

Former Staff

Among the staff who retired from positions on the staff at Maynooth Sociology are:



Fr. Liam Ryan was Professor of Sociology and Head of Department for many years until his retirement in 2001. Famed as a sociologist, hurler, raconteur and for his contributions to public life and to Maynooth, Liam sadly passed away in 2015. You can view a [video slide show of photos here](#) from Liam's storied life - ranging from Limerick hurling to meeting President Higgins.

You can read reflections on his life and career by [Mary Corcoran](#) and [Brian Conway](#). The Department of Sociology held a night to celebrate Liam's life and career after his passing in 2015. Read the [Liam Ryan Appreciation Booklet](#) from the many who knew him and see [photos from the night](#).

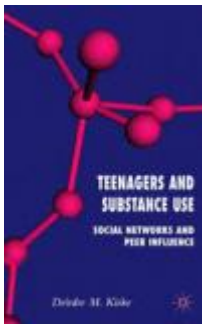


Fr. Mícheál Mac Gréil was another of the leading figures in shaping the development of the contemporary Department of Sociology at Maynooth. He was a key figure in the development of empirical research and particularly survey research in Ireland, including a series of three surveys relating to prejudice and tolerance in Ireland.

You can read more [here](#) about Mícheál's many contributions to Sociology and to Irish public life.



Michel Peillon (pictured at the launch of a report on local governance) joined the department in the 1970s and made major contributions to Maynooth and Irish Sociology in the following decades. His research ranged across the politics and culture of welfare change, urban and suburban life and governance, the development of Irish society, the politics of culture, social theory, and more. He published a wide range of books and articles, from *Contemporary Irish Society* (1982) to *Suburban Affiliations* (with Mary Corcoran and Jane Gray, 2010).



Deirdre Kirke joined the department in the 1990s and was a leading scholar of social network studies in Ireland. These studies included gender, friendship networks and the link between social networks and drug-use.



Peter Murray (pictured at his retirement in 2019) was a leading scholar of Irish social and labour history and of politics and social change, among a wide range of topics. Among his many contributions were two books reflecting his interests in the politics of economic life and labour - *Facilitating the Future? US Aid, European Integration and Irish Industrial*

Viability, 1948-73 - and religion, politics and cultural life - Church, State and Social Science in Ireland.



Another crucial figure in the development of Maynooth Sociology was **Maureen Redmond**, who led the administration of the department for many years and made huge contributions to the social world of Sociology at Maynooth.

We were also deeply sad to hear in 2016 of the passing of **Emre Isik** who taught in the department from 2001 to 2004 and maintained close ties with many colleagues.