



***Honorary Secretary's Report
Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
One Hundred and Seventy-Sixth Session: 2022/2023***

First Meeting

The first ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 4.30pm on Thursday 27th October 2022, online and at the Merrion Room of the RDS. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by the new Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh. There then followed a paper entitled “When worse is better: Economic policy making in the two Ireland’s of the mid 1950s’ Dr Esmond Birnie and Dr Graham Brownlow.” The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Frank Barry, which was seconded by Ciarán Casey. There were contributions from the floor, including from Frances Ruane, Michael D’Arcy, Patrick Paul Walsh, and Alison Hearne. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Second Meeting

The second ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday 8th December 2022, online and at the Merrion Room of the RDS. The second meeting of the Society was a Symposium with the theme of “The Cost of Living”. The meeting opened with society business, including some introductory remarks by President Patrick Paul Walsh. There then followed three contributions from: Edel Flannery of the CSO (presenting) and Joseph Keating (co-author) on the “Estimated Inflation by Household Characteristics”; Reamonn Lydon of the Central Bank on “Inflation after the pandemic: What drove it and how is policy responding?” and finally, Micheál Collins of UCD on “Assessing Household’s Living Standards before and during the Cost-of-Living Crisis”. There were contributions from the floor, including from Seán Lyons, John Fitzgerald, Kevin Timoney, Simon Barry, Gerard Riley and Patrick Honohan. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Third Meeting

The third ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday 26th January 2023, online and at the Merrion Room of the RDS. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair for the Barrington Lecture, which was given by Pierce Daly, with the title “Institutional Investment in Housing: Financialisation 2.0 in the Case of Ireland”. There were contributions from the floor, including from John Fitzgerald, Paul Sweeney, Patrick Paul Walsh, Colm Lauder, Sameer Shaikh, Dermot O’Leary, Donal McDonnell, Alan de Bromhead and Frank McNamara. Following the discussion and responses from the author the President thanked those who had contributed and brought the meeting to a close.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday, 23rd March 2023, online and at the Merrion Room of the RDS. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair. There was a presentation of a paper entitled “An Analysis of the Current Leaving Certificate Points System and a New Leaving Certificate Points System” by Danny O’Hare (President Emeritus, DCU) and Michael Ryan (Prof. Emeritus of Computing, DCU). The proposal of the vote of thanks was made by Aedín Doris and seconded by Paul Devereux. There were contributions from the floor, including from Donal de Butleir and Patrick Paul Walsh. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland was held at 5.30pm on Thursday, 20th April 2023, online and at the Merrion Room of the RDS. Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair for a symposium on Financing Sustainable Development in Ireland. There then followed three contributions from: Yvonne McCarthy, Head of Climate Change Unit, Central Bank of Ireland on

“Financing Sustainable Development: The Role of the Central Bank”; Barra Roantree, ESRI and member of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare on “Financing Sustainable Development: The Role of Taxation”; and Joseph Cummins, Climate Action and Economic Infrastructure Unit, DETE on “Sustainable Industrial Development: Enterprise Policy and Financing Decarbonisation”. There were contributions from the floor, including from Paul Sweeney, Martina Lawless, Chris Sibley, Tara McIndoe, Michael Ryan and Eoin O’Flaherty. Following the discussion and responses from the authors, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth and final ordinary meeting of the 176th session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland took place at 5.30pm, Thursday 25th May, online and in person at the RDS, Dodder A Room. This meeting was also the Annual General Meeting of the 176th session. The Society President, Patrick Paul Walsh, was in the Chair for the presentation of a paper entitled “Three Necessary Actions Prior to Launch of Ireland’s Auto-Enrolment Retirement Saving Plan” by Shane Whelan (presenting) and Maeve Hally (co-author) of the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics. The vote of thanks was proposed by Bridget McNally (Maynooth University) and seconded by Colm Fagan. Following a discussion, which included contributions from Patrick Honohan and Alan de Bromhead, the President thanked all those attending and brought the meeting to a close.