



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

An Institiúid Cúrsa Saoil
& Sochaí
Institute for Lifecourse
& Society

ENABLING
EQUITY
ACROSS THE
LIFE COURSE

Institute for Lifecourse and Society - ILAS

Public Policy Innovation Series



Supporting Science, Impacting Policy: Practical Insights from ILAS and CÚRAM Researchers and European ENLIGHT Universities

This seminar brings together researchers from three ENLIGHT universities to explore how academic research can influence policy. It features in-person talks from Comenius University (Slovakia) and Ghent University (Belgium), alongside practical examples from ILAS and CÚRAM researchers on translating research into policy in Ireland and internationally.

The session also offers comparative insights into research-policy engagement in Ireland, Slovakia, and Belgium, and shares findings from the ongoing Engaged Research for Policy Impact (ERPI) Study.

DATE: Wednesday, 1st April 2026

TIME: 14:00-16:00

VENUE: Ground Floor, Biomedical Sciences Building

[Register here](#)

Supporting Science, Impacting Policy (SSIP) is an ENLIGHT+ funded international seminar series on translating research to policy. *This event is part of the ILAS Public Policy Innovation Series and runs as part of an ongoing collaboration between ILAS and CÚRAM's Science Advocacy Training Programme.*



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In Collaboration with



Research Ireland Centre
for Medical Devices



SAVE THE DATE

Speakers



Prof. John Canavan is the UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement at the University of Galway. He is Director of the university's UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UCFRC). John's main research interests are Family Support, evaluation theory, and connecting research, policy and practice. His most recent book is *Systems Complexity in Child Protection and Welfare* (Routledge) authored with colleagues from the UCFRC,



Dr Cliona de Bhailis, is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP). She is the Principal Investigator of 'GenCare: Intergenerational Explorations of Care and Support for Disabled People In Ireland' funded under a Wellcome Early Career Award. Prior to undertaking this research, she held a Research Ireland Government of Ireland Fellowship. Cliona holds a Bachelor of Civil Law from NUI Galway and graduated with first class honours from the LL.M in Public Law in 2013. Her PhD research, for which she received Irish Research Council funding, focused on decision making for young people with disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Dr Brendan Dolan is a transdisciplinary researcher in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) at University of Galway. Brendan is currently Principal Investigator on the 'Engaged Research for Policy Impact' (ERPI) Study, funded by Research Ireland. This project is exploring researcher-policymaker interactions through the micro-level lens of the individual researcher, with a particular focus on the role of engaged research practices in the research-policy landscape in Ireland.

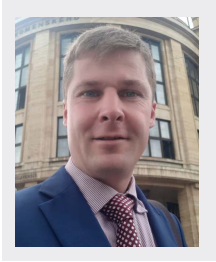


Prof. Karen Doyle, is Professor in the School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences and Principal Investigator. Her research involves studying neurovascular stress and investigating novel strategies to protect brain tissue from damage. Prof Doyle's focus is on understanding the pathophysiology of occlusive stroke and the characteristics of human blood clots that cause occlusive strokes. Professor Doyle is a co-Director of CURAM and a member of the CURAM Executive committee.

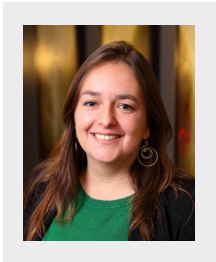


Prof. David Finn Centre for Pain Research and CÚRAM is Established Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Principal Investigator and Founding Co-Director of the Centre for Pain Research at University of Galway. The overall aim of Professor Finn's research is to increase our understanding of the neurobiology of pain and psychiatric disorders including anxiety and depression. His work focuses, in particular, on the affective and cognitive dimensions of pain, stress-pain interactions, and neuroinflammatory processes, with an emphasis on the endogenous cannabinoid, opioid and monoaminergic systems.

Speaker



Daniel Klimovský, Public Policy Institute, Comenius University in Bratislava. Daniel's work at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts in Comenius University, is focused on public policy and policy making practices in Slovakia. Daniel's Policy Making in Slovakia undergraduate course received an ENLIGHT Teaching and Learning Award 2024.



Emilie Peeters is the policy officer at ICRH and coordinates the international academic network on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), ANSER, that aims to build evidence for SRHR policies. Emilie has worked for several international NGOs advocating for sexual and reproductive health in European institutions. Emilie also ran for elections herself three times, served on the Council of Public Social Welfare (OCMW) and was an elected member in the City Council of Ghent. She is an advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, driven by a passion for bridging academia and policymaking to strengthen the science-policy interface.

Schedule

Time	Details
13:30	Tea, Coffee & Light Refreshments
14:00	Introductions from CÚRAM and ILAS
14:10	Introductions from SSIP and Project Partners
14:30	Real-World Researchers Perspectives <i>Prof. Karen Doyle, CÚRAM</i> <i>Prof. John Canavan, UCFRC</i> <i>Prof. David Finn, CÚRAM</i> <i>Dr Clóna de Bhailís, CDLP</i>
15:20	Panel Discussion and Q&A led by <i>Prof Caroline McGregor</i>
16:00	End

Contact

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www.universityofgalway.ie/ilas

ILAS Constituent Centres

Centre for Disability Law and Public Policy (CDLP)

Centre for Applied Linguistics & Multilingualism (CALM)

Community Engaged Research in Action (CORA)

Community Engagement

Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC)

Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG)

Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN)

PPI Ignite Network

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UCFRC)