

Speakers' Biographies

Professor Claire Callender



Claire Callender (B.Sc., Ph.D.) is Professor of Higher Education Policy at University College London (UCL), Institute of Education, and at Birkbeck, University of London. She is Deputy Director of the ESRC/HEFCE-funded research Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE), based at UCL.

Professor Callender's research and writing focus on higher education student-finances. She has contributed to some of the most significant U.K. enquiries into student-funding and presented evidence to parliamentary select committees.

Professor Callender was a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard School of Education from 2007–2008 and in 2017 she was awarded an O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours for services to higher education.

Professor Callender is currently conducting research on student-loan debt, examining its influence on potential higher education students' enrolment-decisions. She is about to start another study exploring the effect of student-loan debt on graduates' employment-behaviour and life-choices.

Dirk van Damme



Dirk van Damme is Head of Division in the Directorate for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Sciences from Ghent University, where he has been Professor of Educational Sciences since 1995. In his academic career he has also served as a part-time Professor in Comparative Education at the Free University of Brussels (1997–2000) and as Visiting Professor of Comparative Education at Seton Hall University, New Jersey, U.S.A. (2001–2008).

Dirk's academic work has focused principally on the history of education, comparative education, lifelong-learning and international higher education. He has also served in various positions in the field of education-policy in the Flemish part of Belgium—including as General Director of the Flemish Rectors' Conference and as Deputy and Chief of Staff of various Flemish education ministers.

Dirk's current interests lie in evidence-based innovation in education, comparative analyses of educational systems, open education, inclusive education, and new developments in the



learning sciences. At the OECD he is responsible for the Innovation and Measuring Progress Division (IMEP), leading both the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) and the Indicators of Educational Systems (INES) programme, which is responsible for the OECD's annual flagship-publication *Education at a Glance*.

Michael Horgan



Michael Horgan was appointed Chairman of the Higher Education Authority in July 2016. He is also out-going Chairman of the Health and Safety Authority. He is former Chief Executive of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). Michael holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science and an M.A. from Trinity College Dublin, and a Master's in Industrial Engineering from University College Dublin, in addition to which he is a Chartered Director. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees, including a D.Sc. from the University of Massachusetts and an Honorary Fellowship from the RCSI.

Michael chairs the Fintech/Global Payments' company TransferMate and is a Non-Executive Director of Intuition Ltd and of a number of other boards. He was previously a board member of the Rotunda Hospital and of Beaumont Hospital, and served as a member of the Senate of the National University of Ireland.

Dr. Gemma Irvine



Dr. Gemma Irvine is currently Head of Policy and Strategic Planning in the Higher Education Authority (HEA). She completed her Master's and Ph.D. in Neuroscience in New Zealand before moving to Ireland in 2004 to work as a Research Fellow in Trinity College Dublin. She moved to the HEA in 2007 to coordinate the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL), and was the Irish National Delegate for 'Research Infrastructures' in the FP7 EU Programme.

Moving to the Irish Research Council (IRC) in 2012, Dr. Irvine co-ordinated the operational merger of IRCHSS and IRCSET into the IRC and was responsible for oversight of IRC-funded research programmes, as well as being the Irish National Delegate for 'Social Sciences and Humanities' in Horizon 2020. Most recently she worked with Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science from 2010 to 2014,



Dr. Stephen Kinsella



Dr. Kinsella is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Limerick, a position he has held since 2013. Previously he served as a Lecturer in Economics (2009–2013) and as a Junior Lecturer in Economics (2006–2009) at the University of Limerick; as a Teaching Assistant at the New School for Social Research, New York (2005–2006); and as a Teaching Assistant (2003–2004) and Research Assistant (2002–2003) at the National University of Ireland, Galway. In addition in 2014–2015 he served as a Visiting Professor of Economics at Université Paris 13.

Dr. Kinsella holds a B.A. (Mod) from Trinity College Dublin (2002), an M. Econ. Sc. from the National University of Ireland, Galway (2003), a Certificate in Programming in Mathematics from Wolfram Research, New York (2007), an M.A. and an M.Phil. From the New School for Social Research, New York (2007), a Ph.D. in Economics from the National University of Ireland, Galway (2007), and a Ph.D. in Economics from the New School for Social Research, New York (2010). His research interests lie in building and estimating macroeconomic models, and he is the author of 4 books, approximately 30 journal-articles, and numerous chapters in books. Dr. Kinsella is an Associate Editor of *Research in International Business and Finance* and of *Financial Regulation International*, and a weekly columnist for the *Sunday Business Post*. He has also written articles for the *Harvard Business Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *VoxEU*.

Dr. Kinsella has been the recipient of a host of scholarships and awards, including a KPMG John F. Kennedy Scholarship (2005–2006), a JCI Outstanding Young Person of the Year Award for academic achievement (2011), and a Smurfit Business Journalist of the Year award (2016). He has secured approximately €4.2 million of research-funding from a range of national and international bodies.

Dr. Kinsella's other professional activities include serving as an academic advisory board member for the National Consumer Agency (2011–2012) and for the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland (2010–date). He served as an Economic Advisor for New Beginnings (2010–2012), as a board member of the Higher Education Authority (2014–2017), as the Deputy Chairman of the Higher Education Authority (December 2016–January 2017), as Chairman of the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service's External Advisory Board (2016–2019), and as Chairman of the Undergraduate Awards (in Economics) (2016). He has served as a Consultant of the Bank of England since 2014.



Dr. Graham Love



Dr. Graham Love recently joined the Higher Education Authority as Chief Executive Officer. Previously he led the Health Research Board and held senior management positions in a variety of organisations including Science Foundation Ireland and Accenture. He is a former member of the Science Gallery Board, Science Europe's Governing Council, and Enterprise Ireland's Industrial Research and Commercialisation Committee.

Caitríona Ryan



Caitríona Ryan is Head of Access Policy in the HEA. Working with the Department of Education and Skills, Caitríona is leading several projects in the implementation of the National Access Plan, 2015–2019. These include the management of the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Fund on behalf of the Department, the development of a new strategy for equity of access policy indicators and data, and a toolkit for student success in the equity of access target groups.

Caitríona has worked in the HEA for 14 years and was formerly Head of Policy and Planning. Prior to joining the HEA, Caitríona worked with Deloitte & Touche Management Consultants specialising in organisation and strategic reviews. Previously she was a civil servant and held various positions in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Health and Children.

