

Forum Insights

SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

The Organisation

The Sociological Association of Ireland (SAI) was founded in 1972 and is the professional body for sociologists working in a range of third level institutions throughout the island of Ireland. The aims of the Association are to promote the development of sociology in Ireland, to seek and maintain high standards of scholarship and responsibility in research and to encourage publication, discussion and debate on issues of interest to the discipline of sociology. The SAI supports sociologists' public dissemination of their research through the publication of the Irish Journal of Sociology by Manchester University Press. Sociologists working in Ireland are also governed by the SAI's voluntary code of ethics that consist of a set of general principles and statements of ethical practice concerning the professional activities of sociologists in Ireland. The guidelines are intended to generate awareness about potential problems and conflicts of interest that might arise for sociologists; to draw attention to their obligations regarding the interests of persons and groups with whom they work; and to provide guidance on ethical issues they may encounter in a variety of roles and work situations. Reflecting the SAI's view that responsibility for the highest standards of conduct in research, teaching, and professional service rests with individual sociologists, the strength of the guidelines depends ultimately on discussion, reflection, and continued use by SAI members.

The SAI is committed to supporting excellence in teaching and learning and recently held a plenary at our Annual Conference by sociologists who have been recipients of teaching awards by their universities. Our grant application to the National Forum signifies our ongoing commitment to strengthen the resources available to lecturers of sociology in Ireland. The SAI is run by a voluntary executive committee of 11 members (5 officer positions and 6 ordinary committee members) who are elected at an Annual General Meeting. The committee acts in accordance with the Association's Constitution which stipulates procedures for the election of members and the holding of regular committee meetings. The current President is Dr. Paul Ryan from Maynooth University.

Work Schedule

Using funding granted by the National Forum, the SAI is holding 5 workshops that bring together national and international speakers to discuss the challenges and opportunities to develop a wider knowledge of Teaching and Learning scholarship amongst lecturers of sociology in Ireland.

Workshop 1: Teaching Quantitative Research Methods to Sociology Students (University of Limerick, March 2015).

Workshop 2: How to Stimulate the Sociological Imagination: Teaching Introduction to Sociology (Maynooth University, April 2015).

Workshop 3: Graduate Education in Sociology (University College Cork, May 2015)

Workshop 4: The Value of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (Trinity College Dublin, June 2015)

Workshop 5: Using Innovation Forms of Assessment in Sociology (NUI, Galway, October 2015)

Getting Involved

The SAI would welcome the involvement of interested members who would like to participate, contribute or attend any of our workshops. Any queries can be directed to Paul Ryan (paul.ryan@nuim.ie)



NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION
