



School of  
Social Policy,  
Social Work  
and Social  
Justice

# OCT 2023, NO. 20

# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

# BULLETIN



**Website:**

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



Erasmus+

**University Network for Inclusive and digital Education  
(UNITE);**

Programme: KA220-HED – Cooperation partnerships in higher education  
Budget (Total €400,000 & UCD €57,000)  
Timescale: 3 years commencing Dec 2023

**Asst. Prof. Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila** is the principal investigator for Ireland's Erasmus+ Consortium grant, which comprises seven European partners KA220-HED – Cooperation Partnerships in Higher Education. The project is set to commence in December 2023 and will span three years.

Summary

In line with the principles of Universal Design for Learning, Education 4.0, inclusive pedagogy, and co-learning, UNITE aims to develop pioneering technologies for teaching, provide training for university staff and students, and implement digital tools that will ensure the inclusion of students irrespective of their backgrounds. UNITE will develop podcasts, virtual laboratories, and innovative digital apps to respond to technological changes. Training activities will be co-designed and delivered and validated with the aim to improve the university community's awareness of students' diverse circumstances due to gender, sexual orientation, ability, racial/ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Roundtables will be held to design and establish good practices to be shared within HEIs for high-quality and inclusive education. UNITE aims to: achieve sustainable digital tools for inclusive and innovative education; methods for assessing the opportunities of digital technologies in tracking barriers in education; good practices to be shared within HEIs for inclusive pedagogies and high-quality education; development of community awareness of diversity and inclusion; and staff and students co-learning. UNITE will produce a critical framework for the ethical integration of AI in higher education.



# NEW PROJECTS



**Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate**

**INNOVCARE selected by the French Government funding scheme (France 2030)**



Project "Care-led Innovation: The Case of eldercare in France and Japan" has been awarded 3,5 million Euros from the French Government for the period of five years .

This project (INNOVCARE), coordinated by the Fondation France-Japon (FFJ) de l'EHESS (The School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences – one of the grande école), has been selected by the international jury put together for the French government's Priority Research Programme (France 2030): Autonomie: vieillissement et situations de handicap (Autonomy: ageing and disability).

As one of the Work Package leaders and a senior researcher at EHESS, **Dr Kodate** participated in and presented the project plan at the selection panel on the 8th of June, together with the Principal Investigator, Prof. Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS) and Prof. Anne-Sophie Rigaud (Université Paris-Descartes / L'hôpital Broca). The funding body is ANR – the National Agency for Research, France.

INNOVCARE aims to develop welfare technologies that can help older people to live independently, based on the concept of care-led innovation.

The social science-led project brings together a consortium of 18 partners (e.g., Sorbonne Université, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, CNRS, INSERM, Université de Bordeaux,), with the participation of researchers from engineering and medicine and practitioners working in the fields of eldercare and care for people with disabilities.

The project will start from Spring 2024 and will last for 5 years until 2028. Dr Kodate will lead one work package as a member of the French team at EHESS.

For more information go to this link address: <https://innovcare.hypotheses.org/2004>

# OCT. SCHOOL EVENTS

10

## Seminar

**Prof. Bryan Fanning,** 'Public Morality and the Culture Wars: Implications for Public Policy. 10th October, 2023 at 1.00pm. Geary Seminar Room B003/4

13

## One-day Conference

To mark the publication of the Routledge *International Handbook of Digital Social Work*, a one-day conference on the theme of digital social work took place on 13 October 2023 from 10.00am-16.30pm, hosted by RCSI Dublin at RCSI, 123 St. Stephen's Green, Room TR04. **Drs Sarah Donnelly & Naonori Kodate** gave a presentation entitled "Assistive technologies, robotics and gerontological social work practice".

26

## Research Seminar

**Dr Micheál Collins organised** 'Global Perspectives on Ireland's Tax Expenditure System' Thur Oct 26th, Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, 4pm - 5:30pm. This seminar has been funded as part of a research grant from the UCD Geary For Public Policy BICS (Building International Collaboration Supports) Seed Funding Scheme. Registration on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/global-perspectives-on-irelands-tax-expenditure-system-tickets-741547828517>



# Past Events

**7-9 SEPTEMBER 2023, WARSAW, POLAND**

**21st ESPAnet Annual  
Conference 2023**



## **Stream 18. The EU social policy and the right to adequate minimum wages**

Room 303, Auditorium Building, 3rd floor

The 2023 ESPAnet conference is hosted by the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw and co-organised by LabFam – the Interdisciplinary Centre for Labour Market and Family Dynamics at the Faculty of Economics, University of Warsaw. This year the conference will take place exclusively on site.

The Directive (EU) 2022/2041 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union was adopted in view to improve living and working conditions in the Union, in particular the adequacy of minimum wages.

The setting and the updating of statutory minimum wages should allow for achieving a decent standard of living, reducing in-work poverty, promoting social cohesion and to reducing gender pay gap. It is expected that the Member States define their own criteria. Moreover, the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), proclaimed at Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, establishes a set of principles to be used as a guide, namely that adequate minimum wages should provide for the satisfaction of the needs of the worker and his or her family considering national and social conditions, since these states may face different economic constraints.

The experience of Living Wage initiatives in Europe (nationwide or voluntary and locally based) is a good example of implementation of this principle. Such policy measures, intending minimum wages adequacy, may face some trade-offs with other objectives, e.g. of economic feasibility and social acceptability. Considerations of adequacy may also require a mix of fiscal and social protection policies needed to reach income adequacy for workers' households, due to various family configurations of the households, both in size and composition (and the need of compensatory family allowances) and due to internal differences of cost of living (namely housing costs). We expect that this stream will gather contributions from different national realities regarding the discussion and implementation of adequate minimum wages.

Papers are expected to focus both on the criteria of adequacy, on the design of the mix of policies supporting them, and the potential effect of such measures on poverty, on employment and on gender pay gap. Different approaches are accepted, and a multidisciplinary approach is welcomed, either a qualitative or a more quantitative oriented approach.

No comparative analysis is required, but a focus on European social policy is very welcome. We intend to propose a special issue on this topic to a peer-reviewed scientific journal with a selection of the papers submitted to this stream.

### **Chairs:**

- José António Pereirinha (GHES/CSG, ISEG, Universidade de Lisboa), email: [pereirin@iseg.ulisboa.pt](mailto:pereirin@iseg.ulisboa.pt)
- Elvira Pereira (CAPP, ISCSP, Universidade de Lisboa), email: [epereira@iscsp.ulisboa.pt](mailto:epereira@iscsp.ulisboa.pt)
- **Micheál Collins** (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College), email: [ml.collins@ucd.ie](mailto:ml.collins@ucd.ie)



**Irish Gerontological Society 70th Annual and Scientific Meeting,  
28–30 September 2023  
Galmont Hotel, Galway**

The Irish Gerontological Society, in partnership with the University of Galway and Saelta University Health Care Group, held its 70th Annual and Scientific Meeting in September 2023 in the Galmont Hotel, Galway. The theme of this year's conference was 'Looking Forward to the Years Ahead: Europe's Fastest Growing Older Population'.

The School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice was well-represented at the conference by **Assistant Professor Sarah Donnelly**, **Assistant Professor Maria Pierce**, **Associate Professor Nao Kodate**, Adjunct Professor Amanda Casey and PhD candidates Jennifer Allen and Frida Quinlan who gave platform, quickfire and poster presentations.



Dr Maria Pierce, Asst. Prof. Social Policy



Dr Sarah Donnelly, Asst. Prof. Social Work



Frida Quinlan, PhD student in UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice



Dr Sarah Donnelly, Asst. Prof. Social Work



Jennifer Allen, PhD student in UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice





Dr Sarah Donnelly, Asst. Prof. Social Work with PhD student, Jennifer Allen

Jennifer Allen, PhD student in UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

Dr Naonori Kodate, Assoc. Prof. in Social Policy

The conference abstracts are published in *Age and Ageing*, Volume 53, Supplement 3, pp. iii1-iii77. [https://academic.oup.com/ageing/issue/52/Supplement\\_3](https://academic.oup.com/ageing/issue/52/Supplement_3)

#### Platform presentations

##### **Dr Sarah Donnelly**

UNDERSTANDING CARER HARM- INSIGHTS FROM FAMILY CARERS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND DEMENTIA PROFESSIONALS <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.031>

#### Quickfire presentations

##### **Dr Sarah Donnelly** and Adjunct Professor Amanda Casey

USING PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH TO EXAMINE ATTITUDES AND AWARENESS OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES IN THE ACUTE HOSPITAL CONTEXT <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.295>

##### **Dr Maria Pierce**

SUSTAINABILITY OF AREA-BASED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN POST-DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA: EVIDENCE FROM A MIXED-METHODS STUDY <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.303>

#### Poster presentations

##### **Dr Sarah Donnelly**

USING PARTICIPATORY CO-DESIGN TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN IRISH NURSING HOMES <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.209>

##### **Jennifer Allen, Dr Sarah Donnelly, Dr Sarah Morton et al.**

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN OLDER PERSONS MENTAL HEALTH, INSIGHTS FROM INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.232>

**Jennifer Allen**

THE VALUE OF PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL AND PEER GROUPS FOR DEMENTIA FAMILY CARERS  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.233>

**Frida Quinlan, Dr Sarah Donnelly and Dr Deirdre O'Donnell**

COMBINING SCOPING REVIEW AND CONCEPT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGIES TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF FILIAL COERCIVE CONTROL <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.105>

**Dr Naonori Kodate**

EXPLORING PROFESSIONAL-ROBOT INTERACTIONS IN CARE SETTINGS: A CASE OF ADOPTING AN IRISH AIR-DISINFECTION DEVICE IN A NURSING HOME IN JAPAN  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.046>

**Dr Naonori Kodate** (with Prof. Kazuko Obayashi et al.)

DESIGNING AND TESTING AN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE MODEL WITH A REMOTE HOME MONITORING-ALERT DEVICE: A PILOT STUDY IN JAPAN  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.047>

**Dr Micheál Collins** (with Dr J. Greene)

EMBRACING CHOICE: PERSPECTIVES OF OLDER WORKERS ON EXTENDED WORKING LIVES  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.156>

**Dr Micheál Collins** (with Dr C.E. O'Dare)

OLDER WORKERS IN LOWPAID EMPLOYMENT IN IRELAND: FINANCE, FIT AND FLEXIBILITY  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afad156.272>



From L to R: Jennifer Allen, Dr Sarah Donnelly, Dr Maria Pierce and Dr Naonori Kodate





## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP 'Requests and complaints in prisons in Europe'



In penological literature it has been documented at length that prison life can be quite challenging for prisoners, in particular in terms of conditions of life and the decisions by prison staff or changes in policy that directly affect them. In this international workshop we aim to explore how requests and complaints by prisoners are being dealt with by prison governors/administrations or independent bodies (such as complaint commissions), in different parts of Europe. How are complaints from prisoners being dealt with, from a legal and empirical point of view? How do procedures work and can they be considered effective? Do such systems comply with international regulation, such as the European Prison Rules, the UN Mandela Rules or the case-law of the ECtHR

**Dr Sophie Van der Valk**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice took part in a workshop in KU Leuven University, Belgium on the 5th October on the topic of "Requests and Complaints in prisons in Europe"

For information see the link:

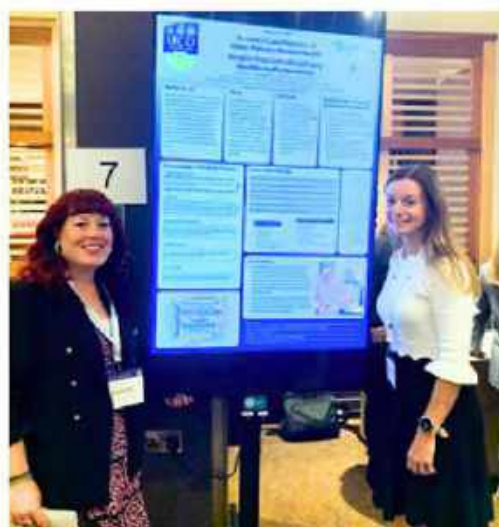
<https://www.law.kuleuven.be/linc/activiteiten/international-workshop-requests-and-complaints-in.pdf>.

The presentations from the workshop will form the basis for an edited book.

**THE VALUE OF PSYCH**  
**Dementia Research Network Ireland's (DNRI)**  
**Early Career Researcher Day, Tuesday 10th October 2023, MISA Building, St**  
**James's Hospital, Dublin 8.**



**DEMENTIA RESEARCH  
NETWORK IRELAND**  
Prevention, Cure & Care for  
Neurodegenerative Diseases



Our PhD candidate **Jennifer Allen** (picture above with her supervisor Dr Sarah Donnelly) whose PhD research focuses on advance care planning in older persons mental health, including dementia, presented in this category on the participatory element of her PhD. The presentation entitled 'Engaging lived experience in advance care planning through co-operative inquiry' provided an overview of the study's co-operative inquiry group process, which brings staff members and service users together in a process of collaborative inquiry into advance care planning processes.

Dementia Research Network Ireland's (DNRI) Early Career Researcher Day held on Tuesday 10th October 2023, provided an opportunity for early career researchers in the field of dementia to present on their research, meet other researchers and learn about research funding streams. There was a strong focus on public and patient involvement (PPI), with one of the three themes focusing on 'PPI and the lived experience of dementia'.

Dementia Research Network Ireland (DRNI) is an all-Ireland interdisciplinary dementia and neurodegenerative research initiative. Funded by the Health Research Board, DRNI seeks to support and facilitate collaborative interdisciplinary research integrating the basic, clinical and social sciences to bring about a demonstrable impact on dementia and neurodegenerative disease researcher, knowledge translation and policy development.



# Assistive technologies, robotics and gerontological social work practice



13 October 2023

## Digital Social Work Conference: Changing Practices & Delivering Innovation

School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice  
University College Dublin  
Sarah Donnelly & Naonori Kodate

Official book launch:  
Routledge International  
Handbook of Digital  
Social Work

## Book Launch, 13th October, RCSI

To mark the publication of the Routledge International Handbook of Digital Social Work, a one-day conference on the theme of digital social work took place on 13 October 2023, hosted by RCSI Dublin. **Drs Sarah Donnelly & Naonori Kodate** gave a presentation entitled "Assistive technologies, robotics and gerontological social work practice".



From L to R: Prof. Pablo Alvarez, Prof. Esther Raya Diez, Prof. Antonio López Peláez, Prof. Gloria Kirwan, Dr Sarah Donnelly and Dr Naonori Kodate



## **Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage to discuss Analysis of Private Rental Sector Data**

**Dr Michael Byrne, Asst. Prof. in Social Justice**

9 Oct 2023, 15:50

The Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, 10 October, to discuss an Analysis of Private Rental Sector Data.

The meeting at 4pm in Committee Room 3 of Leinster House will hear from representatives from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), and Dr Michael Byrne from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin (UCD).

Committee Cathaoirleach Deputy Steven Matthews said: "Data published by the CSO and RTB for 2022 shows a discrepancy between the number of residential tenancies in the private rented sector recorded by both bodies. The CSO reported 330,632 households in private rented accommodation in Census 2022 data, while the RTB recorded 246,453 tenancies registered with it.

"While this could be the result of a number of factors, the Committee wishes to discuss the scale of the difference between the two figures. Members would like to hear a deeper analysis from the CSO and RTB on why this is the case and how their figures can be better aligned to give a full picture of the size and scale of the private rented sector.

"The Committee looks forward to discussing such an analysis and related matters with the representatives of the CSO and the RTB, and also with Dr Byrne, an independent expert who has analysed both the Census data and the number of tenancies registered with the RTB."

The Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage has 14 Members, nine from the Dáil and five from the Seanad.

The website link to the meeting in Committee Room 3 can be accessed at this link:  
<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/press-centre/press-releases/20231009-joint-committee-on-housing-local-government-and-heritage-to-discuss-analysis-of-private-rental-sector-data/>

Committee proceedings can also be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas Smartphone App, available for Apple and Android devices.

The link to Dr Michael Byrne's pdf document "Submission to Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage 06/10/223" can be found at the following link : [chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcgiclfndmkaj/https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_housing\\_local\\_government\\_and\\_heritage/submissions/2023/2023-10-10\\_opening-statement-dr-michael-byrne-school-of-social-policy-social-work-and-social-justice-ucd\\_en.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcgiclfndmkaj/https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_housing_local_government_and_heritage/submissions/2023/2023-10-10_opening-statement-dr-michael-byrne-school-of-social-policy-social-work-and-social-justice-ucd_en.pdf)





# UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON IRELAND'S TAX EXPENDITURE SYSTEM

Thursday October 26th 4pm-5:30pm  
Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2  
Organised by Dr Micheál Collins

Using tax expenditure, or tax breaks, to pursue various policy objectives continues to be a major component of Irish public policy. The recently published master list of tax expenditure measures, released by the Department of Finance as part of Budget 2024, listed 120 tax breaks. Costings available for 97 of these total €7.1 billion per annum in revenue forgone.

This seminar looks at Ireland's tax expenditure system in an international context. It will include a presentation of The Global Tax Expenditures Database (GTED) and the newly launched Global Tax Expenditure Transparency Index (GTETI). Both seek to contribute to improving transparency, deepening analysis and fostering policy debates on the costs and benefits of tax expenditures and related reforms. The latter benchmarks Ireland's system against that operating in 104 developed and developing world countries.

The seminar will be presented by the co-leads on the GTED/GTETI project Dr Agustin Redonda and Mr Flurim Aliu of the Council on Economic Policies (CEP), Zurich, Switzerland. Details of the seminar are attached.

This event is free to attend; however, places are limited, and prior registration is required.

REGISTRATION: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/global-perspectives-on-irelands-tax-expenditure-system-tickets-741547828517>

This seminar has been funded as part of a research grant from the UCD Geary For Public Policy BICS (Building International Collaboration Supports) Seed Funding Scheme.

Various Links:

UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy <https://www.ucd.ie/geary/>

UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

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

The Tax Expenditures Lab <https://www.taxexpenditures.org/>

The Global Tax Expenditure Database: <https://gted.taxexpenditures.org/>

The newly released Global Tax Expenditure Transparency Index (GTETI):

<https://gteti.taxexpenditures.org/>

The Visiting Researchers: The co-leads on the GTED project Dr Agustin Redonda and

Flurim Aliu: <https://www.cepweb.org/about/people/agustin-redonda/> and

<https://www.cepweb.org/about/people/flurim-aliu/>



**France-Japan  
Joint Forum**

How to cope with ecological and  
digital transformations  
- Entrepreneurship and  
organizational creativity -

**14-15 November, 2023**  
Amphi Beretz, Nouveau Patio  
Université Strasbourg

 **JSPS**

**Université**  
de Strasbourg

 **TOYO UNIVERSITY**

**Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** is invited to speak at the France–Japan Joint Forum “How to cope with ecological and digital transformations: Entrepreneurship and organizational creativity.” This 2-day event (14–15, November) is organised by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS – equivalent of IRC/SFI), Université de Strasbourg, and Toyo University, Tokyo. His talk is entitled ‘Exploring social implementation of welfare technologies for aging in place’.





UCD School of Social Policy,  
Social Work & Social Justice

# Seminar

Organised by Dr Sarah Donnelly, Asst. Prof. Social Work

## Recognition, accountability, change ... now!: A reparative approach to redressing violence, abuse and neglect of people living with dementia

Abstract: People living with dementia experience diverse harms within Australian residential aged care facilities, in a context where the very existence of these institutional, carceral settings is inherently violent and unjust. To date, the wide ranging and ongoing impacts of these harms on people living with dementia and their care partners and family members have not been acknowledged and redressed. Linda's presentation will introduce a project she led in collaboration with Kate Swaffer which developed a set of principles on the scope, form and processes for a reparative approach to redressing harm experienced by people living with dementia in residential aged care. Prof. Steele will discuss four key interrelated concepts which provide a basis for a reparative approach to redress: recognition, accountability, change, now, and then offer critical observations on complexities of redress in the context of industrial, institutional and carceral aged care and enduring ableism and ageism towards people living with dementia. She will also share reflections on challenges of using research findings as an advocacy tool, and seek guidance from participants on ways forward.

### Speaker

## Linda Steele

Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law,  
University of Technology Sydney (Australia).



📅 Fri. Nov.24, 2023

🕒 12 noon - 1pm

📍 L248, Sutherland Law Building, UCD  
Belfield, D4

For more information please email: [Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie](mailto:Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie)



# UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) News

## Award

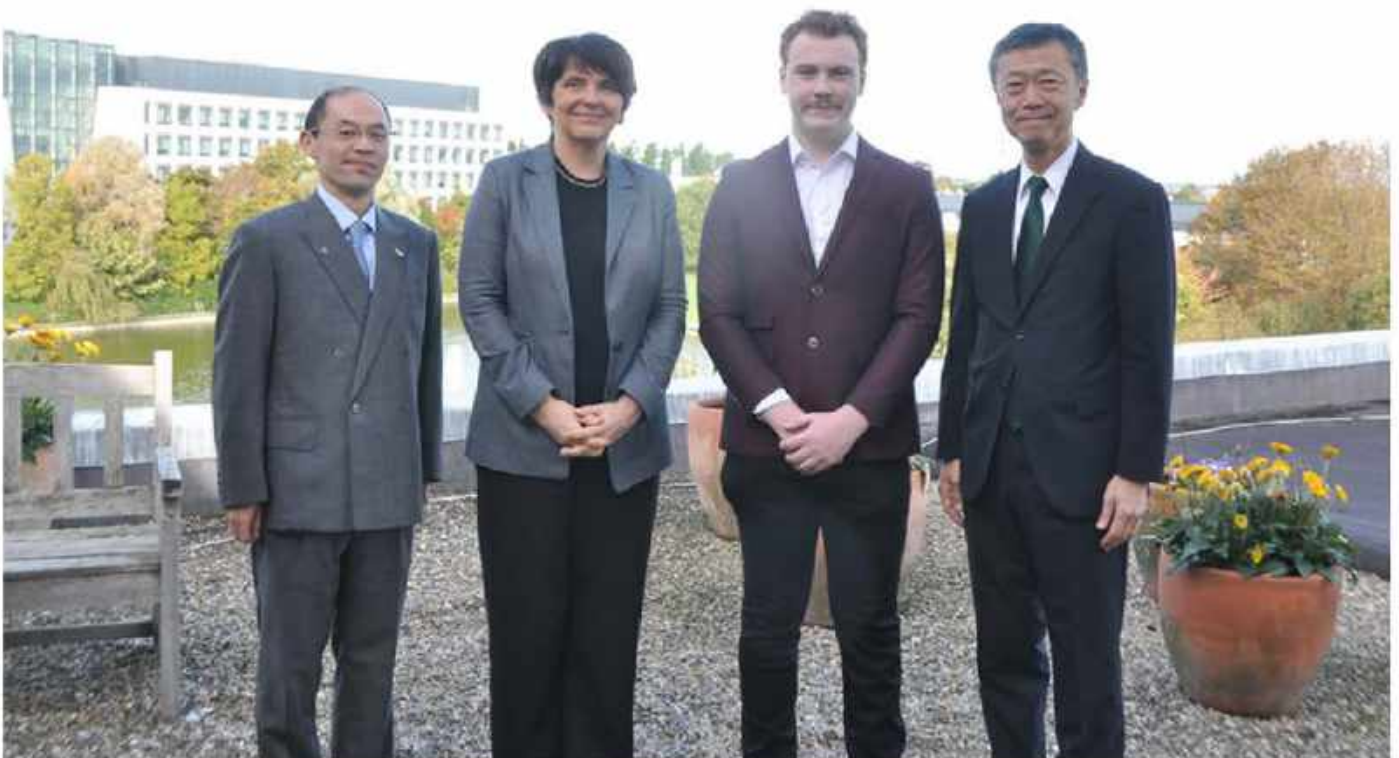
UCD student, Mr Ciarán Micheál Maher, has been selected as the representative of all Higher Education Institutions in Ireland, and visit Japan on the 2023/2024 MIRAI\* Visiting Japan Program. Ciarán is a Stage 2 BSc student (Environmental Biology /Microbiology/Plant Biology/Zoology) and will take part in his first-choice area, Group 5: Environment & Green, from 14-21 November 2023.

\*"MIRAI" (Mutual understanding, Intellectual Relations and Academic Exchange Initiative) means "future" in Japanese, and the programme is run and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

The UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) and its precursor brought this scholarship twice in the past. Ciarán is our 3rd nominee who was successful in this highly competitive process.

The Embassy of Japan in Ireland informed us that they had a very strong field of candidates again this year across the country, and this fantastic result attests to the high standards of our students and a very strong interest in Japan. This was a two-stage selection process, and the selection panel put together by the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies nominated Ciarán to the Embassy. During the process, the Centre provided hands-on guidance and helped him with the final application.

Ciarán met with President Prof. Orla Feely and the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama on the 16th of October.



From L to R: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate, UCD President, Prof. Orla Feely, Mr Ciarán Micheál Maher and the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama



## Seminars

JaSt held a seminar “Lafcadio Hearn, French Literature & Toyama’s Hearn Library” at the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) on 25 September 2023. The guest speaker, Professor Toshié Nakajima (University of Toyama) gave a talk, facilitated by Professor Mary Gallagher, (University College Dublin). The seminar was opened by H.E. Ambassador Norio Maruyama. It was organised by JaSt in cooperation with UCD French & Francophone Studies, and attracted more than 60 people from the government (Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of Public Works), the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Gardens in Tramore, students from UCD, Trinity and DCU, the Irish–Japanese community, and the literary circle.

**Interdisciplinary Japan Studies Seminar**  
学際的日本研究セミナー

### Lafcadio Hearn, French Literature & Toyama's Hearn Library

Guest Speaker: Professor Toshié Nakajima, University of Toyama  
Moderator: Professor Mary Gallagher, University College Dublin

This seminar initiates “*Lafcadio Hearn: Looking Forward, Looking Back*” a programme of events to celebrate the life & work of Lafcadio Hearn. 2024 is the 120th anniversary of his death on 26 September 1904.

The Lafcadio Hearn Library, University of Toyama

A major collection of books in English, French, Japanese & Chinese in the private collection of Lafcadio Hearn & donated by his family to the University of Toyama on 10 June 1924.

小泉八雲

Monday 25 September, 2023  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Museum of Literature Ireland

Joint Initiative of the  
Centre for Japanese Studies UCD  
&  
French & Francophone Studies UCD

Support from Japanese Embassy & UCD MoLI



From L to R: Mr Simon O'Connor (Director, MoLI), H.E. Ambassador Norio Maruyama, Prof. Mary Gallagher (UCD–JaSt / School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics), Prof. Toshié Nakajima (University of Toyama) and Ms Agnes Ayleward (Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Gardens, Tramore, Co. Waterford)





## Seminars

JaSt hosted another seminar at MoLI on 20 October 2023, 1-2:30pm [IST]. Professor Shinichi Kitaoka (formerly at the Graduate School of Law and Politics, University of Tokyo, former President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations) discussed recent developments in Japan's security and foreign policy. He visited the Belfield campus before his seminar and met with VP for Global Engagement, Prof. Dolores O'Riordan, College Principal, Social Sciences and Law, Prof. Colin Scott, Prof. Ben Tonra and Assoc. Prof. Alex Dukalskis (School of Politics and International Relations), Adjunct Prof. John Near (UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice / UCD-JaSt), Visiting Prof. Iwao Osaka (UCD-JaSt / Komazawa University), Assoc. Prof. Kodate and Prof. Emma Sokell (Deputy Director, UCD-JaSt / Head of School, School of Physics).

The poster is for an 'Interdisciplinary Japan Studies Seminar' (学際的日本研究セミナー) titled 'Recent Developments in Japan's Security & Foreign Policy' (安全保障と外交政策). It features a portrait of Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka, Special Advisor at JICA. The event is on Friday 20 October 2023, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at the Museum of Literature Ireland. Logos for UCD Centre for Japanese Studies and UCD Centre for Asia-Pacific Research are present. A collage of images shows Prof. Kitaoka's visit to Japan, including a group photo and a meeting with Japanese officials. The poster also mentions the UCD Japan Fair 2023.



From L to R: Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Prof. Emma Sokell (Deputy Dir. JaSt / Head of School, Physics), Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (JICA), Prof. Dolores O'Riordan (VP for Global Engagement), Prof. Colin Scott (College Principal, Social Sciences and Law)





From L to R: Adjunct Prof. John Neary (JaSt & Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice / Former Irish Ambassador to Japan), Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (JICA), H.E. Ambassador Mr Norio Maruyama, Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate



From L to R: Nobuko Ijichi (JaSt / CEGL), Prof. Iwao Osaka (JaSt / Geary Institute), Prof. Ben Tonra & Assoc. Prof. Alex Dukalskis (School of Politics and International Relations), Assoc. Prof. Nao Kodate, Dr Tomoko Ono (JICA), Prof. Emma Sokell (Deputy Dir. JaSt / Head of School, Physics), Prof. Shinichi Kitaoka (JICA), Prof. Dolores O'Riordan (VP for Global Engagement), Prof. Colin Scott (College Principal, Social Sciences and Law/ VP for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion), Varee Chaitavepporn (PhD student, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

**VSJF**

---



**VSJF Jahreskonferenz 2023 / VSJF Annual Conference 2023**

**Online-Treffen der Fachgruppe Technik**

**Online Meeting of the Technology Section**

**(November 03, 2023)**

(Time zone: Berlin / Tokyo)

**VSJF (Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung/ German Association for Social Science Research on Japan) Annual Conference 2023**

Co-organised by UCD Centre for Japanese Studies

**Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate** co-organised this event, working with German researchers at Freie Universität Berlin, and Teikyo University, Tokyo.

For information please go to the following website: <https://vsjf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/vsjf-fg-technik-2023-programme.pdf>



# Print Media Focus

 Irish Examiner

Dr Michael Byrne

## **Budget 2024's tax relief for landlords 'a shot in the dark'**

If non-registration is indeed a key part of explaining the discrepancy between the CSO and RTB figures, it may suggest that in recent years we have witnessed not so much landlords fleeing the sector, as landlords fleeing regulation

**Article published Irish Examiner, Wed. 11th October**

Available at the following link:



The Government's decision to include a tax relief for landlords may well prove to be one of the most controversial aspects of the Budget 2024.

In a housing system in which lots of people are feeling pain, it's inevitable that questions will be asked about a measure that favours a cohort who are often seen as particularly privileged, given that the vast majority of landlords own at least two houses when many are struggling to acquire their first.

Moreover, economists, such as Trinity's Professor Barra Roantree, have pointed out that such a measure is poor value for money.

On the other hand, it has long been argued that landlords are 'fleeing the market'. This, it is argued, calls for Government intervention for two reasons: because it impacts the supply of private rental properties and because when landlords sell up it typically results in the termination of a tenancy.

The termination of private rental tenancies is one of the main causes of instability in our homeless system. Homeless charities and service providers confirm that it is one of the leading drivers of homelessness.

The reality, however, is that Budget 2024's tax relief for landlords has been designed, and introduced, in an evidence vacuum. It may come as a surprise to many readers, given the frequency with which we are told that the private rental sector (PRS) is shrinking and landlords are fleeing, that the private rental sector is in fact not shrinking but growing and, moreover, we have very limited information about whether, and to what extent, landlords are in fact leaving the market.

The idea that landlords are fleeing the market thus shrinking the supply of rental housing is primarily based on the Residential Tenancies Board's register of tenancies. This data shows that the number of registered tenancies fell from 320,000 in 2016 to 246,453 tenancies in 2022. However, this summer, new CSO data from Census 2022 reported that there are in fact 330,000 households in the PRS, and that this number has increased by 7% since 2016.

CSO data v RTB data

On October 10, (Budget day, as it happens), I attended the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage to get to the bottom of what is going on here, along with representatives from the CSO and the RTB. There are a number of possible reasons why these data sets are so different.



First, some tenants of Approved Housing Bodies (the voluntary bodies that provide a significant proportion of new social housing) may have miscategorised themselves as private tenants. However this, according to initial analysis from the CSO, is not likely to be a major factor.

Second, licensees, such as those living in the same dwelling as their landlord, are not technically 'tenants' and therefore are not registered with the RTB. They are, however, captured by the Census. We don't know how many of these are out there, but again it is unlikely to be a large number as it seems logical to think that in most cases it would be the landlord, rather than the licensee, that would fill in the census form.

A further issue, raised by Fine Gael Senator John Cummins, is that when someone rents a property from a family member it will not be captured by the RTB but may be captured by the Census.

However, the elephant in the room is the non-registration of tenancies by landlords. As noted, the RTB registrations started to fall in 2016. This is the year in which the project of reforming the rental sector began, including the introduction of rent regulation. International evidence suggests that non-compliance can increase as regulation grows, as more landlords seek to operate in the 'black market' in the hope, for example, of evading rent regulations. In order to shed some light on this issue, I recently worked with Threshold to examine a sample of 146 tenancies associated with clients who contacted them in the first two weeks of September 2023. Of these, 76, or 52%, were unregistered tenancies. This figure is, of course, not representative and is merely meant to flag the potential importance of this issue.

Nevertheless, that such a high proportion are unregistered is certainly a cause for concern. If non-registration is indeed a key part of explaining the discrepancy between the CSO and RTB figures, it may suggest that in recent years we have witnessed not so much landlords fleeing the sector, as landlords fleeing regulation.

The CSO and RTB will work over the coming months to get to the bottom of all this, but whatever the case, the upshot is that there is currently no evidence that the rental sector is shrinking.

Shrinking rental sector?

Nevertheless, even if the sector is not shrinking overall, there may still be a significant cohort of landlords who are selling up. There is no doubt that this is an important issue and it is impacting our homeless crisis, and therefore needs to be taken seriously. It is also true, however, that the number of landlords exiting the sector is unknown. Some public commentary suggesting otherwise is based on a misinterpretation of the data.

For example, there has been a particularly dramatic fall in the number of registered tenancies since 2020. But this has nothing to do with landlords leaving the sector and relates to the fact that the RTB has introduced a new and much-improved annual registration system which means the register is now much more accurate.

Another frequently referenced data source is the number of Notices of Termination registered with the RTB. This has increased markedly from mid-2022. However, this can be explained by a legislative change requiring Notices of Termination to be registered with the RTB to be valid. The increased number thus implies greater compliance, not a great number of landlords exiting.

More generally, the Notice of Termination data covers a short period of time (since 2019). During much of this period 'eviction bans' were in place, thus distorting the data. We therefore have no idea what the long-term or even medium-term average number of Notices of Termination issued might be, and thus we have no way of saying if the current number is higher or lower than normal.

More generally, in any given year, a certain number of landlords will exit the sector. In other words, even in a perfectly functioning rental market, we will have a certain number of exits. We thus need to consider what level of landlord exits is appropriate, or consistent with a functioning market. Without such a figure, we have no way of saying with any certainty if the current number of exits, which, again, is unknown, requires a policy response. Moreover, we cannot assess with any certainty what level of policy response might be warranted. From this point of view, Budget 2024's support for landlords is pretty much a shot in the dark. It's a response to an important problem, but one of which we know neither the extent nor the cause. It appears to be driven more by narrative than by evidence. And, when it comes to policy for the private rental sector, it's hard not to notice that some narratives seem to be heard much more loudly than others.

Dr Michael Byrne is a lecturer at UCD's School of Social Policy, Social Work, and Social Justice, and Director of the Equality Studies M.S.c.



**Dr Micheál Collins**

## **Living wage now stands at nearly €15 per hour as cost of living heaps pressure on workers**

Article published Irish Independent Wed. 27th Sept. 2023 by Anne-Marie Walsh



The living wage is the minimum rate required for a full-time worker without dependents to afford goods and services. Stock image.

A new living wage of €14.80 an hour will be announced today. This is the minimum rate required for a full-time worker without dependents to afford goods and services. Cost-of-living pressures have led to an increase of 95c or almost 7pc on last year's rate of €13.85 an hour. The living wage rate is calculated by a group of academics, union officials and social justice workers, known as the Living Wage Technical Group. Their findings are based on research by the Vincentian MESL Research Centre at St Vincent de Paul. The group takes inflation and taxes into account when coming up with the rate. It found that over the past year most living costs have increased, including energy which rose by 23pc.

Food costs increased by 21pc, personal care by 9pc and housing by 7pc.

"Social inclusion" costs rose by 6pc. This covers the basic expense of "participating in society" and includes a TV licence, one newspaper a week, two novels a year and a cinema ticket every two months. All of these costs outweighed lower costs in transport and education to drive the overall increase.

**Dr Micheál Collins**, a social policy academic at UCD and a member of the Living Wage Technical Group, said most living costs have increased over the past year.

The living wage rate is based on the rationale that full-time employment will at least provide for a socially acceptable minimum standard of living for a single person without dependents," he said. "It represents the minimum required to meet physical, social and psychological needs, and enable a life with dignity."

Dr Collins said rent increases continue to be a significant factor pushing up the living wage rate, and increased by an average of 7pc or almost €13 per week.

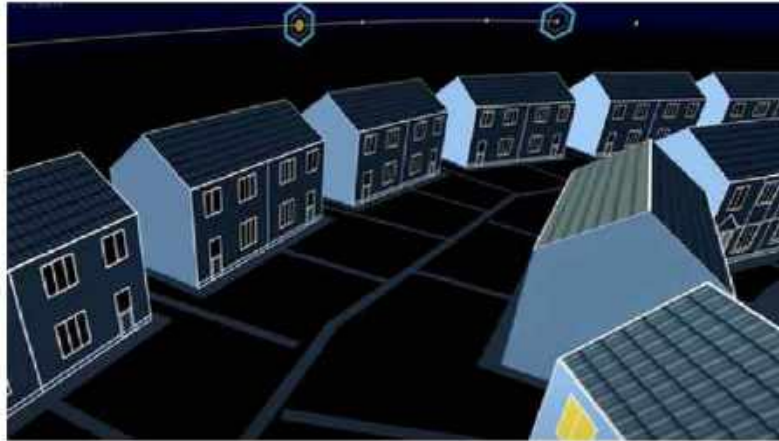
He said a new rent tax credit has limited the impact of rising rents on the living wage rate. Without this credit, the hourly rate would have risen by a further 35 cents to €15.15.

While the rate of inflation has reduced over recent months, the living wage group found that living costs remain exceptionally high and official forecasts do not anticipate a return to earlier price levels.

It is estimated that around one in five full-time workers are earning less than the living wage.

The Government has committed to replace the minimum wage with a new national living wage by 2026.

# RTE Brainstorm



## **Title: Are landlords really fleeing the Irish housing market?**

Overview: In Summer 2023 the CSO released data based on the latest census showing that there are 330,000 households in the private rental sector, a figure that has grown by 6% since the last Census in 2016. This new data contradicts the RTB data, which shows steady decline in the number of tenancies registered, from almost 320,000 in 2016 to 276,000 tenancies at the end of 2021.

The controversy around what is really going on is important, because the idea that 'landlords are fleeing the market' has become very widely accepted, and is shaping policy for the private rental sector. It is also part of a wider debate around whether or not landlords actually contribute to the supply of housing.

For this short research project, **Dr Michael Byrne** wrote an article for RTE Brainstorm which explains the different data sources and possible reasons for the discrepancy between them, as well as the more conceptual issue of how we should understand the role of landlords in the supply of housing. To access the article (Are landlords really fleeing the Irish housing market? Updated / Tuesday, 26 Sep 2023 12:27) go to the following link: <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2023/0926/1407182-landlords-tenants-ireland-property-market/>

On the basis of this article, Dr Michael Byrne was invited as an Expert Witness to the Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Homelessness on October 10th, to discuss how best to understand and interpret data on Ireland's private rental sector, as well as the implications for policy.



# Living Wage 2023/24



## WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE

It is a wage which makes possible a minimum acceptable standard of living. It is evidence based and grounded in social consensus.

It is:

- based on the concept that work should provide an adequate income to enable individuals to afford a socially acceptable standard of living
- the average gross salary which will enable full time employed adults (without dependents) across Ireland to afford a socially acceptable standard of living
- a living wage which provides for needs not wants
- an evidence based rate of pay which is grounded in social consensus and is derived from Consensual Budget Standards research which establishes the cost of a Minimum Essential Standard of Living in Ireland today
- unlike the National Minimum Wage which is not based on the cost of living.

In principle, a living wage is intended to establish an hourly wage rate that should provide employees with sufficient income to achieve an agreed acceptable minimum standard of living. In that sense it is an income floor; representing a figure which allows employees afford the essentials of life. Earnings below the living wage suggest employees are forced to do without certain essentials so they can make ends-meet.

**For more information see the website:** <https://www.livingwage.ie/>

## The Living Wage Technical Group

The Living Wage Technical Group was established in March 2014 and worked to establish a methodology for calculating the Republic of Ireland Living Wage.

The current members of the group are:

- Colette Bennett, Social Justice Ireland
- Hannah Boylan, Vincentian MESL Research Centre at SVP
- **Dr Micheál Collins, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, UCD**
- Dr Tricia Keilthy, Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Ciarán Nugent, Nevin Economic Research Institute
- Niamh O'Carroll, Vincentian MESL Research Centre at SVP
- Dr Robert Sweeney, TASC
- Michael Taft, SIPTU
- Robert Thornton, Vincentian MESL Research Centre at SVP

## Annual Update

The Living Wage rate is updated annually, to ensure it keeps track of changes in minimum living costs. The annual update is published in the 3rd quarter each year, to provide adequate notice of any change in the rate to both employees and employers for the year to come.

- **Living Wage Technical Paper 2023/24:** [chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living\\_wage\\_2023-24.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living_wage_2023-24.pdf)
- **Living Wage 2023/24- Expenditure and Income tables:** [chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living\\_wage\\_2023-24\\_-\\_expenditure\\_\\_income\\_tables.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living_wage_2023-24_-_expenditure__income_tables.pdf)
- **Living Wage 2023/24 - Technical document:** [chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living\\_wage\\_technical\\_document\\_-\\_2023-24.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.livingwage.ie/download/pdf/living_wage_technical_document_-_2023-24.pdf)

# New Publications

## Journal Article

Title: Law, language, and the power of 'invisible threats' of violence against women.

Journal of Law and Society, 50, 3 392–413 Sept 2023

Authors: Catherine Turner, **Aisling Swaine**



### Overview:

Violence, and the threat of violence, is a pervasive feature of women's lives. From high-profile threats in politics to everyday harms such as domestic abuse, violence, threat, and intimidation control women's behaviour and silence their voices. Yet in many cases the pernicious and harmful effect of threat is not captured by the law. Drawing on the work of sociologist Pierre Bourdieu and empirical research undertaken in Northern Ireland, this article analyses the ways in which both objective and 'incorporated' social structures generate invisible forces of fear and threat that the law does not see, but that women feel and structure their lives around. The article develops the novel conceptual tool of 'invisible threats' to capture threat as harm, to show the relation between threat and gendered (in)securities, and to challenge institutions of the law to respond better to invisible threats as perceived and articulated by women.





## Journal Article

Levine A. C., Park A., Adhikari A., Alejandria M. C. P., Bradlow B. H., Lopez-Portillo M. F., Mutwafy S., **Zumbyte Ieva.**, Heller P. 2023. "The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the COVID-19 response across the Global South: A multinational, qualitative study." *PLOS Glob Public Health* 3(9): e0002341.

**Summary:** This study explored the CSO response to COVID-19 in five of the most heavily impacted low- and middle-income countries in the Global South (Brazil, India, Kenya, Philippines, and South Africa). CSOs across all five countries adapted their missions, stretched their resources, and performed a wide range of activities that fit into five programmatic areas: food security and livelihood support, public health and medical care, cash transfer programs, risk communication and community education, and needs assessment. This qualitative analysis demonstrates the critical role CSOs played in supplementing government emergency aid response by delivering necessary resources and supporting highly vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the primary challenges they faced in doing so.



**Maddock, A.,** McGuigan, K., McCusker, P., Kellock, J. (2023) 'The Mindfulness-based social work and self-care programme: A Focus Group Study', *Clinical Social Work Journal* (Open Access - available here: <https://rdcu.be/dn0cL>)

Abstract: The evidence for the potential of mindfulness-based programmes (MBPs) to support improved stress coping and feelings of burnout in social workers is growing. MBPs which are specifically designed for social workers might help to enhance social work practice, whilst simultaneously supporting reductions in stress, burnout, and attrition in the profession. The aim of this qualitative study was to explore the experience of twelve social workers who completed the Mindfulness-based social work and self-care programme (MBSWSC). Thematic data analysis resulted in six key themes being identified: professional motivation, mindfulness practice challenges and facilitators, benefits of increased self-awareness, impact professionally, use of mindfulness practices in direct work, the importance of having a social work tailored programme. This study provides further promising evidence of the acceptability and effectiveness of MBSWSC as a social work self-care and reflective practice programme. It is becoming increasingly clear that social workers are more likely to enrol in and fully engage with MBPs, which are specifically designed to support their social work practice and stress processing skills, if they are offered by their organisation. The increased access to MBPs of this nature is likely to lead to reduced burnout, and retention issues within the social work profession.



## Research Note

Assoc. Prof. Kodate's 'Research Note' (Carnet de chercheur) has been published on the EHESS' website. It is entitled 'Why does implementation of innovative technologies matter for care professionals? A new multi-professional collaborative research project assessing the impact of transfer robots in Toyota Memorial Hospital.'

<http://ffj.ehess.fr/index/article/433.html>

**PROCHAINEMENT**

**Appel à candidature  
Prix FFJ/Christian Polak 2024**  
Date limite : 31 octobre 2023  
Plus d'information

**Persmed lab (FFJ/Air Liquide)**  
Seminar Series with Thomas LEFEVRE (Sorbonne Paris Nord, IRIS) in Japan  
24-27 October 2022  
Onsite at RIKEN, Keio University and the University of Tokyo  
Further information

**International workshop**  
Accountability in Islamic Economy: Transforming Religiosity and Religious Experience in Muslim Societies  
10 November 2023  
Onsite at Campus Condorcet, Bâtiment Recherche Nord, Salle 0.006: 14 cours des Humanités 93300 Aubervilliers  
Further information and registration (mandatory)

**Tous les événements**

**Chronique de S. Lechevalier dans Le Monde**  
« L'ensemble des économies d'Asie orientale risque d'être affecté à terme par les tensions entre Washington et Pékin »  
16 octobre 2023 - Lire la chronique

**Tous les médias**

**Neuvième édition du Prix FFJ/Christian Polak - 10/10/2023 -**

*Appel à candidature*  
**Prix FFJ/Christian Polak 2024**  
Date limite : 31 octobre 2023



**FFJ**  
FONDATION  
FRANCE - JAPON  
DE L'EHESS

>> [Voir l'appel](#) <<  
>> [Plus d'information](#) <<

**Publication**  
- 10/10/2023 -

**Commissaires d'honneur du Prix Christian Polak**

**FFJ**  
FONDATION  
FRANCE - JAPON  
DE L'EHESS

**Tous nos partenaires**

**Carnets de recherche de la FFJ**

Capitalisms, Technologies, Society and Health - A Euroasian project

Care-led innovation: The case of elderly care in France and Japan

Olympic Games and Global Cities

**La Lettre de la FFJ**

**Inscrivez-vous à notre Lettre en cliquant ici**

\*En cas de problème, vous pouvez aussi vous inscrire en envoyant un mail à [sympa@ehess.fr](mailto:sympa@ehess.fr), avec pour titre "subscribe ffj\_french\_news".

**Tous nos partenaires**

**Carnet de chercheur**

**Naonori Kodate**  
2023/9/27

Why does implementation of innovative technologies matter for care professionals? A new multi-professional collaborative research project assessing the impact of transfer robots in Toyota Memorial Hospital



Lire la suite

**Tous les carnets**

# Featured Researcher

**Dr Elaine Wilson, Asst. Prof. in Social Work**



## **How did you come to select your chosen area of research?**

I have two quite distinct areas of research; 1. practice learning and supervision in social work education and 2. psychosocial oncology. The common thread running through the two areas of research is that they are underpinned by evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence and so my interest in both areas arose because of my work as a medical social worker in St Vincent's University Hospital. I was always committed to the importance of teaching students and giving back to the profession and so supervised many social work students on placement and as a practitioner I worked in the oncology and palliative care social work, which led to my PhD research focusing on the psychosocial needs of young women with early-stage breast cancer.

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

My research is primarily qualitative research and I have a particular interest in participatory research, experiential learning, and learning from the expertise of practitioners. Social constructionism and narrative approaches were central to my PhD research and continue to influence my research to date. I, along with my colleague Dr Niamh Flanagan, Maynooth University, designed the Social Work Dialogue approach.

This approach was developed to provide social work students with experiential learning of empirical research and, through collaboration, extend the scope of the student research to produce substantial and meaningful research, suitable for publication or dissemination. We have used the Social Work Dialogue approach extensively with social work students and most recently have used it with second level students to complete a piece about racism and inclusion in their school. The subsequent article entitled 'Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers: using the Dialogue Approach to research' has been identified by the European Social Work Research Journal in September 2023 as the number 1 'one to watch' due to early impact on academia and beyond.

## **Can you describe what the process of writing your most recent article.**

My most recent article was a collaboration with my colleague Dr Niamh Flanagan, Maynooth University. We form an excellent team as we combine my strength in qualitative research methods and Niamh's extensive quantitative experience. Our most recent article focused on our work with second level students exploring how the whole school community conceptualized racism and its impact. The e-survey garnered 772 responses meaning that there is a significant amount of data to be analysed. We made a conscious decision that this article focused on the methodology of the research and give an overview of the findings with the next article focusing on an in-depth analysis, particularly how the intersectionality of age, gender and special education needs impacts how young people experience racism within educational settings.



Our process tends to be a very intense one, with each of us taking responsibility for particular aspects of the article before spending a full day together discussing and finalising the draft.

### **What are the key messages from your most recent publication?**

Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers: Using the social work dialogue approach examines perceptions and experiences of racism within a Dublin secondary school. While there is a lack of research on racism within Irish secondary schools, the research that has been completed highlights racism as an everyday occurrence for BME students. This dialogue project demonstrated similar experiences of racism among a school population that was otherwise privileged. Students reported verbal abuse (particularly name calling), some physical violence, teasing about cultural differences and stereotyping. The complexity of young people's interactions with each other means that understanding the process of racism in schools is also complex and multifaceted.

This study clearly demonstrated to student-researchers, respondents and readers alike that students can also be seen to reject the presence of racism, often while also describing racism within their schools. It is argued that racism is relocated to other places, people and times, or is reclassified as teasing or a joke. This highlights the prominence of white privilege, where majority students can remain largely unaware of the presence of systemic racism. While anti-racism policies and education are undoubtedly required in schools, this will not be successful until racism is acknowledged, and students and teachers are prepared to confront their own biases and roles in reproducing unequal structures.

### **What is next for you?**

I have a number of different projects that I am working on currently. The most immediate project is an audit of the 'Starting a conversation about racism with teenagers' research.

We will be collaborating with another group of transition year students to investigate whether there have been any changes within the school community in relation to racism and inclusion. We plan to expand this research nationally using the e-survey instrument designed for the initial project. This will provide much needed information about the experiences of racism by second level students in Ireland.

### **What projects are you working on now?**

I received funding from the Irish Cancer Society to carry out research with children, adolescents and young adults who have been diagnosed with cancer. This is a very exciting piece of research, especially as oncology social workers are central to the study. It is an important opportunity for social work to be involved in discussions that have the potential to influence future policy development.

I am also collaborating with academics from Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Slovakia on an Erasmus+ grant application. This research will focus on social work practice learning and education across Europe with a view to developing a European framework for both practice learning and the supervision of students on placement. I am finishing ongoing research with both the Mater hospital and Dublin North primary care team, with the plan to publish our findings before the end of this year.

To contact Elaine please email:  
[Elaine.Wilson@ucd.ie](mailto:Elaine.Wilson@ucd.ie)



UCD School of Social Policy, Social  
Work and Social Justice



[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)