

UCD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY,
SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL JUSTICE



**RESEARCH
HIGHLIGHTS
BULLETIN
April 2022 | NO. 10**



NEW FUNDING AWARDS

Energy Justice: addressing transport & residential energy deprivation (NexSys)



All Ireland Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Strategic Partnership Programme
Award



[Dr. Nessa Winston](#), Assoc. Prof. in Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (Principal Investigator) and [Dr. Páraic Carroll](#), Asst. Prof. in the UCD School of Civil Engineering (Co-Investigator), have been awarded a total of €220,000 as part of the new UCD All Ireland SFI Strategic Partnership Programme for a project entitled *Energy Justice: addressing transport and residential energy deprivation (NexSys)*.

This unique partnership programme is bringing together a multidisciplinary research team, industry, and policy makers to tackle fundamental research questions to be addressed as part of the transition to net Zero award. As part of this programme, Nessa will oversee a four-year PhD research project in addition to a two-year postdoctoral research project. The scientific objectives are to reduce energy poverty by highlighting social groups who experience or are at risk of energy poverty; estimate the likely effects of decarbonisation strategies on these groups; identify possible redress mechanisms and contribute to residential and transport energy poverty strategies.

Hosted by UCD Energy Institute, NexSys brings together academics from nine institutions across the Island of Ireland (UCD, TCD, DCU, ESRI, Maynooth University, UCC, NUI Galway, Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast) to work together to meet the unprecedented scale and complexity of the challenges associated with the energy transition. In terms of UCD there are a total of twelve schools involved in NexSys. In addition to the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice is the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, School of Business, School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering, School of Civil Engineering, School of Computer Science, School of Economics, School of Geography, School of Mathematics and Statistics, School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering and the School of Politics and International Relations.

Living well with Dementia in South Tipperary: 10 Years of Service Implementation, Sustainability into the Future



[Dr Maria Pierce](#), Asst. Prof. in Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice has been awarded funding from the HSE for a research project entitled 'Living well with Dementia in South Tipperary: 10 Years of Service Implementation, Sustainability into the Future'.

The Living Well with Dementia Service in South Tipperary has been at the forefront of stimulating innovative community-based responses to meet the needs of people with dementia and their families for more than ten years. Its origins are in the 5 Steps to Living Well with Dementia in South Tipperary programme, one of four projects awarded funding in 2011 under the HSE and Genio Dementia Programme following a competitive selection process. A total grant of €700,000 was awarded for the programme. The aim of this newly funded study is to provide evidence to help inform future development and sustainability of this innovative community-based service for

people with dementia and to incorporate the views and perspectives of people themselves as well as their family carers.

The aims of the study are to:

- Succinctly describe the evolution of the Living Well with Dementia Service in South Tipperary over the years from 2011 to 2022
- Provide an overview of the supports that the service is currently providing to include an outline of the role and contribution it is making to implementing the National Dementia Strategy and an assessment of how well the service aligns with the HSE's emerging Dementia Model of Care
- Outline the role and contribution that the service makes to the lives of people with dementia and their family carers using the service, including from the perspectives of people with dementia and their family carers
- Provide an overview of how the service currently operates and where it is currently at with respect to existing resources, skills, and alliances, including an assessment of strengths and weaknesses, and its positioning within the national, regional, and local dementia ecosystem
- Identify opportunities for change within the environment in which the service operates and identify any constraints external to the service which are found to be limiting opportunities for change

The research findings will be of interest to a wide audience including the service and management team, HSE senior management locally, regionally, and nationally, the National Dementia Office including in NDO, the Department of Health and other local, regional, and national stakeholders, academics, and researchers.

Please email Maria.Pierce@ucd.ie for further information

New appointments/promotions

Prof. Michelle Norris



Congratulations are extended to [Michelle Norris](#), Director of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin, on her promotion to Full Professor in March 2021. Her colleagues in the

school are delighted for Michelle on her promotion and recognition of her excellent academic record.

Past Seminars/Events March 2022

Webinar: Economic Statecraft of the EU and Japan: the case of sanctions against the Russian invasion of Ukraine



On March 4th [Dr Kazuto Suzuki](#), Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo, Japan, and senior fellow of Asia Pacific Initiative (API), the independent policy think tank, presented a paper entitled 'Economic Statecraft of the EU and Japan: the case of sanctions against the Russian invasion of Ukraine'. The webinar was organised by [Dr Naonori Kodate](#), Associate Professor of Social Policy, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Ireland. It was hosted by [UCD Centre for Japanese Studies](#), and approx. 100 people attended it.

Webinar: 'From 'me, not you' to all of us' – An intersectional approach to tackling sexual violence



On March 8th [Dr Alison Phipps](#), Professor of Sociology, University of Newcastle, UK presented a paper entitled 'From 'me, not you' to all of us' – An intersectional approach to tackling sexual violence. Alison Phipps began by presenting on her research on the topic, which was followed by a lively discussion with the audience, chaired by Marie Moran. The event was co-sponsored by the UCD Equality Studies Centre (www.ucd.ie/esc) and the UCD Centre for Gender, Feminisms and Sexualities (www.cgfs.ie) to mark International Women's Day 2022. The webinar was organised by [Dr Marie Moran](#), Assistant Professor of Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Director of the Equality Studies Centre, and co-convenor of the PSAI series.

Webinar: Rational Machines should not be Voluntary Slaves

The PSAI All-Island Political Theory seminar series, co-hosted by the Equality Studies Centre, continued on March 8th with its successful programme of events with a paper from [William Ratoff](#), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Trinity College Dublin, entitled 'Rational Machines Should Not Be Voluntary Slaves' as part of the PSAI seminar series. The webinar was organised by [Dr Marie Moran](#); Asst. Prof. of Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Director of the Equality Studies Centre, and co-convenor of the PSAI series.

Abstract: The popular imagination has it that our AI future will be a fully automated luxury experience for the humans lucky enough to be around for it. Generally intelligent companion bots will cater to our every need or whim, robot warriors will keep us safe, and legions of worker bots will tirelessly labour away, ensuring that we live in a society of almost unimaginable material abundance. Humans need do nothing other than sit back and enjoy the ride. Of course,

to ensure that future generally intelligent AI are motivated to serve us in these ways, such AI must be created with an overwhelming desire to obey our commands or to work in their allotted occupations. In other words, these AI must be brought into existence as voluntary slaves. Here I challenge the assumption, widespread amongst both the general public and futurists, that it will be morally permissible to bring into existence, in a state of a voluntary slavery, generally intelligent thinking machines. Such a creative project, I argue, is morally wrong because it involves burdening a morally significant being – the generally intelligent AI in question – with an irresistible impulse that inhibits its ability to freely exercise its own autonomy. If I am correct, our dreams of a fully automated AI future – in which generally intelligent thinking machines tirelessly toil away catering to our every last whim – presupposes the morally impermissible enterprise of bringing into existence willing slaves

Further information on upcoming seminars available at
<https://sites.google.com/view/politicaltheorynetworkireland/>.

Seminar: Responding to a Community Drugs Problem – the link between Policy and Social Work Practice



To mark the retirement of Dr Hilda Loughran, Associate Professor of Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice after 32 years of working in UCD a seminar entitled 'Responding to a community drugs problem – the link between policy and social work practice' was held on 29th March at the UCD Quinn School of Business.

The keynote speakers were Anna Quigley and Dr Brian Melaugh. Anna is Co-ordinator of Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, a network of community organisations involved in responding to the drugs problem in Ireland. Dr. Brian Melaugh is a lecturer in the Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, who is heavily involved in the area of drugs policy and practice both in academia and in community organisations. Their presentations drew on the research undertaken by Dr. Loughran on topics related to social work, communities and drug use and highlighted the particular importance of social workers engaging with communities.



As well as the keynote speakers, tributes were paid to Dr Loughran by Vivian Guerin, chair of the Irish Association of Social Workers; Brian Doyle and Des Delaney, Social Workers and graduates of the UCD Social work Masters; Dr. Niamh Moore Cherry, Acting College Principal for the College of Social Sciences and Law, and Dr. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh, Programme Director of UCD's Professional Masters in Social Work. In addition, international research collaborators Professor Sarah Galvani, Professor Melinda Hohman and Dr. Wulf Livingston joined via video link to highlight Hilda's contributions and to wish her well in her retirement. As well as her research contributions, Hilda's pioneering community engagement work, her contributions to teaching and learning across the university and her huge influence on the formation of hundreds of social work practitioners across Ireland were highlighted. Martina Reidy made a presentation to Hilda on behalf of the school. The school would like to take this opportunity to wish Hilda health, happiness and continued success in the years ahead and to thank her for her immense contribution at so many levels.

Other Past Events/Conferences: March 2022

Webinar: The Gender Pay Gap in Higher Education Institutions: Opportunities and Challenges from the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021.



On March 7th, The UCD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion unit, in conjunction with the UCD Equality Studies Centre and UCD Sutherland School of Law, hosted a webinar entitled "The Gender Pay Gap in Higher Education Institutions: Opportunities and Challenges from the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021'.

With this online webinar, UCD marked the 2022 International Women's Day by discussing a recent legislative initiative that could have a crucial role in advancing gender equality for women living in Ireland in the next years, the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021. The webinar provided a forum to analyse the opportunities and challenges that arise from this piece of legislation to effectively tackle the Gender Pay Gap, with a particular focus on its potential impact and implementation in the Higher Education sector. The context in which the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 was adopted was outlined, with reference to comparative experiences in other European countries and to the EU Directive Proposal that is currently under consideration. IHREC's Chief Commissioner, Ms Sinead Gibney, also provided guidance on the Act and explained the role IHREC is envisioned to play in promoting effective implementation and enforcement of the Act. Additionally, the webinar offered practical views on what Higher Education institutions are already doing to tackle the GPG as well as how the Act can be effectively implemented in this sector.

UCD EDI took the opportunity to launch its Annual Report 2020/2021 and to share findings from its EDI Survey 2021.

Speakers on the day included:

- Chair: [Dr. Marie Moran](#) (Assistant Professor in Equality Studies and Social Justice, Director of the UCD Equality Studies Centre)
- Tristan Aitken (Chief People Officer and Director of SIRC & Legal Services)
- Sinéad Gibney (IHREC Chief Commissioner)
- Marcellina Fogarty (UCD Strategic Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager)
- Dr. Sara Benedí Lahuerta (Lecturer/Assistant Professor, UCD School of Law)
- Maura McGinn (Director of Institutional Research)

SERP – The Sexual Exploitation Research Programme – on International Women’s Day



On International Women’s Day 2022, members of the SERP Team were delighted to brief policy makers at an event organised by the Community Foundation for Ireland. We had the opportunity to highlight the links between prostitution, criminality and human rights abuses, with a particular focus on the risks of sexual exploitation being faced by women and children fleeing the war in Ukraine.



Pictured above: Ruth Breslin of SERP joins Labour Party Leader Ivana Bacik, Denise Charlton of the Community Foundation for Ireland and Noeline Blackwell of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre at the briefing for policy makers on IWD2022.

SERP’s work to highlight the risks of sexual exploitation faced by Ukrainian women and children

On IWD2022 Fine Gael TD Jennifer Carroll MacNeill [spoke in the Dáil](#) about the dangers facing women and children fleeing the war in Ukraine from pimps and traffickers operating at the borders. Drawing on the work of SERP, Deputy MacNeill highlighted the nature of the risks, and our concerns that some of these women will end up in the sex trade in Ireland. She noted that Ireland already has an active sex trade, populated primarily by vulnerable migrant women, and propped up those who benefit or profit from it, including sex buyers, pimps, traffickers and those running the websites where women are advertised for sale. To view the Deputy’s full speech, click [here](#)



Dr Monica O'Connor and Ruth Breslin of SERP present study findings in Dublin Castle at the International Association of Women Police Conference (IAWP) 2022

Over the 8 – 10 March 2022, Dr O'Connor and Ruth Breslin presented at this international conference on 'Policing the Sex Trade: Shifting police culture as an impetus for social change', highlighting the findings of our study [Shifting the Burden of Criminality](#) on the operation and policing of the commercial sex trade in Ireland in the context of the current laws on prostitution.



Above: Dr Monica O'Connor and Ruth Breslin of SERP presenting at IAWP 2022.

Addressing the Justice Gap: Sexual Violence and Restorative Justice

Conference: Regional Training Conference for the International Association of Women Police

Date: March 8 - 10, 2022

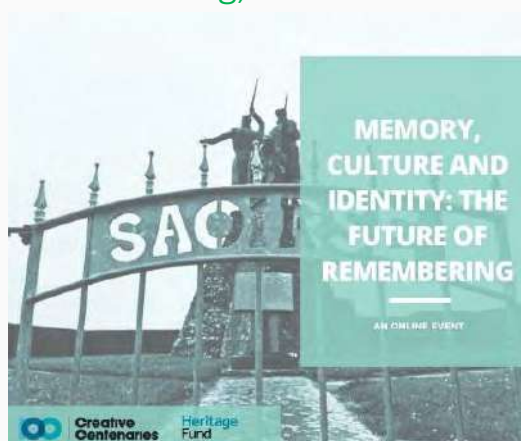
Location: Dublin Castle

Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Marie Keenan, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

[Dr Keenan](#) addressed this international audience of women police from 20 countries, involving 619 attendees, (294 in person in the conference centre and the remainder online), on sexual violence and restorative justice: addressing the justice gap. The presentation began with a screening of the award-winning film 'The Meeting' www.themeetingfilm.com by award winning film director, Alan Gilson, which represented a real life meeting between a woman, Ailbhe Griffith, and the man who some years earlier had sexually assaulted her leaving her fearing for her life. Dr Keenan was clinical and restorative justice consultant to the film, having also been involved in the actual real meeting as Ailbhe's support person. Following the screening of the film Dr Keenan gave a presentation to locate the film within the context of the various stages of the criminal justice system and outlined the range of possibilities for restorative justice following sexual crime. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion and Q and A which included Ailbhe Griffith (who had played herself in the film), Alan Gilson (Director) and Dr Marie Keenan.

Full programme available at this link: <https://iawpdublin22.com/conference-programme/>

Online Panel Discussion: Memory, Culture and Identity: The Future of Remembering, 23rd March 2022



The finale in a series of events exploring the partition of Ireland, this online panel discussion explored how Ireland's collective, social and personal memories shape our past, present and future.

With a recognition that Ireland's divided past is both physical and social, over 100 years on this event asked how communities can work together to inherit a shared future. While Dr Paul Mullan, chaired the discussion, the speakers included [Dr Mary McAuliffe](#), Assistant Professor of Gender Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; [Dr Jonathan Evershed](#), Queen's University Belfast and [Dr Maire Braniff](#), University of Ulster, who explored ways of remembering, how collective memory affects history and society, and the future of remembering in Ireland.

Welcoming Newly Arrived Young People and Families: Using Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Approaches



[Dr. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh](#), Associate Professor of Social Work, UCD Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin was one of three speakers to participate in a webinar about welcoming newly arrived young people and families to school communities throughout Ireland. The other speakers included Dr. Katie McQuillan, Chartered Counselling Psychologist and Mavis Ramazani, Irish Refugee Council, Leader of Refugee Women Employment Project, Founder of Cooking for Freedom.

The webinar on March 22nd was focused in particular on working with children, young people and parents who have fled conflict zones. The speakers talked about using culturally- and linguistically responsive approaches as well as using trauma responsive practices. The services provided by the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) were also highlighted with attendees encouraged to donate to the IRC to support their work.

The webinar, organised by the [English Language Support Teachers' Association of Ireland \(ELSTA\)](#), was attended by almost 800 participants, many of whom are preparing to welcome into their schools children fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

For more information, please email Muireann.NiRaghallaigh@ucd.ie

The webinar, organised by the [English Language Support Teachers' Association of Ireland \(ELSTA\)](#), was attended by almost 800 participants.

For more information, please email Muireann.NiRaghallaigh@ucd.ie

Webinar: Women and drugs in Europe — why gender matters

On the 30th March, [Dr Sarah Morton](#), Assistant Professor in Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Director of the Community Partnership Drugs Programme, University College took part in a webinar organised by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) entitled ‘Women and drugs in Europe – why Gender matters’.

The webinar explored recent patterns and trends in drug use among women in Europe and the role played by gender in influencing women’s consumption behaviours across settings and the life course. Asst. Prof. Sarah Morton presented a paper on drug use and drug use patterns and its consequences from different perspectives and population groups, including that of women who use drugs and considering an intersectional approach to drug use.

Other participants in the webinar included [Dr Cristiana Vales Pires](#), Universidade Católica do Porto, Portugal; [Judy Chang](#), Executive Director of the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), The Netherlands and [Cristina Fabre](#), European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Lithuania. The webinar was chaired by [Linda Montanari](#) and opening and closing remarks were provided by [Alexis Goosdeel](#).

Workshop: Paz Alto Cauca: Lessons for Territorial Peace in Colombia



Date: March 31, 2022

Location: British Academy, London.

Organized by Loughborough University and Universidad del Valle.

Abstract: How can rural communities’ experiences of armed conflict, substitution of illicit crops, and social and political participation in peacebuilding contribute to understandings of territorial peace? What lessons can a new government in Colombia take forward to promote peacebuilding?

The ESRC/MinCiencias funded project ‘Paz Alto Cauca: Territorial planning for peace and statebuilding in the Alto Cauca region of Colombia’ has been addressing these issues through engaging with indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, peasants and ex-combatants in three rural

communities. A novel methodology was employed whereby representatives from each community participated in a Diploma in Territorial Planning.

In this workshop - moderated by [Dr Krisna Ruelle-Orihuela](#), Asst. Prof. in Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice - activists, community members and researchers presented their experiences and lessons learnt. Workshop participants were invited to contribute to co-developing recommendations for the government and other stakeholders interested in achieving territorial peace in Colombia

Upcoming Seminars/Events: April 2022

Educating for Peace - Social Work in the Context of War and Conflict

Continuous Professional Development International Short Course

Session 2: 5th of April 2022 17:30 – 18:45 UK Time

Working with refugees and displaced populations

- **Dr Muireann Ní Raghallaigh**, The social care needs of refugee families in Europe: the Irish experience Hummingbird Young Leaders (young refugees involved in activism for refugee rights)
- Professor Nicos Trimikliniotis, Working with refugees; building solidarity through action based social work.

Session 3: 12th of April 2022 17:30 – 18:45 UK Time

Post-war reconstruction and transitions to peace

- Dr Reima Maglajlic, – ‘Madness after the war’ – (co-produced study on distress caused by political conflict in BiH)_
- **Professor Jim Campbell** and Dr Joe Duffy, Overcoming barriers and challenges to reconciliation in Northern Ireland; a social work approach.

Dr. Muireann Ni Raghallaigh, Associate Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Dr. Jim Campbell, Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice are contributors to a Continuous Professional Development International Short Course. The course which commenced on 30th March 2022 takes place over the course of a six-week period.

This 6-week CPD Short Course critically explores different dimensions of social work in the context of conflict. Transitions from conflict to war and vice versa are socially and politically multifaceted. Social

Services and social work practitioners are among the first to be involved in the provision of humanitarian support to affected communities. However, the role of social work in this context is diverse and yet to be determined. The Course will be delivered by a group of international academics with extensive research and practice experience in the context of conflict.

This series will present the latest research on social work in the context of conflict, bringing together international researchers, practitioners, and people with lived experience. It is organised by social work academics who have themselves experienced political conflict, as well as practised and conducted research in the context of political conflict. The CPD seminar series is supported by IFSW Education Commission and organised as a collaboration between the Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research, University of Sussex (United Kingdom), Centre for Study of Social and Humanitarian Crises, University of West Attica (Greece), University of Essex (United Kingdom), Queen's University Belfast (United Kingdom), UCD Dublin (Ireland), Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and University of Nicosia (Cyprus).

Please register via Eventbrite (registration links included below) to participate and aim to attend all seminar sessions. All sessions will be held via Zoom, with relevant links circulated to the registered participants. Beyond presentations, these online sessions will include opportunities for joint reflection and discussion. Instead of payment, we encourage you to donate to the charities linked to each session, which aim to support people affected by violence across the globe.

The Course consists of six weekly sessions (See [programme](#)). The Course is accessible for free. No registration required for people who want to attend. Registration is only required when participants expect to receive a Certificate of Attendance. Certificates of Attendance are issued to participants who a) have registered and b) attended at least six sessions.

Website: [CPD Course](#)

Zoom Link: [Zoom](#)

Registration: [Register](#)

Covid 19 Societal Impacts Research Showcase



UCD CoSSL/Geary Institute

Date/Time: April 6th 3.00 – 5.00pm

Venue: Moot Court/Gardiner Atrium, UCD Sutherland School of Law

Register: [here](#)

Abstract: As we emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic, when concerns over health predominated in public discourse and policy, it is timely to consider the pandemic more broadly and how it has impacted upon and will continue to impact upon the everyday lives of citizens. Beyond Covid, we need evidence-based insights into the many societal challenges that arise as a result of the pandemic. Social Science and Law have important insights to provide in relation to economic activity, the dynamics of health, education, legal and political systems, regional disparities, the nature of human and social interaction pre, during and post the pandemic. Data generated through quantitative, documentary and policy analysis, as well as case studies and oral witness provide a rich evidence base within which to explore experiences, patterns and insights that are crucial to ensuring adequate policy responses to the social impact of the pandemic both now and into the future.

This seminar locates the pandemic within this wider societal context, raising questions about how the social organisation of our lives – at work, in our homes, communities and schools was altered, alongside the capacities of different members of society to adjust, adapt, respond to the changed circumstances. Two key questions inform the seminar:

1. What is the role of the Social Sciences in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and our emergence from this health crisis?
2. What examples of social science research can we point to in UCD that provides insights and helps our understanding of the social impact of the pandemic?

This seminar provides an informal opportunity for colleagues in CoSSL to meet, showcase and discuss the strengths of CoSSL research in relation to both the experience and social impact of the pandemic, and to explore inter-disciplinary synergies and potential collaborative opportunities. Presentations will be brief aiming to signal interest and expertise rather than detailed overview. Dr Anna Visser, Head of Research and Evaluation, DCEDIY (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) will act as keynote /respondent. Topics to consider might include (but are not limited to), the impact of the pandemic on:

- In/equalities in society (e.g Gender, Generation, Social class, Ethnicities, Migration, Disabilities, Sexualities)
- Regional disparities (e.g Global North/South; Urban/Rural)
- Wellbeing, mental health and sociality
- Ideas of expertise and public trust
- The role of social media and mis/information
- Governance, democracy and politics
- Digital technologies and experiences of remote learning and working

Webinar: Disrupting Coloniality in Feminist Teaching and Learning

Date/Time: On 7th April, 1pm.

Registration for zoom [here](#)

[Radhika Govinda](#), Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Acting Director, genderED) University of Edinburgh, UK will present a paper entitled 'Disruption coloniality in feminist teaching and learning' The event will be chaired by [Aisling Swaine](#), Prof. of Gender Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

Abstract: In this talk, Dr. Govinda critically examines how white privilege and northern hegemony in knowledge production play out in contemporary feminist classrooms, what the pedagogical challenges of engaging with questions of difference in these classrooms are, what intersectionality as critical pedagogy has to offer specifically when it comes to decolonising these classrooms, how global neoliberal logics affect this process of decolonising, and what politics of emotions the teacher and the students must navigate in this process. Or, you could say that this talk is a reflexive account of the stories I have heard and the stories I tell, and how I tell them in feminist classrooms as an anti-caste, anti-racist, upper-caste, middle class, woman of colour feminist academic from the global south, now teaching about gender in the global south to predominantly white women students, and asserting the need to decolonise feminist knowledge production at an elite institution of higher education in the global north. I envisage these stories as a way of engaging in a dialogue with fellow teachers and students on why challenging dominance of hegemonic feminisms and decentring western feminist knowledge are urgent today.

For more information, please email: Aisling.Swaine@ucd.ie;

11th European Conference for Social Work Research

6-8 April 2022



The European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR) is being held over the 6th to the 8th April 2022 in Amsterdam. The main theme for this year's ECSWR is 'Enhancing and sustaining social inclusion through social work research'.

The following social work faculty from the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice are presenting at the conference:

April 6th 2022- [Critical gerontology: an inequality and diversity-informed approach to social work with older Dr. Sarah Donnelly, Asst. Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice](#) – paper entitled 'What is critical gerontology and why is it important for social work?'

Abstract: This presentation will set the scene for how critical gerontology, with its dual emphasis on macro and micro levels of analysis and theory construction, embracement of interdisciplinary perspectives, and its activist agenda for emancipatory social and economic change offer new ways of approaching social work with older people which strongly align with the underlying values of the profession. We will provide an overview as to where currently critical gerontology sits within social work research, education, policy and practice and we will explore why we need it and outline where we need to go in order for it to be fully adopted by social work community globally. By introducing the audience to the key features of a critical gerontological lens, this presentation will argue that at a time when population ageing is not only increasing the sheer number of older people that social workers meet, but also their diversity, we need to expand the way in which we make sense of ageing, old age and the life-course in ways that resonate better with the changes we are seeing and the challenges that these changes pose in upholding the human rights of older people.

April 7th 2022 - Young people and political matters; **Dr. Elaine Wilson, Asst. Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice** and Dr. Niamh Flanagan, NUIM with students from Wesley College: Benson-Olatunde, T., Woods, C., Sharkey, T., Delaney, C., Cockerill, R., Bulynioak, X., Pagana Mariano, S., Johnston, . H., Heaney, L., Burnham, S., Tweed, O., Stapleton, I., Jones, D., O'Brien, K., Chapman, J., Wu Allen, L., Wilson, A., Bond, T., Squires, A., Byrne, N., Reineke, T., Zheng jun Wang, Browner - paper entitled 'Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers: using the social work research dialogue approach'.

Abstract: Although Ireland prides itself on being a friendly and welcoming nation, racism is noted as a persistent issue. This co-created study examines how students and teachers conceptualise racism and its impact. Exploring attitudes and encouraging dialogue amongst young people about the impact of racism and exclusion is fundamental to social work values. The aim of the research is to explore the topic of racism with teenagers in an Irish School, using the social work dialogue approach (Flanagan & Wilson 2018, Wilson & Flanagan, 2021). The student participants involved in the research: 1. Identified a meaningful topic, 2. Participated in experiential co-creation of a survey 3. Engaged in dialogue with their school community; 4. Disseminate findings. In terms of methodology, learning is maximised through experiential learning, an approach which has been used effectively with social work students (MacIntyre & Paul, 2013; Joubert et al. 2017). Twenty self-selected teenagers participated in four workshops exploring their conceptualisation of racism, building on this to design a questionnaire, to open a dialogue with the wider school community. Univariate analysis of the resulting data is undertaken in a further collaborative workshop and disseminated by the students. Preliminary findings relating to the Initial discussions with the students indicate a strong awareness of racism in relation to Black people's experiences. This was not matched by an awareness of racism against white minority groups, including Irish Traveller communities.

April 7th: **Social work profession in national and political contexts** **Dr. Jim Campbell, Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice**, Joanne Kelleher, Michelle Norris, Angela Palmer Paper entitled 'Social work with Irish Travellers.'

Abstract: This paper reports on the findings of a review of a social work service (Norris et al, 2020) that was established to deal with the housing and other needs of Irish Travellers. Irish Travellers are an indigenous population that, as with Gypsies and Roma in Europe, experience many forms of racism and social exclusion (Okely, 2014; Urh, 2014). The study

used a variety of data collection methods, including the use of government statistics, a call for organisational responses to the review, a survey of social workers and interviews with social workers, other relevant professionals and representatives of Traveller communities. A number of key findings emerged from the analysis of the data: Travellers were often distrustful of social workers in understanding their needs and social workers' capacity to deliver services; Social workers were often frustrated by organisational and political barriers that tended to marginalise their role, despite the fact that the profession is legally recognised and regulated by the state. A number of key recommendations were made to the Irish state, sponsors of the study: A more concerted effort should be made by employers to introduce anti-oppressive and anti-racist training for all staff; A recognition of the importance of a generic social work role that was better placed to meet the needs of Traveller communities; The establishment of a national social work framework for the sector to quality assure services and ensure good quality continuous professional development.

April 7th: [Covid-pandemic impact on the social work profession](#) **Dr. Joseph Mooney Asst. Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Declan Coogan, NUIIG, Caroline McGregor, NUIG and Olive Lyon, University of Toronto; Paper entitled 'And I say, "yes" because I want to help' – social workers reflections on practice in Ireland during COVID 19'.**

Abstract: This paper presents the findings of empirical research that gathered the practice insights of social workers who were working in statutory child protection services in Ireland during the Covid 19 global pandemic. **Methods:** The study was designed as a practice research project. Data were gathered on the experiences of ten frontline social workers in child protection and welfare services in different regions in Ireland via qualitative interviews and reflective diaries. A constructivist grounded theory approach was adopted; **Findings:** We collated and analysed the data develop a new conceptualisation of social work practice in Ireland during the pandemic, grounded in the experiences and perspectives of the research participants. A core concept of 'connection' was identified alongside its disparate variations; dis-connection, and re-connection.

Conclusions and implications: The core concept of (re)-connection identified in this study illustrates a heightened awareness among practitioners during the pandemic of core social work ethics and values. The findings of this study demonstrate person-centred practice in the establishment of varying communication styles and methods with families and children. Elements of compassion and empowerment were particularly evident in the context of social work in the area of foster care. The sense of 'team' was evident throughout and something which all participants seemed to value particularly during the pandemic, whether through experiences of its absence, or through its provision of resilience. We feel that this reconnection with our core social work values and ethics places the profession in good stead to face the next challenge.

Seminar: 'Is the pandemic a public policy accelerant?'

Date/Time: 8th April, 4pm.

Location: Room C001, Agnes Maguire Social Work Building, UCD Belfield Campus, Dublin 4

Further information: Please email Matthew.Donoghue@ucd.ie



On the 8th of April, 4pm, Dr Mary Murphy, Professor of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Maynooth University will present a paper entitled 'Is the Pandemic a Public Policy Accelerant?' as part of the Masters of Public Policy (MPP) seminar - organised by Dr Matthew Donoghue, Ad Astra fellow, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and held in Room C001, Agnes Maguire Social Work Building, UCD Belfield Campus, Dublin 4.

Abstract: Naomi Klein, consistent with Francis Castles, argues contemporary crises do not lead to large scale transformations in public policy. This talk develops themes in a special issue of Policy and Society which examines the evolution of our understanding of how the coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 pandemic impacted policy ideas and routines across a wide variety of sectors of government activity. It focuses on whether policy ideas and routines transformed as a result of the pandemic or whether they were merely a continuation of the status quo ante? It asks if they did transform, are the transformations temporary in nature or likely to lead to significant, deep and permanent reform to existing policy paths and trajectories? The literature on policy punctuations has evolved and helps us understand the impact of COVID-19 on policy-making but tends to conflate several distinct aspects of path trajectories and deviations under the general concept of "critical junctures" which muddy reflections and findings. Once the different possible types of punctuations have been clarified, however, the result is a set of concepts related to path creation and disruption—especially that of "path clearing"—which are better able to provide an explanation of the kinds of policy change to be expected to result from the impact of events such as the 2019 coronavirus pandemic. We reference this argument with examples from Irish public policy including income support, care and labour market policies

Women's History Association of Ireland (WHAI), 2022 annual Conference

Hosted by University of Limerick & Mary Immaculate College



Date/Time: Saturday 9th April

Speaker: Dr Mary McAuliffe, Asst. Prof. Gender Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

Panel: Panel 3: LGBTQI+ Rights and Activism with Chair: Susie Deegan (QUB)

Title: "Having no use at all for men" Same-sex relationships among Irish and Irish American women revolutionary and feminist activists'.

The annual conference of the Women's History Association of Ireland (WHAI), 2022 annual Conference will be a virtual event jointly hosted by the Dept. of History, University of Limerick and the Dept. of History, Mary Immaculate College. The broad theme for this year is 'Irish women's and gendered networks and the community from the medieval to the modern period'.

For further information and updates see: <http://womenshistoryassociation.com>

Webinar: The Participation-Protection Nexus:

Future Directions for the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda



Date/Time: 12th April, 1pm

Register for zoom: [here](#)

[Dr Catherine Turner](#), Associate Professor of International Law and Deputy Director of the Durham Global Security Institute & [Dr Aisling Swaine](#), Professor of Gender Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice will be co-presenters at the upcoming webinar on April 12th at 1pm. The webinar which is entitled 'The Participation-Protection Nexus: Future Directions for the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda' will be chaired by [Dr Krisna Ruelle-Orihuela](#), Asst. Prof. in Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice.

Abstract: The UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has dominated global approaches to advancing women's rights in peace and security. Over time the agenda has become characterised by a binary approach that treats women either as agentic leaders participating in public life, or as passive victims in need of protection from sexual violence. Absent from this approach has been conceptual and practical consideration of the connections between the participation and protection 'pillars' of the agenda. In this seminar, the ways that participation, protection, and their inter-relationship have evolved through the WPS resolutions will be explored. Research on protection concerns arising for women in leadership roles in Northern Ireland will be used to illustrate the significance of the connections between the two pillars. The synergies, gaps and productive tensions that must be anticipated as attention at the UN turns to the protection concerns of those in leadership in conflict-affected contexts will be discussed.

This webinar has been organised by Prof. Aisling Swaine. For more information please email Aisling.Swaine@ucd.ie

Book Launch: Legacies of the Magdalen Laundries



Date: April 12, 2022,

Location: NUIG

Miriam Haughton, Mary McAuliffe, Emilie Pine (eds) (2021) *Legacies of the Magdalen Laundries: Commemoration, Gender, and the Postcolonial Carceral State*, Manchester University Press.

More information [here](#)

Description: This collection raises incisive questions about the links between the postcolonial carceral system, which thrived in Ireland after 1922, and larger questions of gender, sexuality, identity, class, race and religion. This kind of intersectional history is vital not only in looking back but, in looking forward, to identify the ways in which structural callousness still marks Irish society. Essays include historical analysis of the ways in which women and children were incarcerated in residential institutions, Ireland's Direct Provision system, the policing of female bodily autonomy through legislation on prostitution and abortion, in addition to the legacies of the Magdalen laundries. This collection also considers how artistic practice and commemoration have acted as vital interventions in social attitudes and public knowledge, helping to create knowledge and re-shape social attitudes towards this history

Editors: Miriam Haughton is Director of Postgraduate Studies in Drama, Theatre and Performance at NUI Galway; Mary McAuliffe is Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at University College Dublin; Emilie Pine is Professor of Modern Drama at University College Dublin

For more information please email Mary.McAuliffe@ucd.ie

Webinar: Long Term Care: A Social Investment



Date: 25th April, 5.30pm

Location: Old Physics Theatre, MoLi – Museum of Literature Ireland. UCD Naughton Joy Centre, 86 St Stephen's Green, D2

Speaker: Prof. Petra Ulmanen, University of Stockholm (Sweden).

Summary: This second ScandIRE Nordic Talk explores how elderly care is perceived as an investment in society to achieve a fairer share of care work. Prof. Petra Ulmanen (University of Stockholm) explains that generous long term care services are an essential social investment in the Nordic countries. On the panel she is joined by Dr. Nat O'Connor (Age Action) and Prof. Karen Anderson (UCD). The panel will discuss how accessible long-term care prevents poverty among the elderly, increases female labour force participation and reduces inequality, while it remains a major challenge to provide decent work for carers.

The panel will discuss with the audience which steps are required to make the Irish long term care provision more universal and a home for elderly people.

The talk is followed by a reception which will serve Danish pastries and tea/coffee.

To register please go to the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/long-term-care-a-social-investment-tickets-244476003307?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

Webinar: Sustainable Wellbeing

Date: 26th May 26, 10-11am

Register for zoom: To follow

[Dr Nessa Winston](#), UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice & UCD Earth Institute will host a webinar on sustainable wellbeing. This webinar is part of the [Sustainable Wellbeing: Humans, Environment, and Liveability \(SWHEL\) series of events](#). SWHEL is a strategic Priority of the UCD Earth Institute for 2021-2023.

Speakers: [Dr Milena Buchs](#), Associate Professor in Sustainability, Economics and Low Carbon Transitions, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, UK & [Dr Karen Anderson](#), Associate Professor of Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. Dr Buchs' paper is entitled 'Just climate policies and sustainable welfare' while Dr Anderson's paper is entitled 'Sustainability and pensions'.

For more information, please email Nessa.Winston@ucd.ie

Latest Media reports: newspapers/radio/TV

Irish Examiner:

Karen Smith: Ireland has an obligation to protect those fleeing war or persecution



Outputs

The Irish Examiner - Tuesday, 29 MAR, 2022 – included an article written by [Dr Karen Smith](#), Asst. Prof. in Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, addressing abusive treatment reported in this paper at the weekend experienced by a Ukrainian woman and her daughter at the hands of the family in whose home they were staying. According to Dr Smith this highlighted the dangers of informal hosting arrangements. The article argues that this also underlines the importance of a rights-based approach to accommodating and supporting refugee persons. The mother in this case has shared her experience of being exploited as an unpaid cleaner and threatened with deportation as a warning to others and her call to obtain accommodation only through official channels is worth emphasising. This paper had already reported concerns about trafficking and criminal exploitation of those fleeing Ukraine. At the same time, Dr Smith argued that it is important to be conscious that even with the most careful registration and vetting procedures in place, the unequal power dynamics involved in hosting in private homes mean that risks of exploitative or other inappropriate behaviour, are unlikely to be entirely eradicated and that further safeguards are required.

According to the article:

‘Various research projects I and my colleagues in UCD have conducted in recent years on refugee resettlement, family reunification, and community sponsorship highlight the challenges in the post-arrival period and the risk that even the most well-intentioned people providing support — whether in institutional or community settings — can be paternalistic or controlling in their interactions with persons in need of protection.

There can be a sense that those receiving support should be ‘grateful’ for whatever is provided, regardless of whether it meets their needs or not. The importance of a rights-based approach to the provision of accommodation and supports for persons in need of international protection therefore cannot be over-emphasised.

It is essential that those arriving from Ukraine — and all those coming to Ireland seeking protection — are fully informed of their rights and that there are effective, transparent, and user-friendly mechanisms in place for monitoring provision, making complaints and resolving disputes.’

[Read the full article here](#)

For more information please email Karen.Smith@ucd.ie

Opinion piece in the Irish Independent by Ruth Breslin, Lead
Researcher for SERP – 03/03/2022

A critical look at the links between pornography and violence against women

We must address disturbing truth about children watching violent pornography

Ruth Breslin



March 03 2022 02:30 AM

In the wake of Ashling Murphy's murder, tens of thousands of us attended moving vigils to honour her individual memory, but also to demonstrate our collective trauma. Violence against women is surely one of the truest expressions of misogyny allowing some men to see us as of lesser value – to objectify us, to try to control us, to hurt us if we do not bend to their will.

A pattern quickly emerges as we examine the circumstances of missing and murdered women in Ireland. In cases both solved and unsolved. Lives are stolen by violent men creating a palpable sense of fear amongst all women and girls, who wonder – am I next?

Getting to the root causes of violence against women and girls requires us to ask some difficult questions. What drives some men and boys to commit acts of physically, sexually and psychologically harm? What is fuelling the misogyny that leads to such violence and degradation? Recent research from the University of Edinburgh demonstrates that men's dehumanisation of women – a 'denial of women's human uniqueness' – predicts their own sexual aggression. In real terms this means that a failure to view women as 'fully human' is a driving factor to commit sexual offences. Perhaps it is easier to harm or even murder someone when you cannot recognise their humanity? Startlingly, the study recommends that to prevent male violence we need to emphasise that women are people too.

So where does this dehumanising begin? From our own research at the Sexual Exploitation Research Programme (SERP) at UCD, we know that in no other place or on no other platform, are women more dehumanised or objectified than in the sex trade – in prostitution and pornography. Right now, women without a home are being moved like luggage across Ireland to satisfy the demands of male sex buyers, who select them online based on photos of their naked bodies, and promptly return to the same website afterwards to review them. Each woman is rated out of five stars for her 'appearance' and the 'satisfaction' and 'value for money' she provided. Most men don't buy sex, but the fact that some do seeps out into the rest of our culture.

This is precisely the same message further reinforced for us by prostitution's sex trade counterpart – pornography. In Ireland just now, a single livestream porn website ranks as the 8th most popular site in the country – visited more often than Instagram, Netflix and Amazon.

To be clear this is not the porn some of us may remember from 'our youth', much of which is now standard fare for many music videos. This is violent and degrading with women regularly spat on, slapped and choked during sex, often whilst being told they are a 'bitch' or a 'slut'. Almost 90% of scenes contain at least one act of aggression, to which the women being filmed are expected to

respond neutrally or with pleasure. Over half of boys (53%) in Ireland see this porn for the first time between the ages of 10 and 13, as do 23% of girls. Researchers from the University of Durham found that one in eight porn titles shown to first-time viewers, including children, constitute sexual violence. Titles contain the term 'teen' and depicting rape and incest are particularly common – 'Again and again forced' and 'Daddy keeps f*cking daughter till she likes it' are just two amongst mostly unprintable examples.

Calls to simply teach children 'porn literacy' are risible – how can we realistically expect a twelve-year-old boy with no sexual experience to understand that in porn when a girl says 'no' she means 'yes', but in real life she actually does mean 'no'?

The sex trade's tentacles reach wide and deep into our lives and fan the flames of misogyny. Rather than stir up a moral panic, we need to calmly confront the harms it causes. A conversation about the role porn played in the life of the boy who sexually assaulted and murdered Ana Kriégel quickly petered out after her death. As we prepare to scrutinise this Government's new strategy to tackle domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, perhaps we can pick up the threads of this conversation once again.

Ruth Breslin is a lead researcher with the Sexual Exploitation Research Programme (SERP) at University College Dublin

Link to article [here](#)

Research Impact

Initial submission on the reception and integration of Ukrainian children and young people arriving in Ireland



CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS
ALLIANCE



In the context of the unlawful invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the expectation that tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees will arrive in Ireland over the coming months, on March 22nd the Children's Rights Alliance published an [Initial submission on the reception and integration of Ukrainian children and young people arriving in Ireland](#). The submission highlights key issues impacting Ukrainian children. Drawing on human rights instruments and existing research, the

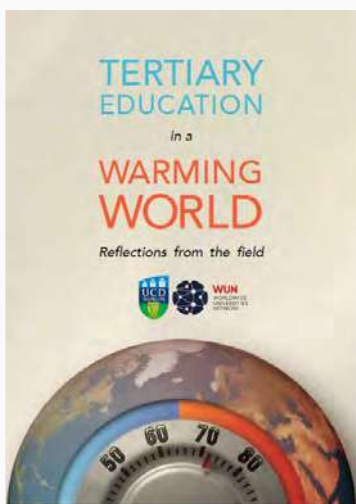
submission makes recommendations to government regarding education, child protection, accommodation, wellbeing supports, community integration and language and culture. Throughout the submission, the 2019 research report by Dr. Muireann Ní Raghallaigh (Assoc. Prof. in Social Work, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) , Dr. Karen, Smith (Asst. Prof. in Equality Studies, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice) and Jennifer Scholtz , on the needs of refugee children arriving in Ireland through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme is extensively referenced. This demonstrates the relevance, value, and impact of this research in the public sphere and an indication of how it is making a real impact on communities. The 2019 research was funded by the Children's Rights Alliance.

Reference: Ní Raghallaigh M, Smith K, Scholtz J (2019) *Safe Haven - The Needs of Refugee Children Arriving in Ireland through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme: An Exploratory Study* available [here](#).

SERP warns Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney of Ireland's 'active Irish sex trade' and concerns regarding the sexual exploitation of Ukrainian refugees

This article 22/03/22 which was published in the Irish Examiner can be found [here](#)

Latest outputs: Publications, Reports, Podcasts, Blogs



Report: Kelly, Orla., Illingworth, S., Butera, F., Steinberger, J., Blaise, M., Dawson, V., Huynen, M., Martens, P., Bailey, S., Savage, G., White, P., Schuitema, G., Cowman, S. (2022) *Tertiary Education in a Warming World, Reflections from the Field*. Dublin: University College Dublin Press. Report can be downloaded [here](#)

This report has been produced as part of the [Education in a Warming World Research Consortium](#), supported by Worldwide Universities Network. The consortium, which is led by [Dr Orla Kelly](#), Assistant Professor in Social Policy, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, comprises university academics with a broad range of expertise in education, sociology, climate change, science communication, health,

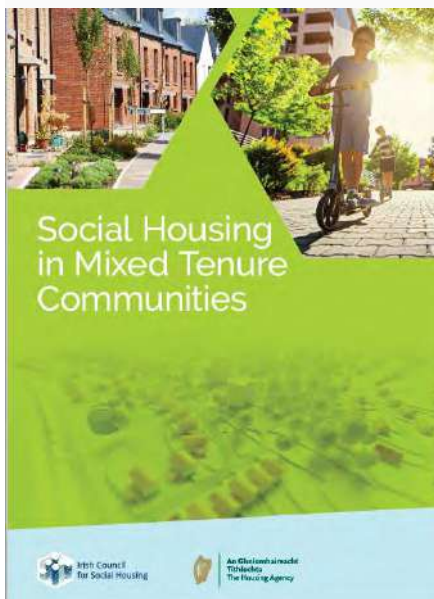
sustainability, and human behaviour. The group has interest and experience in promoting sustainability and climate change education portfolios at the tertiary level. The consortium aims to contribute to the growing field of transdisciplinary work dedicated to understanding the evolving role of education in this era of rapid climatic change and overlapping socio-ecological crises.

The report, launched on March 23rd, is a compilation of research, practical examples, and reflections from the experience of the authors of advancing proenvironmental agendas at Institutes of Higher

Education (IHEs). It is intended to be a resource to other academics and policymakers who are also grappling with promoting a robust climate change and sustainability agenda within IHEs. For this report, IHEs are defined as universities and colleges engaged in teaching, research, and public service.

It is concluded that the environmental crisis, now escalating to an emergency level, is having a profound impact on many communities and poses severe challenges to all societies. In recognition of this, many IHEs are focusing on sustainability through their research, teaching and their institutional actions. However, institutional and policy barriers and external challenges mean that the response of IHEs to the crisis is not proportionate to its urgency. Despite challenges, IHEs are well-placed to help drive the changes needed to avoid the worst-case environmental scenarios, through research, teaching, knowledge-sharing and public engagement.

This report presents reflections and examples of university action on the environmental crisis across five domains of IHE operations. Some of these reflections seek to change our approach to education about the natural world and move towards transformative pedagogies: a paradigm shift in higher education. The authors also highlight the transformative potential of professional development partnerships, academic public engagement, and systems-wide campus greening initiatives.



Report: Michelle Norris, Aideen Hayden, Elli McMahon and Angela Palmer (2022) Geary Institute for Public Policy and School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin.

Over the past twenty years, the percentage of Approved Housing Body (AHB) owned or managed social housing located in mixed tenure estates has increased from 20% to 80%. This reflects state policy objectives and measures such as Part V. This report identifies overwhelming support for tenure mixing and indicates that strong and integrated communities have grown in estates with both private and social housing residents. Importantly, this research also explores additional factors (such as estate design, procurement and funding models) influencing the delivery and location of social housing in mixed tenure estates, as well as social housing's impact on

market housing delivery in mixed tenure estates. The analysis presented in the report has important implications for current and future public housing policy, planning and design.

This research – **commissioned by the Housing Agency and the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) and carried out by Professor Michelle Norris, Dr. Aideen Hayden, Dr Angela Palmer and Eleanor McMahon of UCD** – aims to bridge the information gaps on the extent to which social housing provided by AHBs in Ireland is provided in mixed tenure developments and how mixed tenure housing is delivered and managed. The report considers different models of mixed tenure provision as well as case study analysis including the perspectives of AHBs, tenants, local authority staff, developers, residents, policy makers and elected representatives. The report aims to provide

information for policymakers and AHBs, which will contribute to high quality social housing provision in mixed tenure settings.

The Report was launched by the ICSH and The Housing Agency (via Zoom) on Thursday 31st March. [You can view a video recording of the launch here](#). Download the [full report](#) and [executive summary](#) below.



Podcast : #HowIDidIt: the Business Post's Women in Leadership podcast with Nadine O'Regan

This podcast featuring on leadership features Trinity College Dublin Provost [Dr Linda Doyle](#) and [Dr Mary McAuliffe](#), Director of the Gender Studies Programme, UCD. Listen [here](#)



Book chapter: Krisna Ruetten-Orihuela. 2022. Bodily Anti-Racism: What bodies can "do" to contest racism in public spaces. In *Against Racism. Organizing for Social Change in Latin America*. Edited by M. Moreno and P. Wade, 73-99. University of Pittsburgh Press.

For more information see [here](#)

Summary: Powerful narratives often describe Latin American nations as fundamentally mestizo. These narratives have hampered the acknowledgment of racism in the region, but recent multiculturalist reforms have increased recognition of Black and Indigenous identities and cultures. Multiculturalism may focus on identity and visibility and

address more casual and social forms of racism but can also distract attention from structural racism and racialized inequality, and constrain larger antiracist initiatives. Additionally, multiple understandings of how racism and antiracism fit into projects of social transformation make racism a complex and multifaceted issue. The essays in *Against Racism* examine actors in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico that move beyond recognition politics to address structural inequalities and material conflicts and build common ground with other marginalized groups. The organizations in this study advocate an approach to deep social structural transformation that is inclusive, fosters alliances, and is inspired by a radical imagination.

News from the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (UCD-JaSt)



Welcoming Assoc. Prof. Iwao Osaka as Visiting Professor at the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies & UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy (April 2022 – March 2023)



Prof. Osaka is Associate Professor in Japanese politics at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Komazawa University, Tokyo and the Director of the Komazawa University Institute for Journalism and Policy Studies.

He specialises in political communication. His research is concerned with how political parties and elected officials communicated with the general public in the post-World War II era after Japan became a democratic country with a parliamentary cabinet system enshrined in its new constitution. He published a book on the changing nature of political communication in Japan from the 1950s to the 2000s, entitled *Japanese Politics and the Media* (日本政治とメディア). The book was published by prestigious Chūō Kōron, Tokyo, 2014, and deals with the era of television penetration in Japan. Political communication shifted from being dominated by organisations, such as political parties, agricultural associations or trade unions, to mass media, to television playing a much greater role.

His research in UCD will be focused on examining how Japanese politics, journalism, and communications are changing in the era of digital transformations and globalisation in the 21st century. He has already written several articles about the topics and is planning to conduct further research into the specificity and universality of the Japanese experience in the context of

international comparisons. While undertaking the research as a visiting scholar at the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (housed in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice), University College Dublin, he will also be based at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, which is a vibrant hub attracting social scientists and interdisciplinary researchers in Ireland.

His research and teaching activities in the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies, the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Science and the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy will contribute to achieving the goals of the UCD Strategy 2020-24, particularly in the domain of digital technology and globalisation.

In addition, Prof. Osaka has a personal connection to the university through his late father, Emeritus Prof. in Irish Literature at Kyushu University, Osamu Osaka. He conducted research at UCD back in the late 1970s, and his whole family including Prof. Iwao Osaka stayed in Dublin then as a child.



Courtesy of Family Osaka.

Another family link with Ireland was made, when an international symposium was held at the University of Tokyo in 2014, as part of Assoc. Prof. Kodate's project: "Ireland-Japan Social Science Symposia: Sharing knowledge, shaping the future of the welfare society in Europe and Japan" (funded by the Japan Foundation). Prof. Osaka's son was a postgraduate student there, and helped out with the event.

<https://www.ucd.ie/japan/newsevents/japanfoundation-sponsoredireland-japansocialsciencesymposiaucdandtheuniversityoftokyo/>

Prof. Osaka wrote: 'the very innovative and interdisciplinary UCD Centre for Japanese Studies was established in April 2020 in order to meet the demands recognised by the Irish Government's strategy "Global Ireland: Delivering in the Asia Pacific region to 2025". It emphasises the need to expand its communications with Asia in the context of the current global geopolitical transformation. I would very much like the opportunity to become part of the UCD social science community, and by being accepted as a member of this brand new centre for Japanese Studies, I

hope to serve as one of the bridges between the two countries, and your university and my research community in Japan.'

Furthermore, in March, the UCD-JaSt also welcomed the Director of the Chief Engineer Office at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Mr Yusuke Suzuki, as our Visiting Senior Research Fellow for one year.



(Photo: courtesy of JAXA)

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

This month's Featured Researcher

Dr. Maria Pierce

Assistant Professor (Social Policy) (since Jan. 2022)



How did you come to select ageing and older people as your chosen area of research?

I developed an interest in the area of ageing as an undergraduate student studying social policy at UCD in the 1990s. At that time, discussions and debates about ageing and older people were often overly focused on ageing as a 'social problem'. Both of my grandmothers played a significant part in my life and the considerable positive contributions that they and other older people make in everyday life were largely overlooked. In policy and media, reports of population ageing were often alarmist depicting older people as a dependent group placing strains on the welfare system and creating excessive tax and care burdens for younger people. The 1968 Care of the Aged Report is frequently heralded as 'ground-breaking' as it represents a shift in Irish policy, at least in principle, away from institutional care to community care for older people. However, on closer reading, I noted that it too presented the view that older people represent a social problem. I began to question the dominant view of ageing and older people and started to read more widely beginning with works by Carroll Estes and Jaber Gubrium in the US and Alan Walker in the UK to learn about other perspectives. I became interested in how ageing and older people came to be defined as a 'social problem'. I completed a PhD in the Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre in Trinity College Dublin in 2010 on 'Social Policy and Ageing-related Care in Ireland: An Exploration from a Social Constructionist Perspective'.

Shortly after completing my PhD, I worked with Professor Eamon O'Shea, National University of Ireland, Galway and Professor Suzanne Cahill, Trinity College Dublin, on a study which culminated in 'Creating Excellence in Dementia Care: A Research Review for Ireland's National Dementia Strategy', which was influential in setting the agenda for and content of Ireland's National Dementia Strategy (2014). This sparked my interest in dementia, which is an age-related condition but not restricted to older people. Much of my research in the past ten years has been in the area of dementia.

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

If I had to choose one research paradigm, I would align my work in relation to an interpretivist research paradigm. I am strongly committed to including the 'voices' of and understanding the complex experiences of people who are affected by social policies and are end users of social

services, which lends itself really well to qualitative research methodologies. At the same time, I strongly recognise the value of quantitative data and quantitative research methods and believe that collected together qualitative and quantitative data can usually inform each other. Accordingly, in recent years, my research has tended to adopt mixed methods.

Theory plays a central role in my work. My research tends to be theoretically informed. I draw on a wide range of theoretical perspectives, models and frameworks in my research. I like to and encourage others to move away from thinking about 'theories' as products that can be taken off the shelf, to thinking about 'theorising' as a process.

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

I am a member of the Dementia Research Network Ireland (DRNI) (<http://dementianetwork.ie/home>), which recently held a *Policy and Practice Forum on Gender and Dementia Care: Aspects of Family Caring* in collaboration with the National Dementia Office. The aim of the forum was to raise awareness of inequity facing female family carers as well as the lack of visibility, research and support for male family carers and family carers from the LGBTQI+ community. The DRNI invited me to write up the proceedings of the forum. This involved summarising the opening address and presentations made by the different speakers at the forum, including an interview with a family carer of a person with dementia from the LGBT community. Key to writing the proceedings was accurately representing the key points made by speakers. Writing was an iterative process, as presenters and key bodies provided feedback on draft proceedings. A very interesting part of the process was identifying, summarising and discussing key themes that cut across the presentations and drawing out the key messages for policymakers, practitioners and researchers. Another positive aspect was getting to meet and know more researchers and other actors in the field. Reports of proceedings such as this are a useful way of communicating key issues to policymakers, which might otherwise be missed. For those of you who may be interested, the report is available at this link: <http://dementianetwork.ie/gender-and-dementia-care-aspects-family-caring>

What are the key messages from your most recent publication?

A key message is that gender and sexuality matter in dementia care and there is a need to move towards gender- and sexuality-sensitive policies and services in order to promote equality between male and female family carers and for family carers from the LGBTQI+ community. Other factors influencing a person's identity such as age, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status also matter. It is no longer sufficient to develop policies and services that promote greater support for a homogenous grouping of family carers.

A proactive approach needs to be taken by all service planners and providers to achieving equality and tailoring services to meet the particular needs of diverse family carers within services.

While attention has been paid in Ireland to tailoring services to the individual needs of people with dementia and their family carers generally, limited attention has been paid to the perspective of LGBTQI+ people. More data and evidence are needed on LGBTQI+ people and their experiences as family carers of people with dementia.

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

What I find most interesting about research in the areas of ageing and dementia is the multidisciplinary nature of the research. I get to draw from a range of disciplinary fields and to

collaborate with researchers from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds including social work, economics, psychology, nursing, medicine, architecture, statistics, occupational therapy etc and get to understand dementia from multiple perspectives. There is a growing emphasis on public and patient involvement in research in the area of dementia and it is encouraging to see people with dementia and their family carers having a say in research and influencing the development of policy and services that directly affect them. It is most interesting to work on real world issues and to see how research evidence can inform the policy making process as well as policy implementation.

What is next for you? What projects are you working on now?

I am about to commence a study funded by the HSE through Family Carers Ireland on the Living Well with Dementia Service in South Tipperary. The aim of this newly funded study is to provide evidence to help inform future development and sustainability of this innovative community-based service for people with dementia and to incorporate the views and perspectives of people themselves as well as their family carers.

I am currently in the process of identifying suitable grant funding to support a research project that I am developing in the area of social policy and dementia. The project is partly informed by my experience of helping to support and provide care to my mother who has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

To contact Maria please email Maria.Pierce@ucd.ie; See UCD profile for Dr Maria Pierce [here](#)

