



***Proceedings of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
One Hundred and Seventy-Third Session: 2019/2020***

First Meeting

The first ordinary meeting of the session was held at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 30th October 2019, at the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin 2, with the President, Danny McCoy, in the Chair. A paper titled “Measuring Poverty Around the World, by Tony Atkinson: An Overview”, was presented by John Micklewright, of University College London, on behalf of him and his co-author Andrea Brandolini, of the Banca d'Italia. The vote of thanks was proposed by Tricia Keilthy (St Vincent de Paul and UCD) and seconded by Prof Brian Nolan (University of Oxford). Comments and questions from the floor were made by Sean Barrett, Bill Keating, Patrick Honohan and Siobhan Carey, after which the President invited the author to respond. The President then brought the meeting to a close, thanking all those who contributed.

Second Meeting

The second ordinary meeting of the session was held at 5.30pm on Thursday, 14th November 2019, at the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin 2, with the President, Danny McCoy, in the Chair. A paper titled “Future Life Expectancies in Ireland”, was presented by Shane Whelan and Rabia Naqvi, of University College Dublin. The vote of thanks was proposed by Eoin Dormer (Department of Public Expenditure & Reform) and seconded by Tony Jeffery (Society of Actuaries in Ireland). After comments and questions from the floor, the President invited the authors to respond. The President then brought the meeting to a close, thanking all those who contributed.

Third and Fourth Meetings

The third ordinary meeting of the session was held at 5:30pm on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin and the fourth meeting was held at 1pm on Thursday 27th February 2020 at the Central Statistics Office, Cork. At both meetings, the President Danny McCoy was in the Chair and the Barrington Lecturer, Dr Barra Roantree, presented his paper, “Understanding income inequality in Ireland”. Comments and questions from the floor were made at the Dublin meeting by Reamonn Lydon, Paul Sweeney, Eoin Flaherty, Tim Callan, Stephen Calkins, Patrick Honohan, Aedin Doris, Ronan Lyons, Frances Ruane, Thomas Conefrey and Noel T O’Gorman. Contributions were made at the Cork meeting by Gerry Reilly, Barry Kelleher, Edel Flannery, Stephen Lee, Sean Barrett, Seamus Coffey and Kathryn Foskin. In both cases, the President then invited the Barrington Lecturer to respond and then brought the meeting to a close, thanking the author and the contributors.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth ordinary meeting was held at 4.30pm on Thursday, 9th April 2020, online for the first time in the history of the Society, due to the restrictions on movement introduced in response to the covid19 pandemic. The President, Danny McCoy, was in the Chair. A paper titled “The Northern Ireland Economy: Problems and Prospects”, written by Prof John FitzGerald, of Trinity College Dublin and the Economic & Social Research Institute, and Prof Edgar L. W. Morgenroth, of Dublin City University, was presented by Prof FitzGerald. The vote of thanks was proposed by Esmond Birnie (University of Ulster) and seconded by Sean Barrett. The President invited the authors to respond to the remarks made in the vote of thanks, after which comments and questions were made by online participants. The authors responded to these and the President then brought the meeting to a close, thanking all those who contributed.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth ordinary meeting of the session was held at 5pm on Thursday, 23rd April 2020, online through the Zoom platform, due to the covid19 pandemic and associated restrictions on physical meetings. The President, Danny McCoy, was in the Chair and the meeting featured a Symposium of three presentations on the topic of science/policy interfaces and the environment. The first presentation, entitled ‘The Future is Now: The Science-Policy Interface for achieving Sustainable Development’, was by Astra Bonini, UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs. The second, by Dorothy Stewart (Environmental Protection Agency), was on ‘Developing

solutions and informing Irish policymakers across the pillars of Climate, Water & Sustainability'. The third presentation was by Patrick Paul Walsh (UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy) and entitled 'Benchmarking Ireland's performance on Environmental SDG targets for policy-making'. Contributions from those in attendance were made by Richard Tol, Claudia LaRue, Sarah Sherlock and Catherine Curran. Following the discussion and responses from the presenters, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.

Seventh Meeting

The seventh ordinary meeting of the session took place at 4.30pm, Thursday May 21st 2020, online due to the covid19 pandemic. This was the Annual General Meeting of the 173rd session, followed by a special symposium on the theme, "Understanding the Covid19 pandemic and its consequences". The symposium comprised six short contributions of ten minutes each, followed by a general discussion. Firstly, Catherine Comiskey (Trinity College Dublin) presented on "The epidemiology of Covid-19: Learning from the past and modelling for the future", after which Jean Acheson (Revenue Commissioners) presented a paper called "The impact of covid19 on income and employment: early evidence from administrative data". Reamonn Lydon (Central Bank of Ireland) presented on "Measuring the economic impact of covid19 in real time", and then Conor Lambe (Danske Bank) presented on "Covid19 and the Northern Irish economy: initial insights". The fifth presentation was by Shana Cohen (TASC) and called "What has Covid-19 told us about inequality in Ireland?" while the final presentation was by Gerard Brady (IBEC), "Business in a compressed economy". Following the discussion and responses by the presenters, the President thanked those who had contributed, and brought the meeting to a close.