

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Early in 2020, the world was shaken by the Covid-19 emergency. At the time we did not know how bad the pandemic would get or how long it would take to get to the other side. To slow the spread of the virus, on March 12, Ireland shut schools, universities, childcare facilities. Pubs were closed on March 15, followed soon after by all 'non-essential' businesses. On March 28, all people in Ireland were ordered to stay at home, unless their work was essential and could not be done from home. Initially, we were told that these restrictions would last only a few weeks, or possibly a few months. As I write this in May 2021, Ireland remains in a partial lock-down while we wait to get our vaccines.

The pandemic and lockdowns affected the full spectrum of university function. We had to learn how to teach, have meetings, research, and present papers on-line. Because schools and childcare facilities were closed, many academics and students had to balance child and family care against their work and studies. Conferences and all other in-person professional events were cancelled all over the world. It was a time of frustration and growth and so many other feelings and experiences that we probably won't be able to fully articulate for many years.

Just before Covid-19 turned into a pandemic, the Irish Philosophical Society hosted its annual conference in Cork. The theme was 'Science and Politics'. Little did we know how apt the theme was! Collected in this issue are 5 original articles gathered from the proceedings of that conference.

The other half of this issue is dedicated to the research that philosophers in Ireland produced on topics related to the pandemic. These include mostly short pieces that were, in some cases, published in other venues. We collect them here, to celebrate the craftsmanship of Irish philosophy applied to such a devastating event.

I want to thank the authors and blind peer-reviewers for their work that made this issue possible. The generous contribution of your time and energy helped to sustain the continued quality of the Yearbook.

Dr Cara Nine