



# A JUST RECOVERY? REAL JOBS IN A FAIR SOCIETY

**TASC-FEPS 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PROGRAMME**

*Friday 17th June 2016 • Ash Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin*

**TASC**  
Think-tank for Action on Social Change

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES  
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE  
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



# CONTEXT

As it marks the centenary of its independence struggle, post-crisis Ireland is faced with a challenge of how to achieve an economic recovery that ensures sustainable growth and quality employment. The future here and throughout Europe is overshadowed by risk and uncertainty – about labour markets, inequality, investment, ‘Brexit,’ and globalisation – such that even the way capitalism itself may evolve is hard to predict.

Against this backdrop the 7th Annual TASC-FEPS conference will map out the challenges and options for Ireland and Europe for a just transition towards a sustainable economy that offers citizens real and decent jobs and a more equal society.

This one day event brings together high-profile economists, academics, trade unionists and activists from Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe. The event sees the launch of TASC’s new in-depth study on Working Conditions in Ireland, *Enforced Flexibility? Working in Ireland today*.

# PROGRAMME

**9.00 – 9.30** Registration, tea/coffee

**9.30 – 9.40** Introduction: Dr Paula Clancy, TASC Board

**9.40 – 9.50** Setting the Scene: Dr David Begg,  
director TASC

*Does increasing inequality imply that the natural state of mankind is life that is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and long? We can trace many of our economic and social woes to a fact that lies hidden beneath the mountain of theories, statistics, arguments, and ideologies that the science of economics generates. The hidden fact is that economics, as it is generally understood, taught and practiced today, has by and large lost contact with ethics, and this has potentially huge social consequences.*

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**9.50 – 10.15** Keynote address: Professor John Weeks,  
University of London

*Professor Weeks is the author of ‘**Economics of the 1%: How Mainstream Economics Serves the Rich, Obscures Reality and Distorts Policy**’. In this book, Weeks challenges modern mainstream macroeconomic assumptions in the light of the recent economic and financial crisis. He insists that policies arising from mainstream economics benefit only the richest – the 1 per cent – at the cost of increased inequality and misery. For a decent society what is needed are economic policies that benefit the rest of us, the 99 per cent.*

**10.15 – 10.30** Q&A

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**10.40** Keynote address: President of Ireland,  
**Michael D. Higgins**

Introduced by Proinsias De Rossa,  
chair TASC Board

**Tea/coffee will be served outside the auditorium**

**11.30 – 13.00 Ending Austerity: Macro-economic policy for a fairer society**

*Mainstream economic policies justify austerity and legitimate inequality. As an alternative, European trade unions are now promoting the strategy of 'wage-led growth' to ensure a different and fairer society. What are the economic policies required for a just recovery?*

**Chair: Professor David Jacobson,**

TASC Economists' Network

**Speakers: Antonella Stirati,**

Professor of Economics Roma Tre University

**Signe Dahl,**

Senior Economist, Economic Council of the Labour Movement, Denmark

**12.30 – 13.00 Q&A**

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch – The Cusack Suite**

**14.00 – 15.15 What's happening to jobs in Ireland?**

*Many countries have seen more and more jobs where workers are badly paid, have no security and enjoy few workplace rights. Is this also the case in Ireland? The conference launches TASC's new report on working conditions in Ireland today.*

**Chair: Dr Micheál Collins,**

Nevin Economic Research Institute

**14.00 – 14.20 Keynote address: Patricia King,** General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

*Industrial unrest has been off the agenda for nearly a decade but recent months have seen a surge in industrial disputes especially in the transport and retail sectors. Patricia King is probably the best placed person in Ireland to interpret the signs of the times.*

**14.20 – 15.00 Enforced Flexibility? Working in Ireland today.**  
**Professor James Wickham and Dr Alicja Bobek**

*Growing income inequality in Ireland is partly caused by changes in the workplace. TASC's new report shows how in sectors as different as hospitality, construction, ICT and financial services the flexibility that workers want has been turned against them, consolidating a low wage sector at the heart of the Irish economy.*

**15.00 – 15.15 Q&A**

**15.15 – 15.30 Tea/coffee**

**15.30 – 17.30 Real jobs, decent pay: pipe dream or reality?**

*It's often argued that regulation to ensure good jobs merely undermines competitiveness and economic growth. A more realistic view is that good regulation is needed to restructure economic progress so that all workers benefit. What practical measures will promote good jobs in Ireland and Europe?*

**Chair: Dr Anne-Marie McGouran**, Policy Analyst, NESCI

**Speakers: Dr Michelle O'Sullivan**, Lecturer, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick

**Claire Courteille**, Director, International Labour Organisation, Brussels

**Dr Donald Storrie**, Head of the Employment and Change Unit, Eurofound

**17.00 – 17.15 Q&A**

**17.15 – 17.30 Closing remarks: Catalin Dragomirescu-Gaina**,  
Senior Economist, FEPS

# BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Dr. Paula Clancy** was founding director of TASC. She served in that position from 2001 to 2010 and returned to it for a brief period from 2014 to 2015. She is a member of the Board of TASC and is Chair of the TASC Research and Policy Committee. Prior to 2001, Dr Clancy held senior academic and management posts in third level education. Paula is author/co-author of a range of major research projects, most recently in the fields of political analysis and democratic accountability. She has authored a number of articles on the consequences of austerity in Ireland since the crisis. Publications include *'Mapping the Golden Circle'* (2010); *'Power to the People? Assessing Democracy in Ireland'*; (2007) and *'Outsourcing Government'* (2006).




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**Dr. David Begg** is Director of TASC. He is also Chairman of the Pensions Authority. He was formerly General Secretary of ICTU and spent five years as CEO of Concern Worldwide in the late 1990s. He has held a variety of non-executive positions including the Board of Aer Lingus, the Central Bank and the National Economic and Social Council. He was a Governor of The Irish Times Trust from 2001 to 2011 and is currently Chairman of Barnardos. He holds a Masters degree in International Relations from DCU and a PhD in Sociology from NUI Maynooth. His book comparing Ireland with other small open economies in Europe was published recently by Palgrave MacMillan.



**Professor John Weeks** is Professor Emeritus, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a founder of Economists for Rational Economic Policies. He is author of '*Economics of the 1%: How Mainstream Economics Serves the Rich, Obscures Reality and Distorts Policy*' (Anthem), and has a weekly commentary on Share Radio UK.

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**Proinsias De Rossa** Proinsias De Rossa is Chair of TASC's Board. He is a former MEP for Dublin (1989-1992, 1999-2012). He was a Member of the Dáil (TD) from 1982 to 2002 and served as Minister for Social Welfare from 1994 to 1997. As Minister, Proinsias introduced the first ever National Anti-Poverty Strategy in Ireland. Proinsias is also a member of the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and the European Movement.

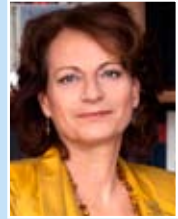
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**Professor David Jacobson** is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Dublin City University. He has written and lectured on various aspects of industrial policy and political economy in Ireland. In the 1990s he was an independent member of the National Economic and Social Council. He has also worked in many other countries, most recently Cyprus and China. For TASC he chaired the Commission on Industrial Policy and edited the resultant publication, '*The Nuts and Bolts of Innovation: New Perspectives on Irish Industrial Policy*' (2013). More recently he prepared (with Prof Jim Stewart) TASC's submission on the Knowledge Development Box to the Department of Finance (2015).



**Professor Antonella Stirati** is professor of Economics at Roma Tre University. She studied economics at the University of Siena (laurea in Scienze Economiche), Cambridge (M.Phil degree) and La Sapienza (PhD). Her research interests are in the development of the modern Surplus and Keynesian approaches, particularly in the fields of macroeconomics, employment and income distribution. She has published a book '*The Theory of Wages in Classical Economics*' (Elgar, 1994), co-edited '*Sraffa and the Reconstruction of Economic Theory*' (3 volumes, Palgrave-macmillan, 2013) and published a number of articles on international academic journals and collected volumes. Her article on '*Inflation, Unemployment and Hysteresis*' has been selected as one of the best 25 articles published on the *Review of Political Economy* since the journal was first issued. She co-edits the Italian on-line journal *Economia e politica*.



**Signe Dahl** is Senior Economist at the Economic Council of the Labour Movement, Denmark. She has a Master of Science in Economics. She has taken parts of the economic Masters degrees at American University in Washington DC in USA and University of Hyderabad in India. She is an expert on international economics and is co-author to several reports written in cooperation with the Foundation for European Progressive Studie, FEPS. She has also worked in the think tank The Globalist in Washington DC.





**Dr Micheál Collins** is a Senior Economist and Senior Research Officer at the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI) and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Economics at Trinity College Dublin. His research interests and publications are in the areas of income distribution, taxation, economic evaluation and public policy. He is Chairman of the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) and a former chairman of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) of Ireland. He was a member of the Republic of Ireland's Commission on Taxation (2008-2009) and the Government's Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare (2011-2014). He is currently a member of the National Competitiveness Council, the TCD Pensions Policy Research Group and the Living Wage Technical Group.



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**Patricia King** is the General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, ICTU. She is a former vice-President of SIPTU and also served as one of two vice-Presidents of Congress. A full time official with SIPTU for over 25 years, she was the first woman to serve as a national officer of the union when she was appointed vice-President, in May 2010.



She has represented workers in all areas of the economy, in both the public and private sectors. Patricia was a lead negotiator in both the Croke Park and Haddington Road agreements and is a member of the National Oversight Body tasked with implementation of the latter agreement. She played a leading role in the Irish Ferries dispute (2005/6) and in subsequent negotiations that saw an overhaul of employment rights law and the establishment of the National Employment Rights Authority (NERA). Patricia currently serves on the boards of Pobal and the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and was recently appointed to the board of the Apprenticeship Council.

**Professor James Wickham** is the Lead Researcher on the Working Conditions in Ireland Project at TASC.

James was Jean Monnet Professor of

European Labour Market Studies and Professor in Sociology at Trinity College Dublin. He has published widely on employment, transport and migration in Ireland and Europe. He is the author of *'Gridlock: Dublin's Transport Crisis and the Future of the City'* (New Island 2006) and co-author of *'New Mobilities in Europe: Polish Migration to Ireland post-2004'* (Manchester UP 2013). He has a BSc. in sociology from the LSE and a PhD from the University of Sussex. His new book *'Unequal Europe: Social divisions and social cohesion in an old continent'* (Routledge 2016) analyses the collapse of the European Social Model.



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**Dr Alicja Bobek** is the Researcher on the Working Conditions in Ireland Project at TASC. Alicja has a PhD in Sociology from Trinity College Dublin, an MA in Sociology and an MA in Migration and Ethnic Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. She previously worked as a teaching and research fellow in the Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin, where she was involved in projects related to migration, workplace and social integration. She is co-author of *'New Mobilities in Europe: Polish Migration to Ireland post-2004'* (Manchester UP 2013).

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**Dr Anne-Marie McGouran** is a policy analyst at the National Economic and Social Council; a board member of One Family (a charity which provides supports for lone parents); and a visiting research fellow with the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies in Trinity College Dublin. She previously worked as Head of the NDP Gender Equality Unit in the Dept of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, which advised policy makers on gender mainstreaming. Her PhD compared women's employment in France and Ireland, and the impact of government policies on this.



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**Dr Michelle O'Sullivan** is a lecturer in Industrial Relations at the University of Limerick. She has published widely in the areas of low wage work, minimum wage regulation, employment law, migrant workers, trade unions and employee voice. Michelle recently led a Kemmy Business School team to undertake the first study of zero hours contracts in Ireland which was commissioned by the Government. In October 2015, Michelle was appointed to the Board of the Workplace Relations Commission.



**Claire Courteille-Mulder** is the director of the office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Brussels since January 2014. Before joining the ILO, she was a director at the ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation) dealing with issues related to equality, social protection, informal economy, migration and gender. She started her carrier in the field of development cooperation and has worked for the UNHCR, the OSCE and several non-governmental organisations. She graduated from the London School of Economics in 1995 and the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1992.



**Dr Donald Storrie** is Head of the Employment and Change Unit at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, an EU Agency. He was previously Director of the Centre for European Labour Market Studies in Sweden. He has published academic research on labour economics and European employment policy. He has also worked as Business Editor at the main Swedish Business daily newspaper and as research officer at the Swedish Ministry of Employment. He was a member of European Employment Observatory for many years. He holds a BSc in mathematics and a PhD in economics.




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**Catalin Dragomirescu-Gaina** is a Senior Economist with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies. Previously, he worked as an Economist at the DG Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Italy for three years, mainly on topics related to labour economics. Before that, he was a Senior Economist at the National Bank of Romania for more than seven years, contributing to research activities related to monetary policy analysis, macroeconomics and finance. Catalin received his MSc in Finance and Banking from the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in 2003, where he specialized in finance, macroeconomics and applied econometrics. Catalin has extensive experience in economic research and economic policy analysis. His research interests span across macroeconomics, international finance, labour economics and applied econometrics. At FEPS, Catalin contributes to economic policy analysis and oversees a portfolio of research projects run in collaboration with academia, foundations and other FEPS stakeholders.





Think-tank for Action on Social Change

## [www.tasc.ie](http://www.tasc.ie)

**TASC is Ireland's independent, progressive think-tank whose core focus is economic equality and democratic accountability.**

As a public-education charity (CHY 14778), TASC seeks to raise the level of public knowledge about public policy, politics, economics, culture, the environment and related fields, to encourage a more equal, democratic and inclusive society.

TASC's mission is to produce policy analysis and present evidence-based proposals for the achievement of a more equal, flourishing society with accountable government and strong, responsible public engagement.

TASC's work focuses in particular on proposals to reduce Ireland's high and persistent level of economic inequality and to develop the genuine participation of people in decisions that affect them and their society.

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## [www.fepeurope.eu](http://www.fepeurope.eu)

**FEPS is the European progressive political foundation.**

The only progressive think-tank at European level establishes an intellectual crossroad between social democracy and the European project, putting fresh thinking at the core of its action.

As a platform for ideas, FEPS works in close collaboration with social democratic organisations, and in particular national foundations and think-tanks across Europe, to tackle the challenges that Europe faces today.

Close to the Party of European Socialists (PES) but nevertheless independent, FEPS embodies a new way of thinking on the social democratic, socialist and labour scene in Europe.



Think-tank for Action on Social Change

[www.tasc.ie](http://www.tasc.ie)

**Support TASC's Work**

Your donation helps TASC be an independent voice to ensure that arguments for equality and a just recovery are placed at the heart of public policy. Please go to the TASC desk at today's conference to discuss how you might donate to TASC. Alternatively please visit [www.tasc.ie/support](http://www.tasc.ie/support) for details of how you can make a donation, online or by post.

TASC currently receives funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies and The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, but these are time-limited grants and TASC is also dependent on individual donors and funding for projects done jointly with other organisations.

Donating monthly by direct debit to TASC is one of the most effective ways to support our work. With your regular donation, we can plan ahead and invest in the intensive research we need. Donors giving over €250 in a year can qualify for an additional tax refund to TASC.

TASC has a freepost address for donations (no stamp required if posted in Ireland):

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For further information on commissioning a project, or on entering a research partnership, please contact TASC at [contact@tasc.ie](mailto:contact@tasc.ie) or **01 6169050**