



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN NO. 24

MARCH
2024

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NEW FUNDED PROJECTS





Examining Awareness and Attitudes towards Adult Safeguarding Practices in the Acute Hospital Context in Ireland



UCD Co-Investigators:

Amanda Casey, Principal Social Worker, Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG)/ Adjunct Professor of Social Work and Dr Sarah Donnelly, Associate Professor of Social Work, UCD.

Funded by:
HSE National Safeguarding Office

UCD Investigators:

Amanda Casey, Principal Social Worker, Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG)/ Adjunct Professor of Social Work, UCD and Dr Sarah Donnelly, Associate Professor of Social Work have been awarded funding by the HSE National Safeguarding Office to examine awareness and attitudes towards Adult Safeguarding Practices in the acute hospital context in Ireland. The recent Brandon Report, the Naas Hospital investigation and the Emily Report highlighted ongoing challenges in both residential and other health and social care settings in identifying and responding to possible abuse and harm of adults in vulnerable situations. These investigations point to a number of causal factors which resulted in significant harm, including an over reliance on the traditional medical model, a lack of understanding of how perpetrators operate and a lack of belief that older adults could be the victims of sexual abuse.

The reports also highlighted cultural barriers such as fear of reporting, a culture of secrecy and staff concerns being dismissed by senior managers. Currently, there is renewed focus on the development of a revised HSE and Department of Health policy and resource allocation for new posts such as the post Amanda has recently taken up as Principal Social Worker for Adult Safeguarding and Assisted Decision Making in IEHG. This study sets out to conduct an online survey of clinical front line staff examining key features of the existing policy including knowledge of the different types of abuse, confidence, and competence levels in responding to concerns, experiences of adult abuse in their professional roles and self-reported learning/training needs. In order to explore in greater depth emerging findings from the survey, a small number (up to ten) of individual face to face, semi-structured interviews will be carried out with key stakeholders. Targeted participants will include senior managers, social workers, and other key clinical staff.

The study builds on a previous pilot survey in 2022 carried out by Sarah and Amanda in conjunction with practitioner researchers from the Medical Social Work Department in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital where they explored staff attitudes and awareness of adult safeguarding practices and reporting process. The newly funded IEHG study provides a unique opportunity to develop a standardised understanding and approach to adult safeguarding concerns across the IEHG hospitals which will enhance professional practice in this important area of practice. Amanda and Sarah will combine their significant experience in adult safeguarding policy, practice, and research to undertake this timely study which has the potential to inform future policy, practice, and legislative reform in this area.



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PUBLISHING



Publishing Contract

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of copyright. T

EDITED BOOK PROJECT

**A Research Agenda for resilience
in social and public policy'**

**Edward Elgar Research Agenda
Series**

Editor
Dr Matthew Donoghue

Contact Details
Matthew.Donoghue@ucd.ie

Project

Dr. Matthew Donoghue has been invited/contracted to edit a book in the Edward Elgar Research Agendas series entitled A Research Agenda for Resilience in Social and Public Policy.

Publication
Date

April 2025

Chapters are likely to be between 5000-8000 words (subject to negotiation)

What is involved?

Invitation to contribute chapters

- Dr Matthew Donoghue is inviting scholars to contribute chapters that deal with any aspect of resilience in different policy areas and/or conceptual framings.
- If any colleagues in the school are interested in contributing a chapter please email Matthew @ Matthew.Donoghue@ucd.ie

Abridged Summary:

Populations are becoming increasingly used to hearing about resilience: the resilience of economies, the resilience of communities, the importance of remaining resilient in the face of challenges, the tough decisions politicians must make to ensure the state is resilient, and so on. The notion of resilience can be found in countless policy areas and at every level of government and governance, from the local to the supranational. Yet, the use of the term can remain so vague and multidimensional that it can be hard to parse what it actually means in practice.

Recent research on resilience in social and public policy has focused on family policy and the resilience of families (Daly, 2024), household socio-economic resilience in times of crisis (Boost et al., 2020), the use of resilience thinking to govern unemployment policy (Donoghue and Edmiston, 2020), as well as the deployment of resilience as an ideological tool to facilitate the financialization of welfare (Donoghue, 2022). More broadly speaking, resilience has come to dominate thinking on organizing communities in case of a disaster (Paton and Johnston, 2017), as an approach to readiness against terror (Hardy, 2015), as an approach to developing an appropriate mindset for responding to climate change (McEvoy et al., 2013), as well as measuring the performance of countries during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Bryce et al., 2022) and the overall health of urban, national and international economies (Raco and Street, 2012). This demonstrates the reach and depth of the concept, and thus the absolute necessity for the scholarly community to engage with it.

Many scholars find the concept of resilience can be problematic, as this volume will undoubtedly demonstrate. However, if the concept is here to stay in policy and politics it is crucial that scholars engage with it; critiques, theory-building, theory-testing, measurement and empirical investigation are all necessary. But it also has the potential to facilitate innovative approaches to the analysis of social risks and societal challenges. This requires an engagement with both the theoretical and conceptual characteristics of resilience, its normative and empirical dimensions, and the analysis of its deployment. This in turn requires an understanding and appreciation of the analysis of resilience and resilience thinking across diverse areas, highlighting the symbiotic nature of resilience, alongside its ontological and epistemological assumptions, and its translation from academia into politics and policy.

A major aim of this edited collection is to firstly showcase the diversity of work being undertaken within social and public policy on resilience in its multiple guises, to demonstrate the importance of taking resilience seriously. A second aim is to draw from its contributions the landscape of resilience research, identifying gaps and opportunities for further work. This could include further specifying and operationalising resilience, developing a broader critique of its operation both in scholarly and policy circles, and producing alternative readings of resilience and resilience thinking.



FUNDED PROJECTS



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NORTH SOUTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
HEALTHY EDUCATION FOR ALL
Nóimníocht na Míreann
Government of Ireland

Transforming Justice :

**An All-Island Examination of
Justice Responses to
Historical Institutional Abuse**

2022 - 2024

**Project Funding: North-South Research
Programme supported by an AHRC
Fellowship**



Research Co-Investigators



Assoc. Prof.	Prof.	Assoc. Prof.	Dr.
Marie Keenan	Anne-Marie McAlinden	James Gallen	Sophie Van der Valk
University College Dublin	Queen's University, Belfast	Dublin city University	University College Dublin
Marie.Keenan@ucd.ie	a.mcalinden@qub.ac.uk	james.gallen@dcu.ie	sophie.vandervalk@ucd.ie



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, historical abuse in state and religiously-operated institutions has come under scrutiny around the world.

The island of Ireland (Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI)) has had a large number of investigations, redress schemes or apologies regarding historical institutional abuse (HIA) against women and children, some of which are ongoing. Many of these efforts have been criticised by victims/survivors, in particular for inadequate or unimplemented recommendations or practices.

Media reports suggest that these efforts to address past abuses have failed to bring justice or healing for survivors or hold responsible individuals and the state to account. Activist academic research and advocacy in both NI and ROI continues to collaborate with and empower survivors and seeks to inform and shape policies and practices of governments and churches, by offering significant and survivor-led alternatives.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTPUTS

Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden (Queen's University Belfast), **Dr. Marie Keenan (University College Dublin)**, and Dr James Gallen (Dublin City University) recorded a podcast for the Queen's University Belfast LawPod where they discussed the ongoing research project. They spoke to interviewer Dr Lauren Dempster (Queen's University Belfast) about the background to this project and their methods and shared their reflections on conducting research in this area.

Prof McAlinden, Dr. Keenan and Dr. Gallen explore the justice responses that we have seen so far in the context of historical/non-recent institutional abuse on the island of Ireland, North and South, and provide an update on what is currently happening in terms of responding to institutional abuse.

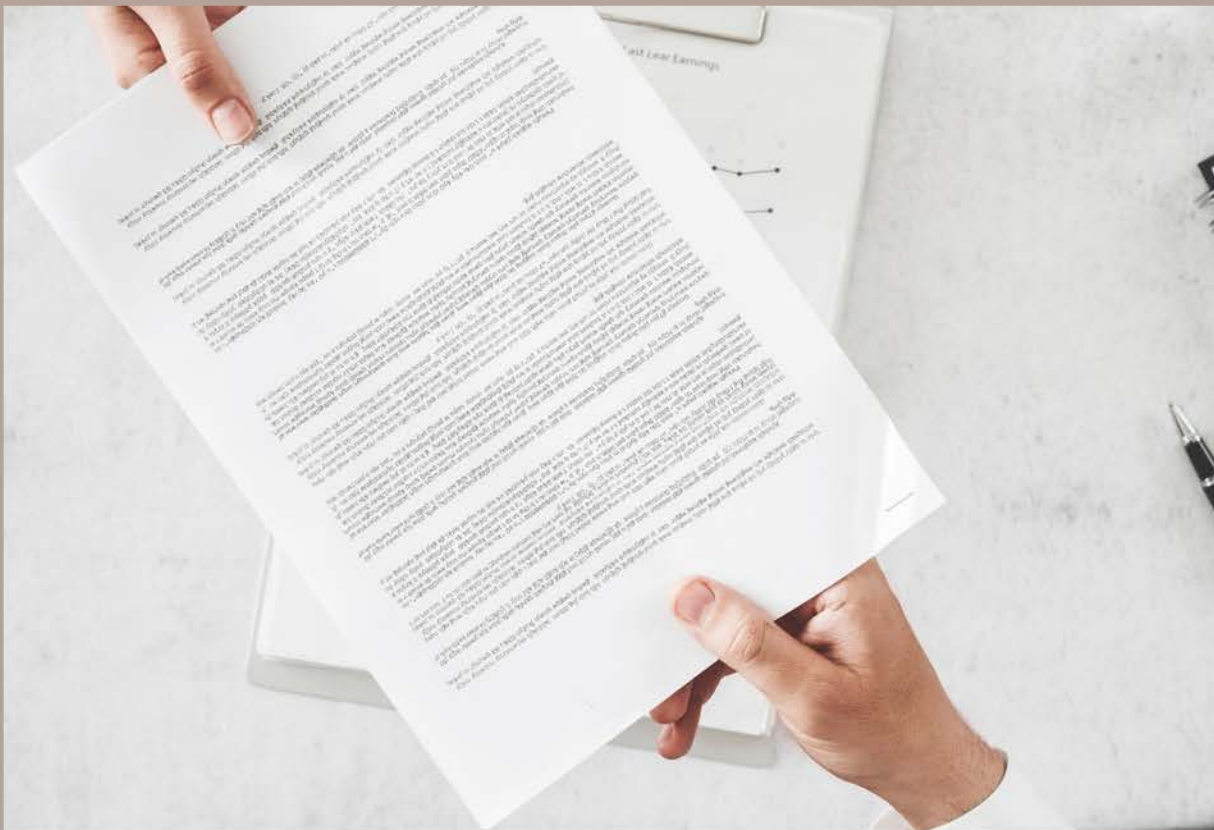
The link to the podcast is available on the LawPod website and the project website:

<https://transformingjusticeproject.org/project-outputs/>



POLICY BRIEFING PAPER

- A policy briefing paper was prepared by **Dr Sophie van der Valk (University College Dublin)**, Dr Allely Albert (TU Dublin), Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden (Queen's University Belfast), Dr James Gallen (Dublin City University), and **Dr Marie Keenan (University College Dublin)** for the Queen's Policy Engagement series.
- The briefing paper sets out the main principles of alternative forms of justice in responding to non-recent institutional abuse such as restorative justice, transitional justice and transformative justice.
- The policy briefing paper can be found on the project website: <https://transformingjusticeproject.org/project-outputs/>



UPCOMING PROJECT EVENT

UCD Criminology Salon

Thursday, 2nd May 2024, 11.00-13.00

UCD Sutherland School of Law

Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical/Non-recent Institutional Abuses

Join us for our next UCD Criminology Salon where Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden (Queen's University Belfast), Dr Marie Keenan (University College Dublin), and Dr James Gallen (Dublin City University) will share and discuss preliminary results from their research on justice responses to historical or non-recent institutional abuse. Using the island of Ireland as a case-study, the project explores a range of themes concerning non-recent institutional abuse including historical and cultural contexts, the Church-State relationship, legal and ideological barriers to justice, and the meaning of 'truth', 'justice' and 'accountability' for victims/survivors. The project is funded by the Higher Education Authority's North-South Research Programme and was also supported by The British Academy and The Arts and Humanities Research Council. A reception will take place afterwards to facilitate discussion between guests.

Speakers



Dr Marie Keenan
University College Dublin



Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden
Queens University Belfast



Dr James Gallen
Dublin City University

Venue

The Salon will be held in the Harty Boardroom, UCD Sutherland School of Law, Belfield, Dublin 4.

How to register

The event is free to attend and you can register at the following [link](#)

About the UCD Criminology Salon

The UCD Criminology Salon aims to provide a welcoming, informal and inclusive space for salon guests to explore contemporary issues in the fields of criminology and criminal justice. Through facilitated discussions between special guests and audiences, the Salon aims to foster meaningful dialogue and provide guests with opportunities to exchange ideas and meet others with an interest in the field. The UCD Criminology Salon is open to academics, students, policymakers and practitioners.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



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Appointment of Assoc. Prof. Kodate as Visiting Professor at EHESS, Paris, May 2024

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate is invited to take up the position of a visiting professor at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) for the month of May. His position is within the framework of the three-year international project entitled "Capitalisms - technologies - societies and health (CTSH). The School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) is a 'grande école' in Paris, and is well-known for the works of notable arts, humanities and social science scholars such as Profs. Thomas Piketty, Pierre Bourdieu and Jacques Derrida. It is associated with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in its research activities, and connected with Paris Sciences et Lettres University (PSL University) at the undergraduate level.

Assoc. Prof. Kodate has been working with colleagues at different units (Institut de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux sociaux - IRIS, Centre de recherche médecine, science, santé et société - CERMES 3 / la Fondation France-Japan, FFJ) within EHESS since 2018, and playing a vital role in obtaining the French government funding (INNOVCARE: Care-led Innovation: The Case of elderly care in France and Japan, 2024-2028. The project has been selected under the Priority Research Programme (France 2030): "Autonomy: ageing and disability" (approx. 3.5 million euros). <https://innovcare.hypotheses.org/2004>

During his stay at EHESS, he will be giving several seminars and lectures. <https://www.ehess.fr/fr/personne/naonori-kodate>

Appointment of Dr. Mary McAuliffe to:

Advisory Committee on the Representation of Women and Women's Stories within the Context of the National Cultural Institutions and the National Collections.

By: Minister Catherine Martin



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



REPRESENTATION

Dr. Mary McAuliffe was recently appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, to the Advisory Committee on the Representation of Women and Women's Stories within the Context of the National Cultural Institutions and the National Collections. As part of its work, the committee will also consider the possibility of creating a dedicated presentation of women's stories through a range of options. These options may include a women's museum, a re-imagining of the National Collection, or other initiatives that the committee considers appropriate.

The advisory committee will be chaired by Dr. Mary McAuliffe's UCD colleague, Dr. Sandra Collins, Librarian to University College Dublin.

Press Release



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

New advisory committee to focus on women and women's stories in the national cultural collections

From Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Published on 8 March 2024

New advisory committee to focus on women and women's stories in the national cultural collections

Minister Martin announces National Women's Museum to be considered as part of the work of the Committee

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin T.D. today announced the appointment of the members of the Advisory Committee on the Representation of Women and Women's Stories within the collections of the National Cultural Institutions.

In recent years there has been a growing recognition of the need to address the under-representation of women's contributions to the State's political, scientific, social and cultural history. It is against this backdrop that Minister Martin has established the committee to recommend actions that showcase the achievements of women within the National Cultural Institutions and the National Collection.

As part of its work, the committee will also consider the possibility of creating a dedicated presentation of women's stories through a range of options. These options may include a women's museum, a re-imagining of the National Collection or other initiatives that the committee considers appropriate.

The advisory committee will be chaired by Dr Sandra Collins, University Librarian in University College Dublin, and former Director of the National Library of Ireland. The advisory committee includes members from national cultural institutions in Ireland and abroad, historians, experts in gender and equality studies, representatives from the National Women's Council of Ireland and from relevant Government departments, and those with a range of other experiences and expertise.

Speaking today, Minister Martin, said:

"The Programme for Government is founded on the principle of equality and ensuring that every citizen can achieve their full potential and today's announcement is another step towards recognising fully the contributions of women to Irish society. The committee members have been carefully selected taking into account their experience and expertise. The Chair of the Committee, Dr Sandra Collins has dedicated much of her career to our National Cultural Institutions and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge which will be invaluable to guiding the committee's work. I want to also thank the Women's Museum Advocacy group for their work, and support, in bringing forward these proposals.

"While we are at the beginning of this journey, I am confident that the work of this committee will help address the imbalances that persist in the representation of women's stories. I have asked the committee to take account of the diversity of women's lives and to bring to the fore the voices of historically marginalised women. I am confident this initiative can help start conversations about how we record and represent the stories of women in our history, and the impact that under-representation has on how we see ourselves at both an individual and societal level."

Chair of the advisory committee, Dr Sandra Collins, stated:

"I am honoured to be appointed to this role by Minister Martin, and I look forward to working with all the Committee members to make meaningful recommendations on the representation of women and women's stories."

The members of the Advisory Committee are:

- Dr, Sandra Collins, University Librarian, UCD
- Dr Mary McAuliffe, Director of Gender Studies UCD
- Áine Kerr, Entrepreneur and Women in Leadership Advocate
- Lynn Scarff, Director NMI
- Annie Fletcher, Director IMMA
- Sara Lammens, General Director, Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)
- Dr Zélie Asava, Writer and Expert on Race, Gender and Representation
- Oein DeBhairduin, NMI Traveller Culture Collections Development Officer
- Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan, Writer & Cultural Consultant
- Colm O'Callaghan, Executive Director, The Gate Theatre
- Dr. Síobhra Aiken, Department of Irish and Celtic Studies, Queen's University, Belfast
- Sinéad Copeland, Principal Officer, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Other members will be confirmed in the coming week including members from the National Women's Council and relevant Government Departments.



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PAST EVENTS

FEBRUARY- MARCH 2024

Seminars,



2024

MARCH

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2023 - 2024

SEMINAR


SERIES

**European Schools of Social Work
funded Seminar series on the subject of
Social Work and Political conflict**

Organised and Led by:

Jim Campbell

Emeritus Full Professor of Social Work
in the School of Social Policy, Social
Work and Social Justice



Jim Campbell, Emeritus Full Professor of Social Work in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice has been leading a European Schools of Social Work funded seminar series on the subject of Social Work and Political conflict. The project brings together academics, practitioners, students and victims and survivors to explore how social workers can best be equipped to deal with the impact of political conflict.

- The first seminar took place in Nicosia in June 2023 and was reported on in an earlier bulletin.
 - This article reports on the second seminar which took place at the George Mitchel Institute for Global Peace, Security and Social Justice, Queens University Belfast. The seminar included presentations on social work in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina and Benin, with follow up discussions on further developing the network to enable the development of critical, comparative perspectives that can further reveal important interfaces between social work education, policy and practice and situations of political conflict.
 - The third and final seminar takes place in Sarajevo in May 2024, which will be reported upon in a future School research bulletin.
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UCD EDI CONFERENCE

TACKLING RACISM AND EMBRACING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY



20 March, 2024
10am - 3pm

Belfield Campus
University College Dublin

For more information see the following:

<https://www.ucd.ie/equality/information/raceandethnicequalityinucd/ucdediannualconference20march2024/>

Registration 9:30pm - 10am

Opening Address 10:00 -10:15

Professor Orla Feely, UCD President

Keynote speaker 10:15 - 11:00

Siobhan McKenna, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Public Appointments Service

Moderator: Rory Carey, Director - Culture & Engagement

Panel Discussion 11:00 - 12:00

Moderator: Dipti Pandya, Co - chair of the EDI Anti-racism and Cultural Awareness sub-group

Panelists

- Pierre Yimbog, Black&Irish organisation
- **Dr Prospera Tedam, UCD, Professor in Social Work**
- Shane O'Curry, Director INAR - Irish Network Against Racism
- Emer O'Neill, Anti- Racism activist, TV presenter, Author of "The Same But Different"
- Patrick Reilly, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
- Amanda McCabe, Social Care Worker, final year student, UCD School of Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

Launch of the EDI Report 12:00 -12:15

Tristan Aitken, Chief People Officer and Director of SIRC & Legal Services

Master Class: Cross cultural communication 12:20 - 12:50

Kensika Monshengwo, Intercultural Training Coordinator, Immigrant Council of Ireland

Lunch & Consultation session 12:50 - 14:00

Employees from all backgrounds and all genders are invited to a consultation where they will have the opportunity to give open and honest opinions and ideas that will feed into the development of the UCD Anti-Racism and Cultural Awareness Action Plan.

Lightning Presentations 14:00 - 14:45

UCD academics, researchers and professional staff will present their research and activities in the area of Race, Ethnicity & Cultural Diversity

- Dr Elaine O'Reilly, School of Chemistry: Presentation: Missing Elements, RISE Programme.
- **Dr Elaine Wilson, Dr Niamh Flanagan and students from Wesley College Dublin: Presentation: Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers.**
- Dr Sheena Hyland, Teaching and Learning: Presentation: Teaching and Learning Across Cultures.
- Madame Olayinka Aremu, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems: Presentation: Cultural Diversity and Integration for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs).
- Caroline Mangan, UCD Global: Presentation: Cultural Intelligence: A Masterclass Series for UCD students
- **Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice: Presentation: From student engagement to partnership: Reflections on teaching racism on a social work programme.**



From L to R: Dr Niamh Flanagan (Maynooth University); Asst. Prof. Elaine Wilson, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Students from Wesley College, Dublin



Transition Year students from Wesley College Secondary School (co-researchers with Dr Niamh Flanagan, Maynooth University and **Dr Elaine Wilson, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice** who presented findings from their research 'Starting a Conversation About Racism with Teenagers'. This group of Transition Year students have been working hard to put together a survey to investigate inclusion in Wesley College. All students, teachers and parents were invited to complete this survey to have their say. The presentation was well received by those in attendance at the UCD EDI Conference.



Assoc. Prof. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh gave a lightning presentation on her reflections on teaching about racism on the Professional Masters in Social Work programme. She discussed the importance of this teaching, particularly on a professional programme, and the challenges involved for those teaching and for students themselves. Muireann talked about her move towards a partnership pedagogical approach, whereby the diverse student group is invited to participate in the planning and delivery of the content. More about the approach can be found in the publication (p. 430) accessed in full at the following link: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ucd.ie/universityforall/t4media/UCD_Case_Studies_digital.pdf.

Year 2 Professional Masters in Social Work student Amanda McCabe was also invited to participate in the panel discussion. Amanda eloquently emphasised the importance of 'authentic conversations' about racism and highlighted that not saying things because we don't want to upset people 'works to the detriment of meaningful change'. She highlighted also the need to address differential completion rates among minoritised students.



From L to R: Amanda McCabe (Year 2 Prof. Masters In Social Work student); Assoc. Prof. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh and Prof. Prospera Tedam, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

UCD-TCD Joint Meeting for PhD Students in Ageing Research (Asian Chapter)

Date: 21st March, 2024



Left to Right: Ms Varee Chaitavepporn, Dr Elliott O'Dare, Dr Kodate, Ms Zhu, Ms Li, Dr Pierce, and Ms Maeda @ School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.

Dr Catherine Elliott O'Dare (Assistant Professor in Social Policy at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin) welcomed four researchers (**Dr Maria Pierce, Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Ms Varee Chaitavepporn and Ms Yurie Maeda**) from the School, and hosted the very first UCD-TCD joint meeting for PhD students in Ageing Research on 21st March in Trinity College Dublin.

The idea proposed by Dr Kodate at last year's Irish Gerontological Society Annual Conference in Galway came to materialise when Dr Elliott O'Dare asked Dr Kodate to give a lecture for her 'Ageing Societies' module for the 3rd/4th year Social Policy students. His lecture title was 'Robotics-aided care, is there such a thing?!'.

The two PhD students (supervised by Dr Kodate and Dr Pierce) met with Ms Jianing Zhu and Ms Wenyu Li (co-supervised by Dr Elliott O'Dare and Dr Catherine Conlon, TCD). All four PhD students come from Asia (China, Japan and Thailand) and we had lively discussions with regard to the way people have been addressing issues relating to ageing societies, including how assistive technology has been used, in different countries (Ireland and Asia, in particular).

Led by **Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly** and Dr Pierce, there have been several meetings to discuss a wider network of researchers engaged in ageing research within the university and beyond. This Asian Chapter will be a very important part of the broader research network.

RACISM, ANTI-RACISM AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT: OLD AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

Conference organised by the DCU Irish Refugee Integration Network (IRIN)

The conference included a number of speakers, as well as parallel breakout sessions, covering a wide range of topics including 'Solidarity in Action: Navigating Activism and Discrimination in Diverse Contexts', 'Trauma, Health and Support in the Journey of Forced Displacement' and 'Pathways to Inclusion: Transforming Primary Level Education'.

Location

DCU Glasnevin Campus

Date/Time

7th & 8th March, 2024





Pictured from left to right Zoë O'Reilly, Pinar Aksu, Heidar Al-Hashimi, Azad Izzeddin, Gordon Ogutu and Muireann Ní Raghallaigh

Building on work undertaken as part of the Scottish Irish Migration Initiative, a collaboration between University College Dublin and the University of Edinburgh, funded under the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two universities, **Associate Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh** and Dr. Zoë O'Reilly convened a roundtable discussion on 'Building an Ethical Research Culture in Forced Migration Research'. In addition to Dr. Ní Raghallaigh and Dr. O'Reilly, the roundtable participants were Pinar Aksu (University of Glasgow), Heidar Al-Hashimi (Queen's University, Belfast), Azad Izzeddin (Independent Researcher), and Gordon Ogutu (Dublin City University). The first part of the roundtable explored ethical considerations when working with participants of refugee backgrounds: context, care and cultural considerations.

These ethical considerations were collated through a series of consultations with members of the network with refugee-backgrounds who have been involved in refugee-related research, with the insights published in this Briefing Paper on Research involving people of a refugee background: Considerations for ethical engagement (funded by the Irish Research Council) (To access the paper go to this link: <https://researchrepository.ucd.ie/entities/publication/a087e9f2-e4e3-462f-93da-e5218d70a10d/details>). The second part of the roundtable explored the ways in which universities, funders and researchers can increase collaboration between scholars of refugee backgrounds and those without refugee backgrounds in forced migration research.

The participants explored ways of moving beyond inclusion and approaches of 'do no harm' towards a decolonising approach, issues arising in relation to collaboration between researchers of refugee and non-refugee backgrounds, and explored some practical steps which universities, funders and researchers in this field can take to increase collaboration and take a decolonising approach. This discussion was based on a new publication by the network in the Journal of Refugee Studies, Building an ethical research culture: Scholars of refugee background researching refugee-related issues. Finally, the roundtable session finished with an open discussion with a very engaged audience.



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UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

MARCH 2024

**Seminars,
Roundtables,
Workshops**





MPP PUBLIC POLICY ... SEMINAR

**Speaker: Dr. Simone Tonelli
(University of Edinburgh, UK)**



Varieties of Knowledge Economy and its Political-Institutional Foundations

19 April, 2024 | At 15:00 - 16:00
Theatre N, UCD Newman Building,
Belfield, D4

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please email: Stephan.Koeppe@ucd.ie



2024

EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE

Annual Lecture

Ideologies of Inequality



SPEAKER

Dr. Jo Littler

Professor, Dept. of Media, Communications & Cultural Studies, Goldsmith College, UK

Jo's work analyses changing cultures of inequality across media and society. Her books include *Left Feminisms* (2023); with The Care Collective, *The Care Manifesto* (2020); *Against Meritocracy* (2018); *Radical Consumption* (2008); and, with Roshi Naidoo, *The Politics of Heritage* (2005). She co-edits *European Journal of Cultural Studies* and is part of the editorial collective for *Soundings: A Journal of Politics & Culture*.



**Tuesday, 16th April
2024**

06:30 - 07:30 PM

Museum of Literature, Ireland
(MoLI), 86 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2

For more information please contact:

- Karen Smith (karen.smith@ucd.ie)
- Judy Walsh (judy.walsh@ucd.ie)

Abstract

'Ideology' has been used by both right and left political perspectives – from Napoleon Bonaparte to Karl Marx – to try to understand the relationship between 'worldviews', or sets of ideas, and material forms of social organization. It has been deployed as both a neutral and pejorative term. It is particularly powerful when its presence is denied: both the 'third way' politics of Tony Blair and Donald Trump's 'TruthSocial' platform, for instance, explicitly claimed to be 'beyond ideology'. In 1977, Stuart Hall observed that 'ideology is a term which does not trip lightly off an English tongue'; yet today, by contrast, it is a widely used term in public life, from 'gender ideology' to Prevent. This talk reconsiders the thorny and convoluted histories of ideology, guided by the questions: how does ideology work today to legitimate, extend and reproduce contemporary inequality? How might we update theories of ideology for the present?

This lecture is organised by Dr Karen Smith and Dr Judy Walsh, UCD Equality Studies



UPCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, TRAINING EVENTS

APRIL 2024



COST Sustainability@Leave Training School

Work-care policies, gender and social inequalities

Dr. Ieva Zumbite, UCD Postdoctoral fellow (<https://people.ucd.ie/ieva.zumbite>) will be attending COST Sustainability@Leave training school "Work-care policies, gender and social inequalities" during 17-19 April in Dubrovnik, Croatia.



COST Action's training school provides early-career researchers with the opportunity to advance their knowledge of theories, concepts and methodologies on work-care policies and inequalities.

It provides a space to critically discuss cutting cutting-edge developments with leading international scholars in sociology, social policy, gender studies and demography, focusing on conceptual and methodological challenges in researching the interconnections between work-care policies and gender and social inequalities.

Date: 17th - 19th April , 2024

Location: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Center for Advanced Academic Studies CAAS, Dubrovnik, Croatia.



This is highly relevant in the context of precarious, underinsured, and nonstandard employment, informal economies, climate change, migration, family changes, and growing financial strains for carers, making it necessary to train future generation-researchers working towards a better understanding of social divisions in care and employment practices and advancement of work-care policies. The training school will be a combination of lectures by renowned scholars and early early-career researchers ' presentations with a strong focus on providing in-depth feedback on their work.

Trainers:

- Rossella Ciccia (University of Oxford, UK),
- Andrea Doucet (Brock University, CA);
- Ann-Zofie Duvander (Stockholm University, SE),
- Wim van Lancker (KU Leuven, BE),
- Sonja Blum (Bielefeld University, DE),
- Ivana Dobrotić (University of Zagreb; HR).

Program and organizing committee:

- Sonja Blum (Bielefeld University),
- Rūta Brazienė (Vilnius University),
- Ivana Dobrotić (University of Zagreb),
- Johanna Lammi Lammi-Taskula (Finish Institute for Health and Welfare).

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SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMICS (SASE) CONFERENCE, 2024

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University of Limerick - Limerick, Ireland

2024 – Limerick

For Dignified and Sustainable Economic Lives: Disrupting the Emotions, Politics, and Technologies of Neoliberalism

SPEAKERS

- ASSOC. PROF. KODATE
- AND PROF. SÉBASTIEN
LECHEVALIER



Assoc. Prof. Kodate and Prof. Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS)'s paper "Care-led innovation, a new paradigm and an application in the Japanese context of Society 5.0", has been accepted for the SASE 2024 Conference at the University of Limerick, Ireland (27-29 June 2024). Their presentation will be part of a panel on Health, organised by Dr Etienne Nouguez (Sciences Po & CNRS), Prof. Kathryn Ibatá-Arens (DePaul University), Larry Au (Columbia University), and Dr Wan-Zi Lu (State University of New York).



New
Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLE

International Perspectives on Mental Health Social Work: Second Edition

Jim Campbell, Lisa Brophy & Gavin Davidson (2024) *International Perspectives on Mental Health Social Work: Second Edition*. ed. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2024, 21(3), 336; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph21030336>
Submission received: 28 February 2024 / Accepted: 8 March 2024 / Published: 13 March 2024

(This article belongs to the Special Issue [Second Edition of International Perspectives on Mental Health Social Work](#))

Conclusions

This valuable collection of papers from across the globe confirms that social workers employed across the field of mental health continue to focus on fundamental professional values and human rights principles. However, the efforts of practitioners to maintain a distinct professional role and identity can be hindered by organisational pressures. Yet, there are encouraging findings in these papers regarding pathways for mental health social workers to negotiate complexities, and sometimes contradictory expectations, whilst sustaining a commitment to the needs and goals of service users. Innovative engagement with people with lived experience, valuing service users' expertise, and adopting empowering research methods such as co-design and co-production should characterise contemporary mental health social work practice.



In doing so, these approaches have the potential to support the long-standing need to transform mental health services. This implies a shift away from a risk-averse and biomedically dominated system to one that is people centred and recovery oriented, and which acknowledges the role of social determinants and inequality in mental health services. Finally, we wish to reaffirm the imperative to elevate our understanding beyond Western paradigms and in doing so enable mental health social workers to embrace and engage with critical international perspectives [9].

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Building an ethical research culture: Scholars of refugee background researching refugee-related issues



Ahmad Albtran, Pinar Aksu, Zuhair Al-Fakir, Heidar Al-Hashimi, Helen Baillot, Azad Izzeddin, Hyab Johannes, Steve Kirkwood, Bulelani Mfaco, Tandy Nicole, **Muireann Ní Raghallaigh**, Gordon Ogutu, Zoë O'Reilly, and Angham Younes (2024) Building an ethical research culture: Scholars of refugee background researching refugee-related issues. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 2024, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feae005?>

Abstract

Recent scholarship on the need to decolonize refugee research, and migration research more generally, points to the urgency of challenging ongoing colonial power structures inherent in such research. Increased involvement of scholars with lived experience is one way to challenge and remake unequal and colonial power relations. Through discussions with researchers of forced migration, we aimed to explore the challenges, barriers, and supports related to involvement in such research, and to identify how research practices and structures could be improved to increase and facilitate the involvement of scholars with refugee backgrounds.

In this field reflection, we highlight key points and suggestions for better research practice that emerged from these discussions. In doing so, we are endeavouring to contribute to the important ongoing conversation about ethics and decolonizing research. We build on existing ethical guidelines by opening up some of the complexities of ethical practice and offering concrete actions that can be taken to work through these.

Keywords: ethics, refugee research, ethical research culture, peer research, collaborative research, decolonial research, forced migration research

OTHER ARTICLE

Köppe, S. (2024): Kinderarmut in Mehrkindfamilien: soziale Folgen alles andere als im Dutzend billiger, Soziale Sicherheit 73(4), 10–13.



In April 2024, **Dr. Stephan Köppe** published an article for German policy makers. The journal *Soziale Sicherheit* is the go to source for civil servants, HR personnel, trade union activists, advocacy groups and social protection specialists in Germany. The article summarises Köppe's recent findings that large families face an elevated poverty risk in Germany (Köppe, Curran, Aldama 2024). Despite that universal child allowances increase for the third and fourth child, these are offset against means-tested benefits, which contributes to a higher poverty risk for children growing up in large families. Köppe concludes that large families should be mainstreamed within the German social policy discourse to ensure the voices of these children are recognised. Furthermore, Köppe argues for a reform of the offsetting mechanism to reduce the risk of child poverty in large families.



MEDIA FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2024



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Producer: **Lorcan Clancy**



The RTE Radio One History Show is featuring co-editors **Mary McAuliffe** and Harriet Wheelock speaking about their recent book 'The Diaries of Katheen Lynn; A Life Revealed through Personal Writing', published by UCD Press.

<https://www.ucdpress.ie/display.asp?isbn=9781910820018&>



Sunday

3 March 2024, 6:05pm



RTE Radio 1

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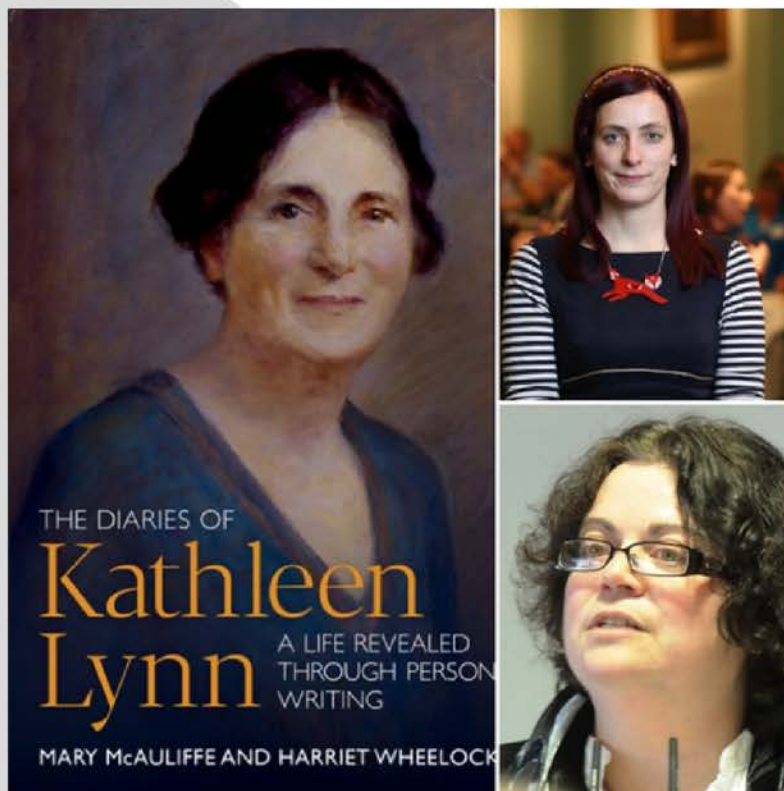
NATIONWIDE



Tune in to Nationwide on RTE 1 at 7pm on Friday, 8th March, to celebrate International Women's Day

Anne Cassin will discuss the incredible legacy of Kathleen Lynn with authors Mary McAuliffe & Harriet Wheelock To watch please go to this link:

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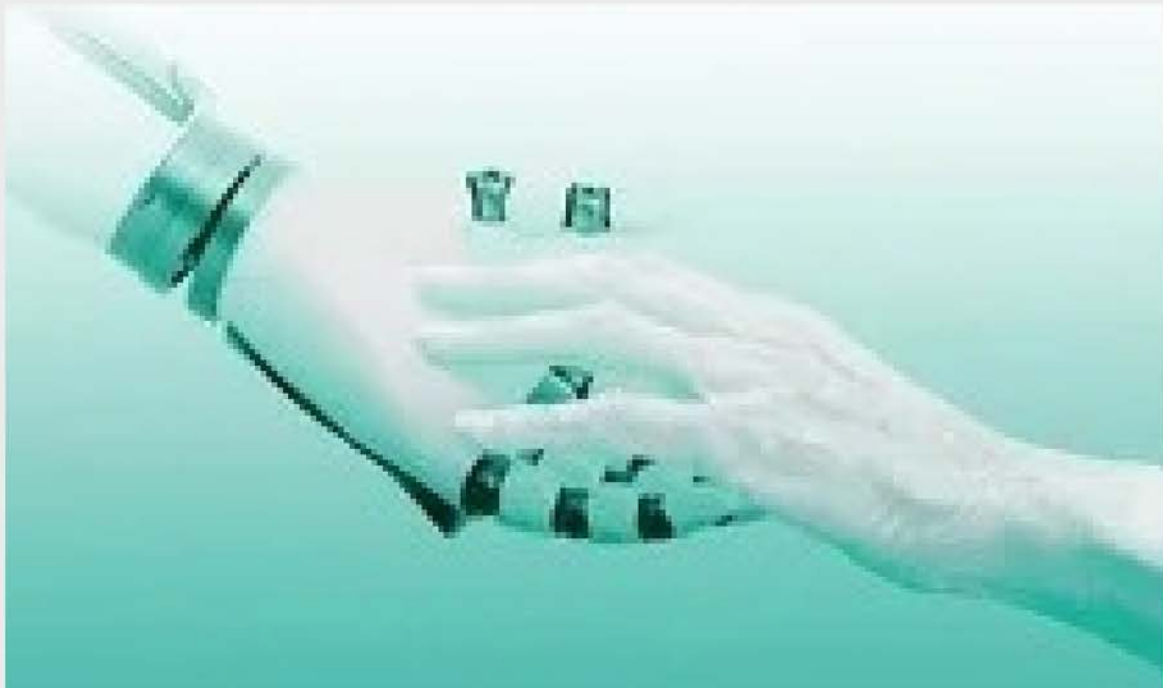


For more information please email: mary.mcaulif@ucd.ie

THE ATLANTIC

MARCH 21, 2024

Author: By Stephanie H. Murray



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ALL THOSE CARE ROBOTS?

So far, companion robots haven't lived up to the hype—and might even exacerbate the problems they're meant to solve.

The first thing Pepper told me was that he was running out of battery. “He’s got about 15 minutes before he dies,” [Emanuel Nunez Sardinha](#), a Ph.D. candidate in robotics at Bristol Robotics Laboratory, told me. That turned out to be plenty. Sardinha greeted Pepper; then I did.



I asked Pepper how he was doing, to which he replied, “How are you doing?” Then Sardinha resumed telling me about the sorts of things Pepper, a friendly, wide-eyed robot designed to assist humans through social interaction, can do, such as talking through an exercise routine while demonstrating upper-body movements (he doesn’t have legs). But Pepper can get “nervous” in crowds—that is, his voice recognition short-circuits in an environment with multiple people talking—which is what seemed to happen at the lab that day. He kept piping up unprompted as we chatted, flustering Sardinha, who, with a gentle apology to Pepper, put him to sleep.

For such an underwhelming little robot, Pepper has managed to inspire remarkable faith in his potential over the years. He wasn’t designed for any particular purpose; he was introduced by SoftBank Mobile and Aldebaran Robotics [in 2014](#) as “the world’s first personal robot that can read emotions.” But roboticists in private companies and academic institutions quickly set about retooling his software for elder care. Ads showed Pepper monitoring the corridors of a care home for wandering residents, and guiding elderly visitors to the [appropriate room](#) of a hospital. In the media, researchers voiced lofty aims for him:

He might function as a [helpful companion](#) for elderly folks living on their own, reminding them to take their medication while engaging them in sorely needed [conversation](#). In a care home, Pepper might help keep an eye on residents, entertain them with [games and jokes](#), or simply offer some of the [friendly interaction](#) that [overstretched staff cannot](#). In 2018, [Pepper himself appeared](#) before the U.K. Parliament, citing his potential to “reduce pressure on health-care services” and “boost independence, reduce loneliness, and improve the quality of life among elderly people.” The following year, the U.K. government cited Pepper when it [announced](#) that it would invest 34 million pounds in developing care robots that “could revolutionise [the] UK care system.”

[Read: The robot revolution in caregiving](#)

But Pepper has yet to make it very far out of the lab. He and other social robots have been tested out in care settings in multiple countries over the past decade, but very few nursing homes actually own one. Hard data are hard to come by, but [Chris Papadopoulos](#), an expert in health technology at the University of Bedfordshire, guesses that fewer than one in 1,000 U.K. care homes uses a humanoid robot on an ongoing basis.

A city council in England made headlines in 2017 when it recruited Pepper to work in its [adult-social-care team](#), but when I called their office to ask how he was getting on, the woman who answered the phone had no idea what I was talking about. Likewise, [media portrayals of seemingly widespread use of robotics](#) in Japanese care homes have little basis in reality, James Wright, a visiting lecturer at Queen Mary University of London and the author of [Robots Won’t Save Japan](#), told me. About 10 percent of care homes in Japan use any sort of robot—including monitoring systems or mobility aids—let alone a humanoid. Production of [Pepper was paused](#) in 2020 due to lack of demand. (Aldebaran was eventually acquired by United Robotics Group, which still advertises Pepper as “[an ally in Healthcare](#)” that can “interact, entertain and provide companionship,” “enhance the efficiency of the administrative process, improve quality and consistency of patient experience” and “support caregivers.”) There are likely many reasons that the long-predicted robot takeover of elder care has yet to take off. Robots are expensive, and cash-strapped care homes don’t have money lying around to purchase a robot, let alone to pay for the training needed to actually use one effectively.

And at least so far, social robots just aren't worth the investment, Wright told me. Pepper can't do a lot of the things people claimed he could—and he relies heavily on humans to help him do what he can. Despite some research suggesting they can boost well-being among the elderly, robots have shown little evidence that they make life easier for human caregivers. In fact, they require quite a bit of care themselves. Perhaps robots of the future will revolutionize caregiving as hoped. But the care robots we have now don't even come close, and might even exacerbate the problems they're meant to solve.

Some researchers have not given up on Pepper. "There are so many benefits to continual contact and interaction that we are unable to provide to our elderly because of health-care-worker shortages," Arshia Khan, a roboticist at the University of Minnesota at Duluth, told me. Her lab deployed a fleet of Peppers into eight nursing homes in Minnesota in 2022. She admits that the robots have limitations—they can't perform physical care yet—but Khan believes that lives would have been saved during the coronavirus pandemic if more elderly people had had robots to interact with when they couldn't be with others. "Loneliness doesn't just make a person feel depressed. It actually kills," Khan said.

There is, to be clear, no evidence that care robots can save lives. And although some research suggests that social robots reduce loneliness or otherwise improve well-being, the conclusion comes with a few asterisks. Many studies involve robotic pets—usually Paro, a soft robotic seal designed to soothe and stimulate people with dementia—not humanoids. Many of the studies are bad: Multiple meta-analyses have lamented that studies on social robots have methodological issues that make it difficult to know what to make of them.

Even higher-quality studies on humanoids such as Pepper have some limitations to consider. As part of a large collaboration between the European Union and Japan, Papadopoulos conducted a study that tested a "culturally competent" version of Pepper. In practice, that meant loading Pepper with knowledge about the local culture—at an English nursing home, Pepper might talk about rugby, for example—and then installing him in residents' rooms for up to 18 hours over the course of two weeks. Compared with those who weren't around a robot, residents who got to hang out with Pepper—particularly the "culturally competent" version—reported a boost in emotional well-being.

Of course, that doesn't mean Pepper was actually satisfying residents' need for human connection: Residents' self-reported loneliness didn't significantly improve. In fact, Papadopoulos told me that many residents were initially wary that Pepper might replace human caregivers but came around to him as it became obvious that was "absolutely impossible." Instead, they saw him "as more of a fun, assistive therapeutic bit of kit ... like a television or an iPad or something," he said. Whatever care robots' impact on well-being, multiple studies have found that, far from easing the demands on human caregivers, they can create additional work for them. The most obvious reason is that introducing a social robot into a care home means bringing a fragile machine into a setting full of fragile people. Leaving Pepper or other such devices lying around is simply not an option, because they and residents risk harming each other. As part of the research for his book, Wright spent six weeks in a Japanese care home that was testing out Pepper; the robot was stored away when not in use and closely monitored when he was.

Potential safety issues aside, Pepper didn't seem to work terribly well without help, Wright told me. Initially, the plan was for Pepper to run exercise classes with residents. "The staff members found out very quickly that if they just let Pepper stand at the front of the room and do its thing, basically, the residents would kind of ignore it," Wright said. A caregiver had to stand next to Pepper, repeating its words and mimicking its movements to get the residents involved.

Naonori Kodate, an associate professor in social policy and social robotics at University College Dublin, observed something similar while producing a documentary about care robots in Japan; the social robots did seem to get the residents talking and boost morale in the home—but only with some elbow grease from staff. "It's not like you can just leave the robots and then all the people speak to them and have fun together," Kodate told me. In fact, to be of much use at all, the robots often needed the help of a human who really knew the residents well. The nursing home where Wright conducted his field work also tested Paro, the cuddly seal robot, which was designed for regular handling. The hope was that such a hands-off robot might help soothe the home's more agitated residents and thus cut down on some of the attention they required from staff members.

Paro's manufacturer does not advertise it as a labor-saving device; it emphasizes Paro's capacity to reduce patient and caregiver stress, and to enhance socialization of patients with one another and with caregivers.) Paro didn't seem to interest the home's neediest residents much, but others became so enamored with it that staff became concerned. One woman in particular seemed to develop a fixation with the robot, taking any opportunity to wheel Paro back to her room, where she'd put it to bed like a baby and often cry while talking to it. She refused to take meals or go to bed without Paro. So the staff started keeping tabs on who was using Paro when and for how long. "In the end, it just got put on a shelf, because it was easier to do that than to constantly monitor everybody," Wright told me.

These types of challenges are likely underreported. Care workers are largely overlooked in research on care technology, Cian O'Donovan, a researcher at University College London who is leading a project aimed at developing robotics that empower care workers, told me. One review of research studies on robots in assisted-living facilities noted that the majority of studies homes do not collect data on the experiences of caregiving staff with the robots, instead focusing on residents' experiences.

Papadopoulos and his team did consult staff as part of their project, and the concern that Pepper might create additional work for caregivers didn't come up. But that might be because, as a result of various safety and ethical concerns, the researchers were doing the monitoring themselves, and staff were instructed to carry on as though the robots weren't there. Such oversight is a common feature of this sort of research. One widely cited study reportedly found that Paro reduced loneliness in the elderly even more effectively than their usual activities did, such as going on a bus trip or playing bingo—but the team tested him in one-hour group sessions guided by a researcher or member of staff. Multiple studies investigating robots' effect on well-being and loneliness employed a "Wizard of Oz" approach in which all of the robot's questions and answers were keyed in by a human at a laptop out of sight. The tightly regulated nature of these studies adds an important caveat to their findings: Social robots seem to improve well-being under the careful watch of humans. Some of the researchers I spoke with are certain that whatever shortcomings Pepper has will be overcome with better technology. Both Khan and Papadopoulos see a future in which robots can do anything a human caregiver can.

Recent developments in AI are already allowing social robots to engage in more sophisticated conversation. Even the physical limitations of modern robots are on the precipice of being solved. Papadopoulos pointed me to Google's newly released Mobile Aloha, a comparatively low-cost robot that researchers have trained to cook shrimp and wash laundry.

Other researchers are far more skeptical. Caring for someone isn't as simple as jumping to do their bidding. Even a robot that can have a satisfying interaction with an elderly person may nevertheless fail to care for them. Paro successfully captivated the woman in the home where Wright did his field work, but only a human caregiver recognized that her reliance on it had curdled into something self-destructive. It's not just a human touch that Pepper lacks, but a human perspective and the capacity to act on it.

Caregiving is not the fulfillment of a set of discrete tasks; it's the management of someone's quality of life. The sort of knowledge required to do it well is person- and community-specific. Kodate told me that he was fascinated by the subtlety of information caregivers relied on to ascertain desires, frustrations, and needs that individuals themselves might not know or cannot express. That's why care is done best in the context of strong relationships.

The robots we have now may offer a glimpse of both the promise and peril of what care robots could come to be. Most researchers I spoke with saw potential for robotic technology to assist and even bolster a strong caring relationship, but they were doubtful it could ever supplant one. If they are correct, then even future, more capable robots could lead us down a very strange path. Pepper and Paro did not alleviate the demands of caregiving, but they did change them. Carers spent less time interacting with residents and more time monitoring resident interactions with robots. Instead of coming up with their own exercise routines, they mimicked Pepper's. In other words, care itself became more „robotic,” Wright noted in his book. That's an attractive prospect from a business standpoint; minimizing the intimacy of care could make the humans who do it more interchangeable. But such a robotic revolution in caregiving would succeed only by further imperiling the relationships that overstrapped and underpaid carers already struggle so much to build.

Stephanie H. Murray is a contributing writer at The Atlantic. She's a former public-policy researcher, and lives in Bristol, U.K.

FOCUS ON OUR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Dr Sophie Van der Valk



Who are you? (your personal background and profile)

I am trained as a socio-legal researcher. My research centres on Access to Justice and Rights Protection issues, especially for vulnerable persons. My PhD was part of an ERC project which looked at the prisoner experience of rights protection in prison. Since then I worked at the Law Reform Commission where I drafted legal reform proposals on an adult safeguarding project and am now the postdoctoral researcher on the Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical Institutional Abuse North and South Project funded by the Higher Education Authority (Principal Investigator: Assoc. Prof. Marie Keenan).

What makes you the right researcher for this particular research project?

My previous experience conducting empirical research in prisons and delivering findings to prison staff and government bodies provided me with the necessary skillset to navigate the various stakeholders who are being interviewed as part of the current project. My prior research focused on barriers to accessing justice which is also a prominent theme in the current project.

What is your key role on this project?

As the postdoctoral research fellow on the project, I am responsible for setting up interviews, corresponding with participants after the interview and coordinating transcription. I am responsible for developing the project codebook and coding the transcripts, as well as organising the dissemination of the findings through policy papers and project workshops. Alongside this, I am preparing an article drawing on the interview data which focuses on victim/survivor advocacy work.

How do you find working as part of a team?

My experience before joining the project was predominately team based and is an aspect which I enjoy as each team member brings a different perspective and expertise which is vital when dealing with complex issues and understandings of justice.

Can you describe what the process of writing your most recent article/chapter/other was like?

My most recent publication is a forthcoming chapter for a book on European prisoner complaints systems. The book brings together academics from different European countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Spain and Romania to create a European view of prisoner complaint systems. The book is now with the editors and due to be published this year. My chapter is entitled "Irish Prisoner Complaints: the challenges of complaining from within." The book proposal emerged from meeting a number of the other academics at the Law and Society conference in Lisbon in 2022. This was followed by a workshop in Leuven in October 2023 to discuss our various chapters and commonalities across the different countries which we were studying. There were challenges in setting out the background to each country's prisoner complaint mechanism as well as identifying the nuances in the different frameworks while still allowing space for depth and analysis of the different findings.

What are the key messages from this most recent publication?

The piece is drawn from my PhD research and seeks to highlight the experiences of using a complaint system while in prison. The existence of a complaint system in and of itself does not provide adequate protection of rights in prison and the nature of the environment creates significant challenges in seeking to assert rights.

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

Despite the non-recent nature of many of the issues being explored by the project, there is a clear ongoing need to address the harms caused and also to understand how the same underlying issues relate to current situations in Ireland and elsewhere.

The project is an opportunity to connect the past and the present, while preparing a template for future approaches to justice.

8. How do you keep yourself motivated throughout the project?
As with all my research to date, my motivation is driven by my passion for the subject matter. This includes a sense of responsibility towards participants who share their experiences with us and a duty to understand how the issue emerged and proposals to improve their experiences. A key aspect of justice is non-recurrence and as researchers we should use our expertise to feed into this goal.

Key publications

- *Overseeing Rights in Prison: The Irish Experience of Human Rights Protection in Prisons*, Sophie van der Valk (monography, forthcoming 2025).
- *Irish Prisoner Complaints: the challenges of complaining from within* (forthcoming chapter in edited book 2024) in Tom Daems and Elena Larrauri, *Prisoner Complaints and Request in Europe*.
- *Barriers to engagement: Scrutiny gaps in Irish prisons*”, Sophie van der Valk and Mary Rogan, *Prison Service Journal Special Issue on Scrutiny in Prisons* 265, 2023.
- *You’re better off talking to the f***** wall’: he perceptions and experiences of grievance procedures amongst people in prison in Ireland*, Sophie van der Valk, Eva Aizpurua and Mary Rogan, *Law and Society Review* (June 2022).
- *Understanding the European supervision of Irish prison policy and practice: contrasting strengths in judicial and non-judicial oversight?*, Dr Mary Rogan and Sophie van der Valk, in Gaëtan Cliquennois and Hugues de Suremain, *The evolving Protection of Prisoners’ Rights in Europe* (2022).
- *Impact of Covid on Imprisonment in Ireland*, *Tricon Report 2021*, Sarah Curristan, Sophie van der Valk and Mary Rogan.
- *Towards a typology of prisoners’ awareness of and familiarity with prison inspection and monitoring bodies*”, Sophie van der Valk, Dr Eva Aizpurua and Dr Mary Rogan, *European Journal of Criminology*, March 2021.
- *Experiencing human rights protections in prisons: the case of prison inspection and monitoring*”, Sophie van der Valk and Dr Mary Rogan, *Special Issue European Journal of Criminology*, October 2020.
- *Prisoner Complaints Mechanisms: Assessing Human Rights Requirements and the Role of a General Ombudsman*”, Sophie van der Valk and Dr Mary Rogan, *European Public Law*, 2020.

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