

Dr Niall William O Leary

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As a research fellow in entrepreneurship at the Hincks Centre, School of Business, MTU, my work focuses on variation in, and development of, human capital with a focus on competencies and attitudinal variables. A particular interest is empirical research demonstrating associations and impact on success to inform prioritisation of competency development. I work on several projects measuring and building human capital. Formerly, I was a lecturer of farm management at Lincoln University, New Zealand and completed a postdoc on the role of technology and innovation in agriculture with the food and agriculture authority of Ireland - Teagasc. I gained my doctorate at the University of Reading studying the human capital of farmers and its associations with farm profitability finding that farm profitability was strongly associated with farmer attitudes and personality such as attention to detail and attitudes towards learning.

Employment and Education History (reverse chronological order)

2020-Current Research fellow in Entrepreneurship, MTU

2019–2020: Lecturer, Lincoln University, New Zealand

Lecturing in farm management to diploma and masters level students and published two papers regarding automated lameness detection.

2017-2018: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Precision Dairy, Teagasc

Validation and development of sensors and data management technologies for use in pasture based dairy systems.

2014-2017: PhD Agricultural Economics, University of Reading

Thesis title: Farmer attributes associated with farm profitability - a study of dairy farms in Great Britain. Key findings: Detail to Conscious behaviour, Leadership and attitude to continuous improvement predicted farm profitability.

2011 - 2013: Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate, University of Reading

Managed and delivered a knowledge transfer programme between the University of Reading and dairy consultancy company Promar International. Part of the role included training of farm consultants in several academic methodologies including survey design, focus groups, interviews, qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Technical skills and knowledge: Psychometric assessment, research design, analysis, report writing and German speaking.

Peer reviewed journal publications

1. O’Leary, N., Byrne, D. T., O’Connor, A. H., & Shalloo, L. (2020). Invited review: Cattle lameness detection with accelerometers. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 103. Retrieved from [https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(20\)30141-7/fulltext](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(20)30141-7/fulltext)
2. O’Leary, N. W., Byrne, D. T., Garcia, P., Werner, J., Cabedoche, M., & Shalloo, L. (2020). Grazing Cow Behavior’s Association with Mild and Moderate Lameness. *Animals*, 10(4), 661. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10040661>
3. O’Leary, N. W., Leso, L., Buckley, F. , Kenneally, J. , McSweeney, D., & Shalloo, L. (2020). ‘Validation of an automated body condition scoring system using 3D imaging’, *Agriculture*, Vol. 10, No. 246, pp. 1–8. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0472/10/6/246>
4. O’Leary, N., Tranter, R., & Bennett, R. (2018). Are farmer personality traits associated with farm profitability? Results from a survey of dairy farmers in England and Wales. *International Journal of Agricultural Management*, 7(2). https://www.iagrm.org/content/large/journals/ijam/volume_7/doi_10.5836_ijam_2018-07-17-02.pdf#page=105.
5. O’Leary, N. W., Bennett, R. M., Tranter, R. B., & Jones, P. J. (2018). The extent that certain dairy farmer attitudes and behaviors are associated with farm business profitability. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 101(12), 11275–11284. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-14307>
6. Shalloo, L., Donovan, M. O., Leso, L., Werner, J., Ruelle, E., Geoghegan, A., ... O’Leary, N. (2018). Review : Grass-based dairy systems, data and precision technologies. *Animal, Online 22/*, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S175173111800246X>

Oral presentations

1. World Buiatrics Conference Sapporo, Japan, 2018.
2. European Grassland Federation annual conference, Cork, 2018.
3. British Society of Agricultural Scientists annual conference, Dublin, 2018.
4. International Farm Management Association congress, Edinburgh, 2017.
5. Agricultural Economics Society annual conference, Dublin, 2017.
6. Institute of Agricultural Management conference, London, 2013.