

Finding a potential Sociology or Politics supervisor

Choosing a supervisor or co-supervisors is one of the most important choices you can make as a research student after your choice of research area. Your supervisor/s are experts in the field who will work with you on developing your proposal for the Department and/or for funding bodies; who will support your research right through your time with us; and who will act as mentors for your career.

Your expression of interest will include the names of one or two members of staff who we will approach on your behalf as potential supervisors. They may or may not feel able to supervise your research (or may not have the capacity to take on another PhD student) – in any case your proposal should be aligned with their research expertise, whether empirical, theoretical or methodological.

Here is a quick overview of the research interests of staff in the Department (more information at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/our-people>).

Mary Benson

Cityscapes; gentrification; place; community; and visual representations. Current research focuses on urban agriculture.

John Brown

Democratization, neoliberalism, post-neoliberalism, populism, Latin American politics, left parties, popular sector organizations, anti-system parties, Southern European politics.

Delma Byrne

Research interests include social stratification in education and the labour market spanning the primary, second- level and higher education sectors as well as post-secondary education and training; transitions between education and the labour market and the evaluation of educational interventions.

Barry Cannon

Research interests are on Latin American politics, with particular expertise on Peru, Venezuela and Central America, especially on issues of democratization, power relations, Left and Right politics, civil society, and development. Current research focuses on opposition politics in Venezuela; right wing politics in Latin America; and, comparisons between collective reactions to crisis in Latin America and in Ireland and Europe.

Brian Conway

Research interests include sociology of religion; collective memory; history of Irish sociology. Current research focuses on examining Catholic public discourses and institutional arrangements, trends and patterns in the Catholic workforce, and religious institutional

responses to scandal, all in comparative perspective.

Colin Coulter

Research interests include development studies, global politics, Marxism, ethnicity and nationalism, popular culture and in particular popular music and Northern Irish politics and society.

Laurence Cox

I am interested in supervising activists in social movements or communities in struggle who are carrying out participatory action research as a contribution to their own movements' practice.

Pauline Cullen

Research interests include political sociology; gender inequality, social movements; civil society and state relations; nongovernmental organisations; social policy and European Integration; coalitions between diverse constituencies; activism on social rights beyond national settings.

Jenny Dagg

Research interests include dynamics of power, agency and subjectivity, social justice and social policy. Her research has focused on areas of refugee recognition; poverty, exclusion and social resilience; immigrant integration; and reproductive justice and disability through qualitative and mixed methods research. Her current work focuses on the Basic Income for Artists in Ireland.

Honor Fagan

Research interests include Human Security, Gender and Development, Governance, and Social Sustainability and Critical International Development Theory. Socially Led Sustainability Science.

Eoin Flaherty

Research interests include top income inequality, labour's share of national income, time series and pooled time series cross-section analysis; financialisation, social structures of accumulation, and power resources; famine, common-pool resource systems, primitive communism, and nineteenth-century Ireland; complexity theory, human ecology, and environmental sociology.

Jane Gray

Research and teaching interests include families and households, comparative-historical sociology, life history analysis. Her current research focuses on: life histories and social change

in twentieth century Ireland; family and community, gender, household economies and social change.

Rebecca King – Ó Riain

Research and teaching interests include globalization, emotions and technology; racial/ethnic beauty pageants; critical race theory; qualitative methods; interracial marriage and multiracial people. Her current research explores globalized interpersonal and interactive forms of bodily culture through skin altering practices in Asia and Europe, beauty pageants (for more on beauty pageants listen here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswrld>), and Asian popular culture (Korean and Japanese popular music and dramas).

Daryl Martin

Research interests include: architecture; cultural representations of place; landscape; and urban development. Recent research has focussed on studies of healthcare architecture; the digitally mediated use of public space; photographic representations of cities; and the contested politics of religious architecture in contemporary urban environments.

John O'Brennan

Research interests include the process and politics of European Union enlargement; the EU's relationship with the western Balkans and prospective enlargement to South Eastern Europe; the dynamics of EU external relations; EU-Russian relations; constructivist theories of International Politics; and the identity dimension to European integration. I am also very interested in Ireland's experience of European integration, its relationship with the European Union and the Lisbon Treaty debate in Ireland.

Seán Ó Riain

Research interests are in the sociology of work, economic sociology, comparative and global political economy and social inequality. Specific areas of interest include work organisation and workplace regimes; developmental states; the global knowledge economy; economic liberalism; changing European societies.

Paul Ryan

Research interests include the sociology of family and personal life with a specific interest in LGBTQ+ lives, sex work, sexuality and the law and minority health.

Elena Zambelli

My research interests include women's everyday negotiations of sexuality and 'respectability'; intimate mobilities; migrations, everyday bordering and resistances; whiteness, race and racisms; women's collective agency and struggles in the Middle East and North Africa region; Palestine and decolonial solidarities.