

Liam Guilfoyle | University of Oxford

General Biography

My name is Liam Guilfoyle and I am a Lecturer in Science Education in the Department of Education at the University of Oxford. I'm interested in being a part of the Researchers in Residence Scheme panel because I am keen to support teachers' engagement with and in research. This is a particular area of research interest for me and something which I've been fortunate to be able to support teachers in doing over the past number of years. I qualified as a teacher of Biology and Physics from the University of Limerick and, though I am now working in the UK, I would like to continue to work with Irish teachers in Irish classrooms. My other research areas are concerned with science education, teacher education, and interdisciplinary/cross-curricular higher-order thinking skills, such as argumentation. I'm also particularly interested in the nature of science, in terms of its teaching and students understanding of it, or the nature of knowledge and knowing in other disciplines/subjects.

I've recently completed a project that focused on bringing science and religious education teachers together in collaboration to think about how we teach students to construct and evaluate arguments within and between these subjects. This is important not only because both subjects value well-constructed, evidence-based arguments, but also because the sorts of issues we are presented with in life are rarely limited to a single discipline (for example, many debates during the COVID19 pandemic involved not just information about science, but also ethics, economics, etc.). This project has recently inspired teachers in other contexts to begin a new project on developing argumentation in their teaching. This could be applied across a range of subjects and I would be happy to work with schools interested in engaging with research on reasoning, argumentation, socio-scientific decision making, or a range of related topics.

Similarly, I have worked on research about Inquiry-based Science Education (IBSE), debates in science, teachers' engagement with research, the nature of science, and others. I have also supported teachers to implement evidence-based interventions in a range of other research areas and I would be happy to support in whatever way I can.

Teachers' will find that my research interests broadly fit underneath the Cosán areas of "Leading Learning", "Language and Literacy" (as it relates to critical literacy) and "Supporting Teachers' Learning".