

Conference Speaker Profiles



An overview of developments in the Irish economy in the past 10 years – John McHale, NUI Galway

[John McHale](#) is Established Professor and Head of Economics at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Before joining NUI Galway he held positions at Harvard and Queen's University, Ontario. His research interests include international migration; knowledge diffusion and innovation; economic development; international macroeconomics; pension economics; and the Irish economy. He has published numerous articles in journals such as Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, and the Journal of Economic Geography.

Banking and Finance

[Gregory Connor](#) has been Professor of Finance in the Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance at NUI Maynooth since 2008. Before that he was Professor of Finance at the London School of Economics. His research interests include security market pricing, portfolio risk management, factor models of asset returns, and multivariate stochastic volatility. He has published articles in many journals such as the Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Empirical Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Financial Economics, and the Journal of Economic Theory.

Infrastructure – John Fitz Gerald, ESRI

[John Fitz Gerald](#) is Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in Dublin. His research interests include macroeconomics, energy and environment, and the Irish Economy. He has published numerous reports on these and other topics for the ESRI. He has published articles in journals such as National Institute Economic Review, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, and the Economic and Social Review.

Multinationals I – Frank Barry, TCD

[Frank Barry](#) has been Professor of International Business and Economic Development at Trinity College Dublin since 2007, having formerly been Associate Professor of Economics at University College Dublin. His professional interests are in International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Development and the Irish Economy. He has published papers on these topics in journals such as Economic and Social Review, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, Journal of International Business Studies, World Economy, Economic and Social Review and the Journal of Macroeconomics.

Enterprise Policy – Paul Ryan, NUI Galway

[Paul Ryan](#) is a lecturer in management at the Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI Galway. His research interests include Strategic Repositioning, Industrial Clusters and Strategic Networks, Strategic Alliances and Inter-organisational Relations, Strategic Innovation, and Transnational and Global Strategies. He has published in journals such as International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management, Irish Marketing Review, and the Irish Journal of Management.

Roundtable Discussion – Doing Business in Ireland

Seamus Carroll is Vice President of Emerging Business at IDA Ireland New York. He is responsible for driving IDA activities in the area of emerging companies and technologies in the Eastern half of North America. He has lived in New York with his family for the past 6 years successfully building transatlantic investment and trade relationships. In this and other roles he has worked with numerous US emerging and fortune 500 companies across a range of industries in restructuring, expanding, and establishing operations in Europe/Ireland. Before joining IDA Seamus worked with one of Ireland's leading consulting firms in Belfast and in strategic planning at Ireland's largest electricity company. He graduated with a BA in Applied Economics and an MBA from the University of Ulster. He is originally from the West of Ireland and, as the father of a daughter with cerebral palsy, is active in promoting awareness of special needs.

Paul Maguire is a partner in the Philadelphia based accounting firm of Maguire Hegarty LLC. The firm specializes in assisting small and medium size Irish companies enter the US market. It also advises American-based firms about investing in Ireland. The firm presents workshops in Ireland on doing business in the United States addressing business and cultural differences. On a continuing basis it hosts visits to the Greater Philadelphia area by interested Irish companies. Paul is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin.

[Vincent O'Flaherty](#) is the Professor of Microbiology at NUI Galway where he is also the Head of the Energy Research Centre. He has successfully and consistently secured research funding from Irish and EU programmes to a total value of €7.1 million, from sources including the Irish Environmental Protection Agency, the Higher Education Authority, Enterprise Ireland, EU FP5 and FP6 Programmes, and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology. He is a Science Foundation Ireland Investigator Fellow and has published over 200 scientific communications, including 55 papers in international, peer-reviewed journals. Prof. O'Flaherty is a leading researcher in the newly established Bioenergy and Biorefining Competence Centre, funded by Enterprise Ireland, and working on behalf of 13 Irish companies with interests in the development of an indigenous Irish sustainable biomass and biorefining sector.

Jacqueline O'Halloran Bernstein is Deputy Consul General of the Consulate of Ireland in New York, having taken up this post in August 2010. She was born in Limerick and grew up in Dublin where she attended Manor House School in Raheny. She received a BA in English and History from University College Dublin (UCD) and went on to receive a Master of Arts, also from UCD, in Medieval Irish History. Jackie joined the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in 1986. She served in the Irish Embassy in Argentina from 1987-1991 and as Deputy Head of Mission to the Irish Representation to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna from 1995-2000. At headquarters Jackie's assignments have included periods in Bilateral Trade Section, Passport and Consular Division, and the EU Division where she worked on Ireland's 2004 Presidency of the European Union and, most recently from 2008-2009 when she worked on the ratification by Ireland of the EU's Lisbon Treaty. Her most recent assignment in Dublin was in Corporate Services where she worked in the Corporate Governance area.

[Professor Terry Smith](#) is the Vice President for Research at NUI Galway. He is a founding member and former Director of the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) at NUI Galway. Currently the centre hosts over 80 academic members, over 300 researchers, including 180 post-graduate students, with an annual research spend of over €20 million. His major achievements include playing a leadership role in the establishment of the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) with funding of €19 million from Science Foundation Ireland and industry partners, with Medtronic as the major industry partner. He successfully led the negotiation of a four-year multi-million Euro research collaboration in molecular diagnostics assay development and commercialization, with Beckman Coulter, announced in January 2008, and he is the Research Director of this programme.

Keynote Speaker – Kenneth R. French, Dartmouth College

[Kenneth R. French](#) is the Carl E. and Catherine M. Heidt Professor of Finance at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. He and co-author Eugene F. Fama are well known for articles such as “The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns” and “Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stocks and Bonds.” His recent research focuses on tests of asset pricing, the tradeoff between risk and return in domestic and international financial markets, and the relationship between capital structure and firm value. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, an Advisory Editor of the Journal of Financial Economics, and a former President of the American Finance Association. Professor French received his Ph.D. in finance from the University of Rochester in 1983 and a B.S. from Lehigh University (1975).

Multinationals II – Holger Gorg, Kiel Institute for the World Economy

[Holger Gorg](#) is Professor of International Economics at Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. He is also a research fellow in the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy (GEP) at Nottingham University. His main research interests are in applied international trade issues, in particular related to foreign direct investment, international outsourcing, trade and labour markets. He has published a number of papers in international journals, including The Economic Journal, European Economic Review, Journal of International Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Canadian Journal of Economics, and Scandinavian Journal of Economics.

Fiscal policy – Philip Lane and Agustín S. Bénétrix, TCD

[Philip R. Lane](#) is Professor of International Macroeconomics and Head of the Department of Economics at Trinity College Dublin. In addition, he is a research fellow of the Centre for

Economic Policy Research (CEPR). His research interests include financial globalisation, macroeconomics of exchange rates and capital flows, macroeconomic policy design, European Monetary Union, and the Irish economy. He has published numerous articles in journals such as the American Economic Review, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, and the Review of Economics and Statistics.

[Agustín S. Bénétrix](#) is Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute for International Integration Studies at Trinity College Dublin. His research interests include fiscal policy in open economies, international financial integration and international macroeconomics. His work has been published in journals such as Review of World Economics, Economic and Social Review, Open Economies Review, and Economic Policy.

Environmental and Spatial Policy – [Dr. Stephen Hynes](#), NUI Galway

Stephen Hynes is a Senior Researcher in the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit at NUI Galway. Stephen's main research interest is in microeconomic behavior analysis, related to natural resource/environmental and rural development policy and his work has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Environmental Management, Land Use Policy, and the International Journal of Micro-simulation.

Health and Social Care – [Eamon O'Shea](#), NUI Galway

[Eamon O'Shea](#) is an Associate Professor of Economics at NUI Galway where he is also the Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology. His main research interests are health economics and the economics of aging. He has published numerous articles on these and other topics in journals such as the Journal of Health Economics, Health Policy, Social Science and Medicine, and the European Journal of Public Health.

Pensions – [Jim Stewart](#), TCD

[Jim Stewart](#) is a senior lecturer in Finance at the School of Business at Trinity College, Dublin. His research interests include Corporate Finance and Taxation, Pension Funds and financial products, and Financial Systems and Economic Development. He has published many articles on these topics in journals such as Journal of Corporate Law Studies, Accounting Forum, Journal of Financial Regulation and Compliance, and Economic and Social Review.

Social Welfare – [Eithne Fitzgerald](#), National Disability Authority

Eithne Fitzgerald is Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Ireland's National Disability Authority, the statutory advisory body to the Irish government on disability policy and practice. Eithne is an economist, and she has worked in the public service, for housing charity Threshold, and as a lecturer in social policy in both University College Dublin, and Trinity College Dublin. Eithne's research and publications on social policy include work on disability, employment, housing and children. She is a former Minister of State for Finance, and Minister for Labour Affairs. Eithne was a member of the Commission on Social Welfare, and she chaired the Task Force on Violence against Women. She introduced Ireland's Ethics in Public Office Act, and Freedom of Information Act