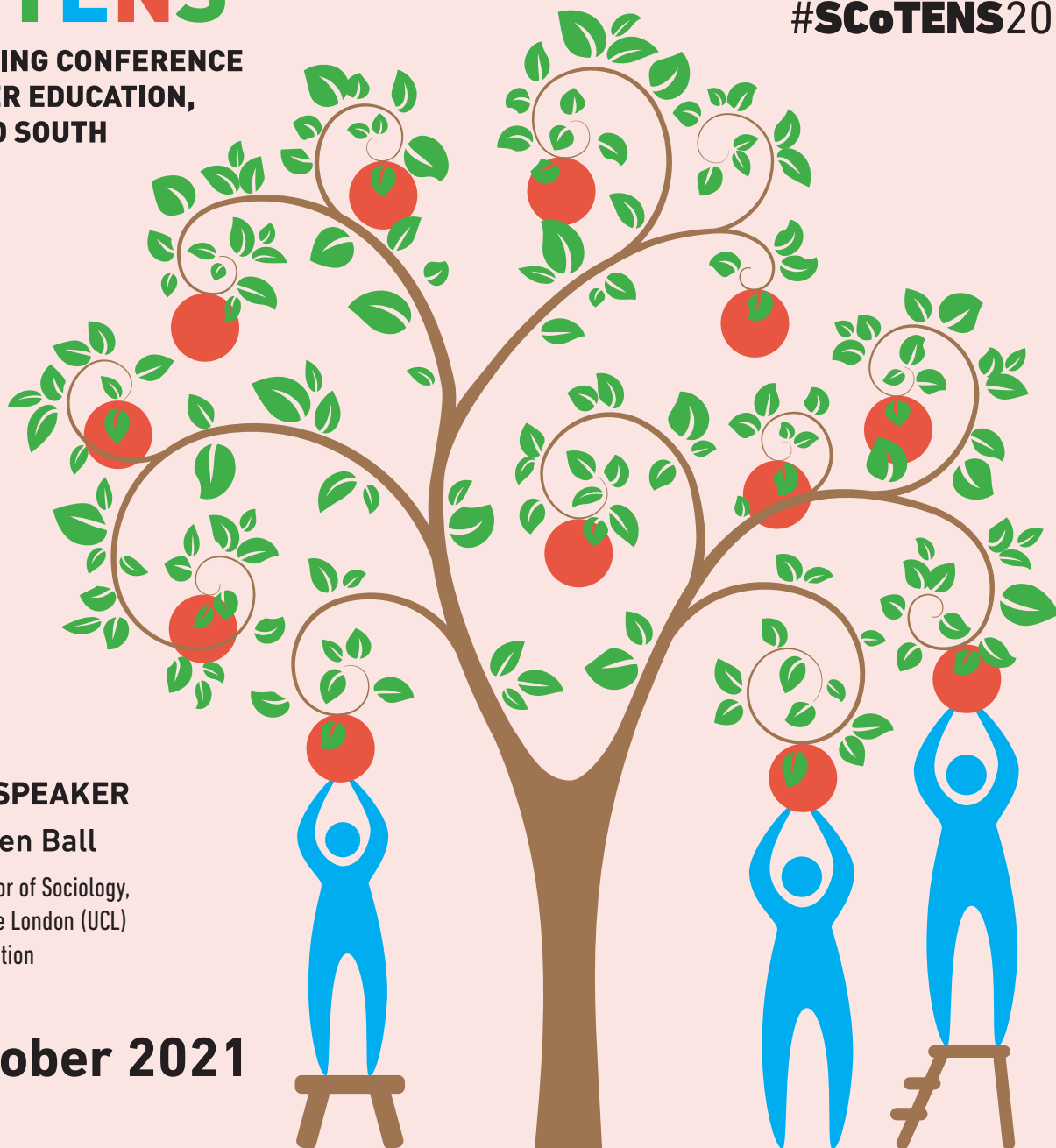


# SCoTENS

THE STANDING CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHER EDUCATION,  
NORTH AND SOUTH

Nineteenth Annual Conference  
#SCoTENS2021



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof Stephen Ball

Emeritus Professor of Sociology,  
University College London (UCL)  
Institute of Education

**21 October 2021**

Trimprint Ltd, Armagh

All in this together!  
**TEACHER EDUCATION**  
and **Social Justice**

**WEBINAR** [scotens.org](https://scotens.org)

Education is meant to be the great leveller, the great equalizer that also enables all learners develop their capacities and excel. From a social justice perspective, there is agreement that full appreciation of differences in linguistic background, class, culture, gender, ability, and race should be taken into account in our education policies and practices. How do we understand and enact social justice so that we can ensure we are ‘all in this together’? This year’s SCoTENS conference offers a timely opportunity to critically consider this major theme and examine questions such as:

- How can teachers, teacher educators and education leaders be both educators and advocates for social justice?
- To what extent can and should education be held to account for reducing inequalities?
- How can education itself, through schooling and teacher education, help redistribute educational and other opportunities?
- In what ways is education in the form of schooling, teacher education, accountability systems, assessment procedures, curriculum reform etc. complicit in constraining the democratic ideal?

Taking the view that social justice and teacher education is a form of action and a journey, rather than a destination to be arrived at, the SCoTENS organisers invite delegates to pose their own questions and contribute to the dialogue in the company of Professor Stephen Ball who will provoke and challenge us in his keynote address and a Panel of Speakers who will further inspire us through insights into their perspectives and practices.

# ONLINE THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021

- 10.00am **WELCOME**  
**Dr Maria Campbell**, Director of Graduate Programmes, School of Education, St. Angela's Sligo and co-Chair SCoTENS
- 10.05am **OPENING OF CONFERENCE**  
**Minister Norma Foley**, Minister for Education (South)
- 10.15am **INTRODUCTION TO KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Dr Maria Campbell**
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**Professor Stephen Ball**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University College London (UCL) Institute of Education  
*Against School: creating a space in which to think education differently*
- Question and Answer Session**  
Facilitators: **Prof Linda Clarke**, Professor of Education, School of Education, Ulster University, Coleraine and **Dr Maria Campbell**
- 11.15am **VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK**
- 11.30am **PANEL DISCUSSION**  
*Education is meant to be the great leveller: Are we all in this together?*
- Introduction: **Dr Gabrielle NigUidhir**, Senior Tutor for Development, St Mary's University College, Belfast and co-Chair SCoTENS
- CHAIR: Dr Conor Galvin**, Director of Doctoral Studies; Education, University College Dublin
- PANEL SPEAKERS**
- Koulla Yiasouma**, Children's Commissioner for NI  
**Tracie Tobin**, Principal, St Michael's National School Limerick  
**Dr Niall Muldoon**, Ombudsman for Children  
**Dr Geraldine Mooney Simmie**, Director of EPI\*STEM The National Centre for STEM Education at the University of Limerick  
**Dr Alison MacKenzie**, School of Sociology, Education and Social Work, Queen's University, Belfast  
**Stephen Ramsey**, St Gerard's School & Support Services
- Question and Answer Session**  
Facilitators: **Carmel Kearns**, Head of Teachers' Learning and Research, Teaching Council and **Des Carswell**, Lecturer at Mary Immaculate College, Ireland and representing ASTI, IFUT, INTO, TUI on SCoTENS Committee
- 12.45am **PANEL CLOSE**
- 7.00pm **DOCTORAL WORKSHOP**  
Facilitator for the Doctoral Roundtable Feedback Session  
**Dr Céline Healy**, Maynooth University Department of Education

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Dr Maria Campbell** joined the Education Department, St. Angela's College, Sligo, as lecturer in 2000 and is currently, Director of Graduate Programmes. She also teaches on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and has worked on collaborative international research projects in Europe and Africa over the past twenty years. Her research interests and publications focus on education in multicultural contexts, identity development, educational technologies and the reconceptualisation of Teacher Education. Her current research includes a project in Finland which examines education for sustainability; exploring how technology can support children in Hospital Schools who are 'distanced' and an examination of how best to support students teachers' as researchers in the field of education. Maria was invited by NOKUT (the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education) to deliver workshops to Norwegian teacher educators in 2018, following the introduction of the five years master's programme for primary teachers in Norway. She is Southern Chair of the cross-border body for teacher education on the island of Ireland – the Standing Conference for Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS 2019-2022).



**Norma Foley** is the Minister for Education. She was appointed to this role in June 2020.

Norma was elected to represent the Kerry constituency in the 2020 general election. She was previously a member of Kerry County Council for the Tralee area, serving from 1994 until her election to the Dáil in 2020. She also served as a member of Tralee Urban District Council until its abolition in 2014.



**Stephen J Ball, Emeritus Professor** of Sociology of Education at the University College London, Institute of Education. He was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 2006; and is also Fellow of the Society of Educational Studies, and a Laureate of Kappa Delta Phi; he has honorary doctorates from the Universities of Turku (Finland), and Leicester. He is co-founder of the Journal of Education Policy. His main areas of interest are in sociologically informed

education policy analysis and the relationships between education, education policy and social class. Recently, Stephen has been researching the digitalisation of education.

He has written 20 books, including two detective stories (*The Death of an External Examiner* and *Death in the Ivory Tower*), and has published over 140 journal articles. Recent books: *Edu.Net* (Routledge 2017), *Foucault as Educator* (Springer 2017) and *The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Education Debate* (2021).



**Prof Linda Clarke** was born in Brooklyn, New York, moving to Northern Ireland in early childhood. She qualified as a teacher in 1983 and served as a Geography teacher and head of department for 15 years. Her Masters degree is in Education Technology and her PhD examines the use of Elearning in Teacher Education. She was appointed as a lecturer in Education at the Ulster University in 2001 with teaching responsibilities in initial

teacher education (as Course Director in PGCE Geography) and in CPD courses in the ICT pathway of the MEd. Linda Clarke served a four-year term as Head of the School of Education at Ulster from 2009 to 2013. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Linda's key research interests lie in teacher education and pedagogical practice.



**Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir** is Senior Tutor for Development in St Mary's University College Belfast. She lectures within the area of Irish-medium primary education and has published work from a range of immersion education perspectives. In her most recent research, she analyses pupils' competences in the target language and she is currently seeking to develop pedagogies for teachers and teacher educators. Dr Nig Uidhir leads research among her peers in St Mary's with a focus on research-informed teaching.



**Dr Conor Galvin** is Director of Doctoral Studies at the UCD Dublin School of Education where he also lectures and researches on various education, public policy and research methods programmes. His research interests include policy networks, social capital, professional knowledge, and the impact of new and emergent technology on learning and society. He has been an external evaluator on several EU funded projects and an assessor on a number of EU Actions. Dr Galvin holds The President's Award for Teaching Excellence at UCD, and is also a Teaching Award Holder 2016 of the prestigious *Universities Teaching & Learning Forum / USI Award*. He was a Visiting Scholar at University of Cambridge Faculty of Education in 2000 and again in 2009. He is a past-President of the Education Studies Association of Ireland and an Appointee to the Minister for Education's Working Group on the *Schools Excellence Fund – Digital, Ireland*. Before joining UCD, Dr Galvin worked at University of Wales, Swansea and University of Cambridge, England.



**Koulla Yiasouma** took up appointment as NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) in March 2015. She trained as a social worker and previously worked in probation, NI Women's Aid and prior to her appointment was the Director of Include Youth for almost 17 years. She has also been involved in the boards of a number of voluntary and community based organisation as well as non-departmental public bodies. She is a passionate advocate for the rights of all children, especially those with the most challenging behaviours, and she represented these issues on these bodies. As a Human Rights institution, the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People is appointed by the First and Deputy First Ministers and tasked to promote and safeguard the rights and best interests of children and young people across Northern Ireland. This includes advising public authorities, and holding them to account in a variety of ways, on their delivery of children's rights. Koulla set key strategic priorities for her term in Office. These include addressing educational inequalities, tackling child poverty, improving emotional and mental well-being and addressing the on-going legacy of the conflict on children and young people. Koulla is of Greek Cypriot origin and is married with two daughters. She was born in London and is therefore an avid Arsenal supporter.



**Tracie Tobin** is Principal of St Michael's Infant School in Limerick City. She graduated from Mary Immaculate College in 1996 with a B.Ed. degree and in 2008 with a Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs. She is particularly interested in the Maths Recovery Programme and completed a Master's in Education on this topic in 2009. Tracie is dedicated to educational disadvantage and has worked in DEIS schools for all of her teaching career.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS

She was elected to the Teaching Council in 2016 where she represents the primary teachers of Munster. She is currently serving her second four year term. She is a member of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation's National Equality Committee where she has represented the teachers of Limerick and Kerry since 2011. Tracie is also chairperson of Bedford Row Family Project which is based in Limerick City. This fosters a strong link between her work in education to the community and outreach programmes offered by the Project to families affected by imprisonment. Tracie is currently the co-lead on the City Connects Implementation Team, a pilot project based in the North East Inner City of Dublin.



**Dr Niall Muldoon** is Ireland's second Ombudsman for Children. Niall, who is a counselling and clinical psychologist and was previously Director of Investigations at the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO), was first appointed by President Michael D Higgins on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2015. He was re-appointed recently for another 6 year term. As Ombudsman for Children Niall has focused on generating an Ireland where children and young

people are actively heard, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

In line with that focus, during his tenure the Office has carried out consultations with young people availing of Ireland's Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), living in Direct Provision, those in Ireland's children's hospitals, young people living in Family Hubs and young people affected by Brexit. The OCO has also published a range of special reports on topics such as Education, Mental Health, Scoliosis, School Transport, as well as investigations highlighting cases where children's rights were not respected in the provision of disability supports, in the care system and in housing. Under Niall's tenure the OCO hosted Beyond Limits: Empowering young people with disabilities the first event of its kind bringing together speakers, demonstrations, information and activities – all focused on children with disabilities. Working with others, Niall has contributed to the introduction of a pilot co-location service in Galway for young people who have suffered sexual abuse and bringing an end to young people being held in adult prisons. He is also a member of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) where he held the role of Secretary on the Bureau for a number of years. The Office has developed resources to support other organisations to promote children's rights including A Guide to Child Centred Complaint Handling and Good Practice for Children's Participation in Decision Making.



**Dr Geraldine Mooney Simmie** is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at the University of Limerick where she lectures in Policy Studies. Geraldine is also the Director (acting) of EPI\*STEM the National Centre for STEM Education.

Geraldine's research interest is in emancipatory teaching and teacher professional learning, and the intersection between teacher education, ethics, social justice, gender justice and democracy.

Her theorisation of Teacher Professional Learning as a holistic and cultural endeavour imbued with transformative possibility is now published in *Educational Review* (2021). Her book *Democracy and Teacher Education, Dilemmas, Challenges and Possibilities* is with Routledge (2020).



**Dr Alison MacKenzie** is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Sociology, Education and Social Work at Queen's University, Belfast (QUB), UK. She is the director of the master's programme in Special Needs Education and Inclusion. Alison's research interests include social justice for marginalised groups, epistemic injustice, epistemology of ignorance and deceit, and children's rights, and has published a number of papers in these areas. She

is a member of the Centre for Children's Rights at QUB and supports CARA as a mentor for Syrian refugees in Turkey.



**Stephen Ramsey** has 25 years experience in the teaching profession. He has had the privilege of teaching children and young adults in primary, secondary and at university level. For the past six years he has been principal of St Gerard's Special School. St Gerard's is a large catholic co-educational special school that caters for pupils from the ages of 3-19 with a range of additional needs. There are 352 pupils and 160 staff in the school. All students

are referred to the school by the Education Authority, and have a Statement of Special Educational Need. The school provides small class settings with highly skilled and experienced Teaching and Learning Assistant support staff. It is within the school's ethos that every child within St Gerard's has a happy, fulfilling and successful school career and develops the skills to transition into adult life.



**Carmel Kearns** is Head of Teachers' Learning and Research in the Teaching Council. She supports the work of the Council's Education Committee, and has played a key role in the development of a range of landmark policy documents, including the first Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers, the Council's *Policy on the Continuum of Teacher Education and Droichead, An Integrated Induction Framework*. She was instrumental in the development of the

Council's professional accreditation criteria for reconceptualised ITE programmes, and led the process by which all programmes in Ireland were reviewed for accreditation purposes for the first time. More recently, she has supported the development of *Cosán*, the national framework for teachers' learning in Ireland, and she is currently supporting a development process whereby the framework can be further refined by teachers and other stakeholders. She is also responsible for the implementation of the Council's research strategy, CROÍ, including a comprehensive annual programme aimed at enhancing the connections between research, policy and practice.

Prior to joining the Teaching Council, Carmel worked as Communications Manager with the Health and Safety Authority. She holds a B.A. (Hons) in Communications Studies from Dublin City University, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Studies from the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business in UCD, an M.A. in Public Management from the Institute of Public Administration, as well as post-graduate certificates in a number of areas including Occupational Safety and Health, and Regulatory Management. She is currently studying for an MSc with the Open University.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & CHAIRPERSONS



**Des Carswell** is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Mary Immaculate College Limerick. Des lectures on the B.A. in Early Childhood Care and Education and the Graduate Certificate/M.Ed. in Middle Leadership and Mentoring in Primary and Post-Primary Schools at MIC Thurles Campus. Des' research interests are in the area of teacher identity, teacher competence frameworks and early childhood education. Des, in his work with the Irish

Federation of University Teachers, is representing teacher unions (ASTI, IFUT, INTO and TUI) on the SCoTENS committee. Des is currently completing a PhD in Education at the University of Limerick researching primary school teacher identity formation across the continuum of teacher education.



**Dr Céline Healy** is a lecturer in education at Maynooth University Department of Education where she is programme director of the Masters of Education. She is vice-president of the Education Studies Association of Ireland. Her current research interests centre on teaching and learning, with particular reference to second language education, creative pedagogies, and initial teacher education.

## **SCoTENS COMMITTEE (2020-2021)**

Dr Noel Purdy and Dr Maria Campbell (co-Chairs), Professor Linda Clarke, Professor Kathy Hall, Dr Conor Galvin, Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir, Dr Pamela Cowan, Des Carswell, Gerry Devlin, Carmel Kearns, Dr Lorraine Harbison

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## **CONTACTS**

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The Secretary of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South is Anthony Soares, and its Administrator is Tricia Kelly. They can be contacted at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh, BT61 7EB

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