

# Research and Innovation Overview 2024

## Department of International Development

In 2022-23, the Department of International Development at Maynooth University made significant strides in research, engagement, and public policy contributions. The department's focus on global development, social justice, and climate resilience was reflected in numerous research outputs, including four book chapters, one peer-reviewed journal article, and 21 other publications. A major highlight was hosting Michael Gaffey, Director General of Irish Aid, for a discussion with students on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global development.

**Head of Department:** Professor David Prendergast



### Research Themes and Focus Areas

The department's research is deeply rooted in global development and sustainability, with key focus areas including:

- **Climate Change and Resilience:** Exploring how communities in the Global South, particularly in Africa, respond to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- **Ethical Global Development Communications:** Promoting ethical practices in how global development is communicated, with a focus on decolonising development narratives.
- **Peacebuilding and Mediation:** Researching the role of international organisations in civilian crisis management and conflict resolution.



### Significant Research Outputs

In 2022-23, the department produced several high-impact research outputs, furthering its contributions to global development:

#### Publications

- Dr Tom Campbell co-authored the article "The revival of the drylands: Re-learning resilience to climate change from pastoral livelihoods in East Africa", published in *Climate and Development* (January 2023). This paper provides novel insights into resilience thinking and drylands development.
- Dr Eilish Dillon presented her work on "Ethics, Power, and Positionality: Principles in Development Research" at the DSAI annual conference, critiquing Eurocentrism in development research.
- Dr Paul O'Keeffe published "The real cost of teaching in a refugee camp: Asking the difficult questions" in *Prospects*, examining the challenges faced by educators in refugee camps.

#### Awards and Grants

- Dr Dillon received an Irish Research Council New Foundations grant for her research on ethical global development communications in collaboration with Dóchas, focusing on building capacity for NGOs around ethical communication practices.



### Collaborations and Partnerships

The department is deeply engaged in national and international collaborations:

- **EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution:** Dr Kieran Doyle contributed to the EU Civilian CSDP Compact negotiations and was part of the research team advising on peacebuilding efforts within the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).
- **#ShiftThePower Movement:** In partnership with the Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF), Niamh Rooney has been engaged in collaborative research with Zambian and international organisations under the leadership of Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF), contributing to global discussions on power dynamics in development.



### Research Impact and Societal Contributions

The department's work on climate resilience and peacebuilding has had significant impact:

- **Climate Change Policy:** Dr Tom Campbell's research on pastoralist resilience in East Africa was featured in a blog on the Maynooth University Research Spotlight, providing insights into climate change policy in the Horn of Africa.
- **Peacebuilding and Mediation:** Dr Doyle's contributions to the EU's Civilian CSDP missions have shaped the inclusion of mediation support in EU peace missions, influencing policy at the EU level.



### Future Directions

The department will continue its focus on climate change resilience, peacebuilding, and ethical global communications. Future projects include expanding the MOBILISECARE initiative and continuing work on EU civilian peace missions.

The Department of International Development at Maynooth University remains a leader in global development research, focusing on climate resilience, peacebuilding, and ethical communication. Through its impactful publications, successful partnerships, and commitment to addressing global challenges, the department continues to shape the discourse on international development.