

IHA Statement:

The IHA welcomes the 'Research for Public Policy' initiative

8 February 2021

Irish Humanities Alliance



The Irish Humanities Alliance welcomes the ‘Research for Public Policy’ seminar series, a joint initiative of the Royal Irish Academy and the Irish Research Council.

The ‘Research for Public Policy’ series currently underway is creating a vital conversation between key pillars of our culture and society. Speaking at the first seminar in the series, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris reflected on the importance of strong links between research and government, and the speakers throughout the seminar series will explore the opportunities to harness the diverse expertise of Ireland’s researchers for the common good.

The role of Arts and Humanities research is explicitly mentioned within the discussion paper by Mary Doyle which underpins the seminar series, and this is welcomed by the [Irish Humanities Alliance](#). Humanities research reflects deep expertise in human, societal, and cultural complexity, and this expertise is essential to developing policy that is responsive and respectful to the communities and individuals that it will impact. The all-island Irish Humanities Alliance working groups on the Medical Humanities, the Digital Humanities, and the Environmental Humanities, reflect the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary expertise across the research community, an essential component of successful policy engagement.

Policy shapes and forms the infrastructure through which we live our lives. The integration of arts and humanities research expertise in the policy process allows us to consider the historical, ethical, and comparative contexts of policy decisions. It focuses attention on diversity and inclusion in terms of the voices and perspectives that contribute to the evidence base that is used to inform policy. Arts and humanities research has the capacity to bring innovation, reflection, and creativity to the policy formation process. The Irish Humanities Alliance commends the Royal Irish Academy and the Irish Research Council for their leadership in developing this seminar series and looks forward to contributing to this important national conversation on the growing connections between research and policy.

Further information

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
E. info@irishhumanities.com