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Post Specification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Post Title:</th>
<th>Research Fellow – Community water infrastructures (Post-Doctoral Researcher)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Status:</td>
<td>Duration of 12 months Full-time</td>
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| Research Group /Department/School: | WISDOM (EPA Project 4914)  
Department of Geography, School of Natural Sciences,  
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin |
| Location: | Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin  
College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland |
| Reports to: | Principal Investigator |
| Salary: | Appointments will be made on the IUA post-doctoral research salary scale Level 2, on a point in line with government pay policy ([http://www.iua.ie/research-innovation/researcher-salary-scales/](http://www.iua.ie/research-innovation/researcher-salary-scales/))  
Salary will be €36,488 per annum. |
| Closing Date and Time: | 12 Noon (Irish Standard Mean Time) on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 |

Please note: this post is tenable from the 31st March 2018 (or soon after).

Post Summary
The EPA-funded research project WISDOM (Group Water Schemes: Community Infrastructure for Sustainable Development) based in the Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin, is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow (Post-Doctoral Researcher) working in the fields of political ecology and/or science and technology studies, preferably with a research interest in the core themes of water and/or infrastructure. The position is offered for 12 months on a Full-Time basis. The WISDOM project will examine the phenomenon of Group Water Schemes in Ireland within the
context of: (1) complex political economic pressures, regulatory demands, and changing environmental conditions; (2) current theoretical debates on the material politics of infrastructures within political ecology, science and technology studies, and anthropology. Group Water Schemes are community-managed water infrastructures that provide drinking water to approximately 7% of the Irish population. While Group Water Schemes are often understood as a minor, even residual component of Ireland’s water system, this project approaches them as potentially important sites for re-thinking key questions relating to the entwined political ecologies of water and infrastructure.

The successful applicant will be a core member of the WISDOM team – led by Dr Patrick Bresnihan (Assistant Professor in Geography and WISDOM’s Principal Investigator) and including 1 other Post-Doctoral Researcher. The successful candidate will be expected to collaborate closely with other team members based in Dublin, as well as travelling for fieldwork and conference presentations. The successful candidate will be hosted in the Department of Geography, School of Natural Sciences, on the main Trinity Campus.

**Informal enquiries concerning the post should be addressed to Dr Patrick Bresnihan**  
pbresnih@tcd.ie

**WISDOM Project Summary**

WISDOM (Group Water Schemes: Community Infrastructure for Sustainable Development) is an eighteen month project funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The quality of Ireland’s freshwater sources and the condition of its water infrastructures have been deteriorating in recent years. At the same time, Ireland is committed to demanding European water directives and, since 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Goals relating to clean water and sanitation and sustainable resource use. In this context, water, and the provision of safe, affordable water services, has been the subject of significant policy reform, public debate, and social
mobilizations. Often ignored in these policy and public fora, however, are the continued existence of rural Group Water Schemes, community-managed water systems that provide quality, affordable water to approximately 7% of the population. Falling outside the realm of the public water system, and operating at a local scale in rural areas, these Group Water Schemes have been peripheral to the enduring ideal of large-scale infrastructural water projects. This 18 month research project aims to re-frame Group Water Schemes by better understanding: (1) the development of Group Water Schemes and the contexts in which they have operated, with a particular focus on reforms to the sector since the late 1990s; (2) how Group Water Schemes operate today, with a particular focus on how they cope (or don’t) with complex political economic, regulatory and environmental pressures. The aims of the project are both empirical and theoretical: (1) to deepen understanding of Group Water Schemes, including the specific relations that participants may have to water and water infrastructures, and the challenges they face at multiple scales; (2) to generate critical theoretical insights into the entwined political ecologies of water and infrastructure. The project will mainly consist of two core phases of research: (1) a general survey and mapping of Ireland’s Group Water Schemes; (2) in-depth cases studies of Group Water Schemes based on semi-structured interviews and fieldwork.

**Standard duties and Responsibilities of the Post**

The Post-Doctoral Researcher will undertake: (1) a literature review of primary and secondary literature, complemented by interviews with key stakeholders; (2) to build (with others in project group) a GIS map of Ireland’s Group Water Schemes; (3) to co-design a survey of Group Water Schemes; (4) to carry out in-depth semi-structured interviews and fieldwork with selected Group Water Schemes.

It is expected that the Post-Doctoral Researcher will contribute to the design of a detailed methodology for this research, as well as overall theoretical development of the project. The successful candidate will also contribute to the project’s dissemination plan (via solo and co-authored publications) which includes 6 non-peer
reviewed articles; 3 peer-reviewed articles in leading international academic journals; 2 international conference papers; and regular blog posts for project website.

The researcher is expected to help co-organise WISDOM events which will include research meetings and meetings with the project advisory panel and key stakeholders in the sector. The researcher is expected to contribute to WISDOM’s website and project’s social media dissemination channels; and to participate in the organization and public presentation of the final project report. The researcher must be prepared to travel extensively during his/her field research (surveys and interviews) and to attend international conferences.

**Funding Information**

- WISDOM project (2018-2020) is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Project ID: 4914).
- The position is offered as Full-Time 12 month Contract

**Person Specification**

**Qualifications (Essential)**

- The successful candidate will hold (or be near completion of) a PhD in human geography, sociology, anthropology or a related area.

**Knowledge, Skills & Experience (Essential):**

- Background in political ecology and/or science and technology studies (preferably with a research interest in water and/or infrastructure)
- Excellent research skills relevant to the post
- Experience in conducting interviews and fieldwork
- Ability to analyse and interpret qualitative data
Knowledge, Skills & Experience (Desirable):
The following attributes may be of advantage, but are not necessary for a successful application:

- Experience of carrying out trans-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary research
- Track record in publishing in leading international peer-reviewed journals and/or books
- Experience in GIS or other mapping software
- Experience in managing websites and/or using social media for research dissemination
- Experience in organising workshops and/or other events
- Knowledge of relevant/comparable international, European or national contexts
- Experience of living and working in Ireland

Further Information for Candidates / URL Links:
The Discipline / Department of Geography

The Department of Geography in Trinity is one of the leading Geography departments in Ireland and Europe. It is the only Geography department in Ireland that simultaneously holds two prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grants (SHARECITY and GEOFIN). The Department has 14 full-time academic staff, 8 postdoctoral and research staff and a vibrant Ph.D. body, in addition to support and technical staff. Particular research strengths in human geography include urban and economic geography, development geography and environmental governance. In QS 2015 Subject Rankings, Geography ranked in the top 100 in the world. The Department is located within one of the architectural gems of the College, the Museum Building, next door to the Old Library (Book of Kells). Post-doctoral researchers will be based on the main Trinity Campus, which is situated in the Dublin’s city centre. For further information, visit: [http://www.tcd.ie/Geography/](http://www.tcd.ie/Geography/)
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland’s premier university, with a proud tradition of excellence stretching back to its foundation in 1592. The oldest university in Ireland, and one of the oldest in Europe, today Trinity sits at the intersection of the past and the future, and is ideally positioned as a major university in the European Union. Our 47-acre campus is located in the heart of Dublin city centre and is home to historic buildings dating from the University’s establishment, as well as some of the most cutting-edge teaching and research facilities in Ireland. Students at Trinity benefit from a unique educational experience across a range of disciplines in our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences. The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success.
Trinity has developed **19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes** that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. These internationally recognised themes include such diverse areas as Cancer, Immunology, Telecoms, Identities in Transformation, Nanoscience, Neuroscience, and Making Ireland. Researchers from across the University work together in innovative ways to develop new and exciting approaches to their research and explore the frontiers of knowledge in the 21st century. In creating these dedicated research themes, Trinity’s researchers are able to become a more powerful force on the global stage, successfully competing for large-scale grants and attracting top students and faculty to the University. Trinity is home to Ireland’s first purpose-built Nanoscience research institute, CRANN, which opened in January 2008. This state-of-the-art facility houses 150 scientists, technicians, and graduate students in specialised laboratories, fostering creative innovations that have seen Trinity’s researchers make significant breakthroughs.

The Trinity Long Room Hub for Arts and Humanities Research Institute is the University’s flagship institute for research in the Arts and Humanities, providing a world-class environment for cross-disciplinary collaborative projects. The Long Room Hub provides a central location through which the University’s internationally respected Arts and Humanities research can become more visible, demonstrating its relevance for contemporary and future societies. Researchers from across the University regularly participate in debates on topical issues facing the world today. As well as operating an International Visiting Research Fellowship programme, the Long Room Hub also hosts major EU-funded Digital Humanities projects.
One of the most instantly recognised parts of Trinity’s campus is the famous Old Library, home to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps, and early printed material. Trinity’s Library is the largest research library in Ireland and is an invaluable resource to Trinity’s students and research community. Built up over the four centuries of the University’s existence, the Library’s collections have benefitted from its status as a Legal Deposit library for the past 200 years, granting Trinity the right to claim a copy of every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library’s holdings span approximately 4.25 million books, 22,000 printed periodical titles, and access to 60,000 e-journals and 250,000 e-books.

Trinity attracts top students from Ireland and abroad and prides itself on the consistently high standard of student admitted to the University every year. These students are drawn to Trinity for the excellence of our research-led teaching and for the quality and prestige a degree from this University confers. Trinity has also pioneered accessibility to education in Ireland, becoming the first university in the country to reserve 15% of its undergraduate places for students from non-traditional learning groups. Trinity is the top-ranked European university for student entrepreneurship and Europe’s only representative in the world’s top-50 universities.

Our alumni have gone on to shape the history of Ireland and of Western Europe in a wide range of fields. These include such notable figures as Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, William Rowan Hamilton, Edmund Burke, William Stokes, Denis Burkitt, Louise Richardson, Lenny Abrahamson, and Anne Enright. Three of Trinity’s graduates have been awarded Nobel prizes: Ernest Walton for Physics in 1951; Samuel Beckett for Literature in 1968; and William Campbell for Physiology / Medicine in 2015. Trinity
also counts the first female President of Ireland among its alumni in Mary Robinson, as well as other notable former Presidents Douglas Hyde and Mary McAleese. At Trinity we are justifiably proud of our tradition, and we strive to uphold this excellence as we face the demands of the 21st century.

**Ranking Facts**
Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 88th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Rankings methodology we are 131st in the world.

**World University Rankings Update (April 2017)**

**Overall**
Trinity is Ireland’s No.1 University in the QS World University Ranking, THE World University Ranking and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai).

- Trinity is ranked 88th in the World, and 29th in Europe, in the 2017/2018 QS World University Ranking.
Trinity is ranked in the Top 100 for Graduate Employability in the QS 2017 Rankings.

Trinity is in the Top 50 most innovative universities in Europe according to Reuters.¹

Between 2010 and 2015, Trinity was ranked the top university in Europe for entrepreneurship according to Pitchbook’s independent analysis.²

Internationalisation

Trinity is ranked 52nd in the world in the THE World University Ranking for international outlook.

Research Performance

Of the 981 institutions included in the THE World University Rankings for 2017, Trinity is in the top 15% internationally for research performance.

Trinity is ranked in the top 15% internationally by QS for citations.

In the QS World University Rankings:

Trinity featured in the world's elite (Top 200) institutions in 25 of the 28 subjects in which it was evaluated by the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2015. Of these, Trinity ranked in the top 100 in the world in 14 subjects and in the top 50 in the world in 6 subjects: English Language and Literature; Nursing; Politics and International Studies; History; Biological Sciences; and Modern Languages.

In three out of the last four years, Trinity has been consistently ranked in the Top 50 worldwide for the following areas: English Language and Literature; Nursing; Modern Languages; and Politics and International Studies.

¹ [http://www.reuters.com/article/us-innovative-stories-europe-idUSKCN0Z00CT](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-innovative-stories-europe-idUSKCN0Z00CT)

In the QS Faculty rankings, Trinity has been consistently ranked in the Top 100 globally for Arts and Humanities over the last four years.

Employment Permit Eligibility Criteria

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined under the relevant regulations of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Trinity, as an accredited research organisation, can form Hosting Agreements with third country nationals (Non-EEA nationals) for the purposes of conducting research in the University. Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of a Hosting Agreement or Employment Permit as appropriate. See: https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Innovation-Research-Development/Hosting-Agreement-Scheme/

Garda clearance

Given the ethical standards required for fieldwork, police vetting may be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity’s Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement.
**Pension Entitlements**

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant’s former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

**Other Relevant Information**

WISDOM research team will be supported by the host institution through training – both in relation to research and professional development. TCD has an excellent capacity to provide complementary skills training to the team through the Centre for Academic Practice (CAPSL). CAPSL provides courses on various aspects of professional development. In addition to this TCD’s Centre for Women in Science and Engineering Research (WiSER) will provide gender-sensitive research training to the team throughout the duration of the project. WiSER was founded to address the under-representation of women researchers in science and engineering disciplines at Trinity College Dublin. It aims to increase retention of women by providing direct support to female researchers and academics; to foster a sense of community within the
workplace, and to create a gender-balanced, and ultimately more productive, working environment.

Application Procedure

Stage 1 – Application to be emailed to: pbresnih@tcd.ie by the closing date

The application must consist of:

1. **Cover letter** outlining how your knowledge, experience & skills match those required for the post. Special attention should be paid to your experience in conducting fieldwork/interviews.
2. **Full CV**, including a list of publications and contact details of 3 referees (one of which should be your PhD supervisor).

Incomplete applications will not be considered and may be rejected.

Candidates who do not want their referees being approached before an interview, must indicate this clearly in their application.

Candidates short-listed for Stage 2 - Interview will be notified within 1 week of the closing date.

Stage 2 – Interview

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to undertake interview via telephone or Skype to take place on 11th and 12th January, 2018.
Candidates should submit a **(1)** cover letter together with a **(2)** full curriculum vitae:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dr Patrick Bresnihan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Geography / PI - WISDOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pbresnih@tcd.ie">pbresnih@tcd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Subject Line</td>
<td>“Research Fellow”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Telephone Number</td>
<td>+353-1-896 2661</td>
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