



14th Annual NERI Labour Market Conference

Programme - Tuesday 26 May 2026

**South East Technological University (SETU), Waterford, Health Science Building (O'Connell
Bianconi Nursing Education Building)**

10.00 -10.20 Registration, Networking, Tea/Coffee & Scones, Location: Atrium, Health Science Building

10.20 – 10.35 Conference Welcome

Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17.

- Welcome: **Professor Veronica Campbell, SETU President**
- Welcome: **Mr. Paul Mac Flynn, Co-director, NERI**

10.35-11.45 1st set of parallel sessions (3 rooms)

Earnings [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-19]

Session 1A, Chair: Dr. Aisling Tuite, SETU Waterford

Dr. Tara McIndoe-Calder, ESRI & Trinity College Dublin (joint paper with Dr. Barra Roantree, Trinity College Dublin, Dr. Brian E. Higgins, IIES, Stockholm University, Mr. Kun Wu, UCD & Mr. Ciaran Judge, Department of Social Protection) - Boom, Bust, Rebound: Two Decades of Earnings Inequality, Risk & Mobility in Ireland
Mr. Albion Krasniqi, TU Dublin (joint paper with Dr. Rory O'Farrell, TU Dublin) - Unveiling the Penalty-Pay in the Hospitality Sector: Evidence from Western Europe
Dr. Frank Walsh, School of Economics, UCD - Estimating the impact of the minimum wage on hours worked using changes in Employment contributions

Climate [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-18]

Session 1B, Chair: Dr. Antoinette Jordan, SETU Carlow

Mr. Paul Goldrick-Kelly, NERI - Political economy & emissions in Ireland, Austria & Sweden
Dr. Alex Richardson & Vanessa Conroy, National Women's Council - Towards Ecofeminist Reproductive Economies
Dr. Micheál Collins, UCD - Ireland's Carbon Tax & Poverty: hidden recycling

Resilience [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17]

Session 1C, Chair: Dr. Ray Griffin, SETU Waterford

Dr. Paul Hanly, UCC (joint paper with Dr. Marta Ortega-Ortega, University of Madrid) - Labour Market Tightness & the Friction Period in Ireland & Europe: Estimating Illness-Related Productivity Costs after COVID-19
Mr. Joseph Kilroy, The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) - Building Adaptably: Addressing Speculative Vacancy & Urban Resilience in Ireland
Mr. Michael Taft, SIPTU - Ireland's Domestic Economy in Comparison: Are we Closing the Gap with Our Peer

11.50 – 13:00 2nd set of parallel sessions (3 rooms)

[*Inequality & Work*](#) [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17]

Session 2A, Chair: Dr. Tom Boland, UCC

Mr. Alfie Bingham, Queen's University Belfast (Joint paper with Dr. Heather Dickey & Dr. Corina Miller, Queen's University Belfast) - Parents, Partners, Pressures: Gender Norms & Female Labour Supply in the UK

Dr. Ebru Isikli, UCD - Occupational Gender Composition & Gender Backlash Attitudes: Cross-National Evidence from ESS Round 11

Ms. Gabriela Lobianco, UCC - Flexible Work, Migration & Gendered Career Inequalities in Multinational Corporations in Ireland

Ms. Sandra Donohoe, SETU Waterford - Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Strategy: What Works?

[*The Welfare State*](#) [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-18]

Session 2B, Chair: Dr. Rory O'Farrell, TU Dublin

Dr. Ray Griffin, SETU Waterford - When Rules Meet Reality: Appeals as Sites of Discretionary Repair in Ireland's Means-Testing System

Dr. Claire Keane, ESRI (joint paper with Dr. Brendan Walsh & Ms. Simona Sándorová) - Medical Card coverage & the impact of income limit freezes

Mr. Niall O'Donnellan & Mr. Aidan Campbell, Centre for Cross Border Co-operation – Place-based Economic Inactivity in the broad NW border regions of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland

Dr. Elish Kelly, ESRI (joint paper with Mr. Bertrand Maitre, ESRI) - The Labour Market Impact of Covid-19 on Individuals with Disabilities: The Case of Ireland

[*Artificial Intelligence & the Digital Transformation*](#) [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-19]

Session 2C, Chair: Mr. Paul Mac Flynn, NERI

Ms. Emma Holden, SETU Waterford - Legibility, Classification and Access in Digital-First Welfare

Mr. Kevin P. O'Kelly, TransFormWork 2 Project Co-ordinator - Social partners together towards a better & effective regulation of Artificial Intelligence for a just transition to the work of the future - TransFormWork 2

Dr. Aisling Tuite, SETU Waterford - Digital Welfare & the Limits of Human Oversight: Rethinking Power & Expertise in PES

Mr. Damian Hrynczuk, Department of Finance - The emerging impact of AI on employment patterns in Ireland

13.00 – 13.45 - Lunch break – Location: The Gallery Restaurant

13.45 – 14.35 – Plenary session

Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17. **Chairperson: Mr. Paul Mac Flynn**

Plenary Session

Title: Future Forty Report (2025-2065)

Presenters: Mr. Kevin Daly & Mr. Rob Barnes, Department of Finance

Respondent: Dr. Tom McDonnell, NERI

14.40 – 15.50 – 3rd set of parallel sessions (2 rooms)

Collective Bargaining [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17]

Session 3A, Chair: Ciarán Nugent, NERI

Mr. Ger Gibbons, ICTU - Ireland's action plan to promote collective bargaining

Dr. Daryl D'Art BL, Dublin City University - Ireland & the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages; Looking a gift horse in the mouth?

Professor John Geary, UCD (joint paper with Dr Maria Belizón, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid) - Workers' Orientations to Union Voice in Ireland: Findings from the Working in Ireland Survey, 2025

Dr. Tom Turner, University of Limerick (joint paper with Dr. Daryl D'Art BL, Dublin City University) - Hard times for trade unions in Ireland in the 21st century? Attracting a growing immigrant work force in an era of union decline & exclusion

Unemployment [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-18]

Session 3B, Chair: Dr. Michelle O'Sullivan, University of Limerick

Dr. Jerry Dixon, South East Technological University (SETU), Department of Lifelong Learning, Carlow - A regression analysis of the personality traits that mediate job seeking and reemployment

Dr. Tom Boland, UCC - Activating the Economically Inactive: Get Britain Working as extended governmentality

Dr. Neil Rowland, Queen's University Belfast (joint paper with Professor Duncan McVicar, Queen's University Belfast & Dr. Ian Shuttleworth, Queen's University Belfast) - Catholic-Protestant Unemployment Differentials in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the Republic of Ireland 1991-2011: A Comparative Study

Dr. Antoinette Jordan, SETU Carlow - "The Unemployment Problem" - External influences in Irish Labour Market Policy, 1926-2026

15.50 – 16.05 - Tea & Coffee, Biscuits – Location: Health Science Building, Atrium

16.05 – 17.00 – 4th set of parallel sessions – 2 rooms

Workers Rights [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-17]

Session 4A, Chair: Dr. Cormac O'Keeffe, SETU Waterford

Dr. Michelle O'Sullivan, University of Limerick (joint paper with Dr. Caroline Murphy, Dr. Tish Gibbons & Dr. Sarah MacCurtain, University of Limerick) - "Silent assassins" & "slick HR". A Study of Anti-union Tactics in Ireland

Dr. Alan Eustace, Trinity College Dublin (joint paper with Paul D. Maier BL, Law Library) - Just & Equitable in all the circumstances? Remedies at the Workplace Relations Commission & Labour Court

Precarious Work [Location: Health Science Building, Room G-18]

Session 4B, Chair: Ciarán Nugent

Mr. Eoin Coates, Maynooth University & Trade Union Official - Beyond Karshan: Tackling bogus self-employed through comprehensive legal testing

Dr. Majka Ryan, University of Limerick (joint paper with Dr. Caroline Murphy, University of Limerick) - Individualised risk in platform-mediated home care & domestic work: Insights from migrant workers in Ireland

17.00 Close of conference.
