



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN

NO. 26

SEPTEMBER
2024

Visit Our Website

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/researchnewsandevents/researchhighlightsbulletins/>



Introduction

On September 1st, 2024, Dr Stephan Köppe took up the school role of Director of Research. Stephan is Assistant Professor in Social Policy.

Our thanks to Dr Naonori Kodate for his valuable input over the past 3 years. This includes the introduction of the school research highlights bulletin. These bulletins are produced regularly through the academic year and are archived on the school website at the following link: <https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/researchnewsandevents/researchhighlightsbulletins/>.

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School of
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NEW DIRECTOR
OF RESEARCH





School of
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and Social
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NEW RESEARCH FUNDING





UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS SUPPORTS (BICS) INITIATIVE, 2024-5

Summary

Professor Tedam has been successful in obtaining the BICS Initiative award from Geary Institute which is aimed at cultivating impactful collaborations between Geary members and esteemed researchers from universities and research institutes worldwide.

Under the BICS Initiative 2024/25, Professor Prospera Tedam will host Dr Tam Cane from University of Sussex, England in February 2025.

Dr Cane will lead a seminar on her AFDiT Framework on transracial adoptions.

Details of the framework below.
<https://transracialadoptionframework.uk/>



Prof. Prospera
Tedam



Dr Tam Cane



UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS SUPPORTS (BICS) INITIATIVE, 2024-5

Dr Elaine Wilson was successful in obtaining a BICS initiative award. Under the BICS initiative, Dr Wilson will host Professor Kristina Urbanc from Zagreb University, Croatia in January 2025. Prof Urbanc will lead a seminar on reflective supervision practices for social work students. Professor Urbanc has extensive involvement at a national level in Croatia, as well as leading research at an international level in research related to social work practice education and supervision. She has been the president of the Croatian Association for supervision and organizational development since April 2020. Professor Urbanc has a particular interest in service users' perspectives of social work intervention, with the aim of improving those complex interactions and thereby the social wellbeing of service users. The concept of social wellbeing in her research extends to the experiences of social work students and practitioners, who operate in stressful and often under-resourced environments. This focus on wellbeing is important conceptually as the retention of social work staff globally is becoming a significant concern.

For more information please contact Elaine at email: Elaine.Wilson@ucd.ie



**Dr Elaine Wilson,
UCD Asst. Prof. in
Social Work**



**Professor
Kristina Urbanc,
Zagreb
University**



NEW APPOINTMENTS



New Appointment



Dr Nat O'Connor, Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

Email: nat.oconnor@ucd.ie

TwitterX: [@natpolicy](https://twitter.com/natpolicy)



Dr Nat O'Connor

Nat O'Connor has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Social Policy at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin (UCD).

Nat has a PhD from Trinity College Dublin and an MA from the University of Dundee, and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in the UK. Prior to joining UCD, Nat was Senior Public Affairs and Policy Specialist at Age Action (2021-2024) and Political Director of the Labour Party (2018-2020). He was a lecturer in Public Policy and Public Management at Ulster University (2015-2018) and Director of TASC (Think-tank for Action on Social Change; 2011-2015). Previously Nat worked as a policy analyst at TASC and as the information analyst in the Homeless Agency as well as a freelance consultant.

Nat is currently the chairperson of the Irish Social Policy Association (www.ispa.ie), a member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), a member of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, a member of the Research Steering Group to the Vincentian Minimum Essential Standard of Living Research Centre and Policy Adviser to Age Action.

Email: nat.oconnor@ucd.ie

TwitterX: [@natpolicy](https://twitter.com/natpolicy)

New Funded PhD Fellow



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

PhD FELLOWSHIP

Gabriela Sepúlveda has been awarded a funded PhD fellowship to work with **Dr Stephan Köppe** and an international research team on: **'Transformations in Housing and Intergenerational Contracts in Europe (THICE)'** funded by VolkswagenStiftung

- ✓ The fellowship involved joint Supervision, co-tutelle arrangement between UCD & University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- ✓ Gabriela is part of an international research team comprising: 4 PhD students, one Postdoctoral fellow and 5 Professors.



Email contact: gabriela.sepulveda@ucdconnect.ie.

Transformations in Housing and Intergenerational Contracts in Europe (THICE) UCD PI: Dr Stephan Köppe

Initiative: Challenges for Europe

Call : Challenges and Potentials for Europe: Intergenerational Futures

Allocation: Dec 13, 2023

Period of funding: 4 Years

Project Description

This project aims to deepen the understanding of how housing wealth is reshaping intergenerational relationships in Europe and to explore socially just solutions. Increasing housing inequalities with growing concentrations of wealth among homeowners, especially older ones, and diminishing access to affordable housing, especially among younger adults have affected European societies in recent decades. At the same time, there has been a revival of family dependencies and intergenerational transfers that sustain welfare and life-course transitions for younger generations. Intergenerational support, both financial and in kind, has increasingly centred on housing with, for example, rising adult co-residence with parents and family assistance for people buying their first property. This marks a profound shift in the intergenerational contract. To investigate this restructuring of the intergenerational contract, the project applies a comparative, cross-disciplinary approach that integrates quantitative and qualitative analyses. While work packages 1 to 4 focus on analysing the institutional foundations of intergenerational relations; the varying meanings and practices of family and kinship and their intersection with housing and household formation; the intergenerational support and its outcomes; and the inequalities between and within generations in the context of housing; the final work package will develop visions of best practices for Intergenerational Housing Futures.

Project participants

- Prof. Dr. Ilse Helbrecht, Humboldt-Universität Berlin.
- Dr. Rowan Arundel, University of Amsterdam (UvA)
- Dr. Ricardo Duque-Calvache, Universidad de Granada
- Prof. Dr. Richard Ronald, University of Amsterdam (UvA)
- **Dr. Stephan Köppe, University College Dublin**



School of
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VISITING PHD STUDENT



Visiting PhD Student



Email for Eirinn Hesvik: eirl@norceresearch.no

Email for Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, Assoc. Prof. in Social Work:
muireann.niraghallaigh@ucd.ie



Eirinn Hesvik Ljones is currently on a research visit at the UCD School of **Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice**, visiting **Associate Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh**. Eirinn is a PhD student at the Regional Centre for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare, NORCE, in Bergen, Norway. Her PhD project, "Contact and Continuity for Children with a Migration Background in Foster Care: A Study of Children and Parents' Experiences," focuses on children with migration backgrounds in foster care and their contact with their family of origin. The PhD study is part of a larger research project called Home and (dis) Continuity: Foster Homes for Children with a Migration Background (HoMi). Muireann Ní Raghallaigh is a member of the academic advisory board in the HoMi project.

The PhD study aims to shed light on how contact and contact arrangements with parents/families governed by the Child Welfare Services support and hinder the belonging and identity processes of children with migration backgrounds in foster care. Eirinn explores 1) how children in foster care navigate relationships with their family of origin and how contact arrangements affect their sense of home, and 2) how parents experience contact with their children in foster care and the extent to which their backgrounds are considered (or not) by the Child Welfare Services. This qualitative study uses photo elicitation and interviews with children and parents (unrelated to each other).

Eirinn will be at UCD from September 30th to October 25th and is excited to immerse herself in the new academic environment, work on her project, and explore Dublin.

You can read more about the PhD project here:

<https://www.norceresearch.no/en/projects/contact-and-continuity-for-children-with-migration-background-in-foster-care-a-study-of-children-and-parents-experiences>.

You can read more about the HoMi project here:

<https://www.norceresearch.no/en/projects/home-and-discontinuity-foster-care-for-children-with-migrant-backgrounds-homi>



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PAST EVENTS

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2024





The 8th Biennial International Symposium, held at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), June 20th and 21st 2024

Conference Paper and forthcoming publication

Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work (DARE)

Dr Joe Mooney, UCD Assistant Professor in Social Work, presented a paper at the 2024 DARE conference in Zurich at the end of June. The conference takes a focus on issues related to risk, heuristics, large language model and predictive risk modelling, all in the context of social work practice and education. The paper, entitled “Examining Disclosure of Childhood Sexual Abuse via a Social Model”, presented the core thesis of a developing monograph, a proposal for which has been recently accepted by Bristol University Press (Policy Press). The monograph is due to be submitted in August 2025 with an estimated UK publication date of September 2026 (US – October 2026).



Dr Naonori Kodate 'Robo philosophy Conference 2024 'Social Robotics with AI: Prospects, Risks and Responsible Methods', Aarhus University, Denmark (20-23 August 2024).



Dr Naonori Kodate also gave three talks.

- Kodate N, Maeda Y, Yumoto A, Donnelly S, Tsujimura M, Mannan H, Suwa S, Yu W, Kohli P, Obayashi K, Masuyama S, O'Shea D (2024) Welfare technology developers' views concerning responsible innovation and implementation of care robots in Ireland and Japan. Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.
- Kodate N, Kohli P, Maeda Y, Scott R, Yu W, Obayashi, Masuyama S (2024) An Irish 'traveling' air-purification robot in a care home in Tokyo: Why do humanities and social science matter? Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.
- Kodate N, Tsujimura M, Lechevalier S (2024) Assessing the impact of transfer robots on care work: the case of POTARO in Toyota Memorial Hospital, Japan. Robophilosophy Conference 2024. Aarhus, Denmark. 22 August 2024.



Photo: With philosopher, engineers, computer scientist and sociologist from Finland, Portugal, France and Norway

Location

THE LINEN HALL, BELFAST

Dr Mary McAuliffe uses the diaries of revolutionaries and activists Rosamund Jacob and Kathleen Lynn and the memoirs and archives of other suffrage and revolutionary women to look at the interlaced cohort of radical women who choose radical lives and radical loves. The women of this generation, many of whom came to feminism, socialism, and militant nationalism in the first decade of the 1900s, not only chose radical politics, they also chose radical lives.



This event is part of Féile 2024.

<https://www.linenhall.com/event/queering-the-irish-revolution-same-sex-relationships-among-irish-female-revolutionaries/>

Queering the Irish Revolution: Same-sex relationships among Irish female revolutionaries

9TH AUGUST, 2024 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Feminist and Queer Spatialities: Care, Connection and Change

UCD School of Geography
College of Social Sciences and Law
University College Dublin
Dublin, Ireland

August 21 - 22 2024
Newman Building, UCD

Dr Mary McAuliffe presented 'The gender/queer possibilities of archives? Researching Irish Queer Femininities, 1800-1920.' At the Feminist and Queer Spatialities: Care, Connection and Change Conference, August 21st-22nd, UCD

ABSTRACT

The creation of queer femininities is often a balancing act between resistances to the researching and writing those histories, and the fact that those histories do, and always did, exist in the archive. These are the types of archives that, as memory scholar Aleida Assman noted, of other marginal archives/histories, existed 'in a state of latency or transitory forgetfulness', awaiting rediscovery and placement in new contexts and charged with new meaning through acts of analysis and interpretation. While contemporary Irish queer histories are well served by archives which are situated in the national collections, researching queer femininities has proven a difficult road in this nascent but vibrant phase in research into Irish histories of sexualities. Even within the IQA the lesbian/dyke/queer woman is relatively marginal and is even more so in 19th and early 20th history research. Writing women is often fraught with methodological and archival challenges, writing queer femininities is doubly so. The historical challenges central to the writing of sexuality and Irish women must include looking beyond both heteronormative histories and a queer male-centric histories, theories and definitions. For instance, Judith Bennett has called for (re)looking at the history of single women, as they are depicted often in the archives 'through a heteronormative lens pathetic, sexless and lonely failures in a game of heterosexual courtship and marriage', while often the phrase 'she never married' is used as a coverall or coverup in discussing intimacy and relationships among women.

What I want to look at in this paper/chapter is how we theorise, research and uncover histories of queer femininities in the Irish archive. The theoretical frameworks of Fademan, Doan, Castle and others, who sought to make visible and define the lesbian in her/their historical context, will be considered in their efficacy for researching and understanding Irish queer femininities. Do these aid us in rendering the lesbian/sapphist visible in Ireland, 1800-1920? Or are these particularly Irish histories which need to be understood in the context of Ireland's experience of colonisation, revolution and post colonisation. A second central question will be to consider the idea of an Irish queer archive. How do we, as Irish queer scholars, respond to the challenge of the privileging certain types of historical evidence within Irish history, a privileging that often marginalises histories of both women and queer subjects; leading to the lesbian subject as 'twice marginal, twice invisible'. How do we deconstruct the historical silences in existing archives and broaden the idea of 'archive' to make visible queer histories of Irish femininities?

**International School Social Work Conference: empowering global futures, held at ARU Anglia Ruskin University, Essex, UK
on
9th -10th September 2024**

Conference paper and forthcoming publication: 'Continuing a Conversation about Racism with Teenagers: using the social work research Dialogue Approach'.



Dr Elaine Wilson, UCD Assistant Professor of Social Work, along with Dr Niamh Flanagan (Maynooth University) and 12 Wesley College students presented a paper at the ISSW conference in September 2024. In 2020, Wesley College secondary school, partnered with academics and teenagers to undertake participative research on the school community's experiences of racism – starting a conversation about racism with teenagers. The results revealed an unanticipated level of racism. Two years later another group of teenagers were tasked with reviewing progress in the school's bid to address racism. The intervening years were marked by small but sustained growth in far-right led anti-immigrant sentiment in Ireland, reinforcing the importance of the topic. This co-created study – Continuing a conversation about racism with teenagers – revisits the topic of racism, to capture changes and work remaining to be done. The findings presented by the teenage researchers at ECSWR 2024 revealed a mixed-bag of progress: limited progress overall, but subtle changes which can be built on. The teenage researchers concluded that their peers had started a conversation about racism in the school, they had continued the conversation, and now the school must ensure that the conversations don't stop. "We need to keep talking about racism". The paper is due to be published in the European Social Work Research Journal late 2024/early 2025

SEPT. 29TH
2024

Queer Femininities of the late 19th and 20th Century Ireland' roundtable discussion at the Dublin Festival of History, 2024

<https://dublinfoestivalofhistory.ie/event/queer-femininities-of-the-late-19th-and-20th-century-ireland/>

DR MARY MC AULIFFE

FÉILE NA STAIRE
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
DUBLIN FESTIVAL
OF HISTORY

BIG WEEKEND

IN-PERSON
AND ONLINE



MARY MCAULIFFE

Location: Printworks event and exhibition centre, Dublin Castle Dame St
Dublin 2, Dublin D02 V8R2

Transforming Justice Project Conference:

An All Ireland Examination of Justice Responses to Institutional Abuse

On Thursday 5th September, a conference was held in Buswells Hotel as part of the HEA Transforming Justice Project. The project, led by **UCD Principal Investigator, Dr Marie Keenan**, examined justice responses to non-recent institutional abuse through interviews with a range of stakeholders such as victim/survivors, lawyers, state officials, church officials and academics. The conference was a one day event which brought together different stakeholders, as well as members of the projects International Advisory Group to present and discuss the project findings, as well as experiences and research in other jurisdictions including Belgium, Canada and Australia.

The day started off with a presentation by the Honourable Peter McClellan AM QC on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia, this was followed by a presentation of the project findings by Dr Marie Keenan and Dr James Gallen.

The second panel consisted of presentations by Prof Kathy Daly (Griffith University, Australia) on 'Stepping Out of the Shadow of Transitional Justice: a theoretical framework for institutional justice' and Prof Jennifer Llewelyn (Dalhousie University, Canada) on 'Rethinking the Relationship of Law in Justice: Implications of a Restorative Approach to Justice for Non-Recent Institutional Abuse'. The third panel included presentations by Dr Rosemary Nagy (Nipissing University, Canada) on 'Assessing Canada's National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' and Prof Ivo Aertsen (KU Leuven, Belgium) on 'Towards a Multiple Layers Approach of Innovative Justice to Historical Institutional Abuse'. The day concluded with a roundtable panel 'Representation of Many Voices'.

Further information on the project can be found here:
<https://transformingjusticeproject.org/>



ESA'24
PORTO
16th CONFERENCE
27-30 AUGUST 2024 | PORTO, PORTUGAL

**TENSION, TRUST
AND TRANSFORMATION**

27 – 30 August, 2024 | Porto, Portugal

Dr Monika da Silva Pedrosa, postdoctoral fellow on NexSys SFI funded project with Dr Nessa Winston as Principal Investigator, presented a paper, 'Improving child wellbeing: the effects of transport and residential energy poverty on education and mental health of children and adolescents'.

<https://www.europeansociology.org/conference/2024>

Dr Monika da Silva Pedrosa, UCD Postdoctoral Fellow, NEXSYS SFI funded project (PI: Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston)

Improving child wellbeing: the effects of transport and residential energy poverty on education and mental health of children and adolescents
Monika Da Silva Pedroso*[1][2][3], Nessa Winston¹²³, Orla Dingley¹²³, and Páraic Carroll⁴[5]

Abstract

This paper investigates whether transport and residential energy poverty affect the educational and mental health outcomes of children and young people in Ireland. Existing research on residential energy poverty has demonstrated that children are more likely to present with health and behavioural issues when living in poorer housing conditions, such as a lack of heating. However, there is a significant gap in the literature in understanding the role of transport and residential energy poverty on educational and mental health outcomes. This paper explores: whether there are direct associations between transport and residential energy poverty, education and mental health; whether key socio-demographic factors affect how energy poverty impacts on these outcomes; whether these dynamics change over time; and whether a cumulative impact is evident. We use data from a longitudinal study on children's development: Growing Up in Ireland (GUI). Findings indicate that energy poverty in the residential and transport sectors is associated with lower educational achievement and poorer mental health among children.

Keywords energy poverty; transport poverty; double energy poverty; child wellbeing; social mediators.

Author contributions: Conceptualization: Monika da Silva Pedroso, Nessa Winston, Orla Dingley, Páraic Carroll; Methodology: Monika da Silva Pedroso, Nessa Winston; Formal analysis and investigation: Monika da Silva Pedroso; Writing-original draft preparation: Monika da Silva Pedroso, Nessa Winston, Orla Dingley; Writing-review and editing: Monika da Silva Pedroso, Nessa Winston, Páraic Carroll, Orla Dingley.

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[2] University College Dublin: UCD Energy Institute, Ireland

[3] University College Dublin: School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Ireland

[4] University College Dublin: School of Civil Engineering, Ireland

[5] University of Melbourne: School of Design, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Australia



Poverty, Social Welfare
and Social Policy

ISA RC19 Annual Conference

Sustainable Welfare in Global Context: Responding to Societal and Environmental Transformations



3rd - 6th Sept.

OSLO, NORWAY



Exploring the use of a meta-narrative review to inform policy making: A case study of residential and transport energy poverty.

Orla Dingley a, b, c*, Nessa Winston a, b, c, Monika Da Silva Pedroso a, b, c, Pádraic Carroll b, d

a University College Dublin: UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Ireland

b University College Dublin: UCD Energy Institute, Ireland

c University College Dublin: School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Ireland

d University College Dublin: School of Civil Engineering, Ireland

Abstract

One of the significant challenges for evidence-informed policy and practice is evaluating which evidence is valuable, valid and reliable. Greenhalgh et al. (2005) developed a form of systematic literature review: the meta-narrative review, to help policy makers understand and interpret research on complex issues. However, the design is underutilised. This paper outlines the key findings from our transdisciplinary, transnational meta-narrative review of residential and transport energy poverty. Historically, energy poverty research has been dominated by analyses of energy use within the home, but more recently academics and policymakers in Europe recognise the significance of transport energy use for energy poverty. When the two challenges are combined, they represent a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of groups across the globe. This paper describes the key components of the meta-narrative review, along with our refinements to it, which include our novel framework for analysing and presenting findings to inform policy and practice. Our refinements extend the explanatory power, usability and impact of these reviews. A key contribution of the paper is that it presents a unique framework to facilitate understanding and evaluation of research on the complexity of energy poverty and how it might be addressed. Additionally, we provide an overview of research which investigates both forms of energy poverty together, including literature from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. Our analysis could lead to new empirical and theoretical insights on this topic and encourage more evidence-informed policy and practice to address these types of energy poverty to enable a more just transition. Keywords: energy poverty; energy vulnerability; energy access; transport poverty; multidimensional perspective; just transition; systematic review.

Highlights

- This paper presents a transdisciplinary, transnational systematic meta-narrative review of research which addresses both residential and transport energy poverty.
- It presents a unique framework to facilitate understanding of, and evaluate research on, energy poverty in its multiple dimensions and how it might be addressed.
- It provides a novel, colour-coded framework for analysing and presenting findings to inform policy and practice.

*Greenhalgh, T. et al. (2005) "Storylines of research in diffusion of innovation: a meta-narrative approach to systematic review", *Social Science & Medicine*, 61 (2), pp. 417-430. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2004.12.001>



NexSys Strategic Partnership Programme

"Next Generation Energy Systems"

Link to project website: <https://www.nexsys-energy.ie/>

14th Interdisciplinary Conference - University of Galway, Ireland + Online, 18th - 20th September

AGING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly recently attended the '14th Ageing and Social Change Conference in University of Galway 18th- 20th September 2024.

- **Sarah was Chairperson and contributory speaker to the Plenary Panel discussion on 'Reconfiguring residential care homes as community care components: a rights and culture approach.'** Panellists included Professor Suzanne Cahill, Adjunct Professor of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, José Luis Fernández, Director, Associate Professorial Research Fellow, CPEC, LSE, UK, Maeve O'Rourke Lecturer, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway and Graham D. Rowles, Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky, USA.
- Sarah also participated in a colloquium on 'The Future of Long-Term Residential Care: Economic and Social Considerations.' She presented on 'Using participatory co-design to develop recommendations on human rights for people living with dementia in long-term care in Ireland.'

Plenary Panel: "Reconfiguring residential care homes as community care components: a rights and culture approach"



Sarah Donnelly

Associate Professor, School of Social Studies
(Social Work and Social Studies)



Suzanne Cahill

Adjunct Professor of Social Work and Social
Policy, Trinity College Dublin



José Luis Fernández

Director, Associate Professorial Research Fellow,
CPEC, LSE, UK



Maeve O'Rourke

Lecturer, Irish Centre for Human Rights, University
of Galway, Ireland



Graham D. Rowles

Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky, USA

For more information email: Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie



UPCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, TRAINING EVENTS

OCT - NOV 2024





UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy
RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE

WORK-LIFE BALANCE POLICY-MAKING IN IRELAND

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



The panel will feature:

- Pauline Cullen (Associate Professor of Sociology, Maynooth University)
- Alice-Mary Higgins (Senator, Seanad Éireann),
- Laura Bambrick (Head of Social Policy & Employment Affairs, ICTU)
- Donal Swan (Women's Economic Equality Co-Ordinator, NWC)

Register now



15th October 2024



09.30am - 12.30pm



Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)

UCD Naughton Joyce Centre, 86 St
Stephen's Green, Saint Kevin's, Dublin
D02 XY43

transeuroworks



UCD Gender Studies
School of Social Policy, Social Work
and Social Justice



UCD Equality Studies Centre
Lonnad Léinn an Chomhionannais UCD

To register for this event please go to this link: eventbrite.ie/e/work-life-balance-policy-making-in-ireland-roundtable-discussion-tickets-1029869265697?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl

SEMINAR



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



SPEAKER:
Professor Kosuke Imai
(Professor of Government
and of Statistics,
Harvard University)

Speaker Bio: Kosuke Imai is a professor in the Department of Government and the Department of Statistics at Harvard University. He is also an affiliate of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science. Before moving to Harvard, Imai taught at Princeton University for 15 years where he was the founding director of the Program in Statistics and Machine Learning. In addition, Imai served as the President of the Society for Political Methodology from 2017 to 2019 and was elected fellow in 2017.

Main Organisers:

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies & UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (UCD Public Policy Programme (MPP)) & UCD Geary Institute.

For more information please email: Naonori.Kodate@ucd.ie

**Using Algorithms to Detect
Gerrymandering and Improve
Legislative Redistricting: Cases
from the United States and
Japan**

**Date/Time: 5pm, Nov.
5th, 2024**

**Venue: Old Physics
Theatre, Museum of
Literature Ireland (MoLI),
86 St Stephen's Green,
D02 XY43)**



Irish
Gerontological
Society

**The Sheraton Hotel,
Athlone & Online**

Oct. 5th, 2024, 14:00 14:45

71st Annual & Scientific Meeting

Willie Bermingham Lecture, 2024

**'Ageism and Human Rights: Growing Old
with Dignity'**

**Speaker: Dr Sarah Donnelly,
UCD Associate Professor in Social Work**

To access the streamlined event: <https://broadcastonline.ie/igs>

For more information please email: Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie

Topic: Ageism and Human Rights: Growing Old with Dignity.

This public lecture will cover a number of topical issues including

- A global view on ageism and human rights, touching on loneliness and health impacts.
- An exploration of how current social policies impact on the health and quality of life of older people.
- The issue of interdependency between older people and their family carers within the context of caregiving and the intersection of care and harm.
- Family carers, elder abuse and adult safeguarding including the need for greater protections for older people
- Exploring the need for a UN Convention on the Rights for Older People,

Speaker: Dr Sarah Donnelly

Sarah Donnelly is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin and Chairperson of UCD's Ageing Research and Education Network. Before this, Sarah worked as a senior medical social worker at Tallaght University Hospital for 15 years in a variety of clinical areas including Age-Related Healthcare and Neurology. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin where she completed her Bachelor of Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Sarah has sat on a number of national policy advisory boards. She has acted as co-convenor of the European Network for Gerontological Social Work 2018-2023 and is an Academic Advisor on adult safeguarding to the Irish Association of Social Workers. Sarah's research interests include ageing, dementia, human rights, capacity and decision-making, carer harm, adult safeguarding and homecare robotics.

Chair: to follow and **Panellists:** to follow

The Willie Bermingham Lecture, which is sponsored by ALONE, is a keynote address at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Irish Gerontological Society.

The theme of the lecture is generally reflective of the presenter's special interests and perspectives on ageing and older people. In recent years our esteemed lecturers have covered interests, concerns and challenges over a broad range of topics including medicine, economics, social policy and law.

In 1977, Willie Bermingham founded ALONE (A Little Offering Never Ends), an organisation which highlighted the plight of old forgotten individuals who were living in squalid neglect in Dublin. This was after he had found several people dead in appalling conditions through his work as a firefighter.

Willie undertook his ALONE project on a voluntary basis, whilst still working in Dublin Fire Brigade. Many colleagues joined him as volunteers. As news spread of the work, the organisation grew. Although it has become a relatively large organisation, the focus on older people as individuals has never changed.

Willie received a People of the Year award in 1979. In 1985 he was awarded the International Firefighter of the Year award. In 1988, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law by Trinity College, Dublin.

Willie Bermingham died after a short illness in 1990. However, the foundations he laid has ensured that ALONE is still an active charity in Ireland. It supports housing and befriending schemes as well as advocating for older people. 100% of donations to ALONE go to front-line services.



Irish
Gerontological
Society

Sessions with speakers from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

Dr Naonori Kodate, Assoc. Prof. in Social Policy:

- Prof. Kazuko Obayashi, **Dr Naonori Kodate**, Ms Yoko Ishii, Ms Yoshimi Okamoto, Mr Hiromasa Kondo, Ms Sae Kurishima, Prof. Shigeru Masuyama. 'Can avatar robots assist older people and care professionals? Evaluation of an intervention study in eight nursing homes in Tokyo'. For more information go to the following link: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/28963/people>.
- **Ms. Yurie Maeda (PhD Student, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice), Dr. Naonori Kodate.** 'Community initiatives and the use of welfare technologies in super-aged areas: A case study from Japan'. For more information go to the following link: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/28963/submission/17>

Dr Sarah Donnelly, Assoc. Prof. in Social Work & Dr Sarah Morton, Assoc. Prof. in Social Policy

- Ms Jennifer Allen, **Dr Sarah Donnelly**, Dr Sinéad Murphy & **Dr Sarah Morton.** 'A Pathway for Advance Care Planning Co-Developed by Service Users and Interdisciplinary Healthcare Professionals in Older Persons Mental Health'. For more information go to the following link: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/28963/submission/303>
- Ms Freda Quinlan, **Dr Sarah Donnelly**, Dr Deirdre O'Donnell. 'Adult-Child to Older-Parent Coercive Control: A Hybrid Co-constructed Concept Analysis'.
- **Dr Sarah Donnelly**, Ms. Marie Ward, Ms. Josephine Donlon, Dr Una Geary, Ms. Paula Markey, Ms. Sharon O'Hara, Ms. Una Healy, Ms. Sinead McGarry. Developing An Online Course To Increase Staff Awareness And Responses To Unwanted And Illegal Sexual Behaviour Perpetrated Against Older People. For more information go to the following link: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/28963/submission/230>
- Dr Deirdre O'Donnell, Dr Carmel Davies, Ms Catherine Devaney, Ms Apolonia Radomska, Ms Marie O'Shea, Dr Gráinne O'Donoghue, Dr Aoife De Brún, **Dr Sarah Donnelly**, Ms Helen Whitty, Dr Patrick John Harnett, Ms Deirdre Lang, Dr Emer Ahern, Dr Éidín Ní Shé. 'The Contexts and Resources that Support Effective Interprofessional Collaboration in Community Care for Older People: A Realist Synthesis'. For more information go to the following link: <https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/28963/submission/151>



SAOL
project

DATE: October 15

TIME: 9:30am - 12pm GMT+1

**Address: Irish Human Rights
and Equality Commission, 16-22
Green Street D07 CR20 Dublin 7**

REPORT LAUNCH

**DSGBV and the Human Rights
of Women Who Use Substances**

Author(s)

Kennedy, Mary

Murtagh, Gráinne

Lucey, Hannah

Broderick, Gary

Fayne, Rachel

Dunne, Réidín

EVENTBRITE BOOKING LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/report-launch-dsgbv-and-the-human-rights-of-women-who-use-substances-tickets-1015439094667?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=wa&utm-term=listing>

Abstract: This report centres on determining if human rights are negated for women in addiction when accessing domestic violence support and refuge in Ireland. Researchers from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin (UCD) conducted the study. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) funded the research, and the SAOL Project, an integrated education, rehabilitation, advocacy and childcare programme based in North Inner City Dublin, commissioned the report. Participants in the study included women in addiction who had experienced domestic violence and sought support or refuge and professionals who assisted women in addiction during help-seeking interactions. Interestingly, despite an extensive literature review, the researchers discovered that the question had not been previously examined nationally or internationally. This realisation proves shocking given that the findings of the report determined that despite being more susceptible and vulnerable to encountering domestic violence across their lifespan, women in addiction's human rights are negated when accessing domestic violence support and refuge. Additionally, the findings indicate that women in addiction are not consistently treated the same as other females when they seek domestic violence support and refuge. Their addiction often acts as a barrier to them accessing services and assistance that they should be entitled to under several human rights instruments. Ultimately, the study concludes that the negation of human rights is largely unintentional by professionals and services and relates to a systemic statutory failure to recognise the need for dual education about domestic violence and addiction in Irish service provision across a range of services and settings and the absence of targeted domestic violence support and refuge services for women in addiction.

Go to this link to access the full report on UCD repository:

<https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/entities/publication/f2cccab8-4e8f-4ded-82aa-53aa19180dfd/details>



SAOL
project

The logo for the SAOL project is a white circle containing the text 'SAOL' in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with a small blue bird icon above the 'L'. Below 'SAOL' is the word 'project' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The background of the slide features a colorful, abstract painting with red, green, and black strokes on a white surface.

SEMINAR



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Expanding the Mobility Potential of Ageing and Inclusive Society

SPEAKERS: Dr Toshiaki Segawa & Mr Toshihiko Tsuda (JATCO Ltd.), with Dr Yukio Honda (Univ. of Tokyo / Osaka Univ./ Advisor for Care Robots, Health and Welfare Bureau for Older People, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan)



JATCO is a company famous for manufacturing automatic transmissions (AT) and continuously variable transmission (CVT) for automobiles. JATCO provides AT and CVT to domestic manufacturers such as Nissan, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki, as well as those around the world such as Renault.

JATCO has also been developing welfare technologies to support the mobility of people with disabilities. This seminar will seek to engage attendees in the design process of these products currently under development.

Organisers:

**UCD Centre for Japanese Studies & UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy
UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice**

In collaboration with: **The Embassy of Japan in Ireland**

For more information please email: Naonori.Kodate@ucd.ie

**Date/Time: 1:00-1:50pm,
Nov. 11th, 2024**

**Venue: SCIH 2.22
O'Connor Theatre,
O'Brien Science Building
UCD, Belfield Campus**



RESEARCH CENTRES

SEPT - OCT 2024



UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) News

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies Celebrates International Photo Festival Success, Aug 2024

This summer, the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt), led by Nobuko Ijichi from the Centre for English and Global Languages and the School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice, reached a major milestone. For the first time, Ireland participated in Japan's International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange, with UCD JaSt taking a key role in organizing the Irish section of the competition. In collaboration with the Department of Education's Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), UCD JaSt attracted submissions from 20 schools across 12 counties, promoting cultural awareness and inspiring young adults to explore new perspectives on the world and heighten cultural awareness.

The Irish Section Competition's theme, "The Charm of Your Region", challenged participants to capture the unique beauty of their local areas in a portfolio of six photographs. These entries were judged by a panel of experts in photography, art, and media. The initiative seeks to foster global connections, encourage dialogue, and promote peace through visual storytelling.

The winners from St. Andrew's College, Dublin, then represented Ireland in August at the HIGASHIKAWA Youth Fest. in Hokkaido, Japan, where youth teams from 20 countries came together to share their work. During the festival, participants not only had the opportunity to showcase their work but also attended photography workshops led by top international photographers and immersed themselves in Japanese culture, interacting with the local community and students from around the world. This educational experience was invaluable for all participants.

In an exciting achievement, the Irish team of Valeria, Sara, and Elisa from St. Andrew's College won the prestigious Hokko Gakuen Award, judged by a panel of five renowned photographers. Their success highlights the talent and dedication of the Irish participants and underscores the potential for this project's future growth.

The Irish Section Competition results were:

- 1st Place: St. Andrew's College, Booterstown, Dublin
- 2nd Place: Coláiste Muire, Ennis
- 3rd Place: Coláiste Íosagáin, Baile an Bhóthair, An Charraig Dhubh

This international collaboration highlights the potential of Irish students to engage with global initiatives, showcasing their talent on the world stage. You can view the winning entries and learn more about the competition on the UCD JaSt website. [<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/threesecondaryschoolstudentshavejapanintheirsights/>.]

For further details on the 9th International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange, visit the official festival details at the following extension :<https://higashikawa-youth-fest.jp/news01a/news01a/upload/1-0.pdf>

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt)



International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange



Ireland Participation in the 'HIGASHIKAWA Youth Fest.' for 2024



Irish Section 1st Place Award

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt)

Vice President of Kyoto University visited UCD, the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice & the Centre
Sept. 2024

Vice President of Kyoto University (KU) & Director of Kyoto University's European Center (at Heidelberg University, Germany), Professor Mika Yokoyama, visited UCD on 24th September. Together with eight members from the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt), the Head of School (SPWJ), Assoc. Prof. Aideen Quilty welcomed Prof. Yokoyama.

Kyoto University is a highly ranked partner university (since 2014) for UCD. UCD is keen to strengthen and expand academic/research collaboration with KU. UCD is currently exploring the potential for both bilateral and trilateral collaboration with KU and mutual partners in Southeast Asia.

Assoc. Prof. Kodate (Dir. JaSt / co-Director, Master of Public Policy & Dir. MSocSc Welfare and Justice, SPWJ), together with former College VP for Global Engagement, College of Social Sciences and Law (CoSSL) & Head of School, School of Politics and International Relations, Assoc. Prof. Jos Elkind visited Kyoto in January 2015, and in July 2023, also former College VP, Dr Justin Jütte and UCD Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Mr Richard Emery visited Kyoto University. Registrar (then VP for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion & College Principal, CoSSL), Professor Colin Scott and Mr Emery met with Prof Yokoyama in Kyoto in November 2023 to discuss the potential for collaboration with CoSSL. In 2019, Prof. Mary Gallagher (JaSt / UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics) visited KU, with Prof. Anne Fuchs (Director, UCD Humanities Institute).

A former student of UCD School of History, Dr Mahon Murphy is Associate Prof. at the Graduate School of Law, Legal and Political Studies at KU. Dr Declan Downey (JaSt / School of History) taught Dr Murphy while he was a student here.

In the School of Agriculture and Food Science, Dr Aifric O'Sullivan recently received Erasmus plus funding to support staff & PhD mobility in the area of Sustainable Food Systems, working with KU, and will visit the university in December this year.

Prof Yokoyama's visit was instigated by the 10th anniversary of KU's European Center in Heidelberg, and to stand in for President Orla Feely, Dr Steffan Rimner (JaSt / Director, UCD Centre for Asia-Pacific Research / School of History) attended the celebrations in Heidelberg in the previous week to represent UCD.

The lunch meeting was joined by three faculty members from the School (Assoc. Profs. Aideen Quilty, Sarah Donnelly and Naonori Kodate), two of whom are also members of JaSt. The other JaSt members included: Prof. Emma Sokell (Physics, Deputy Dir. JaSt), Prof. Mary Gallagher, Dr Declan Downey (History), Dr Rober Power (Archaeology) and Dr Rimner (History), and Ms Nobuko Ijichi (Centre for English and Global Languages (CEGL) & SPWJ).

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt)



From left to right: Ms Nobuko Ijichi, Prof. Mary Gallagher, Prof. Emma Sokell, Assoc. Prof. Kodate, Dr Declan Downey, Prof. Mika Yokoyama (KU), Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly, Assoc. Prof. Aideen Quilty, Dr Robert Power, Dr Steffen Rimner (Photos by Dr Kodate @ JaSt).

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt)

JaSt's contribution to the UCD Global Week: 'Echoes of Japan: UCD's Community Engagement', Sept. 2024



In response to the request from VP for Global Engagement, Prof. Dolores O'Riordan, JaSt contributed to the UCD Global Week (24 Sept. 2024) by offering a poster/talk session entitled 'Echoes of Japan: UCD's Community Engagement'.

<https://www.ucd.ie/global/globalweek/>

The University-wide Elective Module 'Gateways to Japan' (DSCY10080) was launched as a Discovery Module in 2019. (the list of Discovery Modules can be found:

<https://www.ucd.ie/students/registration/discoverymodules/>)

For the session, Ms Nobuko Ijichi (CEGL / JaSt / SPWJ) gave a talk, outlining her community and outreach work in recent years.

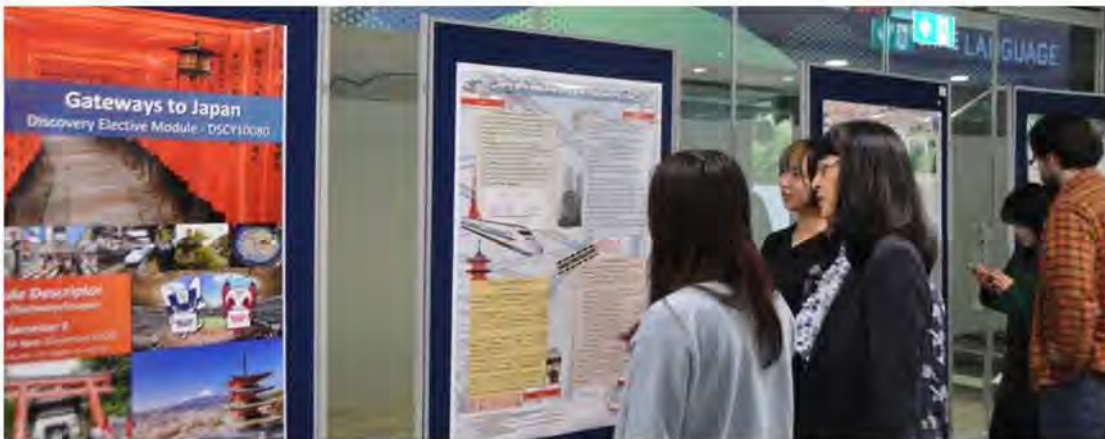
Together with the UCD Japan Group (est. in 2016), Experience Japan National Festival / the UCD Japanese Society, the Centre has been very active in 'outside-classroom learning', while connecting the UCD community with secondary schools and various other stakeholders outside the university. The Centre's module and activities are leading examples of 'Internationalization at Home' which is now promoted by the university.

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt)

JaSt's contribution to the UCD Global Week: 'Echoes of Japan: UCD's Community Engagement', Sept. 2024



Prof. Emma Sokell (School of Physics / JaSt) took the lead in compiling selected posters designed by our previous "Gateways" students. The poster session was attended by the Vice President of Kyoto University, Prof. Mika Yokoyama, and students from Asia, France and the United States.



(Photos by Dr Kodate @ JaSt)

You can find more information in the Centre's Annual Reports (accessible from our website:

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

About our Gateways to Japan, please find the weblinks.

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

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

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

<https://www.ucd.ie/discovery/hhitseries/>

<https://www.ucd.ie/discovery/hhitseries/naokodate/>

Equality Studies Centre News



Dear members and friends of the Equality Studies Centre,

This is the provisional schedule for the brown-bag lunchtime series, which will be held on various Tuesdays in-term, from 1-2pm, in Room 201 Hannah Sheehy Skeffington (zoom will also be available). Please feel free to bring your lunch with you!

As it stands, the first lunchtime seminar will take place on October 22nd, so there are several slots available before then if anyone would like to take one.

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 | @mariek Moran

This seminar series is open to all ESC members, their colleagues and postgrad students, as well as to visitors hosted by the ESC. The aim of the seminars is to provide a collegial and supportive environment for participants to present on any of their work that has an in/equality theme, broadly conceived, and to receive feedback from other members. Participants 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.

Preliminary Schedule

Date	Speaker	Provisional Title
Oct 1 st or 8 th ?		
Oct 22 nd	Ieva Zumbyte, postdoctoral scholar at UCD School of Social Policy, Work & Justice	Inequality in Childcare Provision
Nov 5 th	Showkat Ali, Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow at the ESC	Theorising Equality
Nov 26 th	Fabiola González Brito, visiting doctoral scholar at the ESC	TBC
Feb 18th	Diogo Geraldes, School of Economics, UCD	Gender Differences in Bargaining Behaviour
Spring semester, date TBC	Jess Beck, School of Archaeology, UCD	The Osteoarchaeology of Inequality; and how it is theorised
Spring semester, other dates available		

If you are a centre member and would like to present at the series, please email centre director. marie.moran@ucd.ie

If you are not a member of the centre, but would nonetheless like to attend or present, please email Marie to arrange.



New
Publications

Journal article

Social work with Irish Travellers: Findings from a national evaluation

Jim Campbell <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3995-3725>
jim.campbell@ucd.ie, Joanne Kelleher, and Angela Palmer

OnlineFirst

<https://doi.org/10.1177/14680173241253499>



Summary

This article reports on the findings from a national evaluation of a specialist, Irish, social work service for Traveller families and communities. It begins with an historical overview of the service which was established in the 1960s but which has evolved and developed over the past few decades at a time of changing patterns of Traveller lives and social and economic conditions. It was also a period when the role of social work was changing, most notably with the introduction of state regulation of the profession. The article then critically analyses national and international literature on the role of social workers with Travellers. It then describes the mixed research method used to evaluate the service.

Findings

The findings highlight various, sometimes competing perspectives on the social work role, drawn from administrative data, a survey of social workers interviews with social workers and Traveller representatives. These include views about how the social work role was viewed by social workers and Traveller representatives, informed by theories on anti-oppressive practice, systems approaches and forms of advocacy.

Applications

The article concludes with a discussion of ways in which the lessons learned from the evaluation can be used to further develop the social work service in ways that can enhance the lives of Travellers, through forms of continuous professional development and the created of a national policy and practice framework.

Journal article

Tedam, P. & Finch, J. 'I do not know if I will have the energy to come to placement tomorrow': Fast-Tracking Racially Minoritised Students to Failure in Social Work Education, *The British Journal of Social Work*, 2024; bcae138,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcae138>



Abstract

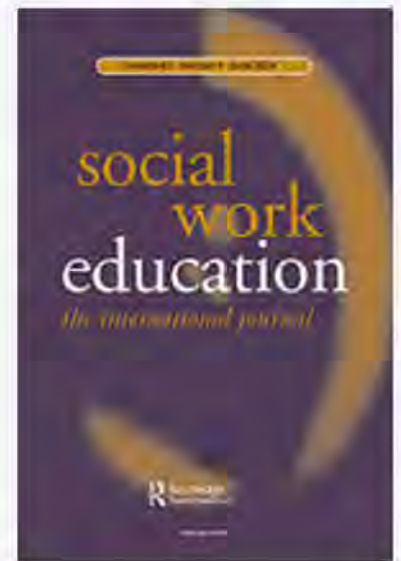
We build upon previous work that explored the evidence base of 'failure to fail' on practice placements across professions. We found a lack of convincing evidence of 'fail to fail' within assessed practice learning placements and could not ascertain the extent of this issue. The literature was stronger about why it 'might' or 'could' be difficult to fail students on placement. We concluded that if there was a reluctance to fail students, that hesitancy was not shown when failing racially minoritised students. Using critical race theory, we noted instead, fast tacking to failure. Data were re-examined from two previous studies that focused on the experiences of Black African social work students in England. We identified two ways in which practice educators operationalised fast tracking to failure. Firstly, the speed at which negative judgments were made about students' abilities, and related to this, asking personal and insensitive questions, and secondly, the speed of decision about placement failure. We argue that the debate needs to move away from fail to fail and instead, focus on who is being fast tracked to failure, and how racism and other discrimination is addressed forcefully in social work policy, practice and education.

Keywords: critical race theory, fast-tracking to failure, racially minoritised students, racism, social work

Journal article

Tedam, P., & Mano, I. (2024). Noticing 'them things that may have gone amiss otherwise': exploring social work placements in schools in England. *Social Work Education*, 1–18.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2024.2361740>



Abstract

Schools play a crucial role in the lives of children, families and communities and are increasingly used by social work programmes in England for practice learning. This qualitative study involved in-depth semi structured interviews with ten social work students who had undertaken at least one placement in a school in England. The aim of this study was to understand social work students' experiences of placements in schools and to explore the benefits and challenges associated with school-based placements. Interviews were recorded, transcribed, manually coded and analyzed for broad themes. The findings indicate a lack of clarity about the roles and tasks expected of student social workers in schools and highlights some benefits for children and families. Implications for social work education and practice are identified.

KEYWORDS: School social work; students; England; placements; practice learning child welfare.

Journal article

Üzar-Özçetin, Y. S., Connolly, M., Frawley, T., Drennan, J., Timmins, F., Barnard, M., **Donnelly, S.**, ... Čartolovni, A. (2024). **From the ground up: stakeholders' representations of the Irish longitudinal study on ageing (TILDA)**. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 1–16.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13548506.2024.2402002>



ABSTRACT

Healthy ageing, which is the target of life's later developmental stage, can be achieved through building a wise perspective towards life and existence. However, it may not be achievable for older people when the societal sources are limited. The TILDA project aimed to evaluate the associated factors with healthy ageing and to transfer that knowledge into practice. Hence, determining the perspectives of older people support and advocacy organisations on the enablers and facilitators of the healthy ageing strategies of TILDA is essential to gain a better understanding of the project and plan future strategies. This study aimed to investigate how the TILDA project has influenced or impacted upon these organisations from education, policy, or practice perspectives. The participants ($n = 15$) included in the study's sample were reached through representative organisations acting to support older people in the Republic of Ireland. Semi-structured interviews were conducted online via Zoom. A systematic thematic data analysis procedure was followed, and three themes emerged from the qualitative data, revealing the perceptions of participants about the TILDA project: (1) Limitations of TILDA, (2) Contributions of TILDA, and (3) Future recommendations for TILDA. In conclusion, among the disadvantages of TILDA, the most significant is not being representative and visible enough; it is evident that it is pivotal to develop a more inclusive culture of TILDA with close cooperation and effective marketing strategies. It is also apparent that TILDA has several advantages that include providing insights into ageing and rich data to plan future support for older people.

KEYWORDS: Ageing; healthy ageing; older people; TILDA

Book Chapter

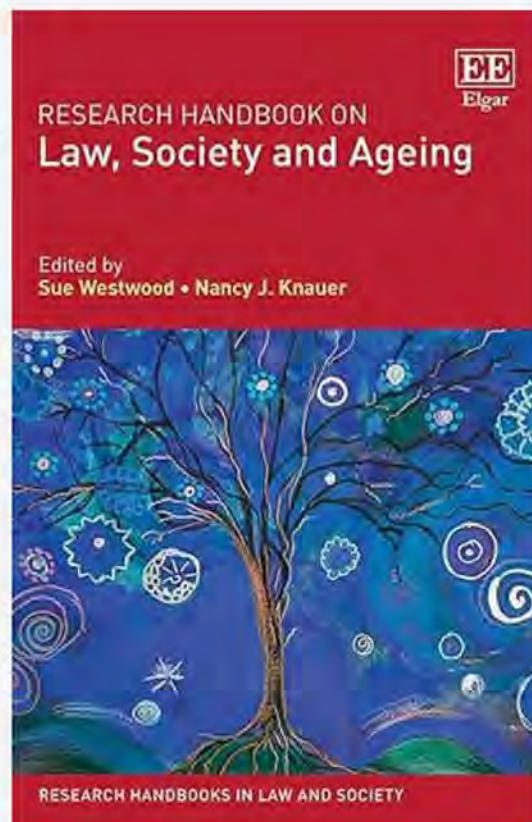
Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly coauthored a book chapter with Prof. Alisoun Milne, Professor Emeritus of Social Gerontology and Social Work, University of Kent: **'Older people and human rights violations in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic: the role of ageism and the case of care homes'**.

in **'Research Handbook on Law, Society and Ageing'** by Westwood, S and Knauer, N.J. (Eds), Edward Elgar Publishing.

Summary

The Editors of the volume, together with expert contributors from Australasia, Canada, Europe, UK, US, and elsewhere, adopt an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law, society and ageing to improve understanding on key issues in these fields. Organised thematically, chapters examine issues such as law, ageing and human rights; specialist legal services for older people; work and pensions; access to justice; health and wellbeing; care and support. Written in an accessible style, the Research Handbook on Law, Society and Ageing recognises diversity amongst older people and their various social contexts, showcasing debates on how these complexities should be addressed.

Broad in scope and including contributions from a wide range of social, legal, gerontological, health, social welfare and social work disciplines, this Research Handbook is invaluable for scholars and practitioners in law, health, and social care. Activists and those interested in advocating for the rights of older people will also find the wide-ranging topics to be highly informative.



New Report

Ireland's Public Spending Explained

By

Dr Nat O'Connor



This report was published by the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy and launched in Buswell's Hotel earlier this year.

Overview: Public access to high quality information is an essential part of democracy, not least clear information about where public money is allocated. This report by Dr Nat O'Connor (lecturer in social policy) makes public spending more intuitive by describing €114 billion of allocations across just 105 'spending programmes', divided into the 30 top programmes (each of which is 1% or more of public spending), 44 major programmes (each accounting for 0.1% to 0.99%) and 31 'smaller' spending programmes (less than 0.1% each).

A copy of the report can be read here:

https://publicpolicy.ie/downloads/papers/2024/Ireland's_Public_Spending_Explained_2024.pdf



New Report

Trans Healthcare in Ireland: Accessing Healthcare related to Gender Identity for Trans and Non-binary People
by **Dr Aideen Quilty**
and Dr Matt Kennedy

Funded by BelongTo LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland and Community Foundation Ireland this report was launched on Monday September 23rd 2024 at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI).

This is the first dedicated quantitative study regarding trans, non-binary and gender diverse people's access to trans healthcare in Ireland. This study sought to identify the specific pathways to trans healthcare accessed by trans and non-binary people and the barriers encountered during this process. For many trans people, access to trans healthcare is crucial to their mental health and wellbeing. However, as this study confirms many trans individuals in Ireland are unable to access this form of healthcare due to a number of intersecting factors. The research provides much needed insight into the current situation of trans healthcare provision in Ireland and reveals the many shortcomings of the current system. It also proposes a vision for a model of care underpinned by key principles.

To access the full report go to the following link: [home-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.belongto.org/app/uploads/2024/09/Belong-To-Trans-Healthcare-in-Ireland-Research-Report.pdf](https://www.belongto.org/app/uploads/2024/09/Belong-To-Trans-Healthcare-in-Ireland-Research-Report.pdf)



NEW REPORT

What would it take to eliminate consistent poverty by 2030? By Dr Nat O'Connor

Launched on 18th September for the Community Platform



COMMUNITY PLATFORM CALLS ON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO COMMIT TO ELIMINATING POVERTY BY 2030

The Community Platform, an alliance of 31 national networks and organisations in the community and voluntary sector, has today called on all political parties to commit to the elimination of consistent poverty, as it launched its new report, 'What Would it Take to Eliminate Consistent Poverty by 2030?'.

Drawing on the collective expertise of the Platform's members – 31 leading organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality – the report provides key insights into the root causes and structural reasons for consistent poverty, and the groups most commonly affected. Crucially, it identifies key solutions and provides recommendations to eliminate consistent poverty.

"This is a critical moment to make the eradication of poverty a political priority. Budget 2025 will be the final budget of the current Government, and a General Election is just around the corner. The Community Platform calls for all Budget measures to be assessed to ensure they reduce poverty, and for all political parties to commit to the elimination of consistent poverty as a key priority ahead of the General Election. The report shows it is possible to eliminate consistent poverty by 2030, but it will need a high level of political commitment," **said report author, Dr Nat O'Connor (Age Action/UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice).**

"Ireland has a national target to reduce 'consistent poverty' to 2% or less by 2025. The Community Platform believes this official target does not go far enough. Why not aim for zero, as was the stated national policy in 2002 and 2007? Seeking to eliminate consistent poverty by 2030 would say that we want Ireland to be a country that does not leave anyone behind. We need a national anti-poverty strategy based on the goal of eliminating consistent poverty, one that acknowledges and addresses the structural reasons some people are more likely to be in poverty," **said Dr O'Connor.**

Dr O'Connor continued: "The range of measures need to achieve the goal of eliminating consistent poverty by 2030 will need to address income adequacy for everyone, access to a decent work for those who can work, and routes out of poverty for those unable to secure an adequate income from work or who are unable to work. Greater investment is needed to ensure access to quality, affordable and sustainable public services for all, irrespective of income level. Tackling and lowering wealth inequality will be crucial, including through progressive taxation."

Go to this link to download the full report chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://communityplatform.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Community-Platform-Consistent-Poverty_Report.pdf

For more information please email: nat.oconnor@ucd.ie



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

RESEARCH IMPACT





Submission on the Revised Energy Poverty Action Plan

Submission to the Department of Energy, Climate and Communications

Submission to the Department of Energy, Climate and Communications by:

- **Dr Nessa Winston** (PI SFI funded NEXSYS project)
- **Orla Dingley** (SFI funded NEXSYS project PhD student)
- **Dr. Monica da Silva Pedroso** (SFI funded NEXSYS project Postdoctoral Fellow)

Overview

UCD Energy Institute and NexSys Researchers have responded to the Revised Energy Poverty Action Plan.

Linked below is the submission, which details:

- Implementation of Legal Framework
- Meeting the Cost of Energy
- Further actions to alleviate energy poverty
- Programs or initiatives from other countries
- Integrating smart energy solutions into the Energy Poverty Action Plan
- Research
- Communications and Governance

[View document: EI/NexSys submission on Energy Poverty Action Plan consultation June 2024](#)

NexSys Strategic Partnership Programme

“Next Generation Energy Systems”

Link to project website: <https://www.nexsys-energy.ie/>



MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE - SEPT 2024



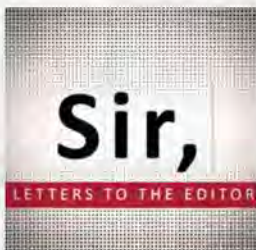
Inside the childcare courts: 'Making money from the misery of children - that's distasteful' Judges at coalface of State's care system criticise 'corporate' Child and Family Agency and warn against privatisation of care



District Court Judges (from left) Judge John Campbell, Judge Miriam Walsh and Judge Conor Fottrell: 'Whatever you decide for a child today, they could be just five years old, is going to have huge implications into their forties, fifties, sixties.' Photograph: Nick Bradshaw, Irish Times

On Sat. July 20th, July, Mary Carolan from the Irish Times published an interview with three District Court Judges relating to the crisis in the care system. That article proffered that Universities were not doing enough to produce enough social workers. For access to the full article go to the following link:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/07/20/inside-the-childcare-courts-making-money-from-the-misery-of-children-thats-distasteful/>



Barriers to social work as a profession: Finances, lack of housing, and the wider cost of living crisis

In response, Dr Joe Mooney led a response letter in the Irish Times, signed by the social work faculty in our School and this letter was published on July 29th.

Sir, – As the academic team who provide professional social work education at University College Dublin, we write to echo the concerns raised by District Court judges John Campbell Campbell, Miriam Walsh Walsh and Conor Fottrell in Mary Carolan's article "Inside the childcare courts" (July 20th).

The concerns raised relate to the continued failures of the State care system to provide adequate care and protection for our most vulnerable children, particularly those subject to so-called "special emergency arrangements".

The Sexual Exploitation Research Programme project here at UCD was among those to evidence the deep vulnerability and, in some cases, exploitation of children in State residential care settings. We support the work of the Child Care Law Reporting Project, the Irish Association of Social Workers and other stakeholders in highlighting these deeply concerning issues.

While we support the raising of such concerns, we write here to also add some additional context to the underpinning issues. The retention and recruitment of professional social workers is often, rightly, cited as a critical part of the problem and there have been consistent calls, from all quarters, for the recruitment of more social workers.

However, this component of the problem is complex and is often misrepresented in a simple "production-line" manner – more students in, more social workers out. The statement, attributed in the article to Judge Campbell, prompted us to add some context to this debate: "The CFA has to recruit social workers from universities in Ireland which only have so many places despite the demand, he said. 'If there was more joined-up thinking, they would take on more students. Maybe more engagement instead of silo management would help.'"

In response, [Dr Joe Mooney led a response letter](#) in the Irish Times, signed by the social work faculty in our School and this letter was published on July 29th.

While the output of new graduates from higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country is one facet of the issue, the problem has its origins further back in the life course of a social worker, in their early deliberations and decisions to pursue the profession. It is currently the case that many social work programmes offered by HEIs in Ireland do not fill their seats and, while this varies from year to year, this appears to be an increasing trend over recent years. To graduate more students, HEIs need more applicants wishing to become social workers.

This time last year, our school published a Department of Children-commissioned study examining the motivations and barriers for those pursuing and yet to pursue social work education. That report, *Pathways to Social Work*, gathered the views of current social work students across all HEIs in the country and those of undergraduate students, in a sample of relevant disciplines, yet to decide whether or not to pursue social work as a career. While it supported the international literature, in that people wish to become social workers because of a desire to help people and to promote social justice and human rights, it also found that finances, lack of housing, and the wider cost of living crisis act as significant barriers for those considering social work as a profession.

In terms of finances, participants raised the issue of unpaid placements as a particular deterrent – social work education, regulated by Coru, the Health and Social Care Professionals Council, requires the completion of 1,000 hours of practice education in the field and at present this work is unpaid. In our experience as social work educators, we encounter students under extreme pressure to meet the demands of the programme but also to balance this with care and financial needs. Participants shared the view that the financial burdens of fees, housing, and unpaid placements are going so far as to “price out” those potential applicants from more marginalised and lower socio-economic sections of society from the profession entirely.

This leads to a finding that the profession potentially does not represent those it is privileged to serve. Because many students find themselves having to work extensively in “part-time” jobs while also studying and undertaking placements on an intensive full-time programme, we worry that some new graduates are close to burnout prior to taking up their first professional role. When viewed in the context of the concerning situation raised by the judges, this appears to be a recipe for disaster.

While adding this context to the debate, we ultimately support the calls for inter-disciplinary, interdepartmental, and non-siloed solutions to the issue. Some of this is happening already but more is needed, with support from relevant government departments. To respond to the most vulnerable in our society, capital investment is needed in social work at all levels. As one HEI offering a pathway to social work, we would welcome increased investment that supports students and we are ready and willing to play our part. Human rights and social justice lie at the heart of social work practice and education and it is to those most vulnerable whom we must constantly strive to serve and direct our resources. – Yours, etc,

Dr JOSEPH MOONEY,

Dr ELAINE WILSON,

Dr MUIREANN NÍ RAGHALLAIGH,

Dr SARAH DONNELLY,

Dr MARIE KEENAN,

Ms GRÁINNE MURTAGH,

Prof JIM CAMPBELL (Emeritus),

DANIEL McFADDEN,

Prof PROSPERA TEDAM,

Dr HILDA LOUGHRAN

(Emeritus),

Dr MARY KENNEDY,

School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.



The response letter was picked up by RTÉ Drive Time for an interview with Dr Mooney that evening. (Go to the following link to hear the interview:

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/drivetime/2024/0729/1462482-drivetime-monday-29-july-2024/>; the interview starts at 14:48mins). Dr Mooney outlined some of the complexities facing those considering a career in social work.



The UCD Irish Times letter was responded to by Pat Rabbitte (Chair of Tusla) and Vivian Geiran (Chair of IASW) in subsequent letters in the Irish Times.

Sir, – Referring to concerns raised in an interview with legal affairs correspondent Mary Carolan (“Inside the childcare courts”, July 20th) by three District Court judges relating to the challenges posed in caring for very vulnerable children, the response from the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (Letters, July 29th) brings valuable context to at least one aspect of the issue.

The academics explain why the recruitment and retention of social workers is indeed more “complex and often misrepresented in a simple production line manner”. Tusla has consistently worked to overcome barriers to social worker recruitment and, for example, this year collaborated with UCC for the first ever apprenticeship scheme and tertiary scheme for social work.

There are several other facets to this issue. Since 2022, for example, there has been a 500 per cent increase in the number of separated children seeking international protection and the 92,000 referrals to Tusla in 2023 for child welfare and protection is twice the 2014 figure when Tusla was established. With the support of the Minister for Children we will have opened an additional 29 residential centres in the last two years. And we are a European leader in ensuring that 90 per cent of children in our care are in foster care.

However, we are acutely preoccupied with the fact that there are a small number of young people, approximately 150, where we are challenged to provide them with a stable and nurturing placement. Far from “shrugging our shoulders”, Tusla management and staff experience at first hand the impact of abuse, poverty, homelessness, addiction, and exploitation. It is fair for the judges to observe that Tusla is indeed involved “in an element of crisis management” in this specific area. However, to describe Tusla as “a faceless corporate” entity was unfortunate, gratuitous, and untrue. – Yours, etc,
PAT RABBITTE,

Sir, – I write on behalf of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) in response to the letter (Letters, July 29th) from Dr Joseph Mooney and the academic team providing professional social work education at University College Dublin (UCD).

The authors of that letter highlight the challenges in training, recruitment and retention of social workers in Ireland and the consequent problems caused, including the adverse impact on vulnerable children and others. Those serious issues have been amplified again recently by a number of commentators, including some members of the judiciary.

The UCD team draw attention to “some additional context to the underpinning issues”, specifically financial, housing and the wider cost of living. In acknowledging the points made by our UCD colleagues, I want to add some more for consideration, while also pointing to some real solutions.

Whatever about the complexities of the underpinning issues at play, there is no denying the fundamental problematic fact that as a country, we are not producing enough social workers each year. The combined “output” of social workers is about 250 annually. We need to be graduating at least double that number per year, to begin to fill current vacancies, let alone to provide for future service developments. While it is true to say that the analysis of and the factors contributing to that problem are complex, there are solutions, including those adverted to by Dr Mooney and his team.



Key solutions must include strategic and systemic planning and coordination, development of new pathways into social work and increased funding for those undertaking social work training. The good news is that concrete steps are already under way or proposed in all these areas. Those steps now need to be accelerated and delivered on, with shared focus, energy and commitment.

Unfortunately, there is not a single Government department with responsibility for social work services, nor a joined-up strategic plan for the development of social work nationally. There is also no single body collecting and collating the most basic national workforce data across the organisations that employ social workers and the universities that train them. Such a plan should also have an all-island focus.

Almost two years ago, IASW published a report on training, recruitment and retention of social workers, including making concrete proposals for action to make improvements, the first time such an analysis was undertaken. Since then, the All-Employers Social Work Forum has been established, working proactively with universities, IASW and others to address the issues identified. The HSE – the organisation employing the highest number of social workers in Ireland – will soon appoint its first chief social worker, filling what has been a significant gap in social work strategic leadership nationally.

Dr Mooney and his colleagues rightly point to “the financial burdens of university] fees, housing and unpaid practice] placements”. Fees for social work programmes in some universities are over €10,000 a year. The requirement for “completion of 1,000 hours of [unpaid] practice education in the field” by social work students, adds significantly to “the financial burden of fees [and] housing.”

The IASW has called on the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and Government to provide appropriate allowances to social work students undertaking mandatory practice placements, to help them defray the costs associated with placements, which are undertaken in two 14-week blocs, a move that would be inexpensive yet having high positive impact. Such financial supports are already available in a number of other jurisdictions, including in Northern Ireland.

It is true to state that the required numbers of social workers will not be produced by simply ordering an increase in university places alone. Some universities already struggle to fill existing places. Nevertheless, new pathways into social work training are being successfully created. A new apprenticeship in social work was launched earlier this year. In its first intake, currently under way, that programme will provide 47 places for individuals who will “earn while they learn”, graduating with a master’s level degree from UCC. This year’s intake was significantly over-subscribed, with over five applications for every single place available. Next year, the plan is to double that intake. There is still considerable scope to take further effective steps to ultimately deliver the numbers of social workers that we need as a society. That will be achieved by the continued concerted and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, including employers, universities, trade unions, government departments, professional association (IASW) and others. Those who depend on social work services, and especially those not currently able to receive them, deserve no less. – Yours, etc,

VIVIAN GEIRAN,
Chairperson,
The National Social Work Organisation of Ireland,
Dublin 2.



RTE RADIO 1

Following the publication of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools run by religious orders, Dr Joe Mooney was interviewed to provide his reaction on Morning Ireland (4th September 2024). Go to this link to hear the interview:

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22429187/>



The RTE Radio 1 Morning Ireland interview was subsequently picked up by the Journal.ie who interviewed Dr Mooney as part of 'The Explainer' podcast (Sept 5th).

How is Ireland still uncovering stories of widespread abuse? Go to this link:

<https://www.thejournal.ie/podcasts/66f2a0897a3d63d20ff54509/66f2a08e2f380b4f2f176f7f/>



It's time for a national conversation on the issue of child sexual abuse

Dr Joe Mooney, assistant professor of social work at UCD says there are immediate, practical things that can be done following this week's Scoping Inquiry into child abuse.

THIS WEEK SAW the publication of the [Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools run by Religious Orders](#).

As a nation, our thoughts rightly are with those impacted. Those who shared their experiences with the scoping review, those who died before they got their chance to do so, but also those who, as of yet, have been unable to come forward. It is to this particular group that I draw attention to here.

The 'tip of the iceberg', is an analogy commonly used in relation to the issue of disclosure of abuse. We know from international research and from our own statistics here in Ireland, the [SAVI report](#) and more recently our [CSO data](#), that many people delay disclosure into adulthood, with an unknown proportion who never come forward. For example, the SAVI report, published in 2002, reported that of those who had experienced sexual abuse in childhood, almost half (47%) had never told anybody until they were asked in the research interview – highlighting the importance of being asked.

What hinders?

For those who don't come forward, or delay disclosure, there can be many factors influencing this. It is important to note here that while there are commonalities and similarities across experiences, the journey of disclosure is an individual one and is experienced differently by all.

Disclosure itself is a complex phenomenon. It is not linear, it is fluid. In its simplest form, it is about telling someone and, for a child in particular but also adults, that 'telling can take many forms; behavioural, verbal, intentional or by accident. It is something that one's relationship changes over time and depends on the context and the person receiving it.

In terms of those receiving disclosures, we know from international research that our responses to disclosure are critically important. On an individual level, do we show shock or shy away? On a service or state level, do we attend to individual needs and consider the dynamics of trauma? On a societal level, do we create environments where people feel they can come forward?

The Scoping Review includes accounts that echo many experiences that commonly hinder people from coming forward; shame, stigma, feeling you won't be believed, or that in some way the abuse was your fault. The abuse itself can also significantly impact one's sense of self-worth, mental wellbeing and can often go hand in hand with substance misuse or other destructive behaviours all in an effort to cope or block out memories of abusive experiences.

What helps?

We have ample research and evidence to chart and describe these barriers, but we also know about what can help. Knowing that you can come forward is a significant first step. We see this again and again when abuse scandals hit our headlines; helplines are flooded, and people start breaching the surface.

Creating physical and mental spaces for people to come forward is key to this. These 'spaces' include our policies, our laws, our practices, our support services, our funding commitments, our training and knowledge, and our openness as a society. We have some examples to draw on in the form of trauma informed practices and collaborative models of service provision – examples of thinking.

'Trauma informed' as a concept gets bandied about quite a bit, but at its core, it is about being open to the presence of trauma and acting accordingly – nicely summed up in the often cited adage of 'meeting the person where they are at'. Developing our services, not just criminal justice and child protection, but health, education, social protection and so on, from this basis is a way of society saying 'we see you and we will help'. The integration of the [EU Victim's Directive](#) into our [Victims of Crime Act](#) is one such example – but we need more.

My previous research examining adults' experiences of making retrospective disclosures to child protection services, entitled [How Adults Tell](#), concluded that within these spaces, the provision of clear information, regular communication and meeting individual needs are critical to this notion of 'what helps?' On the simplest level, it is about respect and humanity.

What next?

The Scoping Inquiry has recommended that a statutory investigation be established into the revelations included in the report, and that this may expand to all schools. Whatever the format, this process will be important for the victims and survivors to feel heard, and acknowledged and for them to seek justice – whatever that may look like for them. It will also be important for our society to learn, and face, the stark horror that has been perpetrated.

That said, whatever the format and ultimate outcome, at the conclusion we will be re-learning some hard lessons. Lessons about who knew, about reporting, about safeguarding and vetting, and about how we can do better.

Dr Helen Buckley, Emeritus Professor of Social Work at Trinity College has previously used the term "[recommendation fatigue](#)" to describe the sometimes inevitable nature of the recommendations that commonly follow inquiries of this type. While we may be able to pre-empt these recommendations, there are steps we can take now to create a better environment for those who come forward and those yet to do so.

We can introduce multi-annual funding to our victim and survivor support services such as One in Four and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, so that they can, at best, develop their services, and, at a very minimum, keep their waitlists open and strive to reduce them. While happening in parts, we can also begin to implement trauma-informed approaches across our state services – beginning to meet people where they are at. And we can begin, eventually, a national conversation on the issue of child sexual abuse, seriously examining our need to work with perpetrators and openly discuss the issues of our past – and present.

Dr Joe Mooney is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at UCD's School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice. He researches issues related to the disclosure of childhood sexual abuse, child welfare, and child protection.



The publication of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Schools run by religious orders, was also picked up and followed by interviews on [Newstalk Lunchtime Live](#) and KFM Kildare Today.



Irish
Gerontological
Society



Daiichi-Sankyo

This podcast series has been kindly supported by Daiichi Sankyo.

Irish Gerontological Society Podcast: ALONE, Ageism and Ageing in Place with Edel Mc Daid, **Dr Sarah Donnelly** and Sean Monyihan. In this episode, Edel Mc Daid talks to Seán Moynihan and Dr. Sarah Donnelly about a range of topics including ageing in place, loneliness, ageism and the work of ALONE. Sean is the CEO of ALONE (www.alone.ie), a national organisation that enables older people to age at home. Sarah will present the ALONE Willie Bermingham lecture at this year's IGS Annual Scientific Meeting.

To access the podcast go to:

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/igs-podcast/episodes/ALONE--Ageism--Ageing-in-Place-e2ntec6/a-abgp1br>

For more information email: Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie

Irish
Studies



PODCAST

DR MARY MCAULIFFE

New Books Network

The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland. Jennifer Redmond and Mary McAuliffe. Hosted by Aidan Beatty

In this interview, they discuss their new edited collection *The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland* (Four Courts Press, 2024) as well as their own intellectual backgrounds and views on Irish history-writing.

The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland is an edited collection of focused, cohesive and persuasive essays, based on the newest research on gender, sexuality and sexual politics. It offers historical reflections and contemporary analyses of issues related to the contested and often hidden histories of sexual politics and gender identities in Ireland in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Including but going beyond the binary of male and female heterosexual experience, the book explores LGBTQI+ histories, the treatment of intersex persons, and the history of trans people and activism in Ireland. As an interdisciplinary work, this reader draws together scholars working in a range of fields on innovative, new research on this theme. The essays consider these histories as seen over two centuries and reflect on the societal shifts in modern Ireland as evidenced in two recent referenda and the responses to the scandals emerging from the state's treatment of unmarried mothers.

<https://irepod.com/podcast/new-books-in-irish-studies/jennifer-redmond-and-mary-mcauliffe-the-politics-o>



Nell McCafferty: A powerful, courageous, witty, brilliant, pioneering woman we'll never forget

Mary McAuliffe recalls getting a telling off by her fellow feminist who, in turn, bought her a pint – something she could do because she had campaigned in pubs to allow women drink what they wanted.

The Journal 21st Aug 2024


Introduction

THE GREAT FEMINIST, activist, and campaigner journalist Nell McCafferty has left us.

On hearing the news, I looked to my bookshelf at the numerous books she had written. In 1984 the feminist publishing house Attic Press published *The Best of Nell; A Selection of Writings over Fourteen Years*, with an introduction by another great writer and feminist, the poet Eavan Boland.

Nell, one of the few people whose first name is immediately recognised, was already by then a well-known activist and journalist. As Boland put it, Nell “was born to be an eyewitness. It [was] her first reflex”.

Not only was she an instinctive eyewitness, but it was also the issues to which she bore witness that is the key to the fundamental importance of Nell to women’s rights and social justice in contemporary Ireland.



In one of her earliest newspaper columns, *In The Eyes of the Law* (1974), Nell revealed the poverty, violence, destitution as well as the class and gender prejudice of their honours in the courts, particularly the injustice delivered to working class women who found themselves before their honourable justices.

Never one to stand on dignity she didn't seem too put out that the judges were "in a sense, upset at [her] recording of them, day after day, in all their majesty". Prominent in the women's movement from the early 1970s, Nell was a real pioneer, using all her skills as a journalist and public speaker to raise issues of inequality for women.

She was one of the founder members of the Irish Women's Liberation Movement which was the first Irish feminist, direct action, activist group which, inspired by civil rights and feminist movements elsewhere was, like Nell herself, youthful, fierce, loud, and determined.

Perhaps their most famous action was the contraceptive train, but they also conducted other operations, including the pubs campaign.

Through it all Nell, used her incisive, deeply considered writing skills to foreground issues of inequality and social injustice. As Eavan Boland wrote, Nell's writing at its best "celebrates those precious fragments of human dignity which societies crush so easily and bewail so falsely".

And it is in the pages of this book, and in her other writings we find the authentic Nell, fiercely intelligent, brilliant, incisive, railing against the many injustices and inequalities she saw around her.

Her powerful essay on the death of Ann Lovett excoriates all those who could have protected the young girl but did not.

Later her book on the Kerry Babies, *A Woman to Blame*, similarly excoriated the patriarchal police and legal systems. At the Kerry Babies tribunal, as Joanne Hayes, surrounded by self-important, professional men, was questioned for days about every aspect of her reproductive and sexual body, Nell asked a most pertinent question, "What sort of men are we dealing with here?"

Nell never forgot her Derry and republican roots and her most powerful writing was on the Armagh Women; those republican women imprisoned in Armagh Jail. Her powerful opening sentence in her 1980 essay 'It is my belief that Armagh is a feminist issue' grabs the reader: "There is menstrual blood on the walls of Armagh Prison in Northern Ireland."

The Irish feminist movement was divided on the issue of paramilitary violence and many activists chose to ignore the issues faced by women in Northern Ireland; however Nell, brave and stubborn as ever, did not hold back from confronting many concerns including the violence against republican women in Armagh Prison and challenging the silences from her southern feminist comrades – the menstrual blood on the walls stinks to the high heaven, she wrote, shall we turn our noses up to it?

There is so much more I could write about Nell.

She was someone I admired and was slightly terrified of, as she had taken me to task as a young feminist about something I said in a pub in Fleet Street. Once the telling off was done, however, she bought me a pint, something she could do because she and her feminist comrades had campaigned in pubs to allow women drink what they wanted, and, indeed, drink pints!

Her lifelong activism, her writings, her autobiography, her coming out as a lesbian, all her public actions are already in the history books.

I'll leave the last words to another great feminist, Margaret MacCurtain, who wrote a foreword to *The Nell McCafferty Reader* (2005).

"Nell has been teaching women to unlearn the habit of holding their tongues ... she never flinched from verbal confrontation, and provided many lessons in moral courage and truthfulness that many of us took to heart."

Nell always ended her segments in RTÉ's 1980's Women's Programme with a knowing wink and a "Goodnight, sisters".

Now her family, friends, feminist comrades and admirers say, 'Goodnight, sister', to a powerful, courageous, witty, brilliant woman and pioneering feminist no one will ever forget.

To access the article in the Journal newspaper go to this link:
<https://www.thejournal.ie/readme/nell-mccafferty-mary-mcauliffe-6468276-Aug2024/>

FOCUS ON OUR RESEARCHERS

Aušra Čižauskaitė

Aušra was awarded a UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice competitive scholarship



How did you come to select social investments through childcare services as your chosen area of research for your doctoral research?

I have always been interested in childcare research from a work-life balance perspective. For my BA thesis, I focused on the role of childcare services in achieving work-life balance. In my MA thesis, I delved into the social investment framework. Therefore, for my PhD research, I aimed to combine childcare research with the social investment framework.

How did you find the process of applying to the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice for funding to support your research?

The application process was very straightforward. I came across a funded PhD opportunity at UCD and decided to apply. I had to submit my project proposal. I appreciated the freedom to choose my topic and was thrilled when my proposal was selected. After that, I had a call with my PhD project Supervisor, and we discussed the following stages. Two months later, I was already at UCD!

What difference did funding make in pursuing and completing your PhD?

It made a massive difference because I could focus on my PhD research without worrying about how to sustain my living in Ireland.

Are any key theories, methodologies, or paradigms guiding your research?

My PhD research was an article-based thesis, so I used a number of theories and frameworks that guided my research process. I mainly used the social investment framework as a theoretical approach. However, I also used policy feedback effects to examine how childcare services generate attitudinal changes. With respect to paradigms, I also used classical welfare regime typologies and compared them with a new social investment reform strategies typology developed by Garritzmann et al. (2022, 2022a).

Can you describe what the process of writing was like for you?

Like many early PhD researchers, I found it challenging at first, especially since English is not my first language. However, over the years, I have managed to improve my writing skills through daily practice. I believe that, as with everything, it is simply a matter of practice!

What aspects and/or stages of the PhD journey did you find most difficult overall? And what aspect(s) was/were easiest and most enjoyable?

Even though PhD journey was really challenging, the timing of my PhD was the most challenging part. I arrived in Ireland in January 2020, and two months later, the COVID-19 pandemic started. It was very challenging to live in Dublin without being able to explore it. The most enjoyable part of the PhD journey has definitely been the new friendships that I made at UCD and in Dublin in general. Their friendship made the whole PhD journey a million times better.

What are the key messages from your research overall?

The key dissertation findings show a few main findings. The socioeconomic perspective suggests that even though better-off individuals usually have access bias to public childcare services, they are more demanding and critical than the worse-off ones when it comes to childcare quality. The thesis findings suggest that social class is important in shaping subjective assessments. Better-off individuals are more likely to emphasise child-centred factors regarding childcare quality, making them more critical and demanding. On the contrary, results suggest that worse-off individuals are more satisfied with childcare quality because they are likely to assess public childcare services from the parent/carer-centred perspective. In other words, individuals with lower socioeconomic backgrounds and higher risk of multiple disadvantages assess satisfaction with childcare quality from a practical childcare consideration, i.e., relief from care duties and being able to manage work and care responsibilities.

Another important aspect of the main findings is that subjective assessments regarding childcare are that contextual and institutional childcare factors matter. Still, they do not necessarily directly translate into more favourable subjective assessments. The thesis findings suggest that simply looking at associations between childcare-related factors and subjective assessments is insufficient. The findings suggest that there are a number of underlying factors, such as cultural norms about care duties, gender roles, and work, as well as contextual factors beyond just institutional childcare settings, that encourage revisiting SI policies. The study's findings call into question the effectiveness of SI policies in relation to informal childcare services and their ability to address the evolving needs of women in reconciling work and care responsibilities. It suggests that simply increasing access to formal childcare services may not be sufficient without addressing the underlying social and cultural norms regarding care.

Overall what do you find most interesting about your area of research?

I always find it fascinating how childcare research can benefit in the evidence-based policy-making process. It is fascinating to see some of the research findings manifest in actual policy reforms in some countries.

What is next for you?

For now, I plan to relax a bit more and then start looking for a postdoctoral or research position soon.

What projects are you working on now?

I am currently working on publishing my PhD papers in international journals. At the same time, I am collaborating with the Geary Institute team on analysing the data from the European Social Survey (ESS) round 11 for the national report for Ireland.

Any other observations or words of wisdom for current and future PhD students?

Start writing early! Because the muse always comes late. 😊

Ausra's Supervisors: Primary Thesis Supervisor: Professor Karen Anderson and Secondary Supervisor: Dr Micheál Collins.

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

