

# Launching RIGHTS-TO-UNITE

University College Dublin, Sutherland School of Law  
Friday 8 November 2024 – 15:00

RIGHTS-TO-UNITE explores how EU-derived rights are used by real persons and whether such uses further or disrupt integration of societies at local, national and European level. The ultimate goal is a new theory on the role of law for integration within and beyond a fractured EU. We assume that law is a social science and intend to capture the collaborative aspects of EU-derived rights. We focus on rights in the everyday interaction of human beings with each other – e.g. consumers' rights, data protection rights, workers' rights. We are funded by the first ever ERC Advanced Grant awarded to a legal scholar at an Irish university.

Our unique elements include:

- Focus on small states in the EU (Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Sweden) and its neighbourhood (Georgia, Northern Ireland [UK], North Macedonia, Norway)
- A wide notion of rights, encompassing liberal/economic, social and digital rights
- Focus on societies and the interaction of real people, we expand European studies beyond investigating institutions and public law.

## Programme

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- Professor [Niamh Moore-Cherry](#) (College Principal Social Sciences and Law) welcome to the school and the college
- Professor [Kate Robson Brown](#) (Vice President for Research, UCD)
- Introducing RIGHTS-TO-UNITE (Chair: [Professor Brigid Laffan](#), Chancellor U Limerick)
  - Professor [Dagmar Schiek](#) / Dr [Audrey Plan](#) / Dr Mary Naughton  
RIGHTS TO UNITE as a rebel project
  - Professor [Imelda Maher](#), Director of Dublin Europe Institute  
Integration or Governance?
- RIGHTS TO UNITE and EU Accession (Chair: Professor [Ben Tonra](#), SPIRE, UCD)
  - [Dr Lia Tsuladze](#), CSS and Tbilisi State University – "Polarization through devianation discourse: Strategic usage of Europeanization by political and media actors in Georgia" [video presentation]
  - [Dr Simonida Kacarska](#), EPI Skopje – "EU's accession instruments & rights: the case of North Macedonia"
  - Discussant: Prof [John O'Brennan](#) (Maynooth University)
- Introducing future PhD researchers – Dragana Drndarevska (Skopje – video presentation), Katerina Katsaouni (Athens) Lukáš Svoboda (Prague – video presentation)
- Closing remarks Professor Dagmar Schiek

17.00 - 18.00 – Wine & Nibbles reception