

DANCING Project

Mid-Term Academic
Conference

4 September 2023



The DANCING project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (grant agreement No. 864182).

ERC Project
“Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity Through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths - DANCING”

The Project

The project ‘*Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths – DANCING*’, funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and led by Prof. Delia Ferri, investigates the extent to which the protection of the right to participate in culture of people with disabilities and the promotion of cultural diversity intersect and complement each other in the European Union (EU) legal order. It aims to disrupt the conventional approach adopted by EU law scholarship by using a combination of legal, empirical and arts-based research to pursue three complementary objectives. Firstly, it identifies and categorises barriers and facilitators to cultural participation experienced by people with disabilities and how they affect the wider cultural domain. Empirical research, in form of semi-structured interviews with organisations of people with disabilities across the 27 Member States of the EU and the UK as well as arts-based research underpin the achievement of this objective within Work Package (WP) 1. Secondly, it provides a normative exploration of how the EU has used and can use its competence to combat discrimination and its supporting competence on cultural matters, in synergy with its wide internal market powers, to ensure the accessibility of cultural life and activities, to promote disability identities, while achieving cultural diversity. Through an in-depth legal analysis, it aims to bridge the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Thirdly, it aims to advance the understanding of the legal concept of cultural diversity, which stems from the intersection of different sources of law and will propose a new theorization of the promotion of cultural diversity within the EU legal order.

To know more about the project visit: <https://ercdancing.maynoothuniversity.ie/>



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The Principal Investigator – Prof. Delia Ferri

Delia Ferri is a Professor of Law at Maynooth University (MU) School of Law and Criminology, where she lectures primarily in the fields of EU Law and International and European Disability Law and acts as Director of the Postgraduate Research (PhD) Programmes in Law. Since March 2020, she is co-Director of the [MU Assisting Living & Learning \(ALL\) Institute](#), an interdisciplinary research institute that promotes person-centred systems and evidence-based policies that empower people across their life course. Prof. Ferri is also affiliated researcher at the DIRPOLIS Institute (Institute of Law, Politics and Development) of Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna (Italy) within the research cluster on social rights, social inclusion and disability, and a fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute of Syracuse University (USA). Between 2018 and 2022, she has been a member of the [Royal Irish Academy \(RIA\) Standing Committee in International Affairs \(SCIA\)](#). In 2022 she has been appointed as a member of the [RIA Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee](#). She is a senior member of the [European Disability Expertise](#) network funded by the European Commission. In June 2023 she has been appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union.

The DANCING Mid-Term Academic Conference

The DANCING Mid-Term Academic Conference aims to take stock of the research conducted so far and to situate DANCING in broader scholarly debates. This conference marks the halfway point of the project. Being academic in nature, it offers the opportunity to present the interim findings and preliminary results of DANCING to the academic community and gather feedback and positive criticism. Further, this Mid-Term Academic Conference aims to link DANCING to current debates in EU law, to engage with interdisciplinary scholarship on disability as well as socio-legal research, and to discuss participatory research approaches.

The conference is articulated into two main sessions. The morning session will comprise a panel focusing on how and the extent to which DANCING contributes to the building of EU disability law as distinct field of enquiry and situates the project within the broader field of EU law. Following this first panel, a roundtable discussion will address the role of interdisciplinarity, intersectional approaches and participatory studies in academic research (especially but not exclusively legal research), and how DANCING can contribute to enhance innovative methodological approaches. The afternoon session will include different panels fully dedicated to the presentation of the interim results of WP1 and WP2 of the DANCING project. Papers presented by DANCING researchers will be discussed by leading academics who will provide feedback and constructive remarks. A final roundtable will debate on the arts-based research of the project with a focus on the role of inclusive dance as a tool to enhance participatory approaches.

After the Conference

Following the conference all participants and attendees are warmly welcome to attend an accessible concert performance graciously organised in collaboration with the Department of Music of Maynooth University.

The concert will begin at approximately 5.45pm in the Drama Room of the School of Education (SEO 133 - first floor). The performance will comprise a number of pieces carefully selected by Dr. Antonio Cascelli (Piano) in close cooperation with Dr. Francesca Placanica (Soprano) and Paolo Grazioli (Tenor). After the concert all attendees are warmly invited to a reception in the foyer of the School of Education, which will take place around 6.45pm.

For further information please see the concert programme.

When?

Monday, 4 September 2023

Where?

Maynooth University, School of Education (SEO) Room 001

Mid-Term Academic Conference

DANCING Project – Maynooth University
4 September 2023

School of Education (SEO) Room 001

Coffee and Registration from 8.45am

9.15 – 9.30am	Welcome Dr. Fergus Ryan – (Head of School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University) Prof. Deirdre Desmond – (Co-Director ALL Institute, Maynooth University) Prof. Tobias Lock and Dr. Karen Lynch Shally – (Centre for European Law, Maynooth University)
9.30 – 9.45am	Presentation of the ERC project DANCING Prof. Delia Ferri (Maynooth University)
9.45 – 11.10am	Panel I – Situating EU Disability Law within EU Law Scholarly Debates Chair: Prof. Mark Bell (Trinity College Dublin) “Disability as Field of EU Law: Constitutionalisation, Federalising Trends and Hybridity” – Prof. Delia Ferri (Maynooth University) “The Global Reach of EU Disability Law: An Initial Appraisal” – Iryna Tekuchova (PhD Candidate, Maynooth University) Discussants: Prof. Joana Mendes (Université du Luxembourg) Prof. Elise Muir (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) Prof. Giuseppe Martinico (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna) Q&A
11.10 – 11.30am	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.30pm	Roundtable Discussion – Advancing Interdisciplinary Research Chair: Prof. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Universidad de Murcia) Dr. Pauline Cullen (Maynooth University) Prof. Michael Doherty (Maynooth University) Prof. Kristin Henrard (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) Dr. Juan Jorge Piernas López (Universidad de Murcia)
12.30 – 1.45pm	Lunch Break



1.45 – 2.40pm	<p>Panel II – Enhancing Cultural Participation of Persons with Disabilities: What Role for the European Union?</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Andrea Broderick (Universiteit Maastricht)</p> <p>“Accessibility of Cultural Goods and Services: A Regulatory Jigsaw” – Prof. Delia Ferri & Eva Krolla (Maynooth University)</p> <p>“The Role of EU Law in Advancing Participation of Cultural Professionals and Artists with Disabilities” – Léa Urzel Francil (PhD Candidate, Maynooth University)</p> <p>Discussant: Prof. Lisa Waddington (Universiteit Maastricht)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
2.40 – 2.50pm	Coffee Break
2.50 – 3.45pm	<p>Panel III – Barriers and Facilitators to Cultural Participation of Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Anna Lawson (University of Leeds)</p> <p>“Barriers and Facilitators to Cultural Participation: A Qualitative Analysis” – Dr. Ann Leahy (Maynooth University)</p> <p>“Basic Income for Artists and Disability Allowances: Experiences from Ireland” – Dr. Philip Finn (Maynooth University)</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Charles O’Mahony (University of Galway)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
3.45 – 4.30pm	<p>Roundtable Discussion – Arts-Based Research and Inclusive Dance</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Sarah Whatley (Coventry University)</p> <p>Prof. Delia Ferri (Maynooth University) & Laura Jones (Stopgap Dance Company)</p> <p>Dr. Victoria Durrer (University College Dublin)</p> <p>Prof. Aoife McGrath (Queen’s University Belfast)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
4.30 – 4.45pm	Coffee Break
4.45 – 5.30pm	<p>Closing Keynote</p> <p>Prof. Gráinne de Búrca (New York University – European University Institute)</p> <p>Q&A</p>
	<i>Final Remarks</i>

At the end of the event guests are invited to attend a concert organised in collaboration with the Department of Music. The concert will take place in the School of Education Drama Room SEO 133 (first floor).



Keynote Speaker

Professor Gráinne de Búrca

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Gráinne de Búrca is Florence Ellinwood Allen Professor of Law at New York University (NYU) and of 1 September 2023 she will take up a Chair in Constitutional Law at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence.

Before joining NYU Law faculty in 2011, she held tenured posts as professor at Harvard Law School, Fordham Law School, and at the European University Institute in Florence. Before that, she was Fellow of Somerville College and lecturer in law at Oxford University from 1990 to 1998.

Her main field of research and expertise is European Union law, and she has written widely on questions of European constitutional law and governance, human rights and discrimination. She studied law at University College Dublin and the University of Michigan and was admitted to the bar at Kings Inns, Dublin. She is co-editor of the Oxford University Press (OUP) series Oxford Studies in European Law, and co-author of the leading OUP textbook *EU Law*, currently in its seventh edition. She is co-editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Constitutional Law (I•CON)* and serves on the editorial board of the *American Journal of International Law* and on the editorial advisory board of numerous other journals.

Among other honours and awards, Gráinne recently received an Honorary Doctorate in Law (LLD) from University College Dublin in 2022 and in the same year was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy.



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Chairs, Speakers, and Discussants

Mark Bell is Regius Professor of Laws at Trinity College Dublin. During 2018-2021, he was Head of the School of Law. Previously, he was a professor at the School of Law, University of Leicester, where he was also Head of the School of Law (2011-2014). Mark is a member of the Advisory Board of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law and the Board of Directors of the Irish Centre for European Law.

Andrea Broderick is Full Professor at the Department of International and European Law at Maastricht University, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Peace. Since May 2022, Andrea has been the Co-Director of the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights. In addition, she is the Dutch Director of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, Venice, and has carried out that role since 2019. Andrea also worked as a lawyer in professional practice.

Pauline Cullen is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and a researcher at the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, Maynooth University. Her work examines civil society mobilization on social justice and gender equality at national and European Union level, women's movements and gender and political representation. She has also worked as a gender expert for advocacy organisations working on gender justice and equality issues.

Michael Doherty is Full Professor of Law at the School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University. His expertise lies in the areas of Irish and EU employment and labour law, industrial relations, and social dialogue. He has published widely on all of these topics in international books and journals, has worked on a number of EU-wide projects on cross-border working terms and conditions, and is a member of several European research networks looking at employment and labour law and policy in the EU.

Victoria Durrer is Ad Astra Research Fellow in Cultural Policy at UCD and co-founder of Cultural Policy Observatory Ireland. A social scientist, her work focuses on how the spatial and relational dynamics of administration and policy both shape and are challenged by artistic practice as social, cultural, and professional endeavours. Her work, which has received support from the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Research Council, the Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK), and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), is interdisciplinary and often based on collaborative research designs, data collection and analysis with research participants.

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck is Professor of Public International Law at University of Murcia, and Co-director of its Legal Clinic. She is Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls. Dorothy holds a PhD in Law (EUI), an MSc in Political Theory (LSE) and a Law Degree (Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico). She enjoys broad academic and professional experience in the UN, State bodies, NGOs and universities in Mexico, Italy, Spain, U.S.A. and Canada. She authored *Human Security and Human Rights under International Law* (Hart Publishing, 2016; Best Book Award 2017, IABA, Washington, D.C.).



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Delia Ferri is Professor of Law at the School of Law and Criminology and Co-Director of the Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute at Maynooth University. She is also a member of the Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI), and a fellow of the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies. In September 2020 her PI-led project 'Protecting the Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities and Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths – DANCING' began, which is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant.

Philip Finn is post-doctoral researcher and Irish Research Council (IRC) Research Fellow at the School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University carrying out a research project co-funded by the IRC and the Arts Council of Ireland. The project explores the impact of the welfare system on the working lives of artists with disabilities. He completed his PhD in the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University entitled 'Playing with the Absurdity of Welfare: Experiences of Irish Welfare Conditionality'.

Kristin Henrard is Professor of International Law at the Migration, Diversity and Justice Research Centre within the Brussels School of Governance at Vrije Universiteit Brussel since August 2020. Previously, she held positions at the University of Groningen and the University of Rotterdam, where she became Professor of Human Rights and Minorities in 2010. Kristin is the author of over 160 publications focusing on human rights, the strengths, and weaknesses of the jurisprudence of international courts in terms of interpretation, limitation analysis and the related balancing of interests.

Laura Jones is Co-Artistic Director at Stopgap Dance Company (UK). She is a fierce advocate for dance and disability, inclusion, and equality, advancing the sector through teacher training in inclusive practice, public speaking, and consultancy work. Laura started her training at Linda Butler School of Dance, aged 5. Having sustained a spinal injury in 1998, Laura went on to become the first wheelchair user to complete 100% of the A-Level dance syllabus.

Eva Krolla is a research assistant within the ERC DANCING project. She holds a joint Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts in Euroculture from the University of Groningen and Università degli studi di Udine. For study and research purposes she has previously spent time at Åbo Akademi and *Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie*. Her research has mostly focused on democratic theory, fundamental rights (violations) and minority rights within the European Union.

Anna Lawson is Professor in the School of Law at the University of Leeds, where she is also the Joint Director of the University-wide interdisciplinary Centre for Disability Studies and Co-ordinator of the Disability Law Hub. Her academic interest in disability and law is rooted in her own experience of life as a disabled person. Her research focuses on disability equality and human rights at the UN, European and domestic level.



Ann Leahy is post-doctoral researcher in sociology within the ERC DANCING project where her main focus is qualitative research on cultural participation by people with disabilities across Europe. Her PhD was an interdisciplinary qualitative study that examined the intersection between disability and ageing. It formed the basis of a book published in 2021 (Policy Press). Both her PhD studies and the dissemination of her thesis were supported by awards from the Irish Research Council and she also received a Hume scholarship from Maynooth University.

Giuseppe Martinico is Professor of Comparative Public Law at *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna*, Pisa, where he also serves as STALS (Sant'Anna Legal Studies) Editor. Previously, he was García Pelayo Fellow at the *Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales* (CEPC), Madrid and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. His research interests cover comparative and European constitutional law, in which he published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals in three languages (English, Italian and Spanish).

Aoife McGrath is Professor of Dance at the School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen’s University Belfast. She is a dance artist/choreographer and PaR dance scholar who is interested in how embodied knowledge can be valued and included within interdisciplinary, collaborative, and policy-informing research processes. She is PI or Co-PI for several funded research projects (EU Horizon 2020, AHRC, HEA North South Fund) collaborating with researchers in sociology, psychology, education, and the health sciences. She has published widely on dance in Ireland, and book publications include her monograph *Dance Theatre in Ireland: Revolutionary Moves*.

Joana Mendes is Professor of Comparative Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance at Université du Luxembourg. She holds a doctorate from the European University Institute and has held academic positions at the University of Amsterdam. Joana has been a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Yale Law School and has been a guest lecturer at several other institutions. Her research focuses on the exercise of public authority in the EU drawing on comparative public law.

Elise Muir is Professor of European Law at the Faculty of Law of KU Leuven and Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges where she teaches a course on EU fundamental rights law. Elise is the Principal Investigator of the RESHUFFLE project funded by the European Research Council and devoted to rethinking our understanding of the institutional landscape for the protection of fundamental rights in Europe. She is the author of the monograph ‘EU Equality Law: The First Fundamental Rights Policy of the EU’ (OUP, 2018).

Charles O’Mahony is lecturer in Law at the University of Galway since 2012 and was Head of School between 2017-2021. He completed a PhD at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway entitled 'Diversion: A Comparative Study of Law and Policy Relating to Defendants and Offenders with Mental Health Problems and Intellectual Disability'. He previously worked as Amnesty International Ireland’s Legal Officer on its mental health campaign and as a legal researcher for the Law Reform Commission of Ireland.

Juan Jorge Piernas López is a Jean Monnet Chair holder and Senior Lecturer at the University of Murcia. He received legal education across Europe and in the US and graduated as Doctor of Law from the European University Institute in 2013. He is an international consultant on European Union law and policy for the World Bank, several governments and for the ENI CBC Med Program. He extensively publishes on European Union Law and has been cited 6 times by three Advocate Generals of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Iryna Tekuchova is a PhD candidate within the ERC DANCING project. Her research seeks to investigate to which extent the rights of persons with disabilities are integral to the EU External Action and how the 'global reach' of EU law impacts on the rights of people with disabilities outside the EU. Iryna graduated from the University of Bremen with an LL.M Degree in International and European Law. She has over five years of experience as an inclusion expert and consultant for Ukrainian state authorities, international and national civil society organizations.

Léa Urzel Francil is a PhD candidate within the ERC DANCING project. She holds an LL.B. from the University of Nantes, studied European and International Law at the University of Helsinki and completed an LL.M. in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway. Her PhD research focuses on the disability dimension of cultural production in the European Union. It aims to investigate the extent to which participation of persons with disabilities in cultural production processes is protected and promoted, and how disability features in cultural products and services.

Lisa Waddington is the European Disability Forum Professor of European Disability Law. Her Chair was established in cooperation with the European Disability Forum. Professor Waddington participates in a number of European networks and projects and is a member of the senior research team and legal research coordinator for the European Disability Expertise (EDE) Network, as well as the Senior Expert on the Ground of Disability in the European Network of Legal Research in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination.

Sarah Whatley is Professor of Dance and Director of the Centre for Dance Research, Coventry University. Her research focuses on dance in the context of cultural heritage, digital technologies, somatic practices, and inclusion in dance. Her current funded projects and publications are concerned with the intersection between dance, disability, prosthetics, and robotics. She chairs the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) - sponsored 'Dance Research Matters' campaign to raise the profile of dance research in the UK.