

# Social Sciences Research Centre AGM

10 December 2019

Room 328, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Árus Moyola

**In attendance:** Dr Emmet Fox, Dr Mike Hynes, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, Dr Tony Varley.

Apologies: Prof Ricca Edmondson, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Prof Niamh Reilly

**Secretaries' Report:** Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretary, SSRC) reported how the SSRC now has 80 members and is home to four distinguishable strands of research: Equality and Diversity; Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; 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 2019, 18,238 'unique' or different visitors have visited the webpage and over 172,658 pages have been examined. In all, the webpage has attracted close to 321,123 'hits' in the current year. Dr Hynes also maintains the SSRC's active twitter account that currently has 1,254 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. Among the scholars to use the SSRC's facilities in St. Declan's during 2019 were Mr Michael Donnelly, Dr Martin Javornicky, Dr Jonathan G. Heaney, Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, Dr Cliona O'Keefe, Dr Niloufar Omidi and Dr Tony Varley. The St. Declan's facilities have also been 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 and Dr Tony Varley

-PRO: Dr Mike Hynes

-Ordinary Board members: 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, Prof Niamh Reilly.

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

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

There was also considerable discussion of the 'Open Call for Funding: NUI Galway and the European Capital of Culture', the closing deadline for applications of which has been extended to 10 January 2020. Two possibilities in particular stood out from the discussion as possible mini conference topics, one relating to the ongoing study of the Galway market and the other to assisted migration from Connemara in the closing decades of the 19th century (Gerry Moran's topic).

Mike Hynes also encouraged board members to consider writing short pieces for the SSRC blog (which continues to attract a fair bit of attention).

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