



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

NOV-DEC 2023 & JAN 2024, NO. 21

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN



Website:

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



Posted: 14 December, 2023 at the following link: <https://research.ie/2023/12/14/researchers-community-organisations-and-government-bodies-to-collaborate-on-56-new-foundations-projects-to-change-society-for-the-better/>

The Irish Research Council (IRC) is delighted to announce funding for 56 projects under the New Foundations scheme that are designed to reach communities across the country and beyond, focusing on diverse societal challenges. New Foundations awards help bring researchers, civic society organisations and policy makers together to enhance the evidence base for policies and practices that will have a tangible impact, locally, nationally, and internationally. The scheme enables awardees to pursue research, networking or dissemination activities within and across the diversity of disciplines.

Today's announcement represents a total investment of €633,000. Forty-three projects are funded by the IRC to enhance research partnerships with civic society organisations. Through these partnerships with researchers, diverse community organisations will attain new evidence and insights to enhance their services and their impact.

In addition, a further thirteen projects are funded by Government departments and agencies. These address a range of themes including global north-south research development, global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, understanding the scale of social enterprise in Ireland, and exploring policing and community safety. A number of projects awarded New Foundations grants this year will see researchers leveraging new knowledge and evidence and participating in devising strategies and policies that will have measurable societal impact.

Commenting on today's announcement, Peter Brown, Director of the Irish Research Council stated: "The Irish Research Council is very proud of the connections that have been enabled between researchers and wider stakeholders through the many awards made under the New Foundations programme over a number of years. This year will build further on the many successful partnerships, many of which endure and continue beyond the lifetime of the specific award. The research system and the experts that work within it, in myriad disciplines, are a strategic national resource and the New Foundations scheme helps to create a vibrant cross-stakeholder community to enhance evidence and knowledge for better policy and practice. I look forward to seeing fruitful and mutually beneficial collaborations develop between the awardees and their partners in civil society organisations and government departments & agencies.

Among the new research projects that will be funded with civic society partners are:

- **Dr Matt Donogue** (UCD), Enhancing Participation in Local Democracy: Opportunities and Challenges via Public Participation Networks- Working with Social Justice Ireland (see full description later in the bulletin)
- **Dr Mary McAuliffe** (UCD), LGBT Activism in Ireland, 1973-2023; Looking Back, Going Forward - Working with The National LGBT Federation (NXF) (see full description later in the bulletin)

NEW PROJECTS



Dr Matthew Donoghue, Ad Astra Fellow

Successful award under IRC New Foundations Scheme

Project name: Enhancing Participation in Local Democracy: Opportunities and Challenges via Public Participation Networks;



Partner: Social Justice Ireland

Lay Summary:

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) have been a crucial facilitator of local politics. They aim to increase local and deliberative democracy, empowering communities to influence decision-making at the local level. Despite success, research has identified PPNs can improve their communication, organisation and decision-making. Partnering with Social Justice Ireland (SJI), the project will build on the recommendations for further research set out in a recent SJI report on PPNs, while also considering the recommendations of a recent DRCD-commissioned consultation. It will conduct qualitative research within four PPNs, and produce a set of recommendations for policy actors and community organisations.

Extract from proposal:

Political decision-making and policymaking in Ireland has been dominated by a top-down process, with significant central control. In recent years, however, there has been increasing focus on developing more bottom-up approaches, especially at the community and Local Authority (LA) levels. A core element of this since 2014 are Public Participation Networks (PPNs). These groups act as conduits between local communities and community-level organisations, and Local Authorities. A core aim of PPNs is to enhance the voice of community members through giving them a voice in LA fora. In this way, 'democracy is made stronger, by allowing diverse views and interests to be considered as part of the decision-making process of local government' (DRCD, 2023). Yet significant questions remain over their overall effectiveness regarding improving local democracy and, importantly, increasing and diversifying the actors present in the policymaking process at the local level. For example, how do councillors and TDs engage with PPNs, how meaningful is this engagement, and to what extent does this translate into concrete policy? How well are PPNs understood, in terms of organisation and remit? How well supported are PPNs by political actors, local civil servants and local communities?

The project will build upon the findings of a Social Justice Ireland report and a DRCD commissioned review by conducting in-depth qualitative research into the experiences, perceptions, understandings and expert assessments of the organisation, approach and implementation of PPNs, using an interpretive policy analysis (IPA) approach. This approach emphasises the role of politics and dialogue in the policymaking process (Wagenaar, 2015). It highlights the contestable nature of political evidence, and privileges the experience, perceptions and voices of diverse actors in the policymaking process. This framework is therefore ideal to explore the role and integration of different actors and different perspectives within local policymaking fora.

Through identifying major themes, alongside points of convergence and divergence regarding different actors' understandings of, and attitudes towards, PPNs, the research will construct a broad picture of the opportunities and challenges facing PPNs, informed in particular by the SJI research upon which this project proposes to build. In doing so, the research can facilitate the development of effective, locally grounded policy that combines the lived experience of community groups with the political knowledge of local representatives and civil servants.

Dr Mary McAuliffe, Asst. Prof.

Successful award under IRC New Foundations Scheme

Project name: LGBT Activism in Ireland, 1973–2023; Looking Back, Going Forward



Partner: The National LGBT Federation, Ireland

Lay Summary

In October 1973 the first meeting of the Irish Sexual Liberation Movement (SLM) was held in Dublin. In the ensuing five decades there have been successful campaigns to decriminalise homosexuality, to ensure that LGBT rights are recognised within equality legislation, to achieve gender recognition, and marriage equality. However, much remains to be done. This day long series of workshops and talks will bring together NGOs, activists, academics and members of the public to discuss what has been achieved for the LGBT community in Ireland to date and strategies for future activism to advance LGBT rights and combat anti-LGBT ideologies.

Aims and Objectives

Working with project partner, The National LGBT Federation, the overall aim is to bring together academic and activist groups, create a space for the sharing of ideas, expertise and needs. The objectives are as follows:

1. Run a hybrid day long workshop to discuss our shared histories and contemporary concerns.
2. Facilitate the creation of networks between academia and civic society partners.
3. Strategise and organise to meet the needs of the contemporary LGBT community in the face of a growing backlash against rights already achieved and the activism for further rights and equality.
4. Make public these discussions and strategies through GCN, podcasts and recordings to inform advocacy within LGBT communities in Ireland, and on the NXF website.

Expected Outputs and Outcomes

- Recorded talks and podcasts which will platform the work of these activists and academics, to be hosted on GCN digital and www.nxf.ie;
- Series of articles on 50 years of LGBT activism & the contemporary activist needs of LGBTI communities in Ireland, published in GCN and NXF website;
- Creation of a network of knowledge between academics and LGBT activists.
- Report on the project to be published and shared widely.

Expected Impact

This project meets the objectives of Strand 1a by developing partnerships between the PI, the NXF, academics and LGBT groups throughout Ireland. Organised around Machen's (2020) five modes of critical research impact: challenging policy; empowering resistances; platforming voices and nurturing new critical publics and envisioning alternatives, the workshops will encourage knowledge exchanges, develop expertise that will encourage and inform collaborative work between academics and civic society organisations in order to challenge the current backlash against LGBT rights. Those partners who come together under the project's roof will be invited to collaborate with Dr Mary McAuliffe on relevant research applications aimed at developing and expanding the research findings.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

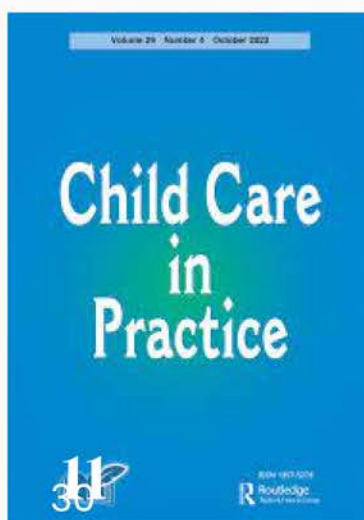
Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate has joined the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Care and Caring (Policy Press, Bristol University Press) in November 2023. He is one of the three academics in charge of the journal's Debates and Issues section.



The International Journal of Care and Caring (IJCC) is a new multidisciplinary journal designed to advance scholarship and debate in the important and expanding field of care and caring. Multidisciplinary and international in scope, it publishes high-quality contributions on care, caring and carers from all regions of the world. IJCC has a broad focus, covering care and caring for people of any age who have long-term conditions, disabilities or frailties, or who are seriously ill or near the end of life. It explores the economic, organisational, political, social, legal, familial, transnational and ethical settings in which this care occurs

https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/view/journals/ijcc/ijcc-overview.xml?tab_body=editorial-board

Asst. Prof. Joseph has joined the Editorial Board of Child Care in Practice (Taylor and Francis).



Child Care in Practice is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that provides an international forum for professionals working in all disciplines in the provision of children's services, including social work, social care, health care, medicine, psychology, education, the police and probationary services, and solicitors and barristers working in the family law and youth justice sectors.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=editorialBoard&journalCode=cccp20>



Dr Joseph Mooney, Asst. Prof. in Social Work, has been accepted onto the UCD Thrive Leadership in Research Programme, commencing January 2024.

The "THRIVE - Leadership in Research" 2024 Programme is a joint initiative between UCD People and Organisation Development and UCD Research in consultation with our training partner 64 Million Artists (<https://64millionartists.com/>). This important programme will contribute to the development of our UCD Faculty members at Lecturer/Assistant Professor and Associate Professor level and supports the delivery of UCD's strategic plans.

The programme will equip participants with the skills, knowledge, behaviours and confidence needed to realise their ambitions in UCD. Utilising a holistic approach, it provides a significant opportunity for Assistant Professors/Lecturers and Associate Professors across all disciplines to develop leadership and innovation skills in a group environment with peer-to-peer collaboration and networking.

THRIVE has seven key areas for participants' personal development:

1. Identifying and building on personal strengths
2. Developing a unique leadership and management style
3. Collaborating and co-creating
4. Fostering cultural democracy
5. Remaining resilient and communicating boundaries
6. Honing a personal academic signature
7. Pursuing a values-led career

For more information go to the following link:

<https://www.ucd.ie/peopledevelopment/ourservices/leadership/thrive/>

Past Events

Seminar

VSJF (Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung) Annual Conference 2023

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

Date/Time: Fri 3 November 2023, 8:00-11:30 (IST)

Venue: Online

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate co-organised and moderated an online Annual Conference of the VSJF (the German Association for Social Science Research on Japan) on the 3rd of November. The seminar brought together researchers in the domain of science, technology and society – working in Germany, Ireland, France, Japan, the UK and Singapore.



Seminar



Scrutinising prisons - Pluralistic perspectives

Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Sophie Van der Valk (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)

For more information on Dr Van der Valk see the following link:

<https://people.ucd.ie/sophie.vandervalk>; Email: sophie.vandervalk@ucd.ie

SCRUTINISING PRISONS – PLURALISTIC PERSPECTIVES

Thursday 14 December 2023, 2 PM to 5 PM, DIGNITY

This event involved an afternoon of panels and dialogue featuring new perspectives on how best to understand and represent prison life and mitigate penal harms. The question of how exactly prison life can be understood continues to dog the practices of prison professionals, activists, and scholars: whose point of view should be privileged, what tools should be used, and who gets to judge what entry point is best.

Programme

2.00 – 2.10 pm	Welcome and introduction Tomas Max Martin, senior researcher DIGNITY
2.10 – 3.00 pm	Experiencing Scrutiny "Barriers to engagement: Scrutiny gaps in Irish prisons", Sophie van der Valk, postdoctoral researcher, University College Dublin, and Mary Rogan, associate professor, Trinity College Dublin. "Security, discipline, resistance: Deciphering prison scrutiny styles in France", Gilles Chantraine senior researcher at CLERSE-CNRS University of Lille Discussant: Charlotte Mathiassen, associate professor, Danish School of Education
3.00 – 3.50 pm	Practicing Scrutiny "Scrutinizing the prison during a pandemic and beyond: Oversight from a distance in the Philippines", Kalliopi Kambanella, senior legal advisor, DIGNITY, and Brenda van den Bergh, senior public health advisor, DIGNITY "Monitors and ethnographers: A Reflection on affinities and potential synergies", Andrew M. Jefferson, senior researcher, DIGNITY Discussant: Peter Vedel Kessing, senior researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights
3.50 – 4.00 pm	Break
4.00 – 4.50 pm	Representation as Scrutiny "Scrutinizing prisons through popular culture: Jimmy McGovern's Time", Jamie Bennett, Chief Strategy Officer at Youth Justice Board for England and Wales "Scrutinizing prisons through art, activism, and academic critique", Mina Ibrahim, project manager at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Prison Forum Discussant: Michael Noer, film director.
4.50 – 5:00 pm	Concluding remarks Tomas Max Martin and Andrew M. Jefferson, senior researchers, DIGNITY

Dr Sophie Van der Valk, postdoctoral researcher, University College Dublin, took part in the *Experiencing Scrutiny* afternoon panel by co-presenting a paper, "Barriers to engagement: Scrutiny gaps in Irish prisons" with Mary Rogan, associate professor, Trinity College Dublin.

Further information on the event can be found here: <https://dignity.dk/en/news/events/seminar-scrutinising-prisons-pluralistic-perspectives/>

This was a hybrid event open to all. It was possible to follow the seminar online, but Q&A and interaction with the speakers will only be possible for the in-person participants.

Seminar

**The France-Japan Forum (14 November) & INNOVCARE Annual Forum (15 November),
Strasbourg / Aubervilliers, France.**

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate was invited to give two talks in France – one at the France-Japan Joint Forum at Université de Strasbourg (14 November), and the other at EHESS, Aubervilliers, France (15 November). The latter seminar was held to mark the success of our research funding application (INNOVCARE) from the French Government (ANR – France2030).



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

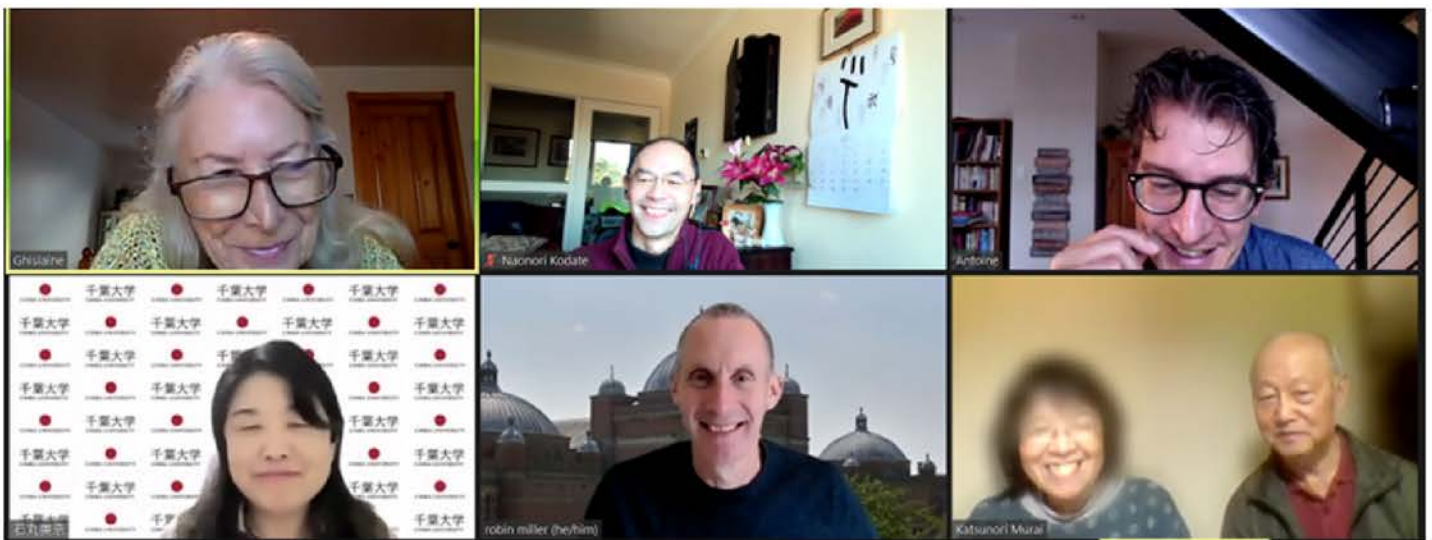
15 November 2023
10.00-18.30 (France) | 18.00-2.30 (Japan)
Online and On site at Campus Condorcet
Centre des colloques, Room 3.05 - Place du Front populaire, 93300 Aubervilliers

Ongoing research collaboration

In search of an international model which enables 'living the life we/elder people wish to live': Caring Communities in Higashi-Chiba, Japan & Montreal, Canada

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate regularly meets with Prof. Mina Ishimaru (Chiba University), Prof. Antoine Boivin and the team in Canada and Japan. On this occasion, we welcomed Prof. Robin Miller at Department of Social Work and Social Care, University of Birmingham, and discussed our project.

Date/Time: Friday 10 November 2022, 13:00-14:00 (IST)
Online

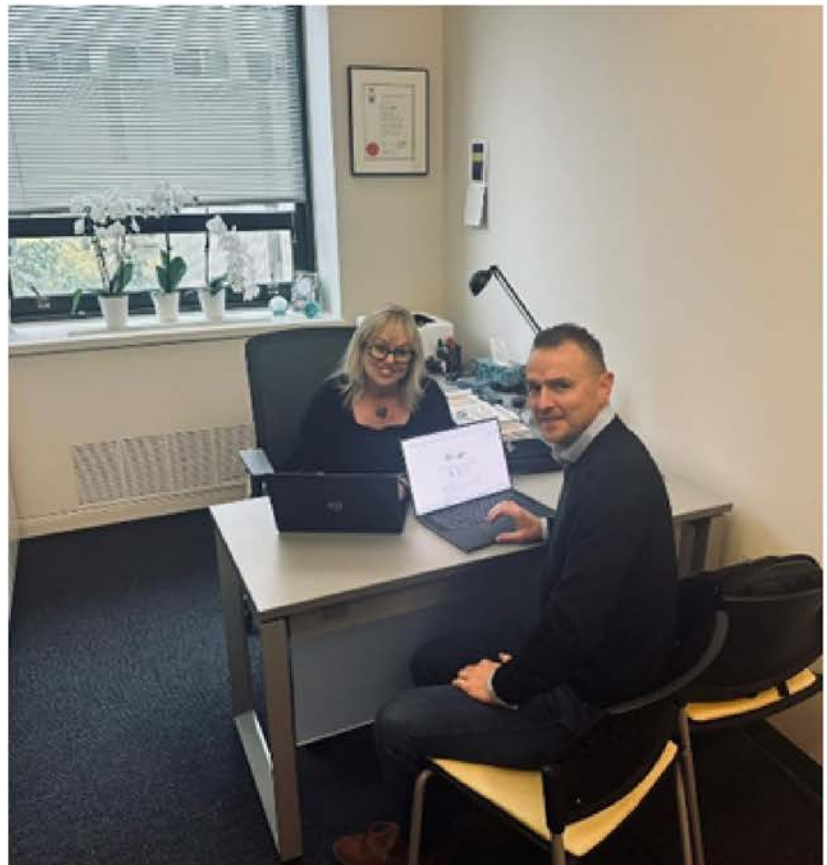


Research Trip to University of Toronto



During reading Week (Oct/Nov 2023) **Dr Joe Mooney** completed a research and knowledge exchange visit at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. The trip was on foot of an invite by Professor Ramona Alaggia, Professor in Social Work and Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family (see website: <https://socialwork.utoronto.ca/profiles/ramona-alaggia/>).

The trip involved a number of strands including attendance at the faculty's child policy module and providing a lecture to their Masters students and faculty members on recent developments in the Irish Criminal Justice and Child Protection Systems regarding responses to abuse.



The trip also included an agency visit to The Gatehouse (website: <https://thegatehouse.org/>), on the outskirts of Toronto. The Gatehouse is a service which provides supports to both children and adults who have experienced abuse across the life course. The service operates akin to child advocacy centre and barnahus models of interagency practice which Ireland are currently piloting in Galway. The visit included a tour of the service, meeting with the staff and former service users, and also a meeting with the service founder, Arthur Lockhart (see website for more information: https://survivorscouncil.ca/?gva_team=laurie-laforest.)



BOOK LAUNCH: NOVEMBER 2, 2023

**CONTEMPORARY AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN
CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE MODELS**

<p>3:10pm Welcome & Introductions Pearl Rimer Dr. Ramona Alaggia</p> <p>3:20pm Panel Presentations Dr. Joseph Mooney Dr. Deborah Goodman Dr. Violeta Dubov Audrey Rastin Maggie Blake</p> <p>4:15pm Q & A</p> <p>4:30pm Refreshments & Networking</p> <p>5:00pm Wrap Up</p>	<p>Edited by Aoife O'Malley, Pearl Rimer, Danielle Nadeau, James Herbert and Wendy Walsh</p> <p>Presses de l'Université du Québec</p>
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Alongside research planning meetings with Professor Alaggia the trip also included an event to official launch a recent edited collection exploring child advocacy and barnahus models of practice (St-Amand, A., Rimer, P., Nadeau, D., Herbert, J. et Walsh, W. (2023). *Contemporary and Innovative Practices in Child and Youth Advocacy Centre Models*. Les presses de l'Université du Québec : Québec.) **Dr Mooney** co-authored a chapter in the text alongside Aoife O'Malley, Manager of Barnahus West (Ireland's pilot Barnahus service). The event included presentations from other chapter authors and a professional networking event. **Dr Mooney's** collaboration with the Faculty at UofT continues, with a view to inviting Professor Alaggia to speak here at UCD in the future.

To access information about the publication go to this link:
<https://www.puq.ca/catalogue/livres/contemporary-and-innovative-practices-child-and-4099.html>



Interdisciplinary one-day seminar



HER-ald: HER archives, literature, documents

Join us for an interdisciplinary one-day seminar which aims to enhance the visibility of Irish women in archival collections.

 Royal Irish Academy / Dec 14

This one-day seminar aimed to enhance the visibility of Irish women scientists, scholars, authors and others by bringing together archival practitioners, librarians, historians and other stakeholders to discover, discuss and disseminate women's archival collections. The seminar, HER-ald: Her archives, literature, documents, took place in the Royal Irish Academy on Thursday 14 December 2023. This date also marked the 105th anniversary of Irish women over the age of 30 exercising their right to vote in a general election for the first time.

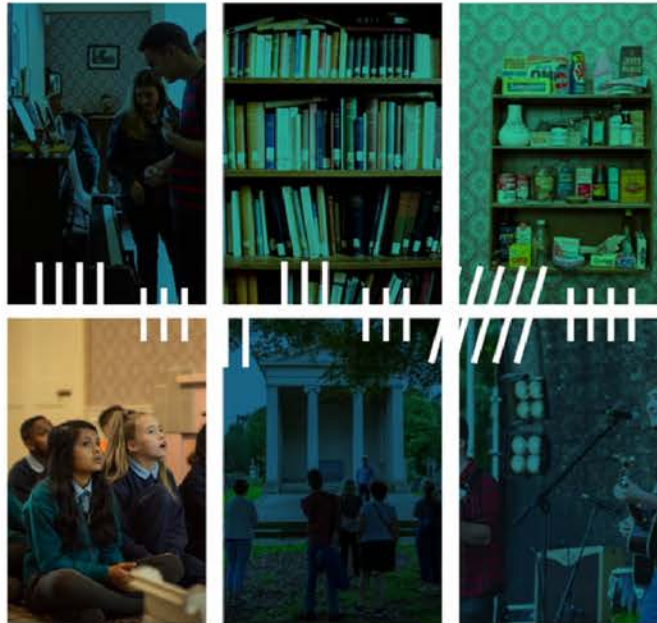
This event was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media and Mná 100.

Dr Mary Mc Auliffe was a Panelist at the HER-ald: HER archives, literature, documents' and presented a paper entitled 'Using the archives to write histories of queer female sexualities in Ireland'.

For more information go to the following link: <https://www.ria.ie/her-ald-her-archives-literature-documents>

UCLG Global, Cultural Summit, Dublin 2023

<https://www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org/>



The City of Dublin (Republic of Ireland) hosted the fifth UCLG Culture Summit from 28 November to 1 December 2023, under the auspice of the Dublin City Council and the Dublin City Council Culture Company. Entitled “Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables”, the UCLG Culture Summit is the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and organisations that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

Dr Mary McAuliffe, Speaker on the panel entitled ‘Keys to Gender Equality in Cultural Policies’.
<https://www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org/>

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies (JaSt) News

Seminars

JaSt held two seminars on the theme of 'Science, Technology and Innovation' on 20 and 27 November 2023. These seminars are funded by the Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI), the Department of Education, and designed to highlight the significance of learning foreign languages (under the auspices of the Language Connect Policy Unit, the Irish Government).

Science • Technology • Innovation

#ThinkLanguages Week 2023

Robotics Research in Japan

Behind the Scenes of Technology for the Future



Focusing on robotics research and development in Japan, this presentation will introduce the history of robotics, representative projects and the latest technologies, and describe the current state of the technology that will support the future society.



Dr. Hideki Kajima
Head of Robotics Research,
Toyota Frontier Research Center

科学・技術・社会



Monday 20 November, 2023

1:00 pm

H2.22 UCD Science Hub O'Brien Centre

www.ucd.ie/japan/

UCD Japan Fair 2023

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies



#ThinkLanguages

Science • Technology • Innovation

#ThinkLanguages Week 2023

Japan's Space Activities, Lunar Exploration Plans & Space Business Trends

The world, including Japan, is now aiming for the Moon. This presentation will outline Japan's and the world's lunar exploration plans, and introduce the trend in space-related business, which continues to expand year by year.



Mr. Yusuke Suzuki
Senior Chief Engineer & Member
Executive Board Member, Japan
Aerospace Exploration Agency

科学・技術・社会



Monday 27 November, 2023

1:00 pm

H2.22 UCD Science Hub O'Brien Centre

www.ucd.ie/japan/

UCD Japan Fair 2023

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies



#ThinkLanguages

'Encountering Japanese' Workshops - Discover Japan's rich history & futuristic innovations!



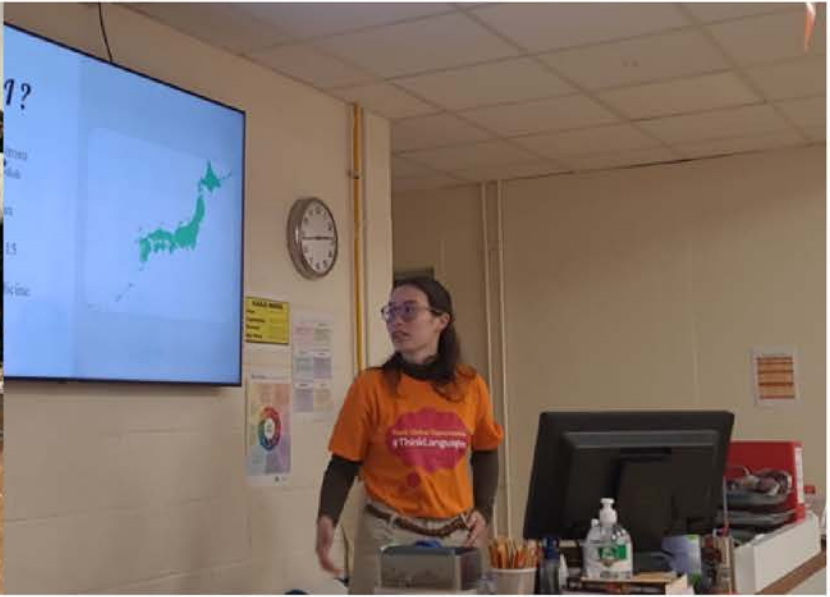
For #ThinkLanguages Week 2023, the UCD Centre for Japanese Studies provided free Transition Year sessions with support from Language Connect on 'My Japan' and a 'Wadaiko Experience'. These were highly interactive, enhancing global awareness and cultural understanding. The group led by Nobuko Ijichi (UCD Centre for Japanese Studies) visited Stepaside ETSS on 21 November the week before #TL.

Up to 12 December 2023, the team visited 10 schools in total seeing 598 students and we will have had 1,082 student sessions. We are in discussions with a small number of other schools about January sessions.

Sessions:

- My Japan: Led by UCD undergraduate and postgraduate students well-versed in Japanese languages and culture, this Workshop offers students a captivating cultural journey. Explore Japanese traditions, language, cuisine, Manga, Anime, and Pop Fashion. Engage in interactive sessions and personal stories, fostering
 - a deeper appreciation of Japan's creativity and global influence, enhancing global awareness and cultural understanding.
 - Wadaiko Experience: Immerse in rhythmic mastery at the Taiko Drum Workshop. Designed for TY students, it explores Japanese drumming, from basic beats to intricate rhythms. Taiko blends music, culture, and athleticism for all. Unearth the ancient history and potency of this art, from military origins to its sacred role in Japanese religions. Embrace the vibrant modern resurgence in Japan and worldwide. Join us and feel the beat!

Big big thanks to the UCD students (Laoise Murphy (Biomedicine, Health & Life Science), Emiri Ogawa Boostrom (Medicine), Jennifer O'Keeffe (Gender, Politics and International Relations))!





Meeting and Interview on 'My Research and Life in an Irish University' (Honjo International Scholarship Foundation)

Mr Daihachi Honjo (researcher at the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation / Keio University) visited Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate on UCD Belfield Campus (6 December). The purpose of the visit was to interview Dr Kodate about his research and life in an Irish university. Dr Kodate was a former scholarship awardee (2005–2007). From UCD, Dr Kaori Hirashige (UCD School of English, Drama & Film) had their Scholarship to support her doctoral research (2016–2018). Mr Honjo has been visiting several former awardees worldwide (Europe and Africa) between November 2023 and January 2024.



Left to Right: Dr Naonori Kodate & Mr Daihachi Honjo

Previously, Dr Kodate contributed twice to the Foundation's Workshop Series (10th HISF Workshop 'Rikejo (Women in STEM) in Japan: Past and Future' (6 December 2015); 18th HISF Workshop 'Let's think about human-robot interactions in society' (8 January 2022))
<https://www.hisf.or.jp/hisf-workshop/>
<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/latestandupcomingotherevents/kodatejan202218thhisfworkshopletsthinkabouthuman-robotinteractionsinsociety/>

He also served as a member of the organising committee for the Foundation's 20th Anniversary International Symposium, and a moderator of the symposium "Working Together towards a Just Society: Skills, Knowledge and Experience" (19–20 August 2017)
<https://www.hisf.or.jp/20anniversary/english/program/index.html>

New Publications

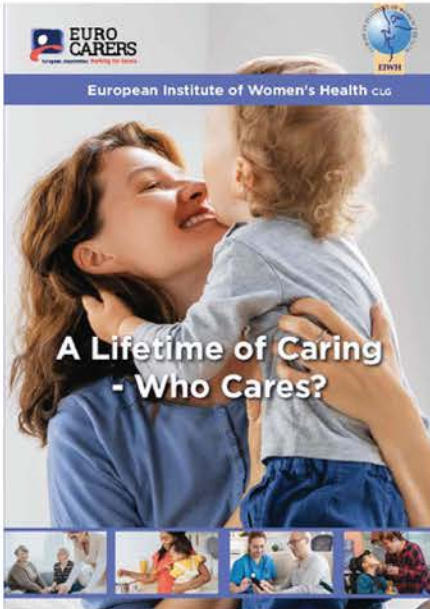
Report

Ursula Barry (UCD Assoc. Prof. Emeritus) and Ciara Jennings (2023) *A Lifetime of Caring - Who Cares?* Published by European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)

Founded in 1996, the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that promotes gender equity in public health, research and social policies across Europe. For more information see website: <https://eurohealth.ie/>

This report explores the gendered nature of care work. Women spend on average 90 minutes more per day on unpaid care work compared to men and over 90% of formal carers are women. Therefore, the burden of care work, both formal and informal, is disproportionately placed on women and it is under-valued in society. Issues such as the care penalty and the gender pay gap in relation to care are discussed. Furthermore, this report explores the European Care Strategy, the policy context, demographics and socio-economic trends, as well as many other key points in relation to care in Europe. Each chapter concludes with a series of concrete and comprehensive recommendations.

The full pdf report can be downloaded at this link: <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://eurohealth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/A-Lifetime-of-Caring-Who-Cares-1.pdf>



Journal article

McAuliffe, Mary. "The Treatment of Militant Anti-Treaty Women in Kerry by the National Army during the Irish Civil War." *Éire-Ireland*, vol. 58 no. 3, 2023, p. 72-100. *Project MUSE*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/eir.2023.a910480>.



Working paper series published on Public Policy.ie
(see link: <https://publicpolicy.ie/environment/addressing-energy-poverty-in-ireland/>)

November 28, 2023

Addressing Energy Poverty in Ireland



Orla Dingley, PhD student, School of Social Policy, Social Work & Social Justice, UCD and Member of the Geary Institute for Public Policy and the UCD Energy Institute. PhD research, funded by SFI, is part of the NexSys project (**Principal Investigator: Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston**)

Key words: Just transition, energy poverty, transport poverty

Introduction

With the introduction of climate change policies and with depleting levels of fossil fuels, fuel prices are expected to rise, in both household energy and transport energy. As a result, an increasing number of households could face difficulties in their ability to afford their energy bills, to adequately warm their home and fulfil their travel needs. For this reason, there is a need to re-examine the specification and targeting of energy poverty policy. Next Generation Energy Systems (NexSys) is an all-island, multidisciplinary energy research programme hosted by the UCD Energy Institute. One strand of this research program aims to identify groups at risk of energy poverty in Ireland, including those affected by transport energy poverty (transport energy is usually neglected when addressing energy poverty). A key component of the project will be to identify public policies which address both the environmental and social challenges associated with energy. Such policies would protect vulnerable households, communities and nature as well as ensuring a just transition.

See this link for the pdf version of the paper: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://publicpolicy.ie/downloads/papers/2023/Addressing%20Energy%20Poverty.pdf>

For further information please contact Orla Dingley:
Email:

Print Media Focus



The New York Times

Riots in Dublin: ‘It Snowballed’: How a Knife Attack in Dublin Led to a Riot – The violence in Ireland’s capital on Thursday night was fueled by far-right agitators who spread rumors online about an attack on three children earlier that day.

Article by Isabella Kwai and Adam Satariano

Reporting from London; Nov. 24, 2023

with contribution from Dr Matthew Donoghue, Ad Astra Fellow

Soon after three children and a woman were wounded in a knife attack outside a Dublin school on Thursday, rumors about the perpetrator’s nationality began to proliferate online.

The Garda Síochána, the Irish police force, declined to comment on the background of the suspect, who was taken into custody after being tackled to the ground by bystanders. The police said only that he is a man in his 50s. But unconfirmed reports that he was an Algerian migrant quickly began circulating in anti-immigration and far-right groups, according to researchers specializing in extremist movements online.

Alongside those rumors: a call to gather in central Dublin, in what anti-immigrant voices framed as a stand against crime and in defense of Irish children.

What started as online chatter ended with the worst unrest to hit Ireland in decades, as rioters clashed with the police, set vehicles alight and looted stores. Some demonstrators carried banners reading “Irish Lives Matter.” Others vandalized hotels and hostels thought to be housing migrants.

Several police officers were hurt, one seriously, and 34 people were arrested, Drew Harris, the Gardaí’s commissioner, told reporters on Friday. “We have not seen a public disorder situation like this before,” he said. A group of people had taken “a thimbleful of facts” and added “a bathful of assumptions — hateful assumptions,” he said.

In an address on Friday morning, Prime Minister Leo Varadkar condemned the disorder and said that the police would fight back against “waves of ignorance and criminality.”

“Those involved have brought shame on Dublin, brought shame on Ireland and brought shame on their families and themselves,” Mr. Varadkar said. “This is not who we are. This is not who we want to be, and this is not who we will ever be.”

Researchers specializing in the spread of online extremism said the riots were an example of how far-right groups were capitalizing on the discontent and disenfranchisement of some Irish people, at a time when many have struggled to keep up with the cost of living and a housing crisis.

Like many parts of Europe, Ireland has received an influx of newcomers in recent years as conflict, economic pressure and climate change have driven migration. In the year leading up to this past April, the number of immigrants to Ireland reached a 16-year high of 141,600, according to official data, including more than 40,000 Ukrainians.

Some of the far-right influencers who called for people to take to the streets on Thursday cited a high-profile attack that rocked Ireland last year: the murder of a 23-year-old teacher, Ashling Murphy, who was stabbed while jogging along a canal path. Jozef Puska, a Slovakian citizen who immigrated to Ireland 10 years ago, was found guilty of her murder and sentenced last week.

Jane Suiter, a professor at Dublin City University who studies disinformation, said news of Thursday’s attack quickly spread through anti-immigration and far-right websites and social media spaces.

Gript, a right-wing news platform in Ireland, was one of the first to suggest publicly that the perpetrator was Algerian. That claim on X, the social media site, was shared by right-wing leaders including Tommy Robinson, Professor Suiter said, and was amplified further in

Telegram channels and social media groups. "It snowballed," she said, adding that the protest in central Dublin was small in the beginning. "But then young men started arriving from everywhere and converging."

The trigger of Thursday's riot was a knife attack outside a school at 1:30 p.m. in which three students were wounded, along with a child-care worker who defended them. One of the children, aged 5, remained in critical condition on Friday, while the woman was in serious condition.

But the issues underlying the violent disorder stretch back further, said Matthew Donoghue, associate professor in social policy at the University College Dublin.

"People feel insecure, people feel worried, people feel out of control — not because of migration but because of the social and economic conditions in which they have to live," he said, pointing to an increase in inequality, including in housing, that has priced out some long-term Dublin residents. "There have been groups that have become very adept at capitalizing on this."

Far-right ideology has grown in Ireland because of social media and messaging platforms, said Ciarán O'Connor, a senior analyst with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a think tank that researches online hate and disinformation. Studying 13 million posts on 12 online platforms, the researchers found that groups that originally shared views against vaccinations and Covid-19 lockdowns had evolved to target refugees, asylum seekers and other minority groups.

Telegram, an encrypted messaging app, is particularly popular with extremists. Messages often started there, Mr. O'Connor said, then rippled out to people with larger followings. "Social media platforms are being weaponized by far-right groups and individuals who are exploiting sensitive public and social issues," he said.

As the authorities urged the public on Friday to be vigilant against the spread of false information online, Telegram channels used by far-right groups were filled with anti-immigration sentiment. On Twitter, #IrelandisFull was trending.

Telegram did not respond to a request for comment. "Busy now, please check back later," X said in an automated response to an email seeking comment.

Government officials praised the role of Caio Benicio, a Deliveroo driver from Brazil who intervened in the knife attack by hitting the suspect with his motorcycle helmet.

"It was everything by instinct,"

Mr. Benicio told the national broadcaster Raidió Teilifís Éireann, or RTE. "I was in shock. I didn't even have time to be scared."

Mr. Benicio moved to Ireland a year ago. Asked about the anti-immigrant sentiment behind the riots, he said: "I am immigrant and I was there, right there to protect Irish people, you know."

Videos of the city center on Friday showed a strong police presence and city workers scraping burned debris off the roads and towing away a damaged tram. Some schools and businesses in Dublin were closed on Friday afternoon, RTE reported.

Mr. Varadkar, the Irish prime minister, said that the country would "modernize" its laws regarding incitement to hatred to cover social media platforms and pass legislation in the coming weeks allowing the police to better use the CCTV footage they collected on Thursday. Ireland's justice minister, Helen McEntee, told RTE that those charged with assault of a Garda officer could face up to 12 years in prison. The police said that the motive for the knife assault was unclear and that they were keeping "an open mind" in the investigation. Commissioner Harris said that the force would review its tactics on policing public disorder but pushed back at assertions that officers had failed to contain the unrest, saying they could not have anticipated its intensity. Researchers said the country needed to tackle far-right extremism more seriously and address the underlying issues of inequality and social exclusion.

"This has to be a wake-up call," said Rory Hearne, an associate professor in social policy at Maynooth University in County Kildare.

Ireland

Isabella Kwai is a breaking news reporter in the London bureau. She joined The Times in 2017 as part of the Australia bureau. Adam Satariano is a technology correspondent based in Europe, where his work focuses on digital policy and the intersection of technology and world affairs.



RTÉ Brainstorm, a home for new ideas and insights on Ireland and the world. It's an unique partnership between RTÉ and Irish third level institutions, namely our Founding Partners University College Cork, University of Galway, University of Limerick, DCU, Technological University Dublin and Maynooth University. We're pleased to welcome the Irish Research Council and Teagasc as our Strategic Partners. RTÉ Brainstorm is where the academic and research community will contribute to public debate, reflect on what's happening in the world around us and communicate fresh thinking on a broad range of issues.

Mary McAuliffe, UCD. 'Analysis: the vehemently anti-republican women who were involved in the proto-fascist Blueshirts, banned 90 years ago this month, are still missing from our national narrative'. Published on RTE Brainstorm website. See the full paper at the following Link: <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2023/1215/1422003-ireland-blue-blouses-kathleen-browne-blueshirts-fine-gael/>



You've heard of the Blueshirts, who were Ireland's Blue Blouses?

The vehemently anti-republican women who were involved in the proto-fascist Blueshirts, banned 90

Senator Kathleen Browne, a member of the Irish Free State from 1927 to 1936, had participated with her local Cumann na mBan in south Wexford in the War of Independence, was pro-treaty and member of Cumann na Saoirse during the Civil War. But unlike many of the political and militant women of the Irish revolution, Browne's afterlife was not one of involvement in feminist organisations, or in campaigns to allay the restrictive legislation on women's participation, outside the home, in the Free State. Indeed Brown, an avid supporter of W.T. Cosgrave and Cumann na nGaedheal was more anxious about the rise of Fianna Fáil than the chipping away at women's rights under the Cosgrave Government.

One of the organisations she became associated with after the Finna Fáil electoral success in the 1932 General Election was the Army Comrades Association. The ACA was an organisation of former members of the National Army, which was formed in 1932 in opposition to de Valera's Government and provided protection for members of Cumann na nGaedheal.

Political meetings were fractious and often violent, with running clashes between the ACA and republicans who supported Fianna Fáil. By July 1933 the ACA had adopted a uniform, of a blue military style shirt and the straight arm salute, and renamed itself the National Guard under the leadership of former Garda Commissioner, General Eoin O'Duffy. The National Guard was better known by their nickname, the Blueshirts.

Originally a male only organisation, women soon became involved in large numbers. Like the men, they also adopted a uniform, a military style blue blouse with dark blue beret and tie, and dark skirt. They were referred to sometimes as girl Blueshirts, but more often they were called the Blue Blouses. Dale Montgomery, in his study of Blue Blouses, estimated that there were 12,500 Blue Blouse women involved in 628 branches throughout the country at its height; although most were concentrated in rural areas of Kerry, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Meath, Carlow and Dublin. In his study on the Blueshirts in Kerry, historian Owen O'Shea found the presence of Blue Blouse branches in several areas including Listowel and Kenmare.

In Wexford, Kathleen Browne was a senior member and she recruited hundreds of men and women into the organisation. What motivated Browne and the men and women she recruited was, she said in a Senate speech, securing order, peace and discipline in the country. While Dr Kathleen Lynn wrote in her diaries that the 'A.C.A. [who] call themselves 'National Guard' [are] Blue Shirts = kind of Fascisti', Browne insisted that 'ours is not a fascist movement', although she did not offer any criticism of fascism, instead seeing Communism (and Fianna Fáil, which she regarded as infected by Communism), especially groups such as the Friends of Soviet Russia (of which Lynn was a member) and their 'poisonous propaganda', as a real danger to Ireland.

These concerns motivated many thousands of women and by 1933 there were more women in Blue Blouse branches than there were in Cumann na mBan, in the Irish Countrywomen's Association and in the remaining feminist organisations. The conservative, patriarchal politics of the Blueshirt movement were not a deterrent, and in many ways the involvement of women in the Blue Blouses mirrored the more domestic roles which Cumann na mBan played before and during the War of Independence. They were also vehemently anti-republican and older members, like Browne, would have been in the short lived pro-treaty women's group, Cumann na Saoirse.

Like the Blueshirts, the Blue Blouses were generally social conservatives, determined to defend the State from what they perceived as the threat of IRA extremism. For women like Browne, a self-declared practical farmer, it was also about defending the rights of the farming community from which she sprang, defending the right to free speech and about the provision of a stalwart defence against the rise of communism and the possible threat of dictatorship. Many supporters of the Blueshirts felt that a Fianna Fáil government would interfere with the rule of law and order in the country, would allow those who had been anti-Treaty take revenge on the pro-Treaty supporters, but most especially, many like Browne were concerned with the effects of the Economic War on the country, particularly on rural Ireland.

As well as supporting the Cumann na nGaedheal party, especially as it was now in opposition, Blue Blouse women were the organisers of almost all cultural, social, sporting and fund-raising events, as well as recruitment and propaganda and voter registration. However, they were also deeply involved in party politics and were highly visible at most public meetings around the country. They often appeared in their hundreds at these meetings, distinctive in their uniforms, marching in formation and giving the straight-armed salute. For instance, on March 6, 1935, it was reported thousands of Blueshirts, including about '600 girls', met General O'Duffy a mile outside Galway and 'escorted' him into the city for a monster meeting. At Skibbereen, Co Cork on February 2, 1934, 1,000 Blue Blouses marched, while later that year in September, around 3,000 Blue blouses marched at Béal na Bláth to commemorate Michael Collins.



Kathleen Browne Photo: Wikimedia Commons

This public visibility meant that the Blue Blouses were exposed to the violence which was part and parcel of political meetings at this time. In early July 1934, Fianna Fáil gathered to celebrate the county council election results and over 80 Blueshirts and a number of Blue Blouses, who were at a public dance, clashed. One of the Blue Blouse girls was badly hurt. When these clashes occurred, attempts were sometimes made to strip the women of their blouses. In Ballincollig District Court in Cork, in early May 1934 a young man was found guilty of tearing the blue blouse and scarf of a woman at a Blueshirt meeting. The United Ireland newspaper reported on June 9, 1934, that a 'girl Blueshirt' was attacked and received a severe beating and 'her blue shirt was practically torn off her'.

There is also evidence of clashes between Blue Blouse women and other political women. On April 30, 1934, at a meeting held by the Women Prisoners' Defence League, at which Maud Gonne McBride was speaking, two Blue Blouse women were assaulted. According to newspaper reports the girls received 'rough treatment' and one had her coat torn off. They had to be rescued from the crowd by the Gardaí. At a court case in Westmeath in June 1934 a woman was charged with assaulting two Blue Blouses, calling them worse than Black and Tans. The Blue Blouses shouted 'To hell with the Spaniard (de Valera)' when passing and so provoked the woman.

Street fights were not the only fights Blue Blouses engaged in. Senator Browne challenged the Government by insisting on wearing her blue blouse uniform in the Senate and had similarly attired visitors in the gallery. When her visitors were refused entry into the gallery, Browne provoked a quarrel between the speakers of the Senate and the Dáil. In March 1934, she participated in the debate on the Wearing of Uniform (Restriction) Bill, which sought to ban the wearing of uniform in public life and gave a staunch defence of the Blueshirt organisation. She said the Blue Shirt movement is not an army even if it had a distinctive dress. It was, she argued, the political opposition and entitled to do politics as it saw fit, while the only army was the IRA, an armed revolutionary body determined to 'overthrow the State by force of arms'.

Despite the huge numbers of men and women who joined the Blueshirts and Blue Blouses the organisation began to disintegrate in 1935, having been declared illegal by de Valera on December 8, 1933. The ACA, National Guard, National Centre Party and Cumann na nGaedheal had amalgamated in September 1933 to form Fine Gael under O'Duffy's leadership. Issues such as lack of electoral success in the 1934 local elections and providing no obvious solutions to the Economic War led to O'Duffy's departure as leader. Most Blueshirts and Blue Blouses remained supporters of Fine Gael, with the wearing of the uniform becoming less common and a steep decline in Blue Blouse membership; by 1936 Montgomery estimates that only 890 women remained as members.

While the Blue Blouse organisation did not last very long it was an important demonstration that there was a deep conservatism among Irish women. Historians most often write about the radical revolutionary women, the first wave feminists, the socialist women, those who challenged the patriarchal, faith-based conservatism of the Free State. But the strength of numbers in the Blue Blouses, at their height, indicates a strong support among women, particularly rural women, for the State and its policies.

Kathleen Browne sat in the Senate with feminists Jennie Wyse Power, Eileen Costello, and Kathleen Clarke, yet unlike them she played no part in resisting the anti-women policies and legislation introduced by both Cumann na nGaedheal and Fianna Fáil governments. Like most Blue Blouses she was socially and political conservative, concerned with the impact of policies on farms and adopting an anti-republican, pro-farmer ideology. While her sister senators were concerned with the rights of the women worker, Browne was more concerned with ameliorating taxation on the egg money earned by farm wives. Like most Blue Blouses she supported the marital, domestic, and reproductive model of wife and mother as the ideal Irishwoman. They would not, and Browne did not, have any objection to the 'women in the home' articles which were introduced into the Constitution in 1937.

While the histories of left-leaning political women of this period have been recovered, the women who were pro-Treaty, anti-republican, and subsequently involved in the Blueshirts, are still, for the most part missing from our national narrative. Researching the beliefs and ideologies of those women and men, whose convictions led them into proto-fascist organisations, leads to fuller understanding of the political, social, and economic histories of the period.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not represent or reflect the views of RTÉ

Print Media Focus

THE IRISH TIMES

Book Review Irish Times By Brian Maye

Sat Dec 9 2023

The Diaries of Kathleen Lynn

Author: **Mary McAuliffe** and Harriet Wheelock (eds)

ISBN-13: 978-1910820018

Publisher: UCD Press

Guideline Price: €45

They show Lynn's life brimmed with 'activity, energy and deep commitment to her beliefs'

"Suffragist, revolutionary, social campaigner, politician and medical doctor Kathleen Lynn kept diaries 1916-1955. The extracts here cover her involvement in the independence struggle and the first 30 years of independent Ireland. Source-wise, they're important for Irish women's history but more significantly they allow us hear her "own voice as she speaks about her activism, her network of close female comrades and friends, and her relationship" with her lifelong partner, Madeleine ffrench-Mullen.

They show Lynn's life brimmed with "activity, energy and deep commitment to her beliefs". A radical, socialist and feminist, when women's role was seen as marriage, motherhood and domesticity, she was devoted to her patients, committed to better housing and education for the poor and devoted to her Church of Ireland faith.

Following involvement in the 1916 Rising, she was active in fighting the "Spanish Flu" pandemic and co-founded St Ultan's Hospital for Infants in 1919, recorded British atrocities during the War of Independence, opposed the Treaty, was medical officer to anti-Treaty forces during the Civil War and was elected a TD in 1923. She refused to join Fianna Fáil, lost her seat in 1927 and devoted most of her time to St Ultan's.

Determined to introduce better standards of medical care for mothers and children, she brought good practices from abroad, researched deeply on TB (fighting it was central to St Ultan's work, in which Dr Dorothy Stopford Price played a huge role), and sought to improve public health and housing. She was initially optimistic about de Valera's rise but his 1937 Constitution's clauses on women's role deeply disillusioned her.



Kathleen Lynn joined the Irish Citizen Army and, at the request of James Connolly, taught first-aid to them, as well as to Cumann na mBan. Photograph: RCPI

The death of her beloved ffrench-Mullen in 1944 was a terrible blow but friends and family helped sustain her. She had battles with the Catholic Church on family medical care but had a complicated, fraught relationship with Noel Browne (she felt insufficient credit was given to Stopford Price in St Ultan's in combating TB and was wary of his Mother and Child Scheme). Looking back, she wondered had the vote or independence improved women's lot at all.

The editors' conclusion that "she is a woman worth knowing through, and in, her own words" is indisputable and it's good that they didn't alter or correct her spelling or phrasing, which makes the experience of reading her diaries more authentic.

TV: Documentary



Croíthe Radacacha

A documentary about 'the love that dares not speak its name' - found at the very heart of the Irish Revolution. The hidden stories of eight female couples who were central in the fight that freed Ireland from the British Empire.



Based on **Dr Mary McAuliffe's** research, "Croíthe Radacacha" ("Radical Hearts") documentary about 'the love that dares not speak its name' - found at the very heart of the Irish Revolution, was shown on Dec 6, on TG4. It featured the hidden stories of eight female couples who were central in the fight that freed Ireland from the British Empire. Dr Mary Mc Auliffe was the consultant and a contributor to the documentary. For more information see the following link:
<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/top-documentaries/?series=Cro%C3%ADthe%20Radacacha&genre=Faisneis>

Elon Musk's X platform fueled far-right riots in Ireland, experts say

BY EMMET LYONS

UPDATED ON: DECEMBER 5, 2023 / 9:41 AM EST / CBS NEWS

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/elon-musk-ireland-x-twitter-far-right-dublin-immigration/>

Elon Musk's [social media platform X](#) has fueled far-right disinformation in Ireland and played a key role in riots last month in the country's capital Dublin, experts tell CBS News. The violent clashes erupted on Nov. 23 between [about 200 civilians and riot police in central Dublin](#) as demonstrators vented rage after a stabbing incident that left multiple people wounded earlier in the day, including a 5-year-old girl who was hospitalized with serious injuries.

False reports circulating on social media had suggested the stabbings were carried out by an illegal immigrant. The alleged assailant was in fact a naturalized Irish citizen originally from Algeria, the Irish Times reported. The violence, which saw a tram and a bus set on fire and stores looted, was partially incited by far-right local actors with significant followings on X, which was called Twitter before Musk bought the platform.

Police at the scene in Dublin as riots broke out following a stabbing incident in which five people were injured, including three young children, Nov. 23, 2023.

"What we saw at the beginning of the riot was what started out to be a protest, you know, either organized by the far-right or if it wasn't organized by the far-right, the far-right wasn't far behind,"

Matthew Donoghue, an assistant professor in social policy at University College Dublin, told CBS News.

"The fact that we saw attacks on the [police] cordon and the crime scene, these are clearly organized and orchestrated activities which need quite a lot of background organization... this is where we see the far-right's use of X," he said. "They were able to get a lot of people there very quickly to basically take control of that situation, direct it." Eileen Culloty, a deputy director of the Institute for Media, Democracy and Society at Dublin City University, told CBS News the riots had been plotted by "a core group" of prominent right-wing influencers on X who "have a relatively high profile within that kind of alternative, right-wing world. Some of them will be alternative media outlets, some of them are right-wing anti-immigration activists."

"They went into overdrive in the lead-up to the riots," Culloty told CBS News. "They were posting lots of public messages on Twitter [X], but also on Telegram and other platforms from lunchtime onwards and urging people to act. A lot of the hashtags they used were promoting this ethno-nationalist idea that Ireland is full, that Ireland belongs to the Irish."

[A study](#) conducted by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, an independent nonprofit think-tank that studies and offers policy advice on extremism and disinformation, just days before the riots in Ireland had also found that Twitter (X) is "used by virtually all of the most prominent actors in the Irish mis- and disinformation ecosystem." The study focused on the growing online influence of the far-right in Ireland over the past three years, analyzing 13,180,820 posts from 1,640 accounts across 12 online platforms. X had the highest number of far-right accounts of those analyzed by the researchers.

Following his [October 2022 takeover of the platform](#), tech billionaire Musk has dismantled core features of the platform — including its verification system and its Trust and Safety advisory group, as well as broader content moderation and hate speech enforcement.

As the [Associated Press reported in October](#), experts who study disinformation have said that X has deteriorated under Musk to the point that it's not merely failing to detect and remove misinformation, but is favoring posts by accounts that pay for the platform's blue-check subscription service, regardless of who's running them. Crucially, according to Culloty, with respect to the violence in Dublin, the core group of far-right accounts suspected of inciting the violence had previously been removed from the platform for violating the company's safety policies, but were reinstated following Musk's takeover of the company.

"They were able to move back to X and a lot of people who had been banned were able to come back," she said. "It's notable that there are more people not trying to conceal their identity [in the aftermath of Musk's takeover.] So they now feel quite comfortable making these incendiary statements."

In the aftermath of the riots, other prominent figures from the right-wing of American politics have pushed a conspiratorial, anti-immigration narrative on X in an attempt to vindicate the violence in Ireland. Former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson, who now streams his own show on X, told his millions of followers last week that "the Irish government is trying to replace the population of Ireland with people from the third world." Carlson's interviewee on the show, former White House adviser and Trump ally Steve Bannon, called Ireland "a powder keg." Musk himself has weighed in on the violence in Ireland on X and took aim at the Irish government last month.

In a post the day after the scenes played out in Dublin, Musk said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, "hates the Irish people," after the Irish government announced that it would aim to pass new laws against hate crimes and hate speech in response to the riots. Speaking to the Irish parliament last week, Justice Minister Helen McEntee said X had refused to comply with requests from the Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police force, to take down inflammatory posts in real time as violence flared in Dublin. McEntee said she'd spoken with a detective "who was actively engaged with the social media companies" throughout the evening of the riots, Irish state broadcaster RTÉ reported. Other social media companies including TikTok and Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, "were responding, they were engaging with gardaí and they were taking down these vile posts as they came up," McEntee said. "X were not. They didn't engage. They did not fulfill their own community standards."

Responding to those specific accusations from McEntee, X's Global Government Affairs Unit posted a message on the platform Tuesday calling the comments "inaccurate" and saying X had "proactively taken action on more than 1,230 pieces of content under our rules relating to the riots."

The company said the Irish police "did not make any formal requests to us until late" on November 27, four days after the riots, at which point it said it "responded promptly" to the appeal relating to "a single post." Musk and X are facing a major advertising withdrawal as brands like Disney, Apple, Coca Cola, CBS News parent company Paramount Global and other large companies have removed paid ads from the platform after Musk endorsed an antisemitic post on X that claimed Jews fomented hatred against White people. Musk's comment on the post called it "the actual truth."

While the controversial billionaire has subsequently apologized for his comment, he's criticized companies who have suspended advertising on X. At the 2023 DealBook Summit in New York on Wednesday, Musk told the audience: "If somebody's going to try to blackmail me with advertising? Blackmail me with money? Go f--- yourself. Go. F--- yourself. Is that clear?"

X owner Elon Musk speaks during the New York Times annual DealBook summit on Nov. 29, 2023 in New York City. MICHAEL M SANTIAGO/GETTY. The decline in advertising could deprive X of up to \$75 million in revenue, according to a New York Times report. Responding to Musk's comments, X CEO Linda Yaccarino said in a post on X last week that Musk's remarks were an "explicit point of view about our position" and added: "We're a platform that allows people to make their own decisions... And here's my perspective when it comes to advertising: X is standing at a unique and amazing intersection of Free Speech and Main Street — and the X community is powerful and is here to welcome you."

CBS News has reached out to X for comment but had not received a response at the time of publication.

Radio Media Focus



How the rise of the far right in Ireland provoked the Dublin riots

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 8:19 AM ET

HEARD ON WEEKEND EDITION SUNDAY

By Willem Marx

Description:

We look at how the rise of the far right in Ireland helped stoke the riots that broke out across its capital on Thursday and brought "shame" to the country according to the Irish Prime Minister.

Here is the link to the segment featuring this interview with Dr Matthew Donoghue, on NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday:
<https://www.npr.org/2023/11/26/1215227762/how-the-rise-of-the-far-right-in-ireland-provoked-the-dublin-riots>

TRANSCRIPT

SARAH MCCAMMON, HOST:

Ireland saw the worst public disorder in decades play out on the streets of its capital city, Dublin, on Thursday night with looting, arson and assaults on police officers. As Willem Marx reports, it was all sparked by a single incident, but the subsequent riot involving hundreds of people has complex implications for Irish society.

WILLEM MARX, BYLINE: A knife attack outside a school in central Dublin left three young children injured, one of them seriously. Within hours, online messages spread that the suspect was from overseas, and groups of protesters descended on the crime scene. They surrounded surprised investigators, according to Ireland's most senior police officer, Drew Harris.

DREW HARRIS: We could not have anticipated that in response to a terrible crime, the stabbing of schoolchildren and their teacher, that this would be the response.

MARX: Police still have not released details of the original suspect or his motives.

(SOUNDBITE OF FIREWORKS)

MARX: The situation escalated rapidly, with fireworks thrown at riot police...

(CROSSTALK)

MARX: ...Large crowds of masked or hooded young men setting alight police vehicles and a city tram...

(SOUNDBITE OF GLASS BREAKING)

MARX: ...Downtown stores looted and smashed. The following morning, parts of Dublin city center still smoldered as burned-out buses were towed away. Drew Harris, the police chief, laid blame squarely on hard-right activists.

HARRIS: We have a complete lunatic hooligan faction driven by far-right ideology and also then this disruptive tendency here and engaged in serious violence.

MARX: The leader of Sinn Fein, Ireland's main opposition party, Mary Lou McDonald, said the right-wing riot had been preventable.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

MARY LOU MCDONALD: This was an unacceptable, unprecedented collapse in policing. The idea that this violence was unforeseeable is, frankly, nonsense. These hate-filled mobs have threatened and brought violence to our streets before.

MARX: Among the bigoted chants the night before, one directed against Leo Varadkar, the Irish Taoiseach, or prime minister, whose father was from India.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE: Leo, Leo, Leo, out, out, out.

MARX: Varadkar, in a press conference Friday, described how pregnant mothers in a nearby hospital had been endangered not by patriots but by racists.

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

LEO VARADKAR: These people claim to be defending Irish citizens, yet they put in danger the newest and most vulnerable and most innocent people. Those involved brought shame on Dublin, brought shame on Ireland and brought shame on their families and themselves.

MARX: But these violent actions did not occur in a vacuum, says social policy professor Matthew Donoghue from University College Dublin.

MATTHEW DONOGHUE: There's lots of kind of interrelated fears and pressures that, on some level, are very complicated economic, social and political pressures that are kind of interlinked. What we see kind of with the trigger of the riot is a small but vocal far-right faction that is able to latch onto these fears and give people what looks to be, you know, a simple, straightforward answer that involves demonizing certain groups.

MARX: Across Europe, the demonization of migrants has helped fuel several far-right populist parties, including that of Geert Wilders...

(SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING)

GEERT WILDERS: (Speaking Dutch).

(CHEERING)

MARX: ...The Dutch politician who's called some immigrants scum but won the largest share of votes in the Netherlands recent parliamentary elections. According to Owen Worth, global politics professor at the University of Limerick, incidents like this could become more common in Ireland because disenfranchised voters have no legitimate political representation, unlike elsewhere in Europe.

OWEN WORTH: So nearly every single country has some sort of far-right party. And on the one hand, you can look at Ireland and say, well, that's a good thing. Ireland has been heralded as this country without a far-right party. Yet, possibly as a result of this, you've got these massive civil disputes and civil unrest which is growing, and it's almost like they're sort of tapped out, cashed out of the political system. They've sort of bubbled over, really, at the street level.

MARX: But the street violence Thursday, says Jane Suiter, a professor of political communications at Dublin City University, should still act as a wake-up call.

JANE SUITER: The authorities really well have to act fairly quickly because we've been very lucky in Ireland without having this kind of far right. There's still an opportunity, I think, to try to put a lid on it, but that's going to require some sort of action and coordination.

MARX: Prime Minister Varadkar announced the government will pass new laws allowing facial recognition software to track rioters captured on surveillance cameras and giving police new powers to prosecute those who promote hate speech online.

For NPR News, I'm Willem Marx in Dublin.

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)

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Upcoming Events



Mary Murphy (Prof. of Sociology, Maynooth University) 'Creating an ecosocial welfare future' Thur. Feb 8th 2024 at 12 noon Theatre N UCD Newman Building, Belfield Campus

UCD Earth Institute - Sustainable wellbeing: humans, environment, and liveability (SWHEL)

SWHEL is a UCD Earth Institute Strategic Priority project led by **Assoc. Prof. Nessa Winston (Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice)** and Karen Keaveney (School of Agriculture and Food Science) with co-applicants Jennifer Symonds (Education), Finbarr Brereton (Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy), Orla Kelly (Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice), Conor Buggy (Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science), Leonard Lades (Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy).



SASE Annual Meeting, University of Limerick June 27-29, 2024.

Conference Theme:

For Dignified and Sustainable Economic Lives: Disrupting the Emotions, Politics, and Technologies of Neoliberalism

Go to this link for information on the 2024 conference: <https://sase.org/event/2024-limerick/>

Dr Dorota Szelewa and Dr eva Zumbyte (from UCD) and Caroline de La Porte (from CBS, Denmark) are co-organizing a mini-conference on *Welfare States and Gender Inequality. Regional and Global Perspectives* (MC10) at SASE Annual Meeting, University of Limerick, June 27-29, 2024.

Dr Szelewa and Dr Zumbyte are inviting abstract submissions. The deadline is 19th Jan 2024!

More details here: <https://sase.org/event/2024-limerick/#important-dates> (see MC10)

Featured new PhD Graduate

**Dr Matt Kennedy, funded doctorate under IRC
Employment Scheme**



To contact Dr Matt Kennedy please email: matt@belongto.org

Tell me about your PhD research and why you selected the topic?

My PhD project is chiefly concerned with the qualitative experience of trans life in Ireland. As such the first and foremost reason that I found myself writing about transnormativity and the everyday lifeworlds of young trans men in Ireland is because I am a trans man. Informed by trans studies, I believe there is much to be gained from paying attention to the specific knowledge that can be gleaned from trans people's subjective experiences of gender, and the cultural, political, social and economic landscapes they find themselves negotiating. Prior to this project, I was acutely aware of the lack of research in an Irish context that situated itself within trans scholarship. Additionally, I was struck by the paucity of empirical research attending to the impact of transnormativity on trans life which as a hegemonic ideology structures trans narratives, experiences and identifications into a hierarchy of legitimacy and legibility. I was often searching for myself in scholarship, for forms of reflection through which I could understand the context of my experience. And when I continued to find myself in the absences in Irish scholarship I committed to a project that would begin to meaningfully attend to these gaps.

What steps led you to doing this PhD degree?

In part, this project would have been unthinkable, indeed impossible, without care and collaboration. This project emerged from a number of collaborative relationships underpinned by care. While working in Belong To, Ireland's national LGBTQ+ youth organisation, I was supported by my colleagues in the organisation and my supervisor Associate Professor Aideen Quilty to pursue the Irish Research Council Employment-Based Scholarship. While pursuing this funding I became deeply aware of the collaboration and care that was instrumental to this project from the outset. The success of my funding application was not only based on the necessity and importance of the project but the evidence of the community-based paradigm and care that underpinned it. Through the Irish Research Council Employment-Based Scholarship that made this research possible, I committed to working part-time with Belong To and to working part-time on my PhD for the past four years, knowing that there were many synchronicities and convergencies between these elements of my work. Working directly in service provision, policy and research, alongside completing this project, kept me grounded in the reality of trans lifeworlds at local and national levels. It gave me a comprehensive understanding of the legislative and political landscape within which I was conducting this research. It enabled me to foster a research design that was community-centred, and it ensured that I maintained a commitment to progressing the liveability of trans young people in the context of their needs as communicated by them.

What methodological approach is used in the research?

This interdisciplinary, community-based project employs a qualitative research methodology in the form of narrative inquiry, and captures extensive empirical data on the lifeworlds of 12 trans young men in the Republic of Ireland aged between 18–24 years. One centrally important aspect of this project is its trans-centred methodological approach and its grounding in trans studies. As the first project to locate itself explicitly within trans studies in an Irish context, this project moves to ensure that trans voices and trans lived experiences are acknowledged as being instrumental not only in how we conceptualise trans liberation but also in how we theorise trans life, embodiment, culture, power and knowledge production. This methodological approach is rigorously researched and underpinned by a depth of ethical consideration which attends to my insider-outsider status as a trans researcher, the community-centred principle of the project and the ethical practices and methods employed. In response to this rich and rigorous methodological approach, the methods of this project include 1:1 in-depth interviews, focus groups, and innovative body mapping workshops, which captured data currently unmatched in an Irish context regarding the depth and breadth of trans young men's experiences.



What does your research contribute to knowledge?

Conceptually and methodologically the research brings new and more nuanced understandings to transnormativity as an ideology and, in addition, crystallises the myriad, complex ways transnormativity impacts the lives of young trans men in Ireland. This project finds that transnormativity stratifies the recognition, legitimacy and legibility of trans identification through an imbrication of narrative hegemony and systemic and structural regulation in relation to both social identities and social circumstances. It finds that transnormativity adversely impacts trans young men's experiences of temporality, employment, education, access to healthcare, interpersonal relationships, mental health and wellbeing, legal recognition, and participation in their lifeworlds in Ireland. More positively, this project also finds that participants refute, refuse and resist transnormativity across their lifeworlds allowing space for greater nuance and diversity in how trans life is conceptualised, narrated and experienced in Ireland.

For me, one of the most significant contributions of this project is its commitment to refuting a pathologising and stigmatising interpretation of trans experiences. Since at least the nineteenth century, medical, scientific and legal institutions engaged in knowledge production in the global north have constructed trans individuals as "types" of beings whose bodies in turn were subjected, both consensually and not, to social and medical intervention. As a result, trans people were largely seen as the objects of knowledge and rarely given the opportunity to communicate the reality of our lived experiences. In contrast, this project places high value on the full life of the participants as articulated by them and acknowledges that this project would not exist without their contributions. In a political moment where anti-trans rhetoric often attempts to undermine the legitimacy of trans people, aiming to prevent access to medical care and delimit social acceptance and inclusion, it feels all the more necessary to commit to endeavours in research that listen to trans people.

Do you have other reflections from your PhD journey?

It feels almost implicit that my PhD journey could be allegorised as a transition. While completing this research I began my medical transition. As this project developed and grew, so did I. I watched my body shift in the mirror of dingy, clouded mirrors in shared houses, saw my legs coat in hair, the reverb of my voice, the dip of my abs, the form of my bicep, the increase of my appetite. I caught the change of my smell in the gym, I squared out, there was this new anger and desire, hot and heavy, the wet choke in my throat, the swell of my sadness that searched for a release, the tears that rarely came. I felt settled in myself, present; a cool, placid and tactile core like the stillness of the sea took shape in the centre of me in the space of what had previously been a bile of anxiety, frustration and disorientation. I felt people alter how they saw and interacted with me, the quiet affirmation of a barista calling me "man", friends looking at me with loving curiosity, the man they knew for years taking shape before their eyes. Simultaneously I settled into the rhythms of qualitative research, the unpredictable nature of fieldwork, the challenge of making sense of oceans of data, the frenzied writing for the last couple of months where it felt impossible to imagine a world that did not orbit around this project.

But of course, transitions facilitate change, they create bridges between states, and between selves. Now following the completion of my PhD, I am at once exactly who I was when I began and at once entirely changed. I could not be more grateful for this time, for these interlocking transitions, for the care I received from my colleagues in *Belong To* and the School of Social Work, Social Policy and Social Justice, from my friends and family and most significantly from my supervisor and mentor Associate Professor Aideen Quilty who has been a lighthouse to me in many ways over the past few years. I remain certain that I will be reflecting on these transitions for a long time, trying to make sense of their enormity. But for now, all I can say is that I am proud of what I consider to be a deeply collaborative project, a project that contributes frames of reference for trans life in Ireland, a project that provides the qualitative experience of trans lives as they are lived.

New PhD Graduate: Dearbháil Nic Giolla Mhicíl

Congratulations to **Dr Dearbháil Nic Giolla Mhicíl** on her recent successful defence of her Doctorate of Governance (DGov) dissertation on 'The Merger of the Department of Social Protection, the Community Welfare Service and the FÁS Employment and Community Employment Services – perspectives from a decade later'. Dearbháil's research was supervised by Dr Micheál Collins (Social Policy) and Dr Dearbhla Casey (IPA).

Successful Viva Voce: Ali Bakir Hamoudi.



Ali Bakir Hamoudi defended his PhD thesis successfully with minor corrections on 20 November 2023. Thanks to his external examiner Prof. Rana Jawad (University of Birmingham) and Dr. Naonori Kodate as internal examiner for a thorough questioning and constructive debate. Dr. Matthew Donoghue chaired the viva examination.

Ali Hamoudi's thesis examines Iraq's changing social policy environment and how civil society organisations (CSOs) are developing within this landscape. Specifically, it investigates CSO initiatives to address social disadvantage through the provision of social services. Examining three aspects of the CSO landscape: geography, structure and accountability, the thesis provides an original multifaceted exploration of how and why CSOs address disadvantage in the context of Iraq, a country with high levels of poverty, underdeveloped social policies and a heavy reliance on international donors. The supervisors Dr. Stephan Köppe and Dr. Nessa Winston were also present at the viva to celebrate with Ali.

Some chapters of Hamoudi's thesis are already published. His chapter on 'Measuring the values of civil society in the Middle East and North Africa region' has been published in A Research Agenda for Civil Society, edited by Kees Biekart and Alan Fowler. This chapter lays the conceptual foundations to measure the structure and accountability of CSOs in MENA and specifically in Iraq.

His first empirical chapter, entitled 'Poverty at a distance: Supply and demand side factors and the formation of civil society organizations in Iraq' has been published in the Journal of International Development. Within this article, Hamoudi utilises official CSO register data to understand where CSOs are forming in relation to district level poverty rates. Based on his thesis, further articles on the structure and accountability of CSOs are in preparation. Together, these findings have important implications on how CSOs may fill a specific niche of social service provision not only in Iraq's developing social policy landscape but on an international level.

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

