



SPIRe Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2023



We started the year by welcoming our new Full Professor in Sustainable Development, Supriya Garikipati. Her arrival further strengthens our development studies research and will bring new energy to the UCD Centre for Sustainable Development. This was immediately followed by a great launch event of the UCD Centre for Peace and Conflict Research. More recently, we saw the arrival of Ad Astra Fellow Caitriona Dowd to our team, who also works in the area of conflict and development studies.



John Coakley awarded Karl Deutsch Award

Emeritus Professor John Coakley has been awarded the 2023 Karl Deutsch Award by the International Political Science Association (IPSA). John was a long standing member and one-time acting Head of SPIRe, well known for

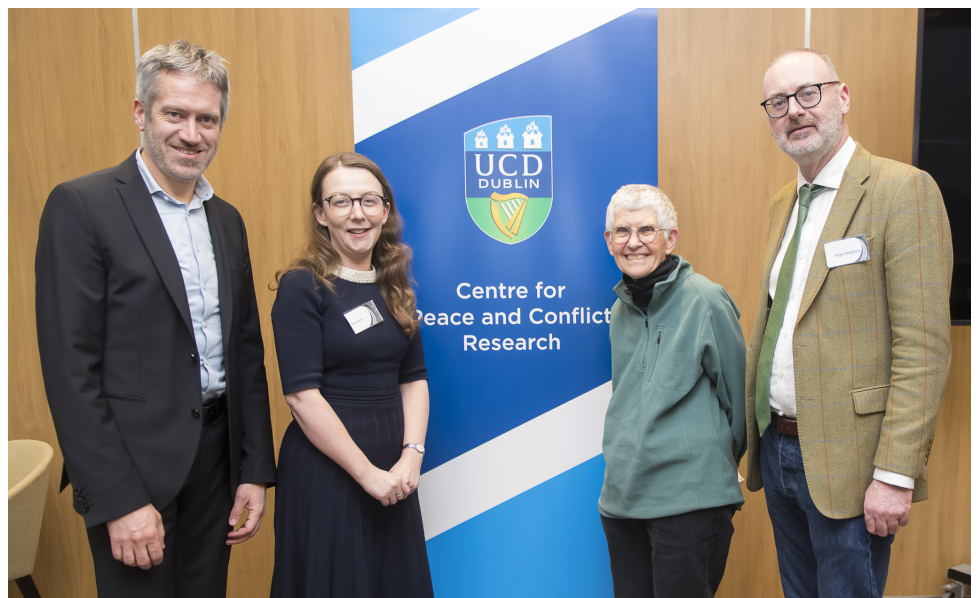
his work on nationalism, divided societies, and politics in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The purpose of the Karl Deutsch Award is to honour a prominent scholar engaged in the cross-disciplinary research of which Karl Deutsch was a master, focusing on recognizing outstanding scholarship in global politics.

John is a fellow of the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy and an Honorary Professor at Queen's University Belfast. He is also a former Secretary-General of the IPSA (1994-2000), Vice-President of the International Social Science Council (2002-2006), and member of the European Science Foundation Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (2002-2008). He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar. He was founding Director of the UCD

Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS) in 1999.

Launch of CPRC

After taking over as Director, Dawn Walsh set in motion a process to rebrand and reorient the aforementioned IBIS, establishing the new UCD Centre for Peace and Conflict Research. This centre builds on the expertise in IBIS on the Northern Ireland conflict and associated comparative research, broadening it out for a wider agenda on peace and conflict research. This allows the centre to engage with a larger community of scholars in SPIRe, across various schools in UCD, and outside of UCD. With new staff members such as Lucia Tiscornia and Caitriona Dowd, and large research projects such as those by Dawn Walsh herself, Stephanie Dornschneider-Elkink, and, in an adjacent school,



Aisling Swayne, UCD is building enormous research capacity in the field of peace and conflict, and the rebranding of the centre is excellently timed to take a lead on this development.

A launch event in February saw many colleagues present their work, as well as excellent invited talks by Cynthia Enloe of Clark University - famous for her work in feminist international relations theory - and Roger MacGinty of University of Durham - a renowned scholar in peace studies.

For more details on the Centre's activities see: www.ucd.ie/cpcr

Supriya Garikipati

We are delighted to welcome Supriya Garikipati to our team as a Full Professor in Sustainable Development. Her appointment was made possible through the Senior Academic Leadership Initiative by the Higher Education Authority, along with the co-sponsoring of additional posts by UCD in line with the scheme.



Supriya brings with her an impressive academic background, having earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge. She has spent a significant portion of her career at the University of Liverpool, where she has contributed to advancing teaching and research in development studies. Her research focuses on assessing the impact of public policy interventions on income and health-related outcomes, with particular emphasis on gender and poverty. She is also interested in

exploring the effects of patriarchy and social networks on women's agency. With over 15 years of research experience, Supriya is a firm believer in using mixed methods, including experimental techniques in her work. Her research has received funding from UKRI, KRCC, ESRC, British Academy, Newton Trust, and DFID, among others and has been published in some of the top journals in the field. Supriya is actively engaged in knowledge exchange and her award-winning policy impact work has been recognised as 'world-leading' by the UK's research excellence framework.

Supriya will be taking over the directorship of the UCD Centre for Sustainable Development Studies from September 2023. This is a significant appointment for SPIRe as we look to grow our global profile in development studies.

Caitriona Dowd

UCD's Ad Astra Fellows scheme aims to recruit top talent into the university, by providing a particularly appealing startup package for relatively early stage colleagues. This June we were joined by a new colleague under this scheme, Caitriona Dowd.

Caitriona's research employs a combination of quantitative, geographic and qualitative methodologies, and focuses on the dynamics of political violence in sub-Saharan Africa, with particular attention to the role of conflict in humanitarian crises and food insecurity and civilian targeting.



Caitriona currently co-leads an Irish Research Council-funded project on the gendered dimensions of food insecurity and hunger in peacebuilding, together with collaborators at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa.

In her previous role as a peace and conflict specialist in the humanitarian sector, Caitriona worked in Somalia, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Mali, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan.

Young Academy Ireland

The Royal Irish Academy recently established the Young Academy Ireland, a network of scholars in the early stages of their career who have been selected for the excellence of their research impact and commitment to public service. While SPIRe already has a number of staff members who are members of the Royal Irish Academy, we are now also very well represented in this new network, with both Joseph Lacey and Stefan Müller among the first 40 members.

New Centre for Democracy Research

Under the directorship of Joseph Lacey, SPIRe welcomes a new Centre in the School, the UCD Centre for Democracy Research. The Centre brings together colleagues from Schools across the Social Sciences. It will explore themes relating to democratic theory, political communication, electoral institutions, democratic innovations, and democracy and the rule of law. The Centre will form an interdisciplinary hub for networking and collaboration in developing research projects, teaching offerings and public engagement. It will aim to engage academics, researchers, current students and alumni, as well as media and other external

stakeholders in its events and outreach activities. Anyone who would like to be involved with the Centre or receive notifications of events should contact joseph.lacey1@ucd.ie.

Subnational regime control

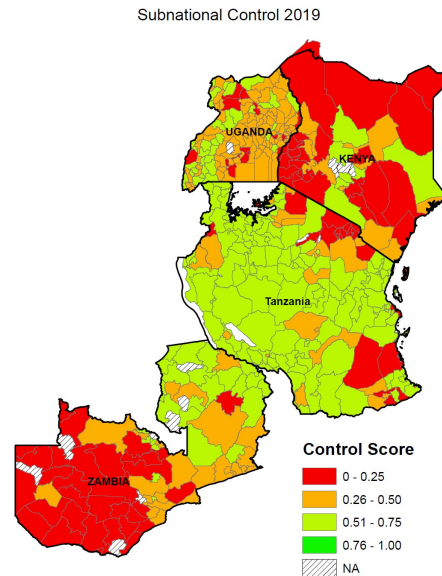
PhD researchers are a core part of our school. In each newsletter, we aim to promote some of our PhD's research. In this newsletter, we focus on Redmond Scales. The aim of autocratic leaders is to remain in power for as long as possible. Studies have pointed to the effect of foreign aid flows on autocratic survival, with several concluding that aid does little



to help with democratisation. However, autocratic survival has been generally looked at from a national perspective, often ignoring the effects of subnational units of the state. To that end, Redmond's dissertation asks: How can we conceptualise regime control from a subnational perspective? And what effect does aid have on subnational regime control? Redmond's analysis focuses on four sub-Saharan African states; Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. He conceptualises and creates a spatial measure of subnational regime control subnational by aggregating states' subnational institutional capacity, infrastructural capacity and legitimacy.

With the use of regression analyses and fieldwork, the findings suggest that aid does little to increase subnational regime control, but this

varies from state to state. This points to the diverse characteristics of each state and how aid is managed at a subnational level.



This work contributes to our understanding of the state and autocratic behaviour by three means: 1) It allows us to understand the vast variations in subnational politics within autocratic states.; 2) it provides a more fine-grained analysis of how aid is managed and its effects at a subnational level; 3) it provides a more localised insight into how aid flows can sustain autocratic rule.

Showcasing student research

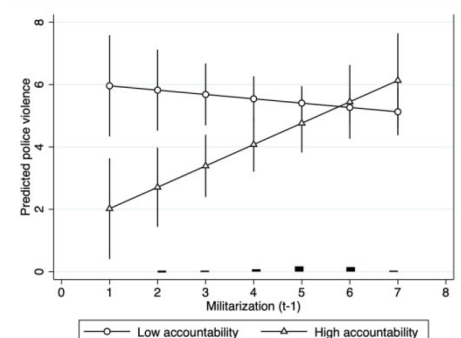
As part of the MSc in Politics and Data Science program, students collaborate on research projects in small groups. Faculty members within the school present their research ideas, and the students choose the project they want to work on. Throughout the Spring semester, they work together under the guidance of a SPIRe colleague on their selected project. This year, projects have covered various topics such as Islamic jihad, Chinese politics experts, political scandals in the news, and international alliances. These projects contribute to addressing gaps in the existing literature, and several projects have resulted in academic working papers or publications. For instance, a research project from our first cohort titled "Reactions to experts in deliberative democracy: the

2016–2018 Irish Citizens' Assembly" authored by Stefan Müller, Garrett Kennedy, and Tomás Maher was recently published in *Irish Political Studies*.

Two papers will be presented at the esteemed Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Los Angeles in September 2023. One paper is based on the previous year's cohort, authored by Luke Norton and Sofia Quaglia, as well as their supervisor Stephanie Dornschneider-Elkink. The paper analyses sentiment and emotions expressed by politicians and militant groups. The other is a paper on the flow of ideas in the network of Chinese politics experts written by Artur Baranov, Meadhbh Costello, Rachel Deák, and Daniel Kelly, under the supervision of Jos Dornschneider-Elkink and with international collaborators Franziska B. Keller (University of Bern) and Hans H. Tung (Taiwan National University). These publications and presentations highlight the outstanding achievements of our graduate students on an international stage.

Police reform and armed conflict

Every issue of the newsletter, we highlight a piece of published research by one of the SPIRe colleagues. This time we look at Lucia Tiscornia's "Police reform in the aftermath of armed conflict: How militarization and accountability affect police violence", published in the *Journal of Peace Research*.



In post-conflict transitions, commonly police reforms are implemented to address concerns around human rights violations. This paper looks at the conditions under which such

reforms are effective in reducing police violence, studying a panel of 55 post-conflict countries. The article shows that police reforms may not have uniform effects on expected violence. Countries that implement reforms to make police more militarised also make it more violent. Even in cases of low militarization, lack of accountability leads to higher police violence. At high levels of militarization, high accountability does not lead to low police violence. Higher costs of violence do not counterbalance deeply ingrained beliefs justifying the use of force.

The analysis suggests that to change countries' trajectories of violence, the direction and overall institutional architecture resulting from reforms to the state repressive apparatus matters.

Talk 4 Peace

Together with Maria-Adriana Deiana of Queen's University, Heidi Riley is principal investigator on the project Talk4Peace, funded by the Higher Education Authority of Ireland under the North South Research Programme, which explores transformative mediation as a mechanism for inclusive peacebuilding.

The project is intended to challenge orthodox interpretations of peace mediation and broaden our understanding of dialogical approaches in peacemaking and peacebuilding. Drawing on interviews and focus groups with mediation practitioners internationally and on the island of Ireland, the project examines barriers to inclusion faced by women and minority groups within the current peace mediation 'system'. The project also maps how transformative mediation is understood and implemented from a practice perspective using a participatory visualisation methodology. By engaging with diverse approaches to transformative mediation, including those that use arts methodologies, the project re-examines 'inclusivity' in peace mediation in a manner that goes beyond the inclusion of individuals, but also recognises alternative



methodologies and approaches that facilitate broader participation. In addition to academic and policy output the project also runs a blog and podcast series that can be accessed via: www.Talk4Peace.com

UCD Politics and International Relations Society

The UCD Politics and International Relations Society is a society of, primarily, undergraduate students who have an interest in the subject - and who typically study this subject as part of their undergraduate degree. Here we report on their latest events.

Podcast with RTÉ

On March 1st, the society teamed up with RTÉ News to bring you their political podcast 'Your Politics' live from the UCD Cinema. Special guests included prominent Irish political figures, Áine Lawlor, Richard Boyd Barrett and Neale Richmond, who all commented on recent developments

within Irish politics. Questions were opened up to the floor, with a large emphasis on student accommodation, emigration and housing. The society was thrilled to offer this opportunity to their members to join them in the audience to experience the event first-hand while it was broadcasted live to the RTÉ website. After months of preparation for this event, it was amazing to see all of the hard work pay off!

Netherlands Trip

From March 11th-14th, the society undertook an educational trip overseas to the Netherlands! The trip lasted four days with 24 students getting the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the many international institutions based in the Netherlands and drew attention to their deep political history and culture. These society trips also provided a great opportunity for students to make new friends and understand the importance of cultural differences in global politics. Highlights of the trip included visits to The Hague, the International Criminal Court, the Anne Frank House, and numerous museums.

Mock Dáil

The society ran their annual Mock Dáil event on April 3rd. The Mock Dáil is an opportunity for the UCD youth wings of Irish political parties to participate in debates with each other. All seven youth wings of the Irish political parties were in attendance, in addition to one elected representative



from each political party to support them in a Dáil-style debate and ensure the students debated in line with their party's policies.

David Farrell assumed the role of Ceann Comhairle, and introduced the motions on the Good Friday Agreement, federalisation and housing before facilitating the debate. Audience members participated as Independent TDs.



Far-right violence

For undergraduate students who obtain a certain minimum grade point average, we offer an *Advanced Seminar in Politics*, where students write a thesis under individual supervision. In her thesis, Ciara de Buítléir theorised that the election of far-right populist leaders to government is an exacerbating factor to far-right violence levels.

Focusing on Trump's U.S. presidency, using process-tracing and sentiment analysis, she identified three mechanisms that connect populism to rises in far-right violence.

Firstly, Trump's rhetoric played a crucial role. Compared to previous U.S. presidents, Trump consistently used more negative language when discussing immigration. This helped to create a Manichean divide in which immigrants represented an 'evil other'. This rhetoric coincided with periods of heightened far-right violence. Secondly, Trump consistently

breached presidential norms, presenting himself as the true leader of the ordinary people which triggered anti-governmental violence towards those who openly opposed him. Finally, Trump's failure to adequately respond to far-right threats, cultivated an atmosphere in which the far-right felt their behaviour would be tolerated.

These three components created an environment where traditionally far-right fringe beliefs were legitimised leading to an emboldening effect and an increased propensity for violence.

Stay engaged!

As an important part of our strategy for the coming years, we want to significantly increase engagement with our alumni network. In the previous newsletter we announced our new LinkedIn group:

www.linkedin.com/groups/12728409

In addition to this, we now also have a new mailing list for alumni of the School of Politics and International Relations - and its original constituent units, the Department of Politics, the Centre for Development Studies, and the Dublin European Institute - which you can sign up to here:

www.ucd.ie/spire/about/alumni

Please note that subscription to the SPIRe alumni list is entirely voluntary. It is different from UCD's general alumni list. Any request under GDPR to end communication on the UCD general list will not affect membership on the SPIRe list. You can withdraw separately from the SPIRe list at any time.



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