



PhD Summer School

Creating Research Impact | Practice, Policy and Peers

Summer School for PhD and MRes/MPhil Students

DCU Institute for Business & Society

3 Day Summer School

26-28 May, Dublin Ireland

<https://www.dcu.ie/business-and-society>

From PhD Research to Real-World Impact. Turn your research into practice and policy change. Learn how to develop insights and tools for practitioners, analyse policy, and translate evidence into clear recommendations for decision-makers. Engage with peers, exchange ideas, and shape your field through collaboration, publication and informed debate.

About DCU

The DCU Institute for Business & Society promotes translational research and is committed to fostering a culture that actively promotes sustainability, responsible business, and positive societal impact. Our research shapes practice through practice-oriented outputs, collaborative publications, industry events, and applied research projects funded by industry. It also informs and shapes policy in Ireland, the EU, and internationally.

DCU Business School is a young, vibrant, industry focused, international business school. Reflecting the founding mission of DCU, connecting with the world of practice has been a hallmark of DCU Business School for over 40 years. DCU Business School has been a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) since 2012.

Scientific Organising Committee

Dr Julie Bertz | Research Lead, Business & Public Policy SIG

Prof Lisa van der Werff | Research Lead, trustLAB

Dr Margaret Heffernan | Research Lead, OBAIR-Decent and Sustainable Work

Dr Peter Robbins | Research Lead, AI & Innovation SIG

Dr Yuhui Gao | Research Lead, ESG SIG

Dr Gary Sinclair | Research Lead, Online Harms SIG

Prof Colm O'Gorman | Institute Director

Accreditations

Academic Accreditations

DCU Business School is among the elite 1% of business schools worldwide to be accredited by EQUIS, AACSB, and AMBA. In addition to this 'triple crown' of accreditations, we are also the only business school in Ireland to have been awarded Small Business Charter.



Professional Accreditations



Schedule

Day 1 | Practice | Tuesday, 26th May

Creating Research Impact in Practice: Workshops and Themed Roundtables

Confirmed Speakers



Gwen Gould | Innovation and New Product Development, Tirlán

Gwen is a senior executive with expertise in innovation and new product development in the food and beverage industry. She is a strategic leader experienced in driving organisational change and leading cross-functional teams to deliver results. She has a strong background in consumer insight, market analysis, and global portfolio optimisation identifying opportunities and supporting successful product launches.



Jonny Gifford | Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Studies

Jonny has over 20 years' experience conducting applied research on work, HR, and people management, focusing on job quality, employee relations, performance, and wellbeing. His work centres on evidence-based HR, including leading research reviews, promoting evidence-based decision-making, and conducting qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies on topics such as workplace technology, motivation, organisational culture, and employee involvement. Previously at the CIPD for 12 years - where he established the Good Work Index and the evidence-based HR programme - he is now a Fellow of CEBMa, an Academic Member of the CIPD, Associate Editor at JOEPP, and a PhD candidate at Tilburg University researching work autonomy and managerial control.

Day 2 | Policy | Wednesday, 27th May

Creating Research Impact on Policy: Workshops and Themed Roundtables

Confirmed Speakers



Dr Joe Hamm | Criminal Justice and Trust in Public Institutions, Michigan State University

Joe's research focuses on public trust in governance and collaboration with national, state, and local agencies helping to monitor and strengthen that trust. He leads the Teaching, Researching, and Understanding the Social Science of Trust Lab, which supports PhD student-led research with practical and community impact. Joe serves as the Community Engagement lead for Michigan State University's Superfund Research Program and as editor in chief of Journal of Trust Research.



Dr Damian Thomas | Senior Policy Analyst, NESC (Dept of An Taoiseach)

Damian Thomas joined NESC in 2010 after working at the National Centre for Partnership and Performance (NCPP) since 2002 and earlier as a Research Officer with the Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants. He holds a PhD from Newcastle University (2003) focused on social partnership and governance in Ireland. From 2012–2014 he was seconded to the Department of Finance, where he worked on SME and non-bank financing and contributed to the establishment of the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland.

Day 3 | Peers | Thursday, 28th May

Creating Research Impact Among Academic Peers: Workshops and Themed Roundtables

Confirmed Speakers



Dr Sam Strizver | Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Sam Strizver is an Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior in the Lally School of Management at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 2025 and his B.A. in Psychological Sciences and English from the University of Connecticut in 2019. Sam's research examines the vulnerability of employment, often integrating perspectives on organizational trust and employee mental health.



Prof Felicity Kelliher | Professor of Management Practice, South East Technological University (SETU)

Professor of Management Practice at WIT and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Shanghai University, lecturing on leadership, change, and innovation. Research focuses on management capability development in SMEs - particularly rural businesses - using action research and longitudinal case methods, with engagement across 1,200+ firms. Chair of the RIKON research group, which has secured over €10m in funding, and a Fulbright alum collaborating internationally while publishing in leading management journals.



Roundtable Themes | Days 1-3

Trust

Academic Lead | Finian Buckley

Use of Social Media for Academic Research

Academic Lead | Gary Sinclair

If Innovation is the problem, is AI the solution?

Academic Lead | Peter Robbins

Digitalisation and the Changing Nature of Work

Academic Lead | Margaret Heffernan

ESG - Irrelevant or Imperative?

Academic Lead | Yuhui Gao and Aideen O'Dochartaigh

How To Apply

Submit a 2 page application to ppp.summerschool@dcu.ie by 14th April. You will be notified of outcomes by 23rd April.

Applications must contain:

- The title of your research project
- Your name, Your supervisor(s) name(s), Your Institution
- Your research question(s)
- Brief outline of the possible impact of your research for practice, policy, peers (100 words x 3)
- Your preferred theme for the roundtable sessions.

Practical Information

Dates

3 Days- Tuesday 26 May, Wed. 27th May, Thursday 28th May 2026

Location

DCU Business School, Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland.

Cost

€50 (this is a contribution to catering)

Deadline to Apply

14th April 2026

