

Peter Dunne

Peter Dunne is a Visiting Doctoral Researcher (2015-2016) at NYU Law School and Trinity College Ussher Fellow, 2014-2017. Peter holds an LL.M from Harvard Law School and an LL.M from the University of Cambridge. He completed his primary legal training at University College Dublin and the University of Paris II. From 2011-2012, Peter worked as a Harvard University Kaufman Fellow at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (now OutRight Action International) in New York City. In 2013, he was selected as an Arthur C Helton Fellow of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), and served as a national and international law advisor to Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI). Peter currently sits on the TENI board of directors. In 2011, Peter was awarded the Pride Law Fund and Equal Justice America Fellowships, and has volunteered with the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Intersex and Transgender Luxembourg, Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates and the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund. From 2012-2013, Peter worked as a trainee lawyer at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Peter's scholarship focuses on human rights, family law and public law. He has a particular interest in the relationship between law, sexual orientation and gender identity. Peter's doctoral research, supervised by Prof Mark Bell, explores legal frameworks for the recognition of gender identity. Adopting a human rights centred approach, Peter critically analyses possible regimes for recognition, placing a particular focus on the "conditions of recognition" which individuals are required to meet. Peter's research discusses whether such conditions are a necessary and appropriate means of regulating gender identity, and considers an alternative "self-identification" approach. The goal of Peter's research is to establish a best practice model for recognising gender identity, striking a proportionate balance between the legitimate interests of states and respect for the basic dignity of transgender persons. In 2015, Peter was invited to provide legal advice to the UK Parliamentary Inquiry on Transgender Equality. He has presented evidence before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and his scholarship has been cited by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (formerly Equality Authority).