

Social Sciences Research Centre AGM

11 December 2018

Room 328, 2nd Floor, Árus Moyola

In attendance: Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Gerard Moran, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr Tony Varley.

Apologies: Dr Lorraine D'Arcy, Prof Ricca Edmondson, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Prof Mark Haugaard, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Dr Gerry Moran, Prof Niamh Reilly, Dr Amanda Slevin.

Secretaries' Report: Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretary, SSRC) reported how the SSRC now has 78 members and is home to four distinguishable strands of research: Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; Equality and Diversity; Market Traders in Contemporary Ireland; and Rural Communities and their Development. He went on to state that the SSRC webpage, designed and maintained by Dr Mike Hynes and launched in 2016, has continued to be developed and to attract considerable attention in 2018. Since January 2018, 6043 'unique' or different visitors have visited the webpage and over 95,000 pages were examined. In all, the webpage has attracted close to 160,000 'hits' in the current year. Dr Hynes also maintains the SSRC's active twitter account that currently has 1273 followers.

In relation to the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's, Distillery Road, Dr Varley reported how all the desks available are in full use. Dr. Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh (who is researching the history of the agricultural advisory service in Ireland) and Dr Gerard Moran (who is working on ongoing projects relating to combating poverty in rural Ireland) are currently using the SSRC's facilities in St. Declan's.

Election of new Board

-Chairperson/Director: Prof Kevin Leyden.

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

-Treasurer: Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley

-PRO: Dr Mike Hynes

-Ordinary Board members: Prof Ricca Edmondson, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Prof Mark Haugaard, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Dr Gerry Moran, Prof Niamh Reilly.

Matters Arising and Plans for 2018:

Plans relating to the development of the Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns strand of research within the SSRC were discussed at some length. Prof. Kevin Leyden informed the meeting of his involvement in the project to reinvigorate the Nuns' Island area of the city and his coordination of the Galway strand of the Architecture on the Edge Festival; A Symposium and Workshops on the theme of Placemaking. Dr Gerard Moran spoke of his own research on historical dimensions of rural poverty in the western seaboard counties and suggested a number of ways in which his research could usefully be connected with the place-making work of Prof. Leyden and Dr Hynes.

The SSRC facilitated three guest speakers over the year. On April 20th Dr Michael J Lorr presented his research titled; *Cultivating Interchanges for Rural/Urban Ireland: Sustainable Development Goals & Social Justice*. Bruno Esperante Paramos, a visiting research fellow at the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities presented his research titled; *Agrarian Fascism Innovation Paradigm in Spain Between 1939 – 1955* on Friday 10th October. Dr Amanda Slevin, Lecture in Social Policy at Queens University Belfast led an energy symposium title; *The Socio-*

Ecological, Political and Economic Implications of a Neo-Liberal Approach to Hydro-Carbon Extraction in an Irish Context on the 30th November.

Dr Varley and Dr Hynes spoke about the study of the Galway Saturday Market traders that has now commenced and how they saw the project developing in the run-up to the commencement of the Galway 2020 project.

Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretaries, SSRC)
12 December 2018