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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice



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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

With this Spring edition of the Research Bulletin we are opening a new chapter. While we had already implemented some design changes in the last edition, our main departure from the previous publishing intervals is to publish the Research Bulletin quarterly. We aim to publish four times a year to highlight our research achievements. This means our articles will be briefer and provide links to further information for the interested reader. Our main focus will remain to highlight our publications, research projects, seminars and researchers and we hope to attract a wider readership with the new format.

Signature
STEPHAN KÖPPE

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

ACHIEVEMENTS

PHD COMPLETIONS AND AWARDS

Congratulations are due to **Niall Egan, Assistant Secretary General of the Dept. of Social Protection on completing his viva for his Doctorate in Governance (DGov) degree.** Niall’s supervisors include **Dr. Nessa Winston, Assoc. Prof. of Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice** and **Michael Mulreany (Institute of Public Administration).** Niall is the Assistant Secretary General with responsibility for leading the finance function in the department. He also has responsibility for leading the Department’s Legislation and Corporate Services (including strategic planning and risk management) teams, Labour Market Policy, Business Intelligence and the Department’s Communication Unit. Niall has previously held a number of positions in the department in policy and corporate affairs. He has worked in a number of different government departments.



L to R: Niall Egan, Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston

Congratulations are due to **Dr. Lisa Garavin** and **Dr. Jennifer Allen** who both graduated with a PhD in Social Work.

Lisa’s doctoral research is a qualitative exploration of the relationship between social workers and guardians ad litem in the Republic of Ireland. Her primary supervisor was Assoc. Prof. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh and her secondary supervisor was Jim Campbell, Emeritus Prof. in Social Work.



L to R: Sarah Donnelly, Muireann Ni Raghallaigh, Lisa Garavin, Jennifer Aillen, Sarah Morton, Jim Campbell

Jennifer’s doctoral research is entitled Advance Care Planning in Older Persons Mental Health; A Participatory Action Research Study.

Jennifer’s primary supervisor was Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly and her secondary supervisor was Asst. Prof. Sarah Morton.

ACHIEVEMENTS

DR SARAH DONNELLY, ASSOC. PROF. OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr Sarah Donnelly was one of four UCD Academic Staff who successfully completed the certified U21 Global Leadership Programme in December 2024.

The U21 Global Leadership programme reflects real dynamic challenges faced by U21 universities and explores the leadership required to meet those challenges – as individuals, as institutions and as a sector. During the 4-week online programme, leaders connect with their peers around the world to share challenges and discuss diverse approaches in international education.

ESPANet 2025 stream on gender, policies and politics

Together with Dani M. Marinova (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Pia Schober (University of Tübingen), Heejung Chung (King's College London), Cassandra Engeman (Stockholm University) and Hannah Zagel (TU Dortmund) **Stephan Köppe** is co-convenor of the stream “Navigating Gender, Identity, and Care: Policies and Politics in European Welfare Systems” at the ESPANet conference 2025 in Milan. The stream hosts research at the intersection of gender, care policies, and political debates in European welfare states, exploring how policies either reinforce or challenge gendered practices, norms, and expectations. This includes policies addressing inter alia care, labour markets, reproduction, families or work-life balance. The convenors welcome submissions with a comparative angle on these topics but also single-country studies.

Paper submissions open on 14th February and are accepted until 24th April 2025.

<https://www.espanetmilano2025.it/>



FEATURED RESEARCHER



Nat O'Connor MA PhD FHEA
Assistant Professor of Social Policy, UCD
School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social
Justice.

What has been your research career to date?

I have always been interested in the overlap between politics and social policy. My MA from Dundee University in Scotland was in both disciplines, although my PhD from TCD was in political science. My first professional job was as a researcher for the Homeless Agency, the precursor to today's Dublin Regional Homeless Executive. I worked on two applied research projects: importing a method from the UK to conduct a comprehensive count of people sleeping rough, and improving the survey of people using homeless services, which was published as *Counted In*, 2008. There were only 2,366 adults in homeless services then, compared to over 10,000 today! I was also involved in tendering for the development of a shared online database that now provide the politically salient monthly homeless figures.

I then moved to the think-tank TASC where our focus was on economic inequality and the strength of Ireland's democracy. The aftermath of the 2008 crash took up a lot of our research focus, in terms of economic and budget policies. In 2015, I moved to Ulster University, where my research included publishing book chapters on my PhD thesis topic of freedom of information, a book chapter on corporate welfare, and some publications on the community and voluntary sector, public value creation, and economic inequality, including my most cited article showing three links between economic inequality and the rise of populism.

O'Connor, N. (2017). Three connections between rising economic inequality and the rise of populism. *Irish Studies in International Affairs*, 28, 29. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3318/isia.2017.28.5>

In the period 2018-2020, I worked for the Labour Party in the Oireachtas, the Irish Parliament. Although I wasn't publishing academically, I wrote a lot of internal policy briefings and policy proposals, including for manifestos, with practical social policy relevance. From 2021, I worked for Age Action Ireland, focusing on a human rights and equality approach to ageing policy. I published various position papers, as well as a report on the income situation of older persons. I contributed to a report on energy poverty published by Friends of the Earth. I also wrote a report for the Community Platform that was launched in 2024, entitled What Would It Take To Eliminate Consistent Poverty by 2030?

I began working at UCD in 2024, where I published the report Ireland's Public Expenditure Explained 2024 with the Geary Institute.

Which social policy area are you investigating?

I am currently working on a project to understand why so many governments and international agencies keep using the flawed Old Age Dependency Ratio despite studies showing its inaccuracy for predicting future public spending costs associated with ageing. Superior alternative indicators are available, but they aren't as often used. The choice of indicator has major implications for how we understand the likely consequences of our ageing societies and what that means for the future affordability of state pensions, healthcare and social care. As well as a paper addressing the technical flaws of the Old Age Dependency Ratio, which I presented at a recent conference, I also have a critique of the state's lack of preparation for Ireland's major demographic transition that I hope to publish in the coming months.

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

While I enjoy teasing out issues in political theory, most of my work is applied research connected to existing public policy with the hope of promoting improvements or reform, especially for the most marginalised groups in society. I see the importance in having good quality data to back up policy critiques and proposals, so I am a regular user of data from the Central Statistics Office, Eurostat and the OECD. Touchstones for me include works as varied as Atkinson's *Inequality: What can be done?* and Foucault's *The Government of Self and Others*. The latter highlights the importance of truth-telling, which is linked to my PhD's focus on public access to information about policymaking.

Can you describe the process of writing a recent publication?

Ireland's Public Expenditure Explained 2024 was an accidental publication. I have been paying close attention to the Budget for years, not least the Revised Estimates for Public Services, but I wanted to find a way to simplify the data to link spending with distinct policy programmes below the level of departmental allocations but above the line item detail in the Revised Estimates. I was persuaded by our colleague Dr Micheál Collins that my spreadsheet of 'spending programmes' would make a useful report, so I was delighted when the Geary Institute agreed to publish it, including a launch in Buswells Hotel. I was also delighted to be contacted by the CSO subsequently, who are interested in using the method to develop a series of national statistics showing public spending at programme level.

What are the key messages from your most recent publication?

My most recent publication is What Would It Take To Eliminate Consistent Poverty by 2030? It is a simple review of the consistent poverty statistics from the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2023, combined with policy proposals from the 31 NGOs that are members of the Community Platform, and who advocate on issues like homelessness, lone parents, disability, migration, Travellers, etc. The key message from the report is that if the government is serious about reducing poverty, it needs to look at the structural reasons – like disability or parenting alone – why some households are much more likely to be in consistent poverty and why those households face added barriers to exiting poverty. The current Roadmap for Social Inclusion identifies employment as the sole route out of poverty, which offers nothing to those who cannot access an adequate income through employment, if they can get paid work at all. Older national anti-poverty strategies recognised these issues more clearly and had more ambition about eradicating consistent poverty. A renewal of that analysis and ambition is much needed in the successor to the Roadmap which is under development.

To contact Dr Nat O'Connor please email: Nat.OConnor@ucd.ie

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Event to celebrate 90 years of UCD Social Policy, Social Work and Sociology



L to R: Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston, Frances Fitzgerald, Prof. Orla Feely, President of University College Dublin & Assoc. Prof. Aideen Quilty.



L to R: Rory Carroll, Assoc. Prof. Aideen Quilty, Frances Fitzgerald, Richie Stafford, & Prof. Niamh Moore Cherry.

To celebrate 90 years of Social Policy, Social Work and Sociology in UCD, a panel discussion with some of our notable alumni took place on Monday 20th January 2025. This celebration highlights a proud history of interdisciplinary collaboration, research excellence, and impactful education, rooted in the establishment of the Diploma in Social Science in 1934.

The panel discussion was facilitated by Associate Professor Nessa Winston from UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. Panelists included:

- Frances FitzGerald: Gender Advisory Committee to G7; former MEP, Tánaiste; and Minister for Children.
- Richie Stafford: Assistant Principal, Drugs Policy, Refugee & Inclusion Health Unit, Dept of Health.
- Rory Carroll: Senior Social Worker, National Forensic Mental Health Service, HSE.

Alumni of UCD Social Policy, Sociology, and Social Work hold leadership roles across research institutions, NGOs, government, and beyond, driving change on critical issues from social protection systems to environmental sustainability. Faculty have contributed to national and international policy advancements, shaping discourse on taxation, housing, and education through organisations such as the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and EuroHealthNet.

Many thanks to Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston who organised this celebration event.

<https://www.ucd.ie/socscilaw/newsandevents/90yearsofucdsocialpolicysocialworkandsociology/>

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

DR MARY MCAULIFFE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE SEMINAR

On Wed. 5th Feb, 2025, **Dr Mary McAuliffe**, Asst. Prof. in Social Justice, presented a seminar “Radical Politics, Radical Lives”: Researching the Lives and Afterlives of Queer Irish Female Revolutionaries’ as part of the Modern Irish History Seminar, University of Cambridge, UK.

The Modern Irish History Seminar is a research seminar of the History Faculty of the University of Cambridge. which is held on Wednesdays at 17:00 in the Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College. It provides a forum to explore new perspectives in Irish history since 1800. The Seminar is methodologically eclectic and open to cognate disciplines (including geography, sociology, demographics and economics). It does not aim to produce ‘a school’, except in the sense that it is a collective and pluralist endeavor, which encourages diversity and original thinking.

More information on the event can be provided by Dr Mary McAuliffe (Email: Mary.McAuliffe@ucd.ie)

PROF. PROSPERA TEDAM, BOOK LAUNCH

On Monday 10th February **Prof. Prospera Tedam** launched the 2nd edition of her book : 'Safeguarding Children and Witchcraft Labelling in Social Work'. Child witchcraft labelling refers to the act of identifying or accusing a child of being a witch or having supernatural powers associated with harm. This form of stigma often leads to severe consequences, including social exclusion, abuse, neglect, and violence. The belief in child witchcraft is particularly prevalent in certain regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and among some diaspora communities in Europe and North America. In the UK, a number of child deaths (notably Victoria Climbié, Kristy Bamu, Khyra Ishaq) were linked to this form of abuse. The 145 page book, co-produced with a survivor of this form of abuse highlights key child safeguarding considerations for social workers and other child welfare practitioners. The launch was hosted in London by AFRUCA, a Children's Charity that works in the UK to minimise the risk of this type of harm to children.

For more information go to this website:

<https://www.criticalpublishing.com/safeguarding-children-and-witchcraft-labelling-in-social-work>



PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

ANNUAL MACARDLE HUMANITIES LECTURE DELIVERED BY ASSOC. PROF. MUIREANN NÍ RAGHALLAIGH, DKIT ON 12TH FEB., 2025

Associate Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh delivered the annual Dorothy Macardle Humanities Lecture at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) on the 12th of February 2025. The title of the lecture was 'Complex lives in complex times: Reflections on the experiences of refugee children and young people' and was attended by approximately 130 people, including members of the local community, practitioners and staff and students of DKIT.

The Annual Dorothy Macardle Humanities Lecture is a tribute to Dorothy Macardle who was born in Dundalk in 1889. Dorothy was a teacher, political activist, successful novelist, playwright, critic, historian and social campaigner for women's and children's rights, with a particular interest in refugees. In 2024, the lecture was delivered by Dr Mary McAuliffe, also of our School.

For more information please contact Muireann: Muireann.NiRaghallaigh@ucd.ie

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

PhD Research findings presented at the I-ARoA Seminar

The details of the upcoming I-ARoA (Ireland's Network on Research on Ageing in Asia) Seminar focused on PhD Research on Ageing in Asian Jurisdictions are as follows:

Day & Date: Fri. 14th February, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:30pm

Venue: B003/B004, Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD, Dublin 4 .

- Welcome and Introduction – **Dr Naonori Kodate** / Dr Catherine Elliott O'Dare
- Addressing social isolation among older people through community initiatives and welfare technologies in depopulating areas of Japan - Yurie Maeda, PhD Scholar, UCD
- Participants' Experiences of Time Banks: A Scoping Review, Jianing Zhu, PhD Scholar, TCD
- Addressing Language Barriers in Qualitative Cross-Language Research - Wenyu Li, PhD Scholar, TCD
- Panel Discussion - Wenyu Li, Yurie Maeda, Jianing Zhu
- Closing Remarks – Dr Naonori Kodate / Dr Cathrine Elliott O'Dare

School Seminar Series, 2024-5

Professor Cathie Jo Martin, Professor Emerita of Political Science, Boston University is the speaker for the following talk:

- **'Education for All?: Literature, Culture and Education Development in Britain and Denmark'**

The seminar details are as follows:

- Day & Date: Thur. 20th February,;
- Time: 4 to 6pm
- Venue: Seminar Room, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Belfield Campus.

Dr Stefan Müller, Assoc. Prof. of Political Science will be the discussant.

The seminar has been organised by **Karen Anderson**, Prof. of Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. For more information please email Karen: Karen.Anderson@ucd.ie

**Education for All?
Literature, Culture and
Education Development
in Britain and Denmark**

Seminar

ABSTRACT
Why did Denmark develop mass education for all in 1814, while Britain created a public-school system only in 1870 that primarily educated academic achievers? Cathie Jo Martin argues that fiction writers and their literary narratives inspired education campaigns throughout the nineteenth-century. Danish writers imagined mass schools as the foundation for a great society and economic growth. Their depictions fortified the mandate to educate all people and showed neglecting low-skill youth would waste societal resources and threaten the social fabric. Conversely, British authors pictured mass education as harming social stability, lower-class work, and national culture. Their stories of youths who overcome structural injustices with individual determination made it easier to blame students who failed to seize educational opportunities. *Education for All?* uses a multidisciplinary perspective to offer a unique gaze into historical policymaking.

SPEAKER
CATHIE JO MARTIN
Professor Emerita of Political Science, Boston University

DISCUSSANT
STEFAN MÜLLER,
Assoc. Prof. of Political Science, UCD

THUR. 20 FEB. 2025
4:00 TO 6:00PM
SEMINAR ROOM, UCD GEARY INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY, BELFIELD, UCD
Organised by Prof. Karen Anderson, UCD School of Social Policy,
Social Work and Social Justice

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

Symposia funded by IRC New Foundations grant award

Two symposia funded by the IRC New Foundations grant awarded to Dr Mary McAuliffe with civil society partner, the NXF, for a project entitled 'LGBT Activism in Ireland, 1973-2023; Looking Back, Going Forward', will be held in UCD

Event 1 - Thur. March 20th, 2025 Humanities Institute, UCD

This symposium will look at the achievement of LGBTI+ activism in the last 5 decades - activism, achievements, and learnings.

There will also be a podcast led by Dr. McAuliffe and guests

Event 2 - Thur. April 3rd, 2025 Humanities Institute, UCD

This symposium will look at contemporary activism, the issues facing the LGBTI+ communities, and plans for future campaigns.

There will also be a podcast led by Dr. McAuliffe and guests.

Northern Ireland Social Care Council Annual Social Work and Social Care Research Conference, Belfast, 5th March, 2025

Associate Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh will deliver the keynote address at the Northern Ireland Social Care Council Annual Social Work and Social Care Research Conference in Belfast on the 5th of March 2025. The title of her keynote is 'Navigating multiple challenges in a complex environment: key practice messages from research with unaccompanied refugee children & young people'.

For more information go to the following website: <https://research.hscni.net/event/5-mar-2025-12th-annual-social-work-and-social-care-research-practice-conference>



Dr Marie Moran,
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Justice

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EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS

Dear members and friends of the Equality Studies Centre,

Our next lunch-time working paper series on in/equality will take place on:

- February 18th at 1pm in Room A201 in the Hannah Sheehy Skeffington Building (Arts Annex). Speaker: Dr Dervla MacManus, UCD School of Philosophy, who will discuss 'Gender Equity in the Irish Architecture Profession'.

You are also welcome to join via zoom, at the link below.

Marie Moran is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/68636973055?
pwd=RzPiJ4OpAb9n0eFzn9KKUItHpN0agj.1](https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/68636973055?pwd=RzPiJ4OpAb9n0eFzn9KKUItHpN0agj.1)

Meeting ID: 686 3697 3055

Passcode: 208521

Please join us for what will no doubt be a very interesting discussion!

The full schedule for trimester 2 is available [here](#).

The aim of these seminars is to build a cross-disciplinary community working on questions of in/equality at UCD, so please do come along if interested in being part of this.

- Feb 25th. Jess Beck, School of Archaeology, UCD. The Osteoarcheology of Inequality; and how it is theorised.
- March 4th. Dympna Devine, School of Education. Questions of Equality from the Children's School Lives Study.
- Apr 8th. Kostas Stouras, UCD Smurfit College of Business, Other details TBA.
- Apr 15th. Nora Strecker, School of Economics. Other details TBA.

Marie Moran
ESC Director

EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS



Dr Naonori Kodate,
Assoc. Prof. of Social Policy,
UCD School of Social Policy,
Social Work and Social
Justice

Founding Director of
[Centre for Japanese](#)
[Studies](#)

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Naonori.Kodate@ucd.ie



The details of our next Public Seminar are as follows:

Topic: Balancing Commerce and Diplomacy: Japan's Strategy for Economic Security

Speaker: Prof. Christina Davis, Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics & Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Harvard University

Time and Date: 5pm April 1st 2025

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

Abstract

ABSTRACT: At a time of global confrontation between China, the United States, and Europe on trade, climate change, and digital governance, Japan has emerged as a leader in defining economic security, advancing critical industries, and forging strategic partnerships. Despite a history of intra-bureaucratic rivalry, Japan now presents a united front in supporting free trade agreements like the CPTPP, shaping the G20 agenda on AI, and promoting the Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiative. This talk will explore how administrative reforms have enhanced Japan's ability to align economic interests with foreign policy, enabling it to navigate geopolitical rivalries as a global economic power.

Organised by: UCD Centre for Japanese Studies In collaboration with: Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD Trinity Centre for Asian Studies Irish Institute of Japanese Studies, UCC UCD Centre for Asia-Pacific Research.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Campbell, J., Pinkerton, J., & McDonald, M. (2024). Social Work and the political conflict in Northern Ireland: an exploration of spatial dimensions to the provision of state services for children and young people. *European Journal of Social Work*, 1-11.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2024.2436035>

Abstract

This paper explores ways in which a concept of space can enable a fuller understanding of the impact of political conflict on social work within Northern Ireland. It begins with an overview of the origins and process of the conflict which has lasted for over forty years, and a complex social work role, impacted by sectarianism and other forms of social divisions. It then moves beyond that analysis to consider how the concept of space can further enhance an understanding of professional issues, with a particular focus on policy and practice with children, young people and their families. It is argued that reimagining the social work role in a way that takes accounts of psycho-socio-spatial dimensions can encourage interventions that are more flexible and empowering, and thus better able to deal with the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Finally, the authors argue that there is a need to move beyond the particularities of the Northern Ireland by reflecting upon the experiences of social work and children and young people in other international political conflicts.

Keywords : Social work; Northern Ireland conflict; socio-spatial.

Journal Article

Campbell, J., Donnelly, S., Gallagher, B., Roets, G., Lorenz, W., Blomberg, H., Eibicht, M. Č., Havrdova, Z., Hradcová, D., Kroll, C., Machado, I., Melo, S., Povolná, P., Roose, R., & Van Beveren, L. (2024). Findings from a European, cross-national project study on service user participation: Implications for social work policy, practice and education. *International Social Work*, 0(0).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00208728241305449>

Abstract

This article reports on a European project that sought to explore the relationships between social work and service user participation, using a five-country (Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland and Portugal) case study approach. It revealed areas of comparison and contrast depending upon respective histories of social work development, organisation, education and research that determined forms of service user participation. It is argued that such cross-national case study approaches can enhance our understanding of vital aspects of social work organisation, practice, education and research in the social work research, policy and practice community in areas of service user participation.

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Journal Article

Donnelly, S., Milne, A., O'Brien, M., Dunne, N., and O'Donnell, D. (2025). Exploring unintentional 'carer harm'—Insights from family carers and professionals: An Irish case study, *The British Journal of Social Work*; Published Open Access Available: bcaf004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcaf004>

Abstract: This article explores the poorly understood and under-researched topic of carer harm, where family carers experience harm from the person they are caring for. Nine narrative interviews were conducted with family carers of people living with dementia and autism, and two with professionals. Three focus groups were convened with professionals, including social workers, nurses, and advocacy organizations, with four to five participants in each (n = 14). Four key themes emerged: 'Understanding Carer Harm', 'Stigma and Guilt', 'Types of Harm Experienced', and 'Expectations, Responses and Systems that Harm'. Conflicts existed for many professionals when balancing the needs, safety, and protection of all family members. We conclude that a range of intersecting enforceable legal rights would help to ensure that carers are better protected. These rights would include the right to an assessment of need for both the carer and the child or adult with care and support needs, as well as a statutory entitlement to services that the assessment identifies for both parties. Proactive support from a social worker could go some way to addressing the challenges, putting in place a range of supports that prevent harm, reduce risk, and meet the needs of all family members.

Journal Article

Quinlan, F., **Donnelly, S.** and O'Donnell, D. (2024), "Coercive control of older adults in filial relationships: a hybrid concept analysis", *The Journal of Adult Protection*, Vol. ahead-of-print <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-06-2024-0033> #OpenAccess

Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to synthesise published evidence relating to filial coercive control to generate an understanding of this under-explored concept. This paper identifies its defining characteristics and explores the circumstances under which the phenomenon manifests in the lives of older adults.

Design/methodology/approach: scoping review methodology was adopted to guide the literature review, while a concept analysis methodology guided data extraction and analysis. Drawing on Rodgers's (1989) evolutionary concept analysis method, a co-constructed research methodology was developed for this study.

PUBLICATIONS

Findings: The concept of filial coercive control was understood in the context of the following antecedents: ageist norms, a parental relationship (both biological and non-biological), physical proximity and the controlling characteristics and tendencies of the abusive adult child. The defining attributes included the exercise of power through control, dependency and entrapment, isolation and confinement and fear and intimidation. Using the dominant themes, models and contrary cases were constructed to illustrate the findings.

Originality/value: Existing bodies of theory fail to adequately describe the phenomenon of filial coercive control adequately; as a consequence, a co-constructed concept analysis was conducted. A tentative operational definition and a conceptual model are proposed providing a starting point for future research and informing professional practice and education.

Anderson, Karen M. and Weaver, R. Kent. (2025) "Pensions, Policy drift, and Old-Age Poverty in Western Europe and North America." *Journal of European Social Policy*, pp. 1-16.. Online first. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09589287241312109>

Abstract:

This paper addresses patterns, trends, and “pockets” of old-age poverty in Western Europe and North America since 2000, with a focus on ve of the more nancially resilient countries: Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States. Despite major public pension retrenchment initiatives in several of these countries, increases in both the breadth and depth of old-age poverty have been limited in most of these countries. Increases in old-age poverty that did occur were largely “collateral damage” from across-the-board cutbacks in pension replacement rates and eligibility that were not adequately compensated for by increases in means-tested or minimum pensions. Poor retirees have only rarely been targeted directly for retrenchment in these countries. The most consistent pattern in the case studies is the role of policy drift—the production of different old-age poverty outcomes as the social and fiscal context within which government programs operate change, but policies do not. It is the limited positive power of poor retirees (their inability to get policy changes enacted that favor them) rather than their negative power (inability to block changes that hurt them) that has been more important as a driver of increased old-age poverty where it has occurred.

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Chapter

Anderson, Karen M. (2025) "Pension Reforms in Ageing Societies." In Bernhard Ebbinghaus and Moira Nelson (eds.). *Handbook on Welfare State Reform*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Abstract

This chapter examines recent trends in pension policy change considering theorizing on welfare state reform, particularly Pierson's New Politics thesis. It discusses influential conceptual and theoretical approaches, including welfare regime typologies, the Beveridge/Bismarck dichotomy, and the new politics perspective. These conceptual and theoretical approaches help us making sense of the relative stability of pension policies in the face of strong political, fiscal, and demographic pressures. The political salience and wide public support for pensions is fertile ground for examining recent advances in scholarship on the causes and consequences of pension reforms. The chapter discusses how pension policy shapes socio-economic outcomes, primarily poverty and inequality within and across gender and socio-economic class. It also examines theoretical explanations of policy drivers and their socio-economic outcomes. The conclusion discusses the implications of recent patterns of reform, including policies to extend working lives and the expansion of non-state, funded pensions.

Published Conference Proceedings

Johanna Seibt, Peter Fazekas and Oliver Santiago Quick (Eds.) SOCIAL ROBOTS WITH AI: PROSPECTS, RISKS, AND RESPONSIBLE METHODS. Proceedings of Robophilosophy 2024. 19-23 August 2024, Aarhus University, Denmark. IOP Press & SAGE.

- **Naonori Kodate**, Pranav Kohli, Yurie Maeda, Robert Scott, Wenwei Yu, Kazuko Obayashi and Shigeru Masuyama (2025). An Irish 'Traveling' Air-Purification Robot in a Care Home in Tokyo: Why Do Humanities and Social Science Matter? pp.368-377.
- **Naonori Kodate**, Mayuko Tsujimura and Sebastien Lechevalier (2025). Assessing the Impact of Transfer Robots on Care Work: The Case of POTARO in Toyota Memorial Hospital, Japan. pp.378-382.
- **Naonori Kodate**, Yurie Maeda, Akiyo Yumoto, **Sarah Donnelly**, Mayuko Tsujimura, Hasheem Mannan, Sayuri Suwa, Wenwei Yu, Pranav Kohli, Kazuko Obayashi, Shigeru Masuyama and Diarmuid O'Shea (2025). Welfare Technology Developers' Views Concerning Responsible Innovation and Implementation of Care Robots in Ireland and Japan. pp.310-319.
- **Naonori Kodate** and Vivek Nallur (2025). Workshop 3: Can Robots Care and Be Trusted? pp.602-606.



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

