



John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Faculty of Social Sciences

Supervisor Research Areas Advertised

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Department of Adult and Community Education

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Adult and Community Education
Supervisor: Prof Camilla Fitzsimons
Supervisor Email: camilla.fitzsimons@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Community education, critical feminist pedagogy, education and social movements, critical healthcare education

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Hello, I am happy to supervise research surrounding community education, critical feminist pedagogy, education and social movements, and critical healthcare education. Across each of these overlapping realms, I support research that is rooted in critical, justice-oriented, and participatory approaches to education that emphasize transformative learning as a tool for individual and collective change. In other words, I support projects that examine the role of consciousness-raising education in activism, resistance, and social justice movements.

Much of this work involves education that extends beyond formal institutions into community settings, grassroots social movements, community development, trade unions and other civil society spaces. I encourage a critical feminist pedagogy encouraging researchers to explore education through critical feminist, intersectional, and decolonial lenses. This extends my research interest to gender and power, feminist pedagogy and in how feminist theory informs teaching practices and shapes knowledge.

Because I am also a qualified general nurse, my interests also extend to healthcare education where I encourage critical pedagogic approaches that challenge many taken for granted assumptions about health and wellbeing. My expertise in this area extends towards the role of critical education in supporting the regulation of healthcare work with a view to improving terms and conditions of employment in a hugely precarious working environment.

I welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds who are committed to engaged, interdisciplinary, and critical research that advances education as a tool for social transformation.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests align with Maynooth University's commitment to social justice, engaged research and interdisciplinary scholarship. In particular, my focus on community education and grassroots social movements supports research within civil society spaces thereby reflecting Maynooth University's commitment to a tool for equality and social change.

As an intersectional, anti-capitalist feminist, I am committed to equality and to supporting research that challenges traditional power structures. This aligns with MU's commitment to diversity, inclusion and gender equality.

Moreover, my expertise in critical healthcare aligns with the desire for research which carries real-world impact and again, the university's support for social justice. END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Adult and Community Education
Supervisor: Dr Jerry O'Neill
Supervisor Email: jerry.oneill@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Further education teacher/adult educator learning; widening participation; critical, creative modes of reflexive inquiry

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I'm happy to support research in the field of adult and further education that is critical, reflexive and participatory in nature and intention. I'm particularly interested in the issues surrounding adult and further education practitioners in creating careers and a practice within a diverse, and sometimes, inequitable professional practitioner field more broadly. I'm also interested in widening participation and pathways and partnerships from FE into, through and beyond HE that support students and/or practitioner researchers with meaningful and transformative learning experiences and enhance opportunities for decent work beyond higher education. I am also interested in narrative, creative and autoethnographic forms of inquiry/research which explore issues of social and educational concern.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Areas associated with widening participation, adult education practitioner development, and FE-HE partnerships are congruent with the social and 'real world impact' of engaged research as articulated in the MU strategic plan.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Adult and Community Education
Supervisor: Dr Angela McGinn
Supervisor Email: angela.mcginn@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Construction of self and identity, identity regulation, sensemaking in communities of practice

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests lie in how individuals make sense of who they are in a variety of contexts but broadly situated in the field of adult, community, further and higher education and gender. My research spans the fields of sociology, adult and military education, social psychology, and organisation studies. It draws on a variety of qualitative methodological approaches including narrative, discourse analysis and discursive psychology. I am interested in supervising research that considers how identity, both individual and collective, linked to organizations, history and culture, impacts on social, institutional and societal practices and change processes. I am also interested in the intersections of class, race, gender and identity construction.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This aligns with the University's Strategic plan in terms of fostering interdisciplinary research broadly located in the field of education but linked to the key research beacons of Health and Wellbeing and Society and Public Policy. Identity studies research crosses disciplines and has the potential to inform understanding of the mechanisms involved in individual agency, self-efficacy, and sense of belonging. This research illuminates how individuals manage transitions, negotiate and signal and experience belonging, or feel alienated and stigmatized.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Adult and Community Education
Supervisor: Dr Fergal Finnegan
Supervisor Email: fergal.finnegan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Title: Transformative education for social justice keywords: adult/popular education, equality, critical pedagogy, social class, student voice, critical realism, space

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I have longstanding interest in transformative education as this relates to social justice and democracy. I have done extensive empirical research on students experience in higher education, on social class, on transformative learning and popular education. Publications include the books Access and Widening Participation in Irish Higher Education, Doing Critical and Creative Research in Adult Education and European Perspectives on Transformation Theory and recent special issues on sustainability and popular education. I am interested in working with doctoral researchers who wish to take a critical approach to research on adult learning and education in formal and non-formal settings. My understanding of critical research is rooted in critical pedagogy, critical theory, relational sociology, critical realism and transformative learning theory (especially Freire, Bourdieu, Mezirow and Lefebvre). Methodologically my interest and expertise is in biographical and participatory research but I am open to supervising a wide range of methods. I would especially welcome proposals on the following topics related to adult learning and education: social class, community engagement, popular education and social movement learning (past and present), lifelong learning, transformative education, critical policy studies, democracy and adult education, sustainability and ecology, and space and place.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The focus on transformative education and social justice is linked to values that are core to Maynooth University and two beacon area of research namely: 1) Society and Public Policy; and 2) Sustainability and Climate Change

END

Department of Anthropology

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Anthropology
Supervisor: Dr Chandana Mathur
Supervisor Email: Chandana.Mathur@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Mobilising social and natural sciences to address climate change, particularly water-related crises

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

This transdisciplinary research project intends to bring social and natural science perspectives and methods in conversation with each other to address issues arising from climate change, especially those related to water scarcity. The Hume scholarship applicant is expected to propose a joint social and natural science project set in a particular local context, ideally situated in a world region where the lead supervisor – a sociocultural anthropologist -- has had prior research experience. Social scientific understandings and methods will primarily drive this grounded project. It requires an anthropological sensibility that focuses on relationships of power at the local and global levels and remains cognisant of world historical transformations and questions of climate justice. The anthropological structuring of the project also implies that participant observation during an extended period of fieldwork will be a key form of data collection. In addition to the lead supervisor, the supervisory team will include a senior scholar at Maynooth University who is a social scientist with long experience of working with natural scientists and an MU senior scholar whose work spans both social and natural sciences. In addition, it is envisaged that the applicant will have arranged in advance for a natural scientist (either MU-based or an external supervisor) with the requisite scientific expertise and supervisory experience to join the supervisory team. This team member will help shape the natural science approach and methodology that informs the project and ensure that the natural science data collection process is rigorous and meaningful.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The very first of the goals of the 2023-28 Strategic Plan is “to improve research outputs and impacts across all areas of the University and position MU among global leaders in our selected beacons of research excellence”. Of the five chosen ‘beacons’ of research excellence in the Strategic Plan, this project directly addresses ‘Sustainability and Climate Change’, bringing together social and natural science disciplines in order to do so. The lead supervisor has considerable expertise in this ‘beacon’ research area, having participated in two EU Horizon 2020 funded projects combining natural and social scientific research to address matters of water access in the Global South. She has many years of experience in attracting exceptional PhD students to the university and has supervised/co-supervised nine students to completion. She was awarded the Irish Research Council’s Research Ally Prize (2021) for her “positive impact as a mentor”. The collaborative efforts of an outstanding and transdisciplinary supervisory team for this project will further the university’s ‘Research and Impact’ objective of nurturing the next generation of research talent in precisely one of the ‘beacon’ areas that this Strategic Plan has chosen to focus upon in the coming five years. **END**

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Anthropology
Supervisor: Dr Ian McGonigle
Supervisor Email: Ian.Mcgonigle@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Anthropology of Religious Mysticism and Technology

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The advent of Artificial Intelligence has brought about profound changes in social life, including spirituality and religious practices, with emergent technologies being integrated into mystical and religious practices across world cultures. This research project poses bold and ambitious questions regarding the theological, eschatological, and sociological implications of emergent hybrid spiritualities, focusing on how mystical traditions are transforming and affording novel modes of meta-person mediation.

Over the past five years, large language models like Google's Gemini, OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Copilot, and others have become widely and freely available. In the same timeframe, online AI chatbots have included AI gurus and prophets, such as AskBuddha, Rebbe.io, Jesus AI, and MuslimAI. These new technologies entail novel social practices and ways of mediating between individuals, sacred texts, religious leaders, as well as 'meta persons' such as deities, prophets, angels, and divine emanations.

This project, built on traditional ethnographic methods, seeks to understand these phenomena through a multidisciplinary lens, combining anthropology, sociology, religious studies, and AI ethics in order to provide original insights into the consequences of AI-religion hybrids.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research project aligns with Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 by virtue of its ambition for research excellence, its novel and innovative approach, and its international scope. With the global significance of religion and technological change, the project contributes to research with a global impact and transnational scholarly significance. By examining AI's integration into mystical practices across world cultures, the project can further Maynooth University's internationalisation by bringing in diverse global communities and their various perspectives and interactions with novel technologies. It will also yield insights to improve human well-being and to promote the responsible and ethical regulation of new technologies. The project is thus embedded in the strategy and values of the university's strategic plan and priorities.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Anthropology
Supervisor: Prof Mark Maguire
Supervisor Email: Mark.H.Maguire@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Islands of Privilege (keywords: elites; protected spaces; transnational mobility, new residential patterns, migration; security).

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising students interested in the cultural patterns of new elites. My longstanding research focus is on security, and it is clear in this area that new elites have emerged with specific security and safety demands. Therefore, I am interested in the life choices, residential patterns, and values of new elites. I would be especially interested in research that explores everyday life for mobile members of the transnational elite, from footloose tech workers to those living in established wealthy enclaves.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 focusing on 'Beacons' of research excellence one of which is "Society and Public Policy." Right now, the western world is witnessing new concentrations of wealth and privilege in gated communities, wealthy enclaves, and exclusive neighbourhoods. Many of these spaces are heavily securitised and intrinsically exclusionary. Today, mobile transnational elites may move from an exclusive neighbourhood to a similar one in a different country with little friction and with only loose ties to the "local" world. I am interested in the socio-cultural consequences, especially for elite migrants.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Anthropology
Supervisor: Prof Njabulo Chipangura
Supervisor Email: njabulo.chipangura@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Community collaborations in restoring biographical meanings of objects from Southern Africa at the National Museum of Ireland.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

World Culture Museums like the National Museum of Ireland (NMI), Dublin with problematic collections of cultural heritage objects mostly appropriated and looted by the British Empire from formerly colonised societies in Africa are currently reinventing themselves through open collaborative engagements with originating communities. The expansion of the British Empire to Africa during paved way for the capture of cultural objects of the colonised that were also deposited at National Museum of Ireland. Most of these collections were brought by Irishmen serving in the British army as army or navy as colonial officers. The problem is that these objects were classified and categorised in according to disciplinary configurations of anthropology, ethnology, ethnography which ignored their socio-cultural biographies and ritual lives. NMI has approximately 4714 that were collected from Africa during the colonial period. This research project will engage with exclusions associated with the ordering, classification and presentation of ethnographic objects collected particularly from the people of Southern Africa during British colonial rule and are contained at the NMI. Methodologically, in line with decolonial approaches to knowledge production, we will begin with practice in implementing collaborative provenance and biographical research, curatorship and co-production towards active relationships with, and taking guidance from originating communities in Southern Africa. Inspired by the South African philosophy of Ubuntu – emphasising connectedness (across people, collections, and time) - this research project proposes a new curatorial framework: flipping the traditional primacy of the collector's narrative and legacy in conventional practice, and articulating a new, alternative provenance research methodology; one which centres the narratives of the people and contexts from where the objects were dispossessed and collected from. This collaborative provenance and object biography research will involve long term ethnographic field work with originating communities in Southern Africa towards defining redefining meanings of their cultural heritage objects that are at NMI.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The proposed project aligns well with the heritage, culture and languages research beacon at MU. This work squarely fits within the theme of intersectionality as it seeks to look at the production of heritage from colonial contexts by challenging authoritative forms of curatorial presentation in museum exhibitions. The key questions that I seek to pose are: (1) How to conduct collaborative biographical research with originating communities whose cultures heritage objects are contained ethnographic museum like NMI? (2) How to achieve inclusivity and responsible care in respect of building active relationships between cultural heritage objects and originating communities? (3) What does an empirical praxis of decolonising

ethnographic collections entail? (4) How do we re-order dispossessed cultural heritage objects curatorially in ways that unsettle the conventional ordering of knowledge in ethnographic museums by creating space for lived experiences and Indigenous knowledges?

END

Department of Applied Social Studies

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Daniel McFadden
Supervisor Email: daniel.mcfadden@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

The mental health of people in the criminal justice system

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising PhD students on topics related to the mental health and social care needs of individuals who have contact with the criminal justice system. My research has focused on various factors which impact this group, including mental health, substance use, social support and trauma experiences. I am interested in considering these factors at multiple stages of the criminal justice system including during imprisonment and probation.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research is focused on promoting health and well being, a key beacon of the strategic plan. My particular focus also overlaps with the research beacon of society and public policy, as it is focused on those who have contact with the criminal justice system. A key challenge for society is addressing crime and public health approaches have been highlighted as a key part of addressing this.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Johanna O' Shea
Supervisor Email: johanna.oshea@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Probation, Criminal Justice Social Work, Human Rights, Social Justice and Research Design, Q-Methodology.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My expertise in research and teaching is primarily on criminal justice social work and research methodologies / research design.

My PhD studies critiqued the social construction of risk assessment and notions of public protection in the justice system, against a backdrop of protecting human rights. My thesis was nominated for the award of best PhD in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Ulster University.

My research looks at on the one hand social work with adults where they have been convicted of very serious offences of violence, and on the other considers work with young people who may have committed less serious crimes but are being excluded and marginalised in their communities. due to issues of. There are cross-cutting themes here at structural level which includes stigma, discrimination, oppression and social exclusion.

I have a keen interest in individuals experiences of the justice system, in particular their experience of social work services within it. Prior to my academic career, I gained extensive practice experience as a probation officer, in both Germany and Northern Ireland.

Furthermore, I am an expert of research methodologies and their optimal use for enquiry and knowledge acquisition purposes. Besides the more conventional research methodologies, I have expertise in the application of Q-methodology, in particular its usefulness in the social sciences.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Empowerment of post-graduate students, researchers and post qualifying practitioners, to strive for a better future for all, is core to the work we do on a daily basis. This goal captures the essence of social work and professional programmes across the Department of Applied Social Studies (DAPSS). Integral to this is enhancing and supporting research excellence and capacity. My expertise in research design, / methodologies in terms of research with a social justice and human rights focus is key to realising the mission of DAPSS.

A lot of my research activity may be categorised under the beacon Health and Well-being. There are cross cutting themes however, that should be housed within the beacon Society and Public Policy. My work involves educating postgraduate students for a career in social work, many of whom have come to Ireland due to their poor communities no longer being sustainable, due to war, poverty, and the relentless impact of globalisation etc. Other indigenous groups of people

in Ireland, including ethnic minorities, have had the fabric of their communities destroyed due to ongoing structural issues related to government policy and discrimination. When our social work students qualify, they will work with people and communities who have experienced exclusion, marginalisation, deprivation, war and poverty. This work ignites my research interest in issues around the beacon of the Sustainability and Climate Change.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Niamh Flanagan
Supervisor Email: niamh.flanagan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Trafficking in persons, including Child Trafficking, Human Trafficking, and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests are focused on the areas of child trafficking, human trafficking, child policy, domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. I have a particular interest in both policy and practice related research and would be happy to work with students pursuing research in these fields. My methodological strengths are in participative research; quantitative data analysis; and creative qualitative methods.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests align with several research beacons including society and public policy, interdisciplinary and engaged research, EDI, social justice, health and well-being and through this societal impact and public good.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Danny Connelly
Supervisor Email: Danny.Connelly@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Youth work practice and policy. Youth, social class and marginalisation.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research primarily focuses on youth work practice and youth marginalisation, but I am happy to accept students in all areas of youth work and youth studies. Methodologically, I am interested in using qualitative methods to examine the lived experience of young people and practitioners, particularly those who work with youth on the margins of society.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Young people are the hope for the future and so it is important to understand their experiences, challenges and opportunities, as well as the experiences of those who work to help, support and educate them. As such, my research area aligns with a number of beacons, including society and public policy, health and wellbeing, interdisciplinary research, and social justice.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Ciara Bradley
Supervisor Email: Ciara.Bradley@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Collaborative Research & Co-Production; Biographic Narrative Inquiry; Feminist Research Methodologies; Community work/ Youth work Education; Community work/ Youth work practice.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to supervise students in the following areas:

1. The intersection of structural inequalities and subjective experiences;
2. Research Methodologies for Social Justice including Participative research; Collaborative Research & Co-Production; Biographic Narrative Inquiry; Feminist Research Methodologies.
3. Community work/ Youth work Education;
4. The practice of community work/ youth work.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas is rooted in equality, diversity and inclusion with implications for social justice. It aligns with the research beacons of society and public policy and sustainability and climate change , and the university's aims to undertake high-impact research in partnership with civil society.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Applied Social Studies
Supervisor: Dr Maria Pierce
Supervisor Email: Maria.Pierce@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Decision-Making Representative Orders: Development, Implementation and Implications for Nursing Homes Support Scheme

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Research in the broad area of Social Policy as it relates to ageing and health and wellbeing of older people, people with dementia or people with disabilities; research to inform the development, implementation and evaluation of health policy, systems or services and innovations; research in the area of social care including family caring, community-based, hospital-based and long-stay residential care relating to older people, people with dementia and people with disabilities; research that adopts social science approaches including mixed-methods research; research that includes voices of people developing, implementing or impacted by health and social care services; research that seeks to embed public and patient involvement.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with the Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 in several ways. My disciplinary background is Social Policy and my research focuses on societal issues of national, European and international importance such as the opportunities and challenges of population ageing. It therefore closely aligns with the interdisciplinary research beacon, Society and Public Policy. Much of my research focuses on health policy, systems and services as well as on how the health and social care system can promote the health and wellbeing of older people, people with dementia and their family carers. Accordingly, it aligns with the research beacon of Health and Wellbeing. I am committed to undertaking, fostering and promoting high-quality research, working in interdisciplinary teams, and collaborating with external partners such as the HSE. My research is also aligned with the Strategic Plan's commitment to developing engaged research; my research has longstanding interest in including the voices of people from marginalised groups and I seek to embed public and patient involvement (PPI) in research projects.

END

Department of Economics

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Economics
Supervisor: Dr Bruno Morando
Supervisor Email: bruno.morando@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Farmers' ageing and the economic and environmental sustainability of Irish agriculture.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The population of Irish farmers has been ageing at a sustained pace in the last 30 years. In the 1991 agricultural census, 13.2 percent of farmers were below 35, and 23 percent were older than 65. In the most recent census (2020), only 7 percent of the farmers were below 35 and one third were 65 or older. This trend poses some obvious challenges for the financial and environmental sustainability of the sector. For example, older farmers might be more reluctant to introduce innovative technologies to cut emissions or have poorer access to non-family labour to maintain sustainable levels of production.

This study aims to quantify the impact of the population dynamics on the aggregate productivity, efficiency and environmental sustainability of the Irish agricultural sector. Methodologically, this will be achieved employing micro level data from the National Farm Survey (NFS) which contains farm level information on farmers' characteristics, input and technology used as well as output production and GHG emissions.

Since the data is available in its current form since the early 2000s, it can be leveraged to disentangle and quantify different sources of aggregate changes in environmental and efficiency performance linked with ageing. For example, it is possible to study how the relationship between productivity and age evolved over time (e.g. if older farmers in 2020 were relatively more efficient than in 2000) and to which extent the constraints faced by older farmers (for example in selling excess land) changed over the years.

Such study will allow policymakers to target specific challenges identified in the analysis and to make specific evidence-based policy suggestions on the priorities to tackle such as the access to factor markets vs the adoption of new and more environmentally friendly production techniques.

All students interested in the general field of agricultural economics should apply!

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This project is in line with three of the beacons of research excellence identified in the strategic plan. Namely:

- o Data and Digital Transformation
- o Society and Public Policy
- o Sustainability and Climate Change

More specifically, the objective of the project is to contribute to the development of evidence-based policies to tackle the issue of farmers' ageing which not only has obvious implications in terms of the financial viability of the agricultural sector, but also on its environmental sustainability. The latter is particularly crucial in light of the fact that according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agriculture contributed to nearly 40% of the total GHG emissions in Ireland, nearly twice the share of transport (the second industry by emission levels).

The methodology will be based on rigorous quantitative methods leveraging existing micro-level data on farmers characteristics, inputs and output use and emissions over the years, and as such will contribute to the development of new and policy relevant data applications.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Economics
Supervisor: Prof David Cuberes
Supervisor Email: david.cuberes@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Urban economics and welfare

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

A common concern is the large disparities in city population sizes within a country, which can lead to significant challenges. The World Development Report (2019) highlights how the quality of life in mega-cities in less developed countries is often poor. While much of the focus has been on developing countries, where many of the world's largest cities are located, the COVID-19 pandemic has raised broader questions about the benefits and drawbacks of extremely large cities, even in wealthier nations. In some countries, there is also a growing concern over the rapid depopulation of rural areas. This research proposes using general equilibrium urban models to design policies that improve a country's overall welfare by better managing urban growth. I am particularly interested in examining the urban systems of several European countries. The model I envision requires specific data, so the choice of country will depend on the availability of that data. The model would include key factors such as productivity, amenities, congestion, and governance in each city. City-level data would be essential for evaluating various counterfactual scenarios and policy options. For instance, it could be used to assess the effects of policies that aim to equalize productivity across cities, boost productivity in less productive cities, or control the size of the largest cities, thereby affecting the national economy and welfare. Understanding how cities of different sizes and characteristics function is crucial for addressing issues such as regional inequality, rural depopulation, the decline of smaller cities, and environmental concerns. This research is particularly significant because similar model-based studies have been conducted only in a few countries, including the USA, China, Mexico, and Spain, making it a valuable and timely area for further exploration.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research project supports Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 by focusing on research excellence, offering innovative solutions, and providing practical policy insights. Given the current challenges in Ireland's housing market, such as high prices and a severe housing shortage, this project aligns with the university's goal of contributing to policymaking. It provides a useful framework for the government to analyse the effects of various policies aimed at redistributing resources between cities and regions in European countries, including Ireland, depending on data availability. In this way, the project directly contributes to the university's strategic focus on addressing real-world issues through research that has a clear impact on society. END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Economics
Supervisor: Dr Irene Mosca
Supervisor Email: irene.mosca@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Population health; factors influencing health outcomes; microdata; econometric modelling

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome applications in the sphere of population health. Population health involves understanding and addressing the diverse factors that influence the health status and health outcomes across different populations. Examples of health outcomes studied in the literature include life expectancy, disability status, quality of life, self-assessed health or more generally many different measures of physical, mental and cognitive health. Many factors can influence health outcomes. These include, gender, ethnicity, education, income and income inequality, access to care, economic and social status and labour market status, among others. I welcome proposals that aim to investigate empirically the links between health outcomes and the factors that influence such outcomes using microdata and econometric modelling. Microdata are individual-level data obtained from sample surveys, censuses, and administrative systems. Applicants should have a background in economics and strong quantitative research and analysis skills, such as knowledge of different types of regression analyses. Please visit <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/people/irene-mosca> to see some of my ongoing projects and publications and to see if I am a good fit for your research interests.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area closely aligns with three of MU research beacons. The first is “Health and Wellbeing” as the research area of interest is population health. The second is “Data and Digital Transformation” as microdata will be used. The third is “Society and Public Policy” as public policy can affect most of the determinants of the health outcomes outlined above.

END

Department of Education

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Anthony Malone
Supervisor Email: anthony.malone@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Pedagogical responses to controversy, authentic assessment, AI, Action Research, policy and leadership.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am an experienced researcher and supervisor across a range of discrete educationally relevant fields. In more recent years I have been Principal Investigator and Senior Co-investigator on several large-scale international and national funded research projects. These include EDURAD: Educational Responses to Extremism (ISF-P Funded - <http://edurad.eu/>); Learning to Disagree (EU funded - <https://www.euroclio.eu/>); and the Salam (Ireland) Research project (Qatar Foundation International funded - <https://cmhcr.eu/salam/>). I am also programme lead of the Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century research project, which is a 20+ year longitudinal study of in career professional learning. Given these research interests, I would welcome applications in the following areas: pedagogical responses to extremism and controversial topics, in-career professional learning, organisational change and leadership, curriculum innovation and pedagogy, participatory action research, educational policy discourse analysis, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and authentic assessment in an age of AI.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests closely align with the University's strategic commitments to imagining and creating better futures for all. The research projects I have actively led and the doctoral dissertations that I supervised to completion are grounded in "the context of a world that is changing at an unprecedented pace." My research interests include a focus on complex, challenging and globally urgent issues such as artificial intelligence, authentic learning and assessment, and pedagogical responses to extremism. My research interests align with salient commitments within the university strategic plan, i.e., "excellence." "impact" and "opportunity." I strive for academic and professional excellence through my research in pedagogical areas, including assessment in an age of AI, pedagogical responses to extremism and controversy, and modalities for professional lifelong learning. My research seeks impact through its social and civic relevance so as "to imagine and create better futures for all." As a committed action researcher, my research interests are grounded in values that are highly relational, futures-focused, and community-based. I actively pursue research that is socially and public policy relevant.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Prof Bernie Grummell
Supervisor Email: bernie.grummell@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Fostering equality, inclusion and social justice in higher and adult education.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

equality, inclusion and social justice in higher and adult education, critical disability studies, transformative community development, global development education, climate justice

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Interested in advancing knowledge, research and practice in inclusion, diversity, equality and access, that critically engages with transformative change in and through education, cognisant of complex global challenges

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Catriona O'Toole
Supervisor Email: catriona.a.otoole@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Trauma-informed education, School-based trauma, Staff and student wellbeing, School attendance and belonging

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I supervise projects that explore the wellbeing and trauma-informed practice in schools. I am interested in research that explore lived experience, student and teacher voice, barriers to attendance, belonging and participation at school. I am also interested in issues related to the implementation and sustainment of trauma-informed practice, experience of critical incidents in schools, challenges and tensions between wellbeing policy ideals and lived realities. I bring interdisciplinary perspectives from both education and psychology, and support a range of research methods and designs. I have supervised numerous PhD students to successful completion.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas are well-aligned to the MU Strategic Plan 2023-2028, particularly MU's commitment to social justice, engaged research and interdisciplinary scholarship. They connect most strongly with the MU research beacon on Health and Wellbeing

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Ciarán Ó Gallchoir
Supervisor Email: ciaran.ogallchoir@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Educational Leadership, Education Policy, Teacher Education, School Placement, Identity

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to work with students who are interested in how policy gets done in education. The policy shift in education has had a profound effect on what we consider the purposes and functions of education to be and as a result, I am particularly interested in working towards a sociological or philosophical consideration of the nature and impacts of policies across a range of educational spaces.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests align with the research beacon of 'society and public policy' and the universities commitment to imagining better futures. By foregrounding policy considerations, my work offers the opportunity to "make sense" of the messiness of educational policy, how its enactment is considered and felt, and how this can inform future developments. This approach leaves open the possibility of interrogating and exploring policy, practice and research from a multitude of theoretical perspectives and therefore, contributing a to a wider base of conversations.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Elizabeth O'Brien
Supervisor Email: elizabeth.obrien@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Teacher education, philosophy of education, curriculum, mentorship, professional field-based education, the humanities, young adult fiction and film, ethics, normative case study, the arts in education

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I invite proposals focused on communities living together well in educational worlds. These make take a qualitative or philosophical approach, could include policy analysis/development and/or practical interventions, and might be positioned at the level of the university or the school (any level).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Centred in the field of education, my research area and interests align with the MU 'Society and Public Policy' Beacon of Research Excellence. It echos the MU goal to "create a dynamic, responsive and inclusive learning environment... in which we provide an excellent and transformative education" and aims to expand that to education nationally, particularly in the teacher education sphere.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Joe Oyler
Supervisor Email: joe.oyler@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Dialogic pedagogy and education including its practical, epistemic and existential foundations

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to support students exploring relational and dialogic approaches and foundations of education. These cut across areas including, publicness in education, relational autonomy, dialogic teaching, philosophy for children, distributed cognition and relational ontology. I am also interested in research utilising Grounded Theory and Critical Qualitative research Methods.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Relational and dialogic orientations to education serves as foundations for contemporary theory and practice in the areas of sustainability, diversity and inclusion. Critical theories in these areas push us to understand how the legacies of fixed and essentialist orientations to the world and others have contributed to hegemonic practices and discourses that resist change and innovation, including those aimed at equity and justice. Relational orientations to practice, epistemology and ontology re-orient our research and practice in ways that honour and embrace difference and advance our understanding of how our relation to ourselves, others and the world both improve and constrain our educational possibilities. Beyond their value for informing work in the areas of social justice and well being, relational orientations (including dialogic ones) can also enhance our curriculum and practices and by extension the day to day learning and experience of students in our classrooms.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Margaret Flood
Supervisor Email: margaret.flood@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Creating inclusive learning communities: A Universal Design for Learning Approach

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Students applying to this research area will have an interest in researching inclusion. They will have UDL as the focus or key aspect of their research. Within this research students will have the space to explore an area of their choosing within the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging field. Here, inclusion is defined in its broadest sense and is focused on identifying barriers to participation and learning, and removing those barriers through intentional design for inclusion.

This can include:

Enacting UDL into practice

UDL and Leadership

Leveraging digital technologies to enact UDL

Teachers attitudes and interactions with students with disabilities

Professional Learning to support developing inclusive practices

Exploring the outcomes of taking a UDL approach to inclusion

Exploring diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in education

Is a curriculum ever inclusive? Curriculum design that includes every learner

How do we ensure every learner has meaningful access, participation and achievement in their learning journey?

Attitudes, values and practices: The perspectives of educational partners on inclusion. This can be multiple perspectives or focusing on the voice of one group. For example students, parents, teachers, advocacy groups, communities, minority and or marginalised groups.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Inclusive education is a key focus for national and international governments and policy makers. UDL is gaining momentum within this focus as a best practice approach to inclusive practices. MU considers the principles of UDL to support inclusive approaches to teaching, learning and assessment within its Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

This research area aligns with the strategic plan's research strengths through our research beacon of Society and Public Policy. Researchers will explore ways in which to design for a future that acts for inclusion. The research will be timely in that it will study diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and UDL at a time when the Irish government is putting financial infrastructures and piloting programmes across education sectors that focus in supporting inclusion through the enactment of UDL, with similar programmes being initiated internationally. Understanding the real-world impact of this move towards a UDL approach will provide researchers, practitioners, policy makers and governments with valuable insights to further enhance our societal and educational actions for inclusion for everyone.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Thomas Delahunty
Supervisor Email: thomas.delahunty@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Critical Psychology, Teacher Education, Educational Policy, Education and Curriculum, Inequalities, Politics of Education, Critical Theory, Gender and Sexualities, STEM Education

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am currently working on a number of projects across teacher education, critical psychology and sexualities education and use a number of a theoretical approaches informed by decolonial theory and critical poststructuralism. My latest work funded by Research Ireland is focusing on the intersections of right-wing conservative politics and gender/sexualities education in childhood using perspectives from critical psychological theories. The rise of new conservative politics and right-wing beliefs in Irish society is something that deeply troubles me as there are a myriad of potential negative implications for public education.

I am particularly interested in projects that take critical approaches to analysing educational policy, discourses and experiences, using a variety of methodologies and I am comfortable supervising across the spectrum of methods from quantitative to qualitative approaches. I am also keen to support projects using decolonial perspectives that seek to unsettle some of the engrained and codified ways of being and acting in Western education, offering new insights and projections for a future social justice oriented public education.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

In terms of Maynooth's strategic plan 2023-2028, my own research interests sit firmly within the beacon of 'Society and Public Policy' in the institution's commitment to research excellence. My work aims to inform educational policy and practice with an aim to enhancing the democratic and social justice potential of public education and challenging systemic inequalities. My work and the potential projects I supervise will do this through a multi-layered process that begins with academic research and publication and them moving towards strategies for engaging public and policy stakeholders to disseminate key findings and recommendations. Part of my work with PhD students is to encourage them to develop their own publication profile through engagement with key conferences and peer-reviewed journals, and I actively try to integrate them within my own broader networks, which speaks to Maynooth's goals in growing its research capacities and reach.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Education
Supervisor: Dr Thomas Walsh
Supervisor Email: Thomas.walsh@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Education policy, history of education, curriculum, teacher education policy, early childhood education policy, teacher collaboration, education system dynamics, change management, Irish language policy

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would be very interested in working with students regarding education policy development and enactment/implementation. This could range for a historical focus looking at education policies from the past or on the contemporary landscape. My particular areas of interest lie in curriculum and assessment policy, early childhood education policy, Irish language policy, teacher education policy, inspection and assessment systems, and any other policies that impact on the school system. My strengths lie in qualitative methods.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas and interests align with the research beacon of 'society and public policy', supporting high quality research to both critique and inform public policy and professional practice. The specific focus is on education policy, practice and research. It also aligns with the focus on Engagement and Partnerships in the Strategic Plan through working with education partners in advisory roles to support public policy development, especially in the area of curriculum and assessment.

END

Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Prof Emma Pearson
Supervisor Email: Emma.Pearson@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Strengthening equity and social justice in early childhood education and care

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am very interested in supporting research that (i) seeks to understand the perspectives, experiences and lived realities of young children and families from communities that are at risk of marginalisation and / or (ii) is designed to identify ways in which early childhood programmes (in Ireland or in other contexts) can play a role in responding to global challenges including conflict and displacement, sustainable development and / or growing societal inequality.

My research has involved work with families, educators and children, as well as a range of stakeholders including policy makers and practitioners across education, health and community-based disciplines. I am oriented towards qualitative, participant-focused methodologies but have also led large-scale projects using survey-based methods.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research areas identified align with Maynooth University's commitment to enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities, and responding to societal challenges in an ever-changing world, to support more humane futures for all.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Laoise Ní Chléirigh
Supervisor Email: laoise.nichleirigh@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

The intersection between culture, heritage, language in the area of bioeconomy and environmental sustainability education.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Are you passionate about sustainability, education, and the intersection of science and society? I have a particular interest in Environmental Sustainable Development Education, STEM, Bioeconomy, and Circular Bioeconomy Education, and I invite students to explore these exciting research areas.

I firmly believe in the power of transdisciplinary research as a crucial means to address the urgent need for greater environmental sustainable development education and the promotion of bioeconomy as a potential solution. By blending diverse fields of study, transdisciplinary research fosters a more holistic understanding of complex global challenges and enables innovative approaches to creating impactful change. With a strong focus on embedding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Pillars of Global Citizenship into educational programmes, I have been involved in international research projects such as the Horizon 2020 AgroCycle Project, Horizon Europe BioBeo project, and a current DAFM project on bioeconomy education. I am eager to invite enthusiastic students to join our growing bioeconomy education, transdisciplinary research movement.

As a supervisor for undergraduate, masters, and PhD students, I offer dedicated mentorship to help you develop innovative research skills which address global challenges, particularly the urgent need for greater sustainability and bioeconomy awareness. My work includes translating complex scientific concepts into accessible language, especially for children, and exploring the role of children's literature, particularly in the Irish Language, in fostering a deeper connection with these important topics.

Having been recognised nationally and internationally for my impactful teaching materials, programmes, and research, I offer a unique opportunity for students to engage in groundbreaking work. If you are passionate about shaping the future of education, sustainability, and bioeconomy, this is a fantastic opportunity to develop your ideas and contribute to meaningful change.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The work outlined aligns closely with MU's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, particularly relating to 'Sustainability, Climate Action, and Environmental Change' and 'Engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. The university plan emphasises the importance of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research that addresses global challenges, including

environmental sustainability, central to the research themes of bioeconomy and circular bioeconomy education.

My work directly contributes to the university's commitment to fostering a transdisciplinary approach to research, encouraging collaboration across scientific, educational, and societal fields. My research projects, such as the Horizon 2020 AgroCycle and Horizon Europe BioBeo projects and DAFM bioeconomy education project, reflect this transdisciplinary model by integrating scientific research with education and community outreach, thus providing a holistic approach to sustainability education.

By embedding the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into educational programmes, this supports MU's commitment to Global Citizenship and the development of innovative educational practices that can respond to the environmental and social challenges of the future. My engagement with bioeconomy education resonates with the university's ambition to develop research solutions that address pressing environmental and societal challenges through sustainable practices and innovative thinking. This work aligns with MU's research priorities and actively contributes to MU's strategic goal of making a meaningful, global impact.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Liam Mac Amhlaigh
Supervisor Email: liam.macamhlaigh@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Nua-Ghaeilge - Litríocht Chomhaimseartha Modern Irish - Contemporary Literature

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Bheinn lánsásta glacadh le moltaí ó mhic léinn i dtaighde sa litríocht chomhaimseartha, i bhfoclóireacht na Nua-Ghaeilge agus réimsí gaolmhara, agus i dtograí sna daonnachtaí digiteacha agus/nó stair chultúrtha na Gaeilge. Ní gá faitíos ar bith a bheith ar aon iarrthóir maidir le sainiúlacht an ábhair ar an gcéad dul síos - oibreofar leis an iarrthóir le cuidiú leo barr feabhais a chur ar an mbunchoincheap a ritheann leo

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research referred to above is rooted in Heritage, Culture and Linguistic exploration. Society and Public Policy is also reflected in strands of the research ideas referred to above.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird
Supervisor Email: maire.nicanbhaird@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Douglas Hyde's Legacy: Language, Heritage and Cultural Innovation for a Sustainable Ireland

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

This research explores the intersection of language, heritage, and innovation, focusing on Douglas Hyde's pioneering role in shaping Irish identity and applying his vision to contemporary sustainability challenges. I welcome students interested in examining how cultural revival can address urgent social issues - just as Hyde used language and heritage to inspire national unity, we will investigate how these forces can drive sustainable futures today.

Students will engage with rich primary sources, including the Douglas Sealy Collection, the Aiden Heavey Library, the National Library of Ireland (NLI), the National Folklore Collection, archival material from Áras an Uachtaráin, and relevant collections in the US and UK. These sources provide insight into Hyde's strategies for cultural revival and offer a foundation for comparative research on contemporary sustainability movements.

Key research areas include:

Douglas Hyde's Innovation in Cultural Revival: Analysing Hyde's use of language and heritage to shape values and national consciousness, drawing from his speeches, writings, and archival materials.

Folklore and Environmental Ethics: Investigating traditional Irish folklore and its ecological wisdom, using the National Folklore Collection to trace cultural narratives that reinforce a deep connection to the land.

Sustainability and the Bioeconomy: Examining how language and heritage can inspire a shift away from fossil fuels toward a bio-based economy, fostering environmental responsibility through cultural engagement.

Reconnecting Communities: Exploring how language and cultural identity combat societal disconnection, using historical models to inform contemporary strategies for climate action.

By linking Hyde's innovations with today's climate crisis, students will develop new approaches to fostering environmental stewardship through language and heritage, ensuring a sustainable and culturally rich future for Ireland.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area aligns closely with Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 by integrating humanities-based inquiry with contemporary sustainability challenges.

Research and Impact: This research area contributes to the university's focus on Heritage, Culture, and Language by analysing Douglas Hyde's innovative cultural revival strategies. By

examining primary sources (e.g., Douglas Sealy Collection, National Library of Ireland, and National Folklore Collection), the research generates new insights into how language and heritage can shape environmental values and sustainable living.

Sustainability and the Bioeconomy: This research area directly supports MU's emphasis on climate action and sustainability by exploring how cultural heritage can drive engagement with bioeconomy solutions - moving away from fossil fuels toward renewable biological resources.

Students and Learning: The research area develops advanced archival research skills and interdisciplinary thinking by engaging students with historical texts, folklore, and policy analysis. Access to archives in Ireland, the UK, and the US fosters global academic collaboration.

Engagement and Societal Impact: By drawing parallels between Hyde's revivalist movement and today's climate crisis, this research supports community engagement and policy development, reflecting Maynooth's mission to shape a sustainable and inclusive future.

This research area embodies Maynooth University's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the advancement of Irish language and heritage in addressing contemporary societal challenges

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Michelle Somerton
Supervisor Email: Michelle.Somerton@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

inclusive education, collaboration, leadership, school, autism, educational technology

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Dr Somerton's research interests concern inclusive education, barriers to learning, and the design and application of digital technology for learning. Michelle has worked for several years in pre-service and in-service teacher training for inclusive education at bachelor, masters, and doctoral levels in Australia, Ireland, and the post-Soviet context of Kazakhstan.

Dr Somerton has collaborated with a range of educational stakeholders including UNICEF, Soros Foundation, Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Services, schools, teachers, medical professionals, and higher degree institutions. She was recently invited (April 2024) to provide expert advice to UNICEF and the Ministry of Education in Krygyzstan as part of proposed major curriculum reforms.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Dr Somerton's research concerns Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and People and Culture which are Key Enablers of the Maynooth University Strategic Plan. Michelle's research aligns with one of Maynooth University's research focus, 'Society and Public Policy', more specifically 'Social and Economic Transformations'. These include educational transformation which promotes social justice and inclusion to provide a platform for an equitable and sustainable future.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Patricia Kennon
Supervisor Email: Patricia.kennon@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Children's and young adult literature; gender; sexualities; primary education; global citizenship education

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Children's and young adult literature;
diversity and equity in youth media and culture;
Irish literature for young people;
genders and sexualities;
queer and LGBTQIA+ studies;
arts education;
global citizenship education;
literature in primary education

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Diversity and equity in literature for young people, genders and sexualities, and global citizenship education align with the University Research Beacons of Heritage, Culture, and Languages (including Intersectional Humanities) and Health and Wellbeing.

They also align with the University's Key Enabler of 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion', and the Beacon of 'Sustainability' in relation to addressing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reducing

Inequalities.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Froebel
Supervisor: Dr Triona Stokes
Supervisor Email: triona.stokes@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Drama and Dance Education; Play and pretend play pedagogy;

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Drama and Dance Education; Creativity and arts education; Play and its practice in schools; Pretend play pedagogy and curriculum; Children's agency and voice; Social justice through the arts and curriculum practice.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

These research areas represent areas of engaged research, incorporating curriculum and community-based policy change for societal development, with a particular focus on improvements in these sectors for children's lives.

END

Department of Geography

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Dr Carla Mateus
Supervisor Email: Carla.Mateus@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Climate change, extreme weather events and impacts, climate adaptation, climate action

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Applications for PhD research projects in any of the following areas: climate change, extreme weather events and impacts, climate adaptation, and climate action, with a special focus on Ireland. Climate change research projects would analyse long-term data to assess trends and evidence of climate change. Projects focused on extreme weather events and impacts would concentrate on case studies of major historical extreme weather events in Ireland to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to future extreme weather events in the context of climate change.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research topics fit the Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-2028 by aiding in creating better futures for all as part of research excellence in areas of national and international significance, namely sustainability and climate change. The research topics clearly align with the goals of the Sustainability and Climate Change research beacon at Maynooth University, namely 1) Climate Science and Modelling and 2) Climate Resilience and Adaptation by aiding a better understanding, mitigating and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change and fostering resilience to extreme weather events. The outcomes of these research topics will interest stakeholders in addressing critical issues related to extreme weather events and climate change in Ireland.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Dr Conor Cahalane
Supervisor Email: conor.cahalane@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

open data; satellite data; Copernicus; cloud processing; Ai; mapping; monitoring

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

We welcome applications from candidates looking to explore new applications using (i) open data, particularly medium-high spatial resolution earth observation data such as Copernicus (i.e. the Sentinels – both active SAR and passive multispectral) or NASA equivalents like the Landsat missions. Topics can vary and extend to environments such as terrestrial, marine or both, but of particular interest are those relating to use of these free satellite data archives for map creation and map updating, with a view to a comparison with traditional airborne or terrestrial topographic survey methods. We would also encourage any proposals to explore and incorporate the benefits of (ii) cloud processing from established platforms such as Google Earth Engine (i.e. the Geo for Good policy) or AWS Earth, to leverage time-series or probabilistic approaches to feature definition. (iii) Advances in Machine Learning/Deep Learning to better handle these large datasets and to improve accuracy of subsequent feature delineation and improvements to processing time are also welcome. A synergistic approach that combines aspects of each of these will be particularly well received.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Applicants should be aware of how projects proposed under this theme might align with the MU Strategic Plan, particular how the work on open data, cloud processing and ML/DL fit into the Beacon on Data and Digital Transformation but also how applications using products created with this data fit into the Beacons on Society and Public Policy or Sustainability and Climate Change. Applicants should also be aware of links to National and International Policy Contexts, for example the National Space Strategy for Business and Enterprise 2019/2025, or the work at UN Level (UN GGIM committee outlining role of EO for meeting the SDGs, in particular SDG 9, 11 and 15). A recognition of how this work can contribute value to recent EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/138 on High Value Datasets will also be important.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Prof Conor Murphy
Supervisor Email: conor.murphy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

HydroClim: Hydrological extremes for warming levels and climate stabilisation

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Understanding how river flows and hydrological extremes will change under future climate is crucial for water management, flood risk planning, and ecosystem resilience. A key gap in adaptation planning is assessing impacts at distinct global warming levels and how hydrological extremes may respond to a stabilising climate. This research examines projected changes across a large sample of Irish catchments, focusing on hydrological impacts at 1.5°C, 2°C, 3°C, and 4°C above pre-industrial levels, as well as potential long-term stabilisation scenarios. The research will apply downscaled climate projections from multiple global climate models (GCMs) to drive hydrological models calibrated for diverse Irish catchments to investigate shifts in mean river flows and hydrological extremes such as floods and droughts. Key questions include how global warming influences local flow regimes, whether extreme events become more frequent or intense, and how hydrological systems adjust once climate stabilises. Recent European research suggests that climate stabilisation could offset extreme low flows and summer droughts, but this has not been explored in an Irish context.

While planners currently use projections for different future time periods, a critical gap in national policy is the lack of projected changes linked to specific warming levels. The project will collaborate with practitioners to assess future risks and adaptation needs. The research will also benefit from the supervisors' extensive international networks. The researcher will obtain advanced skills in data analysis, impact assessment, and adaptation planning—key areas in growing demand across academia, government agencies, and the environmental sector. By providing high-resolution projections and addressing key knowledge gaps, this work will position Irish research at the forefront of climate-hydrology studies. It will contribute directly to Ireland's national climate resilience objectives, equipping policymakers and practitioners with the insights needed to prepare for both near-term and long-term hydrological challenges.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The proposed research aligns closely with Maynooth University's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, particularly within its commitments to Research and Impact, Sustainability and Climate Change, and Engagement and Partnerships. This project advances Maynooth's vision of research excellence by addressing a critical societal challenge—understanding and preparing for climate-driven hydrological changes. As part of the university's Sustainability and Climate Change research beacon, it directly supports the goal of positioning Maynooth as a leader in climate resilience research. By applying advanced climate modelling and hydrological analysis, the study contributes to interdisciplinary, high-impact research that informs national and European climate adaptation policies.

The research also aligns with Maynooth's engagement and partnerships focus. Collaboration with practitioners in water resource management, flood risk planning, and riverine ecology ensures real-world relevance and strengthens the university's role as a civic university shaping climate adaptation strategies. Additionally, the project supports student learning and employability, equipping the researcher with expertise in data analysis, climate modelling, and impact assessment—key skills for careers in academia, policy, and the environmental sector. By addressing major knowledge gaps, this research contributes to Maynooth University's mission of creating a more sustainable and resilient future.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Dr Helen Shaw
Supervisor Email: helen.shaw@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Palaeoecology for ecosystem management, monitoring and restoration

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Palaeoecology is the study of the ecology of the past. The methods can be used to provide information on long-term vegetation change (e.g. Van Asperen et al 2024; Shaw and Tipping, 2006; Shaw and Whyte, 2013). We use pollen and other spores and microfossils from peat bogs and lake sediments as proxies for past species presence and we reconstruct past ecosystems and environments from this data. For many years palaeoecologists have argued that palaeoecology and ecology should be interlinked (e.g. Birks, 1996; Seddon et al 2014) but there are issues to overcome and linkages have been limited (e.g. Reitalu et al, 2014). I am currently working on a project funded by DAFM and NPWS Ancient Woodlands Ireland which puts palaeoecological backcasting at the heart of mapping and monitoring for the future. There are opportunities to develop more research in this area. Opportunities to collaborate with woodland research or to branch out into cultural landscapes or peat bog restoration could all be considered in PhD proposals.

In addition our understanding of the past is enhanced by rigorous quantification of our methods of interpretation. To do this we use pollen and spores from known current day environments to develop understanding of proxies as indicators (e.g. Shaw and Whyte 2020; Van Asperen et al 2020). Proposals for projects that develop these approaches are also welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Ecosystems are essential life systems at the base of all rationale for sustainability. Non-human life on earth supports us entirely, we could not live without it. Social and economic systems depend on functioning ecosystems and supported biodiversity. Humans need ecosystems for life, food, fibre, health and wellbeing. Just as climate is changing, driven by human impacts, ecosystems are also changing. We are at crisis point in many ecosystems due to past human driven losses and shifts exacerbated by climate change. Management and restoration of ecosystems requires an understanding of long-term change. We need to be able to understand the drivers of change (including humans and climate), the immediate and long-term impacts, the feedback loops, the tipping points and resilience of ecosystems, and to build the results of this knowledge into policy and practice. This research aligns with research strengths in sustainable ecosystems and climate research under the Sustainability and Climate Change Beacon at Maynooth, and especially under the section Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Prof Jennie C Stephens
Supervisor Email: jennie.stephens@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Transformative Climate Justice: Research on resisting climate obstruction, reclaiming and restructuring public institutions

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The transformative climate justice research team at Maynooth University focuses on research in three areas: (1) resisting climate obstruction, (2) reclaiming public services for the common good and a climate justice future, and (3) restructuring public institutions for a transformative shift toward a more just, healthy and stable future for all. Within these three areas, there are multiple opportunities for a diverse array of transdisciplinary research projects with a variety of methodological and empirical approaches.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research aligns with Maynooth University's mission of imagining and creating a better future for all and on the strategic focus and strength in climate, sustainability and social justice.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Dr Kevin Credit
Supervisor Email: kevin.credit@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Understanding urban transportation, energy, and health through spatial ML and causal inference

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

As an urban geographer and spatial data scientist, my research is broadly focused on better understanding how urban spatial structure and transportation systems influence economic, environmental, and social outcomes in order to help solve the complex ongoing crises facing our interconnected global society in the 21st century: economic inequality, climate change, widespread health disparities, and other forms of social, racial, and environmental injustice.

To study these problems, my research is engaged in the development and use of new spatial data science approaches for urban analytics. Methodologically, I am interested in spatial econometrics, causal inference, and spatial machine learning, as well as issues around the use and development of large open spatial datasets such as missingness, spatial representativeness, and public engagement.

Substantively, my work looks at a variety of urban transportation, energy, economic, and health-related issues, including (recently) the influence of the built environment on non-auto travel, understanding the geography of building retrofit, and mapping environmental health risks.

For this call, I am looking for projects in the following areas:

- Developing new causal machine learning models for spatial data, which is a growing area of interest in both my research and teaching;
- Developing new, spatially-informed machine learning and AI approaches;
- Analysing non-auto commuting patterns and developing new measures of walkability;
- Understanding energy efficiency and retrofitting activity in residential buildings and how these fit into larger urban energy and transportation systems;
- Mapping the social, spatial, and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing;
- Analysing the geography of the AI value chain, including its (spatial) environmental and economic connections and effects; and
- Studying the economic and environmental impacts of transportation systems.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

These research areas are well-aligned with the University's Strategic Plan and are closely matched to four of the identified 'Beacons' of research excellence. The focus on analysing new sources of big data and developing new spatial machine learning and causal inference methods connects with 'Data and Digital Transformation' as an example of new cutting-edge methods for understanding and interpreting spatial information. Mapping the social, spatial, and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing is a critical component to understanding the future of 'Health and Wellbeing' more holistically. Studying 'Sustainability and Climate Change' is also a key thread that runs through this proposed area of work, connecting the analysis of walkability and non-auto commuting, the environmental impacts of transportation systems, and the study of retrofitting activity for residential buildings its connection to urban energy systems. And of course, given the urban grounding for all of the topics in this research area – and the general focus on social inequality and economic development – the relevance of this research to 'Society and Public Policy' is an element of particular emphasis. Specifically, studying the economic impacts of transportation systems and the geography of the AI value chain will provide important, direct insights to policy-makers.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Dr Patrick Bresnihan
Supervisor Email: patrick.bresnihan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Irish dependency and the geopolitics of the green transition

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

In recent years, there has been growing recognition in the scholarly literature of the justice implications of sustainability transitions, and uneven impact of the dispossessions arising out of these processes, including for communities within the Global North. This work brings into focus the need to interrogate the geopolitical drive to restructure global and regional resource geographies in the context of the green transition, and the specific impacts this has within a differentiated set of peripheries in Europe. Ireland is a particularly interesting context to explore these dynamics due to the legacies of colonisation, its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) based economic model, its military neutrality in world affairs, and dependent position as a semi-periphery in the north Atlantic region. Ireland is increasingly orientating itself within an emerging transatlantic geopolitical economy of aligned digital growth, resource security, and sustainability. In response to geopolitical upheaval, the island of Ireland is also now emerging as a node for allied EU, US and NATO technological operations and energy development across the Atlantic. This has increased the pressure on Ireland to develop military and security architectures adequate to the task defending the crucial energy and data infrastructures that are developing in Ireland in the form of data centres, undersea cables, LNG pipelines, marine wind energy and critical minerals. The Hume scholarship applicant will examine the production of Ireland as both an infrastructural and resource frontier within the green transition. In particular, the applicant will trace and explore where and how these processes hit the ground. This will include engagement with peripheralised communities across Ireland engaged in resistance movements and campaigns, the making of alternative, bottom-up transitions, and the forging of transnational networks and forms of internationalist solidarity in a time of multiplying conflict and racialised bordering.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The first goal of the 2023-28 Strategic Plan is “to improve research outputs and impacts across all areas of the University and position MU among global leaders in our selected beacons of research excellence”. Of the five chosen ‘beacons’ of research excellence in the Strategic Plan, this project addresses three: 'Data and Digital Transformation', 'Society and Public Policy' and 'Sustainability and Climate Change', bringing together the disciplines of geography and law in order to do so. The project is ambitious in connecting the unfolding resource and infrastructural geographies of the green, digital transition with a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. This is kind of policy-relevant, trans-disciplinary research is perfectly aligned with the mission of the new Futures Institute for Climate and Sustainability – including the impact and reputation of related scholarship across all domains of the university - in areas of critical significance to

society, the environment and the economy. The primary supervisor has been part of the committee designing the new Futures Institute and also helped establish the MU Sustainability and Just Transitions Research Group, which aims to spark research and teaching collaborations between MU social scientists working in this 'beacon' area. The two supervisors have considerable expertise in the overlapping 'beacon' research areas, as well as years of experience of attracting exceptional PhD students to the university and supervising them to completion. They are thus well placed to further the university's 'Research and Impact' objective of nurturing the next generation of research talent in precisely one of the 'beacon' areas that this Strategic Plan has chosen to focus upon in the coming five years.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Prof Rowan Fealy
Supervisor Email: rowan.fealy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Land Atmosphere interactions; EO (Satellite & in-situ), machine learning, process/hybrid modelling, energy, water and carbon fluxes

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Improved understanding of land atmosphere interactions is critical to informing improved evidence based and effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. This requires examining existing and novel data sources (in-situ, flux tower, satellite data etc) which can lead to new and improved understanding of the physical processes that govern exchanges between the atmosphere and the land surface (e.g. soils, land cover) and developing novel approaches to incorporate human actions and behaviours (e.g. land use) into the modelling framework. Applications that can contribute to developing these fields of study are welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research is aligned to the Sustainability and Climate Change research beacon.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Prof Gerry Kearns
Supervisor Email: gerry.kearns@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Queer Geographies of Public and Private Space in Ireland

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Sexual identities and sexual practices are shaped by the opportunities and hindrances of both public and private spaces. Some spatial concepts that are often considered particular features of queer experience, such as cruising and the closet, have been examined with respect to the lives of LGBTQI+ people, but a wide range of other geographical themes, around place, migration, home, privacy, safety, and encounter, have received less attention. There are now some historical case studies for cities, exploring the spatial dynamics of queer sexualities for different classes, and for the liminal spaces of inter-class relations. Few of these geographical themes have been considered in research on LGBTQI+ lives in Ireland.

For Ireland, there have been a few studies that have used what in sexuality studies are known as KABP (Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs, Practices) surveys. There are also a few places where local activists have developed archives of oral history and of the ephemera that have supported the queer spaces of encounter and solidarity. There is relatively little work on how LGBTQI+ suffered during the early decades of the AIDS epidemic, and little acknowledgement of how these early deaths blighted the prospects for flourishing as queer lives in Ireland. Through its own organisations the queer community in Ireland has collected information on how it is being affected by such phenomena as the internet and what it has meant for the logistics of gay sociability and sexuality.

Research on Queer Geographies of Public and Private Space in Ireland could take a number of approaches: [a] cultural-historical work on how queer spaces have been treated in law, literature and popular culture; [b] ethnographic work on queer lives' weaving through spaces and places of encounter, abandonment, and flourishing; and [c] social-scientific surveys of specific cohorts of LGBTQI+ people and their geographical embeddedness.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Depending upon the particular focus taken by the student (a, b, c above), the research will engage one or more of these three beacons of Maynooth's strategic research objectives:

Heritage, Culture and Language: The study of queer spaces through their treatment in law, literature and popular culture will engage with the heritage and culture of LGBTQI+ communities in Ireland, together with their porosity and foreign exchanges.

Health and Wellbeing: A focus upon human flourishing will require developing ways to conceptualise and measure positive health and wellbeing, but also their absence; particularly were a student to take up the study of queer spaces during and in the wake of AIDS.

Society and Public Policy: Reviewing and extending existing survey work on LGBTQI+ lives in Ireland will engage with matters relevant to public policy, particularly with respect to personal safety, health, and the rights of LGBTQI+ people.

Although the focus upon queer spaces and places is distinctively geographical, this perspective is not limited to geography; and spatial perspectives are developed also within English, History, Law and Social Policy. This means that this research is brazenly interdisciplinary, and the student will cultivate intellectual connections across campus.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Geography
Supervisor: Prof Karen Till
Supervisor Email: Karen.Till@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Memory Work in Wounded Places: Anticolonial Geographies of Justice and Care

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

How can scholarly research address our ecosocial crises without continuing the legacies of violence affecting multiple lives across different spacetimes on our shared earth? This project highlights an anticolonial and relational perspective to research existing local knowledges and imagined and enacted more just worlds in the very places historically wounded by colonial capitalism. This project advances collaborations with Indigenous, feminist, queer and local theorists, practitioners and artists to research the work of historically oppressed groups that have 'stayed with the trouble' memory and nurture healthy places to disrupt the violence of coloniality present in bodies, minds, and Lands. Rather than assume dominant Western Eurocentric ideals of the 'universal man' with individual rights or understandings of justice defined by the liberal nation-state, the research will advance an Indigenous kinship worldview by researching places as small worlds created by multiple inhabitants who sustain healthy reciprocal relations with others. The research draws upon indigenous scholarship that, although largely ignored, has long been calling for anticolonial solutions to our earthly problems. Scholars can learn from Indigenous ways of life and knowing 'generated from the ground up', including understandings of justice that include processes of repair and rebirth.

Possible areas of research might include:

- Highlighting the work of ecosocial communities and relations in particular types of places/environments through in-depth participatory qualitative research;
- Advancing theoretical and empirical research about the role of memory-work and wounded places as spatio-temporal processes celebrating alternative possible futures;
- Considering anticolonial approaches to creating more just and healthy places for multiple species;
- Through partnerships, learning from and translating the best practices of artists, activists, and community leaders to support transformative changes in everyday geographies.
- Contributions to the supervisor's larger ongoing 'Earth Writings' and 'Wounded Cities' projects.

New research avenues along the above themes are also welcome.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research aligns with three MU Research Beacons.

1. 'Heritage, Culture and Language'. An anticolonial perspective celebrates cultural practices of groups historically ignored in mainstream institutions, including museums, libraries, galleries, schools, universities, and memorials. Research tied to the work of decolonising memory cultures will make such stories and futures heard, seen and recognised as part of our shared heritage. A kinship worldview understands language as living, an insight resonating with Irish Studies research.

2. 'Health and Wellbeing'. To learn to care for others and ourselves, humans can learn from past practices of care for places. The Indigenous kinship worldview understands human wellbeing as part of a broader earthly wellbeing and this insight needs fuller development for multiple contexts including our own here in Ireland.

3. 'Sustainability and Climate Change'.

The Indigenous kinship worldview understands the Earth as loving and supporting of life rather than as a cold object, or 'it' filled with resources to be extracted and to provide eco-social services for humans. By advancing Traditional Knowledges about the Earth and other natural beings as kin in a Western university, different possible practices supporting sustainable communities and land/water/earth/multispecies reciprocal relations and place-based stewardship will be advanced.

END

School of Business

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Amir Azadnia
Supervisor Email: amir.azadnia@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Developing a Renewable Energy Supply Chain Resilience Maturity Model

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The resilience of renewable energy supply chains (RESCs) is critical as global reliance on sustainable energy sources grows. However, these supply chains face unique vulnerabilities due to dependence on variable resources and complex, cross-border logistics. This study introduces a comprehensive resilience maturity model specifically designed for RESCs. This model assesses resilience across multiple dimensions—such as adaptability, robustness, flexibility, agility, and collaboration—capturing the stages of maturity from nascent to optimized levels. The model processes expert-driven rules to handle ambiguous, often qualitative data, providing nuanced insights into a supply chain's readiness to withstand and adapt to disruptions. This model serves as a strategic tool, supporting organizations in making data-driven improvements to their supply chain resilience in line with sustainable and renewable energy goals. Ultimately, this research contributes to both the academic and practical fields by offering an adaptable framework for the systematic development of resilience in RESCs. By improving resilience maturity, this model supports long-term sustainability and stability for the renewable energy sector, which is essential in the global transition toward cleaner energy sources.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My area of research is aligned with "Sustainability and Climate Change" . The research is aligned with SDG #7 "Affordable and Clean Energy" as it is helping policy makers and practitioners to develop renewable energy supply chains. In addition, ensuring resilient supply chains prevents delays in renewable energy deployment, accelerating the reduction of carbon emissions. Moreover, Governments and organizations need tools to assess the resilience of renewable energy supply chains in meeting sustainability policies. Finally, the outcome of the research can mitigate disruptions caused by geopolitical, environmental, or economic shocks, supporting a consistent shift away from fossil fuels.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Amr Mahfouz
Supervisor Email: amr.mahfouz@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Business Resilience, Knowledge Management, Transportation Decarbonisation, Business Analytics, SMEs in the AI era

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

A central theme of my research involves developing intelligent solutions using advanced data analytics and modelling technologies to address business complexity, enhance resilience, and promote performance excellence. I welcome research projects that are aligned with five core streams:

1. **Business Resilience:** Over the past decade, my work has extensively examined business and supply chain resilience, particularly identifying strategies, capabilities, and best practices. This research has been conducted across multiple sectors within Ireland, such as food systems, transportation and logistics, and retail distribution.
2. **Knowledge Management (KM):** My research highlights KM as a critical organisational capability essential during disruptions. KM facilitates proactive disruption anticipation, robust preparedness planning, and effective learning post-disruption, thereby supporting recovery and adaptation to new operational norms.
3. **Transportation Decarbonisation:** Recently integrated into my research agenda, this stream responds to the ongoing discourse in the Irish logistics sector concerning its role in meeting EU sustainability targets. It specifically explores methods to reduce carbon emissions within transportation and logistics operations.
4. **Business Analytics:** This research stream explores innovative data science and analytics applications to bolster business resilience, development, and sustainability. Emphasis is placed on modelling, simulation, and machine learning techniques that aid in scenario planning and enhance decision-making processes under conditions of uncertainty.
5. **SMEs in the AI Era:** A newly introduced area, supported by recent funding, examines the capabilities required by SMEs to adopt AI solutions effectively. The research investigates critical enablers and barriers influencing Irish SMEs' adoption of AI. It aims to provide insights that support policymakers in creating conducive environments for SMEs navigating rapid technological advancements.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas align strongly with several key research priorities outlined in the University's Strategic Plan:

1. **Sustainability and Climate Change:** My work on Transportation Decarbonisation and Business Analytics directly supports sustainability objectives by employing data science

methods to address carbon emissions in the Irish transportation and logistics sectors. This research encompasses alternative fuels, sustainable infrastructure, EU green regulations, greenhouse gas reporting, the EU emission trading system, circular logistics, and geopolitical factors influencing sustainability efforts.

2. **Society and Public Policy:** Economic and societal sustainability are closely intertwined with businesses' capacity to manage disruptions effectively. My research in Business Resilience and Knowledge Management provides practical insights to business leaders, equipping them to navigate disruptions arising from geopolitical tensions, digital transformation, and climate change events.

3. **Data and Digital Transformation:** SMEs increasingly face significant challenges due to rapid technological changes. Recognising SMEs' limited resources, my research on SMEs in the AI Era aims to identify frameworks and strategies that facilitate technology adoption and digital transformation. This research offers valuable guidance to policymakers and SME managers, fostering an innovative ecosystem supportive of sustained technological advancement and resilience.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Audra I. Mockaitis
Supervisor Email: audra.mockaitis@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

International business and international management research. Keywords: international business, cross-cultural management, values, migrants, personality, narcissism, internationalization, disruptions.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am available to supervise students in the fields of international business (IB) and international management (IM). Research projects in these areas are typically cross-national, involving data collection across individuals or firms in several distinct geographic locations/societies, and they may involve the use of secondary data at the societal level. I am interested in the influence of individual and cultural characteristics on decision-making and behavior, such as personality on IB strategic decisions, values and value change of migrants, various issues affecting and experienced by (skilled) migrants from an IM perspective, and reactions and responses by individuals and international firms to global disruptions. Applicants should have strong quantitative research and analysis skills, such as knowledge of different types of regression analyses, SEM and multilevel techniques, have strong skills in SPSS, AMOS, or other software, and strong communication skills. Applicants should have a good grasp of the literature and have a topic proposal prior to contacting me. I am happy to meet with potential applicants to discuss their proposal ideas. Please visit www.mockaitis.com or <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/faculty-social-sciences/our-people/audra-mockaitis> to see some of my ongoing projects and publications.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Applicants should aim to publish their research findings in ABS-ranked and Scopus-indexed journals in the areas of business and management, in alignment with the research goals of the University Strategic plan, as well as apply for future funding to external sources.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Brendan Keegan
Supervisor Email: brendan.keegan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Digital Transformation of Business Processes Through Artificial Intelligence

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research covers three primary strands in which I would be willing to accept students: i) digital and social media marketing analytics, ii) artificial intelligence and machine learning applications in marketing, and iii) digital placemaking.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Regarding the three strands of my research, these overlap with a number of the university's 'Beacons' of research excellence, primarily in 'Society and Public Policy', but also in 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Sustainability and Climate Change'.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: DR Damien Cassells
Supervisor Email: Damien.Cassells@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Climate Change and Eco-Anxiety: Evidence from Teenagers and Young Adults in Ireland

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am looking to collaborate with a PhD student motivated by research questions that intersect two of the most important topics for the future of our planet and the people that inhabit it; climate change and emotional wellbeing. Projects may also be considered that examine other emotional outcomes resulting from climate change, such as the potential links with fear and anger. Projects that are focused upon relevant mental health outcomes and that are potentially linked with climate change may also be considered. I am willing to work with most methodologically approaches, so proposals that include qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods will all be considered. Given that the project is interdisciplinary, I would anticipate that the applicants will be drawn from various disciplines including psychology, science, computer science, business and economics.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

In the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 it is stated that “we will empower our research community to imagine and create better futures for all”. The project that I am proposing encompasses the heart of imagining and creating a better future for all, by exploring a research question at the intersection of climate change and wellbeing. The proposed research project is interdisciplinary in nature, and as a result is closely aligned with two of the beacons of research excellence identified with the University's Strategic Plan, namely the Sustainability and Climate Change beacon and the Health and Wellbeing beacon. I also believe that the output from this work when communicated with stakeholders, will also make a contribution to the Society and Public Policy beacon, as it is my intention to help form policy from the research, as well as develop protocols and interventions that will help young people experiencing anxiety. Finally, and in relation to engagement, this project will create an “authentic connection” with the schools and colleges that participate in the research, as well as with the associated stakeholders.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Danny Chow
Supervisor Email: danny.chow@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Accounting, financial management, organisation and policy making in the public sector.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Danny's research is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing across all areas of the public sector, ranging from accounting, financial reporting, financial management, organizations, health sector, and public policy.

Danny is interested in accepting students in any of (or combination of) the above areas.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area overlaps with a number of the university's 'Beacons' of research excellence, primarily in 'Society and Public Policy', but also in 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Sustainability and Climate Change'.

I am investigating how policy and reforms affect the organisation of the public sector, focusing in particular on the role of accounting and other financial tools (broadly defined) in facilitating such change.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Edward O'Connor
Supervisor Email: Edward.OConnor@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

HRM and the Careers of Skilled Migrants.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am a qualitative researcher and I study the careers of skilled migrants. My work falls into several areas. At a high level my research sits at the intersection of Careers and HRM fields. At the theoretical level I use various theories/concepts to unpack the narratives of skilled migrants, managers, workers etc. These concepts and theories include Talent Management, Organisational Justice, Bourdieu's forms of capital, Equity theory, Social Exchange Theory, Intelligent Careers, Boundaryless & Protean careers. Qualitative research and narrative inquiry can reveal unique perspectives and a deeper understanding of a phenomenon. It can give voice to more marginalised populations, such as migrants. So, consider working with me if you want to understand how individuals think, feel or behave in particular situations, or in relations with others that develop over time.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research is aligned with the Society and Public Policy research beacon.

My research area supports the Maynooth University goal of developing new areas of expertise to "address contemporary and future challenges" while "imagining and creating better futures for all." There is a growing global demand for skilled and specialised labour, which has led to an increase in international careers. At the same time, skilled migration has become a permanent feature of both national and international economies, with many governments actively seeking to attract skilled migrants as part of their immigration policies.

The increasing demand for skilled migrants, aided by favourable immigration policies and flexible career options, suggests they should transition smoothly between careers in their home and host countries. However, many face significant challenges, particularly in securing jobs that match their qualifications. The decision to migrate involves complex challenges and opportunities, especially during the phase after entering the host country's labour market. Exploring this nuanced career path is essential for understanding the experiences of skilled migrants, which is the focus of my studies.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Elaine Wallace
Supervisor Email: elaine.wallace@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Motivating consumer behaviour through social media influencers

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Social media influencers present an invaluable opportunity for marketers to connect with their consumers. However, there remain gaps in our knowledge about the role of influencers, their posts, and their impact on consumer response. For example, studies are beginning to investigate how different language styles in influencer posts might motivate consumer behaviour in different ways; whether virtual influencers have a greater (or lower) effect on consumer response than human influencers; whether influencers can be 'bad actors' that seed disinformation on social media; whether social media influencers can be harnessed to motivate prosocial behaviours; whether social media influencers can motivate consumer trust; whether social media influencers have different approaches and achieve different outcomes across different social media platforms; and, ultimately, how 'influence' might translate into desired outcomes for organisations and/or their brands. I am interested in accepting student applicants in the area of social media influencers and their posts, that consider some of the above areas.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research area aligns with two areas of research strengths highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28. In particular, in the area of Data and Digital Transformation, the study builds on a nascent and important area of literature that investigates the role of social media influence in generating effective marketing outcomes, and consumer response in particular, while vigilant also to the threats from 'bad actors' who may use their influence to seed disinformation. In the area of Sustainability and Climate Change, there is potential for research to explore how social media influencers could be harnessed to motivate prosocial responses, and in particular to cultivate pro-environmental behaviours and generate social norms around pro-environmental behaviours.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Farhad Uddin Ahmed
Supervisor Email: farhad.ahmed@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Circular Economy and Green Supply Chains for Sustainable Growth of Irish Tech SMEs

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Passionate about sustainability, international business, and supply chain innovation research?

This PhD research aims to investigate how Irish high-tech SMEs (e.g., hardware, software or MedTech manufacturing SMEs) can integrate Circular Economy (CE) principles and/or Green Supply Chain Management (GSCM) to enhance sustainability, reduce environmental impact, and ascertain international competitiveness.

With rising compliance costs, regulatory divergence, and supply chain disruptions, Irish SMEs face increasing challenges in maintaining competitiveness in international markets. This research will develop a tailored CE-GSCM framework to help Irish high-tech SMEs overcoming financial, operational, and regulatory barriers. By integrating remanufacturing, modular design, sustainable sourcing, and reverse logistics, this study will offer strategic solutions to enhance resource efficiency, minimize waste, and improve overall supply chain resilience.

Through an interdisciplinary approach, the study will combine stakeholder perspectives, institutional policies, and real-world case studies to provide actionable insights for businesses transitioning towards sustainability. It aligns with UN SDGs 9 (Industry & Innovation) and 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production) by fostering eco-friendly business models that contribute to a circular and green economy.

This research will generate practical tools for SMEs, policymakers, and industry bodies, equipping them with decision-making frameworks, compliance strategies, and sustainable business models. By supporting the adoption of green and circular practices, it will not only help Irish high-tech SMEs navigate international market expansion/competitiveness challenges but also strengthen Ireland's position as a leader in sustainable technology manufacturing.

This study will employ a qualitative research design to develop an integrated Circular Economy and Green Supply Chain Management framework, enabling Irish high-tech SMEs to enhance supply chain sustainability, overcome international market expansion barriers, and ascertain international competitiveness.

We invite candidates with backgrounds in Circular Economy, International Business, Supply Chain Management, or Sustainability to join this exciting research opportunity.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This PhD research aligns with Maynooth University's Research Beacons, particularly Society and Public Policy and Sustainability and Climate Change. By investigating how Irish high-tech SMEs can integrate Circular Economy principles and Green Supply Chain Management to enhance sustainability and international competitiveness, the project contributes to Ireland's and the EU's broader sustainability and economic policies.

The study supports Sustainability and Climate Change by addressing resource efficiency, waste reduction, and eco-friendly supply chain practices, fostering greener business models in the technology sector. It also aligns with Society and Public Policy by generating insights that inform policy recommendations, industry best practices, and strategies for high-tech SMEs navigating challenges associated with international expansion and competitiveness.

By producing high-impact research, engaging with academics, policymakers, and industry leaders, and disseminating findings through top-tier journals (ABS 3* and 4*) and global conferences, this project will contribute to Maynooth University's ambition to be a leader in research excellence. It will also support Ireland's transition toward a sustainable, circular economy, ensuring long-term economic and environmental resilience for SMEs in the high-tech sector.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof John Cullen
Supervisor Email: john.g.cullen@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Religious discrimination, expression or accommodation in workplaces.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Globally, restrictions on religious expression are currently at their highest levels ever. The decline of traditional religious practices is sometimes perceived as indicative of a growing apathy or aversion towards once dominant faith traditions. However, there has also been rapid growth of new religious movements or faith traditions due to a range of factors. The nature of religious discrimination, expression and accommodation has changed and new understandings are required, as faith communities have been identified as essential drivers of social inclusion, progressive social policies, and environmental sustainability.

As authoritarianism grows in political life, workplaces are increasingly expected to support progressive social and environmental initiatives, and it is crucial that talent is not excluded as a result of policies marginalizing religious individuals. Since the emergence of industrialisation, religious faith has played a central role in shaping perceptions of work ethics and 'spirits of capitalism'. However, research on the expression of religion, its accommodation, and related discrimination in contemporary workplaces has been sporadic, or based on reductive understandings of religious

believers.

I'm interested in supervising doctoral students who wish to research any aspect of religious discrimination, expression or accommodation in workplaces. This can be about faith (or non-faith) in any social context and can focus on the experiences of members of particular faith groups, religious or non-religious people in general, managers, HR or legal professionals. It can also examine how religious discrimination impacts the particular professional groups, sectors, organisations or practices such as innovation or entrepreneurship. Policy research on the theme will also be considered.

I am willing to supervise qualitative doctoral research projects conducted from management research, sociological, ethnographic or psycho-social perspectives. For more information on my preferred approaches see 'Religious experience and workplaces: Management research for evolving "faithscapes"' in the British Journal of Management (forthcoming - April, 2025).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research aligns with the university's 'Society and Public Policy' research beacon and addresses societal transformation on national, European and global levels. It aims to converse with policy, primarily in the areas of faith groups and how they interact with workplaces in the private, public and third sectors.

The evolving nature of workplace religious expression and discrimination presents significant challenges to policymakers and businesses, public sector employers and voluntary and community groups who strive to foster environmental responsibility and social inclusion. This research agenda will inform the 'People, Place and Environment' and 'Social and Economic Transformations' sub-themes of the 'Society and Public Policy' research beacon, and is well-positioned to make a meaningful contribution to the 'Sustainable Business and Consumption' sub-theme of the 'Sustainability and Climate Change' research beacon.

Finally, as religious discrimination and expression is experienced in different ways around the world, this research stream is highly conscious of the international aspect of developing new understandings. As such it will contribute to Maynooth University's mission of assisting the attainment of Ireland's national policy objectives in a manner mindful of worldwide trends and impacts. Every attempt will be made to connect this work with international policymaking and research frameworks.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Jon Gruda
Supervisor Email: jon.gruda@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Assessing Drivers of Harassment and Evaluating Prevention Strategies Across Global Workplaces

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

This research area focuses on two interconnected themes. First, it aims to identify and analyze the primary drivers of workplace harassment, drawing on extensive multinational datasets and surveys. Such large-scale secondary data may include employee feedback, industry reports, and organizational case studies, providing a rich foundation for examining how individual, cultural, and structural factors contribute to harassment in diverse contexts.

Second, it investigates how different prevention and mitigation strategies perform across countries and industries. By comparing approaches—from policy-driven interventions to training programs and organizational culture reforms—this research will determine what works best under various conditions. While machine learning and advanced analytics could be employed to spot trends and predict high-risk scenarios, this is not mandatory; rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods will also be used to pinpoint effective strategies and guide tailored interventions.

Overall, students engaged in this area will develop nuanced insights into the complex causes of harassment, along with practical knowledge of which preventive measures are most impactful in specific cultural and industry settings. Findings from this research can shape evidence-based guidelines and frameworks, enabling organizations worldwide to build safer, more inclusive workplaces and bolster long-term employee well-being.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research strongly supports Maynooth University's emphasis on interdisciplinary knowledge, societal impact, and ethical practice. To do so, students will examine large-scale data from a variety of international contexts and industries, aligning with the University's commitment to advancing global understanding and promoting scholarly collaboration. The project's interdisciplinary integration of different fields including organizational psychology, management, and data analysis resonates with Maynooth University's dedication to exploring complex real-world challenges through diverse disciplinary lenses.

Moreover, the focus on preventing and mitigating workplace harassment exemplifies the University's pledge to foster inclusive, safe, and equitable environments within and beyond the campus community. This research directly contributes to Maynooth University's goal of generating positive societal outcomes and shaping policy and practice. It demonstrates leadership in addressing pressing global issues and underscores Maynooth University's mission to develop academically rigorous, ethically grounded, and socially responsible graduates. END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Joseph Coughlan
Supervisor Email: joseph.coughlan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Accounting for sustainability

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in how organisations account for environmental issues, their impact on society and environmental mitigation issues. In particular how do organisations report on emissions and how do organisations make investments into mitigation issues around potential environmental problems. In terms of reporting, what is the impact of reporting requirements around the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive on an organisation's internal structures, their annual reports and on the accounting profession? This has the potential to have major links to the value of organisations but also important implications for different stakeholders including but not limited to professional accountants.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This links to the research strength of the university and the School of Business around Sustainability and Climate Change. Environmental mitigation is an issue that needs our attention but the costs of this activity are high. How do organisations manage this process and report on these issues that affect not only their traditional shareholders but also the wider community they operate within.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Luca Castellanza
Supervisor Email: luca.castellanza@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Going Beyond the “Petty & Hollow Degree” in Business. Adventurous Candidates Wanted.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Dr Castellanza’s research centres on entrepreneurial and organisational approaches towards the greatest problems facing our societies: poverty, discrimination, profiteering, civil wars, global warming, and geocide, to name a few, are among the topics treated in his published, forthcoming, and ongoing work.

Dr Castellanza is accepting applications from outstanding, motivated, and ambitious Hume candidates who may wish to research any (or multiple) of these topics. As a supervisor, he offers an experience highly tailored to his candidates’ needs and he is open to qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches (although his core expertise lies in grounded theory, ecosystem mapping, and process theorising). Dr Castellanza also welcomes applicants who may have an interest in addressing societal problems but do not have a business background: for instance, economists, political scientists, anthropologists, or sociologists would be well-positioned to contribute to his interdisciplinary research program. Lastly, while Dr Castellanza’s research is chiefly focused on Africa and the most disadvantaged countries in the Global South, he is willing to accept Hume applicants of any nationality who may wish to investigate societal problems either in the Western world or elsewhere.

The successful candidate(s) will be required to develop a 300-word abstract and a 1000-word methodology, inclusive of a theoretical overview as appropriate, addressing a research question relevant to Dr Castellanza’s work. A non-exhaustive list of potential research questions is:

- How (and why) do entrepreneurs and companies organise to cause damage to our societies?
- How can different stakeholders devise organisational solutions to address exponential global warming and scale these across levels of analysis?
- How do the most marginalised members of society organise to cope with crises, poverty, and social ills?

Does this sound appealing? You may contact Dr Castellanza at luca.castellanza@mu.ie at your earliest convenience to express your interest in Hume and discuss your research idea(s).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The School of Business boasts an embarrassingly low success rate in its Hume applications, and for good reasons. If John Hume were alive today, would he want to have his name associated with Margaret Thatcher or, worse, Elon Musk? The project(s) of the successful

candidate(s) will follow on in Hume's spirit and his silent struggle for a just and inclusive world – not through political debates but by developing transformative organisational research.

The project of the successful candidate(s) will be highly synergic with the University's strategic plan because it will involve interdisciplinary and impactful research with strong implications for public policy, changemakers, and organisations in Ireland and abroad. The candidate may also be required, as part of the project, to establish collaborations with civil society representatives, entrepreneurs, and organisations working towards addressing society's most pressing challenges, in line with Maynooth University's strategic objectives.

While Dr Castellanza's research program is chiefly rooted in the Society and Public Policy strategic beacon, there is potential for the successful candidate(s) to further the University's agenda by pioneering cross-beacon research, for instance, situated at the intersection of public policy and climate change or exploring the connections among social, cultural, and health beacons.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Mary Kinahan
Supervisor Email: mary.kinahan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Women's pursuit of leadership including examining challenges and barriers they face.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

1. women's pursuit of leadership including examining challenges and barriers they face. 2. gender and other prejudice and discrimination in the workplace 3. examination of EDI/DEI and diversity management in workplace or otherwise.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

It aligns with 'Society and public policy', in that my research seeks to understand discrimination and gender bias in the workplace, and in doing so provide evidence to inform public policy on how we can improve the workplace for all. It also aligns with MU commitment to Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI), and MU vision and purpose of providing better futures for all.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Waseem
Supervisor Email: muhammad.waseem@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Sustainable Business Strategies for Energy Management and Climate Change Mitigation

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I welcome student applicants interested in exploring sustainable business solutions at the intersection of energy management and climate change mitigation, with a particular emphasis on the built environment. Research projects can focus on developing strategic approaches to improving building energy performance, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing indoor environmental quality. Key areas of investigation may include studying indoor air quality and its effects on occupants' health and comfort, while also optimizing energy consumption across residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.

Applicants are encouraged to explore how future climate scenarios may impact building energy consumption and performance and to develop innovative business-driven solutions that make buildings more resilient to climate change. Research can also examine the integration of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy systems, and sustainable building practices that support climate change mitigation strategies.

I am particularly interested in students who can leverage simulation tools, field experiments, and data analysis techniques to evaluate energy management strategies and their impact on carbon reduction. Projects that examine policy implications, and practical business applications, or adopt an interdisciplinary approach to creating healthier, more energy-efficient buildings are highly encouraged. This research will enable students to contribute to the development of sustainable, energy-efficient, and low-carbon building designs, aligning with broader goals of climate change mitigation and business sustainability.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research on Business Strategies for Sustainable Energy Management aligns strongly with Maynooth University's Sustainability and Climate Change research beacon. This research contributes to the university's goal of fostering interdisciplinary research that addresses critical global challenges, such as climate change mitigation and energy efficiency.

By focusing on building energy performance, carbon emissions reduction, and future climate resilience, my work supports the university's emphasis on sustainability-led infrastructure and carbon reduction initiatives. The integration of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy systems, and business-driven solutions aligns with Maynooth's commitment to research impact and engagement with industry, policymakers, and communities.

Additionally, this research fosters data-informed decision-making by leveraging simulation tools, field experiments, and machine learning applications—in line with the university’s emphasis on digital transformation and data analytics. The focus on business models and policy implications also complements Maynooth’s strengths in society and public policy research, ensuring that sustainability strategies have practical applications.

This research will contribute to Maynooth’s vision of being a globally recognized leader in research excellence, producing innovative solutions that support a sustainable and low-carbon future while engaging with industry and policy stakeholders to drive real-world impact.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Nicola Mountford
Supervisor Email: nicola.mountford@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

The organisation of healthcare - decision making, policy making, and patient voice.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Are you curious about what really drives healthcare decisions? Do you want to uncover the unseen forces shaping healthcare policies and practices? I invite PhD proposals from motivated students passionate about understanding the deeper layers of healthcare organization.

My research focuses on policy-making and decision-making in healthcare—particularly how different voices and forms of evidence are considered or excluded in these processes. This means going beyond surface-level observations to understand the underlying interactions and power dynamics that shape outcomes.

Using an institutional logics approach, my work explores how individual actions intersect with broader societal norms, professional practices, and ways of thinking. Healthcare is a complex field where competing logics—such as the state, market, and professional expertise—interact to influence the design and delivery of services. The aim is not to study individuals in isolation but to analyze how groups of actors (such as doctors, patients, families, and policymakers) navigate and impact these systems.

A qualitative approach is essential for this type of inquiry. You would bring your own area of interest to a team that is already exploring topics such as electronic health records, fertility care, maternal and neonatal sepsis, drug reimbursement. Choose a healthcare space that really interests you where you have questions about how and why certain decisions are made. I'd love to hear your ideas. Let's work together to reveal what's really happening beneath the surface and make a meaningful, long-term impact on healthcare policy and practice

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This aligns strongly with Maynooth University's Health and Wellbeing Beacon and Society and Public Policy Beacon by addressing critical interdisciplinary challenges at the intersection of healthcare policy, evidence-based decision-making, and societal dynamics.

The focus on healthcare organization, particularly the interplay of competing institutional logics, resonates with the Health and Wellbeing Beacon's commitment to understand the complex social and environmental factors that influence health at a personal, community, and population level. By analyzing how diverse voices—such as those of patients, families, and healthcare professionals—are integrated or excluded in decision-making processes, the research has the potential to enhance equitable and effective healthcare delivery.

The emphasis on institutional logics and the interaction of individual agency with societal norms also aligns with the Society and Public Policy Beacon. This approach supports the Beacon's goals of fostering a more informed and responsive approach to addressing the evolving needs of societies in an ever-changing. By examining healthcare as a complex system influenced by state, market, professional, and societal forces, this research can inform policy development that balances stakeholder interests, improves resource allocation, and enhances social justice in healthcare.

This proposal fosters collaboration between health, society, and public policy, embodying Maynooth University's interdisciplinary ethos

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Patrick McCole
Supervisor Email: vicepresident.international@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Trust in e-Commerce and its Impact on Customer Behaviour. Marketing, trust, online purchasing behaviour, Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Research areas encompass marketing, trust, online purchasing behaviour, the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), internationalisation, and travel, with a focus on the interplay between these domains. Central to the work is the concept of trust in e-commerce, which is increasingly vital as digital platforms dominate consumer-business interactions. The dynamics of trust—its formation, development, and influence on decision-making—are studied to help businesses foster loyalty in virtual environments.

The evolving landscape of online purchasing behaviour is analysed, considering factors such as consumer psychology, digital trends, and technologies shaping modern commerce. This research examines why consumers make specific decisions online and how they interact with digital interfaces, interpret marketing messages, and perceive brands in virtual settings.

AI introduces innovative possibilities in marketing, enabling advanced data analysis, personalised campaigns, and predictive insights. Research explores how AI-driven technologies are transforming marketing practices and enhancing customer experiences. Similarly, IoT expands marketing boundaries by connecting devices, generating data, and creating seamless interactions. Investigations delve into leveraging IoT to deliver tailored experiences while addressing privacy concerns.

Internationalisation and travel represent additional focal points, examining how businesses adapt to global markets and integrate cultural, technological, and logistical considerations into marketing strategies. This includes studying travel-related consumer behaviours, marketing approaches for the tourism sector, and the impacts of globalisation on customer engagement.

The broader implications of digital transformation on marketing strategies are also explored, focusing on how businesses navigate technological disruptions and integrate innovative practices. These research areas combine theoretical and practical approaches to address contemporary challenges in marketing, trust, and technology, offering valuable insights with the potential for significant contributions in a rapidly evolving global economy.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

These areas of research emphasise globally recognised research excellence, innovation, and international engagement, all of which are supported by the integration of marketing, artificial intelligence (AI), and the internet.

The focus on marketing strategies and digital tools directly supports the University's goal of enhancing international student recruitment. By leveraging targeted campaigns and personalised communication, these approaches align with the strategic priority of attracting a diverse, global student body.

AI-driven technologies contribute to the University's emphasis on innovation and future-focused education. The use of AI for data analysis, predictive insights, and personalised outreach enhances the University's ability to identify and engage with prospective international students and partners effectively.

The internet serves as a foundational tool for fostering global connections, enabling virtual events, webinars, and collaborative platforms. These initiatives align with the University's commitment to building strategic international partnerships and expanding its global presence.

Overall, these research areas reflect the University's dedication to excellence, innovation, and global engagement, making them integral to achieving the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Thomas Flavin
Supervisor Email: thomas.flavin@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Climate Risk, Sustainable Finance and Investor Sentiment: Unravelling their dynamic inter-relationships

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising PhD students in building resilience in the financial system. I am particularly interested in the following areas:

1. Building a resilient and sustainable financial system to provide competitively-priced funding to environmentally-friendly projects that seek to address climate change and the reduction of carbon emissions. This area can be labelled 'Finance for Good' as it seeks to exploit the power of the financial system to provide sustainable funding across different financial market conditions.
2. Building sustainable economic models for less developed countries, particularly those who are dependent on the exports of agricultural commodities. Such countries are highly exposed and vulnerable to climate risk.
3. Analysing the interactions between green asset returns and climate risks across different financial market conditions and varying levels of climate risk awareness. The goal is to better understand the dynamic interactions of climate risk, green asset returns and investor sentiment to promote sustainable investment in climate-friendly projects.

Other research proposals that focus on sustainable finance and the transmission of shocks across financial and commodity markets will also be considered.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This proposed project / research area is closely aligned to Maynooth University's research beacon on Sustainability and Climate Change as the focus is on how financial markets can be harnessed to provide funding at competitive levels for environmentally-friendly projects. Understanding the bidirectional relationships between investors and climate risks, and in particular across different market conditions, will enhance our ability to fund green projects, combat food poverty and reduce inequality - all of which are part of the UN SDGs and have the potential to add to Maynooth University's research strength in this vital area.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Gillian Moran
Supervisor Email: Gillian.Moran@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Deinfluencing as a form of sustainable consumption. Keywords: influencer marketing, social media marketing, sustainable consumption, brand trust

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The practice of influencer marketing has grown exponentially over the past decade, spurring impulse shopping and fast consumerism. Micro-, macro- and mega-influencers have emerged across a range of categories from fashion and beauty to fitness, food, and travel. These influencers share their experiences and expertise with followers through bite-sized and engaging social media content, increasingly remunerated through lucrative brand partnerships. Yet recently, a sea change is emerging on TikTok and other social media platforms where consumers are starting to push back. 'De-influencing' represents a nascent consumer-led revolt against the ever-increasing influence of influencers and their promotion of materialist-driven lifestyles. Consumers are starting to question influencers for fueling unnecessary purchases and inflating materialism in the relentless pursuit of paid brand opportunities. Yet, little is known about the consumer sense-making process underlying these new de-influencing activities and what drives their growing popularity. Concurrently, the sustainability movement continues to grow, as consumers are now more than ever acutely aware of the harmful effects of excessive consumerism. The confluence of sustainable consumption and de-influencing is creating a new and timely opportunity to understand the changing nature of consumption practices. This research area aims to examine consumer motivations and behavioural intentions as they embrace the concept of de-influencing within the wider context of sustainable consumption.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area aligns with three of the five research beacons outlined within the Maynooth University Strategic Plan: sustainability, digital transformation, and society. First, this research directly aligns with the University's ambition to pursue research excellence in sustainability by delving into the heart of consumer-led sustainable consumption actions. The adoption of sustainable consumption practices warrants additional academic research in light of the continuance of unsustainable activities such as fast fashion. Second, the digital transformation of buying practices, fueled by the emergence of social media influencers and now de-influencers, calls for an in-depth examination of how the power of interpersonal influence might be harnessed for societal good. The vast social media platforms enabled by digital technologies provide a inimitable context to explore the real-time interconnections between influencers and those they influence, providing a unique spotlight on the rise of sustainable consumption through the concept of de-influencing. This digital transformation of opinion leadership provides opportunities to shift the paradigm towards 'sustained' sustainable consumption for the benefit of society as a whole. END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Martin Curley
Supervisor Email: Martin.Curley@MU.ie

Title of Research Area:

A Nurse-Led Mobile Community Initiative Using AI-Enabled Tools for Early-Risk Assessment /Intervention

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The health and well-being of family carers, particularly those caring for children with complex needs, is often overlooked. The family carer role is, however, critical in the broader context of the 'caring' and represents a vital complimentary resource for the health and social care workforce. It is, therefore, crucial that their wellbeing is protected. Carers frequently face significant physical, emotional, and financial burdens, which can negatively impact their own mental and physical health.

This research proposal aims to research and develop a nurse-led mobile community initiative that utilises advanced AI-enabled diagnostic tools to facilitate early assessment and identification of risk factors in this cohort, thus allowing for prevention, early intervention, and provision of education on chronic disease.

By focusing on the unique needs of carers, this research seeks to improve health outcomes for both the carer and the children they support, while also increasing the overall resilience of the health and social care workforce.

Acknowledging the health burden of caring for a child with complex needs, this can be compounded by the lack of access/time to access preventive healthcare services and timely interventions. The nurse can play an important role in redressing this, supporting health prevention and assessment. This PhD proposal uniquely focuses on the employment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to augment the nurse's role, with the proposed automation of some existing cognitive tasks leading to the provision of new diagnostic information at the point of care.

Integrating AI-enabled technologies, such as AI stethoscopes, ECGs, handheld ultrasounds, and point-of-care (POC) blood testing, as part of a mobile community initiative, will allow the nurse to reach these caregivers directly aims to reduce a serious health equity gap. These technologies will enhance the effectiveness of the nurse's role, supporting protocol-based decisioning on optimal interventions and referral to appropriate integrated care pathways.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The project aligns very well with the University Research beacons – Health and Wellbeing, Digital Transformation and Data Science, Society and Public Policy, Sustainability.

There is particularly strong alignment with the first two research beacons but it is expected the PhD will also impact public policy and provide significant societal benefits. By situating more care in the home and community there are expected to be sustainability benefits also.

The PhD proposal is aligned with the Stay Left, Shift Left-10X digital health innovation strategy which Maynooth University leads and also is aligned with with the Innovation Value Institute/TCD Connect joint research agenda “People and Network Centric Healthcare” led by Prof Martin Curley with goals to enable improved clinical information superiority, shared situational awareness and improved self-synchronization. It also aligns closely with the principles of preventive health and early intervention which is central to the values of the School of Nursing and its innovative undergraduate curriculum.

Maynooth University is increasingly being recognized as a leader in Digital Health Maynooth University: Pioneering the Future of Digital Health | Technology Magazine

and the combination of a joint Nursing School and Innovation Value Institute supervised PhD will hopefully produce strong synergies, enhancing both impact and reputation.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Alireza Keshavarz
Supervisor Email: Alireza.keshavarz@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

1. Employee Mobility and Compensation: Navigating Careers Across Occupations; 2. Numerical Cognition and Consumer Behavior: Literacy, Bias, and Decision-Making

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

While the following areas provide guidance, I am open to exploring related research areas that may not be explicitly listed below.

1. Employee Mobility and Compensation: Navigating Careers Across Occupations

This research area explores the complex relationships between employee movement across organizations, career progression, rewards (both financial and non-financial), and gender. Understanding these dynamics is essential for both employees seeking to optimize their career trajectories and organizations aiming to attract, retain, and motivate a diverse workforce. Key focus areas include:

Employee Mobility Drivers: Analyzing factors that influence turnover, such as compensation satisfaction, work-life balance, and career advancement opportunities.

Organizational Practices and Mobility: Investigating how strategies like internal vs. external recruitment and compensation structures influence employee mobility, performance, and gender equity.

Industry and Economic Conditions: Exploring the role of industry and economic factors in shaping career opportunities and compensation levels.

Career Paths: Understanding transitions to management roles and the importance of experience across different functions.

Gender-Based Earnings Disparities: Analyzing pay disparities in sales and other occupations, considering factors such as role congruity, risk perception, and parenthood.

Impact of Gender Stereotypes: Investigating how gender biases affect performance evaluations and promotion decisions.

Organizational Structures and Cultures: Exploring how organizational structures and cultures can either exacerbate or mitigate gender inequalities in compensation and career advancement.

2. Numerical Cognition and Consumer Behavior: Literacy, Bias, and Decision-Making

This research area examines how numerical abilities, cognitive biases, and presentation formats influence judgment and decision-making in various contexts. The aim is to understand the psychological processes underlying numerical reasoning and how these processes can lead

to systematic errors or biases. The implications for individuals and organizations are also considered. Key areas of focus include:

Numerical Literacy: Investigating the effects of numerical literacy on individuals' ability to understand and apply quantitative information in everyday decision-making.

Cognitive Biases: Analyzing biases (e.g., left-digit bias) that distort numerical perceptions and influence decision outcomes.

Numerical Presentation Formats: Examining how different formats for presenting numbers (e.g., framing, scaling) can shape decision-making.

Improving Numerical Literacy: Developing interventions to enhance numerical literacy and mitigate the impact of cognitive biases.

Theories of Rationality: Applying theories such as bounded rationality and prospect theory to explain deviations from rational decision-making in numerical contexts.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Maynooth University's Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 highlights the importance of research excellence, societal impact, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The two research areas—employee mobility, compensation, and gender equity and numerical cognition, biases, and decision-making—align with several key objectives outlined in the plan, particularly in fostering innovative, impactful research across disciplines and addressing contemporary challenges.

1. Employee Mobility, Compensation, and Gender Equity

This research area supports the University's commitment to data-informed approaches and societal impact. By exploring gender disparities in compensation and mobility, it directly contributes to Maynooth's emphasis on society and public policy research beacons. It also aligns with the University's objective to attract diverse talent and foster interdisciplinary research that influences policy and organizational practices. This research will empower the development of equitable workplace practices and contribute to global conversations around diversity and inclusion.

2. Numerical Cognition, Biases, and Decision-Making

This area contributes to data and digital transformation by examining how cognitive biases influence decision-making, a core component of improving quantitative literacy. It aligns with Maynooth's focus on interdisciplinary research, helping to bridge psychology, economics, and data sciences to tackle real-world decision-making challenges. This research will also enhance the University's investment in research capacity by generating innovative insights into human cognition and behavior.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Prof Marian Crowley-Henry
Supervisor Email: marian.crowleyhenry@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Infertility at work: An exploratory study of wellbeing, stigma, identity, inclusion, and workplace accommodations

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Psychological safety, wellbeing/stigma at work and workplace accommodations theoretically underpin this PhD exploring infertility in the workplace within the Human Resource Management discipline. Ireland's 2018 decision (Workplace Relations Commission) to designate infertility as a disability requiring reasonable workplace accommodations creates an opportunity to theoretically and empirically investigate multi-level levers and challenges to supporting employees with fertility concerns.

While 72% of employers acknowledge the importance of fertility accommodations, only 6% have implemented formal policies (IBEC, 2022 Survey). This raises several questions which this PhD will consider in relation to equitable access to treatment, stigma in relation to disclosure of 'disability', identity conflict at work, workplace accommodations and employment relations.

This PhD examines multi-level factors shaping infertility-related workplace experiences:

Macro level: How healthcare systems and labour markets influence access to fertility treatments. How do economic actors (IBEC, trade unions) shape public policy around workplace infertility accommodations.

Meso level: Employer-driven policies addressing regulatory gaps and their implications for equity across industries/diverse workplaces.

Micro level: How cultural norms, stigma, gender, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation affect disclosure and access to accommodations.

The project aims to theoretically conceptualise the phenomenon of employee equity and wellbeing in relation to infertility policies and practices in the workplace across multi-levels, drawing on empirical data collection from different stakeholders (through policy analysis, organisational surveys, and stakeholder interviews). Evidence-based recommendations for public health policy, employment protections, and workplace practices, contributing to EU Commission objectives will also be produced.

Ideal candidates will have a Master's degree in employment relations, human resource management, organisational behaviour, sociology, employment law, or gender studies.

The PhD project would be jointly supervised by Professor Marian Crowley-Henry and Dr Valentina Paolucci from Maynooth University's School of Business.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This PhD research area directly advances Maynooth University's commitment to "imagine and create better futures for all" through its focus on investigating a critical societal challenge. The project bridges two key research beacons: Health and Wellbeing and Society and Public Policy, and exemplifies the university's strategic focus to build excellence in defined areas.

By investigating workplace infertility accommodations, this work contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The demographic challenges (declining fertility rates) facing Europe make this research particularly timely and impactful.

The project will leverage existing partnerships with healthcare researchers and policymakers while developing new relationships with healthcare providers, companies, and organisations - supporting Maynooth's commitment to fostering stakeholder collaboration. The multi-level research approach contributes to the university's vision for interdisciplinary excellence. The focus on intersectionality across socio-economic background, occupation, gender, and sexual orientation (including infertility amongst the LGBTQ+ community) enhances the strategic focus on equal opportunity and equity of outcomes.

This doctoral research will produce both theoretical advancements and actionable recommendations for policy reform, reflecting Maynooth's goal to be recognised for excellence and impact through national and international benchmarks.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Business
Supervisor: Dr Muhammad Mohsin Butt
Supervisor Email: muhammadMohsin.Butt@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

- a) International faculty perception of inclusion, diversity and equality. A European perspective.
- b) Green Corporations CEO political activism and Corporate Brand Reputation

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

The first propose topic deals with understanding international faculty perception of equality, diversity and inclusion at there host institution, and its subsequent outcomes. For example, how positive or negative perceptions of equality influence their perceived workability. The second topic deals with the global phenomenon of new tribalism and political divide manifesting itself in consumption landscape. The research will use multi method and cross disciplinary research to understand how political activism of a green corporation impact a brand performance in short and long run.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The first topic is related with Health and well being beacon and the second topic relates with sustainability and climate change.

END

School of Law and Criminology

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Prof Aisling McMahon
Supervisor Email: aisling.mcmahon@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Health Law; Intellectual Property Law; Patents and Access to Health

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests are primarily in health law and intellectual property law. I welcome enquires from applicants focused on research in these areas. Within the health law context, this includes research on areas, included but not limited to, topics related to: the regulation of emerging health technologies, health research and the law, regulation of assisted human reproductive technologies, access to health, regulation of ATMPs, informed consent and medical treatment. In the intellectual property field, I welcome enquires from applicants interested in a range of IP areas, including but not limited to, proposals related to: IP and access to health, patents and emerging technologies, patents and human rights, and the role of (bio)ethical considerations within patent law.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

These research areas in health law, and intellectual property law, directly align with the Research Beacon of 'Health and Wellbeing' exploring a range of diverse aspects related to the legal, ethical and societal issues related to emerging and existing health-technologies and healthcare services. Within the health law and patent law context, these could include proposals for projects exploring a myriad aspects of the ethical/legal aspects related to disease, diagnostics or drug discovery, and access to and development of health innovations. These research areas may also include proposals which align with 'society and public policy' and 'data science and digital transformation' beacons.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Bríd Ní Ghráinne
Supervisor Email: brid.nighrainne@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Forced Migration Law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to accept student applicants proposing research in the broad area of international forced migration law and policy. I have a particular interest in international refugee law, the law and policy of internal displacement, and international human rights and humanitarian law applying in the forced migration context.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area aligns with two areas of research strengths highlighted in the University's Strategic plan.

1. Society and Public Policy: At least 120 million people were displaced globally at the end of 2024, according to the UN. This is the highest number ever recorded. This growth in numbers is accompanied by a parallel increase of hostility towards migrants, resulting in governments implementing increasingly creative measures to deter and deport refugees. Forced migration thus represents a rupture in society for both those who are forced to move, and sometimes for the state (or part of the state) to which these people migrate. This project addresses how law and policies can respond to this global challenge.

2. Sustainability and climate change: Climate change and forced migration are increasingly interrelated. Climate change and disaster is a push factor for displacement, many forced migrants live in countries that are disproportionately affected by climate change, and climate change can be a barrier to resolving displacement.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Cian Ó Concubhair
Supervisor Email: cian.oconcubhair@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Criminal Law & Justice; Policing; Criminology; Media Studies; Security Studies; Journalism & Freedom of Expression; Constitutional & Human Rights Law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would accept doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of criminal law, criminal justice policy, practice and reform, and media criminology. I have particular research interests in police governance, accountability and reform; police legitimacy; police-media relations; criminal law; drugs policing; the philosophical relationship between criminal law and punishment; and legal protection for confidential journalistic sources.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

All strands of my research interests sit within the University's Society and Public Policy "beacon" of research excellence'.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Conor Crummey
Supervisor Email: Conor.Crummey@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Legal Philosophy, Constitutional Theory or Constitutional Law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am available for supervision in the broad areas of legal philosophy, constitutional theory, or constitutional law. I welcome applications on projects that seek to engage with and further debates on the nature of law, or the philosophical foundations of discrete areas of law, particularly constitutional law. I also welcome projects that engage with the philosophical foundations of constitutions and constitutionalism. This can include theoretical examinations of particular constitutional doctrines, or more wholesale theoretical accounts of constitutional practice. Finally, I am open to supervising doctrinal projects on aspects of Irish constitutional law or UK public law.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The University's Strategic Plan highlights 'Society and Public Policy' as a research beacon. Legal philosophical work seeks to contribute to our understanding of a key social practice (law). Constitutional theory seeks to contribute to our understanding of a more specific aspect of legal practice. Prospective students may wish to consider how their own proposed research project aligns with this research beacon when applying.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Cormac Behan
Supervisor Email: cormac.behan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Penal History; Prison Reform; Comparative Penal Policy; Prison Education.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests are focused on the history of punishment and the development of the prison. These research areas include attempts to reform the institution, both historically and contemporaneously. I would accept doctoral candidates who are interested in researching criminal justice history and contemporary penal policy, in particular with a focus on punishment and the use of imprisonment.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests align with the areas of research strengths highlighted in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28. The study of the criminal justice history, the emergence of the prison and the use of punishment fits with the aspiration of Maynooth University to “foster dialogue with society to ask and explore important questions with curiosity, expertise and an independent mind”. My scholarship encourages students to consider alternative modes of punishment that “push the boundaries of science, imagination and the human mind in order to create better futures for generations to come”. In studying the past, we can envisage a better future, and propose ways to achieve a more socially just approach to dealing with deviant activity and criminal behaviour.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology

Supervisor: Dr David Mangan

Supervisor Email: david.mangan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Law & the Future of Work; Technology, Law, and Employment

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Technology, Law, and Employment

AI, and Employment Law

Privacy and Employment

Free Speech and Employment

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Informing public policy

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Prof Edward Dove
Supervisor Email: edward.dove@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Medical law and health privacy law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would welcome applications from students broadly interested in exploring a topic within either medical (health) law or health privacy law, or both.

Within medical law (also known as health law), this encompasses research within the sub-discipline of law that explores the interaction among (depending on the specific context) the patient, the healthcare professional (e.g. the doctor), the healthcare institution (e.g. hospital), and the State in the setting of – or arising from – the provision of clinical care. This can include research investigating, for example, the governance and provision of healthcare; the regulation of medical professionals; medical/clinical negligence; consent to and refusal of treatment; medical treatment of children and minors; protection of patient information; mental health, mental capacity, and/or assisted decision-making; abortion and assisted reproduction; organ and tissue transplantation; the regulation of biomedical/clinical research; and end of life. It also includes research into contemporary topics such as the regulation of gene editing; products liability in the medical context; the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into healthcare; and regulation of cosmetic procedures. Other topics within medical law may fall within scope, depending on discussion with the supervisor. I have particular expertise in research ethics governance.

Within health privacy law, this encompasses research into a cognate area any or all legal regimes covering confidentiality law, privacy law, and data protection law (e.g. the European Data Protection Regulation, Ireland's Data Protection Acts 1988-2018). In the Irish and European context, this may include research on the European Health Data Space (EHDS), as well as health privacy as a legal construct and ways in which the law can (or should) respect reasonable expectations of health information, on both an individual and collective level.

Please note medical law and health privacy law does **not** include research falling within public health law or global health law.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Medical law and health privacy law fall squarely within two of the five 'Beacons' of research excellence of the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28, specifically: 'Data and Digital Transformation' and 'Health and Wellbeing'. Health privacy law may look at e.g. the health data digital transformation occurring within Ireland, while medical law may look at any aspect within health and wellbeing.

The Strategic Plan notes that Maynooth University has a significant and well-regarded portfolio of health-related science, public policy, and social science research, but is the only university in

Ireland with no mainstream health education courses. A PhD in medical law and/or health privacy law boosts the University's mission to expand on health education, albeit from a law, ethics, and policy perspective, and prepare graduates to serve the needs of the healthcare sector in the midst of significant technological and demographic change. Indeed, a PhD in medical law/health privacy law may be of particular interest to those working in the healthcare sector, including those who have demonstrable skill and interest in the ethico-legal aspects of health and medicine, and wish to further develop that skill and interest by focusing on a significant research project of relevance to Ireland and Europe more broadly.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Ian Marder
Supervisor Email: ian.marder@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Restorative justice, criminal justice policy, criminal justice reform, policing, drugs policy, translational criminology, victimology

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would accept doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of criminal justice policy, practice and reform. I have a particular interest in restorative justice and restorative practices, victims' services, policing and drugs policy, and interests in sentencing, prisons, and the development of research partnerships. Across all my research interests I am interested in co-creation and translational criminology, which considers the implications of research for society, policy and practice.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas and interests align with the research beacon of society and public policy, and the university's aims to undertake high-impact research in partnership with policy, practice and civil society. My PhD students all undertake applied research with implications for social justice.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Joe Garrihy
Supervisor Email: Joe.Garrihy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Penology; Penal and Criminal Justice Policy; Prison Life and Cultures; Re-integration for people with convictions.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would accept doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of criminal justice and penal policy, practice and reform. I research in the areas of penology; prison life and cultures; penal policy; re-integration; access to employment and education for people with convictions; occupational cultures and identities; ethnography; and mixed methods research. I have a particular interest in Penology broadly construed as accounting for prison life and cultures and their engagement with penal policy.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas and interests align with the research beacon of society and public policy, and the university's aims to undertake high-impact research in partnership with policy, practice and civil society.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr John Morrison
Supervisor Email: john.morrison@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Extremism

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am interested in supervising doctoral research on areas relating to terrorism, counter-terrorism and extremism. I am particularly interested in applicants whose research focuses specifically on the psychology of terrorism, counter-terrorism or extremism. This can include research relating to any specified area of the applicants' choosing within these areas, and can relate to qualitative or quantitative research. Willing to accept student from various disciplinary backgrounds including, but not exclusively, criminology, sociology, psychology and political science.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research particularly relates to the research beacon of Society and Public Policy within the Strategic Plan.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr John Reynolds
Supervisor Email: john.reynolds@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

International law, colonialism, racism/apartheid, emergency, political economy, migration, human rights

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to receive doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of public international law, human rights and social justice as they relate to colonialism, racism/apartheid, emergency or political economy. I have particular interests in projects relating to Third World Approaches to International Law, international law and Palestine, migration and border violence, law and racism, socio-economic rights, the law and politics of the United Nations, the laws of war and the law on the use of force, genocide, international criminal justice, transnational solidarity and movements for justice in the global South.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with Maynooth University's commitments to research excellence and international engagement. It produces scholarly impact in its contribution to knowledge and existing literature, and policy impact at national and international institutional levels. My research area is interdisciplinary in nature and falls within the particular research beacon highlighted in the University strategic plan on 'Society and Public Policy'.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Kevin Wozniak
Supervisor Email: kevin.wozniak@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

The politics of crime and punishment

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to accept students who wish to study the intersection of politics, crime, criminal justice, and social policy, broadly construed. I have particular expertise in public opinion and survey research methods, but I could work with any student who is interested in studying criminal justice policy making in the context of state or national politics. I also have expertise in the governance and politics of the United States of America and would consider accepting students who wish to study social policy in the USA.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

As a scholar whose work sits at the intersection of criminology, political science, and sociology, my research aligns with the University's strength in "Society and Public Policy." I study law, policy, politics, and people's interactions with those social spheres using social science theories and research methods. As a specialist in American politics with ties to American scholars, my work also supports Maynooth's goal of internationalization.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Lynsey Black
Supervisor Email: lynsey.black@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Criminology (Key words: Punishment, Gender, History, Northern Ireland)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would accept doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of criminology, criminal justice, gender and punishment, histories of crime and punishment, media and crime, crime and justice in Northern Ireland, and borders.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas demonstrate themes from 'Heritage, Culture and Language' and 'Society and Public Policy'.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Maria Helen Murphy
Supervisor Email: maria.murphy@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Technology, Digital Policy, and Human Rights: Privacy, Data Protection, and Artificial Intelligence

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research investigates the intersections of law and technology. In particular, my work focuses on the role of law in protecting fundamental human rights, including the rights to privacy and data protection, in an increasingly complex technological and regulatory environment.

I examine how fundamental rights and other values shape regulatory responses to emerging technologies and expanding deployments of existing technologies, particularly in relation to political imperatives and policy goals, such as innovation, economic growth, and digital sovereignty. I am interested in supervising projects that consider the role of law and its enforcement mechanisms in safeguarding rights in the context of large-scale data collection, AI-driven data processing, and algorithmic decision-making.

Projects incorporating stakeholder engagement to ensure effective research translation and the practical realisation of rights are encouraged.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research sits squarely at the intersection of two key Research Beacons in the University's Strategic Plan: 'Data and Digital Transformation' and 'Society and Public Policy'.

By examining how law and regulatory frameworks can effectively safeguard fundamental rights in the context of AI-driven data processing and large-scale data collection, my research contributes to the University's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation. Projects addressing broader societal concerns around digital sovereignty, economic growth, and democratic governance within the context of human rights can build interdisciplinary research capacity and advance the University's goal of delivering meaningful societal impact.

My emphasis on stakeholder engagement and research translation across disciplines and professions further supports the University's focus on impactful collaborations and partnerships.

My focus on the regulatory environment and rights-based approaches to technology governance reflects the values-driven digital agenda promoted by the European Union. This agenda emphasises the protection of rights as foundational to sustainable digital progress, whether through adequate data protection facilitating the free-flow of information or trustworthy AI being essential to its widescale adoption and advancement. END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Mariana Velasco-Rivera
Supervisor Email: mariana.velascorivera@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, constitutional theory, feminist legal thought and/or feminist constitutionalism

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am available to work with doctoral applicants proposing research in the broad areas of constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, constitutional theory, feminist legal thought and/or feminist constitutionalism. I have particular interest in socio-legal studies of constitutions—particularly, in the interaction between state actors/stakeholders and rules and how that relationship determines the workings of constitutions. Theoretical and doctrinal projects are also welcomed.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research areas described above align to the Society and Public Policy beacon of research excellence of the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28. Both, the socio-legal studies of constitutions (that is, the study of legal institutions, practices and ideas in their historical, cultural and social contexts) and the doctrinal study of, for example, the evolution of constitutional/legal thought and ideas are fundamental endeavours to better understand current challenges to, among other things, constitutional democracy, and the protection of rights and minorities. Perhaps most importantly, such endeavours are crucial for the innovation of public policy solutions to such challenges.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Mary Dobbs
Supervisor Email: mary.dobbs@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Environmental Law and Governance

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to supervise theses in the areas of EU, UK or Irish environmental law and governance. This includes EU law with case-studies relating to individual Member States (where it makes sense to do so). It also includes all-island/cross-border matters on the island of Ireland and the impact of Brexit (here or in the UK more generally).

While I would not offer to supervise theses primarily focussing on international environmental law or on non-EU jurisdictions, components could be included.

Focus points could include areas such as water, waste, agriculture, nature, novel technologies etc. It could also include governance approaches more generally, for instance, the role of environmental objectives and principles, different actors or transnational environmental governance.

I am very happy to consider a range of different theoretical approaches to the research.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research clearly relates to (i) the Sustainability and Climate Change, (ii) the Health and Wellbeing, and (iii) Society and Public Policy beacons of research excellence. In undertaking my own research in these areas, I frequently highlight elements such as ecosystem services, sustainability, circularity, socio-ecological resilience etc. I also use the research to help identify issues within existing legal and governance frameworks and potential ways to enhance outcomes, including through law reform or changes to implementation and enforcement. I would envisage that any thesis in these fields could likewise contribute to the three research beacons to the benefit of society.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Prof Michael Doherty
Supervisor Email: michael.b.doherty@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

EU and Comparative Industrial Relations, Labour and Employment Law and Policy

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Prof Doherty's research interests are in the areas of employment and labour law, industrial relations (especially the role of trade unions) and social partnership, as well as in EU Labour Law and Policy.

He has worked on a number of projects for the European Commission, on cross-border working terms and conditions, and platform work, as part of European-wide research networks and as co-investigator on a major, EU-funded project on public procurement. He has worked on a major European Parliament study on free movement of labour, on projects on the Digitalisation of the workplace, and is a member of several European research networks looking at labour law in the EU.

He has published widely in national and international outlets on these topics and presented his work at numerous domestic and international conferences. His work has focused, in particular, on collective employment rights, employee representation at work, the role of trade unions and the role of social pacts in socio-economic governance.

He has supervised a number of PhD students working on projects relating to employment rights, public procurement processes, youth unemployment and the implementation of human rights instruments, and welcomes applications from students interested in all areas of labour and employment law and policy.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

Prof Doherty's research is interdisciplinary in nature, encompassing traditional legal research, empirical socio-legal research, the sociology of work, critical Human Resource Management studies, and comparative legal research. This fits within the University's interdisciplinary research beacons, in particular relating to Data and Digital Transformation (the digitilisation of work), Health and Wellbeing (decent working conditions), and Society and Public Policy (the role of labour law and policy, and collective labour actors, in social and public life).

Prof Doherty's research focuses on external engagement for real-world impact by working with labour law and policy stakeholders from industry, government, trade unions, and community and voluntary organisations engaged with workplace issues. He has been appointed to multiple positions by the Irish Government (including Chairing the statutory Employment Law Review Group), and has worked for the EU Commission on numerous projects relating to the cross-border impact and efficacy of EU labour Law and policy.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Noelle Higgins
Supervisor Email: noelle.higgins@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Promotion of Culture

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would be happy to supervise doctoral research in the field of Indigenous rights, in particular, research which investigates the importance of the fulfilment of cultural rights of Indigenous peoples as an aspect of the right to self-determination. The use of a case study or case studies which trace the history, context and challenges of different Indigenous groups in respect of the right to self-determination would be important to answer key research questions on self-determination. A descriptive-normative approach to international law, underpinned by an interrogation of cultural, social and political norms, should be considered in order to take account of the contextual background of Indigenous groups and enable the researcher to make holistic recommendations on legal and policy frameworks. Key focus points relating to the cultural life of Indigenous groups to be researched could include language and linguicide, cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), and cultural practices. Other overarching questions on the right to self-determination to be addressed include issues of representation, the Indigenous Voice, cultural expertise, the right to free, prior and informed consent, and the implementation of international legal frameworks, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the national level.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research areas align with the 'Heritage, Culture and Language' beacon of research excellence. In recent years, my research has focused on cultural rights and I have published widely on issues concerning heritage and language from a variety of perspectives. My work on Indigenous rights has interwoven questions on self-determination and Indigenous Voice throughout.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Ollie Bartlett
Supervisor Email: ollie.bartlett@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Public health law and governance

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am willing to supervise any project within the broad area of public health law and governance, whether theoretical or applied. This can include any area of non-communicable disease policy (eg alcohol, tobacco, obesity policy) or communicable disease policy (eg pandemic preparedness, vaccines). It could also involve any exploration of the connection between health and human rights, or the connection between health and another social issue (eg health of people experiencing homelessness, health of people with disabilities). I would be happy to supervise projects that focus on Irish/UK law, EU law, or international law. I would also be happy to supervise any projects that investigate ethical questions of health governance, or any projects that take a political or policy science approach to health governance issues.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

This research area aligns strongly with both the Health and Wellbeing beacon and the Society and Public Policy beacon identified in the University Strategic Plan. Research into public health law and governance has the potential to be highly interdisciplinary, to attract funding from diverse sources, and to generate significant social impact through its policy relevance and potential for collaboration with societal partners. All of these are emphasised within the University Strategic Plan.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology

Supervisor: Dr Orla Kelleher

Supervisor Email: orla.kelleher@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Climate law, environmental law and constitutional/human rights law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would be open to accepting doctoral applicants proposing research in the area of climate, environmental and human rights law at the national, EU and international levels. I have a particular research interest in climate litigation, national framework climate laws, environmental human rights, and EU climate and environmental laws.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area aligns most closely to the Sustainability and Climate Change beacon. It is also related to the Health and Wellbeing as well as Society and Public Policy beacons of research excellence.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Sinéad Ring
Supervisor Email: sinead.ring@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Sexual Violence and the Law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to supervise:

A. projects that explore the law's engagement with sexual violence. This includes:

projects looking at:

- criminal prosecutions of sexual offences; meanings of justice for survivors of sexual violence;
- projects considering the idea of justice in the context of non-recent sexual violence;
- the impact of digital activism regarding sexual violence in the contemporary legal landscape;
- evidence law and the prosecution of sexual offences
- criminal law reform

B. Projects that consider questions of gender and the law.

C. Projects that consider socio-legal questions that ask how to improve (any aspect of) the criminal justice system for victims, accused/convicted people, the public.

I am happy to consider projects looking at Ireland alone or other countries, or comparisons between Ireland and other countries.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research area is multi-disciplinary, and aligns with the Strategic Plan's research beacon of Society and Public Policy. This research area is all about making positive and impactful social change in how the law engages with sexual violence survivors and perpetrators, and how it communicates messages about sexual violence to the public. As such it fits well within the Strategic Plan's objective of creating a better future for all.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Prof Tobias Lock
Supervisor Email: tobias.lock@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

EU Constitutional and Fundamental Rights Law

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I would be happy to supervise research projects in EU Constitutional Law broadly conceived. I am specifically interested in EU Fundamental Rights Law (the EU Charter including its impact on substantive EU law); the interactions between domestic fundamental rights law and EU law; the interactions between the EU and the ECHR (including EU accession to the ECHR) and EU law and other international systems. In methodological terms, I would be happy to supervise doctrinal, theoretical, and mixed methods (socio-legal) projects.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The above research projects would fall squarely within the beacon "Society and Public Policy": legal research deals with the societal phenomenon that is law and how it is understood and applied; and how it could be improved. It therefore also provides a valuable evidence base and produces suggestions to inform public policy.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: School of Law and Criminology
Supervisor: Dr Hubert Smekal
Supervisor Email: Hubert.Smekal@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Courts and judges (rule of law, judicial independence, judicial accountability, selecting judges)

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

Courts and judges became of interest to both lawyers and social scientists. I welcome both interdisciplinary projects and single-discipline (law) projects on the judiciary and its members. Recently, the attention shifted from law in the books to the operation of law in social settings. I am able to supervise projects dealing with the operation of European transnational courts (the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights) and of national judiciaries. The focus of the project can target one phenomenon, such as judicial independence, judicial accountability, the selection of judges or zoom in on relational issues (courts/judges/judiciary and ...), such media, public, gender, data, etc.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The research area is clearly linked to the "Beacon" Society and Public Policy. Courts are one of the most important institutions in nowadays societies, and well-functioning judiciary is associated with a developed well-governed state.

END

Department of Sociology

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Barry Cannon
Supervisor Email: barry.cannon@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Latin American Politics, Venezuela, Left, Right, Populism, Democracy, Global Citizenship, Ireland, Far Right

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am happy to accept doctoral students in the areas of Latin American Politics; Democracy, Democratic Crisis and Populism; Global Citizenship; and the Irish Far Right.

1. Latin American Politics

My main areas of interest under this theme are the Left and the Right in Latin America. I have written books on the Pink Tide of Leftist governments dominant in the region in the first decade and a half of this century, as well as more specifically on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela during the administrations of President Hugo Chavez. Similarly, I have written extensively on the Latin American Right throughout the region, publishing two monographs on the theme (2016, 2020), but also more specifically on the Venezuelan Opposition.

2. Democracy, Democratic Crisis and Populism

I have written on democratization and de-democratization processes in Central America (2012), Brazil (2020), and Europe in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic (2022). My first monograph on the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela (2009) was framed by theory on populism, and I have also written on this theme at a theoretical level (2016).

3. Global Citizenship

I have completed funded research on the theme of the meaning and content of global citizenship in partnership with the Irish NGO Comhlámh, publishing two reports (2022, 2023) and a journal article (2024) on the theme.

4. Irish Far Right

I am presently working on a funded project on the impact of the Irish Far Right on minoritised populations in Ireland. Previously, I completed an Irish Research Council funded project on strategic recommendations from Irish civil society on how best to tackle the rise of the Irish far right. I completed a research project on motivations for asylum seeker related protest in Ireland in 2023/2024 with articles published in the Irish Journal of Sociology (2024) and The Irish Times (2024).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The above-mentioned research areas primarily speak to the University's Society and Public Policy Research Beacon as articulated in the University's Strategic Plan 2023-28.

1. Latin American Politics

Research on Latin America is crucial due to the recent signing of the EU/Mercosur trade agreement on December 6 2024 as well as increased migration to Ireland from the region. Moreover, research on Latin America helps contribute to MU's Internationalisation five-year focus.

2. Democracy, Democratic Crisis and Populism

Democracy is in peril in the context of a rise in populism, and research in both these areas is crucial to help us generate effective policies to help support and regenerate democracy.

3. Global Citizenship

Irish government spending on Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is set to increase to €10 million per annum this year. Research on this theme, working closely with concerned civil society organisations, can help impact on this growing policy area.

4. Irish Far Right

The recent irruption of the Far Right in Irish politics has had a profound impact on Irish asylum and immigration policy and potentially on issues affecting women, LGBTQI+ and ethnic minorities. Continued research on this emerging field is crucial to help safeguard democracy in our country.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Elena Zambelli
Supervisor Email: elena.zambelli@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Gender; sex work; care; migration; borders; intimacy; racisms; feminist intersectional and decolonial politics

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests include (1) people's everyday negotiations of gendered and racialized structures and relations of power; (2) people's engagement in intimate mobilities (family migrations; domestic, care and sex work) and the role of gender norms and roles in re/shaping family- and kin-making practices in migration; (3) migration and border regimes and their effects on migrants and citizens' rights, wellbeing and sense of belonging; (4) regulations, meanings and everyday negotiations of whiteness and/or mixed citizenship/migration status among interracial/mixed couples and families within and beyond Europe; (5) feminist intersectional and decolonial politics on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe, in countries of the Middle East (particularly the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon) and/or among their diasporas. Whilst my preferred research methods are qualitative (ethnography, interviews, arts), I am open to co-supervising research projects that combine these with quantitative research methods (polls, surveys and panels).

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with Maynooth University's Society and Public Policy (Social and Economic Transformations) and Heritage, Culture and Languages (Interdisciplinary Humanities/Intersectionality) beacons. Using an intersectional approach, it explores the commodification, regulation, and reorganization of intimacy (e.g., family formation and dynamics; paid and unpaid care work; sex work) within and across national borders in contexts shaped by patriarchal relations of power, neoliberal capitalism, and the enduring legacies of European colonialisms. In so doing, it seeks to better understand social, economic and cultural change, the role of individual and collective agency in driving and enabling it, and its impact on the reproduction or reduction of structural inequalities mainly along the lines of gender, race/ethnicity, class and citizenship/migration status. By mixing research and public engagement activities, my work aims to contribute to ongoing public debates in a wide range of domains, and especially gender and racial equity, migration and inclusion policies.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Eoin Flaherty
Supervisor Email: eoin.flaherty@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Financialisation, Debt, and Socio-Economic Inequality

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I have a long-standing track record in internationally recognised work in the areas of socioeconomic inequalities, financialisation, and time-series methods. I am especially interested in supervising students with an interest in researching the underpinnings of inequalities at a more granular level than the country. Students with an interest in studying specific marginalized groups in Ireland or further afield, engaging in comparative work with Ireland and other comparator countries, and with a special interest in pursuing quantitative approaches, should consider contacting me. Some questions I am interested in are:

How do marginalized groups navigate the Irish financial and welfare systems?

How do gender, race, ethnicity, class, education, combine to hamper the ability of marginalized groups to navigate the Irish systems?

How might we collect mixed-method data on these groups, and what kinds of new methods might we apply to gain further insight into their lived experiences?

What kinds of policy remedies could we devise on the basis of this new information?

What kinds of supportive networks and strategies emerge amongst different social groups in times of financial hardship?

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

One of my main research interests (socioeconomic inequalities) contributes directly to the university's beacon of excellence in the area of Society and Public Policy. This area combines my interests in quantitative methodologies – especially time series and panel data analysis – and I am keen to take this in new directions by supervising work on specific social groups with a mixed-method approach. In light of the recent launch of a National Strategy on Financial Literacy, I am keen to examine the intersection between education and inequality via the experience of different social groups as they navigate the Irish financial and welfare systems. This area therefore has clear policy impact pathways, as per the Strategic Plan's emphasis on real-world impact and positive change.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Prof G. Honor Fagan
Supervisor Email: honor.fagan@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Water and Waste Governance in a Sustainable Society; Global Inequalities and Human Security.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My theoretical approach is to work on the development of a social sustainability paradigm from a sociological perspective and to contribute to the development of the emerging field of sustainability science. My research interests focus on Governance and Social Sustainability; Water, Waste and Human In/Security in Resource Scarce Futures.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My work straddles the remit of two of MU's Research Beacons - Society and Public Policy and Sustainability and Climate Change. I work on the governance (public policy) of water and waste production and pollution (sustainability). At the level of theory, I work towards creating a paradigm of socially sustainable science applicable to improving water and waste management and its equitable governance.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Jenny Dagg
Supervisor Email: jenny.dagg@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Dynamics of power; governmentality; intersectionality; agency, resistance and subjectivity; forms of justice; social policy

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests primarily focus on the ways in which marginalised groups resist, change or seek to transform regulatory systems. My interests include a theoretical focus on the dynamics of power; agency, resistance and subjectivity; intersectionality; forms of justice; and social policy. As a result, my work has focused on areas of power and governmentality; refugee recognition and subjectivity; poverty, exclusion and social resilience; immigrant integration; and reproductive justice and disability. My research uses qualitative and mixed methods to explore the lived experience and everyday lives of marginalised groups. My current work focuses on the qualitative insights from the Basic Income for Artists in Ireland pilot scheme.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research interests fall within the realm of political sociology. My focus is on why our political institutions or regulatory systems operate in the way that they do, exploring the consequences of this for marginalised groups through qualitative and mixed methods, and the potential for regulatory systems to change or transform. This focus aligns with the Society and Public Policy research beacon highlighted within the Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Prof Rebecca King-O'Riain
Supervisor Email: rebecca.king-oriain@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Race, migration, popular culture, intermarriage, mixed-race, emotions, technology, beauty, K-pop, TikTok

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

I am a professor of sociology and would welcome applicants for PhD supervision in the areas of: Immigration, migration, popular culture, race, Critical Mixed-Race Studies, Critical Race Theory, digital/social media, Asia/Asian American Studies, beauty, interactive forms of bodily culture, K-pop, K-drama, Japanese popular culture and TikTok. I work primarily with students using qualitative methodologies such as participant-observation, interviews and focus groups, but can also support students who study social media data captures, content analysis, surveys and data visualization. You can read more about my research here:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/faculty-social-sciences/our-people/rebecca-king-oriain>

to see if I am a good fit for your research interests.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research is interdisciplinary and aligns well with three of the major Maynooth University research beacons. PhD students under my supervision contribute directly and meaningfully to the areas of Data and Digital Transformation; Heritage, Culture and Language; and Society and Public Policy depending upon their research topic. My current research focuses on Asian popular culture in the west (USA and EU) and its growing fanbase on digital social media such as TikTok. I conduct participant-observation in person (at K-pop concerts, disco nights, film screenings, fan club gatherings, and conventions), surveys and qualitative in-depth interviews with various types of Korean and Japanese popular culture fans (both drama and music).

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Daryl Martin
Supervisor Email: Daryl.Martin@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Architecture; Atmospheres; Care; Cities; Design; Landscape; Material Culture; Public Space; Urban Development.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests are focused the social aspects of building design and architectural work, with a particular interest in the intersections of architecture, embodiment and care. I have previously worked on projects that have studied the design of community-based centres for cancer care, residential settings for later life, and hospital spaces for the treatment of respiratory conditions (within the wider context of anti-microbial resistance).

These interests in architecture for health and social care complement other long-standing interests in landscape research, contemporary mobilities, and creative approaches to documenting the experience of city life. I have published on a wide range of topics in these areas, including studies on the place of religious architecture in contemporary cities, the use of digital technologies in the experience of public space, the politics of urban ruination, and artistic approaches to documenting urban atmospheres.

My work employs qualitative methods, from focus groups and interviews to ethnographic approaches. I am increasingly interested in the use of creative and visual methods, and previous research has involved collaboration with artists and architects.

To date, I have been involved in the supervision of 10 PhD projects to completion, and have a wide range of experience in providing support and training for doctoral candidates. I would welcome proposals to undertake new doctoral research in any of my areas of interest noted above.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My areas of interest cut across three of the University's Research Beacons: Health and Wellbeing; Heritage, Culture and Languages; and, Society and Public Policy.

First, my interests in healthcare architecture and design for later life speak to the University's priorities in Mental Health and Wellbeing, by assessing interventions in the built environment to support the experience of wellbeing in community settings. In addition, my research on clinical space for those with respiratory conditions directly worked within the context of antimicrobial resistance, and sought to understand how spatial strategies are deployed to keep vulnerable patient groups safe in hospital settings.

Second, my research on the professional work of architects, their organizational cultures and the cultural scripts they import into their designs, fits with the University's priority within the

Heritage, Culture and Languages beacon to better understand the socio-cultural construction of creative work.

Third, my long-standing interests in landscape research and urban culture speak to University priorities within the Society and Public Policy beacon. My previous publications on the development of contemporary cities, the politics of public space, and the intersections of landscape and cultural identity have all been interested in tracing the complexity of relationships between people, place and environment.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Dr Mary Benson
Supervisor Email: mary.benson@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Urban Sociology, changing cityscapes and the implications for lived experience.

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

My research interests lie within the broad field of Urban Sociology. In particular, my interests explore changing cityscapes and how structural changes associated with changes in the economy and urban governance impact on the cityscape and the lived experience of people within these landscapes. Embedded in these changes are processes associated with gentrification and the implications for place, identity, and community. As such my interests also include spatial and social inequality. My research also examines cities and sustainability with a focus on urban growing spaces and urban allotment gardens. I work within a qualitative and visual methodology and have developed an expertise in these methods. My research interests in the above have led to an interest in other fields and I have designed and teach a number of modules including: Fieldwork Methods; Changing Cityscapes; The sociology of Everyday Life with a focus on living in a consumer society, social change in Ireland and understandings of home and food.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

The University's Strategic Plan 2023-28 highlights the focus on 'Beacons' of research excellence. My research interests align with the Society and Public Policy research 'Beacon' which is centred upon the relationship between societal transformation and public policies. This 'Beacon' aims to understand the challenges faced by contemporary societies and my research interests examine these challenges within the contemporary cityscape. My research interests align with the People, Place and Environment and the Social and Economic Transformations research areas within this 'Beacon' which aim to understand social and economic change and to address the key societal challenges of the 21st Century.

END

John & Pat Hume Doctoral Awards 2025-2026

Department: Sociology
Supervisor: Prof Pauline Cullen
Supervisor Email: pauline.cullen@mu.ie

Title of Research Area:

Inequalities Political Representation ; Care Work and Policy; Civil society, including Trade Unionism and European Integration; Feminist responses to Far right and societal crises,

Description of research areas supervisor is willing to accept applications in:

In research on care work and intersectional approaches to politics and in my role as a national and international gender expert, I explore the factors that maintain inequalities in care, representation and work.

My publications examine how ideas about race, gender and class etc. inform understandings about who should care, what kinds of work we should do and who should lead, ideas that maintain the underrepresentation of women in all their diversity in political and economic decision-making, inequalities in work that include the undervaluation of female-dominated and racialised care labour.

My second area of research examines the dynamics, patterns of coalition and conflict that characterise civil society, including non-governmental organisations, trade unions, advocacy groups, non-profit service providers and grass roots collectives. This includes civil society responses to marketisation, far right forces, illiberalism and de-democratisation. I have researched these issues at local, national and European level.

I invite prospective students who have an interest in understanding who gets to participate in public life and decision making and how this affects democratic practices, associational life (including women's organisations and trade unionism) governance and public policy. I am also happy to supervise students who are also interested in how gendered, classed and racialized relations and structures shape access to health care and work.

How supervisor research areas align to Maynooth University research priority areas:

My research aligns with MU's strategic goals of impacting national and European policy contexts and the beacon of research excellence in society and public policy

END