

Social Sciences Research Centre AGM
15 December 2020
Held On-line

In attendance: Prof Ricca Edmondson, Dr Kevin Heanue, Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Martin Javornicky, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, and Dr Tony Varley

Apologies: Dr. Anne Byrne, Prof Mark Haugaard, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Brian McGrath and Dr Áine Macken-Walsh.

Secretaries' Report:

Dr Varley (Joint Secretary, SSRC) began by mentioning the tragic passing of Tim Robinson and his wife Mairéad earlier in the year, and thanked Prof Edmondson for writing an appreciation of Tim and his work for the SSRC's webpage.

At present the SSRC has 83 members and is home to four distinguishable strands of research activity: Equality and Diversity; Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; Market Traders in Contemporary Ireland; and Changing Rural Communities. A very brief summary of the activity in each of these research strands in 2020 was provided (see the 2020 Annual Report for further details).

It was then reported that the SSRC webpage, designed and maintained by Dr Mike Hynes and first launched in 2016, has continued to be developed and to attract considerable attention in 2020. Since January 2020, 14,897 'unique' or different visitors have visited the webpage and over 180,599 pages have been examined. In all, the webpage has attracted 335,689 'hits' in the current year. Dr Hynes also maintains the SSRC's active twitter account that currently has 1,282 followers.

As regards the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's, Distillery Road, it was reported that all five of the available desks were in full use during the early months of 2020, and up to the time when the University's COVID 19-related access restrictions came into force. Among the researchers to use the SSRC's facilities in St. Declan's during these months were Mr Michael Donnelly, Dr Emmet Fox, Dr Jonathan G. Heaney, Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, Dr Niloufar Omid and Dr Tony Varley. During the early months of 2020 the St. Declan's facilities were also occasionally used by BSc (Applied Social Sciences) students working on projects under the supervision of Dr Mike Hynes.

Election of New Board:

- Chairperson/Director: Prof Kevin Leyden
- Joint Secretaries: Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley
- Treasurer: Dr Mike Hynes
- PRO: Dr Mike Hynes.
- Ordinary Board Members: Dr Anne Byrne, Prof Ricca Edmondson, Dr Emmet Fox, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Prof Mark Haugaard, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Dr Gerry Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh.

Matters Arising and Plans for 2020:

The progress of, and prospects for, the four current strands of SSRC research activity were discussed at some length.

Prof Edmondson agreed to consider contributing a new strand of SSRC research activity on the subject of 'wisdom, practical knowledge and the cultures of aging'.

Mike Hynes told the meeting that he has had some conversations with Prof Leyden regarding the possibility of involving some undergraduate students more actively in the

SSRC's work (via internships).

Dr Hynes also encouraged board members to consider writing short pieces for the SSRC blog (which continues to attract considerable attention).

Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretaries, SSRC)
16 December 2020