



Royal Irish Academy Grants Report

Title:	Dr
First Name:	Claudia
Surname:	Fracchiolla
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences / Sciences
Year of Award:	2018
Project Title	What makes informal programs successful? Understanding the impact of institutional structures and cultural practices on university informal physics programs

1. Research background:

My background is in high energy physics and physics education research. Most recently I have followed my passions for physics learning, inclusion, and equity to a collaboration in out-of-school learning environments and the power of informal education. I have varied experienced as informal practitioner, from facilitators to coordinators, director, designer, and researcher of different informal physics programs. I am highly involved in ongoing efforts within the physics field to promote, fund (through grant-writing), organize, and implement projects that will serve the aim of a more diverse, inclusive physics community. I completed my undergraduate and master studies working on identifying neutrino sources from cosmic rays in two different international collaborations. During my PhD I switched fields to complete my PhD in Physics Education Research. I am currently a Marie Curie Fellow at UCD working on research project that is geared to identifying how participation in informal programs fosters discipline based identity. For information on research background of the project discussed here please see document attached (the question was ambiguous and I was unsure of what background it was referred to). For further information on personal background or research background do not hesitate to contact me.

2. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved (did you achieve the primary objectives - if not, what did you learn from the process)?

I believe the main goal of completing the research for the pilot project, presenting the research at conference and producing a publication were successfully achieved. In particular, because the conference proceedings was accepted for publication, a larger researcher group was formed after the conference and we recruited more subjects to be interviewed for the next stage of the project.

Currently, as a results of our findings and well reception of the research at the conference, we are developing large scale surveys to create a taxonomy of informal physics programs and recording more interviews to expand our research. The pilot project that was in part funded by the Charlemont grant helped developed the framework and methodology to be used for the larger scale project.