



Press Release – Wednesday 10 November 2021

Psychological Society of Ireland Annual Conference Goes Online – Here’s What to Expect

Although this year’s Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) Annual Conference is an online event rather than a physical one, it promises to offer exciting research and topical insights to viewers.

The 2021 PSI Conference, which takes place online on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 November, sees Professor Mick Cooper of Roehampton University and Professor David M Clark of the University of Oxford present keynote addresses in their areas of expertise.

- **Mick Cooper, Professor of Counselling Psychology at Roehampton University, presents ‘*Directionality: A Framework for Integrating Psychological and Social Theory and Practice*’,** which sees him enlighten viewers with his new concept of directionality. A proponent of integration, Prof. Cooper’s ideas promise to help people to think outside the box about how they can integrate and relate to ideas both from within psychology and beyond.
- **David M Clark, Professor of Experimental Psychology at University of Oxford, presents ‘*Developing and Disseminating Effective Psychological Therapies for Common Mental Health Problems: Science, Economics, and Politics*’,** which sees him enlighten viewers on development of evidence-based guidelines and treatments. Prof. Clark’s focus on the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommended treatments for common mental health difficulties, alongside lessons learned from the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme in the UK, should give viewers much to consider.

In addition to the keynote addresses, five other standalone sessions take place over the course of Thursday and Friday:

- ***Can Psychology Inform Irish Public Policy?*** – Prof. Suzanne Guerin, Prof. Brian Hughes, Dr Dean McDonnell, Dr Nuala Whelan, Ms Eimíle Holton and Dr Tadhg MacIntyre;
- ***The World of Work and the Pandemic*** – Ms Patricia Murray, Dr Noreen Tehrani and Dr Tammy Allen;

- **CBT for PTSD after ABI: From Neuropsychological Assessment to Therapy** – Dr Simone Carton, Dr Brian Waldron, Dr Nick Kidd, Prof. Ladislav Timulak and Ms Sonya Gallagher;
- **Long COVID: The Role Psychologists Play** – Dr Damien Lowry, Dr Orla McBride, Prof. Seamas Connelly, Dr Melanie Ryberg, Ms Kate O'Brien, Ms Michelle Lynch Power and Dr Janet Diaz;
- **Perinatal Mental Health and the Pandemic** – Dr Anne Kehoe, Dr Aoife Menton, Dr Eithne Ní Longphuir, Ms Deirdre Phelan and Dr Naomi Masheti.

The PSI is delighted to have input from Dr Janet Diaz of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the *Long COVID: The Role Psychologists Play* session.

To compliment the live aspect of the two-day online programme, the Society is also making over 170 pre-recorded presentations available to PSI Annual Conference delegates. These videos are compiled of posters, individual presentations, and symposia from a range of authors on a wide variety of psychology-related topics.

The PSI Conference will be officially opened by Ms Mary Butler, T.D., Minister for Mental Health and Older People, when she joins PSI President Dr Megan Gaffney for the virtual event on the morning of Thursday 11 November.

The Society decided on a virtual event, over a physical event, earlier in the year with the safety of speakers, delegates and staff in mind. PSI President Dr Megan Gaffney states: "I am eternally amazed by the ability of psychologists, students, PSI staff, and society as a whole to adapt to difficult circumstances and to innovate despite the challenges we may face. At this year's PSI flagship event we are bringing delegates, what I think will be, a dynamic and exciting few days of our scientific programme."

The full 2021 PSI Annual Conference programme can be viewed [here](#).

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Note:

- [The full 2021 PSI Annual Conference programme can be viewed here;](#)
- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with circa 4,000 members, is the professional body for psychology and psychologists in Ireland;
- The PSI is committed to maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and also to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as an applied science.