



School of  
Social Policy,  
Social Work  
and Social  
Justice

# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN NO. 25

APRIL/JUNE  
**2024**

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# **NEW FUNDED PROJECTS**

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/researchprojects/>

**HORIZON  
EUROPE**

## **HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT 2024 -2027**

# **From Housing Inequality to Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable Housing Solutions**

## **Equal House**

Overall Coordinator

**Prof. Michelle Norris, Director,  
UCD Geary Institute,  
University College Dublin**

Lead on Work Package

**Assoc. Prof. Muireann Ní  
Raghallaigh, UCD School of  
Social Policy, Social Work  
and Social Justice**





HORIZON  
EUROPE

## Equal House

From Housing Inequality to Sustainable, Inclusive and Affordable Housing Solutions - (EqualHouse) has been approved for funding under the Horizon Europe RIA call. Michelle Norris, Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy is the PI for the project. **Dr Muireann Ní Rahallaigh**, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice is also a work package lead. This is a twelve partner project with a total budget of €3.4 million, of which the UCD share is €650,000. The project is managed by Ms. Emma Barron, Geary Institute for Public Policy. The project commenced in January 2024.

The project had its consortium kick off meeting in Athens, Greece on the 7th April which provided fruitful collaboration and plans for the future of the 48 month project.

Further information can be seen at this link:  
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101132325>



Equal House team pictured at the kick-off meeting in Athens, Greece on April 7th 2024





# PROMOTION

## Congratulations!

We are delighted to congratulate **Dr. Sarah Donnelly** who was promoted to Associate Professor in February 2024 and to **Dr. Marie Moran** who was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2024.

### Dr. Sarah Donnelly

Dr. Sarah Donnelly's (Social Work) main areas of research interest include: ageing, dementia, capacity and decision-making, care planning meetings, practitioner research, adult safeguarding, action research and healthcare research. UCD Profile: <https://people.ucd.ie/sarah.donnelly/>



### Dr. Marie Moran

Dr. Marie Moran (Social Justice) main areas of research interest include: Critical social and cultural theory; capitalism and contemporary capitalist societies; identity and identity politics; ideology, language and discourse; and equality studies, including the normative critique of and sociological explanation for a wide range of inequalities. UCD Profile: <https://people.ucd.ie/marie.moran/>



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# PAST EVENTS

MARCH - JUNE 2024

Seminars,







University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University



## Erasmus+ICM: Hokkaido University & UCD (Public Policy)



**Dr Dorota Szelewa** participated in Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (Erasmus+ICM - Staff Mobility) delivering teaching and training at Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Public Policy in Sapporo, Japan between 10 and 15 June 2024. The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, affiliated with the School, successfully obtained this competitive Erasmus+ ICM funding, for the second time in 2022, jointly done with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine under the theme of 'One Health' (led by Dr Kodate & Prof. Gordon).

The academic and teaching exchange involved mutual learning about the pedagogical methods and tools applied to public policy teaching, providing teaching and training within the field of public policy studies presenting the European perspective and specific case studies as possibly applied to the Japanese context. During her stay at Hokkaido University, Dr Szelewa gave a lecture on "Social Investment in welfare policy making: the approach and a gender perspective", a seminar discussion for graduate students of her research on voluntary childless population in Poland, as well as a presentation "Right-wing populist governments and the issue of gender relations in Poland and in Hungary" followed by a lively discussion.







University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University

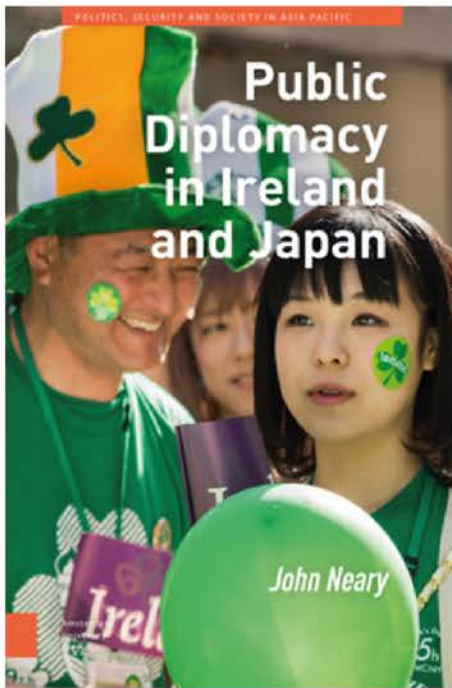


The visit resulted in students being exposed to a different approach to teaching, in-class discussion, new forms of student engagement, but also in making initial plans for further academic and teaching/training exchange.

Find more about Hokkaido University and UCD's partnership.  
<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/hokkaidouniversityhupresidentprofhoukinsdelegationvisittoucd/>

# UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (UCD-JaSt)

## Book Publication



The book "Public Diplomacy in Ireland and Japan", written by Adjunct Professor John Neary (UCD College of Social Sciences and Law & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Justice and Social Work under the auspices of the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies) was published. The book explores how culture, business, sport and education have shaped international relations between the two nations – Ireland and Japan. Prof. Neary graduated from UCD with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1973. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1974. He served as Head of Personnel and Planning from 1994 to 1998 and was responsible for the organisational arrangements for Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in 1996.

Between 2010 and 2014, Prof. Neary was Ambassador of Ireland in Japan. In 2017, he retired after his last posting as Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and joined the Centre/School/College in UCD as Adjunct Professor. The book is based on his experience as a diplomat as well as academic work.



You can read a free preview on the website of Amsterdam University Press.  
<https://aup.nl/en/book/9789048559657/public-diplomacy-in-ireland-and-japan>





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## Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Seminar Series, March 2024

JaSt held another seminar, the last one in the Spring Trimester 2024, as part of its Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies Seminar Series in the Boardroom (D101), UCD College of Social Sciences and Law on the 27th of March. The guest speaker was Prof. Hideki Kuwajima, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University. This was his first (return) visit to UCD since 2017. His talk was entitled 'Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity: From Edmund Burke's Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn's Izumo in Hidden Japan'.

The seminar was jointly hosted by JaSt and the UCD Centre for Asia Pacific Research, and chaired by Prof. Mary Gallagher (JaSt / UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics).

Drawing on his research and works, Prof. Kuwajima first presented the concept of the 'sublime' which was originally analysed by the 18th-century Irish thinker Edmund Burke. He then applied concepts such as "pain/suffering-inversion" and "impossibility of representation/non-visual centrism", and then compared cultural sensibilities of the 'Far West' (Ireland/Celtic world) and the 'Far East' (Japan/Izumo-no-kuni), while carefully considering the "pain/suffering-inversion" principle at its core.

His talk offered a lot of insights into the current world affairs as well, highlighting the complexities and the significance of words, concepts, philosophy, languages and cultural studies. The seminar participants were highly engaged with the talk and lively discussions ensued. The event also brought together several scholars and writers (e.g., Mr Paul Murray, Ms Jean Pasley) on Patrick Lafcadio Hearn / Koizumi Yakumo from outside the Belfield Campus.



Interdisciplinary Japan Studies Seminar

学際的日本研究セミナー

## Sublime Aesthetics, or the Cultural & Mythical Inversion Power of Negativity:

From Edmund Burke's Ireland to Lafcadio Hearn's Izumo in Hidden Japan

This lecture delves into Sublime Aesthetics, adapting them to Lafcadio Hearn's sensibilities, aiming for a comparative fusion of Irish and Japanese cultures through a study of pain inversion and representation impossibility. It explores philosophical connections in Izumo myths, linking to Hearn's cultural immersion in Matsue.

UCD  
Centre for  
Japanese  
Studies



UCD  
Centre for  
Asia-Pacific  
Research



Prof. Hideki Kuwajima  
Professor of Aesthetics,  
Hiroshima University

小泉八雲



Wednesday 27 March, 2024

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

D101 Newman Building, Belfield

[bit.ly/UJ\\_Sublime](https://bit.ly/UJ_Sublime)



Japan Seminar Series



(Left to Right: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (SPWJ / Director, JaSt), Prof. Mary Gallagher (Professor of French and Francophone Studies, UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics / JaSt), Prof. Kuwajima, Prof. Emma Sokell (Head of UCD School of Physics / Deputy Dir., JaSt).)

JaSt (Assoc. Prof. Kodate, in particular) has been a strong supporter of the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Gardens in Tramore, Co. Waterford, over many years, and also a catalyst for promoting the Study of Lafcadio Hearn's works in Ireland. Assoc. Prof. Kodate have connected numerous Hearn/Yakumo researchers and institutes in both countries, to date.



In 2017, Prof. Kuwajima gave a talk “Lafcadio Hearn’s ‘Celtic Lullaby’ & the Resonance of Irish Aesthetics” at the UCD Humanities Institute, and Prof. Gallagher visited Kumamoto University in 2019, giving a talk ‘Lafcadio Hearn: Homeless Writer, Orphan Writings?’. The pandemic had to halt the momentum for a little while, but recently, Prof. Nakajima (Toyama University) and Prof. Kuwajima were connected through Dr Kodate’s visit to Toyama University’s Hearn Library in May 2023, and mutual visits between Hiroshima, Toyama and Dublin began taking place. The preparations of Prof. Kuwajima’s seminar and visit this time commenced in the summer of 2023 and many meetings were held via Zoom between Professor Kuwajima in Hiroshima and Dr Kodate in Dublin.

See past events on the following weblinks:

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/events/lafcadiohearnscelticlullabytheresonanceofirishaesthetics/> <https://www.let.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/soseki-yakumo/2019/03/17/post-366/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/meetingatthelafcadiohearnlibraryattheuniversityoftoyama/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/lafcadiohearnfrenchliteratureseminarinmoli/>

With regard to the institution-to-institution links and partnerships, JaSt has been closely working with the UCD Global Office and providing support and guidance for stakeholders at both universities in relation to these visits/meeting arrangements. In July 2023, the College VP for Global Engagement (Social Sciences and Law), Dr Bernd Justin Jütte and Mr Richard Emery (Director, UCD Asia Pacific Global Centre) visited Hiroshima University and met with President Prof. Mitsuo Ochi, VP for International Affairs, Prof. Kaneko and his team. This time, Prof. Kuwajima met with the College VP for Global Engagement (Arts and Humanities), Assoc. Prof. Conor Mulvagh and Dr Declan Downey (UCD School of History / JaSt) to discuss possible areas of collaborations between UCD and Hiroshima University, including student/researcher exchanges. Furthermore, working with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, JaSt also helped organise a reception for Prof. Kuwajima, thanks to the gracious support from Ambassador Maruyama and his team.



In July 2023, the College VP for Global Engagement (Social Sciences and Law), Dr Bernd Justin Jütte and Mr Richard Emery (Director, UCD Asia Pacific Global Centre) visited Hiroshima University and met with President Prof. Mitsuo Ochi, VP for International Affairs, Prof. Kaneko and his team. This time, Prof. Kuwajima met with the College VP for Global Engagement (Arts and Humanities), Assoc. Prof. Conor Mulvagh and Dr Declan Downey (UCD School of History / JaSt) to discuss possible areas of collaborations between UCD and Hiroshima University, including student/researcher exchanges.

Furthermore, working with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland, JaSt also helped organise a reception for Prof. Kuwajima, thanks to the gracious support from Ambassador Maruyama and his team.



(Left to Right: Mr Benedict Schlepper-Connolly (Head of Exhibitions, Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)), Mr Simon O'Connor (Director, MoLI), Ms Leah Benson (National Gallery of Ireland / Graduate of UCD College of Arts and Humanities), H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama (Japanese Ambassador to Ireland), Prof. Hideki Kuwajima (Hiroshima University), Dr Robert Power (UCD School of Archaeology/JaSt), Prof. Seán Ó Riain (Department of Sociology, Maynooth University))





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## Two hour Seminar

Date: MAY 31st 10:00 – 12:00

Venue: G109, UCD Newman Building, Belfield

**Topic: The Cultural Relevance of Objects viewed through the prism of Social Work in 40 Objects and 40 objetos del Trabajo Social latinoamericano.**



## SPEAKER

Professor Emeritus  
Mark Doel

### BIO – Professor Emeritus Mark Doel

- Graduate of Oxford University (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) and qualified as a social worker at Hull University.
- Registered social worker with almost twenty years' experience of direct social work practice with communities.
- Worked for two separate years in the United States, as a social worker and social work researcher.
- Joint appointment for 10 years as both social worker and university lecturer in Sheffield and developed his models of student supervision during this period.
- Well known for his practice curriculum and practice portfolio, task-centred practice, groupwork and service user participation.
- Head of School of Social Work at Birmingham City University, one of the largest in the UK, and Research Professor at Sheffield Hallam University, becoming Emeritus Professor in 2010.
- Continues work as author, external examiner and reviewer, delivering conference keynotes and training workshops, mainly in groupwork, practice education and dilemmas in practice. He has published many scholarly articles as well as twenty-three books, most recently a completely revised second edition of *Social Work: The Basics*.
- Renowned international reputation, having helped develop social work education and practice in Russia and Eastern Europe since 1993;
- Awarded Honorary Professor (Doctor) at Tbilisi State University, Georgia, and visiting Scholar at Pretoria University, South Africa, Batumi State University, Georgia, at Lithuanian Educational Sciences University and at Universidad de los Lagos, Chile.

### Summary

This lecture aims to understand social work through artefacts and stories. It is based on a comparative research project with Universidad de los Lagos (Osorno, Chile) into the meanings given to social work via objects in a Latin American context.



ORGANISED BY:

Prospera Tedam, Prof. of Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work & Social Justice

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[Prospera.Tedam@ucd.ie](mailto:Prospera.Tedam@ucd.ie)

ONLINE  
Conference

**16 May 2024**



# **RE-ENVISIONING CARE FOR A MORE JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**

ORGANISED BY:

**CARE STUDIES WORKING GROUP AT TEXAS  
A&M UNIVERSITY, USA.**



## SESSION A: CONCEPTUALIZING CAREGIVING

10:45-11:00am

Professionals without a profession: how childcare workers develop professional orientation through community embeddedness and rewards

**Dr. Ieva Zumbyte, University College Dublin**

Email: [ieva.zumbyte@ucd.ie](mailto:ieva.zumbyte@ucd.ie)

Why do some care workers behave like professionals exhibiting commitment and dedication to high-quality childcare, despite the absence of institutional professionalization, incentives and monitoring? I answer this with ethnographic fieldwork and over 100 interviews with public childcare workers in 15 neighborhoods in Chennai, India. India boasts the largest and longest running free universal childcare program in the world, catering to 84 million children. The program relies on underpaid, overworked teachers, without sufficient institutional support or training to deliver quality childcare. And yet I find that some teachers cultivate distinct professional orientations towards childcare provision. They do so by actively engaging with communities and adapting to the preferences and demands for childcare articulated by parents. These vocalized expectations effectively set the benchmarks for the quality of care anticipated. Teachers' responsiveness, in turn, generates positive feedback, in the form of community support and recognition of teachers' efforts. In a job with limited benefits and numerous workplace constraints, community recognition serves as a significant reward, sustaining teachers' commitment to high-quality care. Conversely, in neighborhoods where parents lacked the collective power to demand better care or where teachers confronted overwhelming personal and workplace constraints, teachers developed an "uncommitted" orientation towards work, minimizing effort or prioritizing closely monitored tasks of reporting over quality childcare. By revealing how professionalization can also develop in uncoordinated and unintentional settings this article expands our knowledge on pathways to professionalization (Oberhuemer 2005; Dahlber and Moss 2005; Vandebroek et al. 2016). I find that instead of being socialized to follow institutional goals by collective organizing or norms agreed upon by workers (Abbott 1988; Evertsson 2000; McDonnell 2017), it is everyday interactions between teachers and parents, initiated by both, that helped create a sense of duty, accountability and purpose for workers.



Community feedback and rewards in turn allowed some teachers to cultivate and sustain professional attitudes and behavior. This indicates that elements of democratic professionalism (Oberhuemer 2005) can emerge organically, and even in adverse working conditions. Despite multiple work constraints, some teachers weaved moments of care into their demanding workloads to reclaim a sense of pride and dignity. My findings also suggest that inverting traditional notions of professionalism in care work, supports rather than hurts professionals' interest and public good. The professional culture, encompassing ideals of expert knowledge, impartiality, and autonomy tends to encourage detachment, distance, and neutrality as to better serve public interest (Stone 2000; Lopez 2014). However, many scholars have demonstrated that care work is incongruous with such professional ethos, because genuine care necessitates engagement and attachment (Foner 1994; Stone 2000). It is precisely the situated, personalizing care aspects that make work rewarding, confers status to workers and does not disturb their autonomy. In fact, teachers who went out of their way, and actively responded to community needs reported a greater sense of authority, dignity and respect. Although formal training and knowledge is essential for establishing certain competencies, it is the personalization and emotional bonds forged between teachers and care recipients, that foster mutual benefits and enhance care quality

*The Care Studies Working Group at Texas A&M University is hosting a half-day virtual conference on May 16th, 8am-1:15pm CST, Texas USA Time to facilitate an interdisciplinary dialogue between the social sciences and the humanities about care: How does care perpetuate unequal social relations? How can care be reimaged to build more equitable and inclusive societies? How can the omnipresence of care, often invisible, be recognized, valued, and supported as fundamental to all aspects of human life?*

To register please use the following link:

<https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqcOGsqDwjE9AYJrArB7AHoitB6LFFJ70>

To Download the Full Conference Program please use the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/188w73rMjBvBc\\_eDcVFbjlb1krgobjXClq57yIlkInfw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/188w73rMjBvBc_eDcVFbjlb1krgobjXClq57yIlkInfw/edit?usp=sharing)



## 13th European Conference for Social Work Research Vilnius, 17 – 18 April, 2024

**Dr Sarah Donnelly** recently attended the European Conference for Social Work Research 2024 in Vilnius 17th-19th April, 2024 along with School colleagues. Sarah convened a symposium on 'Hidden Harm' stemming from her 'Understanding Carer Harm' report which was carried out in partnership with Family Carers Ireland and funded by the Irish Research Council, New Foundations Grant. Other symposium contributors were Prof. Alisoun Milne, University of Kent, Dr Kathryn Mackay, University of Stirling and Dr Louise Isham, University of Birmingham.



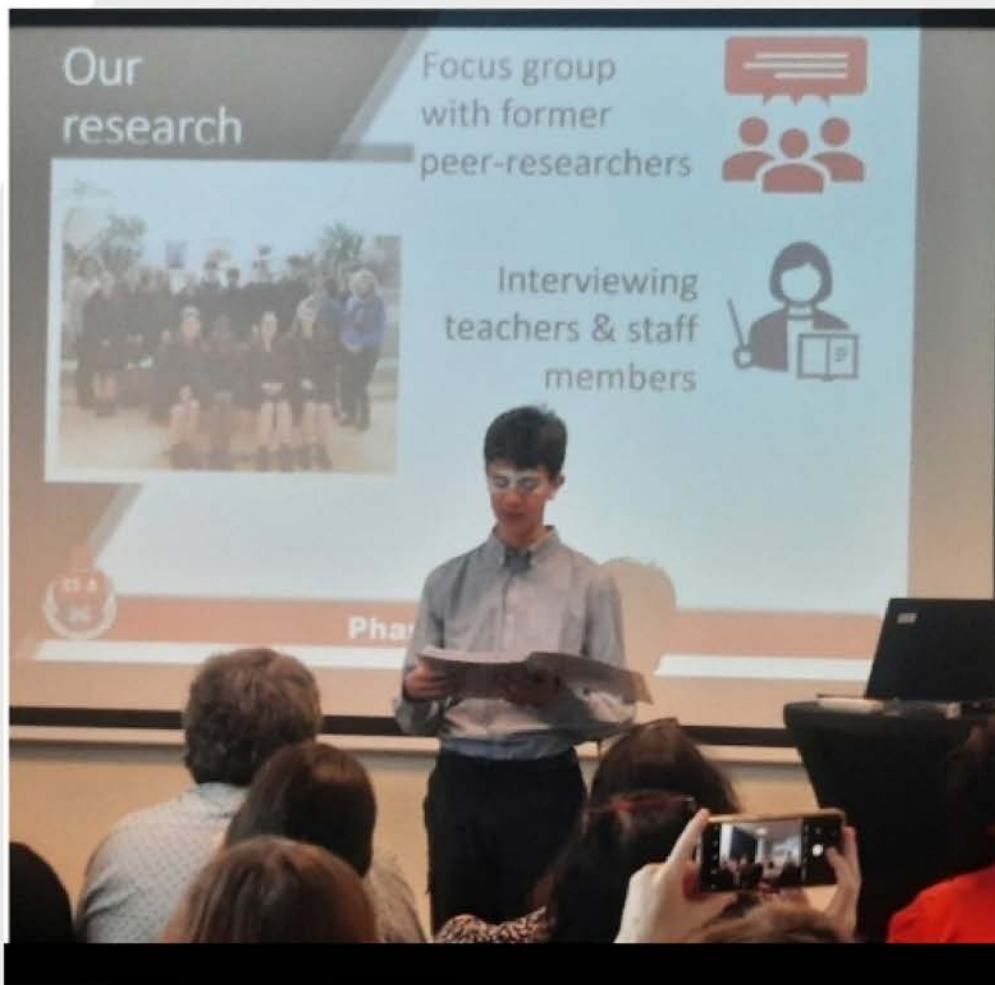


**Phil Butler Cross** and **Jennifer Allen**, SPSWSJ PhD students who are co-supervised by Dr Sarah Donnelly and Dr Sarah Morton also presented papers at the conference.

- Phil gave an oral presentation on 'Using Online Tools to Support the Facilitation of a Service User Co-Operative Inquiry Group. Cycle Two of the research study - Exploring the Lived Experience of Mothers with an Acquired Brain Injury using a Feminist Participatory Action Research Approach.'
- Jennifer gave a poster presentation entitled: 'The co-creation of knowledge and a pathway for advance care planning in older persons mental health through co-operative inquiry.'



**Dr Elaine Wilson** attended the European Social Work Research Conference along with Dr Niamh Flanagan, Maynooth University and 17 second level school students from Wesley College, Dublin. Dr Wilson and Dr Flanagan worked with the students over a number of months and they presented the results of their research entitled 'Continuing a whole school conversation about racism with teenagers' at the conference. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the teenagers and their important, innovative research.



All

Verified

Mentions

**Dylan Sloan** @dylanrgsloan · 14m

Replying to @sarahmdonnelly1 @wesleycollege and 3 others

One of the highlights of the @ESWRA1 conference by far! The students should be so proud, a shining example of what can happen when co-production is placed at the heart of research. Thank you for presenting sharing your insights.





**Publication and Launch of 'HSE Knowledge and Skills Framework for Integrated Care of Older People'**  
**30th May 2024, Royal College of Physicians, Ireland**

The launch and publication of the 'HSE Knowledge and Skills Framework for Integrated Care of Older People' was held on 30th May 2024 in the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland. **Dr Sarah Donnelly** was one of two national social work representatives to sit on the working group and who co-authored the framework.

**Background:** Ireland is growing and ageing at the same time. Whilst our population is now over 5 million for the first time since the Great Famine, people in Ireland can also anticipate being the longest living in the EU, with life expectancy at birth being 80.4 years for men and 84 years for women. Looking to the near future and to within the working life of many current healthcare professionals, our successful ageing will change our societal and healthcare landscapes. It is anticipated that our population aged 60 years and over will double from 950,000 in 2019 to a projected 1.9 million people by 2051 (Sheehan and O'Sullivan, 2020).



While increased life span is positive it has not been matched by an increase in health span. (Seals, Justice et al. 2016) A key challenge for healthcare services in Ireland is to support older adults to live healthy lives which are disability free for as long as possible. (Sheehan and O’Sullivan, 2020). As people age they are more at risk of experiencing frailty and multi-morbidity and interdisciplinary team working is key to supporting the often complex needs of older people accessing healthcare services. Care provided through interdisciplinary teams, which includes the older person in care planning and goal setting, is associated with better outcomes. It is essential that healthcare professional working with older people, have the necessary training and skills to provide integrated, evidence based care, that can enable older people to live at home for as long as possible.

This “Knowledge and Skills Framework for Healthcare Professionals working with the Older Person” has been co-produced by a range of healthcare professionals, and will be a valuable tool to support the provision of high quality integrated care across all relevant healthcare settings. This framework will support increased awareness of the knowledge and skills of individual disciplines working with older people, and also the knowledge and skills required of interdisciplinary teams working with older people. Whilst the former goal has great value in its own right, it is the understanding of the need and the development of the latter which is the ‘gravy’ in this guide. The critical appraisal and consensus building approach adopted by the different healthcare professional groups has identified five core domains of shared knowledge and skills which are central to the provision of contemporary high quality care. They are the essential building blocks of shared values, understanding each other’s role, teamwork, communication and collaboration.

The framework can be accessed at this link:  
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/older-people/resources/knowledge-skills-framework-for-hcps-working-with-older-people.pdf>





Webinar

## Human Rights in the Context of Care for People Living with Dementia

**DATE: Wednesday 5th June 2024**

**TIME: 9:00 - 10:45am GMT**

On the 5th June 2024, **Dr Sarah Donnelly** hosted a webinar focused on 'Human Rights and People Living with Dementia in the Context of Care.' Over 100 people attended the webinar which had a host of national and international contributors including:

- Dr Maeve O'Rourke Lecturer in Human Rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway,
- Kate Swaffer, PhD Candidate at the University of South Australia, School of Justice and Society,
- Kathleen Farrell and Helen Rochford Brennan, Irish Dementia Working Group with Clodagh Whelan, ASI Advocacy Manager,
- Kristina Chelberg PhD candidate in the Australian Centre for Health Law Research, at Queensland University of Technology and
- Dr Linda Steele, Associate Professor at UTS Law Faculty.



9:05-9:20 am **Human Rights and the Care of Older People: Dignity, Vulnerability, and the Anti-Torture Norm**

Dr Maeve O'Rourke, University of Galway, Ireland

9:20 - 9:35 am **Dementia as Disability: Rights under Threat.**

Kate Swaffer, PhD Candidate, University of South Australia

19:35 -9: 50am **Co-developing Recommendations for Upholding the Protection and Human Rights of PLWD in Irish Nursing Homes.**

Irish Dementia Working Group supported by Clodagh Whelan, Alzheimer Society of Ireland

9.50-10.05am **Unsuccessful ageing: Marginalising constructions of dementia in Australian aged care legal discourse.**

Kristina Chelberg Queensland University of Technology

10: 05 – 10:20 am **Reparations for people living with dementia: Recognition, accountability, change, now!**

Dr Linda Steele Associate Professor at UTS Law Faculty and Kate Swaffer, University of Wollongong.

10:20 – 10:35 am **Insights into the 'Rights Made Real' project.**

Irish Dementia Working Group supported by Saoirse Kelly, Alzheimer Society of Ireland

10.35-10.45 am **Questions, Reflections and Close**

Dr Sarah Donnelly



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

# UCD-TCD Ageing Research Network (Asian Chapter) Meeting Roundtable



With:

**PROF. MEI-CHUN  
CHEUNG**



Venue: UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (A201, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington Building)

Date/Time: 7 June 2024, 12-2pm



Prof. Cheung Mei-chun (張美珍教授) is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). She obtained her Ph.D. degree in Clinical Psychology, specialized in clinical neuropsychology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has also received clinical training at the University of California at San Diego in the U.S. and the University of Birmingham in England.

She is also a registered social worker, registered clinical psychologist and Associate Fellow of the Hong Kong Psychological Society (HKPS), and the vice-chairperson of the Hong Kong Neuropsychological Association (HKNA).

The Department of Social Work, CUHK and UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice have been partners for 8 years, and Prof. Cheung, and **Assoc. Profs. Naonori Kodate and Sarah Donnelly** worked on the Toyota Foundation-funded interdisciplinary project “Harmonization towards the establishment of Person-centered, Robotics-aided Care System (HarP:RoCS)” between 2019 and 2022.





# SASE

## 2024 Conference

University of Limerick, Ireland  
27-29 June 2024

### FOR DIGNIFIED AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC LIVES:

Disrupting the Emotions,  
Politics, and Technologies of Neoliberalism

20 January, 2025  
09.00 PM

Speaker  
DANI MARTINEZ



Scoil Ghnó Kemmy  
Kemmy Business School

ORGANIZATION



Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics



Fáilte Ireland  
National Tourism Development Authority



**A number of faculty from the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice – Dr Orla Kelly, Dr Naonori Kodate, Dr Stephen Köppe, Dr Dorota Szelewa – in addition to postdoctoral fellow Dr Ieva Zumbyte and UCD PhD student Aušra Ižauskait participated in the SASE 2024 Confer3ence as follows:**

- MC01 – Old and new inequalities in WTR 08:30 – 10:00 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 C1058 – Main Building Level 1 Track MC01: Working Time Reduction: Toward a more balanced, just and sustainable economic life **MODERATOR Orla Kelly University College Dublin, Ireland**
- MC10 – Gender and the effects of welfare policies 08:30 – 10:00 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 SG16 – Schumann Building Ground Floor Track MC10: Welfare States and Gender Inequality: Regional and Global Perspectives **MODERATOR Dorota Szelewa University College Dublin, Ireland**
- MC10 – Focus on Fathers: leave policies and entitlements 10:30 – 12:00 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 SG16 – Schumann Building Ground Floor Track MC10: Welfare States and Gender Inequality: Regional and Global Perspectives **MODERATOR Dorota Szelewa, University College Dublin, Ireland Paternity Leave – A Structured Review Stephan Köppe, Mansi Rawat, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**
- 08:30 – 10:00 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 C1062 – Main Building Level 1 Track \*D: Professions and Professionals in a Globalizing World MODERATOR Tracey Adams University of Western Ontario, Canada Professionals without a profession: how childcare workers develop professional orientation through community embeddedness and rewards **UCD Posdoctoral Fellow, Ieva Zumbyte, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**
- MC10 – Gender and labour market participation 13:15 – 14:45 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 SG16 – Schumann Building Ground Floor Track MC10: Welfare States and Gender Inequality: Regional and Global Perspectives **MODERATOR Stephan Köppe, University College Dublin, Ireland**
- 15:15 – 16:45 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 C1061 – Main Building Level 1 Track \*G: Labor Markets, Education, and Human Resources A lack of continuity significantly devalues the service quality and occurs regularly. Investigations into the implementation of a new support format for long-term unemployed individuals in Germany Frank Bauer Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg, Bavaria, Germany Non-take-up of in-work benefits: benefit erosion, indexing and autoenrolment Diego Muñoz-Higuera **Stephan Köppe, Amadeo Fuenmayor, Rafael Granell**
- MC10 – Wellbeing and gender 15:15 – 16:45 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 SG16 – Schumann Building Ground Floor Track MC10: Welfare States and Gender Inequality: Regional and Global Perspectives **MODERATOR Ieva Zumbyte, University College Dublin, Ireland**
- Subjective Women’s Work–Care Difficulties: The Role of Childcare and Women’s Work Intensity **UCD PhD student, Aušra Ižauskait, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**
- T – CTSH Panel 2: Capitalism, Innovation and Health: Alternatives in Action 17:15 – 18:45 FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2024 C1059 – Main Building Level 1 Track \*T: Health. Care-led innovation, a new paradigm and an application in the Japanese context of Society 5.0 Sebastien Lechevalier, IEHES, France, **Naonori Kodate, University College Dublin, Ireland**
- Institutional design, welfare technologies and diffusion of innovation: Stakeholders’ views regarding care robots in Hong Kong SAR (China), Ireland and Japan **Naonori Kodate University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland**



The ESC is co-hosting a film screening on Storytelling, Indigenous Rights and Colonialism on Monday June 24th at 1pm in the Humanities Institute UCD, room H204:

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/KpoDPJPsKjQ?si=4H9A4Cd0o1yTR3De>

Directors: Rita de Cácia Oenning da Silva, Kurt Shaw. Brazil 2021, 20 min

Overview: When a wildcat miner appears in a remote Amazonian village, bribing a local man to guide him through the jungle to find gold, three girls, playing in the jungle and rivers, discover his plans. The ancient shaman of the village, begins to tell the girls stories from his grandfather's time, when the Tukano people resisted the arrival of Portuguese colonists with the tools they had at hand: their trees, rivers, and intelligence. Inspired by the old stories, the girls play many tricks on the miner, scare his guide into leaving him, and lose him in the depths of the jungle. Free of the threat, the community celebrates with a traditional dance, the dabucuri, and the shaman declares, "This is why I tell the old stories: so that they will not happen again."



Mon June 24th	<b>FILM SCREENING</b>	1pm , Humanities Insititute
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**WUITINA NUMIÚ (DAUGHTERS OF COURAGE)**

Q&A WITH FILM DIRECTOR KURT SHAW





*Wuitina Numiá*  
(*Daughters of Courage*)

D: Rita de Cácia Oenning da Silva, Kurt Shaw  
Brazil 2021, 20 min.

Film screening -  
Q&A with film director Kurt Shaw.

Monday 24 June  
at 13.00-14:00.

Venue: UCD  
Humanities  
Institute, H204.

When a wildcat miner appears in a remote Amazonian village, bribing a local man to guide him through the jungle to find gold, three girls, playing in the jungle and rivers, discover his plans. The ancient shaman of the village, begins to tell the girls stories from his grandfather's time, when the Tukano people resisted the arrival of Portuguese colonists with the tools they had at hand: their trees, rivers, and intelligence...

UCD Humanities Institute, UCD Equality Studies Centre, UCD Centre for Human Rights, UCD Sociology, UCD Latin America, Latin American Solidarity Centre (LASC).



# UPCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, TRAINING EVENTS

**JULY - AUGUST 2024**







## why design?

**ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems 2024, IT University of  
Copenhagen, 1-5 July**  
<https://dis.acm.org/2024/>



**Assoc. Prof. Kodate** has co-organised a one-day workshop “Robo-care Design Workshop: Understanding, Translating, Operationalizing, and Scaling Up Design Knowledge Regarding Robotic Systems for Care Assistance” together with Dr Laura Stegner (University of Wisconsin- Madison, USA), Dr Richard Paluch (University of Siegen, Germany) and others.

The cross-disciplinary workshop is accepted as part of the ACM Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) 2024. (ACM: the Association for Computing Machinery is a US-based international learned society for computing). It aims to facilitate a conversation among designers, roboticists, and human-computer interaction experts to address these challenges. This workshop aims to identify best practices for generating and applying design knowledge in developing robotic systems tailored for care settings.

The publication can be found at this website:

Stegner L, Paluch R, Hsu L-J, Collins S, Hu Y, Greuèl M, **Kodate N**, Müller C, Mutlu B, Šabanović S. RoboCare Design Workshop: Understanding, Translating, Operationalizing, and Scaling Up Design Knowledge Regarding Robotic Systems for Care Assistance. DIS '24 Companion: Companion Publication of the 2024 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference. July 2024. 421 - 423.

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3656156.3658395>



**Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** will give a talk entitled “Carescape transformers: the roles of robot engineers in an acute care hospital work system” (co-authored with Prof. Mayuko Tsujimura (Shiga University of Medical Science), Prof. Sebastien Lechevalier (EHESS), Mr Yuki Maura (Kansai Medical University) and Ms Masako Kitamura (Shiga University of Medical Science)) at the EASST-4S Conference at VU Amsterdam in July.

The paper will be presented as part of the Panel ‘Doing Digital Care and Spatial Transformations’, which is organised by Drs Dara Ivanova (Radboud University Nijmegen), Daryl Martin (University of York) & Thorben Simonsen (The Danish Center for Social Science Research).

The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) is a non-profit scholarly association devoted to the social studies of science and technology, and is the largest STS academic community in the world. This year’s quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and 4S attracted 5000 submissions, and will have 3000 participants coming all over the world.

Dr Kodate’s presentation is based on his latest project in collaboration with Toyota Frontier Research Center and Toyota Central R&D Labs.  
<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/newinterdisciplinaryinternationalcarerobotresearchprojectlaunch/>



**International Institute for the Sociology of  
Law Foundation, Onati University, Spain**

## **CONFERENCE**

# **"The Future of Ombuds Research. Empirical and Critical Perspectives**

Coordinators: Julia Dahlvik (University of Applied Sciences Vienna, FH  
Campus Wien), Axel Pohn-Weidinger (University of Strasbourg)



Sophie's presentation will be on: The Office of the Ombudsman and Prisoner Complaints: Ireland, a Case Study. The aim of the workshop is to bring together scholars working in the field of ombuds research in order to produce a research collection that continues international analysis in this field. As in previous volumes edited by members of the community, a key objective will not only be to depict the state of the art but also to provide directions for future research and debates on the ombuds. The programme and information on the workshop can be found here:

<https://www.iisj.net/en/workshops/workshop-calendar/2024?page=1>

**18 -19 July | 2024**



<https://www.iisj.net/en/workshops/future-ombuds-research-empirical-and-critical-perspectives>

# Equality Studies Centre News



Dear members and friends of the UCD Equality Studies Centre,

I hope you are all enjoying the relative calm of the summer semester, and looking forward to some holidays.

Here is some news in relation to upcoming events, and activities for next year.

Dr. Marie Moran | Associate Professor in Equality Studies and Social Justice | Director of the UCD Equality Studies Centre | Fulbright Scholar 21-22

Contact details: School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice | Room 205  
Hannah Sheehy Skeffington Belfield | 00353-1-7168572 |  
[@UCDEqualStudies](mailto:UCDEqualStudies@ucd.ie) |  
[@mariek Moran](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariemoran/)

- **Film Screening Wuitina Numiá (Daughters of Courage) and Q&A with film director Kurt Shaw, Monday June 24th.** The ESC is co-hosting a film screening on Storytelling, Indigenous Rights and Colonialism on Monday June 24th at 1pm in the Humanities Institute UCD, room H204.
- I am seeking **expressions of interest for convenors of the 'Unequal Societies', 'Equality and Flourishing' and 'Politics and Change' research streams for the coming year.** More information on the research streams is available [here: https://www.ucd.ie/esc/researchthemes](https://www.ucd.ie/esc/researchthemes). There is plenty of scope to organise activities and networks according with your own interests within the topic of the research stream, and I will support any convenor in this regard. The work is not onerous and there are no set tasks. Please drop me an email if you'd like to discuss further.
- In the academic year 24-25 I will be running a **lunch-time seminar series on the general theme of equality/inequality** (day to be decided). This will be open to all ESC members, their colleagues and postgrad students. The aim of the seminars is to provide a collegial and supportive environment for ESC members to present on any of their work that has an in/equality theme, broadly conceived, and to receive feedback from other members. Members can present, for example, on:
  - articles/book chapters in progress, on an in/equality theme
  - published work on an in/equality theme
  - conference presentations (or preparation for such)
  - Draft module outlines, where the presenter would like feedback on how to further develop an equality or EDI focus in content or pedagogy
  - Funding applications, where the presenter would like feedback on the equality or EDI angle
  - Anything else that has an in/equality angle, that presenters would like feedback on
- I will email about this again later in the summer, but if anybody would like to put themselves forward for a slot now, please do email, letting me know the topic and rough date you'd like to present.



# Equality Studies Centre News



- I am excited to let you know that both **Prof Alison Phipps and Dr Remi Joseph-Salisbury will give an Equality Studies Lecture** this coming year. Alison Phipps is the author of 'Me, Not You: The Trouble with Mainstream Feminism', and you can read more about her work [here](#). Remi Joseph-Salisbury is a co-author of 'Anti-Racist Scholar Activism', and you can read more about his work [here](#).
- I will be in touch when the details are confirmed, but for now Alison's lecture will be in September, and Remi's later in the year.



**New**  
Publications



# Book

## **Social Policy Review 36 - Analysis and Debate in Social Policy, 2024**

**Publisher: Policy Press**

**Publication Date: 28 Jun 2024**

**Online ISBN: 9781447373605**

**DOI:**

**<https://doi.org/10.51952/9781447373605>**

**Stephan Köppe** has edited the Social Policy Review 36 together with Bozena Sojka (University of Glasgow), Andrea Parma (Polytechnic University of Milan) and Ruggero Cefalo (University of Vienna). Published in association with the Social Policy Association, the latest book in this respected series will be essential reading for students and academics in social policy, social welfare and related disciplines.

Experts from across the globe review leading social policy scholarship in this new volume in the Social Policy Review series. Specialists explore local and multi-level trends in social policy including government responses to the cost-of-living crisis in the UK and decentralisation in primary health care in Thailand. They also review policy responses to working age risks in England, Italy and Australia, as well as policy developments and transformations such as social protection in Japan and Australia and immigration resettlement schemes in the UK.

Furthermore, SPR36 is available as open access here:  
<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/edcollbook-oo/book/9781447373605/9781447373605.xml>



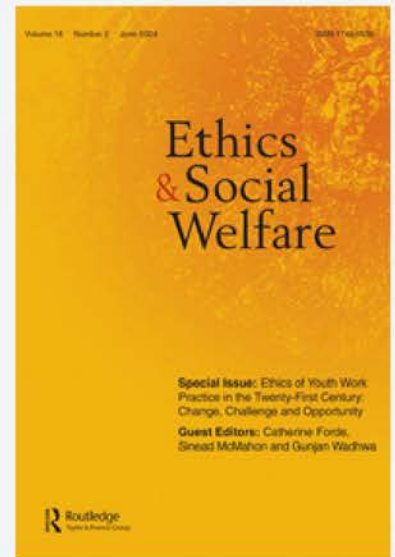
# Journal article

## Clarifying and Enhancing the Role of Equality in Youth Work Ethics: The Case for an Equality Studies Approach

Niamh McCrea, Department of Humanities, South East Technological University, Carlow, Ireland and **Marie Moran**, Equality Studies Centre, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

ETHICS AND SOCIAL WELFARE

WELFARE <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496535.2024.2315111>



### ABSTRACT

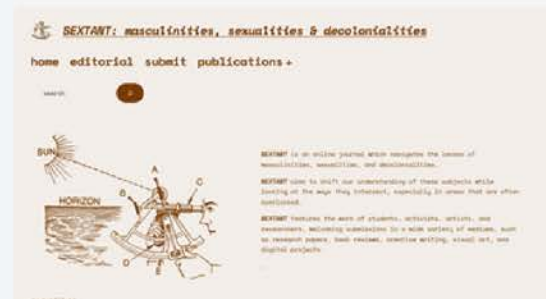
Implicitly or explicitly, youth work practitioners, scholars and advocates typically invoke a set of egalitarian values to explain, justify and promote the ethical basis of their work. Despite such commitments, there exists conceptual ambiguity surrounding equality across much of the youth work literature which has significant consequences for how youth work is framed and defended. This article introduces the interdisciplinary field of Equality Studies and argues that an Equality Studies approach provides a means to (i) clarify equality-related normative goals within the youth work field and (ii) enhance radically orientated youth work by strengthening the conception of equality at its core. It analyses three areas of conceptual ambiguity within the youth work literature with respect to the value of equality, in each case demonstrating how an Equality Studies approach can help remedy the problem. These areas are: (i) the assumption that equality means 'sameness'; (ii) the limits of equality of opportunity and anti-discrimination; and (iii) the relationship between equality and other values. It then evaluates the concept of 'equity', arguing that it is a vague, inadequate and unnecessary vehicle for capturing egalitarian concerns. The article concludes with some comments on the feasibility of radically egalitarian youth work.

**KEYWORDS:** Youth work, equality studies, equality of opportunity, equality of condition, radical youth work



# Journal Article

**Vasquez del Aguila, Ernesto, Theresa Schilling, and Ezra Malony.** 2024. "Community Ethnographers in Participatory Research: Intersecting Vulnerabilities within Minoritized Racial, Gender, and Sexual Communities." In *SAGE Research Methods: Diversifying and Decolonizing Research*. Spring 2024: 1-28. OI: <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529685480>,



**Abstract:** This case study discusses the practical application of a participatory approach in ethnographic research with vulnerable communities, emphasizing the importance of actively engaging and collaborating with communities under research. It focuses on the role of community ethnographers—community members who participate in ethnographic projects as partners—collaborating on the design, execution, and analysis of research within their communities. This case study explores the use of participant observation and focus groups as methods for investigating sensitive social and cultural issues. It is based on participatory ethnographic research conducted by the first author (Vasquez del Aguila, 2018) that explored the experiences of young people in minoritized Black and Latinx gender and sexual communities in New York City and the intersecting vulnerabilities that left them particularly susceptible to HIV infection. Led by participatory research principles, this research engaged community members as community ethnographers whose unique positionality enhanced the impact of participant observation through culturally informed insights and community connections. To address emerging limitations during data analysis, the research approach was adapted to introduce focus groups as a means of deeper engagement. This case study discusses ethical issues in participatory research such as navigating multiple positionalities, contending with power dynamics, and ensuring confidentiality while conducting research in public spaces. It also reflects on concepts of reflexivity, decoloniality, and intersectionality that informed and framed the research. This case study highlights the potential of participatory ethnography as a powerful tool for community empowerment and social justice and reflects on the importance of inclusive research methods, ethical considerations, and community collaboration for future research.

The 2024, Volume 2, Issue 1 of [SEXTANT: Masculinities, Sexualities and Decolonialities](http://www.sextantnotes.com) is available. SEXTANT features the work of scholars, students, activists, and artists in a wide variety of mediums, such as research papers, book reviews, creative writing, art, and digital projects. Website: [www.sextantnotes.com](http://www.sextantnotes.com). ISSN: 2990-8124.



# New report

**Dr Marie Keenan, Dr Deirdre Healy, Gemma McLoughlin-Burke BL and Dr Kate Keenan (University College Dublin) (2024) A Review of the Processing of Sexual Offences in Ireland: Stakeholder Experiences.** Funded and published by the Dept. of Justice.



## Executive Summary

It is estimated that around forty percent of Irish people will become victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives and may suffer adverse psychosocial impacts as a result, including to their mental health, educational attainment, family life, financial wellbeing and employment prospects. Many victims of sexual violence experience further harm during the criminal justice process due to a lack of effective communication and information sharing, limited opportunities for meaningful participation and discourteous treatment by criminal justice professionals. Delays in case processing can also engender a wide array of harms for complainants and accused persons, and impede the effective administration of justice. International evidence suggests that a range of factors can contribute to delays at each stage of the criminal justice process, including case characteristics, organisational cultures and practices, the skills and practices of criminal justice professionals, and system structures and processes. Accordingly, a comprehensive and whole-system approach is needed to understand and address delays in the processing of sexual offences. In Ireland, there is growing recognition of the need for a better understanding of the nature of, and reasons underpinning, delays in the processing of sexual violence cases.

The current research, which was conducted against a backdrop of significant legislative and policy change, aims to contribute to knowledge in this area by providing up-to-date and empirically based insights into professional stakeholders' views on the reasons for delays and possible solutions.

Specifically the aims of the study are to:

- Identify stakeholder views on any issues/problems that lead to delay in the processing and progression of sexual offences through the Irish criminal justice system
- Explore how these issues should be dealt with and how this might be achieved, elaborating on what has happened in Ireland thus far and what needs to be done.
- Detail the views of stakeholders as to the potential of interventions from other jurisdictions that might be adopted in Ireland to address the delays in the processing of sexual offences.
- 4. Explore with stakeholders the feasibility - facilitators and inhibitors - of introducing specific interventions in Ireland (legislative, practice-related and otherwise).

The aims of the study were addressed by means of the following research questions:

- What are the main delays/bottlenecks in the progression of reported sexual offences through the criminal justice system in Ireland (from reporting of an offence to trial outcome)?



## Methodology

The study employed a qualitative design involving semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders to capture their experiences of delays in the processing of sexual offences, their views on the reasons for these delays, and their recommendations regarding possible solutions. It also included an analysis of the relevant literature, legislative interventions, specific statutory instruments, family and criminal law practices and policies, laws and guidelines, and specific international interventions. In all, 73 interviews were conducted with 78 stakeholder representatives involved in the processing of sexual offences, including representatives from An Garda Síochána, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Court Service, the Legal Aid Board and Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, the Judiciary, the Legal Profession, Sexual Assault Treatment Units, Forensic Science Services, NGOs, and HSE and Tusla counselling and legal services. Interviewees across a range of ranks, roles and geographical regions were interviewed to ensure a broad representation of views. Ethical approval was obtained from the UCD Human Research Ethics Committee – Humanities and the research ethics committees of other criminal justice agencies as required. The interview guide was informed by Irish and international literature as well as insider interviews conducted off-the-record with three criminal justice professionals and was structured in two parts:

☒ Part 1 – Reasons for Delay covered stakeholder views on a range of topics including the nature and extent of delays within the system, the criminal justice sites where bottlenecks and delays are particularly pronounced, and potential reasons underpinning system delays including resourcing, structural arrangements, case management processes, case characteristics and disclosure requests.

☒ Part 2 – Reforms focused on the perceived efficacy of recent Irish innovations (e.g., pre-trial hearings, specialist units) as well as interviewees' views on five best practice interventions from other jurisdictions and their feasibility in the Irish context. The five international practices were (a) Multi-Agency Strategies/One Stop Shops (b) Time Limits and Deadlines, (c) Restorative Justice, (d) Fast-Track Courts and (e) Specialist Units.

Thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2012) was used to code, analyse and write up the data. This approach was chosen because it is both flexible and suitable for use with a wide range of methodological frameworks. Lincoln and Guba's (1986) trustworthiness criteria, considered the gold standard in qualitative research, were employed to ensure quality and rigor throughout the research process.

To access the pdf of the full report go to the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7bb45-a-review-of-the-processing-of-sexual-offences-in-ireland-stakeholder-experiences/>



School of  
Social Policy,  
Social Work  
and Social  
Justice

# RESEARCH IMPACT







# Invited Input:

Commission on Care for Older People, Dept. of Health

Dr Sarah Donnelly



**Older People and Family Carers: Perspectives on Care**

Commission on Care for Older People  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dr Sarah Donnelly, Associate Professor of Social Work,  
School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice,  
UCD.

Email: [sarah.donnelly@ucd.ie](mailto:sarah.donnelly@ucd.ie)

## OVERVIEW

**Dr Sarah Donnelly** was recently invited to present to the Commission on Care for Older People established by the Department of Health (<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/b979c-ministers-for-health-announce-appointment-of-members-of-commission-on-care-for-older-people/>).

## INPUT

Sarah's presentation focused on the 2015 Homecare study which was carried out in conjunction with Age Action, Alzheimer Society of Ireland and the IASW as well as her recent 'Understanding Care Harm' study.

## IMPACT

Sarah was invited as an expert in the area of older people and family carers to inform the work of the Commission and ultimately the development of health and social care services for older people in Ireland.

# Contribution to Review of Adult Safeguarding in Ireland


Dr Sarah Donnelly

Dr Sarah Donnelly contributes to Moving Forward: Adult Safeguarding in the Health Service Executive McIlroy Review of Adult Safeguarding in Ireland

## OVERVIEW


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**Dr Sarah Donnelly** contributed to the wider review published by independent safeguarding expert Jackie McIlroy on HSE safeguarding policies and procedures which was published on 20th June 2024. The Review was commissioned by HSE CEO Bernard Gloster.



## CONTEXT

In July last year, following the publication of the two separate investigations undertaken in the aftermath of a serious sexual assault on a resident (pseudonym 'Emily') at a HSE community nursing unit in April 2020, the HSE CEO requested an independent expert, Jackie McIlroy, to undertake two pieces of important work. The second element undertaken by Jackie McIlroy was a wider review of safeguarding in the HSE and in June the HSE published the findings of this review.



## IMPACT

Sarah authored Appendix 3 'Critical Considerations for Adult Safeguarding in Ireland' which was based on an invited presentation that Sarah gave in Tullamore on the 4th of October 2023 at one of the national stakeholder events.





Ms McIlroy outlines four key actions supported by detailed recommendations now required in order to address the issues she has identified in her Review. These are:

1. embedding a safeguarding culture;
2. increasing the visibility of safeguarding
3. supporting a strong change management process
4. embedding a culture of learning and improvement.

The HSE has now commenced a process to implement these recommendations and enable the development culture and practice across the HSE that places safeguarding at the centre of the services we provide.

The report can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/adult-safeguarding/>

# FOCUS ON OUR RESEARCHERS



**Dr Stephan Köppe, Assistant Professor in Social Policy, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice**

## **How did you come to UCD?**

After having graduated in Germany and a few years as a postdoc in Scotland, I was attracted by the strong international and comparative outlook of the social policy unit. Furthermore, the interdisciplinary profile of the school and wider social sciences at UCD are a very good fit to my research across various policy fields. In conjunction with the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, I can comprehensively pursue my diverse research interests in collaboration with inspiring colleagues.

## **Which social policy area are you investigating?**

I suppose my research cannot be defined by one policy area, rather the overarching theme of privatisation of welfare and inequality. Also, it is always paired with a comparative perspective that now spans studies ranging from Ireland to Iraq. I had an early interest in the political economy of welfare markets and privatisation reforms of pensions and schools in the 1990s. This includes an interest in for-profit and voluntary sector providers of welfare. Based on these policy-making studies, I have turned towards understanding the inequality of housing and wealth, how long-term care is funded through assets or how occupational benefits are crucial for family leave take-up.

## **Are there any key theories, methodologies, or paradigms that guide your research?**

I am very much an empirical researcher that is guided by policy puzzles or available data. For instance, my research on family leave policies was driven by government press releases that hailed paternity leave uptake as a success. When I started to analyse some easily available data with students this was not the case and it sparked a new research strand.



As a young PhD candidate I have found Neil Fligstein's Markets as Politics to be inspiring, but due to my diverse policy interests, I rather find inspiration in multiple theories and would not follow a specific paradigm. In the current ideological climate, I feel we all would benefit from being more humble about paradigms and be open to surprising empirical findings.

**Can you describe what the process of writing your most recent article?**

My latest article took some time due to Covid-19 and it all started with a joint funding application with my former PhD student Megan Curran (Columbia University) in 2019. We had actually secured funding right at the start of the pandemic in Spring 2020 and only managed to start data analysis in 2022. At this stage we recruited another PhD student, Iñigo Aldama, to the project. While I had led the research design and writing process, it was a pleasure to promote young talented researchers. For Iñigo this also became his first journal article and good learning exercise how to navigate the peer-review process.

**What are the key messages from your most recent publication?**

Within our article How large families fare in Germany: Examining child poverty risks and policy solutions (<https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12639>) we show that among poor children, more children are growing up in families with three or more children than in lone parent families. We argue that this is an underrecognised but very significant child population and should be more acknowledged in social policy discourses. Subsequently social protection schemes and social service should address the so far ignored needs of large families.

**What is next for you?**

In Autumn, I am starting a new project entitled "Transformations in Housing and Intergenerational Contracts in Europe (THICE)" as part of a larger Volkswagen Foundation consortium. Together with colleagues at Humboldt University, University of Amsterdam and University of Granada we are investigating how families negotiate and navigate the transfer of housing assets to their next in kin. At UCD we are responsible for the comparative European outlook and will exploit large datasets to understand better how inheritances and gifts built intergenerational relations or can even cause stress and conflicts between generations.

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice>

