

LCHE SEMINAR**Tuesday May 6, 2025. 14.00-15.00**Room Baker, Bâtiment Proline (Station Vennes)
Route de la Corniche 10, 1010 Lausanne**The Effectiveness of Early Life Investments:
Evidence from the Preparing for Life Trial****SPEAKER****PROF. ORLA DOYLE**

Orla Doyle is a Professor in the School of Economics and a Research Fellow at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. The core focus of her research is the economics of human behaviour. She has developed, led, and consolidated a large research programme dedicated to evaluating the effectiveness of early childhood intervention programmes using experimental designs. She is currently the Director of the UCD Childhood and Human Development Research Centre.

ABSTRACT

Using a randomized experiment, this study investigates the impact of sustained investment in parenting early in life on outcomes later in adolescence. The Preparing for Life program, one of the longest running field experiments in Europe, provided at-risk families with an intensive home visiting program from pregnancy until age five. End-line results, and follow-up results at age 9, demonstrate that the program was effective in raising cognitive skills by between 0.55-0.7 SD. This paper will report on the results of the age 14 follow-up and will include measures of IQ, executive functioning, time and risk preferences, health behaviors, and anti-social behavior.