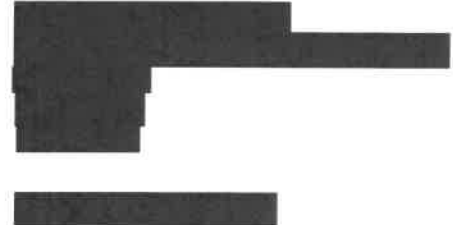


# PhD proposal form

The completed form should be emailed, and the signed version posted to:



**Applicant:—student**

Forename	[Redacted]
Surname	[Redacted]
Telephone No.	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]
Postal Address	[Redacted]

**Applicant(s):— academic supervisor**

Please enter details for a primary supervisor(s) in the economics discipline, and if applicable, for a second academic supervisor in , having first secured their agreement:

	Primary supervisor (economics)	Supervisor 2
Title <i>(Dr., Prof., Mr. Ms.) etc.)</i>	Dr.	
Forename	[Redacted]	
Surname	[Redacted]	
Telephone No.		
Email	[Redacted]	
Department/School	Economics/Business & Economics	

**Co-Applicants:— institutional/research centre co-supervisors**

If applicable, enter details of proposed supervisors(s) primarily affiliated to institutions/agencies/research centres related to this proposal, who will act as co-supervisor(s), having first secured their agreement:

	Institution Supervisor 1	Institution Supervisor 2	Institution Supervisor 3
Title <i>(Dr., Prof., Mr. Ms.) etc.)</i>			
Forename			
Surname			
Telephone No.			
Email			
Institution/Centre			
Postal Address			

**Graduate Research Committee (GRC):**

1. Chair	TBC
2.	TBC
3.	TBC
4.	

<b>Research topic/project title:</b>	Grand Jury Revenue and Expenditure in 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Ireland
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<b>Start date:</b>	January 2021	<b>End date:</b>	December 2024
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**Funding:**

Is the research topic/project funded?	yes/no
Note: It is intended to apply for College/Discipline funding and for IRC funding in 2021.	

If 'yes' please detail the funding source (e.g., funding institution and particular funding stream)	
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Breakdown of funding:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Fellowship/stipend			
Other project funds			
Annual total			
<b>Total funding secured (Years 1 to 3)</b>			

## 1. Research topic/project abstract

The aim of this project is to explore the economic significance of local government in Ireland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, through the analysis of the revenues and expenditure of grand juries, drawing on a range of contemporary sources, including fine-grained archival records.

Grand juries were the oldest, longest-lived, and arguably the most important local government bodies in Ireland until their abolition in 1898. Their initial concern was with the administration of justice, but their responsibilities progressively expanded to include the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, dispensaries, infirmaries, asylums, courthouses, and gaols; the payment of local officials; and the payment of restitution for malicious injuries and for malicious damage to property. These activities were funded through a local tax: the '(county) cess'.

Proposals for grand jury expenditure were known as presentments. Grand juries met twice yearly to ratify presentment decisions and to levy cess at the level required to pay for them.

A wealth of grand jury records survives, including abundant records of individual presentments (hundreds per year), and numerous parliamentary statistical returns and reports of inquiries. Figures 1-3 on the following pages provides some examples of these for information. Figure 1 is from Donegal presentment records from 1753; Figure 2 shows an extract from the Limerick presentments of Spring 1807; while Figure 3 shows an abstract or summary of presentments for Ireland compiled for the UK House of Commons for the year 1871.

Despite their historical importance, and despite the wealth of their records which survive, grand juries have been somewhat under-researched, not least by economic historians. Much more focus has been devoted to Poor Law Unions from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

This project will involve capturing fine-grained geo-coded presentment data systematically for a sample of grand juries for the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, exploring the determinants of these presentments, assessing their economic impacts, and relatedly, the efficiency of these local bodies. Econometric analyses will be conducted at high-resolution spatial levels, complemented by aggregate and local data from a variety of secondary, contemporary printed and archival sources.

## 2. Research topic/project description

### (a) Objectives

The aim of this project is to explore the economic significance of local government in Ireland in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, through the analysis of the revenues and expenditure of grand juries, drawing on a range of contemporary sources, including fine-grained archival records.

### (b) Justification

Grand juries were for centuries the most important local government bodies in Ireland and, for many people, their only point of contact with a 'government' that was otherwise absent from their lives. They were also, Neal Garnham (1999) claims, the vehicle by which "an increasingly socially, politically, and religiously homogeneous grouping (the Protestant ascendancy) [took] control of ... provincial governance". Yet the history of this important arm of government has been ignored somewhat in comparison with the Poor Law system, and our understanding of Irish economic history is the poorer for that.

This research attempts to fill this gap, at least in part. A prerequisite for this effort will be to survey the availability of usable sources: while a substantial body of fine-grained data in records relating to grand juries does survive, it is in disparate formats and locations, whether virtual or physical.

The wider opportunity is to apply econometric techniques, while sensitive to the institutional context and origin of the data, to interrogate the drivers and assess the impacts of grand juries' fiscal activities on the pre-Famine Irish economy.



BARONY OF UPPER CONNELLOE.		BARONY OF UPPER CONNELLOE.	
<i>To amount brought forward, £601 15 3</i>		<i>To amount brought forward, £ 965 11 3</i>	
24	and the Widow Hallinan's, at 9s 9d.		
	by the perch,		
	To W. B. Odell and C. Alcorn, to re- pair 199 perches of the road from Ballingarry to Newmarket, between the ford of Bawnmore and J. Lane's house at Bawnmore aforesaid, at 6s by the perch,	97 10 0	103 0 0
	To R. Langford and J. Sullivan, to re- pair 142 perches of the road from Newmarket to Newcastle, between the bounds of Rouell and Mc. Plum- met, at 5s. 6d. by the perch,	59 14 0	100 0 0
	To W. T. Lock and M. Scanlan, to re- pair 100 perches of the road Glana- him to P. Scanlan's bounds, between Newcastle in this county and New- market in the county Cork, at 5s. 6d. by the perch,	39 1 0	44 2 0
	To W. T. Lock and M. Scanlan, to repair 182 perches of the road from Ballagh to C. Hogan's bounds be- tween Newcastle in this county and Newmarket in the county of Cork, at 5s. 6d. by the perch,	27 10 0	3 7 6
	To W. T. Locke, E. Carte, and D. Cahill, to make 200 perches of the new intended narrow road from Dromcolloher in the county of Li- merick, to Castle Island in the coun- ty of Kerry, between the gate of C. Murphy of Glingart and the gate of T. Curtin at Ballycummane, at 10s.	50 1 0	56 0 0
	by the perch,		
	To E. Carte, L. Curtin, W. T. Locke, to make 200 perches of the new in- tended narrow road from Dromcolo- her, in this county, to Castle-Island, in the co. Kerry, between the ford of Olahane and C. Murphy's house at Glingart, at 10s. by the perch,	100 0 0	
	To E. Grips and T. Costley, to repair 196 perches of the road from Bally- garry to Newcastle, between M. Quaid's house at Ballykennedy, and T. Mini- ter's house at Gurteen, at 4s. 6d. per.	44 2 0	
	To W. Lee and T. Shanahan, to make fences and ditches to 45 perches of the road from Bruif to Dromcolloher, be- tween J. Meehan's house at Castletown Conyers, and P. Houllihan's house on the lands of Castletown, at 1s. 6d. pr.	3 7 6	
	To P. Day and D. Jourdan to repair 160. perches of the road from Dromcolo- her to Rathkeal, between M. Barry's bounds at Garrane, and the bounds of Ballynos, at 7s. by the perch,	56 0 0	
	To J. Browne and E. Roche, to repair 196 perches of the road from Abbey- feal to New market in the co. Cork, between the bounds of Cabir and the bridge of Farnford, at 4s. 6d. per.	44 2 0	
	To W. Brown and M. Roche, to repair 140 perches of the road from New- castle to Abbeyfeal, between the bridge at Monilnac & the pound of Tullygolinc		
<i>To amount carried forward, £ 1312 2 9</i>		<i>To amount carried forward, £ 1312 2 9</i>	

Figure 2 – Presentments Limerick, 1807

Source: <http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/spring%201807,%20reduction.pdf>



(c) **Methodology**

Consistent with the objectives laid out in Section 1, the research will comprise three strands:

**1. Database of Pre-Famine Grand Jury Expenditure**

The most comprehensive (in fact, only) database of grand jury expenditure, compiled by Aidan Kane, has aggregate presentment data for almost all grand juries, at least annually: for two decades, a breakdown by each (twice-yearly) assize is available. From 1823 to 1898 totals are available by ten broad categories. From 1810 to 1822, totals only are typically available. This data is sourced from parliamentary returns. Coverage does extend back to 1775, but the sources are incomplete for certain years, and for about half of the grand juries, in that period.

A particular focus of this project will be to identify and collect data for these earlier periods, especially from archival sources. Initial research for example suggests that Co. Antrim has records dating back to 1711, but their exact format is uncertain (they have not been digitised). Donegal has digitised records dating back to 1753, but early records are handwritten. So a major part of this research strand will be researching the location(s) of (non-digitised) grand jury records, interfacing with archivists, visiting archive sites, and transcribing or otherwise porting data into database format [for example, through the use of optical character recognition (OCR) software].

It may be that the best that can be achieved in many cases will be estimates of aggregate spending under various headings (road and bridge construction and maintenance, building or repairing of courthouses and gaols, payment of local officials, public charities etc.) at a county or baronial level, but that would still be valuable information.

**2. Determinants of Expenditure**

What drove the expenditures of grand juries? How were the level and the share-out of that expenditure determined? Did the same factors apply in much the same way across time and space, or were there important differences? Did the socio-economic structure of a county, including the nature of land-ownership, play a part?

Addressing these questions as to the main determinants of grand jury expenditure, at the barony, county, and perhaps regional level, will be a key aspect of this study. Options will include testing the pattern of expenditures against economic conditions as proxied by time series of agricultural commodity prices and/or historical weather conditions (data for which are increasingly available regionally for Ireland); exploring the impact of the fiscal decisions of other local bodies (including the Poor Law Unions from c.1838), and of the provision of loans for public works by national government from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The core econometric techniques here will likely involve panel data methods, with appropriate attention to the spatial dimensions of the data.

**3. Fine-Grained Localised Analyses**

A particularly innovative feature of this research will be a study of data at a relatively fine-grained or micro local level, based on individual presentments (rather than aggregates). This will involve focusing on a single county or on a small number of counties (probably from among those with digitised records), and tracking the level and pattern of expenditure as evidenced by presentments over a prolonged period. This research can address, *inter alia*, why roads were built, why they were built where they were, what was their impact in terms of population and markets, whether those effects persisted, what impact (if any) grand jury expenditure had on ameliorating subsistence crises, and to what extent corruption and/or inefficiency is evident, or capable of being inferred, from the data. Temporal and spatial variations in the cost of road maintenance can be analysed, and the reasons for differences explored.

**(d) Expected research outcomes**

Three core papers are envisaged:

1. Grand Jury Expenditure in Ireland c.1775-1810  
(A core data collection/management exercise)
2. Determinants of Grand Jury Expenditure  
(Aggregated by jury/category: time series approaches)
3. Grand Jury Presentments and Local Impacts  
(Econometric analysis of fine-grained geo-coded presentment data, exploring e.g. determinants of impact/efficiency of roads expenditure on economics outcomes)

Projects deliverables will also include the results of a wide-ranging literature review. This will focus on topics such as the economics of local public finance and the pre-Famine Irish economy and institutions.

**(e) Bibliography**

Broderick, David, *Local Government in Nineteenth Century Dublin: the Grand Jury* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007).

Crossman, Virginia, *Local Government in Nineteenth Century Ireland* (Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast, 1994).

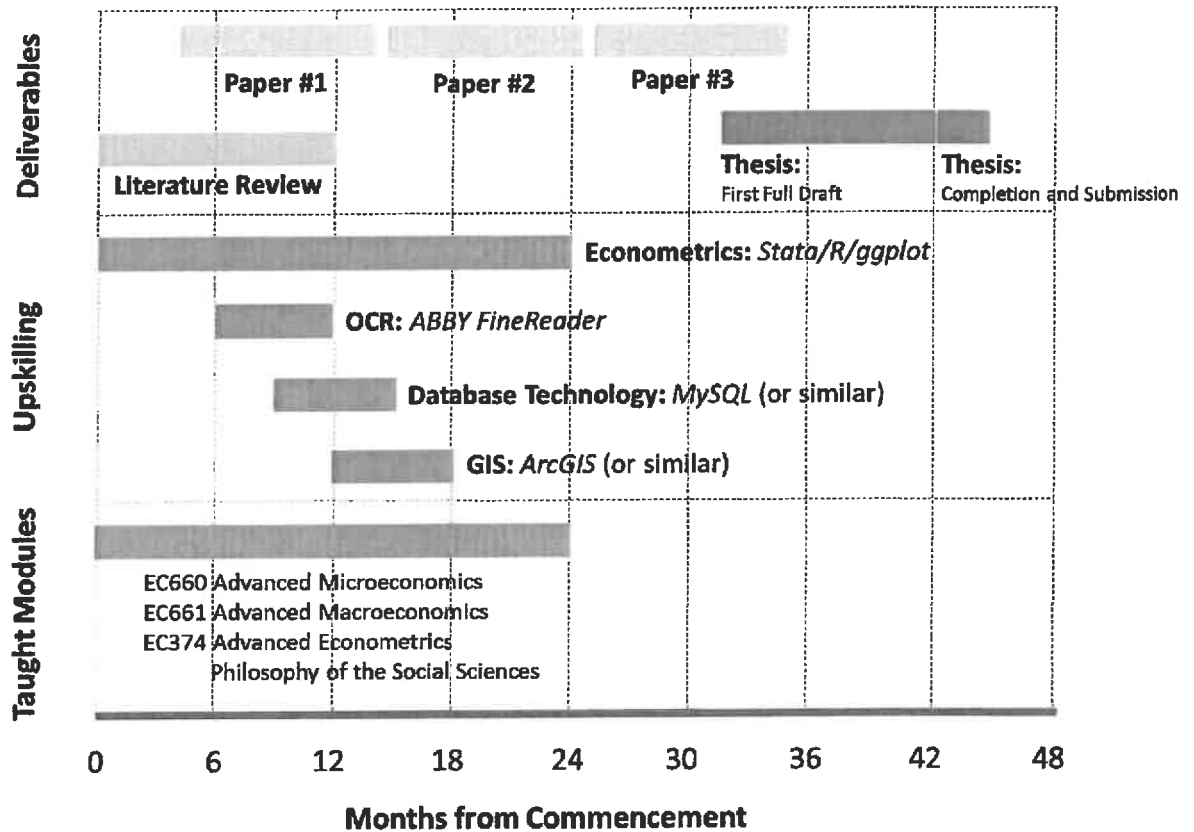
Garnham, Neal, 'Local Élite Creation in Early Hanoverian Ireland: the Case of the County Grand Jury', *Historical Journal*, Vol. 42. No. 3 (1999), pp. 623-642.

Meghen, P. J., 'The Administrative Work of the Grand Jury', *Administration*, 6 (1958), pp. 247-264.

**3. Workplan**

The project schedule is presented in terms of the following schematic:





Activities are grouped under three headings:

*Taught Modules:*

Four required taught modules are taken in the first two years of an economics PhD: EC660 Advanced Microeconomics, EC661 Advanced Macroeconomics, EC374 Advanced Econometrics, and Philosophy of the Social Sciences. Other modules in econometrics and/or related software/statistical methods may be audited as appropriate.

*Upskilling:*

Given the research topics and deliverables previously described, upskilling under a number of headings and in a range of software applications will be required over the first 12-18 months, as summarised in the schematic. This is mostly self-explanatory. The actual period shown in the schematic over which each upskilling task is conducted or completed is to an extent notional; in reality this will be dictated by the requirements of the ongoing research, with probably a significant degree of overlap. The extent to which GIS will be used in conjunction with conventional relational database technology is uncertain, but in the event it is decided to employ a tool such as *ArcGIS*, then there will certainly be a learning curve involved.

*Deliverables:*

The *Outcomes* section earlier envisages a literature review and three core papers as output from the research, to be substantially complete by end Year 3 or early Year 4. This will allow for a thesis first draft by the middle of Year 4, and submission /completion within that year.

**4. Publications**

**(a) Applicant (student)**

**(b) Primary NUI Galway supervisor**

"After the great inventions: technological change in English cotton spinning, 1780-1830", with [REDACTED], forthcoming in the *Economic History Review* 2021.

"Ton, tonneau, tonelada, last: British and European ship tonnages in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries", with [REDACTED] forthcoming in *Histoire & Mesure*, 2021.

"Arkwright's legacy: the water-frame and the mechanisation of cotton spinning", with [REDACTED], chapter in Chris Wrigley (ed.) *Industry and British People: Cromford, the Derwent Valley and Beyond*. The Arkwright Society, Derbyshire, 2020.

"The first 5,798 U.K. steamships: revisiting a flawed classic in cliometrics" with [REDACTED], working paper, June 2020.

**5. Signatures**

**Applicant (student):**

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

[REDACTED]

**Primary**

**supervisor:**

[REDACTED]

**Date:**

[REDACTED]