



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

“ How to conduct research is not mentioned enough in undergraduate courses ... SOAPbox is filling this gap.”  
- Anonymous SOAPboxer

## Big Bang

Very rapid platform development with lightning-fast transformation of a significant number of journals (student-run alongside illustrious academic journals).

## Inclusiveness

A multi-disciplinary Open Science publishing community of practice across all disciplines and all research career stages (undergraduate and postgraduate students – alongside senior academics managing centuries-old journals).

## Alignment

Complements strategic goals of the University and with its graduate attributes, championed by the Dean of Research and supported by the Graduate Students' Union.

**35+** Individuals

**8** Student Publications

**2** Existing Academic Journals

**1** New 'International Journal on Inclusion & Education in Society'

“ ... enabled me to pioneer research that is accessible, collaborative and socially impactful! ”

– Gráinne Sexton, Trinity Women's Review

**Trinity Graduate Attributes**

**To Act Responsibly**

- Acts on the basis of knowledge and understanding
- Is self-motivated and able to take responsibility
- Knows how to deal with ambiguity
- Is an effective participant in teams
- Has a global perspective
- Is ethically aware

**To Think Independently**

- Has a deep knowledge of an academic discipline
- Can do independent research
- Thinks creatively
- Thinks critically
- Appreciates knowledge beyond their chosen field
- Analyses and synthesises evidence

**To Develop Continuously**

- Has a passion to continue learning
- Builds and maintains career readiness
- Commits to personal development through reflection
- Has the confidence to take measured risks
- Is capable of adapting to change

**To Communicate Effectively**

- Can present work through all media
- Is expert in the communication tools of a discipline
- Connects with people
- Listens, persuades and collaborates
- Has digital skills
- Has language skills

# SOAPbox

Trinity's Student Open Access Project

## Ethical, Sustainable, Global Responsibility

Supporting **positive societal, economic & cultural impact** of research, with specific emphasis on:

## Cultural Change

An embedded, creative training and education strand, employing innovation expertise, a **Certificate in Scholarly Communication** (an additional extrinsic motivator) and periodic surveys to inform an understanding of the experience.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Maternal mortality or maternal morality? A critique of proposals to introduce maternal upper age limits for Assisted Human Reproduction services in Ireland.

Sophie Donnelly

**Abstract**

The process of in-vitro fertilization for post-menopausal women is an issue which generates fevered publicity, rancorous debate, and ethical dilemmas. Since the 1990s, assisted human reproduction (AHR) via IVF has become more affordable, widespread, and successful. While IVF is most commonly used to treat pre-menopausal women struggling with fertility issues, at an increased level, post-menopausal women are seeking treatment to implant fertilized embryos long after their own natural egg production has ceased. In recent months, the Irish Department of Health has taken steps to regulate the provision of AHR services in Ireland. This article aims to contribute to the legal and ethical discussion surrounding maternal age limits, considering current medical facts, ethical principles, and alternative models of AHR. If there is an age at which reproduction is deemed too risky, should formal legal restrictions be placed on access to infertility treatment based on age? Is that consistent with international codes of human rights that recognize a right to reproduce? Should doctors support the autonomy and desire of older women to reproduce, or in fact should state-regulated infertility programmes seek to actively outlaw AHR for older patients?

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**Social or Economic Policy Inside**

Relevant to which area/s of public policy?

- Gender equality
- Women's health
- Reproductive rights

Broad policy recommendations/implications:

- Against proposed legislation for maternal age limits in AHR provision on ethical, social, and medical grounds.
- Highlights a number of misconceptions and logical inconsistencies
- Outlined an objective system of ordinal, points-based ranking which could be adopted in place of blanket cut-offs, reflective of the 'individualised care' advocated by medical practitioners in this field

Relevant to which public policy-making bodies:

Department of Health

This article has argued against proposed legislation for maternal age limits in AHR provision on ethical, social, and medical grounds. It has highlighted a number of misconceptions and logical inconsistencies in common arguments favouring the institution of maternal cut-offs, while elaborating on compelling cases against them. Finally, it has outlined an objective system of ordinal, points-based ranking which could be adopted in place of blanket cut-offs, reflective of the 'individualised care' advocated by medical practitioners in this field. In general in the field of medicine and ethics, broad categorical exclusions or rules that precludes consideration of individual histories should be guarded against.



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Overview

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Open Access Publishing Glossary

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