

Research Seminar Series



UCD Centre For Human Rights
Ionad um Chearta an Duine



UCD Sutherland School of Law
An Scoil Dí Sutherland UCD

Wednesday, 22 Febraury 2023, 1-2 pm

L106, Harty Boardroom
Sutherland School of Law

Zoomlink : [https://ucd-
ie.zoom.us/j/67474358986?pwd=VWN5N2ISOU1PeF
ZUeThHVcTBYWE3UT09](https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/67474358986?pwd=VWN5N2ISOU1PeFZUeThHVcTBYWE3UT09)

Music Rights as Human Rights?
**An examination of Instrumental
Music Education provision and
access in Ireland in the context
of the *Five Music Rights* of the
International Music Council**

Presenter: Dr Dorothy Conaghan

Commentator: Professor Kathleen Lynch

Music Rights as Human Rights?

Abstract

Unlike other European countries, Ireland does not have a music school law, a national music council, nor a policy position on access to instrumental music education. This seminar will focus on the second of the Five Music Rights, as recommended by the UNESCO-affiliated International Music Council, which calls for all children and adults to learn musical languages and skills. An analysis of instrumental music education provision and distribution in Ireland is presented. Comparisons are made with provision in several European countries of similar population. Examples of how in certain countries, strategies have been successful in elevating the Five Music Rights from a set of recommendations and values to the status of legal rights. The seminar takes a philosophical approach, an educational approach, and a rights-based approach to argue that if equality of opportunity and success to specialist-led music education for children and young people is to be achieved, then a legal and constitutionally embedded policy position is required. The seminar highlights the challenges to enabling the second of the Five Music Rights and makes recommendations for future action and structural change.

Biographies

Speaker

Dr Dorothy Conaghan, a member of the Centre for Human Rights at UCD, has a long career as a professional teaching and performing musician. Having taught Mathematics and French in secondary school she then lectured at the College of Music DIT (now TU Dublin). Her activism in promoting and enabling access to instrumental music education in Ireland led to her research at the School of Social Justice at UCD, where she was awarded a master's degree in Equality Studies and a PhD supervised by Professor Kathleen Lynch. She is an active member of the European Music School Union (EMU) Research Network at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna and has recently been elected to the Executive Board of the UNESCO-affiliated International Music Council in Paris. Dorothy's current research focuses on the UNESCO-recommended 'Five Music Rights' and their application in the Irish educational context. In 2022 she was invited to speak at the EU-Cyprus Music Summit; Jeunesses Musicales Internationale, Croatia; the European Orchestra Federation, Bulgaria and the EMU Research Network in Vienna.

Commentator

Professor Kathleen Lynch is a sociologist. She is Professor Emerita of Equality Studies at University College Dublin (UCD), and a full Adjunct Professor in the UCD School of Education. She is currently serving as a Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2020-2025). Kathleen has worked over many years to promote equality and social justice through research, education and activism. Her teaching and research are guided by the belief that the purpose of scholarship and research is not just to understand the world but to change it for the good of all humanity. To that end, she played a leading role in establishing the UCD Equality Studies Centre (1990) and the UCD School of Social Justice (2004/5). Kathleen has been a visiting scholar at several of the world's leading universities while also engaging in extensive public intellectual work with civil society, voluntary and statutory bodies. She served on the first Irish *Constitutional Review Group* 1995-6 and was an expert advisor on Social Sciences and Education at the European Commission (NESSE 2007-2010). She has published several books and articles on inequality, especially in the field of education, and is a co-author of a book on the theory of equality, *Equality: From Theory to Action* (2004). She is the lead author of *Affective Equality: Love, Care and Injustice* (2009) and *Managerialism in Education: Commercialisation, Carelessness and Gender* (2012, 2015). Her new book *Care and Capitalism: Why Affective Equality Matters for Social Justice* was published by Polity Press, Cambridge in 2022. Kathleen was awarded the *UCD Medal for Pioneering Change* in promoting access for non-traditional entrants to higher education in 2018. In 2019, she received the *President of Ireland Prize* for her scholarly work on equality by the *Irish Research Council*. Her research profile is available here: <https://people.ucd.ie/kathleen.lynch>