

Context

Europe is not a monolithic entity. Nor is it simply a collection of nation states. It is, rather, a union of about 510 million individuals who differ from one another in a variety of ways while also sharing many characteristics associated with their ethnic, social, political, economic, religious, or national characteristics. Each individual has their own attitudes, beliefs, and opinions on a whole host of different factors. If we are to understand what Europe really means, what lies at the heart and soul of the European project, then we must come to some deep understanding of both the individual differences and the collective similarities of the European population.

The **European Social Survey** provides a wealth of research data. It allows free access to the results of more than 300,000 completed interviews from first six survey Rounds (2002-2012), giving European, and international, social scientists and policy makers unprecedented access to a major resource on Europe's changing social conditions in the opening years of 21st century. More than 30 countries have participated in at least one survey round and respondents in countries range from teenagers to nonagenarians (15 to 90+). Researchers have responded to the availability of ESS data and to date there are in excess of 2,300 academic publications involving the use of ESS data, dealing with the topics investigated in the survey as well as dealing with its research approach and methodology. Some 475 different journals have published articles using the ESS data. Registered data users of ESS data now number more than 74,000 and numerous other users access its online training resource, Edunet. It is worth noting that about 65% of the journal publications include the Irish data from ESS in their analyses.

Papers

The conference welcomes papers dealing with any aspect of the European Social Survey. Papers which utilise additional European datasets such as the European Values Study or the ISSP are especially welcome. Preference will be given to papers that (1) include the Irish ESS data and (2) make use of advanced statistical techniques, but papers from novice researchers will also be welcome. The conference is hosted by Mary Immaculate College.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words, they should contain a proposed title, list of keywords and selected references, along with the full names of author(s) and institutional affiliation(s).

Topics include but are not restricted to:

- Immigration,
- Trust in institutions,
- Moral and social values,
- Citizen involvement and democracy,
- Health and social care,
- Personal and social wellbeing,
- Attitudes to welfare,
- Social exclusion
- Religiosity
- Survey methodology

The deadline for submissions is the 28th of February 2015. Submissions should be emailed to ess5@mic.ul.ie with a subject line reading: "ESS Ireland 2015". Check back for details on the conference website in the new year, after January 9th.

Keynote Speakers:

Prof David Voas, Professor of Population Studies at the University of Essex
Rory Fitzgerald, Principal Investigator and Director of ESS, City University London
Dr. Alice Ramos, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon

Funding

The conference is generously supported by the Irish Research Council and no charges will apply, but all presenters must register in advance. A limited number of travel bursaries will be made available for PhD students and neophyte/early career researchers. Details of how to apply for bursaries will be posted shortly.

Timeline

Call for abstracts	8 th December 2014
Open Deadline for abstracts	28 th February 2015
Registration opens	18 th March 2015
Notification of acceptance	30 th March 2015
Deadline for registration	18 th April 2015
Final conference program	30 th April 2015
Conference	28 th -29 th May 2015