PhD Position in Sociology:

Social Inequalities in Children's Skills Development: A Longitudinal Project

Post specification

Post Title:	Provost PhD Scholarship Award
Post Status:	**48 months**, Full-time
Starting Date:	September 2018 (ideal start)
Department/Faculty:	Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Reports to:	**Dr. Pablo Gracia; Prof. Richard Layte**
Location:	Trinity College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland)
Salary:	20,000€ net payment per annum
Closing Date:	**31st of March 2018**

Post Summary

The **Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin (TCD)** is seeking to appoint an outstanding and highly motivated PhD candidate with **excellent qualifications** and a **strong potential** to write an outstanding PhD dissertation in the social sciences. The successful candidate is expected to conduct an innovative and cutting-edge PhD dissertation providing new understandings on how **social inequalities** operate in **children's lives and development** from infancy to later stages of the **life course**. The successful candidate is expected to apply state-of-the-art theoretical models in social science on advanced methodological techniques using rich longitudinal data. Candidates with strong interests in life-course research, social inequalities or child development, an MA, MSc or MPhil in Sociology, Economics, Demography, Psychology, Social Research, Social Policy or related fields, and a strong background and interest in **quantitative methods**, are particularly encouraged to apply.

The successful applicant will be integrated into the Department of Sociology at TCD. We look for an **enthusiastic PhD candidate** who is highly motivated to get excellent training in social science research and in advanced social research methodologies. The new PhD student will get **advanced methodological training** in social sciences, ranging from research design to mixed methods, and particularly in **quantitative and longitudinal techniques**. The successful applicant to this PhD Award Position will be embedded into a **stimulating intellectual and scientific community of social scientists at TCD**, with junior and senior social scientists who

apply innovative theories and methodologies to investigate key real-world sociological problems, such as social inequalities, population change, family life, health inequalities, ethnicity and migration, social network analysis and social policy evaluation. The successful applicant will be part of a large and diverse group of PhD students at the Department of Sociology and the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy at TCD, gaining expertise in the most critical skills and training required to write a strong PhD dissertation. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the **undergraduate teaching** within the Department of Sociology at TCD.

Informal enquiries from interested applicants, referees or organisations are most than welcome and can be made directly to **Dr Pablo Gracia** (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, TCD; graciap@tcd.ie) and **Prof. Richard Layte** (Head of Department, Full Professor, Department of Sociology, TCD; layter@tcd.ie).

Person Specification

Qualifications
- **MA, MSc or MPhil** in Sociology, Demography, Social Research, Economics, Psychology, Social Policy, Education or cognate fields.
- Evidence of solid training in **Research Design**, **Advanced Methods in Social Sciences**, and **Quantitative Methods**.

Expected Skills
- An **analytical, systematic and critical thinking** in social science research
- Ability to adopt an **interdisciplinary approach in social sciences**
- Strong skills in **data analysis**
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in **English language**;
- Experience in **management and analysis of micro-level quantitative data**
- High level of **quantitative method techniques**
- Advanced **technical skills** in Stata or comparable **statistical packages**
- Good **organisational skills** and ability to **work as part of a team**
- **Interpersonal and relational skills**

Desirable Skills
- Experience in using large **survey longitudinal data**
- Basic knowledge or potential to apply **mixed-methods techniques**
- Interest in further pursuing an **academic or teaching career**

Output Expected
- Writing an **excellent PhD dissertation** in sociology
- **Submission** of work in **competitive international scientific journals**
- Gaining solid **theoretical and methodological training** in social stratification, family research and social demography at high international standards
- Contribution to the **intellectual and academic community of TCD** by actively engaging in seminars and training courses at the **Sociology Department**.
- **Teaching contribution** to the Sociology Department (limited hours per year)

The Department of Sociology

Sociology is a member of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, one of 24 Schools within Trinity College. The Department's principal research clusters are: 'Employment, education and stratification'; 'Migration, integration and identities'; 'Power, conflict and resistance'; 'Social network analysis and digitalisation'. The Department shows a great variety of international sociologists with a high profile, becoming increasingly international, and combining the use of advanced quantitative methods applied to real-world data with the use of sophisticated and diverse qualitative methodologies. Our research links to several College priority research themes and centres: 'International Integration' centred within Trinity Research in Social Science (TRISS); 'Identities in Transformation', within the Trinity Long Room Hub (TLRH); 'Childhood Centre' (TRiCC); 'Inclusive Society'. The Department has a long-standing collaboration with one of Ireland's premier research institutes in socio-economic analysis, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Members of the Department have successfully obtained NORFACE or Horizon 2020 funding.

The Department has an active postgraduate programme. It is home to an MSc in 'Comparative Social Change', delivered jointly with University College Dublin, as well as an MPhil in 'Race, Ethnicity, Conflict.' It has a structured a PhD programme combining advanced methodological training with transferable skills workshops. There are over 20 PhD students and the Sociology doctoral graduates obtain positions in academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Further information on the Department of Sociology is available at: www.tcd.ie/sociology

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

The **School of Social Sciences and Philosophy** was formed in 2005 and comprises the Departments of Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology, together with the Policy Institute. With over 45 full-time academic staff, the School has an international reputation in research and is committed to the dissemination of its knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the wider community, with the Policy Institute providing an important channel for policy analysis and evaluation. The School is home to the unique undergraduate degree in PPES (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology). It also contributes to undergraduate degrees in Business, Economic and Social Studies (this includes Political Science and Sociology), Philosophy, History and Political Science, Philosophy and Political Science, Law and Political Science, Geography and Political Science, Sociology and Social Policy, European Studies and to the TSM programmes in Economics, Philosophy and Sociology. Over 100 graduate students are conducting research across the four disciplines.

Further information on the School is available at: www.tcd.ie/ssp

Trinity College Dublin

Founded in 1592, **Trinity College Dublin** is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread

across 47 acres in Dublin's city centre, Trinity's 17,000-strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity's campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland's leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is known for intellectual rigour, excellence, interdisciplinary approach, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new. Trinity accounts for one-fifth of all spin-out companies from Irish higher education institutions, helping to turn Ireland into an innovation-intensive, high-productivity economy. That culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of our campus as we help shape the next generation of job creators.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is an **equal opportunities employer** and is committed to the employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.

Application Procedure

The deadline to submit applications is the **31st of March 2018**

Candidates should submit the following documentation via email to **Dr Pablo Gracia** (graciap@tcd.ie) and **Prof. Richard Layte** (layter@tcd.ie), including as **cc the address of the Sociology Department** (Sociology@tcd.ie), and indicating exactly **"PhD Application in Sociology"** in the **subject line**:

1. A **motivation letter** clearly indicating how the applicant's profile and skills fit the requirements of this PhD position (**max. 2 pages**)
2. A full **curriculum vitae**
3. Names, affiliation, and contact details of **2 or 3 referees** (with their email addresses included)
4. **One example (at least) of a written piece** –expected in English– showing the analytical, writing, and empirical skills of the candidate in a social science discipline