

Social Sciences Research Centre Secretary's Report 2016

Over a period of more than fifty years the Social Sciences Research Centre (SSRC) has provided a focus for interdisciplinary research between economists, geographers, political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists at NUI, Galway. 2016 has seen further significant progress recorded in the effort to revive the SSRC as a centre for interdisciplinary research inside and outside the university. The SSRC, which has 71 members at present, is now home to three distinguishable strands of research: Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; Critical Social Research; and Rural Communities and their Development.

Specific research projects, and a selection of recent publications, within each of the centre's three research strands can be found listed in the SSRC's webpage (<http://ssrc.ie>). The SSRC continues to be recognised as a dedicated research cluster within the Moore and Whitaker Institutes.

A new SSRC webpage, designed and maintained by Dr Mike Hynes, was launched early in 2016. Dr Hynes also maintains the SSRC's active twitter account that currently has 330 followers.

The five desks available in the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's, Distillery Road are in full use. During the year all of the old computing equipment was removed from the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's and replaced by five up-to-date computers.

An organising committee consisting of Dr Mike Hynes, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr Judith O'Connell and Dr Tony Varley worked over the summer months in preparing for an SSRC conference titled 'Galway: Today and Tomorrow' that was held on 20 October in the auditorium of the ILAS Building (for details see <http://ssrc.ie/conference>). The conference, which attracted a good attendance and a fair bit of media interest, served the purpose of bringing some of the SSRC's activities to the attention of the wider public. It also helped to begin the process of identifying a programme of social science research to be carried out in the city in the near future, some of which will hopefully be connected to Galway's 'City of Culture 2020' project.

Dr. Tony Varley (Joint Secretary, SSRC)
7 December 2016