Maynooth University
Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI)
Post-Doctoral Researcher x 3
(48-month contract)

The Role

Maynooth University is committed to a strategy in which the primary University goals of excellent research and scholarship and outstanding education are interlinked and equally valued.

Due to the recent success in obtaining an ERC Advanced award to Professor Rob Kitchin (Data Stories: Telling Stories About and With Planning and Property Data), we are seeking three postdoctoral researchers to work on this project. The postdoctoral researchers will work on phase 1 and 2 of the project and will principally undertake the research for four case studies, including their preparation, fieldwork, analysis, and creation of their associated data stories, including coordination with the assigned creative writer/artist, as well aiding the organisation of exhibitions, and archiving and documenting the project. They will have experience of handling administrative datasets, using a variety of qualitative methods, and preferably familiarity with creative and artistic methods.

At least two of the postdoctoral researchers will have research experience in Human Geography, Urban Studies, or Planning. One post will preferably have research experience in Art and Design, Critical Data Studies, STS, Media Studies, or related disciplines.

The posts will be for 48 months, with an anticipated commencement of 01st February 2023.

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. The postdocs will contribute to this phase in Year 1.

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 postdoctoral researchers will predominately work on Phase 2 of the project.

Funded by the European Union. Views and pinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Principal Duties

Research, administrative, and other duties will include:

- Contributing to project tasks under the supervision of principal investigator Prof. Rob Kitchin and in collaboration with other project researchers, and contributing to research administration;
- Undertaking research in Phase 1 of the project, helping to document the planning and property data ecosystem and undertaking interviews.
- Leading four case studies in Phase 2 of the project, working with the PI, creative technologist, writer/artist, and the stakeholder organisation.
- For each case study being led, developing the research design, undertaking fieldwork, coordinating workshops, co-producing the data stories, and performing the analysis.
- Contributing to the documentation and archiving of the project into an open access repository, particularly related to the four case studies they are responsible for;
- Preparing the case study findings for public exhibitions and contributing to the organisation and running of the exhibitions;
- Writing up research for publication in international, peer-review journals, and presenting at national and international conferences;
- Helping with the organization of meetings and workshops related to the project;
- Assisting in the development and submission of new research proposals to funding agencies and other bodies;
- Complying with all University policies

The ideal candidate will have:

Essential:

- Either a PhD in Human Geography, Urban Studies, or Planning, or in Art and Design, Critical Data Studies, STS, Media Studies, or related disciplines.

- Strong working knowledge of planning, property, and housing issues and its underlying evidence base, or of data practices, policies and infrastructures within state, business and civil society organisations;
- A good working knowledge of handling and using administrative data, spatial data and databases;
- A deep knowledge and experience of using qualitative methods, particularly undertaking ethnographies, interviews and focus groups, and analysing the data generated.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and experience of working collaboratively in research teams and with external stakeholders.
- A willingness to work undertake interdisciplinary research and learn new knowledge and skills.
- Good project management skills, an ability to coordinate four case studies with stakeholders and to contribute to organisation of workshops, seminars and exhibitions.
- Ability to work with a degree of autonomy, manage workloads, deadlines, and responsibilities.
- A record of scholarly work and publication of international quality, appropriate to career stage;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills in English;

Desirable:

- Using and devising creative methods, such as creative writing, artistic methods, documentary film-making or live performance.
- Experience of working with artists and writers, or undertaking participatory practice, such as participatory GIS or citizen science.
- Experience of producing data stories and using interactive data visualisation.
- Experience of archiving data in an open repository.
- An ability to present research findings at international conferences.
- An ability to communicate effectively with non-academic audiences.

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.

The University

Maynooth University is a collegial institution focused on social sciences, humanities, science and engineering, and equally committed to research, teaching and community engagement. Located in Ireland's only university town, its distinctive features and character owe much to its unique history and heritage. It provides a high-quality educational experience to over 13,500 students on a campus with 18th century roots and 21st century dynamism.

The strategic trajectory and accomplishments of Maynooth University, in the twenty years since its establishment as an autonomous public university separate from St Patrick's College, are exceptional, and a source of great pride to the university community, staff, students and alumni. Maynooth University is now acknowledged to be one of the leading young universities in the world, ranked 43rd in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 'Young Universities' list. Maynooth University's growing global reputation is based on the originality, quality, importance and impact of its research and scholarship, commitment to teaching and learning, the quality of academic programmes, and its leadership in widening participation in higher education. The sources of success are the dedication of its staff and the energy and engagement of its students.

Maynooth University is a place of lively contrasts – a modern institution, dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged, yet grounded in historic academic strengths and scholarly traditions. With over 13,500 students Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level in the humanities, science and engineering and social sciences, including business, law and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth's unique collegial culture fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research, which its world-class academics bring to bear in tackling some of the most fundamental challenges facing society today. The University's research institutes and centres consolidate and deliver this impact as vibrant communities of learning, discovery and creation. Research at Maynooth also is very much central to its teaching and the University prides itself on placing equal value on its research and teaching missions.

Principles and Values
Maynooth University is committed to the following values:
- Scholarly rigour;
- Academic freedom;
- Integrity and ethical behaviour;
- Collegiality, transparency and trust;
- Equality, inclusiveness and social justice;
- Operational excellence, organisational flexibility and responsiveness;
- Dignity, respect and care for the individual.

Strategy 2018 - 2022
The University's Strategic Plan 2018-22 builds from a position of confidence. Maynooth University is a University with ambition, vision and values, a clear identity and sense of purpose, a history of achievement, and a future of considerable promise. The Strategy builds on the University's accomplishments and concentrates institutional energy and resources on further development of research and postgraduate education.

For more information please visit: http//www.maynoothuniversity.ie/about-us/university-strategic-plan

Selection and Appointment

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview;
- Candidates invited for interview will be required to make a brief presentation;
- Appointments will be approved by the President based on the report of the selection board;
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in mid-November 2022;
- The appointment is expected to be effective from 01st February 2023.

Equality and Diversity

Maynooth University values the enrichment that comes from a diverse community and seeks to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of each individual. To learn more about our commitment to Equality and Diversity, please read the Maynooth University Equality and Diversity Policy. Additionally, as an Athena SWAN Bronze Award Institute, we are committed to advancing gender equality across the University.

We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we serve and welcome applications from all individuals.

Terms and Conditions

This is a 48-month fixed term contract appointment.

The place of work is the campus of Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Data Protection Law

Maynooth University will process any personal data provided by you in connection with an application for this role in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Acts 2018.

If your application is successful and you accept an offer of employment at Maynooth University, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance with Maynooth University's Staff Data Privacy Notice.

Both the privacy notices and further information relating to data protection, including Maynooth University's other data protection policies and processes, can be viewed at https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/data-protection

Salary

Post-Doctoral Researcher (2022)   €39,523 1 point – with annual increment

The appointment will be made in accordance with the Department of Finance pay guidelines.

Application Procedure

Closing Date:

23:30hrs (local Irish time) on **Tuesday 1st November 2022**.

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

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

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.

Maynooth University is an equal opportunities employer

The position is subject to the Statutes of the University