2018 Annual Report: Executive Overview

Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change

Date: July 2019
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The Whitaker Institute in 2018 continued to provide an institutional framework for undertaking high quality research in business and social sciences and for the development of a vibrant research culture. Our research output continued to be significant ranging from peer-reviewed journal articles, books, book chapters, published reports, conference publications and conference contributions.

As a major research institute committed to advancing the public interest and taking an active part in shaping Ireland’s future, the Whitaker Institute has an important role to play in gathering together policy makers, researchers, students and members of the public to exchange knowledge and ideas. In that regard, I am delighted to note the tremendous success of several high-profile events organized by the Institute in 2018, as detailed in this annual report. The media interest in these events is testimony to the public appetite for informed debates about issues which affect society and people’s lives.

The Institute continued to contribute to the economic and social development of the West and North West region by hosting the All Island Innovation Programme funded by InterTradeIreland, and by working on projects that support the creative industries sector (Creative Momentum and Galway 2020), marine sector (MOSES) and med-tech sector in the region and helping local industry in adopting best practices that immediately create efficiencies (LERO cluster). The Institute also engaged with local government and regional development agencies on important issues such as Brexit that impact the region.

The Institute continued to play a critical role at NUI Galway in helping researchers in the business disciplines and social sciences to identify and apply for external research funding. This report outlines the strong performance of Whitaker members during 2018 in securing national and international research funding, including success in SFI’s Science Research Programme.

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 Courtney Yanta) for their dedication and hard work during the year.

Prof. Alan Ahearne
Director
## Scholarly Outputs

Table 1: 2018 Whitaker Institute Publication Counts derived from NUI Galway’s Institutional Research Information System (report run 11/02/19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Type</th>
<th>Total for 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Chapter</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Contribution</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Publication</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited Book</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Journal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Publication</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Reviewed Journal</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published Report</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>608</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media Coverage/Selected News Items

How (Not) To Do Public Policy

On September 13, 2018, Whitaker Institute was proud to host "How (Not) To Do Public Policy" a conference which featured the launch of a new Whitaker Institute report by economist Jim O’Leary on water charges and the local property tax.

The event featured a keynote speech from Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The esteemed panels included senior policymakers, senior public servants, government officials, as well as academics. The panels evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the policy-making process in Ireland with a view to suggesting how the quality of policy-making might be improved.

Whitaker’s 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. 2018 saw
the launch of thirteen new policy briefs, to bring the total in the series to forty-four. Topics ranged from Healthcare worker’s flu vaccination, pre-nuptial agreements in Ireland, organizational ambidexterity in addition to many others.

10 Years On: How Ireland has Changed Since the Financial Crisis

In the fateful decade since the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the Bank Guarantee of September 2008, much has happened in Ireland – financial crisis, deep recession, bailout by the ‘Troika’, a protracted period of austerity followed by vigorous economic recovery. But what has really changed over the last ten years? What developments in the financial and political system have taken place and what has been the cultural effect of the crisis? Will we repeat the same mistakes or find ways to avoid them? This major public event convened by the Moore Institute and Whitaker Institute examined these questions with a high profile group of participants, including keynote speeches by former Central Bank of Ireland governor Patrick Honohan and playwright and author Colin Murphy.

6th Annual NERI Labour Market Conference

The NERI Labour Market Conference, held on 22 May, provided a forum for the presentation of research papers on labour market issues (North and South). The conference saw presentations from researchers, academics, policy makers and labour market practitioners.
The European Union and the Northern Ireland peace process

Architects of the European Union peace programmes in Northern Ireland came together for the first time in twenty years to reflect on the role the European Union played in the Northern Ireland peace process. They were joined by academic experts on the European Union and key figures active in cross-border cooperation to explore the significance of the EU role in the peace process and discuss the future of the Good Friday Agreement and the Irish border.

The symposium discussed the challenges posed by Brexit twenty years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, at a time when EU involvement in the Peace Process and cross-border relations in Ireland are at the centre of public debate.

This unique and innovative event was organised by the Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security Research Cluster of the Whitaker Institute, National University of Ireland Galway, in partnership with the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES), the Moore Institute and supported by the Irish Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

New EPA report by SEMRU researchers launched ‘Valuing Ireland’s Coastal, Marine and Estuarine Ecosystem Services’

An EPA report on the economic value of Ireland’s marine and coastal ecosystems has just been published [EPA Research Report No 239: Valuing Ireland’s Coastal, Marine and Estuarine Ecosystem Services]. The work undertaken by SEMRU researchers, Daniel Norton and Stephen Hynes, and John Boyd from the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, provides an assessment of the benefit values that nature provides to society in the marine and coastal zones. These benefits are known as ecosystem services and include the provision of food sources such as wild fisheries and aquaculture, the regulation of climate and waste treatment and cultural services such as recreation and the aesthetics of the Irish coastline. This initial assessment of Ireland’s marine ecosystem services and their value is an important first step in incorporating ecosystem services into policy and decision making related to Ireland’s marine and coastal zones.
4th Annual Behavioural Science and Mobile Technology: Innovations and Implementation Conference

This year was the 4th year of the mHealth (mobile technology and health) Conference hosted in NUI Galway and sponsored by the Whitaker Institute, with over 110 registered for the event. Speakers included a host of international experts on technology and health; for example, Dr Marta Marques and Dr. Amy Chan from the UK discussed the impact of Behavioural Science in providing a strong evidence base for developing effective new technologies. This year we were also delighted to welcome Professor Martin Curley, the new Chief Information Officer and CO of eHealth Ireland who delivered a powerful message on the central role of technology in delivering more effective health service in Ireland. The conference also featured talks from companies who are on the cutting edge of developing innovative health technologies, for example Dr. Gearoid Hynes from Orreco showcased the FitRwoman app for female athletes. The conference attracted huge international attention with over 2.5 million impressions on twitter, trending in Ireland.

Whitaker Scientific Director presents briefing on SAPEA report Food from the Oceans at Royal Irish Academy

On April 4, Dr Stephen Hynes, Scientific Director of the Whitaker Institute, and Professor Paul Holm presented a recent scientific evidence review report produced by the Horizon 2020-funded SAPEA consortium, “Food from the Oceans at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. Stephen was nominated to SAPEA expert working group that produced the report by the RIA. The report advises how more food and biomass can be obtained from the oceans in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits. It can inform maritime, fisheries and aquaculture policy development and implementation in the coming years to help increase the quantity of sustainable food coming from the ocean. This includes preparations for whatever succeeds the present European Maritime and Fisheries Fund under the post-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework for EU policy priorities. The Briefing highlighted some of the important discussion points from the report that are of particular interest to Ireland.
The trial of Ratko Mladić – An Insider’s View

The Cluster on Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security co-hosted a seminar with the Irish Centre for Human Rights on the prosecution of Ratko Mladić on Wednesday 14 March 2018. The well-attended seminar was given by Jonas Nilsson, former Senior Legal Officer advising the Trial Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. In this seminar, Nilsson recounted the process leading to the conviction of Mladić for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and explained how the judgment marked the end of the work of the ICTY. One of the biggest war crimes trials in history, the trial against Ratko Mladić presented numerous challenges and lessons the relevance of which for all other present and future international courts and tribunals were discussed in depth during the seminar. Dr. Shane Darcy of the Cluster on Conflict, Humanitarianism and Security and the Irish Centre for Human Rights, chaired the event.

Whitaker’s Ideas Forum

The year brought another successful round of the weekly Whitaker Ideas Forum, which saw twenty speakers from fourteen different research clusters. There was a wide range of topics discussed including ecosystem services, the concept of temporality, links between health and environment, and the International Criminal Courts appeal decision in the Bemba case. Each seminar was followed by a dialogue between the presenter and attendees, whereby the audience was encouraged to ask questions and engage in dialogue.

32nd Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPs)

NUI Galway’s School of Psychology with support from the Whitaker Institute hosted the 32nd Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPs). The EHPS is the largest professional organisation of health psychologists in Europe with more than 600 members worldwide. Approximately 750 delegates attended the conference between the 21-25 August. The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Health Psychology Across the Lifespan: Uniting Research, Practice and Policy’. Experts from around the world met to share their latest research on psychological and behavioural processes in health, illness and healthcare. Keynote speakers included Professor Alex Rothman from the University of Minnesota in the US and our own Professor Molly Byrne from NUI Galway who spoke on the role of patients and the public in
informing this research. The conference Chair Dr Gerry Molloy was awarded fellowship of the EHPS at the conference. Gerry is only the third Irish health psychologist to achieve this distinction for his contribution to the development of the discipline over the last 10 years.

SEMRU’s 9th Annual Marine Economics and Policy Research Symposium

The Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU), Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway, recently hosted its 9th Annual Marine Economics & Policy Research Symposium (18th Nov). With over 80 delegates, the day was a great success with this year’s theme, ‘The Marine Economy: Access and Infrastructure’. Speakers included Lt. Cdr Paul Hegarty, Irish Naval Service, Dr Christina Kelly, Queen’s University Belfast, Dr Gianluca Grilli of the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin and Dr Ingrid Mateo Mantecon, Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain, to name but a few.

Dr Micheál O’Cinnéide, keynote speaker, shared his vast experiences and views on marine governance and spatial planning in Ireland. Micheál advocated for an increase in resources for marine spatial planning equivalent to its land counterpart and pointed to Scotland in terms of a good example in designing the State’s first plan for its marine territory.

Whitaker’s Research Day 2018

The Whitaker Institute’s Research Day was held on Thursday, 19 April, 2018. It was an opportunity for researchers from across multiple disciplines at NUI Galway to meet and discuss how the multi-perspective research at the Whitaker Institute, on a range of social and economic issues, can promote a more sustainable and inclusive society. We were particularly pleased to welcome Professor Edgar Morgenroth, Professor of Economics at DCU Business School, who delivered the keynote speech. Professor Morgenroth highlighted how spatial patterns impact economic performance (national and regional) and how economic forces shape the economic geography. A key aim of the research day was to assist members of the Whitaker Institute and researches from STEM disciplines to identify cross-disciplinary research opportunities. Relating such research opportunities to the UN Sustainability Goals was an area of discussion on the day, given the latter’s prominence in both the national and EU research agenda. Research output from the Whitaker research clusters was also on display through posters that remained in the foyer throughout the event.
### Institutional Events

#### Table 2: 2018 Events Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Total for 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Conferences</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colloquiums and Symposiums</td>
<td>4</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>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Selected Events during 2018

**National Conferences, Colloquiums and Symposiums**

- International Conference on Gender and Extended Working Life at NUI Galway
- 10 Years On - How Ireland Has Changed Since the Financial Crisis
- How (Not) To Do Public Policy
- 4th Annual Behavioural Science and Mobile Technology: Innovations and Implementation Conference
- Whitaker Institute PhD Forum
- Co-Creating Change: 8th Annual Social Marketing Conference
- 6th Annual NERI Labour Market Conference
- The European Union and the Northern Ireland peace process
- Whitaker Institute Research Day 2018
- Creative Momentum Conference

**Selected National and International Guest Speakers**

- Sheila Malone, Lancaster University, UK
- Ita Richardson, University of Limerick, Ireland
- Nick Hanley, University of Glasgow, Scotland
- Kieran Dowd, Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland
- Alex de Waal, Tufts University, USA
- Robert McCabe, Cardiff University, Wales
- Kevin O’Leary, UCC, Ireland
• Bill Schmarzo, Dell, USA
• Paula Carroll, Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland
• Patrick Mikalef, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
• Brian Donnellan, Maynooth University, Ireland
• Pär Ågerfalk, Uppsala University, Sweden
• Linda M. Collins, Pennsylvania State University, USA
• Louise Larkin, University of Limerick, Ireland
• Robert Winter, University of St Gallen, Switzerland
• Dr Pat Thomson, University of Nottingham, UK
• Amir Haj-Bolouri, University West, Sweden
• Iris Junglas, Florida State University, USA
• Anne Lillis, University of Melbourne, Australia
• Kevin Koidl, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
• Bruno Esperante Paramos, Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities, Spain
• Colin A. Carter, University of California Davis, USA
• Matti Rossi, Aalto University, Finland
• Peter Axel Nielsen, Aalborg University, Denmark
• Anastasia Griva, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece
• Kevin Carillo, Toulouse Business School, France
• Dr Shannonbrooke Murphy, Middlesex University School of Law, UK

### Competitive Funding

Table 3: Some selected details of funding awards during 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Title of the Project</th>
<th>Principle Investigator</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science Foundation Ireland</td>
<td>1,537,436</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flow and Agile Project and Portfolio Management</td>
<td>Kieran Conboy</td>
<td>€425,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Impact of International Star Scientists on Irish Science</td>
<td>John McHale</td>
<td>€856,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieving Scientific Excellence and Impact In Ireland: The Role Of Talent And Human Capital</td>
<td>Alma McCarthy</td>
<td>€255,956</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Major Research Projects

**The Impact of International Star Scientists on Irish Science**

Funded under Science Foundation Ireland’s Science Policy Research Programme and led by Professor John McHale, this project’s focus will be the study of the recruitment of star scientists on the performance of Irish science. A central challenge to government support for science is that much of the benefit spills over to other countries. That is, science has the characteristics of a global public good. This challenge can hold with particular force for a small open economy (SOE) such as Ireland, given that only a small fraction of the benefits may be appropriated by the sponsoring country. In an effort to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Government</th>
<th>809,268</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>European INTERREG-IV (Atlantic Area Programme)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSES (Maritime, Ocean Sector and Ecosystem Sustainability: fostering blue growth in Atlantic marine industries) - In association with 8 other European regional bodies and research organisation</td>
<td>Stephen Hynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFF)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance Welfare and Biosecurity of Farmed Animals</td>
<td>Doris Laepple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFF)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Evaluation of the Education Fund</td>
<td>Cormac Forkan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NORFACE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dynamics Of Accumulated Inequalities For Seniors In Employment (Daisie)</td>
<td>Aine Ni Leime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Protection Agency</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEER: Socio-economic, Health, Environmental Research</td>
<td>Christine Domegan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
address this challenge the Irish funders of scientific research have engaged in star-scientist-led capacity building initiatives.

The research in this project will adopt an evidence-based and policy-focused evaluation of the success of these star-scientist-led capacity building initiatives. Building on existing work, the project will focus upon questions that are central to an evidenced-based approach in identifying effective policies for star-led capacity building. Questions include, what is the nature and extent of Ireland’s star-led research clusters and how do stars affect university and regional productivity?

Among the outcomes of interest are the direct effects of the star on institutional performance, indirect effects on the productivity of colleagues, implications for subsequent recruitment, and impacts on collaboration patterns. Comparisons with other high-income small open economies will also be undertaken. In addition, the implications of the findings for the development of Irish science research policy will be explored.

Maritime, Ocean Sector and Ecosystem Sustainability: fostering blue growth in Atlantic industries – MOSES

Dr Stephen Hynes, Director of the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMRU) at NUI Galway’s Whitaker Institute, will examine the size and growth of key strategic marine industries across the Atlantic Arc and will propose the ‘blue’ growth path for the sustainable development of the major sectors operating in the Atlantic space as envisaged in the Atlantic Action Plan and the EU Blue Growth Strategy. To achieve these aims, the project participants will build on the expertise gained in the EU INTERREG Atlantic IV project, Marine Atlantic Regions Network (MARNET).

Achieving Scientific Excellence and Impact in Ireland: The Role of Talent and Human Capital Management in National Science Foundations

Under the leadership of Professor Alma McCarthy as the Principal Investigator, this 3-year funded project will research, develop and evaluate a talent management model for Science Foundation Ireland drawing on best practice from four international science foundations (NSFs) globally. Public research institutes/ NSFs tend to differ from typical public sector organisations as they are characterised by high turnover, contract employment, and highly skilled staff. Therefore, these organisations merit particular research attention to better understand specific organisational and contextual factors impacting effective talent management. Many of the world’s leading science funding agencies significantly impact their nation’s economic and social development. Their ability to do so as efficiently and effectively as possible is largely determined by the knowledge, skills and abilities of their most important asset – their human capital. This project will employ a cross-national research design across five small advanced and larger economies to identify best international practice. This project will assist SFI in meeting its Agenda 2020 objectives through efficient and effective talent management.
SHEER – Socio-economic, Health, Environmental Research

SHEER – Our Environment, Our Health and Our Well-Being; Water Quality and Access to Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland takes an analytical, multi-causal case study approach using highly participatory inter/multi-disciplinary teams applying hard quantitative data evidence-based practice in conjunction with soft qualitative data practice-based evidence. See http://www.nuigalway.ie/sheer/ for further information.

Surveillance Welfare and Biosecurity of Farmed Animals

Surveillance Welfare and Biosecurity of farmed animals (SWAB) will address major current and emerging animal health and welfare problems in the Irish agricultural industry. The aim of the project is to improve the department’s animal health surveillance system through enhanced stakeholder engagement; to understand consumer, farmer and veterinarian concepts of animal welfare and the decision-making process related to antimicrobial use. The project will also determine the effects of biosecurity practices on dairy, pig and poultry farms. The outcome of this study will include tools to aid decision making for farmers, veterinarians and policy makers that benefit the wider agri-food sector.

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

Whitaker PhD Forum

On 6th June 2018, the Whitaker Institute hosted its annual forum for NUI Galway PhD students, in the Hardiman Research Building. Targeted at students at all stages of their PhD, the event was fully subscribed, with 65 students registered for the one-day event.

The forum was opened by the Director of the Whitaker Institute, Professor Alan Ahearne. The day comprised of two morning and two afternoon sessions. The first morning session was ‘Coaching yourself to success: Managing the PhD journey (and beyond)’. Run by Dr Alma McCarthy, this interactive session encouraged peer-to-peer learning and discussed challenges faced by PhD students, including time management, work/life balance, imposter syndrome and motivation. Following this, a session titled ‘Research funding during and after your PhD’ featured presentations from Dr Gary Lupton (Research Office); Ms Angela Sice, (Development Officer, Whitaker Institute; and Dr Danny Norton (SEMRU).
The first afternoon session focused on advice about the PhD Viva. The presenters were Ms Anna Marie Leonard (Graduate Studies Manager; Dr Amy Mc Carter (Management Discipline; and Professor Mary Cawley (Adjunct Professor of Migration and Rural Societal Change, Whitaker Institute). The final session of the day focused on two areas. First, ‘Introduction to Research Data Management’ by Ms Trish Finnan (Digital Publishing and Data Management Librarian, James Hardiman Library). Second, ‘Creating Research Impact’ by Mr Joe Reilly (Research Impact Librarian, James Hardiman Library).

PhD posters were on display throughout the day, and poster sessions took place during coffee and lunch breaks. The poster sessions also facilitated interaction and networking. Attendees were provided with an online set of supporting materials from the speakers, as well as a copy of the recently updated PhD Viva Guide.

Getting a journal article submitted in 2018

The workshop on 6 November, hosted by Dr Rachel Hilliard of the Innovation and Structural Change research cluster, focused on strategies for improved writing productivity and motivation. The event helped those in the audience to ensure they formulated a focused abstract, plans for identifying a target journal, a schedule for writing, and strategies for effectively finding and using writing time.

Writers Retreat

The Writers’ Retreat offered a three-day space, mental and physical, that is removed from the work environment and focused entirely on advancing a piece of writing. The retreat took place in the Connemara Coast Hotel, which managed to be both a short drive from Galway and yet completely away from other work distractions.

The December retreat was attended by 15 academics - members of the Whitaker, as well as colleagues from the Moore Institute. Staff were able to make significant progress on work during the retreat, including completion of revisions of articles for publication, drafting a report chapter, writing a first draft of an article, submission of a conference abstract, and completion of data analysis. Feedback from participants is that the environment supports high writing productivity during the retreat, and that the strategies learnt continue to benefit their writing long after the retreat has ended.

The Whitaker Writers’ Retreat takes place twice a year, always in the study week just after the end of term.
Appendix

10 Years On: How Ireland has Changed Since the Financial Crisis

**SOCIAL MEDIA**
- 418 Engagements
- 20,066 Views and Impressions
- 38 Posts

**MEDIA AND PRESS**
- 2,914,325 people reached
- €198,337 worth of press
- 6 online articles in national newspapers
- 4 national radio broadcasts
- 1 printed articles in national newspapers
- 2 online articles in local papers
- 1 local radio broadcast

**Eventbrite**
- 798 Views
- 269 Registrations
- 200 Attendees