



Honorary Secretary's Report

Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland

One Hundred and Seventy-Seventh Session: 2023/2024

First Meeting

The first ordinary meeting of the 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday 26th October 2023, online and at UCD. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by the President Patrick Paul Walsh. There then followed a paper entitled 'Distinctive Features of the Irish Banking Crisis' by Professor Patrick Honohan (Trinity College Dublin). The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Niamh Hardiman, which was seconded by Karl Whelan. There were contributions from the floor, including from John Fitzgerald, Donal de Butleir 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.

Second Meeting

The second ordinary meeting of the 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday 7th December 2023, online and at UCD. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by President Patrick Paul Walsh. Professor Frank Barry (Trinity College Dublin) the presented a paper co-authored with Michael Scholz entitled 'The Regional Location of Indigenous and Foreign Manufacturing Establishments, 1929-1975'. The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Graham Brownlow, which was seconded by Alan de Bromhead. There were contributions from the floor, including from John Fitzgerald 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.

Third Meeting

The third ordinary meeting of the 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday 25th January 2024, online and at UCD. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, opened the meeting with an in memoriam tribute to the late Professor Donal O'Neill. Following this, Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair, for the Barrington Lecture. This was given by Alan Fernihough (Queen's Business School), with the title 'Economic Geography and the Irish Border: A Market Access Approach'. There were contributions from the floor, including from Aisling Reynolds-Feighan, John Fitzgerald, Patrick Honohan, Michael Darcy, Tom Ferris, John Evans and Brian Hughes. 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 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday, 21st March 2024, online and at UCD. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair. There was a presentation of a paper entitled 'Administrative meets survey data: measuring household indebtedness in Ireland' by Laura Boyd and Tara McIndoe-Calder (Central Bank of Ireland). The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by John Fitzgerald and seconded by Rachel Slaymaker. There were contributions from the floor, including from Gerry Reilly, 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.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth ordinary meeting of the 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.00pm on Thursday, 25th April 2024, online and at the Central Bank of Ireland. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair for a symposium on 'The Role of Planning in Ensuring Effective Housing Supply'. There then followed three contributions from: Professor Michelle Norris, Director of the Geary Institute, University College Dublin; Stephen Purcell (Director and Co-Head, KPMG Future Analytics); and Niall Cussen (Chief Executive and Planning Regulator, OPR). There were contributions from the floor, including from Patrick Honohan, Sean Lyons 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.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth and final ordinary meeting of the 177th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland took place at 5.30pm, Thursday 30th May 2024, online and in person at UCD. The Meeting was also the Annual General Meeting of the 177th session. The Council and Society officials were elected. Following the AGM, there was a presentation of a paper entitled ‘‘But what hope is there for a nation which lives on potatoes?’’: A Brief History of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland’ by Shane Whelan (UCD). Society President Paul Walsh responded, outlining some key challenges for the Society over the coming decade. There was then a lively discussion with contributions from several members present including Sean Lyons, Patrick Honohan, John Fitzgerald and Sean Barrett.