

Research Topic / Title

The evolution of female entrepreneurship in Ireland 1972-1989

Full Topic Description

Female entrepreneurship is often perceived to be a recent phenomenon, and from a research perspective, little or no attention has been paid to the economic activity of females as business owners and business originators. However, a closer analysis of the lives of women in the past reveals that as is the case today, women as a category are not a homogenous mass, and that they actively participated in the economic life of their times in many different capacities and across many time periods. This research is sited in a very particular period of Irish history and builds on a body of recent research which studied female entrepreneurship in the period from the foundation of the state to 1972. Ireland joined the European Commission in 1973 and this was an important marker in terms of economic policy and development. Considered an insignificant player in terms of the global economic marketplace, Ireland at that stage was still predominantly dependent on agriculture. Joining the EU brought significant challenges and opportunities which have played out over the past 45 years. It resulted in changes that were social and economic in nature, many of which had significant impact on the working lives of women. Research objectives: This project seeks to establish the extent of female entrepreneurship in Ireland over this timeframe. It will investigate female activity in business and will seek to establish what were the levels of female entrepreneurship in terms of women owning/managing their own businesses? It will explore what kind of businesses women started and seek to discover if these be classified in any meaningful way? It will investigate what motivated Irish women to become self-employed and /or set up businesses at this time? In so doing, it will explore the underlying factors that either helped or hindered females in their role as business owners

Supervisory Team

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