Maynooth University
Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)
3 artists/creative writers-in-residence

ERC-funded project *Data Stories:*
Telling Stories About and With Planning and Property Data

About the Residency

Applications are invited by artists and writers of established reputation for three positions to work on the Data Stories project. All three positions run from August 2023 – July 2024, with duties expected to average 3 days a week working on two case studies, each running for six months. We have a broad view of what constitutes an artist or creative writer and will consider applications from the full spectrum of artists, including performance and installation artists and digital and media artists, craft workers, novelists, short story writers, playwrights, poets, cartoonists, essayists, and film and documentary makers.

The work associated with the positions is:

1) To work on two of the Data Stories case studies (scheduled for 6 months each).
2) To aid the research team to produce a data story relating to planning and property in Dublin.
3) To produce at least one data story for each case study through the artist/writer's own creative practice, drawing on the case study research findings and planning and property data relating to Dublin.
4) To produce at least one data story for each case study in collaboration with a sector stakeholder using a research creation workshop approach. This will involve several meetings with the stakeholder and researchers and running at least two workshops per case study.
5) To help with the artistic direction in public exhibitions of the produced data stories.
6) To document their creative practice on the project work, take part in interviews with the research team about the process of producing data stories, and discuss their experiences and viewpoints at public events relating to the project.

A contract-for-services fee of €32,000 inclusive of expenses is offered for the 12 month period, with €16,000 payable for each case study. The candidate will be a self-employed person for tax purposes in Ireland and will be solely responsible for all income tax, PRSI and other such payments due in respect of the remuneration paid. Payment of fees will comply with the University Finance rules.

Overview of the Data Stories project

The key idea of the Data Stories project is to focus critical attention on the underlying evidence base for planning and property activity (see https://datastories.maynoothuniversity.ie/). Planning and property data are a key to how cities are understood and managed. They inform government policy, shape public

perception, and guide billions of euros of investment relating to land use and development, public and private housing, homelessness, commercial real estate, and infrastructure. Yet, relatively little close, critical attention has been paid to such data beyond some technical considerations related to data access, coverage, quality and interoperability. The Data Stories project will address this lacuna, undertaking a five year programme of research in order to examine the data politics, praxes and power operating within the planning and property domains. It is divided into two phases.

Phase 1 of the Data Stories project, which consists of (i) charting in micro-detail the planning and property data ecosystem for Dublin – all the databases, their content and their interconnections across state, business, civic society stakeholders, including transnational exchanges; (ii) interviewing key actors about their data work and experiences. The objective here is to examine forensically what data are generated, how they are processed, shared, and governed, and to identify any gaps.

Phase 2 will work more closely with 12 sector stakeholders belonging to the Dublin data ecosystem (4 state, 4 business, 4 civic society) to conduct in-depth case studies. In part, this will involve using traditional social sciences methods (such as interviews, focus groups, observation of data generation procedures, walk-through interviews of data practices, in-situ ethnographies), but it will also employ research-creation methods utilising fiction and art practices (e.g., improvisational writing, word play techniques and facilitated conversations, and data art workshops that utilise data visualisation, physicalisation and creative media techniques), working with creative writers and artists to produce a set of data stories. Half of the case studies will produce data stories about, and half data stories with, planning and property data.

The artists and writers in residence will work on Phase 2 of the project.

Information Session

We will hold an information session on the project and posts where prospective applicants can find out more about the expected work and can ask questions. If you have a specific question email it in advance to rob.kitchin@mu.ie and we will make sure to address in the information session; or post information session send additional queries to the same email address.

Thurs 19th January 11.00am-12.00am (Irish time): **On Teams**. Click here to join the meeting

The session will be recorded and then shared on the project website, along with terms and conditions of the awards and answers to FAQ. https://datastories.maynoothuniversity.ie/?p=86

Who May Apply?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must have:

- An established track record of artistic or writing practice, including public exhibitions and published work.
- A commitment to using creative practice to explore social, political and technical issues.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to be an active workshop facilitator.
- Experience of working collaboratively on creative practices with community members or professional stakeholders.
- Good project management skills, including an ability to seed, develop and organise work research-creation workshops, manage workloads and timetables, and meet deadlines.
- Good communication skills and ability to present and discuss their creative practice with the public.
- Ability to work autonomously and responsibly to meet project goals.

Highly Desirable:

- Experience of employing a research-creation approach and producing data stories.
- Experience of reflecting on housing, planning, property issues.
- Experience of handling and working with planning, property or spatial data more broadly.

It is expected that interviews will be held in late February/early March 2023.

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute

Maynooth University enjoys an eminent reputation as a centre for research excellence and influence in the social sciences, and is committed to supporting high quality fundamental research, publicly engaged scholarship, evidence informed policy making, and innovation-based commerce, and enterprise.

Initially established in 2001 as the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI) was constituted in 2015 to bring together, consolidate and scale existing social scientific research expertise and research infrastructure across the campus as part of a single enterprise. MUSSI coordinates and directs a collaborative network which includes twelve Faculty of Social Sciences academic departments, and a number of centres and initiatives, including the National Centre for Geocomputation, Edward M Kennedy Institute, International Centre for Local and Regional Development, Centre for Mental Health and Community Research, and Scholars at Risk Europe. MUSSI also manages two national data infrastructures, the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA), and is a partner of the Digital Repository Ireland (DRI). To date over MUSSI has received over 550 grants, generating over €72M in research funds to Maynooth University.

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Monday 13th February, 2023**.

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies

To make an application, artists/writers should provide, <u>within a single document</u> the following information

- A cover letter explaining: your key achievements to date; why you would like to be considered for the role; your facilitation experiences; and indicative ideas of what you would like to work on (no more than 3 pages).

- A CV and portfolio of previous works (no more than 15 pages).

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

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Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer
The position is subject to the Statutes of the University

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