

NO. 29

SUMMER 2025

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

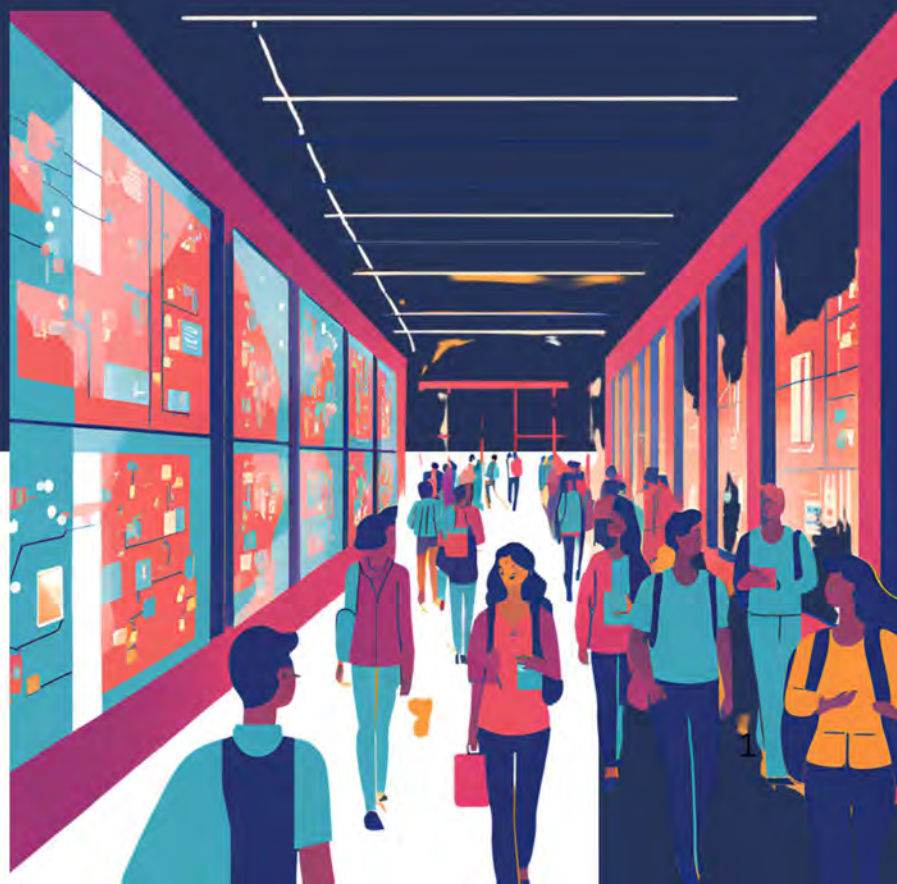


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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

This Research Bulletin summarises our publication output, hosted seminars and policy engagement in the last couple of months. What is often forgotten is that impactful research requires time and is build on multiple projects and publications over many years. Therefore, it is a pleasure to see the long-term commitment to research recognised in the admission of Prof. Michelle Norris to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), the most prestigious academic society in Ireland. We can also congratulate Dr. Sarah Donnelly for the recruitment to the board of Care Alliance Ireland, which is also the result her long-term contributions to care research and policy in Ireland.

Our PhD candidates Alexa MacDermot and Ann Ryan led our very successful inaugural PhD research symposium. Given the quality of the presentations, we can look forward to the emerging research talent coming through our graduate programmes and maybe a future RIA member was among the presenters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephan Köppe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

STEPHAN KÖPPE

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr Michelle Norris, Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin, admitted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy



On 23 May 2025, the Geary Institute's director, Prof Michelle Norris, was admitted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy for her exceptional contributions to humanities and social sciences as well as to public service.

'We are delighted to welcome the newly elected members of the Royal Irish Academy. Our mission is to recognise and foster academic excellence, and to create, curate and share knowledge for the good of society. Your election today embodies this mission, and your insights and achievements will enrich the work of the Academy as we continue to lead trusted and independent dialogue and analysis across the island for the benefit of all.' - Pat Guiry, President of the Royal Irish Academy said.

Prof. Norris was one of the 28 new members admitted to the Royal Irish Academy.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Funding award from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) London



Caring Communities in Ireland and Japan: Collaboration, engagement and intergeneration relations for realising Ageing in Place”

Assoc. Prof. Kodate led a successful bid in obtaining funding (approx.10,000 EUR) from the Japanese equivalent of Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland (JSPS London), for bringing four Japanese academics and practitioner to Ireland, together with Dr Catherine Elliott O’Dare (Trinity College Dublin) and Prof. Mina Ishimaru (Chiba University). There will be a one-day seminar in the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, and a workshop at a community organisation in Co. Wicklow in the final week of October. The speakers from the School include **Dr. Nat O’Connor**, **Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly** and **Yurie Maeda (PhD student)**, and Dr. Maria Pierce (Maynooth University). The UCD Ageing Research Network (led by Assoc. Prof. Donnelly) is a supporting organiser. This event originates in a tri-country research project on the same theme conducted by researchers in Université de Montréal, Canada, Chiba University, Japan and UCD, Ireland (<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/chibauniversity-universityofmontrealucdjointprojectoncaringcommunitiesofficiallylaunchedwithpublicseminarincanada/>).

AISWR Awards for recent PhD graduates Dr. Jennifer Allen and Dr. Phil Butler

Recent School PhD graduates, Dr Jennifer Allen and Dr Phil Butler recently presented their PhD findings at the All-Ireland Social Work Research Conference, 2025. Jennifer received the AISWR award for ‘Contribution to Practice’ and Phil received the AISWR award for ‘Breaking Boundaries’. **Dr. Sarah Donnelly** and **Dr. Sarah Morton** co-supervised both PhDs. Congratulations, Jennifer and Phil!



L to R: Dr. Phil Butler, Dr. Sarah Donnelly, UCD Assoc. Prof. of Social Work & Dr. Jennifer Allen.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Also at the AISWR conference Associate Professor Emeritus Hilda Loughran with Erin Niece accepted an award on behalf of service users and two partner agencies, Coolmine and SAOL Project. The award was in acknowledgement of their contribution to the co-production of practice research in Social Work. The research conducted explored the lived experiences of women with substance use issues. Women attending Coolmine and SAOL, substance use services in Dublin, worked with service providers and UCD researchers to develop a collaborative participative research methodology in order to capture experiences of substance use and accessing services with specific reference to interactions with social work. The research resulted in a journal article published in Social Work Education, **Exploring women's lived experiences of substance use and social work to inform social work education and practice, an Irish perspective**



L to R: Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly, Assoc. Prof. Emeritus Hilda Loughran and Erin Niece

ACHIEVEMENTS

School Faculty successful in winning Geary BICS Funding

A number of faculty had been successful in winning a Building International Collaborations Supports (BICS) grant via the UCD Geary Institute for Policy Research. The scheme is designed to foster greater collaboration between Geary members and researchers abroad. Visitors will collaborate with their UCD host on projects and publications as well as give a talk at the Geary seminar series.

For 2025/26 the following colleagues will host visitors:

- **Dr. Micheál Collins** will be visited by Dr. Michael Kotnarowski (Polish Academy of Sciences) to work on self-completion surveys as part of the Polish European Social Survey (ESS).
- **Dr. Sarah Donnelly** collaborates with Prof. Lorna Montgomery (Queen's University Belfast) on adult safeguarding.
- **Dr. Nao Kodate** hosts Assoc. Prof. Mei-chun Cheung (Chinese University of Hong Kong) to continue working on "care robots, digitalisation and its impact on ageing in place in Asia and Europe".
- **Dr. Stephan Köppe** hosts Dr. Diego Muñoz-Higueras (University of Valencia) to estimate the poverty risk of families when claiming in-work benefits.
- **Prof. Prospera Tendam** will be visited by Prof. Lambrecht Englebrecht (University of Stellenbosch) to progress research on inclusion, diversity and reconciliation.
- **Dr. Elaine Wilson** will be visited by Dr Claudia Psalia, University of Malta to continue working on social work practice education.

Dr Sarah Donnelly co-opted to the board of Care Alliance Ireland

Following a comprehensive process, **Dr. Sarah Donnelly** was co-opted to the board of Care Alliance Ireland in April.

Care Alliance Ireland made the announcement in their recent newsletter: "Sarah is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin and Chairperson of UCD's Ageing Network. Before this, Sarah worked as a senior medical social worker at Tallaght University Hospital for 15 years in a variety of clinical areas including Age-Related Healthcare and Neurology. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where she completed her Bachelor of Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Sarah has sat on a number of national policy advisory boards. She has acted as co-convenor of the European Network for Gerontological Social Work 2018-2023 and is an Academic Advisor on adult safeguarding to the Irish Association of Social Workers. Sarah's research interests include ageing, dementia, human rights, capacity and decision-making, carer harm, adult safeguarding and homecare robotics."

Care Alliance Ireland deliver a number of carer specific projects; namely an Online Family Carer Support Project and a back to paid employment/education project, Re-emerge 2. They work with organisations to provide better information and supports to Family Carers and provide them with opportunities to collaborate on initiatives including National Carers Week, a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary Family Carer Research Group, and joint policy submissions. They commission relevant research that supports focused and quality interventions in the lives of Family Carers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr Stephan Köppe & Prof. Timo Weishaupt lead New Issue Research Network on 'Housing and Social Policy' (INWuS)

Together with Prof. Timo Weishaupt (University of Göttingen), **Dr. Stephan Köppe** leads a new Issue Network on 'Housing and Social Policy' (INWuS). Funded by the German Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Policy Research (DIFIS) the research network addresses housing as a central social problem of our time. In the last decade, Germany experienced unprecedented rent and property prices increase, while wages were not keeping pace with these price developments and social housing availability decreased. Hence, similar to other advanced economies, Germany recorded increased poverty after housing costs, rise of precarious housing and ultimately higher risks of homelessness. The aim of the issue network is to bring housing and social policy scholars together and provide a forum of interdisciplinary exchange. The network will closely cooperate with practitioners to discuss solutions towards making housing affordable and build inclusive neighbourhoods. A call for papers for a workshop at the University of Bremen in Autumn 2025 will be launched on 4th June.

More information is available at the website of the Issue Network: <https://difis.org/vernetzen/issue-networks/issue-network-wohnen-und-sozialpolitik/?live=1>

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Two day workshop and talk series, as part of Dr. Mary McAuliffe's IRC New Foundations project, 'LGBT Activism in Ireland, 1973-2023: Looking Back, Going Forward' in partnership with NXF Ireland

Dr. Mary McAuliffe organised a two day workshop and talk series as part of her research project 'LGBT Activism in Ireland, 1973-2023: Looking Back, Going Forward' awarded by Research Ireland in partnership with NXF Ireland. These events brought together NGOs, activists, academics and members of the public to discuss what has been achieved for the LGBT community in Ireland to date and strategies for future activism to advance LGBT rights and combat anti-LGBT ideologies.

Workshop 1: 'LGBT activism in Ireland, 1973-2023', Thur. April 3rd, 2025

This workshop, rooted in the academic and activist history of LGBT movements in Ireland, explored the early years of activism, archival documentation, and the role of storytelling in shaping LGBT histories. It brought together historians, activists, and researchers who worked to document and shape Irish LGBT history from the 1970s to the present.



Workshop 2: 'Where We're Going - Backlash, Solidarity, and Mobilising', Wed., April 16th, 2025

This workshop explored the contemporary landscape of LGBT rights in Ireland, addressed the current backlash against LGBT activism, and considered strategies for cross-sectoral mobilisation, and the role of academia in supporting advocacy and policy change. This workshop was framed by our School's commitments to feminist, intersectional, and community-led approaches to activism.



Both events were booked out, with attendance from UCD staff and students as well as activists. All panels, round tables and podcasts were recorded and are available on historyhub.ie. Reports from the workshops have been published on GCN and on [RTE Brainstorm](https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm).

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Dr. Marie Moran, Visiting Scholar at the Havens Wright Centre, University of Wisconsin-Madison

During her time as a visiting scholar at the Havens Wright Centre, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Marie Moran delivered a virtual talk 'Elites and Left Politics' on April 24th 2025. The Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) lecture series brings distinguished critical scholars and activists from around the world to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to deliver lectures in virtual and in-person settings. Scholars speak with expertise on a wide range of topics, very often presenting the findings of recently conducted original research. Havens Wright Center lectures are also sites of cross-disciplinary discussion among faculty and students, and they provide a context in which people from the broader community can participate in intellectually stimulating programs with scholars and activists.

Marie's talk can be found online here:

https://havenswrightcenter.wisc.edu/event/marie_moran/

Dr. Sarah Donnelly, Invited Keynote at University of Iasi, Romania, 6th - 7th May, 2025

Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly gave a keynote speech on 'Protecting and Upholding Autonomy and Human Rights Across Continuums of Care for Older People' at the 9th Integrated Systems of Long-Term Care Conference, Alexandru Ioan Cuza, University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania, 6th-7th May. 2025



Dr. Ala Sirriyeh hosted by Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh and UCD Geary Institute, May, 2025

In the last week of May, the Geary Institute and Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh hosted Dr. Ala Sirriyeh for a Visiting Fellowship. Ala is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Lancaster University and is a sociologist of migration with a primary focus on youth migration, activism, and emotions. She is the author of *The Politics of Compassion*, among other publications. While she was at the Geary Institute, Ala collaborated with Muireann to plan and set up a Separated Children in Europe Research Network (SCERN). Ala also began work on a policy paper for PublicPolicy.ie on the extent to which family reunification policies and practices in Europe meet the needs of unaccompanied minors. Finally, in addition to meeting with several colleagues across the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Ala enjoyed attending the School's Inaugural PhD Research Symposium held on Thursday 29th May. Ala's visit was funded under the Geary Institute's BICS scheme.



PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Special Lecture - April 2025 - Prof. Chi (Hokkaido University), special lecture for Gender Studies' module (Erasmus+ ICM -One Health & Public Policy).

Prof. Naomi Chi (Graduate School of Public Policy, Hokkaido University) returned to UCD after ten years, on this occasion, as a scholar on the Erasmus + International Credit Mobility scheme. Prof. Chi participated gave a special lecture for the Gender, Inequality and Public Policy module, coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dorota Szelewa (Gender Studies / UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice).



The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, formally affiliated with UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice/ UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy / successfully obtained this competitive Erasmus+ICM funding, for the second time in 2022, jointly with the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine under the research theme of 'One Health' UCD One Health Society. The bid was led again by Prof. Stephen Gordon (Deputy Director, UCD Centre for Japanese Studies) & **Assoc. Prof. Kodate (Director). Assoc. Prof. Szelewa** participated in the scheme and visited Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Public Policy in June 2024.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Workshop, May 14th 2024 to launch the Special Issue of 'Large Families: The Forgotten Poverty Risk and Policy Relevance' in the International Journal of Social Welfare, National University Ireland, Merrion Square, D2

The UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice sponsored the Special Issue Launch of 'Large Families: The Forgotten Poverty Risk and Policy Relevance' in the International Journal of Social Welfare at the National University Ireland premises in Dublin. On 14 May 2025 **Dr. Stephan Köppe** hosted, together with our former PhD student Dr. Megan Curran (Columbia University), an international audience in-person and online. Invited speakers were Prof. Tony Fahey (UCD), Associate Prof. Kat Chzhen (TCD) and Naomi Feely (Children's Rights Alliance).

The presenters highlighted that the special issue brings large families back on the social policy research agenda and underscores the continued relevance of large families in contemporary societies. Tony Fahey underscored that families with three or more children remain a relevant feature of modern families and even more so from a child perspective. Kat Chzhen demonstrated in her case study of the United Kingdom how the poverty risk of large families increased following the introduction to the two child benefit cap. This is reflected across the special issues as all contributions show an elevated poverty risk of large families. The special issue also shows how social transfers and services shape the lives of large families differently and observe punitive approaches alongside pro-natal welfare schemes. Naomi Feely reflected on the wider social transfers and services in Ireland such as the longer duration of large families in emergency accommodation for homeless families. Further policy lessons were discussed with experts and advocacy groups in the audience like the German Youth Institute (DJI), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC).

The special issue has been published in April 2025 in the International Journal of Social Welfare 34(1-2): [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-2397.large-families](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-2397.large-families)

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Large Families: The Forgotten Poverty Risk and Policy Relevance

Virtual Issues | First published: 20 March 2025 | Last updated: 21 March 2025

[** Export Citation\(s\)](#)

Articles

Large families: The forgotten poverty risk and policy relevance

Stephan Köppe, Megan A. Curran

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Inaugural PhD research symposium - May 29th 2025

On Thursday 29th May, PhD researchers from the School came together in the Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington building to share with faculty and fellow students (PGT and PGR) their PhD research. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase the wide range of graduate research that takes place across the school, to network with students and staff, and for the school to advertise the quality, depth and breadth of its PhD programmes to interested masters students from across the school.

We had three panels of four students on the day, with chairs and discussants drawn from volunteers from faculty. Alongside showcasing research, the symposium provided students with the opportunity to gain experience presenting in a workshop or conference format, hone their presenting and timekeeping skills, and receive feedback from faculty discussants and members of the audience, both staff and students. Not only does the symposium enable our research students to come together, but it also demonstrates the strong support that our faculty can offer students within and across subject boundaries.

The symposium was put together by a fantastic organising committee of Alexa MacDermot and Ann Ryan - without Alexa and Ann the symposium could not have gone ahead, and the school extends a massive thank you to them for all their hard work, both in organising the event and on the day! As we aim to develop the symposium into a regular yearly event, we will be on the lookout for PhD students who are interested in joining the 2026 organising committee! Can all supervisors please encourage their students to apply, as it is not much work for decent reward in terms of career development and that all important line on the CV. Supervisors or students with questions are more than welcome to email **Dr Matthew Donoghue**, Asst. Lecturer in social policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at the following email: matthew.donoghue@ucd.ie



PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Seminar and book launch of 'Transforming Justice Responses to Non-Recent Institutional Abuses' Clarendon Studies in Criminology (Oxford University Press), Thur. May 29th, 4:30pm - 6:15pm, Venue: Royal Irish Academy, 19, Dawson Street, Dublin 2

The book 'Transforming Justice Responses to Non-Recent Institutional Abuses' Clarendon Studies in Criminology (Oxford University Press) was launched on May 29th at the Royal Irish Academy by Ms. Fiona Ryan, the first Northern Ireland Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Abuse, and Patricia Carey, Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional Abuse in Republic of Ireland.

The seminar from 4.30 – 6.15pm involved brief presentations from the authors (Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden,(QUB), Dr James Gallen (DCU) and **Dr. Marie Keenan (UCD)** including reflections on the themes from Emeritus Prof Phil Scraton, QUB, Catriona Crowe MRIA, former Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland, and a member of the Restore Together Group of Victim/Survivors from Blackrock College, Willow Park and other Spiritan Schools.

The book is the major output of the research project 'Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical Institutional Abuse North and South' sponsored by the Higher Education Authority North South research funding programme, of which UCD and Dr. Marie Keenan, Assoc. Prof. of Social Work was the Principal Investigator. The other investigators involved in the research included Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden,(Queen's University Belfast) and Dr James Gallen (Dublin City University). The book is open access and available to download at: <https://academic.oup.com/book/59821>



L to R: Dr James Gallen, (DCU); Prof Anne-Marie McAlinden, MRIA (QUB); Prof Marie Keenan (UCD); Prof Phil Scraton (QUB); Catriona Crowe MRIA, former Head of Special Projects at the National Archives of Ireland and John Coulter, Member Restore Together.

PAST RESEARCH EVENTS

Making Rental Housing Affordable: International Perspectives' webinar series, organised by Dr. Michael Byrne and Dr. Sarah Sheridan

The 'Making Rental Housing Affordable: International Perspectives' webinar series is organised by **Dr. Michael Byrne** and Dr. Sarah Sheridan (independent researcher), with support of the Geary Institute and the Equality Studies Centre. It is funded by the Housing Agency and the College of Social Sciences and Law, UCD. The series looks at innovative international models that enhance the affordability of private rental, cost rental and social housing, including the Danish and Austrian cost rental models and rent regulation in Spain and Germany.

The video recording of the first and third webinars are now available:

<https://theweekinhousing.substack.com/p/bringing-private-homes-into-social>

<https://theweekinhousing.substack.com/p/bringing-private-homes-into-social>

Presentations at the International Social Housing Festival, Dublin, June 4-6, 2025

Associate Professor Muireann Ní Raghallaigh participated in the International Social Housing Festival which took place in Dublin from the 4th to the 6th of June 2025. Based on the work package she is leading on inequality in housing among refugees and migrants, which is part of the EqualHouse Horizon Europe-funded project (led by Professor Michelle Norris), Muireann organised a seminar on homelessness among international protection applicants and refugees. She was joined by Dora Welker of FEANTSA, who is also working on the work package, who presented data on homelessness among this cohort and who showed a video from FEANTSA on homelessness among international protection applicants in Brussels. In the panel discussion that followed, Dora and Muireann were joined by Alan O'Leary and Frank O'Boyle of the Irish Refugee Council who discussed the current situation in Ireland, the structural issues resulting in homelessness among international protection applicants in the Irish context, the impact of such circumstances and some promising approaches to addressing the issues - including the important litigation work undertaken by the IRC



L to R: Alan O'Leary, Frank O'Boyle, Muireann Ní Raghallaigh & Dora Welker

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

Upcoming Event Preview: Conceptual Histories of Identity, June 26 to 28, 2025, LMU Munich, Germany with Dr Marie Moran as Keynote Speaker

The international conference on Conceptual Histories of Identity is taking place at LMU Munich from June 26 to 28, 2025. This interdisciplinary conference which is co-organized by Robert JC Young (NYU), Robert Stockhammer (LMU), Philipp Sperner (University of Vienna), and colleagues, will bring together scholars to explore the complex and evolving histories of the concept of identity.

One of the keynote speakers is **Dr. Marie Moran**, Director of the UCD Equality Studies Centre and author of *Identity and Capitalism*, whose work offers a critical genealogy of identity as a political and cultural keyword. She will contribute to the conference's aims, which are to foreground historical and conceptual approaches to collective identity, and to reframe current debates on identity politics by situating them within their broader intellectual and political histories.

This promises to be a rich forum for scholars working across disciplines such as cultural studies, political theory, critical race studies, and conceptual history.

For more information go to this [link](#).

Launch of UCD Ageing Network, B109 UCD Newman Building, 25th June, 2025, 11:00am - 12:30pm

The formal launch and a capacity-building event for the UCD Ageing Network will take place on Wednesday 25th June 2025. We are a university-wide interdisciplinary network, and we aim to bring ageing researchers and educators in this area together in conjunction with PhD students, early career researchers, as well as our respective academic partners. The Network sits under the Geary Institute for Public Policy and it is coordinated by **Associate Professor Sarah Donnelly, SPSWSJ**.

The vision of the UCD Ageing Network is to contribute to an age-attuned world and to prepare for the economic and social shifts associated with population ageing in Irish Society and globally. We set out to progress age justice, equity, health and inclusion to enable older people to be:

- Valued and respected.
- To recognise and acknowledge older people as active agents and contributors to their communities and wider society, and when the time comes, to be cared for within their local communities and wider society.
- We also want to work with older adults to develop strategies to enable these to happen.

UCD Ageing Network - UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

Register here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/iBYzZai80s>

Registration is open until 13th June



UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

UCD Ageing Network

Launch & Capacity Building Event

Wednesday, 25 June
B109 Newman Building
From 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by lunch

- Would you like to become part of an interdisciplinary network of UCD researchers and educators?

- Please join us at the UCD Ageing Network Launch and Capacity Building Event!

Register here*: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/iBYzZai80s>

*registration open until 13th June

Contact: ageing@ucd.ie
<https://www.ucd.ie/geary/research/ageingnetwork/>

UCD Ageing Network's Launch and Capacity Building Event



FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

Dr. Joe Mooney to commence 2 month Visiting Professorship at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash School of Social Work, June 2025

In June 2025, **Dr. Joe Mooney** will commence a two-month Visiting Professorship at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash School of Social Work. While there Dr Mooney will complete his monograph, *Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse: A Social Model* (due to be published by Policy Press in Autumn 2026). The visit will also include several site visits to multi-disciplinary agencies in Toronto who work with children and families impacted by child sexual abuse (child advocacy centres, CACs). During the stay, Dr. Mooney will also engage with the PhD cohort in the School of Social Work on the area of narrative research methodologies. The visit is sponsored by Professor Ramona Alaggia, Margaret and Wallace McCain Chair in Child and Family, and Director of ThRive Child and Youth Trauma Incubator Lab. Dr Mooney will be based at the newly established ThRive laboratory in downtown Toronto for the duration of his stay.



FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

Seminar: Caring for Robots (CARO) at the UCD Village (Meeting Room No.5), University College Dublin (UCD), 25-26 September 2025

Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics into health and social care heralds a new era of innovation, promising streamlined work processes, and improved patient care. Robotics and AI can make positive contributions in policy and practice, dealing with the care deficit, empowerment of people with disabilities, vulnerable users, and an ageing population. However, this technological revolution is accompanied by intricate ethical implications that demand meticulous consideration. At these two half-day seminars, we will discuss the challenges, assets and pitfalls of care systems for the future. The focus of the seminar is to explore how ideas of good care reconfigure along with the use of robots and other advanced technology. We will not just discuss a good fit between technology and people but also elicit how this application brings controversies and influences values and practices. The presentations and discussion involve exploration of robots such as sensors and camera technologies with AI, medicine dispensers, social/communication/mobility robots, paying special attention to ethical implications. Controversies concerning care robots in healthcare often deal with privacy and the opacity of AI systems - issues that are difficult to address through the tenets of principlism. In contrast, we would like to develop a democratization perspective inspired by the care in practice approach (Mol, Moser & Pols, 2010) by conducting detailed empirical studies, engaging in the debate in healthcare practice, in the media, and in research. The seminar is organized by Dr Nao Kodate, together with Profs. NCM Nichelsen and Thygesen (University of South-eastern Norway), in collaboration with the Geary Institute for Public Policy.

Presentations:

- "Autonomy as compassionate interference – assemblages of caring with robots" Hilde Thygesen, Professor, Dementia care, Care Practice, Ethics. Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, University of South-eastern Norway (USN)
- "Which caring values do AI promote and undermine in nursing homes - identifying four controversies from a next of kin perspective" Niels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelsen, Professor, Automatization of care, user involvement and learning. Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, USN
- "What virtues should a care robot possess? Some simulation experiments and human results" Vivek Nallur, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, UCD School of Computer Science
- "Towards Prescription Robotics in Dementia: Insights from Scientometric Analysis" Berk Zafer, Ph.D Candidate, NetwellCASALA Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)
- "Assembling Sociality in Caring Spaces: Culturally Sensitive Robot Deployment During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Residential Care Homes in Ireland and Japan" **Yurie Maeda, Ph.D Student**, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice Department of Business Technologies Retail and Supply Chain, Technological University Dublin
- "Transfer robots, kaizen (quality improvement) and care work in an acute care hospital" **Naonori Kodate**, Associate Professor in Social Policy and Welfare Technology, and Director of Public Policy Programme, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

FUTURE RESEARCH EVENTS

ADVANCE NOTICE: Wellcome Trust/ReCLAIM scheme

Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate will be co-leading a Wellcome Trust/ReCLAIM project “EMBRACE: Enhancing Global Research Communication and Empowering Postgraduate Researchers to Engage Effectively with Diverse Audiences”. The UCD ReCLAIM scheme is an acronym for Local Actions, Initiatives and Measures. Beyond language, effective communication requires cultural sensitivity, an understanding of diverse perspectives, and the ability to adapt to various audiences. This is especially critical for researchers studying abroad or working with diverse communities, where unique challenges demand heightened cultural awareness and advanced communication skills.

The EMBRACE project, uniquely grounded in the Research Competencies Framework (EU, 2022), aims to provide opportunities for postgraduate research students in all five Colleges in UCD to enhance their communication skills to engage effectively with diverse global audiences. This distinct approach prepares researchers to connect with academic, governmental, and public audiences locally and internationally as part of their broader research training.

The multidisciplinary project is going to be led by Assoc. Prof. Suja Somanadhan (School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems), together with Co-PIs Dr Naonori Kodate, Dr Flavia Santos (Psychology), Dr Brynne Gilmore, Ms Melissa Klinch and Ms Niamh Buckle (Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems), Dr Huichao Xie (Education), Prof. Emma O'Neill (Veterinary Medicine), together with Mr Phil Smyth (Simply Science).

The team will run three workshops from September 2025.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

June

Presentation by **Dr. Matthew Donoghue** at a workshop entitled: Moral Economies of the Polycrisis. Conflict, Critique and Legitimation in Critical Times held at University of Hamburg, June 16-17. Matt is presenting with Dr. Adam Standring (ISEG Lisbon, and former BICS fellow) a paper entitled: Untangling morals, ideology, and discourse: implications for Critical Policy Discourse Analysis.

Abstract:

A core aim of critical policy discourse analysis (CPDA) is to understand and explicate processes of power maintenance and dominance that 'privilege certain ways of doing, thinking and being over others'. This involves examining language construction and its associated imagery and tropes to promote specific solutions to multifaceted problems, contributing to the construction of 'common sense' and ultimately a hegemony of ideas and practice.

Though much has been written on the interaction between, and problems of, discourse and ideology, much less consideration has been given to the role and position of morals as a discrete category; that is, understanding the causal ideational power of morals and moral frameworks alongside and as ideology, rather than what has tended to be a dismissal of 'moralising' or the subsumption of morals into ideology writ large.

This article elaborates on the role and utility of morals and moral frameworks in the analysis of policymaking and policy governance. It explicates the role of moral critique in/alongside ideology critique and how this can be applied to the (discursive) analysis of public and social policy, as well as how moral-ideological frameworks can be employed within policy discourses to promote, delegitimise or obscure ideas and practice.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

August

Presentation by Dr. Matthew Donoghue at ESPANet 2025, University of Milan, August 27-29. Matt is presenting with Dr. Mikko Kuisma (University of Tuebingen, Germany) a paper entitled: Oscillating Meanings of Social Europe? Mapping Discourses of European Social Citizenship.

Abstract

'Social Europe' can be an amorphous term, used to describe the coordination of responses to social risks in the EU, especially those that potentially interfere with European integration and the effective operation of EU economic policy and strategy. Despite the 'constructive ambiguity' associated with official Commission positions, both the EC and much of the scholarly literature on Social Europe make similar assumptions about the nature of the European social project and the role of social rights within this. However, much less is said about their normative bases and indeed the position and prospects for European social citizenship more deeply.

We argue that despite the appearance of a well-defined 'Social Europe' within the Commission's political strategy and within the scholarly literature more broadly, what has not been investigated is how meanings of Social Europe across the European space oscillate. These oscillations take the 'common sense' understanding of Social Europe as a common reference point, but otherwise populate the container of 'Social Europe' with competing discourses, promoting varying assumptions about the nature and prospects of European social citizenship that ultimately promote different ideas about what it means to be a European (social) citizen. In an era of European 'polycrisis', in which European welfare politics is especially salient (both at the national and supranational level), it is all the more crucial to understand how ideas of European social citizenship and solidarity emanating from diverse actors in the European policy space influence the more concrete social policy approach of the EU.

We begin to address this gap via a mapping exercise of meanings of Social Europe across European institutions, and the assumptions and claims they make about European social citizenship, social solidarity and social rights. We are particularly interested in exploring whether competing discourses of Social Europe can be identified, the ways in which they may converge or diverge with the EC's construction, and ultimately what this means for European social citizenship, belonging and participation. We conduct this mapping exercise using an approach that combines elements of thematic analysis and discourse network analysis, building upon our own previous critical discourse analyses of social citizenship in Europe. We draw on a range of grey literature primarily from the macro (EC) and meso (European civil society) levels, identifying key themes, discursive constructions and relationships between and across discourses, in order to identify and highlight differing and competing conceptions of Social Europe and European social citizenship, embedding ideas that may (de)stabilise dominant constructions of Social Europe and European social citizenship.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

September

The UCO Centre for War Studies and the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies are pleased to co-host a one-day symposium to take place in Helsinki on Friday, 19th September, 2025. The symposium will focus on the (comparative) history of "post- civil-war societies", bringing together panels on themes such as "cultural demobilisation", "memory", "transitional justice" and "exile". The symposium is part of "The Age of Civil Wars in Europe, c. 1914- 1949" ERC Advanced Grant Project (2022- 2027, www.civil-wars.eu), led by Prof. Robert Gerwarth "Post-Civil-War Societies" symposium to be held in the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies, September 2025.

Panel Title: 'Activist women during and after civil wars'.

Recovered experiences, contested memories and the silences that remain: capturing lived experiences of activist European (Irish and Hungarian) women in the wake of revolution, civil war and conflict

This panel was proposed by members of the Afterlives Project, on which **Dr. Mary McAuliffe** is one of the UCD representatives.

The Symposium is co-organised by the UCD Centre for War Studies under the ERC Advanced Grant, 'The Age of Civil Wars in Europe, 1914-1949', led by Professor Robert Gerwarth.

https://civil-wars.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/250512_Helsinki_04.pdf



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EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS

Dear members and friends of the Equality Studies Centre,

The **Equality Studies brown-bag lunchtime seminar series** concluded on Tuesday April 22nd with a talk from Asst. Prof. Glen Jankowski, who presented a fascinating paper entitled 'Addressing 'race' inequalities in psychology: Reflections on Stephen Lawrence day'. Glen's talk was the final in a fascinating series which included papers on 'the Osteoarcheology of Inequality' (Jess Beck), 'Historical Redlining and Racial Disparities in Lead Exposure' (Jeremy Auerbach), 'Theorising Inequality' (Showkat Ali, Leverhulme fellow at the ESC), 'Socio-economic diversity in the Irish Legal Profession' (Saoirse Enright) and many more. We look forward to a new series in the coming academic year – watch out for an email inviting presentations in the broad field of equality studies!

The 2025 Annual Equality Studies Public Lecture, hosted by the UCD Equality Studies Centre, featured Prof. Alana Lentin, a leading scholar of race and racism. In her lecture, Lentin discussed themes from her new book *The New Racial Regime: Recalibrations of White Supremacy*, offering a critical analysis of contemporary racial politics and the persistence of structural racism.



EQUALITY STUDIES CENTRE NEWS

The event, introduced by Centre Director Dr. Marie Moran, underscored the Centre's ongoing commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and public engagement in the pursuit of equality and justice. It took place at the Museum of Literature on May 6th, 2025 and was followed by a wine reception. It was wonderful to see so many members of the Equality Studies Centre in attendance, as well as alumni and friends.

Marie Moran
ESC Director

CENTRE FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) and UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, organised by Dr. Naonori Kodate

Special Seminar on Economic Security and Diplomacy
Special seminar “Balancing Commerce and Diplomacy: Japan’s Strategy for Economic Security” with Prof. Christina Davis (Harvard University) was organised to mark the Centre for Japanese Studies’ 5th Anniversary.

The seminar was held on Tuesday, 1st April 2025 at the Old Physics Theatre, Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), 86 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin. Prof. Davis is the Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics in the Department of Government and Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at Harvard University.



Front left to right: Adjunct Prof. Neary (UCD College of Social Sciences and Law / former Ambassador of Ireland to Japan, 2011-14), Mrs Shimada, Prof. O’Riordan (UCD VP for Global Engagement), Prof. Davis, H.E. Mr Junji Shimada (Ambassador of Japan to Ireland), Prof. Moore-Cherry (UCD College Principal, College of Social Sciences and Law). Back left to right: Dr Rimner (UCD School of History / Director, UCD Centre for Asia Pacific Research), Dr Kodate (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice / Director, Public Policy Programme, UCD), Dr Peng (TCD Centre for Asian Studies), Ms Fitzgerald (Director, Asia Pacific Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland), Prof. Sokell (UCD Deputy Registrar / former Deputy Director, UCD Centre for Japanese Studies), Assoc. Prof. Donnelly (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice).



Dr Naonori Kodate,
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During academic year 2024-25, Prof. Davis is currently the Centenary Visiting Professor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford University, affiliated with Queen's College. Prof. Davis is the author of three books: *Food Fights Over Free Trade: How International Institutions Promote Agricultural Trade Liberalization* (2003), *Why Adjudicate? Enforcing Trade Rules in the WTO* (2012), and *Discriminatory Clubs: The Geopolitics of International Organizations* (2023). In the last 5 years, Prof. Davis has been an External Academic Advisor for the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies. Prof. Davis' lecture looked at how Japan navigates geopolitical rivalries—balancing economic growth, security, and diplomacy in an era of rising tensions between the US, China, and Europe. With a unique perspective shaped by decades of academic insight and government engagement, Professor Davis spoke about Japan's strategic leadership in trade, AI policy, and regional cooperation through initiatives such as CPTPP and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

The seminar was organised in collaboration with the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, UCD Centre for Asia Pacific Research, Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, and The Irish Institute of Japanese Studies, University College Cork.

Naonori Kodate

Centre for Japanese Studies Director.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

McAlinden, Anne-Marie, **Keenan, Marie** and Gallen, James (2025) Transforming Justice Responses to Non-Recent Institutional Abuses, Oxford University Press

Abstract This book critically examines justice responses to non-recent institutional abuses across the island of Ireland, comprising Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland within an international context, drawing on insights from interdisciplinary literature (eg law, political science, history, sociology, criminology, and social policy) and extensive primary research. Utilising the island of Ireland, North and South, as its primary case study, it comparatively examines the dominant forms of justice responses to non-recent institutional abuses, including prosecutions and civil litigation, inquiries, redress, and apologies in both Anglophone and non-Anglophone countries. Drawing on the literature related to restorative justice, transitional justice, and transformative justice, the book advances a re-imagined hybrid approach to justice which draws on conventional and innovative justice approaches and seeks to bridge the accountability gap between seeking and achieving justice for non-recent institutional abuses. The critical analysis of justice responses is set against the complexities of the legal, historical, cultural, institutional, and political realities of addressing non-recent institutional abuses. In including the voices of multiple key stakeholders and their experiences of justice processes—victim/survivors as well as church and state actors—in a unique project, it considers how we might reframe discourses on accountability and responsibility, improve justice processes at the level of praxis, and increase engagement between victim/survivors and institutional actors in order to better address the complexities of non-recent institutional abuses and improve justice processes and outcomes.

This is an open access publication: <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780191967399.001.0001>

Journal Article

Donnelly, S., Isham, L., Mackay, K., Milne, A., Montgomery, L., Sherwood-Johnson, F. and Wydall, S. (2025), "Carer harm: a challenge for practitioners, services and research", The Journal of Adult Protection, Vol. ahead-of-print #OpenAccess Available: <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-09-2024-0053>

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to consider how carer harm is understood, surfaced and responded to in contemporary policy, practice and research.

Design/methodology/approach: This paper offers a reflective commentary on the current "state of play" relating to carer harm drawing on existing research and related literature. This study focuses on how we define carer harm and what we know about its impact; lessons from, and for, practice and service provision; and (some) considerations for policy development and future research.

PUBLICATIONS

Finding: The authors highlight the importance of engaging with the gendered dimensions (and inequalities) that lie at the intersection of experience of care and violence and the need to move beyond binary conceptions of power (lessness) in family and intimate relationships over the life course. They suggest that changing how we think and talk about carer harm may support practitioners to better recognise the impact of direct and indirect forms of carer harm on carers without stigmatising or blaming people with care needs. The findings of this study also consider how carer harm is “hidden in plain sight” on two accounts. The issue falls through the gaps between, broadly, domestic abuse and adult and child safeguarding services; similarly, the nature and impact of harm is often kept private by carers who are fearful of the moral and practical consequences of sharing their experiences.

Originality/value: This study sets out recommendations to this effect and invites an ongoing conversation about how change for carers and families can be realised.

O'Donnell, D., Davies, C., Devaney, C. **Donnelly, S** et al. How can interprofessional collaboration be fostered and sustained in team-based care integration for older people in community settings? A realist evidence synthesis. *Syst Rev* 14, 117 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-025-02862-8>

Abstract

Background: Community-centred care integration for older adults is a cornerstone of the WHO's Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) implementation framework. Realising the potential of care integration for older people requires cohesive coordination of services and interprofessional collaboration (IPC) within and across teams. There is a gap in research evidence to understand how IPC can be fostered and sustained within team-based community care integration for older people. We report on a realist evidence synthesis to identify the contextual influences and mechanisms that support IPC in interprofessional community care teams for older people.

Methods: The three phases of the realist synthesis included an exploratory scoping of research evidence and consultation with four local stakeholder groups to produce initial programme theories. The second phase involved systematic retrieval and synthesis of evidence, including peer-reviewed published empirical studies and grey literature recommended by an expert panel. The third phase involved the development of refined programme theory with stakeholder validation. The stakeholder cohorts included representatives of older people and caregivers, healthcare professionals and operational managers of community specialist older person teams, national policymakers, and programme managers.

Results: The resource and reasoning mechanisms that enable contexts for IPC and their associated outcomes are identified within seven programme theory areas: (1) professional identity and growth, (2) information sharing and care coordination across boundaries, (3) effective operational and clinical governance, (4) developing a team learning culture, (5) meaningful inclusion of older people and caregivers, (6) quality improvement and programme development, (7) workforce planning and retention.

Conclusions: The results provide policymakers and clinicians with evidence-based programme theory that will catalyse critical dialogue on IPC implementation. This programme theory informs the prioritisation of resources to enable favourable contexts for successful IPC intervention development and implementation. This research complements and expands the work presented in the WHO ICOPE implementation framework. We encourage local realist application and evaluation of the programme theory within varying health system contexts.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Kodate N. Achieving social democratic model and going digital at the same time? Sláintecare, welfare technology and system readiness in Ireland. Special Issue: Sustainability of the Nordic care system from an East Asian perspective: the relationship between public and private actors in elderly care. *Journal of Policy Science*, 32 (2): 201-217.

Abstract: Digitalization and automation of care, and the use of welfare technology (WT), including robots, are now seen as part of the policy solution to global aging and the sustainability of fractured welfare states. By comparing the Irish welfare state with the prototype social democratic, universalist welfare state in Sweden, this article seeks to provide a realistic assessment of the current situation facing Ireland's health and social care system and its relationship to the implementation of welfare technology.

Nordic welfare states are among the leaders in the deployment of WT, which does not seem at odds with their human rights-based and egalitarian approach to welfare provision. However, unlike Sweden, Ireland has not yet achieved universal access to health and social care. In addition, the country hosts multiple multinational corporations, and its Digital Economy and Society Index suggests that Ireland is performing well among the European Union member states.

Against this backdrop, the article asks the extent to which Ireland's care system is ready for the development, deployment and wide use of care robots, automation and digital care. It addresses the question by examining the views of stakeholders (care professionals, robotics engineers and policymakers) regarding the system readiness and the expectations for robotics. The findings indicate that the stakeholders believe that the use of WT would strengthen the care system but system readiness level in Ireland remains low. However, the government's plan for implementing a universal care system called Sláintecare has potential for bridging the current gap between the aspiration to establish an equitable and high-quality care system and the solutions that WT can provide.

Journal Article

Kodate N, Kohli P, Maeda Y, Prendergast D, Obayashi K, Masuyama S. (2025) Assembling sociality in caring spaces: culturally sensitive robot deployment during the pandemic in residential care homes in Ireland and Japan. *Engaging Science and Technology in Society*. <https://doi.org/10.17351/ests2023.2435>

Abstract: Can robots help care professionals deliver person-centered care? If so, how? The questions concerning the relationship between care and technology have long been a focus of debate and discussion. The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the development of various technologies and opened the door to trialing products and services that had previously been deemed unsuitable for care settings. Seizing the moment of change, we conducted fieldwork in two residential care homes (one in Ireland and the other in Japan) to observe caregiving processes through the deployment and use of an originally developed functional air-purification robot. Using the concepts of "carescape" and "assemblage," the complex relationship between people, assistive technologies and care were explored.

PUBLICATIONS

The focus of this paper is to outline key insights arising from these pilot deployments, particularly in relation to the intersection between the act of caring and the use of robots. Through ethnographic observations, interviews and focus groups with care professionals, we found the hybrid collective nature of using a robot by care professionals as well as a polysemic understanding of care. The insights gained from this study shed light on some of the potential common ingredients when a chain of care is triggered by culturally sensitive deployment and use of technologies such as care robots.

Journal Article

Ruan YX, Che RP, **Kodate N, Donnelly S**, Shi Y, Liu X, Suwa S, Yu W, Kong D, Cheung, M.C. (2025). A scoping review on long-term care workers' perceptions of robot assisted care for older adults in long-term care facilities. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. First published: 18 March 2025
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.16853>

Abstract

To synthesise the current research on long-term care workers' perceptions (i.e., attitudes, concerns, and expected functions) of robot-assisted care and their perceived effects of different types of robot-assisted care for older adults in long-term care facilities. A search was conducted in July 2024 using five databases. Articles published between 2010 and 2024 on the perceptions and/or perceived effects of robot-assisted care for older adults among frontline long-term care workers in long-term care facilities were identified. Additionally, the reference lists of the included articles were manually searched. A five-step framework that guided the development of research questions, screening of studies, and synthesis and presentation of data was adopted. Two authors independently screened and analysed the identified articles. Conflicts were resolved through joint-discussions.

Forty-one articles were included in the review. Data were narratively synthesised into three categories: expected function of care robots, perceived effects of robot-assisted care, and attitudes and concerns regarding robot-assisted care. Subcategories were identified and presented in tabular form. This review shows the physical, psychological, social, and practical benefits and limitations of different types of robot-assisted care. It also contributes to understanding long-term care workers' attitudes, concerns, and expectations regarding the function of robot-assisted care. Having a priori discussion with long-term care workers about their expectations regarding using robot-assisted care is needed.

Improvements in the design and in the digital literacy of the workers are also necessary.

This review provides an overview of the perceptions and perceived effects of different types of robot-assisted care among care workers in long-term care facilities. The findings provide practical implications and highlight areas in need of further studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

Walsh, K., Mahon, M., & **O'Connor, N.** (2025). Policy discourses on homecare services for rural older people in Ireland: Spatial and age-based drivers of narratives and absences. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 116, 103630. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103630>

Abstract: Research highlights significant inequalities in the provision of homecare in rural communities. However, less is known about how these inequalities are rooted within existing policies and policy discourse, and to what degree values and assumptions related to spatial constructions or age-related constructions are driving these inequalities. This article presents a critical review of how homecare for rural dwelling older people is framed in policy and policy-related materials to assess the underpinning values in relation to related representations and discourses. Using Ireland as an illustrative case, a critical discourse analysis approach was employed that was informed by spatial justice and ageism as conceptual perspectives. Analysis focused on 53 documents that captured official policy, policy-related material and the broader narrative context of Ireland's policy landscape. A discourse of fragmentation and absence emerged as the overarching discursive theme regarding home care for rural older people in Ireland. However, this narrative was interwoven with and reinforced by a complex array of discourse framings that are layered across rural, ageing and care policies, including: a rural de-prioritization of ageing and older adults; a care and ageing subordination of rural contexts; economic-oriented development; and all-age-inclusion. Findings are discussed with respect to a rural spatial ageism, and the future of homecare reform in Ireland.

Journal Article

Flanagan, N., Wilson, E., et al (2025). Continuing the conversation about Racism with Teenagers: Using the social work dialogue approach. *European Social Work*
<https://doi.org/10.1332/27551768Y2025D000000034>

Abstract: Increased global migration has resulted in greater societal diversity and associated discourse about racism and integration. The importance of engaging young people in these discussions cannot be underestimated. In 2020, an Irish school partnered academics with teenagers to undertake participative research on the school community's experiences of racism: 'Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers'. The results revealed an unanticipated level of racism. Two years later, another group of teenagers were tasked with reviewing progress in the school's bid to address racism. The intervening years were marked by increased far-right-led anti-immigrant sentiment in Ireland, reinforcing the importance of the topic. This co-created study – 'Continuing a conversation about racism with teenagers' – revisits the topic of racism to capture changes and work remaining to be done. The findings, which were presented by the teenage researchers at the 2024 European Conference for Social Work Research, revealed a mixed bag of progress: limited progress overall, but subtle changes that can be built on. The teenage researchers concluded that their peers had started a conversation about racism in the school, that they themselves had continued the conversation and that the school must now make sure the conversations do not stop: 'We need to keep talking about racism.'

PUBLICATIONS

Book Review

Kodate N. Book Review - FEELING MACHINES: Japanese Robotics and the Global Entanglements of More-Than-Human Care By Shawn Bender, Stanford University Press, 2025. Pacific Affairs: An International Review of Asia and the Pacific (School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, The University of British Columbia), 98, 3. Online First.

<https://pacificaffairs.ubc.ca/book-reviews/feeling-machines-japanese-robotics-and-the-global-entanglements-of-more-than-human-care-by-shawn-bender/>

Journal Article

Stephanides S & **Kodate N.** (2025) Staff safety and quality of care: A look at emergency care in the United States (in Japanese). Patient Safety Report: Japanese Coalition for Patient Safety, No. 98, 21-24.

https://kyodokodo.jp/anzenreport_etsuran/

Abstract: How does the work environment in hospitals and clinics affect patient safety and quality of care? Although not limited to the medical field, chronic stress can also affect job satisfaction and lead to burnout and poor health. It has been reported that by the time of the global pandemic in 2021, three out of five U.S. physicians and nearly half of nurses will be in a state of burnout. This is a global phenomenon, not only in the U.S., and is a problem that cannot be overlooked in Japan.

Research on emergency medicine often describes the difficulties inherent in the specialism, which requires dealing with a variety of patients who arrive 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, without appointments, and making accurate diagnoses and appropriate decisions immediately. In such a field, not only the workload, but also the complexity of individual cases and, above all, the feeling of helplessness and stress over a workflow over which one has no control, can easily lead to communication errors and lack of cooperation within the hospital. Furthermore, a particular problem in recent years has been verbal and physical violence against staff in emergency medical care settings, which has also been reported all over the world and seems to have become a constant.

If this trend continues, in the future, a vicious cycle will occur in which there will be a shortage of skilled medical personnel in the emergency department, and the remaining staff will have to work in an even harsher environment.

In this article, together with Dr. Stephanides, an emergency physician in Portland, Oregon, USA, we report on the current state of affairs in the emergency department and think about possible policy solutions.

PUBLICATIONS

PublicPolicy.ie Working Paper

Dr. Matthew Donoghue and **Khalil Moran** (2025) Public Participation Networks and Local Democracy: Addressing Challenges and Amplifying Opportunities, PublicPolicy.ie Working Paper Series

Authors: Dr. Matthew Donoghue, Assistant Professor of Social Policy, University College Dublin; Khalil Moran, Doctoral Candidate in Social Justice, University College Dublin.

Opinion Piece Irish Times: The idea that immigration fuels Ireland's housing crisis is wrong by Dr. Michael Byrne

Dr. Michael Byrne had an opinion piece published in the Irish Times on Mon Apr 28 2025. The article can be found at the following link: <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2025/04/28/the-idea-that-immigration-fuels-our-housing-crisis-might-seem-intuitive-but-its-wrong/>



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