

## ***In Memoriam: Donal O'Neill***

In memoriam of the late Professor Donal O'Neill, who passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Donal made excellent contributions to the field of labour economics, the inaugural Low Pay Commission in Ireland and was also President of the Irish Economic Association. We were honoured to award him the Barrington Medal during the 153<sup>rd</sup> Session of Barrington Lectures, in recognition of him as a promising and talented young economist. He read his paper to the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2000.

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**Abstract:** The high growth rates experienced in Ireland over the last 10 years has resulted in a tightening of the labour market which is reflected in the number of unfilled vacancies reported by firms. At the same time wage inequality has increased leading to greater demands being placed on the government to tackle social exclusion. In response to these issues, recent governments have proposed a range of policies involving direct intervention in the labour market. Effective implementation of these policies requires careful monitoring and evaluation of their effects. This paper examines the procedures currently available for evaluating labour market interventions. The results of recent evaluations of minimum wages laws, reform of the benefit system and changes in working-time conditions are used to illustrate the methodologies involved. The paper also describes the data requirements of these methodologies and examines the currently available Irish labour market data in this light.

**Keywords:** programme evaluation, social experiments, labour market