

M.A. in Social Change: Societies in Transition (2009-2010)

Delivered by the Dept of Sociology

This is a one year full-time course that aims to provide graduates with the necessary critical and analytical skills to make sense of societies undergoing rapid and dramatic transitions. The programme is set against the backdrop of the recent global turbulence in financial markets and the related economic downturn. It will be delivered by staff from within the Department of Sociology who are leading analysts in this field.

- Students will develop their ability to apply theories of social change to empirical investigation.
- Students will enhance their ability to communicate effectively through regular class presentations and discussions.
- Students will receive advanced training in sociological methods and will be supported in using these methods in their dissertation work.
- Students will gain an enhanced understanding of the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of Irish society in comparative perspective.

Structure

Students will undertake a two-semester module on the Ideologies of Social Change: Five Big Ideas. The emphasis will be on critical reading and analysis of core texts dealing with the particular challenges posed in societies undergoing transition and change. Additional substantive modules focus on the political economy, power and cultural dimensions of social change and include: the political economy of economic development; Globalisation and its discontents; Power and inequality; Social movements: old and new; Ireland as a global spectacle; and Collective memory and social change. Students will select two additional modules from a suite of advanced research methods. The programme also involves the completion of a dissertation.

Career opportunities

In terms of career opportunities, the course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of the processes giving rise to social change and the challenges faced by societies in transition. It will be attractive to those seeking to go into public policy-making, journalism, market research, development work, politics, and the third sector and will also provide an excellent platform for those interested in progressing to PhD studies.

Further information

The course runs from September 2009 and lasts a full academic year. Applications close on May 31, 2009. For further information about the course please contact: Department of

Sociology, NUIM. Email: sociology.department@nuim.ie, Tel: 708-3659. Please also check out the Departmental website for further details.

M.A. in Society and Space (2009-2010)

Delivered by the the Dept of Sociology, Dept of Geography and the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA)

This is a full time one year course that aims to provide graduates and policy makers with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to enable them to undertake analyses of social and spatial changes within modern western society, specifically contemporary Ireland. Taught jointly with the Department of Geography and the Department of Sociology, the course brings together leading social science researchers in Ireland with an international reputation in their fields, and offers an advanced introduction to social science and human geography research.

Content

The course is structured around three strands. Firstly, students will undertake core modules exploring contemporary theories of society and space, and theories of recent social, economic, political, and cultural change within the Irish Republic. Secondly, a number of substantive optional modules will be provided including modules on balanced development, knowledge economies, sustaining communities, migration, population and health, and governance. Finally, students will select from a suite of advanced research methods. The course will also involve a research thesis undertaken during the summer.

Career Opportunities

The course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to social scientific and human geographical research on contemporary social, economic, political, and economic policy. As such, it will prove attractive to policy-makers, analysts, practitioners, and commentators currently in employment and those aspiring to such roles. In addition, the course provides an excellent platform for those interested in progressing to PhD studies.

Further Information

The course runs from September each year and lasts the full academic year. Applications close on June 30th each year. For further information about the course please contact:

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