



Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry of Ireland

One hundred and Sixty-First Session: 2007/2008

First Meeting

The first meeting of the Society was held in the Royal Irish Academy, on Thursday, 25th October 2007, at 6:00 pm. The President, Dr. Donal de Buitléir, was in the Chair.

At start of meeting, the President announced with sadness the death in the summer of J. Brendan Broderick and spoke briefly of his significant contribution to the Society in his roles as Honorary Secretary, author of four papers, and active participant in many discussions.

Dr. Declan Jordan and Dr. Eoin O'Leary (Department of Economics, University College Cork) then jointly presented a paper entitled, *Is Irish Innovation Policy Working? Evidence from Irish High-Technology Businesses*.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr John Travers (SFI) and seconded by Professor Stephen Roper (Aston Business School). Contributions from the floor were received from Professor Eunice McCarthy (UCD), Dr. Roy Johnston, Mr Paid McMenamin, Dr. Sean Barrett (TCD), Mr William Scally, Mr Peter Lynch (Company Director), Professor Patrick Honohan (TCD), and Mr Frank Gannon (SFI). Both Eoin and Declan responded to the discussion and the President brought the meeting to a close, thanking the authors and the contributors.

Second Meeting

The second meeting of the Society was held in the Royal Irish Academy, on Thursday, 22nd November 2007, at 6:00 pm. The President, Dr. Donal de Buitléir, was in the Chair.

John Sweeney (National Economic and Social Council) presented a paper entitled, *Second Tier Child Income Support: The Case for Innovation*.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. David Dillon (Dept of Social & Family Affairs) and seconded by Professor Brian Nolan (UCD). Contributions from the floor were received from Mr Bill Thompson and Dr. Sean Barrett (TCD). John then responded to the discussion and the President brought the meeting to a close, thanking the author and the contributors.

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the Society was the annual symposium with the theme *Recent Trends in Mortality and Morbidity in Ireland*, held in the Royal Irish Academy on Thursday, 24th January 2008. The President, Dr. Donal de Buitléir, was in the Chair when three papers were presented: *Wealthier and Healthier: Ireland's Demographic Catch-Up* by Professor Brendan Walsh (UCD); *Changing Morbidity Patterns in Ireland, 1996-2006* by John Armstrong (VHI); and, *Projecting Population Mortality for Ireland* by Dr. Shane Whelan (UCD).

Contributions from the floor were received from Professor Morgan Kelly (UCD), Dr. Miriam White (ESRI), Mr. Aidan Punch (CSO), Dr. Kevin Kelleher (HSE), Professor Philip Boland (UCD), Mr. Hugh Magee (Dept of Health), Dr. Emer Shelley (Department of Health), Mr. Noel O'Gorman, Mr. Ivor O'Shea (Irish Life), Dr. Norman Caven (Registrar General NI), and Professor Ivan Perry (UCC).

The presenters then responded to the discussion and the President brought the meeting to a close, thanking the authors and the contributors.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Society was held at 4:30pm on Tuesday 26th February 2008 in the Council Room, Bishopstown Campus, Cork Institute of Technology.

Dr. Brendan Murphy, President of the Cork Institute of Technology, welcomed the Society to Cork and the campus. The President of the Society, Dr. Donal de Buitléir, thanked Dr. Murphy and Damien Courtney for their kind invitation of hosting the meeting. The President then invited Kevin McCormack (CSO) to deliver his paper, *Using the Household Budget Survey to Measure Healthy Eating Patterns*.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Ivan Perry (UCC) and seconded by all present. Contributions from the floor were made by Ciaran Crilly (CIT), Dr. Christopher Sibley (CSO), Tom Rigney (CIT), Ann Currie (UCC), Professor Paul Walsh (UCD), Mai O'Leary (CIT), Brian McGarth (CIT), and Damien Courtney (CIT). The President brought the meeting to a close, thanking the author and the contributors, and inviting all present to the refreshments kindly laid on by our hosts.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth meeting of the Society was held at 6:00pm on Thursday 3rd April 2008 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, when Dr. Seán Lyons, Ms. Karen Mayor and Dr. Richard S.J. Tol (Economic and Social Research Institute) delivered their paper, *Environmental Accounts for the Republic of Ireland: 1990-2005*.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Susana Ferreira (UCD) and seconded by Mr. Danny McCoy (IBEC). Contributions from the floor were made by Dr. Edgar Morgenroth (ESRI), Mr. Robert Watt (Dept of Finance), and Dr. Patrick Quill (CSO). The President invited the presenters to respond and then brought the meeting to a close, thanking the authors and the contributors.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth meeting of the Society was held at 4:00pm on Thursday 22nd May 2008 in the Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegall Square North, Belfast, when Dr. Kevin Sweeney and Ms. Michelle Furphy delivered their paper, *An Exercise in Surveying a Non-universally Defined Group in the Population: The Northern Ireland Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability*.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Anne Good (National Disability Authority) and seconded by Mr Gerry Brady (CSO). A contribution from the floor was made by Ms Glenda Doherty (Equality Commission). The President invited the presenters to respond and then brought the meeting to a close, thanking the authors and the contributors.

Shane Whelan,
Honorary Secretary.
29th May 2008