decision Making), and Dr Elaine Wallace (Cluster Leader, Performance Management), presented their advice on getting published, and creating research impact.
Writers Retreat

In April, staff members took three days out to work intensively on papers for publication. The retreat ran from 24-26 April in the Connemara Coast Hotel, far enough away to allow participants to leave other work concerns behind, but near enough to be very manageable. Colleagues from across the university joined the retreat and there was an extremely diverse group this year, which made for rich discussion and connections during break-times. Participants made substantial progress on their projects. Many completed full first drafts, resolved conceptual problems, or completed revisions on a paper.