



SUMMER 2025

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SPIRe Newsletter



What's new in this issue?

Summer 2025 continues to be an eventful term for SPIRe, with exciting research, achievements, and events shaping our community.

Highlights include workshops, research trainings, media appearances, David Farrell's Academy of Europe membership, Alex Dukalskis' new book, Niamh Hardiman's retirement and the recent research outputs of the Democracy Challenged project.

We look forward to the upcoming Autumn semester and wish a well-deserved summer break to our community.

Hope you enjoy this issue!
Editor, Elifcan Celebi

The Centre for Democracy Research's Funding Scheme

The Centre for Democracy Research event support scheme, for which all CDR members are eligible to apply, is open for applications. Full details on the scheme and the application form are available [here](#)

David Farrell was elected as a member of the prestigious Academia Europaea (The Academy of Europe)

The Academia Europaea was founded in 1988, on the initiative of the UK's Royal Society and other National Academies in Europe. It is a 'Not for Profit' Charity/Association registered in both the UK and Germany. The Academia Europaea is the only Academy with individual membership from the Council of Europe states and from other nations across the world. Recently, Professor David Farrell from SPIRe was elected as a member. The members, some 6000 currently, are eminent, individual scientists and scholars, who cover the full range of academic disciplines (see: www.ae-info.org).





New Book:

Dictating the Agenda: The Authoritarian Resurgence in Global Politics, by Alexander Dukalskis & Alexander Cooley

Alexander Dukalskis of SPIRe and his co-author Alexander Cooley from Barnard College and Columbia University have published a new book, **Dictating the Agenda: The Authoritarian Resurgence in Global Politics**. Published by Oxford University Press, the book explains why dictatorships and illiberal leaders seem to exert so much influence in global politics in recent years.

As John Ikenberry, international relations professor at Princeton University, put it in his review of the book in *Foreign Affairs*, "Cooley and Dukalskis bring sharply into view a near future in which old global networks and institutions of liberal governance are captured and repurposed to make the world safe for authoritarianism."

Dukalskis presented portions of the book in SPIRe's research seminar multiple times during the writing process and benefited from feedback from colleagues and Ph.D. students. The authors will be presenting the book in several cities over the coming months, including Dublin at the Institute of International & European Affairs on October 9th.

Transitional Justice Workshop



The Centre for Peace and Conflict Research (CPCR) held a workshop on Transitional Justice - Marginalised Voices in Theory and Practice on Monday, 31. March 2025. It was organised by Alexa Zellentin and Dawn Walsh (UCD SPIRe) in coordination with Emma Murphy (Notre Dame). The idea of the workshop emerged when we realised that the literature on transitional and rectificatory justice in political theory and peace and conflict studies occasionally talked past each other, misunderstood key insights from each other's research due to slightly different terminologies, and missed out on helpful ideas emerging in the separate but so deeply related fields. We thus brought together three political theorists - Dan Butt (Oxford), Kerstin Reiboldt (Tromsø), and Alexa Zellentin - as well as three political scientists - Güneş Daşlı (Loughborough University), Maja Davidović, (Cardiff University), and Emma Murphy - sharing their latest ideas and approaches on transitional justice. The discussions identified several anticipated as well as unanticipated misunderstandings and blind spots in the interdisciplinary exchange and we are planning to co-write a conversation style piece to clarify where and how we can best benefit from each other's insights and findings. We also hope to continue the conversation, so everyone interested to join in, please get in touch with Alexa.



Pléigh sna meáin ar úsáid bhia mar uirlis troda i nGaza agus sa tSúdáin

I mBealtaine, bhí **Caitriona Dowd** ina h-aoi ar chlár cúrsaí reatha Raidió na Gaeltachta. An tSeachtain le Máirín Ní Ghadhra, chun bia ina uirlis troda i nGaza agus sa tSúdáin a phlé. Labhair Caitriona faoi ché chomh holc agus atá an fhadhb, chomh maith leis na constaiceanna dlíthiúla agus polaitiúla a bhaineann le cuntasacht maidir le húsáid bhia mar uirlis troda. Faoi láthair, tá Caitriona ina comhstiúrthóir ar thionscadal Research Ireland ar ghnéithe inscne an ocras i dtógáil síochána, a dhéanann imscrúdú ar oidhreacht úsáid an bhia mar uirlis troda i gcomhthéacsanna éagsúla.

Niamh Hardiman's Retirement

To mark the retirement **Niamh Hardiman** a drinks reception was held in The O'Neill Lounge on Thursday 1st May. Niamh retired as one of Ireland's most influential political scientists, whose work has shaped scholarship and policy alike. A Professor in UCD's School of Politics and International Relations, her research on political economy, state structures, and fiscal politics—especially across Ireland and the European periphery—has had lasting impact. She played a key role in the development of UCD's interdisciplinary Master in Public Policy, co-created the Irish State Administration Database, and championed gender equality through SPIRe's Athena SWAN award. A gifted teacher, a generous mentor, and a respected public voice, Niamh leaves behind a legacy of intellectual rigour, institutional leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service.



ReCLAIM Training at SPIRe

'Fostering Safety and Trauma-Sensitivity in Research with Potential Emotional Impacts

21 researchers, including PhD students and established researchers at UCD who engage in research on sensitive topics that have emotional, safety, and wellbeing implications, connected on Tuesday, 10 June, 9 am - 5 pm for an in-person training at UCD on trauma-sensitive research methods.

Supported by UCD ReCLAIM initiative and the Wellcome fund, the training was organised by the research team of the '**Fostering Safety and Trauma-Sensitivity in Research with Potential Emotional Impacts**' project, Dr. Christie Nicoson (PI, Law), Dr. Caitriona Dowd (SPIRe), Dr. Melanie Hoewer (SPIRe) and Prof. Aisling Swaine (Law).

Participants learned essential skills in trauma-sensitive research practices from facilitators Sarah Cook (Cook Consultancy) and Jo Dover (Jo Dover Consulting), which will enable them to conduct research in a manner that minimises the likelihood of causing negative personal impact to themselves or to research participants.

Faculty and early career researchers enjoyed an interactive learning environment with vibrant and inspiring discussions. Not only did the participants deepen their understanding of the complexities surrounding stress in research environments and acquired practical skills in prioritising safety and wellbeing within the research process; the training also opened a space to connect researchers who care about highest research safety and quality and for exchanging experiences, expertise and ideas on how to bring more awareness and action to the need to foster safety and trauma-sensitivity in research with potential emotional impacts in UCD and beyond.



DEMOCRACY CHALLENGED

Research conducted by Professor Aidan Regan's ERC project team was recently featured in a series of detailed articles in The Business Post, which can be accessed [here](#). You can also access some of the material via the [project blog posts](#). A selection of Irish-related blog posts has also been deposited in the Digital Repository of Ireland for long-term preservation ([link here](#)).

The team ran a high-profile conference with the EU Tax Observatory at the Royal Irish Academy featuring Gabriel Zucman, and Mairead McGuinness called Profit-shifting in Ireland and Europe: Where do we stand? You can watch the event via the project's [blog media page](#).

Care Risks and Social Transformations Workshop was organised at MoLI



An international workshop titled “**Care Risks and Social Transformations in Contemporary Europe and Beyond**” was held on 30 June–1 July 2025 at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI). The event brought together researchers from across Europe to examine how political, institutional, and economic dynamics are reshaping care systems. The event was organised by Elifcan Celebi (SPIRe) and generously supported by the National University of Ireland (NUI). With four thematic panels, the workshop featured comparative research on care platformization, long-term care regimes, labour relations, and marketisation processes in contexts including Ireland, Italy, Austria, Turkey, France, Spain, and South Korea.



EU-Indo-Pacific Research Review at Korea Sandpit was held in South Korea

Yoo Sun Jung (SPIRe) joined the EU-Indo Pacific project's sandpit session in Korea on January 17 to discuss and review early research findings, contributing to the strategic analysis of the EU's role and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. Sandpits give experts from different fields a space dedicated to the development of innovative ideas and inter-and transdisciplinary research projects.

Two tribes: How Israel and Iran became enemies (Irish Times, Vincent Durac)

A recent piece by Vincent Durac published in Irish Times, covers the shifting relationship between Israel and Iran from pragmatic cooperation to mutual hostility; the development of Israel's nuclear programme, and, in tandem with this, Israeli efforts to eliminate nuclear capabilities in rival states in the Middle East, from Iraq to Syria to Iran. It reflects on the **possible outcomes of the recent Israeli and American attacks on Iran**. It is accessible via [here](#).



Alumni Network

Stay engaged!

As an important part of our strategy for the coming years, we want to significantly increase engagement with our alumni network. You can stay in touch with us through our new LinkedIn group:

www.linkedin.com/groups/12728409

New mailing list !

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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