

Enhancing Knowledge Skills and Competencies

Tackling Community Change Session 1; Monday July 19th , 11.15-12.45

The Psychology of Cooperation

This session will be led by Dr Shane Timmons, Research Officer in Behavioural Science, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin, Ireland

Shane will be joined by a panel from across the UNI-ECO project partners.

Biography: Dr Shane Timmons is a cognitive psychologist working at the intersection of science and policy with the ESRI's Behavioural Research Unit (BRU). Before joining the BRU, Shane completed his PhD in moral psychology at Trinity College Dublin. He currently leads the BRU's environmental research programmes, on topics such as the public's understanding of climate change, interventions to improve household waste management and experimental tests of ways to communicate environmental risks. His research has been published in leading psychology and public policy journals and has been featured in international media, including *CNN*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Science News*.

Synopsis of the session: Sustainability requires people to make sacrifices for the collective good. This session will introduce the most effective strategies to promote this kind of cooperation, as evidenced by decades of research in psychology and behavioural science. Using insights from another 'collective action problem' – the COVID-19 pandemic – and data from thousands of individuals, we will explore real-world drivers of cooperative behaviour while identifying the main parallels and differences between the pandemic and the challenges of sustainability.

Tackling Community Change Session 2; Tuesday July 20th , 3.15-5.15

Community challenge: How to reduce consumption?

This session will be led by Mindy O'Brien, Coordinator, VOICE Ireland

Mindy will be joined by an expert panel to lead discussions.

Biography: Mindy is an environmental attorney, trained in the States and formerly a staffer in the US Congress and has been working in the environmental sector for nearly 30 years. At VOICE, she leads a team who focus on waste prevention initiatives, including the *Conscious Cup* Campaign, *We Choose Reuse* and *Sick of Plastic* campaigns. She also sits on various government working groups to develop waste policy, including the National Waste Prevention Advisory Committee, the National Waste Action Group and the Deposit Refund Scheme working group. VOICE is a national environmental charity that promotes the wise use of natural resources and advocates for the transition to a circular economy.

Synopsis of the Session:

Part 1: Mindy will make a presentation on the current consumption levels as well as the resulting amount of waste that is generated in Ireland and how we compare to other countries. She will also discuss the various solutions available to reduce consumption and corresponding waste as well as



outlining current policy proposals and trends. What is goal 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals and what impact does it have on the environment and society at large?

Part 2: Following from this presentation, there will be break out groups to discuss various questions, such as:

- 1) Who is ultimately responsible for the amount of waste we generate?
- 2) What are the solutions?
 - a. In business
 - b. In the community
 - c. Individually
 - d. By the government
- 3) How can we continue to grow the economy while delinking such growth from material consumption?

Part 3: Groups report back and final summary of findings are presented.

Tackling Community Change Session 3; Wednesday July 21st, 10.30-12.30

Community challenge: How to reimagine green spaces?

This session will be led by Prof Marcus Collier, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin.

Marcus will be joined by an expert panel to lead discussions

Biography: Marcus is fascinated by the human-nature interface and specialises in social-ecological systems thinking. Marcus has researched, lectures, and written extensively on contested social and ecological issues such as novel ecosystems and nature-based solutions.

Synopsis of the session: During COVID restrictions it was clear that there are many spaces in cities that are limited in their potential and do not accommodate all citizens. Many spaces are 'green deserts', designed for single or niche usage and exclude many urban communities. This session will look at the newer approaches to urban green spaces and nature-based solutions. Participants will be asked to bring examples of urban spaces (using Google Street View) (either on or off campus) to this workshop session where we will discuss a variety of issues that help us to reimagine urban green spaces.