



**Growing Up  
in Ireland**  
National Longitudinal  
Study of Children

# Growing Up in Ireland Research Conference 2009

**Monday 7th December 2009**

**Dublin Castle**



# ● CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.15am Registration

## MORNING SESSION

Chair: Professor Frances Ruane, Director, ESRI

10.00am Introduction and Welcome

10.05am Opening Address

Mr. Barry Andrews T.D. Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

10.15am 9-Year-Olds and their Families

Professor Sheila Greene, Director, Children's Research Centre, TCD; Co-Director, Growing Up in Ireland

Professor James Williams, Research Professor, ESRI; Principal Investigator and Co-Director, Growing Up in Ireland

11.00am Tea/Coffee

11.30am The Health of 9-Year-Olds

Professor Richard Layte, Joint Programme Coordinator of Health Research, ESRI; Management Group, Growing Up in Ireland Study Team

Professor Tom O'Dowd, Professor of General Practice, TCD; Management Group, Growing Up in Ireland Study Team

12.15pm The Education of 9-Year-Olds

Professor Mona O'Moore, Associate Professor, School of Education, TCD; Management Group, Growing Up in Ireland Study Team

Professor Emer Smyth, Programme Coordinator of Research Education, ESRI

13.00pm Lunch

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Dr. David Lloyd, Dean of Research, TCD

13.45pm The Power and Potential of the Longitudinal Method

Professor Sir Michael Rutter, Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Unit, the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London and Consultant Psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital

14.30pm The Value of Child Cohort Studies – Historical and International Perspectives

Professor John Bynner, Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences in Education at the London Institute of Education

15.15pm Tea/Coffee

15.45pm Evidence for Policy – The Role of Child Cohort Studies in Public Policy

Dr. Satya Brink, Director of National Learning Policy Research with Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC)

16.30pm Conclusion and Close of Conference

Dr. Sinéad Hanafin, Head of Research, Department of Health and Children; Project Team Chairperson, Growing Up in Ireland



## ● THE CONTEXT – ABOUT *GROWING UP IN IRELAND*

*Growing Up in Ireland* is the national longitudinal study of children. It is the most significant of its kind ever to take place in this country and will help us to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development.

Taking place over seven years the study is following the progress of two groups of children; 8,500 9-year-olds and 11,500 9-month-olds. During that time two sets of interviews will take place with each group of children and their families. These will form the basis of a substantial flow of research. Some preliminary results were published earlier this year to launch the *Key Findings* series.

The main aim of the study is to paint a full picture of children in Ireland and how they are developing in the current social, economic and cultural environment. This information will be used to assist in policy formation and in the provision of services which will ensure all children will have the best possible start in life.

*Growing Up in Ireland* is a Government study. The Department of Health and Children is funding it through the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in association with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Central Statistics Office.

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is overseeing and managing the study, which is being carried out by a consortium of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

## ● CONFERENCE AIMS

The ESRI and Trinity College, Dublin have organised this one-day conference to present the first comprehensive set of results on the 9-year cohort from the *Growing Up in Ireland* study and to stimulate discussion on their scientific and policy implications.

The conference will provide a platform for exploring a number of central aspects of children's lives as well as considering the contribution of the study to our general understanding of childhood in Ireland.

The conference will also explore the study's research and policy potential in an international context. It will present an ideal opportunity for researchers and policymakers to discuss the study's input into policy and intervention strategies which will help to improve outcomes for future generations.

## ● WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference will be relevant to:

- Policymakers responsible for promoting the welfare of children
- Service providers for children and their families
- Academics and others with a research focus on childhood and children's affairs
- NGOs which advocate on behalf of children



## ● ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### **Dr. Satya Brink**

Dr. Satya Brink received her doctorate from Purdue University (USA) and has worked in social policy research at universities, for the Canadian government, for international organisations and as a consultant. She is currently Director, National Learning Policy Research, Learning Policy Directorate at Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Government of Canada. In her current position, her responsibilities include the development of research evidence for policies related to human capital, literacy and lifelong learning from early childhood to later adulthood. She was responsible for managing the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth in Canada and managing a programme of research based on the data. She is widely published. She and the team she manages publish about a dozen research reports a year and present research findings in international, national and professional fora.

### **Professor John Bynner**

Professor John Bynner is currently Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences in Education at the London Institute of Education and until retirement through 2003/2004 was Director of the Bedford Group for Life course and Statistical Studies, the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, the Wider Benefits of Learning Research Centre and the Joint Centre for Longitudinal Research. He also directs Longview, a think tank promoting longitudinal research. He was a founder member and the first director of the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy. Previous posts include Dean of the School of Education at the Open University and Director of the Social Statistics Research Unit at City University, London. He was national coordinator of ESRC's 1985-1991 research programme, the 16-19 Initiative, which included an associated AGF-funded comparative study of transition to work in England and Germany. He was a member of the 'Moser Committee' on Adult Basic Skills and of the Social Exclusion Unit Policy Action Team on Disaffected Youth. Research interests include: basic skills, economic and political socialisation, social exclusion and comparative and longitudinal research.

### **Professor Sheila Greene**

Professor Sheila Greene is the Director of the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College, Dublin and the holder of the AIB Chair of Childhood Research. She is also the Co-Director of *Growing Up in Ireland*. Professor Greene graduated from TCD and trained as a clinical psychologist at The Institute of Psychiatry in London. She was the Head Psychologist on the Maternal and Infant Health Study at the Children's Hospital in Boston and a staff member at Harvard Medical School before returning to the Psychology Department in Trinity as a lecturer. Her research interests are primarily in developmental psychology and her publications include *The psychological development of girls and women: Rethinking change in time* (2003, Routledge) and *Researching children's experience: Approaches and methods*, which she co-edited with Dr Diane Hogan (2005, Sage).

### **Dr. Sinéad Hanafin**

Dr. Sinéad Hanafin is Head of Research at the Department of Health and Children and is Chairperson of the Project Team and a member of the Steering Group for *Growing Up in Ireland*. She completed an MSc at Trinity College, Dublin and a PhD at King's College London. She is also a nurse, midwife and public health nurse and has lectured in a number of universities in Ireland. She has co-authored a number of publications relating to child well-being indicators and their reporting. These publications and others are available at [www.omc.gov.ie](http://www.omc.gov.ie) or at [www.childrensdatabase.ie](http://www.childrensdatabase.ie).



## ● ABOUT THE SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

### **Professor Richard Layte**

Professor Richard Layte is joint programme coordinator of Health Research at the ESRI and one of the Theme Directors of *Growing Up in Ireland*, co-directing the health and health utilisation theme. As an economic sociologist, his research centres on the way in which education, work and institutional factors such as social welfare systems influence any one person's risk of poverty, disadvantage and poor health and the manner in which these elements interact across the life course. His recent research includes an examination of patterns of health care utilisation and how these are influenced by income, health insurance and medical card status. It has also centred on the influence of socio-economic life in certain health behaviours including smoking and using contraception. He has published widely on these and other issues.

### **Professor Tom O'Dowd**

Professor Tom O'Dowd is Professor of General Practice in Trinity College, Dublin. He is a Theme Director on *Growing Up in Ireland* co-directing the health and health utilisation theme. Professor O'Dowd has practiced as a General Practitioner in both the UK and Ireland and is currently a partner in a general practice in Tallaght with a large paediatric population. He has held academic posts in medical schools in Cardiff and Nottingham. He chaired the Education and Training Committee of the Medical Council (1999–2004) which led to the professionalisation of medical education in Ireland. He chaired the Association of Departments of General Practice in Ireland (1996–2004) which has led to improved funding of academic primary care.

### **Professor Mona O'Moore**

Professor Mona O'Moore graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, gaining her M.A in Child and Educational Psychology from the University of Nottingham and her Ph.D from Edinburgh University. She is a member of the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team Management Group. A Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, Professor O'Moore is the former Head of the Department of Education and is also the founder and coordinator of the Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Unit at Trinity College, Dublin. She was the Rapporteur of the first European seminar on school bullying, writing up the Report for the Council of Europe, 1987 and has been a member of seven European research partnerships. She was a member of the Ministerial working party that drew up the National Guidelines in Countering Bullying in Primary and Post Primary Schools in Ireland in 1993. Since then she conducted the first Nationwide Study of School and Workplace Bullying in Ireland.



## ● ABOUT THE SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

### **Professor Sir Michael Rutter**

Professor Sir Michael Rutter is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London. He has been a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital since 1966, and was Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry from 1973 to 1998. He set up the Medical Research Council Child Psychiatry Research Unit in 1984 and the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Research Centre 10 years later, and was honorary director of both until October 1998. His research has included the genetics of autism and the study of both school and family influences on children's behaviour. He also has a special interest in the interplay between genetic and psychosocial risk factors. He has led a major long-term follow-up study into the effect of early severe deprivation on Romanian orphans adopted into Britain. He was Deputy Chairman of the Wellcome Trust from 1999 to 2004. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1987 and was a Founding Fellow of the Academia Europaea and the Academy of Medical Sciences, of which he is currently Clinical Vice-President. He has received numerous international honours and has published some 40 books and over 400 scientific papers and chapters

### **Professor Emer Smyth**

Professor Emer Smyth is programme coordinator of Education Research at the ESRI. Her areas of interest include education, school to work transitions, and comparative research. She has conducted a series of studies on school differences and their impact on student experiences, including *Do Schools Differ?* She is currently leading a mixed methods longitudinal study of second-level students, the first of its kind in Ireland. She has a strong interest in inequalities in educational outcomes, recently publishing *Investing in Education: Combating Educational Disadvantage*. In addition to her research on the Irish context, she has been involved in a number of comparative research projects on education and school to work transitions, and is currently coordinator of a European project on religion and primary schooling.

### **Professor James Williams**

Professor James Williams, Research Professor at the ESRI, is the Principal Investigator and Co-Director of *Growing Up in Ireland*. He is responsible for the strategic development and implementation of all aspects of the project and has particular responsibility for the project design and methodology. Formerly Head of the ESRI's Survey Division, throughout his career he has produced substantive research reports and publications spanning a wide range of areas and themes. His most recent publications relate to the changing shape of the workplace; spatial variations in the distribution of poverty and deprivation in Ireland; income distribution; survey techniques and labour market issues. He has been involved in numerous international survey networks with both Eurostat and the European Commission.



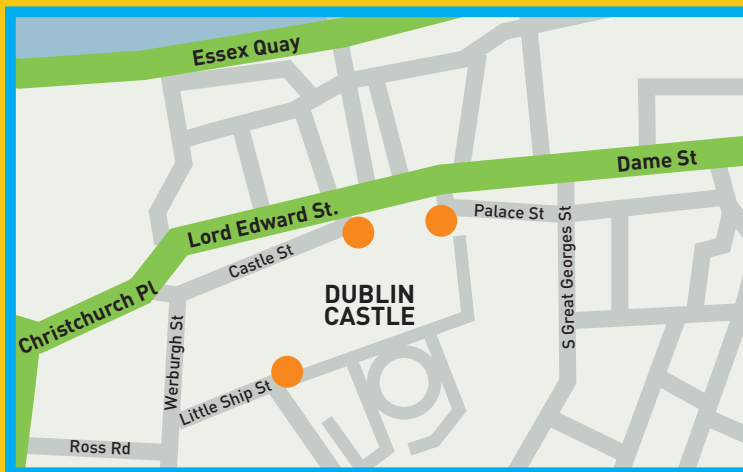
## HOW TO GET THERE?

Dublin Castle is situated in the heart of Dublin City, on the south side of the River Liffey, off Dame Street, en route from Trinity College to Christchurch Cathedral.

There is no parking in the Castle but there are a number of public car parks nearby. The nearest is that at Jury's Inn Christchurch, which is located in Werburgh Street: Tel. 00353 1 454 0000, Fax 00353 1 454 0012

Dublin Bus routes nos. 77, 77A, 56A and 49 from Eden Quay and no. 123 from O'Connell Street stop at Palace Street Gate.

The Conference Centre is situated in the Upper Castle Yard. The entrances to Dublin Castle are marked on the map below.



## ACCESS

The venue is accessible for people with disabilities. Please indicate on the booking form if you have special needs, require sign language or have particular dietary requirements.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please note there is a limited number of places available and early booking is encouraged. In the event of a high demand, late-booking participants may be placed on a waiting list. There is no registration fee for the conference.

**Bookings should only be made on the enclosed booking form and returned to:**

Ms Claire Delaney via **email:** [GULconference@esri.ie](mailto:GULconference@esri.ie)  
or **post:** Claire Delaney, ESRI, Whitaker Sq., Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2.

All conference queries should be directed to Ms Delaney by email or by phone, 01 8632053.