



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

An Institiúid Cúrsa Saoil
& Sochaí
Institute for Lifecourse
& Society

ENABLING
EQUITY
ACROSS THE
LIFE COURSE

Institute for Lifecourse and Society - ILAS

Public Policy Innovation Series



Seminar 1: Learning from experience: The Case of Irish Early Years Policy

Speakers:

Dr Fergal Lynch, *University of Galway.*

Dr Anne-Marie Brooks, *Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.*

Teresa Heeney, *Early Childhood Ireland.*

Dr Sheila Garrity, *University of Galway.*

This seminar will focus on lessons for policy development, implementation and evaluation from the recent experience of the Early Learning and Care/School-Age Childcare sector in Ireland.

DATE: Friday, 15 December 2023

TIME: 10:30am-13:00pm

VENUE: Auditorium, ILAS Building, University of Galway

[Register here](#)

What Makes 'Good' Public Policy?

The Series responds to the demand for national and international fora that can constructively examine policy making across the life course. It aims to offer a space for policy stakeholders to critically reflect on the key processes and drivers for effective policy making that achieve real, desired impacts.

INVITATION

Speakers



Dr Fergal Lynch works with the University of Galway to help foster closer links between policy practitioners and academics in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy. Fergal was previously Secretary General of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2015-2022) and Deputy Secretary General of the Department of Health (2012-2015).



Dr Anne-Marie Brooks is the Assistant Secretary of the Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare Division in DCEDIY. She has overall responsibility for operational, policy and legislative developments relating to improving access to high quality and affordable Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare and for First 5, the whole of government, 10 year strategy for babies, young children and their families.



Teresa Heeney is the CEO of Early Childhood Ireland, the leading children's advocacy and membership organisation. Teresa has previously worked with Cherish and the ISPCC, and has had roles in youth and community work. She was a ministerial appointee to the Advisory Committee on Better Outcomes Brighter Futures and she chairs the LINC Consortium steering group. Teresa holds an MBS, a Degree in Social Science, and a Professional Certificate in Governance.



Dr Sheila Garrity is an Early Childhood Educator with 25 years' experience in community-based practice, in support and development roles, and since 2010, in academia in the Early Childhood Education & Care field. Sheila is Lecturer in Early Childhood Studies with the School of Education and a Senior Researcher with the UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre, at the University of Galway. Dr Garrity holds leadership positions in Ireland and internationally.

Schedule

| Time | Speaker |
|---------------|---|
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Registration/Refreshments |
| 11:00 - 11:05 | Prof. Ciarán ó hÓgartaigh, <i>President, University of Galway</i> |
| 11:05 - 11:10 | Prof. John Canavan, <i>Institute of Lifecourse and Society</i> |
| 11:10 - 11:50 | Dr Fergal Lynch, <i>Keynote Speaker.</i> |
| 11:50 - 12:05 | Dr Anne-Marie Brooks, <i>Respondent.</i> |
| 12:05 - 12:20 | Teresa Heeney, <i>Respondent.</i> |
| 12:20 - 12:35 | Dr Sheila Garrity, <i>Respondent.</i> |
| 12:35 - 13:00 | Discussion |
| 13:00 - 13:30 | Lunch |