



School of  
Social Policy,  
Social Work  
and Social  
Justice

10  
Years  
ANNIVERSARY

## SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26



Dr. Maria Theiss, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland

### “Perceived justice in hybrid contexts: The case of post-socialist countries”

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

#### LOCATION



Room L248, UCD  
Sutherland School of Law,  
Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

#### DATE & TIME



Oct. 14, 2025,  
15:00 - 16:00

#### Registration Details



#### ABSTRACT

This talk will focus on how people perceive distributive and procedural justice in direct encounters with social policy institutions. Using Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania as examples of highly hybrid welfare states, it will demonstrate how people apply justice norms and comparative standards to evaluate justice in contradictory and opaque situations. Findings from qualitative projects will be presented to demonstrate how users of social assistance and secondary healthcare in post-socialist countries evaluate the fairness of the system. These findings include those published in the article 'Welfare Users' Perceptions of Distributive Justice and Trust When Facing Institutional Enigma' (Theiss et al., Social Policy and Society, 2025).

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