



***Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
One Hundred and Seventy-Eighth Session: 2024/2025***

First Meeting

The first ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday 31st October 2024, online and at in-person at UCD. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by the President Patrick Paul Walsh. There then followed a paper entitled ‘Sectorally Concentrated? The Irish Economy in European Context’ by Sean O’Boyle, Eoin Flaherty and Giselle Myles. The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by John Fitzgerald, which was seconded by Patrick Paul Walsh. There were contributions from the floor, including from Patrick Honohan and Sean Lyons. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Second Meeting

The second ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday 12th December 2024, online and at IBEC. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by President Patrick Paul Walsh. Gregory P. Swinand presented a paper entitled ‘The Potential Impact of Changes in Burden of Proof to Determine Suicide in Ireland’. The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Sarah Stack, which was seconded by Mary Hall. There were contributions from the floor, including from John Fitzgerald, Shane Whelan, Gretta Mohan, Alan deBromhead and Patrick Paul Walsh. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Third Meeting

The third ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday 30th January 2025, online and in person at UCD. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by President Patrick Paul Walsh. Kieran McQuinn present a paper entitled ‘Demographics, Higher Investment and the Future Potential Growth Rate of the Irish Economy’ which was co-authored with Paul Egan and Donal O’Shea. There were contributions from the floor, including from Sean Lyons, Brian Hughes, Frank Barry, Chris Sibley, Mary Doyle, Michael Darcy and Frances Ruane. Following the discussion and responses from the author the President thanked those who had contributed and brought the meeting to a close.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical & Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday, 6th March 2025, online and at the CSO, Cork. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair. The was a presentation of a paper entitled ‘Changing Patterns of Secondary Employment in Ireland’ which was presented by Dermot Coates and co-authored with Shannen Enright and Karen Hogan. The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Tara Davis and seconded by Tara McIndoe. There were contributions from the floor, including from Colin Hurley, Deirdre Harte, Frances Ruane, Brid O'Brien, John Evans, Kieran Riordan, Patrick Paul Walsh and Colin Flaherty. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday 27th March 2025, online and in-person at UCD. Society Vice President, John Fitzgerald, was in the Chair, for the Barrington Lecture, which was given by Gretta Mohan (ESRI), with the title ‘Who is Lonely

in the EU's Loneliest Nation? A Post-Pandemic Examination of Loneliness among the Adult Population in Ireland, and Associations with Mental Health'. There were contributions from the floor, including from Sean Lyons, John Fitzgerald, Sean Barrett and Patrick Honohan. Following the discussion and responses from the author the President thanked those who had contributed and brought the meeting to a close.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth ordinary meeting of the 178th session of the Statistical & Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 30th April 2025, online and in-person at Coimisiún na Meán. Hon Sec John Evans chaired the session, a symposium on 'Big Tech and Big Data - New Frontiers in Regulation'. The three contributors were Professor Taha Yasseri (Workday Professor and Chair of Technology and Society, Trinity College Dublin and TU Dublin), Dr. Marco Bastos (Assistant Professor and Ad Astra Fellow at UCD and Senior Lecturer at City, University of London) and Naoise McNally (Director of Research & Strategy (Acting), Coimisiún na Meán). There were contributions from the floor, including from Lind NiChualladh and Ronan Lyons. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Seventh Meeting

The seventh and final ordinary meeting of the 178th session took place at 5.30pm, Thursday 29th May 2025, online and in person at QBS Student Hub, Belfast. The meeting was also the Annual General Meeting of the 178th session which was followed by a Presidential Address by Professor Patrick Paul Walsh. The talk was entitled 'Advancing Public Policy in Ireland: A Vision for Collaboration, Integrity, and Innovation'. There then followed contributions from Celine McStravick (Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action), Professor Stephen Farry (Professor of Strategic Policy in Practice at Ulster University), Professor Katy Hayward (Professor of Political Sociology in the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work at Queen's University Belfast) and Dermot Ryan (Public Affairs Professional). There was then a lively discussion with contributions from the floor.