

Carlow College, St. Patrick's Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Hub

This document is the framework for the establishment of a Research Hub at CCSP. It was approved by the Academic Council (21st November, 2018) as an initiative of the College.

The Local and Regional Context

CCSP is an important local and regional centre of research and knowledge, which is disseminated through the provision of programmes of education, publications, conferences, inter-institutional collaborations, and public events. Of unique importance, perhaps, is the research that College staff have undertaken in the fields of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences both locally and in the wider south Leinster region. For instance, our concentration of research activities in the fields of English and History in the south Leinster region is only bettered by the nearest Universities (Maynooth and Cork). CCSP, therefore, has the opportunity to maintain and grow its reputation as the local and regional centre of research excellence in this part of the country. The establishment of a Research Hub could drive College research activities with energy and shape. This would benefit the College in the following ways:

- Help fulfil our local and regional strategy, as well as offering another dimension to the achievement of our mission and ethos
- Help the visibility of the College in national terms
- Enhance the reputation of the College as a place where excellence is valued and encouraged

The National Context

The place of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in the Irish higher education landscape has been increasingly examined by Irish academic institutions in recent years, particularly in the post-2008 Crash environment, where these fields of research have been under threat. A number of important publications have set out the value of and shaped the discussion around the future of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines within Irish education policy contexts.¹ The Irish Humanities Alliance have defined in particular the value of the Arts and Humanities as follows:

The humanities nurture and sustain the capacity for independent critical thought and are the crucial channel through which the values of a society are transmitted and renegotiated, a process which in turn secures our capacity for free and robust debate, encouraging greater social inclusion and better deliberative processes.²

Of central importance here is the value of supporting research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

¹ See for instance, the Royal Irish Academy's 'Advancing Humanities and Social Sciences Research in Ireland (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2007) and 'The appropriateness of key performance indicators to research in arts and humanities disciplines: Ireland's contribution to the European debate' (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2010); Ellen Hazelkorn, Mairtin Ryan, Andrew Gibson and Elaine Ward, 'Recognising the Value of the Arts and Humanities in a Time of Austerity: Report' (DIT/HERA, 2013); Jane Conroy and Margaret Kelleher, eds, *Restating the Value of the Humanities* (Dublin: Humanities Serving Irish Society Consortium, 2014).

² Irish Humanities Alliance, 'IHA submission to the consultation for successor to HSSI', 2. <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Consultations/Consultations-files/Irish-Humanities-Alliance.pdf>

Many HEI's in Ireland have an established Research Agenda. In the Universities, these agendas are titled as follows:

- 'research themes' (Trinity College Dublin)
- 'strategic priorities' (University College Dublin)
- 'strategic thematic areas' (University College Cork)
- 'thematic research priorities' (National University of Ireland, Galway)
- 'thematic priorities' (Maynooth University)
- 'key research and innovation areas' (Dublin City University).

These flexible agendas all specify the Humanities and Social Sciences as priority areas. The IoTs obviously do not have as strong a research presence as the Universities; however, there are a growing number of active researchers in the IoTs, and four of the fifteen have been identified as having an institutional research agenda in the Humanities.³ Andrew G. Gibson and Ellen Hazelkorn state that:

From this, it is clear that almost all the universities, and the IoTs to a lesser extent, have identified research in the arts and humanities as areas of strategic interest. Irish HEIs have identified the arts and humanities as just such strengths, and there is scope to integrate this institution-level commitment to arts and humanities research into a national-level strategy.

Notwithstanding differences in scale, CCSP has a research presence through the individual activities of its staff. In this context, CCSP is participating in evolving national and international research discourses. However, this key dimension of College life will be made more visible through the establishment of a Research Hub, which in turn will generate greater collaboration with other institutions or partnered research projects. Indeed, some of this is happening already – e.g. the Topographies project with WIT and CIT, and conference collaborations with VISUAL and TCD).

The International Context

Horizon 2020 is the EU's current research and innovation programme. Ireland's recent endorsement of the EU's 'Framework Proposal 9' (which will succeed *Horizon 2020*) confirms the national policy is to strengthen research in areas which are integral to Carlow College St. Patrick's. In particular, the Irish government has stated that in response to FP9 that 'there should be broad and deep engagement with the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)'.⁴ Crucially, the Irish government has emphasised the importance of multi- and interdisciplinary research going forward, and that this type of research in Humanities and Social Sciences should have central role in any future plan to replace *Horizon 2020*, stating that 'Humanities and Social Sciences should also be an integral part of all other programme areas'.⁵ Creating a more prominent research agenda in the College will align with these aims.

³ Andrew G. Gibson and Ellen Hazelkorn, 'Arts and humanities research, redefining public benefit, and research prioritization in Ireland', *Research Evaluation*, vol. 26, 3.1 July 2017, pp. 199–210.
<https://academic.oup.com/rev/article/26/3/199/3893570#91044942>

⁴ Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, 'Ireland's Preliminary Views on the 9th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation' (August 2017).

⁵ Ibid.

The College research profile

For a college of its size and stature, Carlow College, St. Patrick's has an impressive volume of active researchers who are contributing to their fields. In 2017/2018, for instance, no less than five books have been published by Carlow College staff working across all College programmes.

Selection of cross-programme staff publications 2017/2018

Below are examples of recent publications in the sphere of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in 2017 and 2018.

Elaine Callinan, 'The response to Redmond's call to war in 1914, as reported in the regional press', *The Irish regional press, 1892-2012: changing media in a changing country* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, July 2018).

Candice Condon, *Effects of Interpersonal Relationships on Shared Reminiscence: Whose Memory is it?* (Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2017).

Claire Cullen, Dunne, S., Coffey, L., Sharp, L., Desmond, D., Cullen, C., O'Connor, J., O'Sullivan, E., Timon, C., Gallagher, P., 'Investigating the impact of self-management behaviours on quality of life and fear of recurrence in head and neck cancer survivors: a population-based survey (International Psycho-Oncology, 2018).

Claire Cullen, Irving, K., and Hopper, L., 'The Dementia in Primary Care Interprofessional Workshop: A Process & Implementation Evaluation', The National Dementia Office (NDO) Ireland in association with Dublin City University (DCU), (2018).

Regina Donlon, *German and Irish immigrants in the Midwestern United States, 1850-1900* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Regina Donlon, 'John O'Keeffe and the Fenian Brotherhood in the American West and Midwest, 1866-1890' in *New Hibernia Review*, xxi, 1, (2017) pp. 86-103.

James Heaney, 'agitarse entre creencias contradictorias'/'out of the quarrel with ourselves': Republican Theory in the Writings of Antonio Machado and W.B. Yeats" (Forthcoming in the Bulletin of Spanish Studies).

Anthony McGrath, *Against Reason: Schopenhauer, Beckett and the Aesthetics of Irreducibility* (Ibidem-Verlag in conjunction with Columbia University Press, 2017).

Ida Milne, *Stacking the Coffins, Influenza, war and revolution in Ireland 1918-1919* (Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2018).

Ida Milne, 'Nursing and Nutrition: treating the 1918-1919 influenza patient; The Recipes Project.

Ida Milne, 'Dublin's poor children in a transitional Ireland: disease, agents of change... and flies', in Róna nic Congail, Mary Hatfield and Jutta Kruse, eds, *Historical Perspectives on Parenthood and Childhood in Ireland* (Arlen House, 2018).

Margaret Murphy, 'The Economy of medieval Ireland' in Brendan Smith (ed), *The Cambridge History of Ireland, Vol. One: Ireland, 600-1550* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 385-414.

Margaret Murphy, 'Anglo-Norman towns based on castles', in H.B. Clarke and Sarah Gearty (eds) *More Maps and Texts. Sources and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2018), pp. 134-146 .

Sarah Otten, Review of Ryan Patrick Hanley, ed., 'Adam Smith: His Life, Thought, and Legacy', *ID: International Dialogues, a multi-disciplinary e-journal on world affairs* (2017)

Eoghan Smith, 'Autonomy, Naturalism and Folklore in Claire Keegan's *Walk the Blue Fields*', *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*, 40.2 (forthcoming Autumn 2018).

Eoghan Smith, 'Revivalism, modernism and beyond: Scandinavian influences on Irish literature', *Ireland and the North*, ed. by Fionna Barber, Heidi Hansson and Sara Dybris McQuaid (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2018).

Eoghan Smith and Simon Workman, *Imagining Irish Suburbia in Literature and Culture* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

Simon Workman, 'An Ancient Celtic world had filled the air": the Celtic turn in Louis MacNeice's mid-century radio writing', *Irish Studies Review*, 25.2 (2017), pp. 357-371.

In addition to these Staff publications, there have been a large number of conferences and public events over the last few years. All of this adds up to a committed, research-active staff. Research activities of staff are informing the following:

- Teaching (in terms of course material)
- Promoting the College profile through public events, public engagement and conferences
- Staff professional development
- Programme development in terms of bringing current research into module design
- Collaboration with other local and national institutions

The Research Hub

The Research Hub will bring shape and coherence to research activity, in particular by acting as a support for current research and related activities and by driving and enabling research agendas. In particular, research in the College will be more visibly promoted as a valued activity of College staff, both in terms of supporting academic development and in terms of College strategy. These elements are consistent with the idea of the College as a space of intellectual and academic excellence that is important for:

- teaching and learning;
- the enablement of College Strategy;
- the promotion of the College regionally and nationally;

- alignment of College activities with local, regional, national and international Research contexts.

The Research Hub will be focused on developing, supporting and promoting College areas of expertise. The objectives of the Hub are detailed here:

	Objectives	How this could be achieved
1	To identify existing areas of research within the College so as to develop a global picture of College research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collate information on Staff past and present research activities, including those working towards Level 9 and 10 degree • Develop a coherent narrative about the value of Carlow College research activities
2	To support and promote Staff research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and provide information and to offer support in working towards further qualifications • Provide regular research sharing opportunities through College colloquia or informal gatherings • Provide information and support on publishing and conference opportunities in research fields germane to Staff interests • Help identify and secure internal and external funding mechanisms and opportunities for the development of Staff research • Work with Marketing to promote Staff research
3	To foster a research agenda that aligns with College Strategy, mission and ethos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map existing research interests with College Strategy • Consider how College strategy currently does and can further harness and align with the research activities of Staff, and how this might be promoted • Develop and support institutionally a research agenda that gives expression to and enhances Staff research profiles • Encourage research-active staff to develop and promote institution or programme-aligned research-led activities, such as public events, conferences and publications
4	To connect the college's research expertise with local and national organisations, communities and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help establish and promote a College research profile • Use that profile and expertise to bring value to local, regional and national organisations, communities and institutions through collaborative engagement, and to help establish Carlow College as the local point of contact for relevant research expertise through promotion of these activities to external bodies (such as business, NGOs, cultural institutions, media organisations, etc.) • Develop collaborative networks of research and expertise-sharing with researchers in other Institutions
5	To play a supporting role in College programme development by identifying, utilising and enhancing existing and potential areas of College research and expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a source of information for the Strategic Development Committee to identify potential areas of programme development in line with Staff expertise, particularly at postgraduate levels 9 and 10 • Be a source of information for Marketing and Programme Design Teams in the promotion/development of existing programmes