



## THROUGH THE LENS OF HANNAH ARENDT



ENLARGING YOUR MENTALITY - EXERCISING YOUR POWER OF JUDGEMENT

## P R O G R A M M E O U T L I N E

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## WHY JOIN THIS PROGRAMME?

Extreme situations, particularly ones of crisis, uncover a person's true character and values – who they are and where they really operate from. *Through The Lens of Arendt*:

- introduces the powerful ideas of Hannah Arendt for thinking afresh about judgment and their impact on how we relate to others
- visits the decision-making of three people facing the same situation
- demonstrates how to use Arendt's ideas to understand how people think and act differently
- enhances film watching experience and observational skills

Over four months, participants will watch four films, engage in a two-hour exploration of some of Arendt's most powerful ideas and practice their application. There will also be an Ideas Session and a Capstone session.

Through shared viewing experiences, short presentations, and productive conversations, they will practice using Arendt's ideas to increase awareness about how they think, why they think that way, and how their thinking governs the way they relate to others.

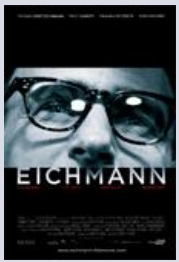




**Session 1:** Participants will first watch *Hannah Arendt* (2012) which focuses on Arendt's report on the Eichmann trial to get a sense of her way of thinking. They will see a person seeking to understand the circumstances that led ordinary people to do extraordinary things of an 'evil' nature.

We will use this film as a springboard to introduce participants to a person of original and independent thought and to some of her key ideas that will be exercised and practiced in the programme.

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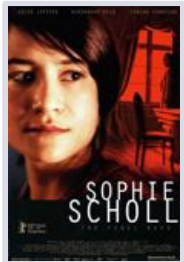
**Session 2:** The second film is *Eichmann* (2007) and it will enable participants to start using Arendt's concepts to understand the phenomenon of ordinary people acting unthinkingly and amorally in organisations.

As we look at Eichmann as a Senior Logistics Manager, Arendt's ideas around thoughtfulness and judgment will surface and will be contrasted with 'choice-making', which we have daily, if unconsidered, familiarity.

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### Session 3: Ideas

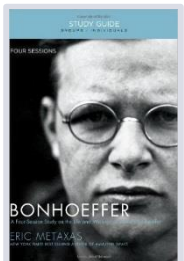
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**Session 4:** The third film in the Series is *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* (2005) which, in contrast to *Eichmann*, shows three young students members of the White Rose group who, at the risk of their lives, distributed leaflets to instruct Germans to resist passively the demands for subordination.

Despite their young age, their experience shows that thinking independently and thoughtfully is an ability open to all and gives you the conviction to act differently.

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**Session 5:** The last film of the series is the four-session video-based study guide *Bonhoeffer* (2013) about another thoughtful German, Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Unlike his colleagues, Bonhoeffer developed an independent theology which promoted judgment and independent thinking, and led others to do the same, despite the extreme pressures of his time.

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### Session 6: Capstone

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## WHO WOULD BENEFIT?

- People wishing to practice independent thinking, go beyond the 'empathy fad', and engage in genuine dialogues
- Those wishing to grow their minds and to better understand people and relationships and explore where they operate from
- Team leaders responsible for building and sustaining effective teams capable of putting themselves in the place of others

## OUTCOMES

The real-life cases in this Film Club show how people thought and acted differently from each other – some thoughtfully, others thoughtlessly – despite living the same extreme historical situation and allow participants to explore the impact this thinking and acting had on relating to others. As a result, they will be in a better position to:

- Sense how their words and actions are affecting people
- Hold high quality and purposeful conversations
- Build and sustain effective teams capable of putting themselves in the place of others
- Build a culture of transparency, responsibility and accountability in their businesses
- Make independent thinking a habit
- Make well-thought-out judgment calls
- Challenge and go beyond fads and buzzwords, e.g. 'empathy'
- Foster connections that may lead them to experiment and innovate

## WHO WILL DELIVER THIS PROGRAMME?



**Dr. Connell Fanning**

Prof. Emeritus of Economics, UCC

Director, The Keynes Centre



**Dr. Assumpta O'Kane**

Chartered Occupational Psychologist

Associate, The Keynes Centre



**Dr. Laura Aguiar**

Journalist and Filmmaker

Researcher, The Keynes Centre



**Dr. Dave Kirwan**

Managing Director, Bord Gáis Energy Ltd.

Practitioner Associate, The Keynes Centre

## PROGRAMME DETAILS

Check our website [keynes.ucc.ie](http://keynes.ucc.ie) for dates, venue and fee.

Group numbers are limited to maximise dialogues and learning.

Programme is offered subject to sufficient demand existing to form a group.

We take expressions of interests from individuals all year.

If you would like to offer this Programme in your company, talk to us and we will customise it to suit your needs.

**Please contact us at  
[keynes@ucc.ie](mailto:keynes@ucc.ie)**

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CPD ACCREDITATION**