dsaIreland
a space for dialogue between development researchers policy-makers and practitioners

EADI European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes

DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUES

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Thursday, 29 October 2026	2.00–6.00 p.m.	JM Synge Lecture Theatre, Trinity College Dublin

Hosted by the Development Studies Association Ireland (DSAI) as part of the Directors' Meeting of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).

PART I	European Development Cooperation in the current conjuncture
2.00–2.30 p.m.	**Arrival and registration**
2.30–2.40 p.m.	**Welcome and introductions** Chair, DSAI · President, EADI
2.40–3.00 p.m.	**Keynote address** Mr Barry Andrews, MEP
3.00–3.30 p.m.	**Panel response and inputs** Dr Sinead Walsh · Dr Eilish Dillon · Mr Andrew Sherriff · Prof Andy Sumner
3.30–4.00 p.m.	**Audience Q&A** Moderated discussion
4.00–4.30 p.m.	**BREAK**

PART II	Crisis preparedness for the incoming storm
4.30–4.40 p.m.	**Welcome and introduction** Chair, DSAI · President, EADI
4.40–5.00 p.m.	**Keynote address** Dr Sinead Walsh
5.00–5.30 p.m.	**Panel discussion** Prof Gerard McCann · Dr Abdelbagi Ahmed · Mr Connell Foley · Dr Nita Mishra
5.30–5.50 p.m.	**Audience Q&A** Moderated discussion
5.50 p.m.	**Reflections, thanks and close** President, EADI

SPEAKER PROFILES

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mr Barry Andrews, MEP

Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament



Barry Andrews is a Member of the European Parliament, representing Dublin since 2019. A member of the Fianna Fáil party in Ireland who is part of Renew Europe, they are under the ALDE Party umbrella in Europe.

Before being elected as an MEP in 2019, Barry was Minister for Children in the Irish Government from 2008-2011 and was a TD (Member of Parliament) from 2002-2011. From 1999-2002, he was a Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council member in Co. Dublin. A teacher by profession, Barry's professional experience includes serving as CEO of GOAL, a global humanitarian response agency, and Director General of the Institute of International & European Affairs.

Barry's work in the European Parliament since being re-elected in 2024, topping the poll in Dublin, includes a number of high-profile positions, including:

- Chair of the Committee on International Development
- Co-chair of the Democracy Support Group
- Vice Chair of the Palestine Delegation
- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
- Delegation of relations with the UK

Barry is married, with three children.

Dr Sinead Walsh

Principal Research Fellow on Climate and Environment, ODI Global; Freelance Consultant and Author



Sinead Walsh is Principal Research Fellow on Climate and Environment at ODI Global and a freelance consultant and author. Sinead Walsh spent five years as Climate Director in Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs working mainly on climate finance for Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and conflict-affected countries; adaptation; Loss and Damage; and intersections between climate change, development and humanitarian issues.

Prior to this she served as the EU Ambassador to South Sudan and Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Head of Irish Aid in the two countries. Before joining the government, Sinead spent ten years in the NGO sector in India, Pakistan, Rwanda and South Sudan, mostly working with Concern Worldwide. She has a PhD in Social Policy from the LSE. She is the author of the 2025 book *10 Lessons in Localisation: Making Aid Work for Communities* and the co-author of *Getting to Zero: A Doctor and A Diplomat on the Ebola Frontline.* She is a member of the Board of the Sanctuary Runners and of the Mary Robinson Centre.

DSAI CHAIR & EADI PRESIDENT

Dr Susan Murphy

Associate Professor in Development Practice, Trinity College Dublin; Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences; ERC Principal Investigator, GEOFORMATIONS



Dr Susan Murphy is the Associate Professor of Development Practice and Director of Research at the School of Natural Sciences (Discipline of Geography), Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, Principal Investigator of GEOFORMATIONS and the Climate Justice and Development Research Group. GEOFORMATIONS is a European Research Council (ERC) funded project exploring governance relations within transnational development cooperation practices. Her research interests are in development governance, ethics, policy, and practice. She explores how development governance systems are designed, planned, implemented, monitored, evaluated, and overseen within the climate-development nexus. As a collaborative, engaged researcher, she conducts transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary research with expert practitioners, organisations, and researchers. In addition, she holds several external roles, including Chair of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Audit Committee; Chair of the Development Studies Association of Ireland; Steering Committee Member of the EUROMEMO Group; and Executive Committee Member of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). Previously, she served as Chair of the Board of Trustees, Oxfam Ireland; a member of the Board of Supervisors, Oxfam International; and co-convenor of the British International Studies Association (BISA) Ethics and World Politics Working Group.

Prof Andy Sumner

Professor of International Development, King's College London; President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)



Andy Sumner is Professor of International Development at King's College London. He is President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), which has over 100 institutional members.

Questions of global inequality runs through all his work. Specifically, how inequality is produced and reproduced, within countries and between them, and how economics, politics and policy shape it.

He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Royal Society of Arts. In Indonesia, he is Visiting Professor at the Centre for Economics and Development Studies, Padjadjaran University. He is a Senior Non-Resident Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, and the Center for Global Development, Washington DC.

Andy co-founded the International Development Institute at King's which has since grown into a department. Over 25 years he has published 16 books and more than 100 papers.

PANELLISTS

Dr Abdelbagi Ahmed, MBBS, EMDM, MScEMS, EBCEM, MedEdCert

Emergency Physician, Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast; Queen's University Belfast



Dr Abdelbagi Ahmed is a Medical Doctor and Consultant with the National Health Service in the United Kingdom, primarily based at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH). He has also worked for many years in emergency care across hospitals in Sudan. He served with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Sub-Saharan Africa and is currently a lecturer in Medical Biology at Queen's University Belfast. He is a founding member of the Sudanese Advocacy Association Northern Ireland (SAANI). He has experience of medical provision in many war contexts across Africa.

Dr Eilish Dillon

Assistant Professor and Director, Centre for Global Development, Maynooth University



Dr Eilish Dillon is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Maynooth University Centre for Global Development, where she teaches at postgraduate and undergraduate levels on different aspects of critical development theory and practice. Eilish has been actively engaged in global and development education in Ireland for over 30 years. She has been a regular contributor to civil society global development and education projects during this time through work with and membership of organisations such as Comhlámh, Amnesty International, Banúlacht and the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA). She completed doctoral research in adult and higher education in 2017, and has published widely on global and development education and on ethical communications in global development. In 2024, she co-edited a book, 'Global Education in Ireland: Critical Histories and Future Directions', published by Bloomsbury Press, which is available to download free by open access here.

Mr Connell Foley

Former Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning, Concern Worldwide



Connell Foley recently retired from Concern Worldwide, where he spent the last 16 years as Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning, leading a team comprising technical programme specialists, advocates and development educators.

He spearheaded the drive for programme quality, results and evidence and led the development of an action-research portfolio of programmes and engagement with researchers.

He served on the Steering Committee of DSAI in its early years, served on the Dóchas Board and was Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, a global movement aiming to reduce all forms of malnutrition, for three years leading up to his retirement.

Prof Gerard McCann

Head of International Programmes and Principal Lecturer, St Mary's University College, Queen's University Belfast



Professor Gerard McCann is Head of International Programmes and a Principal Lecturer at St Mary's University College, Queen's University Belfast. He has been a Visiting Professor to Lviv University in Ukraine and the Jagiellonian University in Poland and is a founding partner of the Education in Ukraine (EDUWAP) consortium. He is the Treasurer of the Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies (CADA) and is editor of the Working Papers Series for the Development Studies Association Ireland (DSAI). He has published extensively on international development.

Dr Nita Mishra

Associate Professor, Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Limerick; Vice President (Education & Next Generation), European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)



Dr Nita Mishra is an Associate Professor at the Dept of Politics & Public Administration, University of Limerick. She is also one of the three Vice Presidents (Education & Next Generation) of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). Her research (women and empowerment, rights-based approaches, food governance, arts-based methods) emerges from her evidence-based development practice in the global South, and two decades of volunteering in the global North. Dr Mishra's critically acclaimed poetry has shaped migrant narratives and policies in Ireland.

Mr Andrew Sherriff

Associate Director, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)



Andrew Sherriff is associate director of Institutional relations and partnerships at ECDPM and a member of its management team. He has more than 25 years of experience working on European and international cooperation, with particular expertise in EU external action, foreign and development policy and the financing of the EU's international ambitions. His policy work examines how geopolitical, political and economic change is reshaping European international cooperation. His areas of expertise include EU development cooperation and international partnerships; the EU's external financing instruments and Multiannual Financial Framework; Global Europe/NDICI and Global Gateway; Africa-Europe relations; multilateralism and the post-2030 agenda; and peace, security and conflict prevention.

Andrew regularly advises and engages with European institutions, EU member states and international partners, and has undertaken numerous policy reviews, evaluations and advisory assignments relating to EU external action and international cooperation. He is a frequent speaker and commentator on the changing European and global policy environment. Prior to joining ECDPM in 2008, Andrew worked as an independent consultant to European government agencies, NGOs and think tanks. He previously worked at International Alert and has taught at the American University School of International Service in Washington D.C. Andrew holds a master's degree in international studies from the University of Limerick and a bachelor's degree with honours in international relations from Staffordshire University. He was a visiting EU scholar at the University of Calgary.