

Dr Majella Dempsey | Maynooth University

General Biography

Majella Dempsey is strand leader for Curriculum Studies on the Doctorate of Education with Specialisms programme. She lectures on Curriculum Studies, Research Methods, Teaching, Learning and Assessment at undergraduate and post-graduate level. Majella completed her doctoral research in Trinity College Dublin on the impact of a key skills approach on teaching and learning in secondary education. She leads the ESAI Curriculum Studies Special Interest Group. She chairs the NCCA Development Group working on developing the new specification for biology. She is working with PME students to provide support for DEIS schools in mathematics education as part of Project Live with her colleague Dr Ann O'Shea.

Majella was co-PI on an Erasmus+ project Learning to Disagree working on teaching, learning and assessing social and civic competences. She was the country lead for the FP7 EU funded project FaSMEd in Ireland looking at the role of technology in promoting formative assessment practices in science and mathematics. She is also involved in a small scale research projects looking at how to develop Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching (MKT) with student teachers and The Role of Task Development and Classification in STEM education. Majella has carried out a number of research projects on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education in Ireland. At the heart of all her research interests is the role of pedagogy in teaching, learning, assessment and curriculum. Her latest research area is looking at pedagogy for wellbeing.

Majella hosted the 4th EuroACS conference and EERA/EuroACS Curriculum Summer School in Maynooth University in 2019. She is a convenor for the curriculum innovation network of the EERA (European Educational Research Association), and a member of the International Network for Curriculum Studies of the University of Stirling, Scotland. Prior to joining Maynooth University, Majella worked as an Education Officer in the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), where her main area of responsibility was working on the senior cycle curriculum developments. She was a member of the Junior Science Support Service (JSSS) working with science teachers on the introduction of the revised curriculum, and, prior to that worked as a science and mathematics teacher.