

Conference

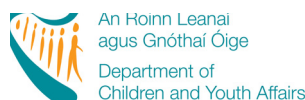
From Child Poverty to Child Well-being:

Lessons from Research and Policy

Thursday 26 April 2012

Venue:

The Economic and Social Research Institute
Whitaker Square
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2



Context and Purpose of the Conference

The Department of Social Protection (DSP), the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and the Children's Research Centre (CRC) at TCD are co-hosting a one day conference to explore current research and policy responses for addressing child poverty and well-being in Ireland. The conference will examine recent findings from national research on childhood deprivation in Ireland and from the *National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (Growing up in Ireland)*. It will provide an overview of current European and Irish policy responses to child poverty and well-being and the importance of evaluation and innovation to drive policy responses. The conference will also examine specific interventions to draw out possible policy lessons for the future.

Programme

09:15 Registration and Coffee

09.40 Welcome **Frances Ruane**, Director, ESRI

09.45 Opening Address **Joan Burton** TD, Minister for Social Protection

Session 1: New Insights into Child Poverty in Ireland

Chair: **John Bohan**, Department of Social Protection

10:00 Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland
Dorothy Watson & Bertrand Maître, ESRI

10.25 Evidence from the Growing Up in Ireland study
James Williams, ESRI, **Chris Whelan**, UCD

10.50 Questions and Answers

11.05 Coffee

Session 2: National and European Policy Responses to Child Poverty and Well-being

Chair: **Maria Corbett**, Children's Rights Alliance

11.25 Addressing Child Poverty and Well-being: A European Perspective
Hugh Frazer, Department of Applied Social Studies, NUI Maynooth and EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion

11.50 A Child Well-being Approach to Anti-Poverty Policy: Implications for Ireland
Tony Fahey, University College Dublin

12.15 Questions and Answers

12.30 Light Lunch

Session 3: Innovative Interventions for Addressing Child Poverty and Improving Well-being

Chair: **Mark Morgan**, Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin /Dublin City University

13.30 Evaluation of the School Support Programme under DEIS
Peter Archer & Susan Weir, Educational Research Centre,
St. Patrick's College / DCU

13.55 Learning from Evaluation: The Incredible Years Ireland Study
Sinéad McGilloway, NUI Maynooth

14:20 Questions and Answers

Session 4: Panel Discussion: Lessons from Research, Policy and Innovation

Chair: **Mary Doyle**, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

14:35 **Caroline Fahey**, Society of St. Vincent de Paul

June Tinsley, Barnardos

14:55 Open Discussion

15.10 Closing Address, **Frances Fitzgerald** TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Organising Bodies

The **Department of Social Protection** has overall responsibility for developing, co-ordinating and driving the Government's National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016. Its Social Inclusion Division has a specific remit to monitor poverty trends, including progress on national poverty targets, and to analyse the impact of policies on poverty and social exclusion. The Division has supported a number of studies on child poverty and well-being at national and European levels, including the ESRI study *Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland*.

The **Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)** is one of Europe's leading research centres in the social sciences. Its main focus is research on economic and social change in Ireland in the new global context. The ESRI produces research that contributes to understanding economic and social change and that informs public policymaking and civil society in Ireland and throughout the European Union. The ESRI undertook the study titled *Understanding Childhood Deprivation in Ireland* for the Social Inclusion Division. Together with TCD it is undertaking the *National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (Growing Up in Ireland)*.

The **Department of Children and Youth Affairs** was established in June 2011 following a Government decision to consolidate a range of functions relating to children and young people. The Department recently adopted a new mission statement: 'to lead the effort to improve the outcomes for children and young people in Ireland' and it seeks to bring a seamless new approach to policy development and integrated service provision for children; with the ultimate objective of ensuring children are cared for and protected and that they have the best possible start to life.

The **Children's Research Centre (CRC)**, Trinity College Dublin, is a specialist centre, established in 1995 which undertakes multi-disciplinary policy, practice-relevant research into the lives of children and young people and the contexts in which they live their lives. In its work, the Centre strives to produce high quality research of interest to researchers, policy makers and service providers. The CRC has always had a strong focus on building capacity and skills in researching children's lives and works closely with the statutory, voluntary and community bodies concerned. The Centre is committed to forging strong links with Irish and international colleagues in the field of child and youth research.

Booking

Attendance at the event is free but must be pre-booked.

There are a limited number of places available so early booking is advised. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. In the event of a high demand, late-booking participants may be placed on the waiting list.

To book a place, see our [booking form](#), and register by the **12th April 2012** at the latest. If you have any special requests or needs, please specify these on the booking form and we will try to accommodate you, subject to receiving sufficient notice.

If you have any queries about booking, please contact our bookings manager, **Liz Coyle**, by email to: conference@esri.ie or by telephone at +353 1 8632099.
Venue

The conference takes place in the **Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)** which is located at:-

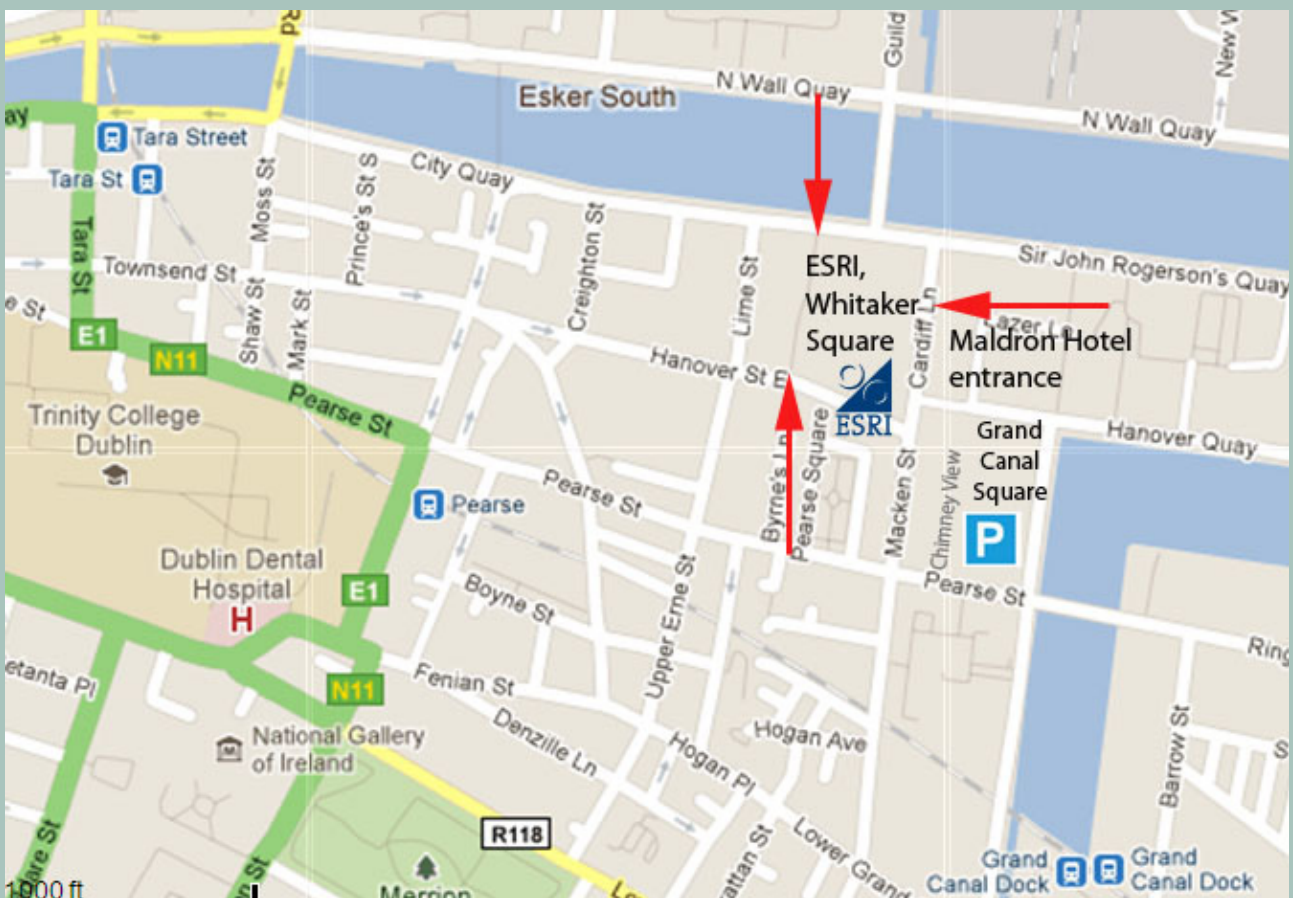
Whitaker Square
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2.

Telephone +353 1 8632000
web site: www.esri.ie

Getting there

The ESRI is located at Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. This is a pedestrian only Square that is not immediately visible from the surrounding streets. There are pedestrian entrances, all of which are wheelchair accessible, from Sir John Rogerson's Quay (beside the large white O2 building), from Cardiff Lane (directly beside the Maldron Hotel) and from Hanover Street East (just east of the junction with Lower Erne Street). The red arrows on the map below indicate the wheelchair accessible pedestrian entry points.

There will be stewards positioned at all the main pedestrian entry points to the venue on the morning of the conference.



Public Transport

The nearest Dart is Pearse Station in Westland Row and the nearest Luas (red line) is Mayor Square. The Dublin Bus routes 1, 2, 3, 50, 56a, 77 and 77a all operate to either Pearse Street or Grand Canal Dock, which are close by. See the [Dublin Bus](#) website for details of accessible bus routes and timetables.

Parking

There is on-street paid parking in Cardiff Lane, Hanover Street East and Erne Street. There are some public parking spaces reserved for accessible parking in the Dublin 2 area, see this [list](#) for details. The nearest public car park is the Q-Park at Grand Canal Square. The entrance is on Chimney View, just off Pearse Street. Other car parks are available at: Connolly Station, Jury's Custom House, the National College of Ireland. Unfortunately, as all parking spaces in the area are public spaces, we cannot guarantee the availability of parking spaces on the day.

Accommodation

The nearest hotel is [Maldron Hotel](#), Cardiff Lane. Accommodation must be booked directly with the hotel and will be at the expense of the delegate

Biographies of speakers and chairpersons



Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, TD was appointed Minister for Social Protection in March 2011, having been the first TD re-elected in the 2010 general election. She was first elected to the Dáil in 1992 and is Deputy Leader of the Labour Party since 2007. As Minister for Social Protection, her main priority is to transform the system to encourage unemployed people back to work, education or training e.g. JobBridge. As Minister of State in Social Welfare ('92 to '95) she initiated a series of Welfare to Work and Education initiatives for lone parents and families on Social Welfare. Formerly a chartered accountant and senior lecturer in the Dublin Institute of Technology ([link to website](#)).



Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, **Frances Fitzgerald, TD** Minister **Fitzgerald** was appointed as Ireland's first-ever senior Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in 2011. Frances trained and worked as a social worker in Dublin and the UK before going on to serve as chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland (1988-1992) and vice president of the European Women's Lobby. Frances was first elected to Dáil Éireann in 1992. She held numerous spokesperson positions on behalf of the party and also served as Fine Gael leader in the Senate. ([link to website](#)).

Frances Ruane has been director of the ESRI since December 2006. Her previous position was as associate professor in the Department of Economics in Trinity College Dublin, where she also held the posts of director of the Policy Institute and director of the MSc programme in Economic Policy Studies. Frances is currently a member of the Councils of the Royal Irish Academy, the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, and Economic and Social Studies. She has published extensively and her current research interests centre on exploring innovation and trade ([link to website](#)).



John Bohan is a principal officer in the Department of Social Protection having worked there since 1993, in a number of areas across the Department (e.g. labour market unit, the community and voluntary area, information systems division). He currently heads divisions dealing with Child Income Support Policy and Social Inclusion. Since joining the civil service in the late 1970s, John has worked in a variety of government departments here and abroad, most recently at the European Commission as a national expert.

Dorothy Watson is an associate research professor at the ESRI and the Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin. She is the ESRI programme co-ordinator for research on social inclusion. Her research interests include comparative international studies of poverty, income distribution and subjective wellbeing. Her current research projects include work and poverty, the intra-household distribution of resources, subjective well-being in Europe, and people with disabilities in the labour market ([link to website](#)).

Bertrand Maître is a research officer at the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin. His main research interests focus on multidimensional approaches to poverty, social exclusion and quality of life. Working on these issues throughout various projects, he has gained extensive experience in the use of a wide range of large European (ECHP, EU-SILC, European Quality of Life Survey) and Irish data sets ([link to website](#)).

Maria Corbett currently the legal and policy director with the Children's Rights Alliance which is a coalition of over 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to secure the rights of children in Ireland by campaigning for full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Alliance engages in a broad range of activities to deliver change for children living in Ireland.

James Williams is a research professor at the ESRI and has been principal investigator in the *National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (Growing Up in Ireland)* – since its inception in 2006. Prior to that he was Head of the ESRI's survey division from 1996 and was responsible for all survey data collected by the institute. His current research is based on *Growing Up in Ireland*, having previously published in the areas of poverty and income distribution, labour market and research methods. ([link to website](#)).

Christopher T. Whelan is Professor Emeritus in the School of Sociology, UCD and a senior fellow at the Geary Institute. He is a former chair of the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences of the European Science Foundation and of the Governing Council of the EU Economic Change, Quality of Life and Social Cohesion (EQUALSOC) Network of Excellence. He is currently chair of the European Consortium of Sociological Research, associate editor of the *European Sociological Review* and a member of the editorial board of *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Hugh Frazer is adjunct professor in the Department of Applied Social Studies, NUI Maynooth and coordinator of the European Union's Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion (more information <http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts>). He works as independent expert on social inclusion issues and advises organisations such as the European Commission, UNICEF and various European NGOs. He is a former director of the Combat Poverty Agency and the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust.



Tony Fahey is professor of Social Policy at the School of Applied Social Science in UCD. He worked in the ESRI from 1992 to 2007. His research deals with social policy issues in Ireland and the European Union, including family dynamics, housing, poverty and spatial aspects of disadvantage. Currently, he is coordinator of UCD's Research Programme on Children and Families and is working on a detailed analysis of family well-being in Ireland using data from the *National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland (Growing Up in Ireland)* ([link to website](#)).



Mark Morgan is acting co-director of *Growing up in Ireland* at the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College and Cregan Professor of Education and Psychology at St. Patrick's College. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics and a post-doctoral Fellow of Stanford University. He is the author of over 80 scholarly publications among which are the report on the International Adult Literacy Survey and the Prison Literacy Survey. In 2010, he was awarded the President's prize for research by Dublin City University.

Peter Archer is acting director of the [Educational Research Centre](#), St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. He began his career at the Research Centre but worked from 1988 to 1999 for the Education Office of the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI). Much of his work has been concerned with issues of inequality and disadvantage and he has a particular interest in the relationship between research and policy making. He is a graduate of University College Cork.

Susan Weir is a research fellow at the [Educational Research Centre](#), St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. She has been working in the area of educational disadvantage since taking up a post at the ERC in 1995, when she co-authored a book on the issue. She has been involved in several evaluations of programmes aimed at addressing disadvantage, the most recent of which is the evaluation of DEIS on behalf of the DES. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin.



Sinéad McGilloway is a senior lecturer and director of the Mental Health and Social Research Unit (MHSRU), Department of Psychology, National University of Ireland Maynooth. She is a community and public health psychologist with 20 years' experience in undertaking applied, policy-relevant health and social care research, in particular on child and adult mental health, and service evaluation. Sinéad is principal investigator on a number of research projects including the Incredible Years Ireland Study (www.iyirelandstudy.ie), a national evaluation of the Incredible Years Parent, Teacher and Child Training Series.



Mary Doyle has been director general of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs since May 2010. Prior to this, she was assistant secretary in the Economic and Social Policy Division of the Department of the Taoiseach. In that post, she acted as secretary to the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure, the Cabinet Committee on Health and the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion. She has a particular interest in cross Agency policy development and implementation.

Caroline Fahey is social policy development officer with the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP), and has worked with the organisation for four years. Caroline works on a broad range of social policy issues, with a particular focus on poverty and social exclusion, social welfare, lone parents and migration, and is an SVP representative on the End Child Poverty Coalition. Caroline is also one of the four representatives of the Community and Voluntary Pillar on the National Economic and Social Council.

June Tinsley is policy officer with Barnardos, Ireland's largest children's charity. She joined the advocacy department in Barnardos in 2005 and her role is central to the research, formulation and dissemination of all policies as they relate to children. Barnardos campaigns for legislative and policy reform in the best interests of children particularly in the areas of child poverty, educational disadvantage and child protection. Prior to this June worked as policy officer with the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, the Arts Council of Ireland and as an independent researcher and evaluator.