

# **Social Sciences Research Centre AGM**

12 December 2017

Room 333, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Árus Moyola

**In attendance:** Mr Liam Farrell, Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr Judith O'Connell, Dr Amanda Slevin, Dr Tony Varley, Dr Simon Warren.

Apologies: Dr Bernadine Brady, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Dr Gerry Moran, Prof Niamh Reilly, Dr Eilís Ward.

**Secretaries' Report:** Dr Mike Hynes (Joint Secretary, SSRC) reported how the SSRC now has 78 members and is home to three distinguishable strands of research: Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; Critical Social Research; and Rural Communities and their Development. He went on to state that the SSRC's website has attracted 3,599 'unique' or different visitors since January 2017 and 23,055 pages on the site were examined. This translates to over 54,542 'hits' thus far in the year. Currently the SSRC's active twitter account has 1,024 followers.

In relation to the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's, Distillery Road, Dr Hynes reported how the five desks available are in full use.

## **Election of new Board**

-Chairperson/Director: Prof Kevin Leyden.

-Joint Secretaries: Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley.

-Treasurer: Dr Amanda Slevin

-PRO: Dr Judith O'Connell

-Ordinary Board members: Mr Liam Farrell, Prof Mark Haugaard, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Prof Niamh Reilly, Dr Simon Warren.

## **Matters Arising and Plans for 2018:**

Some members were keen to see the elements of 'democracy' and 'participation' included in the title of the Equality and Diversity strand. A decision on this matter was deferred pending further consultation with the membership.

In a discussion relating to how greater utilisation of the SSRC website might be achieved, it was suggested that the blog be used in the months ahead to capture student opinion relating to various aspects of the social sciences.

Plans relating to the development of the Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns and Equality and Diversity strands of research within the SSRC were then discussed at some length. The meeting was told that members of the Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns strand are committed to organising a workshop relating to Galway's traffic problems in 2018. For their part, members of the Critical Higher Education Studies (CHES) group within the Equality and Diversity strand are intent on organising a workshop in 2018 on the topic of using comparative historical methods in the study of the institutionalisation and de-radicalisation of social movements, with particular relevance to Latin America and South-east Asia. Dr Su-Ming Khoo and Dr Simon Warren spoke in some detail about their plans to develop further their interests in critical higher education studies. Dr Khoo and Dr Warren were complimented on organising their recent very successful international conference on 'The Civic University Symposium: Re-imagining the University for Public Purposes' - that was held on campus on 2 December 2017.

Mr Liam Farrell informed the meeting of his intention to involve the SSRC in an international conference he is co-organising on the topic of 'Violence, Space and the Political', to be held on campus on 7-9 June 2018.

Dr Judith O'Connell encouraged social scientists in Galway to consider providing an accredited summer school for secondary teachers involved in teaching the new 'Society and Politics' course that is about to be extended to 200 schools across the country.

Dr Amanda Slevin told the meeting that on 19 January 2018 there will be a public event in which a book of hers, and a book written by Dr Declan Coogan, will be launched in the ILAS centre.

Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretaries, SSRC)  
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