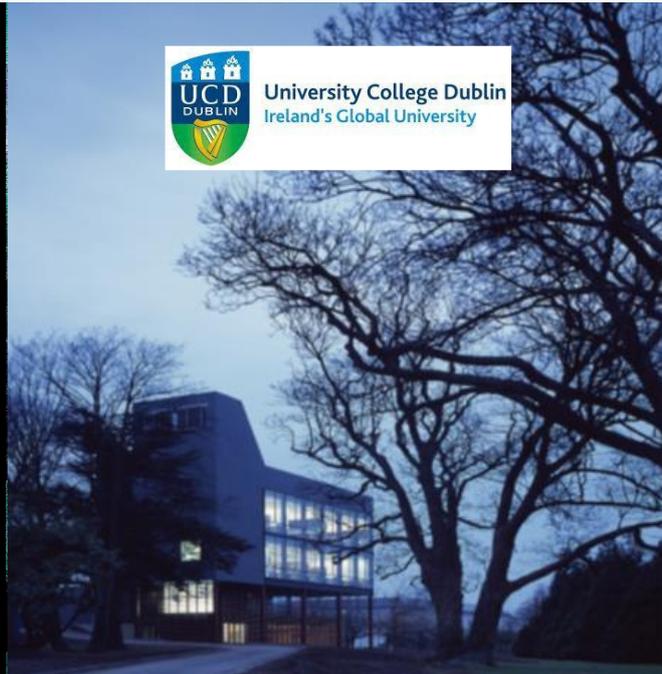


UCD SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY,
SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL JUSTICE

**RESEARCH
HIGHLIGHTS
BULLETIN
OCT 2021 | NO. 5**



New Awards/Appointments

(Dr Micheál Collins)

New EC Cost Action Project



COST is supported by the EU Framework
Programme Horizon 2020

Dr Micheál Collins is among a group of European researchers who secured funding for a new EC funded Cost Action project on the evaluation of public policy initiatives. The project, involving academics from 20+ EU states, is entitled [PROFEEDBACK \(COST Action CA20112\)](#) and aims to foster the cooperation of the policy evaluation community at EU-level, raise awareness on the importance of evaluation policy research and improve its impact on policy-making. The project is

one of 40 successful awards, from a total of 462 applications.

(Dr Stephan Köppe)
Editorial board: Journal of Social Policy



Dr Stephan Köppe joins the [editorial board of the Journal of Social Policy](#), the flagship journal of the British Social Policy Association, on the basis of a three year appointment. In this capacity Stephan will review submissions and provide advice on the strategic outlook of the journal.

(Dr Marie Keenan)
New SERP project

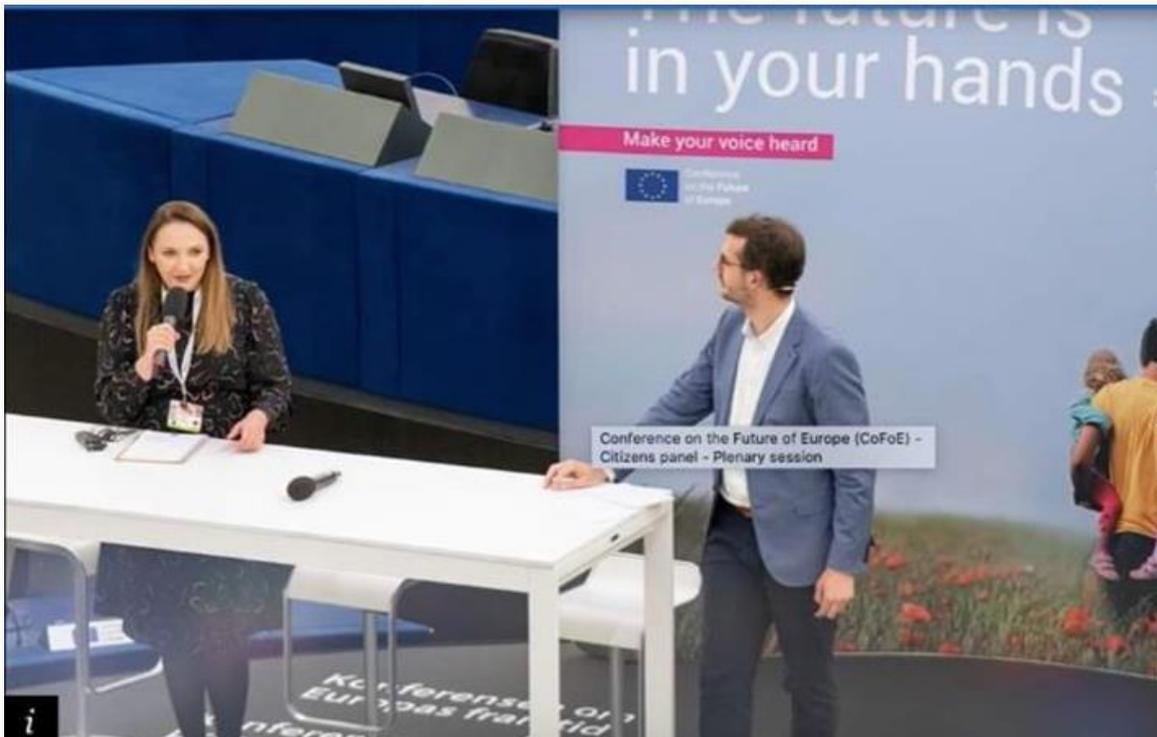


Dr Marie Keenan was awarded funding under the [All Island Community Fund](#) to conduct research entitled 'All-Island Partnership to End Sexual Exploitation'. The All-Island Community Fund is the result of a unique partnership between The Community Foundation for Ireland and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland with the aim of encouraging strong partnerships between voluntary, community and charitable groups North and South so that all voices are heard together in response to Climate Change, Covid-19 and the impact of Brexit.

Recent Presentations

Dr Dorota Szelewa spoke to the EU citizens during the citizens panel on Sat 18th September in the plenary room of the European Parliament, Strasbourg. Entitled '[Conference on the Future of Europe: citizens in the spotlight](#)' it represented the first of four European Citizens' Panels (Sept. 17th – 19th)

scheduled from September 2021 to January 2022. Each panel comprises 200 citizens, reflecting the EU's demographic and social diversity which will deliberate and make concrete recommendations on the future direction they want for Europe. At least one third of the participants in each panel will be younger than 25.



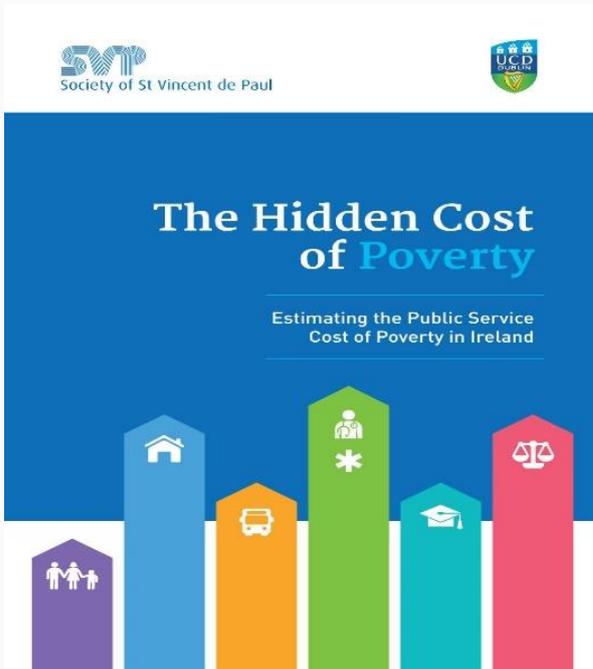
Dorota's presentation, delivered in Polish, focused on the challenges facing the EU including East-West migration, quality of jobs, post-Covid recovery, work-life balance as well as social justice and equality. See here post-presentation interview [here](#)

Dr Mick Byrne presented 'Experiences of 'home' in the Irish private rental sector: a qualitative research study of the experiences of tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic' as part of the Focus Ireland Seminar Series. This seminar presented research conducted by Dr. Michael Byrne and Juliana Sassi (Department of Geography, Maynooth University) in the Spring of 2021. The research examined the experiences of tenants in the Irish private rental sector during the pandemic, drawing on 35 qualitative interviews. The research raises important questions about tenure inequality (i.e. the ways in which access to and experience of home is particularly problematic for PRS tenants) during, and beyond, the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper the presentation is based is published [here](#).

In the Media



Stephan Köppe contributed to debate and commentary on the federal German election. The op-ed article "[Tschüss Angela! Hallo Greens?](#) Ireland must build alliances with next German leaders" published on the Business Post Opinion & Analysis section on 31st August 2021. Stephan was also interviewed for the Irish Independent 9th September 2021 article "[Angela Merkel: how Ireland stayed close to the world's most powerful women](#)" (p. 6-7). The article discusses the legacy of Merkel's chancellery and Stephan provides an outlook on the future challenges for Ireland to build a new relationship.



An article by Fintan O'Toole in the Irish Times on recent report entitled 'The Hidden Cost of Poverty in Ireland: estimating the public service cost of poverty in Ireland' focused on research Dr Micheál Collins commissioned by the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Irish Times article can be downloaded [here](#) and report can be downloaded in pdf from [here](#).



An article by Eoin Burke-Kennedy in the Irish Times on June 24th 2021 entitled 'State spends €15.8bn a year on 'discretionary' tax expenditures: Committee hears Government should consider limiting certain pension tax reliefs' was based on the contribution by Dr Micheál Collins to the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee on Tax Expenditure. The Irish Times

article is available [here](#). A further article by David Kearns, Digital Journalist / Media Officer, UCD University Relations is available on the UCD website. The UCD News and Opinion article is available [here](#).



Dr Micheál Collins, a member of the living wage technical group, was interviewed on RTE's Morning Ireland programme on Wed. 29th Sept 2021 about why the living wage is increasing by 60c an hour, from €12.30 to €12.90 an hour. The living wage findings derive from research work on Minimum Income Standards, supported by the Irish Research Council.

The RTE Morning Ireland clip can be heard [here](#).

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES

2021-22

DATE: SEPT. 22ND @ 2.30PM

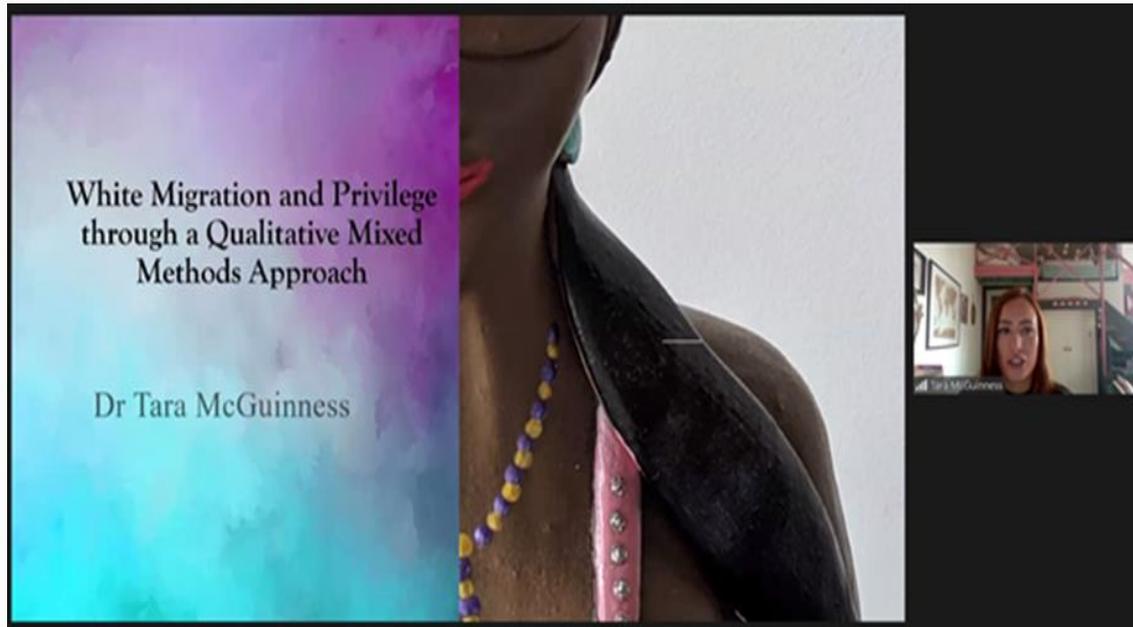
Venue/Platform: Webinar by Zoom

Speaker: **Dr Tara McGuinness**, recent PhD graduate & IRC Postgraduate fellow.

Topic: White Migration and Privilege through a Qualitative Mixed Methods

Approach

Organised by: Dr Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila



Abstract: The academic gaze within the social sciences often looks at oppression and marginalisation. This seminar discusses the disruption of normative ways of researching inequalities by carrying out qualitative research with participants displaying indicators of privilege. In this seminar, I describe the ways in which researching privilege using a mixed methods approach can be undertaken, including the issues that arise in designing and implementing a research study of this kind. This discussion includes how inquiry which takes place in cities can include the city as participant. I aim to draw on the city of Sao Paulo, a dynamic and vibrant 'global city' in which street art animates physical apparatuses of racialised geographical segregation. Amalgamating a combination of qualitative research methods including autoethnography, participant observation, photovoice and narrative interviews generates academic research which aims to be accessible and also influenced by creative arts-based approaches. This seminar aims to describe the process of designing research using a mixed methods approach with a particular emphasis on photovoice and how this method lends itself to the inclusion of geographical spaces as contributors to knowledge.

DATE: FRI. SEPT 24TH @ 3PM

Venue/Platform: Webinar by Zoom

Speaker: **Chiara Valsangiacomo**, UCD PhD student in School of Politics

Topic: The Ungovernability Objection Against Liquid Democracy.

Organised by: Dr Marie Moran,, Part of the PSAI series

Abstract: In this paper, I consider the ungovernability objection against Liquid Democracy (LD) from a theoretical point of view. LD is a collective decision-making scheme that is increasingly discussed as a complement to current democratic systems. One of its main characteristics is voluntary delegation: for every issue put to the vote, each citizen has one vote that can be passed on to another person at their discretion. Another key feature is proxy voting: voting weights correspond to the number of delegations received on any specific policy. As a result, power distribution in any liquid assembly appears to be extremely volatile and fragmented—citizens and proxies experience varying power levels across different policy areas, and the liquid assembly regularly and swiftly changes in size as well as composition. It is against this background that the ungovernability objection can be reasonably raised against LD. In fact, the structural features of the liquid assembly seem to complicate the democratic policy-making process, as they produce an insidious tendency towards policy incoherence and legislative gridlock. Engaging with the literatures on institutional design, electoral systems, as well as with constitutional theory and theories on the separation of power, this paper clarifies the ungovernability objection and provides a defense of LD against it. In particular, it zooms into the working of the liquid assembly, reflecting on how to enable a smooth law-making process within a large, volatile, fragmented and decentralized legislature. Furthermore, it presents and discusses three macro-institutional design solutions—presidentialism, strong and weak bicameralism—that can facilitate the smooth coexistence of liquid and classic institutions within the same political system. Overall, this article provides a defense of LD against the ungovernability objection as it sheds a more positive light on the possible inclusion of LD's principles within existing democratic systems.

DATE: THUR. 7TH OCT @ 1PM

Venue/Platform: Webinar by Zoom

Speaker: Mr Bill Emmott - Former Editor in Chief of The Economist & Chair of the Japan Society of the UK

Topic: Digital disruption, political pressure and new opportunities

Organised by: Dr Naonori Kodate - UCD Centre for Japanese Studies & PSU
Centre for Japanese Studies Joint Seminar

Portland State UNIVERSITY
PSU Center for Japanese Studies
UCD Centre for Japanese Studies
Joint Webinar Series

UCD Japan Fair 2021

Digital disruption, political pressure and new opportunities: future of mass media & its impact on Japan

Mr Bill Emmott
Former Editor in Chief of The Economist &
Chair of the Japan Society of the UK

Thursday 7th October 2021 at 1:00pm [IST]
There is another session of this same talk for American audience
at 6:00pm [Pacific Standard Time]

Register at http://bit.ly/Digital_Disruption_Jp

UCD Centre for Japanese Studies
Embassy of Japan
UCD JAPANESE SOC
IRELAND JAPAN ASSOCIATION

Abstract: There may never have been a better time to be in the media, whether as a journalist or a publisher. Barriers to entry into the industry have fallen, costs of distribution have plummeted, new markets and new audiences are reachable, and access to information is easier than ever before. Yet this state of affairs has come through a technological and business hurricane which has destroyed many old business models even while creating new ones, it has brought new competition for attention from social media which also challenge perceptions of fact and falsehood, and it has made the mass media a target for political pressure and even assault even as the digital revolution has made some traditional media businesses weaker. These trends are worldwide in nature, but are happening in different ways and different speeds in different markets. Some prominent Japanese media groups have exploited the new opportunities by expanding their international English-

language versions at lower cost and, most notably in Nikkei's case, by acquiring the global English language brand the Financial Times and developing joint products with it for the Asian market. Others, however, are feeling a long, slow squeeze from declining circulations and advertising revenues, while facing new competition from digital-only start-ups and struggling to convert their own output for the digital age. Into this mix has come politics, just like in Europe and America, with nationalist politicians and governments seeking to influence and manipulate media while it is in this weaker state. This lecture will explore what international experience tells us about how mass media has evolved amid this contest between opportunities and threats, how the Japanese media experience compares, and what this might mean for the future. [Registration link here](#)

DATE: THUR. 14TH OCT @ 4PM

Venue/Platform: Webinar by Zoom

*Speaker: **Professor Susan Terrio**, Georgetown University, Washington, USA*

*Topic: **The Mouth of the Shark: Central American Mothers Seeking Refuge and Hope in the USA.***

Organised by Dr Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila.

Abstract: Based on extensive interviews with undocumented mothers in U.S.

immigration prisons and in U.S. communities, this paper centers on a group of

Central American mothers who got caught up in the refugee crisis in the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In an unprecedented

exodus, these women fled their homes and sought protection in the United States as extortion and killings by criminal groups soared, the abuse and murder of women exploded at home and in the streets, and the rule of law disintegrated.

Leaving children behind with family members, these mothers headed north to

work so they could support their children while making plans to bring them to the

U.S. Their ambitious plans were often thwarted for years because of the

militarized southern border, restrictive immigration policies, low job earnings, and

escalating smuggling fees. Reunited in the U.S. after years of separation and

facing enhanced enforcement operations, the mothers describe why they left home and how they attempt to build secure lives in the U.S. without legal status.

DATE: THUR. 14TH OCT @ 1PM

Venue/Platform: Webinar by Zoom

Speaker: Dr Denisa Butnau (Universität Konstanz)

Topic: Journeys to Japan: from Culture to Technology

Organised by: Dr Naonori Kodate - UCD Centre for Japanese Studies

The poster is a vertical rectangular graphic with a red-to-white gradient background. At the top left is the UCD Dublin logo. Next to it is the text 'UCD Centre for Japanese Studies' in white on a red background, with 'Webinar' written below it. To the right is the 'UCD Japan' logo. The main title 'Journeys to Japan: from Culture to Technology' is in white text on a red background. Below the title is a portrait of Dr. Denisa Butnaru, followed by her name and affiliation: 'Dr Denisa Butnaru, Universität Konstanz / University of Constance, Germany'. The date and time 'Thursday 14th October 2021 at 1:00pm [IST]' are listed below. A registration link 'http://bit.ly/Journey_to_Jp' is provided. At the bottom are logos for 'experience japan' and 'UCD JAPANESE SOC'. On the right side of the poster is a collage of images: a view of Mount Fuji, a traditional Japanese torii gate, cherry blossoms, a traditional Japanese building, a tunnel of torii gates, a person in a white space suit, and a person in a white space suit walking.

Abstract: Many years ago, the novel of James Clavell, Shogun (1975) introduced me to a first landscape of Japanese culture. Wanting to understand how history confronts present, I started to engage in a concrete exploration of Japanese society, which brought me to conceive a landscape shaped by a variety of tensions and contradictions. The figure of the “bricoleur” which opposes that of the engineer discussed by Claude Lévi-Strauss (Lévi-Strauss 1962) offers me a productive approach to consider the active and rich nuances that I could experience regarding Japan, and explain how the current development of technological artefacts embeds older forms of social models while inventing further novel ones.

Registration link [here](http://bit.ly/Journey_to_Jp)

DATE: THUR. 21ST OCT, 6PM

Speaker: Dr Raees Baig, Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Topic: Saving Muslim Women: Orientalist feminism in post-colonial Hong Kong.

Organised by: Dr Naonori Kodate with UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health System & with the Support of the Global Engagement Seed Fund 2020.

Registration link [here](#):

Abstract: The “War on Terror” discourse constructed after 911 attacks continues to shape race relations in the West. While Hong Kong did not experience terrorist attacks under the religious rhetoric, signs of the orientalist narrative of the “War on Terror” could be identified in the construction of race relations under postcolonial legacy. Based on the narratives of non-Chinese Muslim young women in Hong Kong, this seminar discusses the play out Orientalist Feminism under postcolonialism and how the shifting identities of Muslim young women under transnationalism help them battle through the Orientalist framing on victimization

Date: Fri 22nd Oct., 3.30pm

Venue: Geary Seminar Room

Speaker: **Rana Jawad**, Senior Lecturer, University of Bath, UK.

Topic: From deep states to facades: social policy as a new arena for political re-organisation in Arab countries

The 5th in the 2021-22 School Seminar Series is organised by Stephan Koeppel.

Abstract: Scholarship on the Arab state has long pondered the conflict-prone states of the Arab sub-region as they have their resilience. A range of factors have been cited namely: the influence of traditional or patrimonial forms of identity such as religion or clientelism, the influence of Rentierism in promoting an “autocratic bargain” among governments and populations, and finally international interference of various kinds, from military interventions to generous donor support. This presentation focuses on the demands for social justice and social protection that have become more resonant in global scholarship since the Arab spring events in 2011. Based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of social policy systems in the

Arab countries, the presentation explains what are the key institutional and normative mechanisms that account for the survival of Arab states but also, are leading to gradual reforms that may open up greater space for civil society actors and more inclusive forms of governance.

Date: Fri. Oct 29th, 3pm,

Speaker: **Dr Cillian Mc Bride** (Queen's University Belfast)

Topic: Populism and the Politics of Recognition

Abstract: Populists have, with some success, appropriated the notion of cultural recognition to present themselves as champions of the unrecognised and the left-behind. In keeping with the long established cultural recognition model, populists present themselves as suffering from a recognition deficit which must be remedied as a matter of justice. This paper advances an alternative reading of populist recognition politics, and the politics of recognition more generally, which focuses on the authority relations involved in struggles for recognition. This analyses, firstly, social groups as themselves the product of a recognition struggles. Secondly, an appreciation of the way claims to social recognition demand the transformation of social relations rather than the simple affirmation of social identities. Thirdly, the anger and resentment which is a hallmark of populist recognition politics is interpreted not as a response to injustice but as an authoritarian response to resistance to the populist vision of the social order. This alternative recognition analysis of populism suggests that existing models of recognition politics are fundamentally apolitical and that a more thoroughly political understanding of recognition is necessary.

PhD Success in the School



Dr Tara McGuinness

(Supervisor: Ursula Barry & Dr Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila)

How did you feel when you submitted?

When I submitted, I felt a huge sense of relief. I had been working on my doctoral thesis for several years so when I submitted, I had a sense of completion and pride.

What was the greatest challenge you overcame to submit?

The greatest challenge I overcame to submit was writing up during the pandemic. At times, I found it very difficult to motivate myself to keep writing

How did you celebrate your graduation?

I will graduate in December, however, when I submitted, I celebrated with my family with cake!

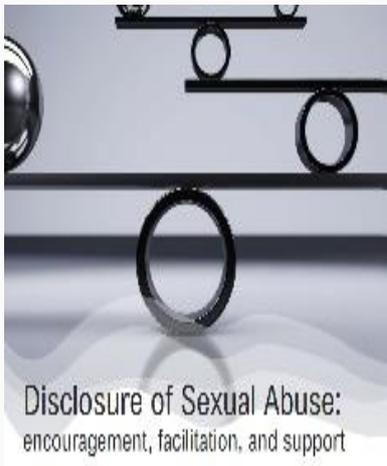
What are you are your plans for the future?

I am working on a post-doc application and planning to continue to carry out research in the field of migration, critical race theory and gender.

Upcoming Events, Oct 2021

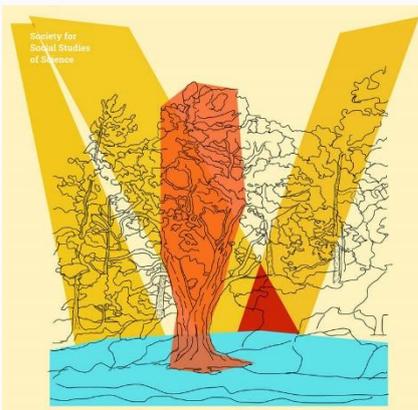
(in addition to Seminar Series)

8th [EMES International Research Conference on Social Enterprise](#), Oct. 5th @ 9.30am 'Civil society organisations' accountability patterns in Iraq: Why are some CSOs more responsive to the demands of the poor?' PhD Student *Ali Bakir Hamoudi, Stephan Köppe, Nessa Winstron* in *SESSION 1.1. Governance and accountability in social enterprise, cooperative and voluntary action*



Disclosure of Sexual Abuse: encouragement, facilitation, and support, Oct 8, 2021 09:00 AM

Organised by Dr Joe Mooney and funded by the Irish Research Council and UCD Seed Funding, this one day virtual conference seeks to bring together those in the areas of research, practice, and policy to exchange and develop knowledge in the complex area surrounding disclosure of sexual abuse and violence. Registration [here](#)



The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting (6-9 October 2021), Toronto, Canada

Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate is presenting 'Incident-Reporting Systems to Improving Patient Safety in Japanese Hospitals' at the 4S Annual Meeting on 8 October.

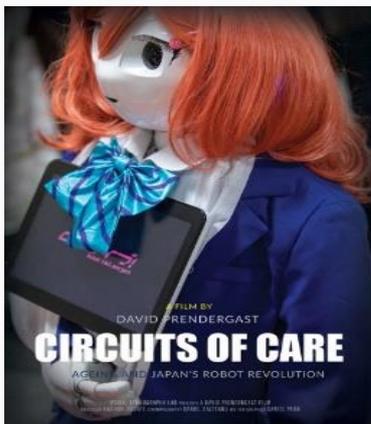
Conference details [here](#)



The European Geriatric Medicine Society Congress (11-13 October 2021), Athens, Greece

Dr. Naonori Kodate is presenting a poster 'When the COVID-19 pandemic hit nursing homes in Japan: proactive strategies for community infections and organizational resilience' at the European Geriatric Medicine Society (11-13 October 2021).

Conference details [here](#)



Talk & Screening of Documentary Film "Circuits of Care: Ageing and Japan's Robot Revolution" organised by Dr Nao Kodate

- (1) Maynooth University Research Week, 19 October 2021: information [here](#)
- (2) University College Cork – Irish Institute of Japanese Studies Seminar Series , 22 October 2021

Documentary Film description: By 2036, one in three people in Japan will be over the age of 65. While the nation wrestles with a shrinking labour force, the Robot Revolution Initiative was launched to expand robotics into every corner of Japanese economy and society. Circuits of Care follows anthropologist David Prendergast as he meets researchers developing and testing assistive technologies for older adults. From cybernetic walking supports to companion robots and automated sensor networks in nursing homes, older adults and care professionals share their experiences of the practical benefits these technologies bring, the problems they create and the unexpected relationships that can blossom.

Latest outputs: Publications, Podcasts



BOOK CHAPTER 'Taxation: measures and policy issues' by Dr Micheál Collins in the newly launch 14th edition of *The Economy of Ireland: policy making in a global context* (Palgrave, Bloomsbury Academic, 13 Aug 2021)

Overview: This chapter, in the 14th edition of this highly regarded text on the Ireland's economy, provides an overview of the Irish taxation system and evaluates its historical development and recent performance. It also considers the challenges ahead for taxation policy given international changes to corporate taxes, rising national debt levels and growing long-term social costs and post-pandemic challenges.



JOURNAL ARTICLE Köppe S (2021) The Role of Evidence and Commissions in the Dynamics of German and Swedish Pension Markets, *The Dynamics of Welfare Markets* DOI 10.1007/978-3-030-56623-4_6

experiencing family violence. This seminar considers whether training salon workers to respond to the issue of family violence places an additional burden of expectation on workers, the intimacies of salon work, as well as practical issues and limits of the training.



PODCAST September 28th 2021 Orla Kelly and the WUN Educating in a Warming World Consortium launched the first series of their podcast.

'Coping with Catastrophe' This weekly podcast features a series of discussions with researchers, educators, and activists working on the climate and ecological crises about the impact it has on them in their personal and professional lives, their coping strategies, and how we can reimagine our world.



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