Proposal for LERU Doctoral Summer School
28 June => 3 July 2020 - Trinity College Dublin

Reasserting the Value of the Expert

The role of Doctoral Research and Researchers in Promoting the Importance of the ‘Expert’ in Europe

In this proposed Doctoral Summer School, we will explore both the current and emerging threats to the role and value of the expert in Europe, and also the ways in which researchers, and especially early-stage researchers can respond to this. How, in other words, can the next generation of researchers reclaim the role of the expert and convince people (including the suspicious and the cynical) as to the value of expertise and thus of research and researchers?

In terms of content, it is proposed that, on each day of the summer school, there would be
(a) A keynote lecture delivered by an ‘expert’ speaker
(b) Facilitated Group discussions about the issues raised
(c) A cultural event, including meeting with significant Irish politicians and other policy makers.

These events will help to generate the proposed output from the programme, namely the construction of a ‘LERU DOCTORAL STUDENTS POSITION PAPER ON STRATEGIES TO RECLAIM THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXPERT’. It is envisaged that, by the conclusion of this summer school, the group will have prepared and written such a position paper, to be submitted to LERU.
Provisional Programme

Sunday

(a) Check in
(b) Campus Tour
(c) Opening Reception

Monday: Topic “Are Experts Important?”

(a) Key Note Address
(b) Group discussions with focus on preparing the structures of the proposed policy paper
(c) Bus Tour of Dublin
(d) Dinner

Tuesday: Topic “Is there a Link between Populism and the Denigration of the Expert”

(a) Key Note Address
(b) Group discussion with focus on preparing an initial draft of one section of the policy paper
(c) Meeting with Senators/Judges
(d) Social event

Wednesday: Topic “Reclaiming the significance of the Expert”

(a) Key Note Address
(b) Group discussions with focus on preparing a complete first draft of policy paper
(c) Tour of Guinness Brewery
(d) Leisure evening

Thursday: Topic “Doctoral Students, Early Career Researchers and the Experts of the future”

(a) Key note address
(b) Group discussions and finalisation of policy paper
(c) Concluding social event

Friday: Topic “Conclusions”

(a) Group summaries of the Policy Paper
(b) Discussions on future actions – the publicization of the paper
(c) Final Remarks.