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Funding, Research Evaluation and Excellence under Taighde Eireann – Research Ireland: Feedback from stakeholder workshops held by the Royal Irish Academy in collaboration with the Irish Humanities Alliance

This overview paper summaries the content and feedback gathered by means of two stakeholder discussion workshops facilitated by the Royal Irish Academy and Irish Humanities Alliance during May and June 2024 at the request of Taighde Eireann – Research Ireland. The workshop discussions were primarily intended to elicit researchers' views on issues of funding mix and programmatic structures, research evaluation and assessment.

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Report: a discussion workshop on Taighde Eireann – Research Ireland convened by the

Royal Irish Academy, 27 May 2024

1. Introduction

This briefing note summarises the feedback gathered at a discussion workshop convened and hosted by the Royal Irish Academy to deliberate on the funding programmatic structure, mix and direction that could be pursued by Taighde Eireann-Research Ireland. The establishment of Research Ireland is a key objective of *Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy*, and is intended, through its amalgamation of the activities and functions of the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), to further support and drive world class research and innovation in Ireland.¹

The workshop brought together researchers at early, mid and senior researcher careers in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural, physical and life sciences for a half-day of discussion facilitated through 'café style' table-based discussions considering the following questions:

- What funding schemes or elements of schemes – existing or historical – in Ireland or abroad - are important for university-based researchers to have access to?
- What are the preferred funding structures? Do these differ across discipline and if yes, how?
- What costs are needed to pursue research? Do these differ across discipline and if yes, how?
- What are the key strategic infrastructure and data related needs and challenges facing university-based researchers? Do these differ across discipline and if yes, how?
- How should research excellence be measured?
- What evaluation methodologies are best suited for assessing research?
- What does impact mean for research and scholarship?

Upon conclusion of the discussion, summary feedback from each table was sought by the facilitator and additionally, each table's notes of their discussion were gathered by the facilitator and subsequently form the basis for this note.

Three observations should be noted from the start.

- First, there is a clear alignment between the ambitions expressed by researchers for research in Ireland and the stated objective of Research Ireland namely, to support and build a world class research system and community.

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- Second, researchers recognise that Research Ireland will occupy a significant leadership role within the Irish research ecosystem and is uniquely positioned to influence research culture, build research capacity, and support research excellence across the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences.
- Finally, researchers are highly attuned to the impact which the policies and programmes followed by Research Ireland will have upon the research performed, the structure and ambitions of the research community and the policies and practices followed by research performing organisations.

2. Funding matters

Workshop participants clearly identified and understood the challenges of creating a mixed funding portfolio suitable to meet the needs of researchers of all disciplines, research types and career stages, as well as the need to respond to and engage with national priorities. There was consistent support across all disciplines for post-graduate and post-doctoral funding schemes: these are understood as critical to supporting the emergence of the next generation of talented researchers. Schemes such as the IRC Coalesce, IRC New Foundations, IRC Laureate Scheme, SFI Challenge Based Funding schemes, the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme, the HEA's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) and the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme and SFI Research Centre Funding schemes were namechecked at various points as having had a 'game changing' impact upon the performance and funding of Irish research. The IRC Enterprise and Employment schemes were namechecked as significant for the technological university sector as were schemes which supported research responsive to regional needs and priorities. Bilateral international funding schemes were also viewed positively particularly as a means of building those key international research collaborations. It is noteworthy that these schemes support a variety of career stages, disciplines and project size, reflecting the value attached by the workshop participants to diversity in funding mechanisms to support emerging and maturing research excellence.

A particular set of challenges were repeatedly namechecked in discussions:

- Funding disparities across and within disciplines
- The current system of full economic costing of research by field of research.
- Level of variation in the base line of research capacity across the system: this was identified as a particularly acute challenge for the technological university sector.
- Insufficient opportunities for mid-career researchers to compete for medium size grants (c. €200,000 to €1 million): success at this scale nationally is seen as a key ingredient for success in international funding competitions such as the European Research Council (ERC)
- The limitations associated with funding calls which prioritize industry co-funding and the inherent biases that can emerge in a system using such co-funding as a measure of assessment or eligibility to

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compete. Reliance on this was seen to particularly disadvantage arts, humanities and social science disciplines.

Participants frequently cited the importance of consistency in funding call timelines, greater use of rolling funding calls, and diversity in the size and scale of research funding calls. That the scale and type of research funding can differ by discipline and career stage was taken as a given: similarly, the budget necessary to support a research centre in the natural, physical or life sciences was understood to potentially oftentimes be a multiplier of the costs associated with humanities or social sciences. Funding calls should acknowledge and reflect this by offering the opportunity to compete for a diversity of grant sizes to support different types of activities. Researchers also expressed support for greater alignment between funding grant applications and requirements across funders.

Researchers were alert to and referenced tensions between the funding of large-scale centres aligned to specific national public policy objectives and needs, industry needs and curiosity led, longer-term principal investigator-led research. All disciplines shared a strong appreciation of the need for and value of fundamental research: ideas for expressing this value in practice included allocating a dedicated percentage of the Research Ireland budget to fundamental research or an expansion of the overall percentage spend of the budget on fundamental research recognizing that this work may occur within large scale teams or single investigator projects.

Participants identified many similar benefits arising from investment across different scales and types of research pointing to for example their success in enabling globally competitive and collaborative research, retaining home talent and attracting international talent to Irish research institutions, and leveraging European Union and industry funding. This suggests that excellent research is readily recognizable by other researchers and funding bodies by its quality and impact. Schemes to keep and attract talent were seen as necessary given that the competition for talent now occurs on a global scale.

While there are many nodes of excellence across the technological university base, the strategic importance of focusing upon capacity building across the sector was emphasised. To this end schemes which center regional needs and are researcher led are seen as particularly vital for the sector given its strong tradition and excellence in individual principal investigator-led, regionally responsive research. Schemes such as the IRC Enterprise and Employment Schemes and the SFI Future Frontiers programme were identified as supportive and responsive to these issues. Workshop participants were highly attuned to the need to, and benefit of, actively demonstrating the value of research to a general public and to the value of funding to support engaged research.

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Suggested actions to address issues associated with research bureaucracy, reduce the application burden upon researchers and build confidence in Ireland's research funding structure include:

1. Setting of consistent timelines for the opening of annual, highly anticipated calls such as the Government of Ireland post-graduate scholarships.
2. Review of principles and application of full cost economic recovery for research grants.
3. Use of two-stage application processes with a relatively light touch first stage.
4. Matching the amount of information required for grant application to the size of the grant.
5. Expansion of funding calls designed to respond to regional needs (seen as particularly important by researchers within Technological University sector).
6. Alignment of research call timelines and application processes across funders.

Suggested enhancements to the current suite of research grants delivered by the IRC and SFI include:

- Introduction of Standard Research Grants enabling any time, any discipline, any size of grant application (from small, short-term grants to multi-million research projects).ⁱⁱ Such a scheme would offer an agile and flexible means of support for excellent research that may not necessarily fit neatly within the parameters of long-standing grant schemes.
- Increase the number of mid-size schemes c. €200,000 to €1 million euro to enable researchers to demonstrate capacity to execute and manage larger scale projects and enhance their opportunities for success in bidding for larger Horizon Europe grants.
- Early Career Researcher Sabbatical Scheme to enable early career researchers (ECRs) to give dedicated time to work on for example, monograph as part of the wider
- New funding lines for research for public policy initiatives, all-island collaborative research projects, early-stage intellectual property development, public engagement
- Allocation of a specific percentage of the Research Ireland funding budget to fundamental research
- Expansion of schemes to support networking and consortium building across all career stages.
- Expansion of research proposal preparation grants to support applicants seeking to apply for Horizon Europe and similar scale international funding.
- Allow for consumables expenditure within PhD and post-doctoral funding schemes
- Inclusion of social enterprises and NGOs as eligible co-partners in Enterprise and Employment Schemes.
- Funding that supports Inter-disciplinary co-applicant team-based research
- Funding for PhDs including both 'consortium-based' cohorts of students, interdisciplinary focus as well as support to institutions for PhDs

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- National grant scheme for ERC applications that re highly-ranked but unsuccessful (due to funding limitations)
- Research infrastructure calls that allow for investment in new infrastructures and maintenance / enhancement of existing infrastructures.
- Reintroduction of a PRTL type scheme to support research capacity building including capital and infrastructure.
- Increase the number of small-scale 'buy-out' teaching grants.
- Build in support for open research as a standard budget line in grant applications.
- Allow for the inclusion of a community contribution budget line in grant applications to support capacity building amongst early career researchers and doctoral students.

There were frequent references to international funding schemes both in terms of the type of grants offered and the process of assessment and award. The European Research Council (ERC) was regularly cited as offering high opportunities but equally representing a high-risk endeavour for applicants. While the rewards flowing from an ERC award are undoubted, the extremely competitive nature of the scheme and the time required to the application process represented a real challenge for researchers seeking to balance teaching and research commitments. Specific funding schemes should be calibrated with a view to enabling researchers to demonstrate research excellence and capacity to deliver and manage research projects at a scale meaningful for ERC success.ⁱⁱⁱ

3. Infrastructure issues

Workshop participants were asked to consider the key strategic infrastructure and data related needs and challenges facing their disciplines.

Support was expressed for the general principle of national / shared infrastructures located in a central node / institution but accessible for all. Issues with funding of basic research infrastructure included the irregular and unpredictable opening of infrastructure grant calls, an over emphasis on purchase of large infrastructure elements, with insufficient attention given to funding of technical staff, issues of maintenance and upkeep to prolong the sustainability and lifespan of equipment. It was noted for example that support for artistic research is under-developed in Ireland and would benefit from greater recognition of its specific infrastructural needs in terms of studio and co-creation spaces and equipment (e.g. digital music and computer software).

Issues around data infrastructure and national policy on data attracted considerable attention in terms of analysis and availability. One participant noted that Ireland has a very conservative approach towards data sharing referencing the creation of a national biobank, and pointed to how such approaches can undermine the

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capacity of researchers to participate European / international projects. Other participants noted the underfunding of data protection offices, the need for a consistent and effective functional application of GDPR as it pertains to research activity, a failure to gather or retain important social sciences data and low level of investment and regulation of archives. It was noted that with the current infrastructure Ireland could derive considerable national benefit through engaging with the European Health Dataspace

Suggested ideas include:

- Consideration be given to the roll-out of National Research Ethics Committees
- Mapping exercise to refresh the national research infrastructure roadmap
- Move towards a presumption of funding infrastructure on a national shared model basis.
- Addressing pension issues for Phd student and Post-Doctoral Fellows.
- Enhanced Funding for centralized cloud approaches and services and data stewardship.

4. Evaluation and Assessment

The workshop discussion focused less upon the mechanics of assessment and offered more of a reflective discussion around the underpinning principles, objective and values shaping current assessment practice. It was taken as a given that no one size fits all model works across all types and fields of research and that assessment of excellence should be understood as a nuanced and reflective process. International peer review is recognised as a legitimate, valid and valued means of assessing excellence. Several participants suggested the inclusion of the citizen/patient/end user voice within the assessment process (this was considered particularly apt for biomedical research, certain areas of social science research). The use of interviews as part of the evaluation process (as per the ERC model) for the awarding of medium to large grants was frequently referenced as an innovation that should be considered for wider adoption.

Participants expressed positivity towards the following practices:

- Diversity in assessment practices understood as recognizing diversity in terms of what excellence looks like and how it should be assessed by discipline, research project, research output and research impact.
- Transparency around assessment processes and the use of multi-disciplinary assessment panels with access to specific subject area expertise as required.
- Horizon Europe style assessment processes which consider the excellence of the research proposal, capacity/track record of the proposer, and potential impact of the research.
- Application of DORA principles and Leiden Manifesto.

Wider questions raised included:

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- Ethical issues: should the integrity and ethics of a research idea be a factor within research assessment?
- Excellence in methods: Should assessment consider excellence in methods? The reproducibility of the research?
- What does excellence in research assessment look like and how will it be modelled, communicated and reviewed by Research Ireland?

The discussion identified various types of metrics that could be considered as outlined below with the caveat that it does not represent any form of comprehensive listing:

Creation of networks	Monographs	Journal citations	Case studie
Future potential of the research and its applications	Creation of communities of practice	Business School ABS FT 500	Artistic outputs e.g. exhibitions
End user / beneficiaries assessment	Audience creation	Contribution to social cohesion and EDI	Impact upon policy and practice (industry, government, third sector) e.g. safety standards
Licences/patents	Training of researchers	Link to teaching	Impact on society (regional/nationa/global)

The question of assessing impact and what it means by area of scholarship and discipline was considered. The high discipline specificity and widely varying timelines for impact were frequently referenced. Ethical issues also arise in the assessment of impact for example, how are unwelcome findings that challenge the status quo to be assessed for impact? How to counter unconscious bias in assessment of impact? Do research funders understand how the public views and conceptualize research impact?

An interesting sub-theme of the discussions was a questioning of the “superstar principal investigator model” with the accompanying argument that excellent research is the product not just of the individual but of excellent research environments and the suggestion that research environments should be considered in assessment.

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No contemporary discussion on assessment and excellence would be complete without reference to the looming challenge of the use of artificial intelligence in research and upon the practices of research funding agencies. A national level discussion on these issues would be beneficial.

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WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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SPEAKERS

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Prof Philip Nolan, CEO-designate, Research Ireland

WORKSHOP CONVENOR

Ms Sinéad Riordan, Head of Policy & International Relations, Royal Irish Academy

WORKSHOP SECRETARIAT

Ms Clare Traynor, Programmes and Engagement, Royal Irish Academy

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**Report: Workshop on Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland
Arts & Humanities Research Community**

**Workshop convened and facilitated by the Irish Humanities Alliance in collaboration with the
Royal Irish Academy,
15 May 2024**



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Report: Workshop on Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Arts & Humanities Research Community

A workshop held on 15 May 2024 at the Royal Irish Academy in collaboration with the Irish Humanities Alliance brought together thirty-four active Arts and Humanities researchers working within Ireland's core publicly funded higher education institutions. This was the first of two consultation events convened by the RIA to consider the corporate plan and future funding portfolio of the new national funding agency, Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland.

Workshop participants, divided into five groups, discussed four questions on funded programmes and four questions on evaluation methods. A spokesperson, nominated by each sub-group, reported back to the main assembly at the end of each session. Each group submitted a feedback form to the convener at the end of the process. The core questions and main points raised by the participants are itemised below. A copy of the agenda and a list of participants, conveners, and speakers are contained at the end of this report.

Key findings:

What emerged from these discussions was a set of recommendations for the new national funding agency to consider - ranging from a list of current funding schemes that should be kept or expanded; past schemes that should be reinstated; and international schemes that should be introduced.

Workshop participants engaged in blue sky thinking considering how AHSS and STEM could complement, support, and benefit each other through radical transdisciplinary funding strands and innovative approaches to evaluation methods. Participants were enthusiastic about the possibilities that a new funding agency may hold for the future of Arts and Humanities research in Ireland.

Session One - Funded programmes

What funding schemes or elements of schemes – existing or historical – in Ireland or abroad - are important for the Arts & Humanities community to have access to?

- A culture of trust exists with the IRC, and the groups agreed that many of the current awards should be preserved.
- SFI – IRC Pathways Programme considered valuable for development of postdoctoral careers and providing career pathways. Increase required in number available to AHSS. Noted challenges for interdisciplinary assessment panels here.
- IRC New Foundations are seen as accessible and good for building a research record.
- IRC Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Schemes are fundamental to maintain with a request to expand the number available on both schemes.
- IRC Laureate Scheme should ideally run annually as there is an issue of job precarity and funding infrastructure should support ECRs not in full time employment.
- Leverhulme offer mid-career funding; similar funding in Ireland could help close the gap at this level.
- Marie Curie funding - opportunities for mobility should be included in new Irish funding schemes.
- IRC / Marie Curie COFUND scheme was beneficial and something like this should be reinstated.
- SFI Challenge fund should be offered to Arts and Humanities researchers.
- Seed funding to help prepare for applications to Erasmus and larger European funding.
- Creative Europe has a number of good elements, but this funding scheme has challenges in terms of bureaucracy.
- Multilingual research funding must continue, with dedicated support for Gaeilge.
- Two concerns were highlighted for consideration: It is currently too difficult to move IRC funding from one institution to another; IRC funding scale should be reconsidered as funding amounts are small in comparison to the ERC. However, diversity of scales is important.

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What are the community's preferred funding structures?

- One-size funding structure does not fit all, a diversity of structures is required.
- Structures should include practice-based research.
- Collaborative projects should receive a strong focus.
- Programmes which allow for lead AHSS principal investigators with STEM collaborators.
- Broader mixes of time scales required.
- Parity of esteem for AHSS.
- Note - challenges are linked to the scale and design of current structures. The lack of predictability of funding calls and irregular schedules should be addressed.

What costs are needed to pursue Arts & Humanities research?

- Full salary costs and more flexibility for allowed salary costs in funding terms and conditions.
- Allowances, and appropriate funding/provision, for maternity, paternity, parental and sick leave for staff employed in funded projects.
- Childcare costs.
- Pay for time and expertise of independent artists and community collaborators where they are participating in a funded project scheme. Issues around payment of non-academic participants/collaborators is a growing concern.
- Costs to offer short term residencies for artists.
- Sub-contracting.
- Hiring junior researchers.
- Sabbatical leave.
- Ethics issues costs.
- Open Access publication costs including monographs which are significant publications for AHSS and are typically not published until after a project's formal conclusion.
- DRI membership costs, cloud maintenance and storage legacy issues post-project funding.
- Digital costs such as data storage for longevity and sustainability.
- Software licences.
- IT supports and equipment.
- Space – room for research.
- Networking costs – events, conferences, and exhibitions.
- Dissemination costs to cover media pieces and films about the research.
- Relocation costs.
- Installation costs.
- Public insurance for visiting guests.
- More flexibility in material costs.

What are the key strategic infrastructure and data related needs and challenges facing Arts & Humanities researchers?

- Storage of data.
- Digital access to research resources needs to be strengthened – level of subscriptions to IReL have reduced since 2008.
- DRI chronically underfunded, membership should be automatic and folded into funding proposals.
- Institutions need AHSS data teams to support digital humanities projects – digital humanities should be recognised as part of the research.
- Research offices and management of grant funding.
- Access to collections – funding schemes to travel to archives/repositories.
- Organised Doctoral training networks required.

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- Little support to showcase Arts and Humanities research impact – BBC Free Thinking scheme for academics’ an ideal model – support to build relationships with national cultural institutions needed.
- Scalable projects.
- Foreground infrastructure needs for AHSS scholarship – for example, Belfast received over £70 million from AHRC’s Creative Industries Cluster.
- Proposal for an alliance such as the IHA to conduct an infrastructure needs audit.

Session Two – Evaluation

How should research excellence in Arts & Humanities be measured?

- REF should be avoided at all costs; this is viewed as detrimental to fostering and supporting positive research cultures.
- Needs to be acknowledged that AHSS is not the same as STEM when measuring research excellence.
- Is excellence an appropriate term or should a new way of articulating significance be sought?
- AHSS-agreed criteria or understanding of what constitutes excellence should be sought to complement or offer a counterpoint to the STEM-based criteria.
- It would be useful to take on board existing AHRC & ERC criteria and stages of excellence such as originality; feasibility; ground-breaking; paradigm shifting; conceptually high-risk.
- SciVal is not an appropriate metric for AHSS.
- The importance of peer review, esteemed journals, and publishers. The gold standard cannot solely be the monograph.
- Difficulty assessing non-traditional outputs: there needs to be recognition of a diversity of outputs, such as practice-based, community engagement, exhibitions, and public-facing events.
- Creative outputs must be valued as much as journal articles and monographs.
- DORA’s principles should be incorporated to ensure the valuing of quality over quantity: it is not simply the number of journal articles and citations that should be considered.
- Cutting-edge research needs to include ECRs.
- Research excellence around multilingual work cannot be based solely on English language translations.
- Research-led teaching should be part of assessing excellence, as the majority of AHSS scholars are researching and feeding that research into their teaching.
- A way sought to consider the different working terms and conditions experienced by those working in a traditional university as opposed those working in a technological university.
- An awareness that it is often difficult to assess AHSS impact.
- There needs to be a clarity of assessment criteria for assessors.
- Narrative CV should be included as part of the assessment process.
- A document that outlines the spread of AHSS outputs and value is needed.
- Premium value should be given for clear evidence of interdisciplinarity.
- Dominance of STEM terminology is unhelpful. Consult AHSS community to develop stronger terminology.

What evaluation methodologies are best suited for assessing Arts & Humanities research?

- Peer review should be the core methodology.
- Investment in excellence of the peer review system is vital.
- Establish a national portal for experts to register for consideration as an assessor.
- Importance of discipline-specific assessment and assessors – Laureate scheme allowing researchers to put forward nomination of assessor.
- Assessors should provide meaningful feedback and applications could be directed to other funding pots if appropriate.
- A balance of national and international assessors.
- Evaluation panels should be transparent.

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- Over lifetime of the project, it is important not to have over-evaluation / over reporting. IRC evaluation is seen as robust, with reports being properly read and this is important to retain.
- One panel for AHSS is not appropriate, more are required – especially for practice/praxis.

What does impact mean for Arts & Humanities scholarship?

- Important to examine where current definitions come from; for example, from economic, neo-liberal perspectives.
- Knowledge valorisation is the language emerging from the EU funding: this may be a good fit for AHSS work in communities.
- UK REF system allows for case studies up to 20 years old to be submitted and tracked, this shows that impact can happen long after research is concluded.
- New undergraduate or postgraduate modules arising from research should be acknowledged as impact: this provides evidence of embedding research into teaching.
- Influence on policy.
- Generating new ideas that are then effectively shared.
- Reward academic citizenship – those who mentor the next generation.
- Monographs are important but lack of Open Access may be an issue for dissemination and citation purposes.
- Citations are not appropriate to all disciplines.
- We need to generate a better understanding of the value of AHSS research within civil society and arts organisations.
- Caution around creative AHSS fields – large audiences do not always prove impact; for example, Oscars or book awards.

What are the markers of quality for an Arts & Humanities researcher?

- Follow international best practice.
- Awards received.
- Record of receiving competitive grants and fellowships.
- Track record of knowledge transfer.
- International recognition.
- Work used by organisations beyond the traditional ways.
- Collaborative work is a marker of quality.
- Visibility of research.
- Where published – by prestigious publishing houses and journals.
- Peer esteem.
- Keynote invitations.

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AGENDA

Workshop on Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland

Focus on Arts & Humanities Research Community

1.45pm – 5pm, Wednesday 15 May, Royal Irish Academy

A joint initiative by the Irish Humanities Alliance and the Royal Irish Academy.

1.45 Registration & refreshments

1.55 Welcome by RIA Executive Director, Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan

2.00 Brief by Irish Research Council Director, Mr Peter Brown

2.15 Workshop brief by IHA Coordinator, Prof Sonja Tiernan

2.20 Session One

3.30 Break

3.45 Session Two

5.00 Summary and closing remarks by IHA Chair, Prof Marie-Louise Coolahan

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WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Dr Lisa Morin	Technological University Shannon	Dean of Graduate Studies
Dr Bianca Cataldi	University College Dublin	UCD HI Research Lead & PHD Candidate
Dr Rob Casey	Ulster University	Lecturer in Music
Dr Éadaoin Ní Mhuircheartaigh	Dublin City University	Lecturer
Dr Patricia Flynn	Dublin City University	Head of School Theology, Philosophy and Music
Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan	Irish Humanities Alliance	Chair IHA
Dr Nessa Cronin	Irish Humanities Alliance	Vice Chair IHA
Prof. Brenda Murphy	South East TU	Research Lead, School of Humanities
Dr PJ White	South East TU	Principal Investigator, Lecturer
Dr Annaleigh Margey	Dundalk Institute of Technology	Head of Department of Humanities
Dr Chiara Giuliani	University College Cork	Lecturer & Postgraduate Co-ordinator
Dr Iulia Siedschlag	RIA Standing Committee	Associate Research Professor at the ESRI
Dr. Christina Morin	University of Limerick	Assistant Dean, Research
Dr Niamh NicGhabhann	University of Limerick	Associate Professor of History
Dr Jessica Smyth	RIA Standing Committee	Vice-Chair RIA Standing Committee Archaeology
Dr Miriam Haughton	University of Galway	Senior Lecturer Drama & Theatre Studies
Prof. Ríóna Ní Fhrighil	University of Galway	Principal Investigator - Republic of Conscience
Dr Deirdre Harvey	Atlantic Technological University	Co-Ordinator of Graduate Programmes
Prof. Eve Patten	Trinity College Dublin	Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Dr Ciaran O'Neill	Trinity College Dublin	Ussher Associate Professor in History
Dr Eoghan Smith	Carlow College	Academic and Research Development Project Manager
Dr Simon Egan	Queens University Belfast	Lecturer in Medieval Irish History
Dr Deirdre Flynn	RIA Young Academy Ireland	YAI Member - Lecturer 21st Century Literature
Prof. Daniel Carey	Royal Irish Academy	RIA Secretary
Ms Mary Collins	Mary Immaculate College	Research Office Manager
Dr Francesca Placanica	Maynooth University	Assistant Professor in Music
Prof Karen Desmond	Maynooth University	Professor of Music
Dr Conor McGarrigle	TU Dublin	Researcher and lecturer in Fine Art
Dr Mary Ann Bolger	TU Dublin	Lecturer in Design History and Visual Culture
Prof Desmond O'Neill	IHA Medical Humanities WG	Chair IHA WG Medical & Health Humanities
Prof. Máire Ní Annracháin	RIA	Chair, RIA committee Irish language & Celtic cultures
Prof. Kathleen James Chakraborty	RIA Member, PL&A	Professor of Art History
Prof. Karen Fleming	Ulster University	Director Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Programme
Dr James A. Kapaló	University College Cork	Senior Lecturer
Prof. Patrick Lonergan	RIA Member, PL&A	Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies

TABLE CONVENERS

- Prof Marie-Louise Coolahan, Chair, Irish Humanities Alliance
- Dr Nessa Cronin, Vice Chair, Irish Humanities Alliance
- Ms Sinéad Riordan, Head of Policy and International Relations, Royal Irish Academy
- Ms Jennifer Kenneally, Senior Policy and International Relations Manager, Royal Irish Academy

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Prof Sonja Tiernan, Coordinator, Irish Humanities Alliance

SPEAKERS

Dr Siobhán O’Sullivan, Executive Director, Royal Irish Academy

Mr Peter Brown, Director, Irish Research Council

Prof Marie-Louise Coolahan, Irish Humanities Alliance

ⁱMinister O’Donovan announces establishment of Taighde Eireann-Research Ireland, 24 July 2024, <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/e0f96-minister-odonovan-announces-establishment-of-taighde-eireann-research-ireland/>

ⁱⁱThe UK’s Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Standard Research Grant is one such scheme. See: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-standard-research-grant-nov-2023-responsive-mode/>

ⁱⁱⁱThe UK Biotechnological and Biological Sciences Research Council Standard Grant – Responsive Mode was referenced as an example of one such grant scheme.