

The Politics of Global Change

Societies across the world have been transformed in recent years by important changes – new information and communications technologies, new ‘flexible’ and ‘networked’ organizational forms and the reshaping of social space itself through globalisation. Research in the department explores these macro level changes in the areas of:

- The global information economy
- The politics of globalization and alterglobalisation
- The debate over the emergence of a ‘global culture’

Much of our research explores the politics of these global changes, particularly through ethnographic research.



In particular, the so-called ‘Celtic Tiger’ years of the 1990s have made Ireland a particularly compelling case for studying the politics of global processes. The department has become a centre for sociological research on the social construction of global processes and on the ‘Celtic tiger’ experience through studies of the negotiation of:

- waste management policy at local, national and EU level
- the role of the state in shaping high tech growth and welfare
- local and global production
- the origins of Irish economic policy
- migration patterns, ethnic communities and racialisation
- the inequalities of the Celtic Tiger