



PhD Scholarship Opportunity

Post Specification

School: Department of Sociology & Criminology and ISS21/UCC Futures: Collective Social Futures

Contract Type: Fixed Term Whole-Time for 36 months

Job Type: Research

Salary: Full student fees (EU) plus €22,000 per annum (stipend) which includes pension (20%) and PRSI (11.05%). Additional funding for consumables and travel.

Closing Date for Applications: 25th March 2024

PhD Scholarship Opportunity - Doctoral Researcher in Dept Sociology & Criminology affiliated to ISS21 and UCC Futures: Collective Social Futures.

Applications are invited for a PhD scholarship to participate in the project EUROBORDERWALKS. This ground-breaking Irish Research Council Advanced Laureate funded project seeks to address a 'grand challenge' that exists in the sociological literature across critical border studies and the mobilities field, which is the dearth of ethnographic, biographical and visual, relational research on borders and 'borderities' at the edges of the European Union and the very meaning, experience and practice of borders, especially in contributing to European policy and education.

The successful applicant will make a key contribution to ethno-mimetic research in relation to ethnographic, biographical and arts based research on borders and 'borderities' with a specific focus on conducting a deep biographical mapping of the Irish Border using the walking interview as biographical method.

Background

EUROBORDERWALKS is an inter disciplinary, inter institutional and European research project anchored in biographical and mobile methodologies, the leadership and long history of the PI in this area together with the expertise by the collaborating partners in the University of Lodz and the University of Zagreb.

Many of the associated challenges with Europe's borders, in critical border studies, relate to border security concerns, especially in relation to unregulated migration, increasing nationalism, the risks of soft or porous borders, geopolitical shifts, as well as the impact of the UK exit from the European Union, and war.

An important contribution of this research is to open up horizons for research, knowledge, understanding *and* teaching and learning, from an ‘ethno-mimetic’ approach that involves documenting and writing the biography of three borders from ‘below’ as well as to impact upon policy, through a policy report, policy briefing, exhibition and a curriculum contribution to second level sociology education.

The research brings together sociological researchers with artists to critically analyse and understand the shifting and im/mobile borders, the securitisation and policing of borders, and contribute to critical border studies, mobilities and ‘mobility justice’ for our collective social futures.

The PhD researcher will work with the Principle Investigator, Professor Maggie O’Neill with a focus on the Irish border, and be supported by collaborating academics across the research team. This team will work as part of a wider network of sociological and inter disciplinary researchers engaged in the wider EUROBORDERWALKS project based at UCC and in the Department of Sociology, University of Zagreb and the Institute of Sociology, University of Lodz. Dr Michael McLoughlin, the artist working with the team on the Irish border will be an advisor on the PhD team.

The duration of the PhD will be three years, and will formally start in Work Package One on 1st April 2024.

The successful candidate will be required to attend UCC in person.

The successful candidate will become an affiliated member of the Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21) and UCC Futures: Collective Social Futures and be based in the Department of Sociology & Criminology.

Interviews are expected to take place at the end of **March** 2024

Essential criteria:

- Honours Degree and a Masters Degree in a discipline of relevance to EUROBORDERWALKS (Sociology, Anthropology, Social Science). (MA degree must be awarded).
- Qualitative research skills including skills in data collection
- Excellent communication skills in both written and oral format
- Ability to work independently and take own initiative
- Ability to work in an inter disciplinary team
- Ability to participate fully in the operational aspects of the project. This will include stakeholder engagement, event organisation, public communication, and dissemination of the project’s goals and findings to academic, policy, and wider stakeholders
- Previous experience with stakeholder engagement, particularly with community based organisations.
- Strong motivation to undertake a PhD, and in particular a passion to undertake biographical research at the Irish border using the walking interview as biographical research method.
- Strong motivation to publish in academic journals

Desirable criteria:

- Experience in interdisciplinary research with the ability to engage across diverse disciplines and practices
- Experience in conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Completed courses in research integrity, research ethics and data protection
- Experience in writing in scientific publications

Further Information

If you would like to discuss this role informally, please contact Prof. Maggie O’Neill (ISS21/CSF/Sociology and Criminology) (maggie.oneill@ucc.ie).

To Apply:

Please submit the following by email to Prof. Maggie O’Neill at maggie.oneill@ucc.ie (concurrently) with the subject heading of ‘**EUROBORDERWALKS - Doctoral Project**’:

- A CV with contact details for at least two referees.
- A personal statement (maximum 500 words) outlining why you would like to undertake a PhD in the area and explaining how your research interests relate to the post you are applying for.
- Transcripts of your undergraduate and Masters results (If these are not available before the closing date, they may be submitted separately from items above).
- An example of your written work.

The **closing date** for applications is Monday 25th March 2024.

The Department of Sociology & Criminology

Sociology & Criminology at UCC is at the cutting edge of teaching and research on the intersection between society, economy, ecology, politics, crime and culture. Staff pride themselves in being leaders in frontier research on sociological, criminological and anthropological theory, participatory, ethnographic and creative methodologies, political and cultural transformation, social inequalities, gender, sexuality, identity, migration, crime, violence and social justice, climate change, sustainable development, health, cities and societies of the future. Embracing the University’s ethos of ‘independent thinking’, the department offers a unique platform to acquire theoretical and methodological skills applicable to a wide range of research areas. Placing a strong emphasis on academic freedom in the interest of community service, social justice and societal relevance, the department of Sociology & Criminology strives to maintain its distinctive profile as a centre of research and teaching excellence, enabling our students to understand our contemporary society in the light of social justice, ideals and core values, so that we may think our way through our present challenges and imaginatively reinvent ourselves.

Institute of Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21)

ISS21 is an interdisciplinary research institute for the social sciences in UCC, that seeks to build, sustain and enhance research on social, economic and cultural issues that will shape Ireland during the 21st century.

ISS21 is hosts over 200 staff across 19 Departments in the University. Through our interdisciplinary thematic [Research Clusters & Working Groups](#) and funded [Research Projects](#), we address key questions facing Irish, European and global societies in the 21st century.

The Institute brings together social scientists from a broad range of disciplines to pursue research at Irish and international levels in interdisciplinary areas such as citizenship, childhood, innovation and creativity, family, gender, health, migration, social justice and sustainability. It involves collaboration between the following academic departments: Applied Social Studies, Applied Psychology, Chinese Studies, Economics, Education, Epidemiology and Public Health, Geography, General Practice, Government, History, Law, Nursing and Midwifery, Occupational Sciences and Therapies, Philosophy, Study of Religions and Sociology.

ISS21 Vision and Mission

Our mission is to generate imaginative, interdisciplinary, impactful social science research knowledge/s and methodologies to illuminate and respond to the complexities and challenges of 21st century society. By acting as a platform for attracting external grant funding, and providing an enabling, energising and connecting space for social science researchers that fosters and accelerates the development of interdisciplinary research networks and collaborations, ISS21 builds UCC's social science research capacity to respond to demands for reflexive forms of knowledge, innovative research practices, critical intellectual debate, and public engagement.

ISS21 welcomes new PhD students from across all colleges and departments within UCC and is open to social scientists from among current staff and research students in UCC who wish to be actively involved in interdisciplinary collaboration and promotion of the social sciences at UCC. There are a number of benefits to joining the institute, including:

- The chance to be part of a well-established, dynamic and supportive social-scientific research community
- Opportunities for research collaboration with colleagues from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds
- Opportunity to become actively involved in one or more of the institute's thematic [Research Clusters & Working Groups](#).
- Benefits of using your ISS21 affiliation in your external research activity
- Support in the development and preparation of research grant proposals for national and international funding calls.
- Regular up-dates on funding opportunities in the social sciences and on all institute events.
- Support with the development of internal, national and international research networks and funding partnerships.
- Promotion of research projects affiliated to ISS21 through the institute's website, twitter and newsletter.

- Opportunities for members to present their research through ISS21 research seminar series and other events.

Collective Social Futures

UCC Futures - Collective Social Futures is an ambitious new Social Science research programme at UCC. Building upon our history of outstanding social-science research, the Collective Social Futures interdisciplinary platform is led by the Institute for Social Science in the 21st century (ISS21) in collaboration with the Centre for Co-operative Studies, the Environmental Research Institute, Cleaner Production Promotion Unit, the Inclusion Health Research Group and other renowned centres and schools. Together we will leverage cross-disciplinary synergies throughout our University and beyond, for meaningful co-production of knowledge, oriented towards social change and ecologically sustainable transformation. Collective Social Futures seeks to critically understand, re-imagine and addressing the complex and intertwined societal, environmental and political challenges faced across the world. These include social and gender-based inequalities, geopolitical shifts, migration, health and climate change and the urgent need to foster a more caring and liveable world for all.

By driving innovative, critical, theoretical, participatory and community-engaged research, UCC Futures – Collective Social Futures will foster excellence in social research to understand, re-envision and enact our collective social futures.