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# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS BULLETIN

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FEBRUARY 2023

NO. 15

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**Dr Aisling Swaine, UCD Prof.  
of Gender Studies receives €2  
million ERC Consolidator  
Award**

**NEW ERC  
AWARD**



# Focus on New Funded Research



## **Gender, Conflict and Coercive Control: A Feminist Phenomenological Expansion of Conflict-related Harm.**

**Principal Investigator: Dr Aisling Swaine, Prof. of Gender Studies.**

Funding amount: €2 million over 5 years.

Three Post-Doctoral researchers, two PhDs students and two external experts will be engaged under the project.

The project is the first transnational theoretical and empirical study establishing the gendered phenomenon of 'conflict-related coercive control'. Responding to a flourishing of multidisciplinary interest in physical and sexual forms of conflict-related violence against women (CRVAW) over the last two decades, it reorients scholarship towards recognition of the significance of cumulative and insidious harm in armed group informal governance.

The aim of the project is to establish the empirical basis for coercive control as a specific conflict harm, as well as a conceptual lens through which to understand women's experiences of conflict. The project makes conflict-related coercive control more discoverable in, as well as conceptually relevant to, the study and understanding of conflict-related violence and political transition.

The project is achieved across four inter-linked phases:

- development of a new feminist phenomenological methodology for studying the lived experience of the gendered phenomenon of conflict-related coercive control;
- generation of unique empirical phenomenological understanding of coercive control across Colombia, Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka;
- analysis of transitional justice mechanisms through a coercive control lens;
- synthesising towards the development of the first conceptual framework establishing a new field of the gendered phenomenon of conflict-related coercive control.

# New Appointments



**Dr Maria Pierce** has been appointed as a member of Ethics in the Dementia (EDEM) COST Action CA21137, the aim of which is to reduce burnout and moral distress among caregivers and promote the dignity, autonomy, and quality of life of people with dementia.

**Further information on Cost Action EDEM:** Dementia is a health challenge on the rise. The overall number of people with dementia in Europe is expected to almost double from 1.57% of the population in 2018, to 3% in 2050. There is no effective treatment for any of the 200 known dementia diseases. It is not possible to halt or reverse the cognitive decline caused by dementia.

This makes care the most important health intervention for people with dementia. However, there are profound ethical difficulties involved in caring for people with dementia. Their gradual cognitive loss complicates retention of autonomy and agency, and causes a number of ethical care dilemmas, including: balancing safety with freedom, deciding what is in their best interests and recognising that the needs of the person with dementia may sometimes conflict with the needs of others who also deserve consideration. Legal frameworks and guidelines are helpful in guiding practice and decision-making, but they need to be interpreted and applied to specific situations.

EDEM addresses this challenge. By involving a multitude of stakeholders in developing an ethical framework, recommendations and an educational toolkit available for use across Europe, EDEM aims at improving dignity, autonomy and quality of life of people with dementia, as well as reducing burnout and moral distress among caregivers.

Action keywords: Dementia - Ethics - Autonomy - Dignity - Person centered care

For further information on this COST ACTION, go to the following link:  
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21137/#tabs+Name:Description>

## Appointment of Dr Sophie van der Valk, Postdoctoral Fellow



**Dr Sophie van der Valk** has been appointed to work as a postdoctoral fellow on the HEA funded North-South project *Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical Institutional Abuse*. This project is based at the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice with Assoc. Prof. Marie Keenan as PI. The Co-Investigators include Prof. Anne-Marie McAlinden, QUB and Assoc. Prof. James Gallan, DCU.

Bio: Sophie van der Valk is a socio-legal researcher who received her PhD from Trinity College Dublin as part of the ERC funded Prisons: the Rule of Law, Accountability and Rights (PRILA) project. Her PhD examined the experiences of those in prison of human rights protecting mechanisms, specifically complaint procedures, inspection and monitoring and the courts. She has previously conducted research in the field of counter terrorism, specifically examining issues concerning the prosecution and other measures used against foreign fighters. Her research has been published both internationally and domestically in journals such as the European Journal of Criminology and the Law and Society Review. Her research has also been used to inform the new framework for the Office of the Inspector of Prisons in Ireland.

### Transforming Justice: An All-Island Examination of Justice Responses to Historical Institutional Abuse

**Project Description:** The research brings together researchers across a range of fields – law, criminology; sociology, social policy, social work and restorative justice; and transitional justice and human rights – and represents the first cross-disciplinary study focusing on Ireland (North and South), contextualised internationally. It examines the limitations of traditional justice approaches, including public inquiries or commissions of investigation, civil cases, criminal prosecutions and apologies. The main argument to be examined is that a complex range of factors have prevented just responses to HIA and blurred lines of accountability.

The research is informed by i) comparative documentary analysis of apologies and public inquiries and commissions of investigations on HIA internationally; and ii) 50-60 interviews (approx. 25-30 in NI and RoI) with lawyers and human rights advocates, judges/commissioners, political elites, policy makers, victims/survivors, victim-advocates/representatives and members of religious orders. Drawing on restorative and transitional justice and approaches in other countries, it outlines a new framework of justice. This research has broader implications for improving official and public understanding of the effectiveness of justice responses and ultimately the experiences of victims impacted by HIA across Ireland and elsewhere.

**Awarding Body:** Higher Education Authority, North-South Research Programme.

# Past Events



NCH presented 'Rebel Irishwomen', a Special Concert with Landless, Niamh Bury and **Dr. Mary McAuliffe** to Celebrate St. Brigid's Day this February 2023.

The National Concert Hall was the venue for Rebel Irishwomen, a unique St. Brigid's Bank Holiday event inspired by the 1966 Claddagh Records release of the same name. The original record brought listeners into the personal experiences, recollections and songs of three women who were particularly associated with the 1916 Rising; Helena Molony, Maud Gonne McBride and Kathleen Behan. For this special performance, the songs will be reinterpreted by acclaimed female vocal group Landless, rising Irish folk star Niamh Bury and explored by historian and lecturer Dr Mary McAuliffe.

As Cathal Ó Seanáin wrote in the sleeve notes at the time, Helena Molony, Maud Gonne McBride and Kathleen Behan, were 'among the militant nationalists' who were passionate about Irish independence. This exclusive concert opens a window on the deeper impact of the role of women at this historic time and the ways in which their role had been previously represented.

The performers on the night each bring their exceptional talents to the interpretations. Landless are well-known for their unaccompanied singing of traditional songs from Irish, Scottish, English and American traditions in close four-part harmony and have impressed audiences at home and abroad. Niamh Bury's star on the domestic folk scene is firmly in the ascent, in recent years she has collaborated and shared the stage with acts like Ye Vagabonds, Varo and Myles O'Reilly, and has performed at festivals such as Body & Soul and The St. Patrick's Festival. Mary McAuliffe is a highly-respected historian, lecturer, and Director of Gender Studies at UCD. She specialises in Irish women's / gender history and traumas histories of gendered violence of Ireland's revolutionary period.

Last year, Claddagh Records released a special edition of 'Rebel Irishwomen' to mark the 100th anniversary of the Irish Free State featuring the original recordings and interpretations.

This concert was supported by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

# SEMINAR



## Topic: Deinstitutionalisation strategies in care policy and practice: from transition to transformation

### SPEAKERS:



**Dr Griet Roets, Assoc. Prof. in Social Work, University of Ghent**



**Dries Cautreels PhD student, University of Ghent**

**Abstract:** Ireland and Belgium, and more specifically Flanders (the Dutch speaking part of Belgium), seem to share a history where the care for disabled citizens has traditionally been organized in large-scale institutions, based on charity-oriented approaches. The living conditions in these institutions, that were historically located at the edge of our societies, have been framed as violating the rights of disabled people due to their lack of autonomy, segregation and lack of inclusive social relations, stigmatisation, the custodial and repressive institutional professional culture, collectiveness rather than individualized care, and poor living conditions. Disability policy and practice reforms have therefore actively promoted inclusion and de-institutionalisation, being framed as a transition to dismantle residential care institutions for the development of community-based services as the key alternative for large-scale institutions.

In this seminar, we will discuss the implications of these developments for social work and public service professionals. We will search for new strategies that might enable the transformation, rather than the dismantling, of 'monolithic care environments' into differentiated 'living environments' that can respond to the diverse and ever-evolving desires, changing interdependencies, and aspirations of the most diverse people in society.



**THUR. FEB. 9TH, 4-6PM**

**GEARY SEMINAR ROOM  
UCD BELFIELD CAMPUS**

For more information:

Email: [Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie](mailto:Sarah.Donnelly@ucd.ie)

Asst. Prof. UCD School of Social Policy,  
Social Work and Social Justice

# Upcoming Seminars/Conferences

## KERRY CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

23 / 24 / 25 FEBRUARY 2023

**Dr Mary Mc Auliffe** is Conference Co-Organiser of 'Civil War in Kerry and Beyond: A Centenary Conference'. Feb 23-25. 2023

A three-day conference marking the centenary of the Irish Civil War in Kerry and nationally, and assessing its history, memory, and legacy. Part of the State Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2023 and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023.

In association with UCD Gender Studies, Kerry County Council and Kerry Library, and the Department of Computing, Creative Media and Information Technology at MTU Kerry. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2012-2023.

Go to the following link for more information  
<https://kerrycivilwarconference.ie/>

The conference, which is being organised by a group of experienced historians and event managers, will focus on the impact of the Irish Civil War in Kerry, with reference to national and international contexts and addressing the three main themes of history, memory and legacy.

Over three days, expert speakers will present the events of 1922-1923 to a wide audience by analysing, debating and embracing the complexities, contradictions and nuances of this extremely turbulent, divisive and traumatic period.

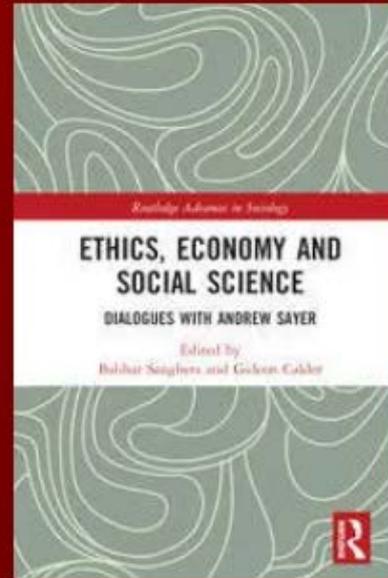
The conference is being held in County Kerry, a county where the Civil War was more protracted than in any other and which was the scene of much of the most violent, bitter, divisive, and traumatic incidents of the 1922-1923 period.

This event will closely complement the aims and objectives of the Decade of Centenaries Programme (Decade Of Centenaries – Decade of Centenaries Ireland) and will facilitate a greater understanding and appreciation of the events of the time by presenting the history of the Civil War in an inclusive and impartial manner. It will examine how the events of the time live on in our collective memory, as well as considering the legacy of the conflict over the course of the past century up to the present day.

Presented by a team of experienced historians and event managers, the Kerry Civil War Conference will set what happened in Kerry and throughout Ireland in both the national and international context. This will be achieved through the presentation of new research, archive testimonies and the accounts of combatants as well as civilians, so that the Irish Civil War can be considered and understood afresh, a century later.

# EQUALITY, FLOURISHING & SOCIAL CHANGE: WHAT NOW FOR POLITICAL ECONOMY & SOCIAL THEORY?

Webinar and panel discussion  
February 23rd, 18.00 - 19.30 GMT



## Respondants



Balihar Sanghera,  
Senior lecturer in  
Sociology,  
University of Kent



Gideon Calder,  
Associate  
Professor of  
Social  
Philosophy and  
Policy,  
Swansea  
University

## Equality Studies Public Seminar Series 2023

Keynote speaker:  
**Andrew Sayer,**  
Emeritus  
Professor of  
Social Theory and  
Political Economy,  
Lancaster  
University



Register in advance for this webinar through the link provided, or email [marie.moran@ucd.ie](mailto:marie.moran@ucd.ie) for access; Follow Equality Studies UCD on twitter: @UCDEqualStudies

<https://www.instagram.com/EqualityStudiesUCD/>

The main lecture will be delivered by Andrew Sayer, Emeritus Professor of Social Theory and Political Economy at Lancaster University, followed by responses from Gideon Calder (Swansea University) and Balihar Sanghera (University of Kent). It will be chaired by Marie Moran, director of the UCD Equality Studies Centre.

The event has been organised to mark the hugely influential and ground-breaking contributions of Andrew Sayer to political economy and social theory, with a special emphasis on the development of critical realism, the revival of moral economy, and relations between social theory, normativity and class. These contributions have recently been recognised in the publication of *Ethics, Economy and Social Science: Dialogues with Andrew Sayer*, edited by Calder and Sanghera (Routledge, 2022), in which a number of critical thinkers engage with Andrew Sayer's work. Link: [https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5jd3FkQATFmQSF6PrGLNKg](https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5jd3FkQATFmQSF6PrGLNKg)

# Understanding the profile of Ireland's Nonprofit Sector

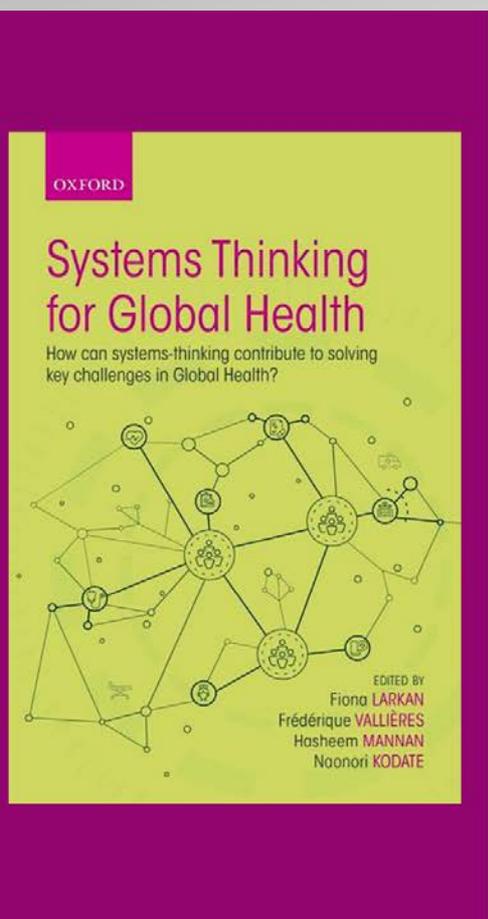
**Speaker: Patricia Quinn, Founder of  
Benefacts**



**Fri, 24 February 2023, 1–2 pm**

**Room: Hannah Sheehy Skeffington Building, Room C001**

Abstract: What is the profile of nonprofit organisations in Ireland – how are they constituted, regulated, resourced? Benefacts tracked the sector for 7 years between 2016 and 2022, and built a detailed profile of more than 20,000 organisations that make it up. The legacy data assets produced by this project represent an important resource for researchers, analysts, sector leaders and policy-makers. The datasets are stored in the Irish Social Sciences Data Archive (part of UCD Library). Patricia Quinn, Benefacts founder, will illustrate the kind of uses to which the database can be put, as part of the wider sector research agenda.



# Book Launch: Systems Thinking for Global Health

11 - 12 noon CET

Tuesday, 28th February, 2023

## Keynote:

Professor Karl Blanchet, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies

## Panelists:

- Professor Hasheem Mannan, Trinity College Dublin
- Professor Frédérique Vallières, Trinity College Dublin
- Professor Naonori Kodate, University College Dublin

## Moderated by:

Professor Minerva Rivas Velarde, University of Geneva



## Presented by:



**Systems Thinking for Global Health** edited by Frédérique Vallières, Hasheem Mannan, **Naonori Kodate**, and Fiona Larkan, addresses how systems-thinking can contribute to solving key challenges in Global Health.

Global Health is an evolving field operating within a complex interaction of political, environmental, economic, and socio-cultural factors. Any work on the subject needs to reflect current developments and be supported by a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that retains a focus on the underpinning determinants of health. This book reflects the importance of applying a systems-thinking approach to Global Health challenges: one that examines both the individual elements within the system as well as the interrelationships between them and wider contextual patterns.

Bringing together a global and multidisciplinary team of experts, this volume outlines the core concepts of a systems-thinking approach and how they can be applied to current Global Health problems. It provides a comprehensive range of case studies, reflections, conceptual pieces, and methodological approaches. Readers are invited to engage with arguments and assumptions across global health interventions and to connect systems-thinking theory with lived experiences. Well-established topics such as infectious and non-communicable diseases, as well as lesser-discussed areas such as still birth, mental health, and war and conflict are united under a shared systems-thinking framework.

Offering innovative perspectives on current health challenges, students, academics, practitioners, and policy makers will find this a significant resource to enhance their understanding and application of systems-thinking in Global Health.

# UCD Equality Studies Centre News

Adam Kelly, Assoc. Prof in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, has taken over as co-convenor of the **CPE research cluster** this year. In light of this, and supporting our interdisciplinary remit, we are introducing a new element into our reading group series this year - novels that address some key themes of CPE! In our first session on March 9th, we will discuss the novel 'Trust' by Hernan Diaz (shortlisted for the Booker prize this year), which is set in world of finance and financial elites in the run up to and aftermath of the 1929 financial crash, and, as well as telling a great story, examines many of the justificatory narratives that circulate in this domain.

Please contact [marie.moran@ucd.ie](mailto:marie.moran@ucd.ie) or [adam.kelly@ucd.ie](mailto:adam.kelly@ucd.ie) if you'd like to join us.

Due to the success of the **'Futures Thinking' two day conference in October**, the organisers of the event (including the UCD Equality Studies Centre) are moving ahead with plans for **'Futures Forum'**, for those interested in progressing the discussion and the application of new ideas and research raised at the conference. The forum will be interdisciplinary and inter-institutional and will bring together academics and policy practitioners with an interest in:

- conceptualising the (long-term) future,
- diagnosing why the short-term tends to be privileged, and
- formulating and analysing interventions that seek to give more voice and agency to future generations.

We are currently considering and planning a wide range of formats and events, from reading groups, to artistic interventions, to conventional seminars (with unconventional themes!).

The first event in the series – *Harnessing the Arts for Futures Thinking and Planning* – will take place on March 24th 2023 and will be run by the Creative Futures team at the University of Galway. Attendance is invite-only, but all equality studies centre members will be invited, so once again, please do email marie if you're not already a centre member but would like to be included.

The Equality Sessions' were initiated as a collaboration between the Unequal Societies Cluster of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) are ongoing, and have been led and organised by Karen Smith.

- To date there have been sessions on Children and Inequality (Karen Smith and Deirdre McGillicuddy) in July 2022;
- Conceptualising Equality (Marie Moran) in November 2022; Structural Discrimination (Judy Walsh) in December 2022.
- A further session on racism/anti-racism and intersectionality (Krisna Ruetter-Orihuela) is currently being planned for March 2023.

These online seminars which address theoretical and conceptual questions have attracted attendees from across government departments and agencies and have been very well received.

'The Equality Studies Centre public lecture with Professor Andrew Sayer, Emeritus Professor of Social Theory and Political Economy at Lancaster University, is being held online on Feb 23rd. At this time there are over 160 attendees registered. More details on the event on page 6 of this bulletin.

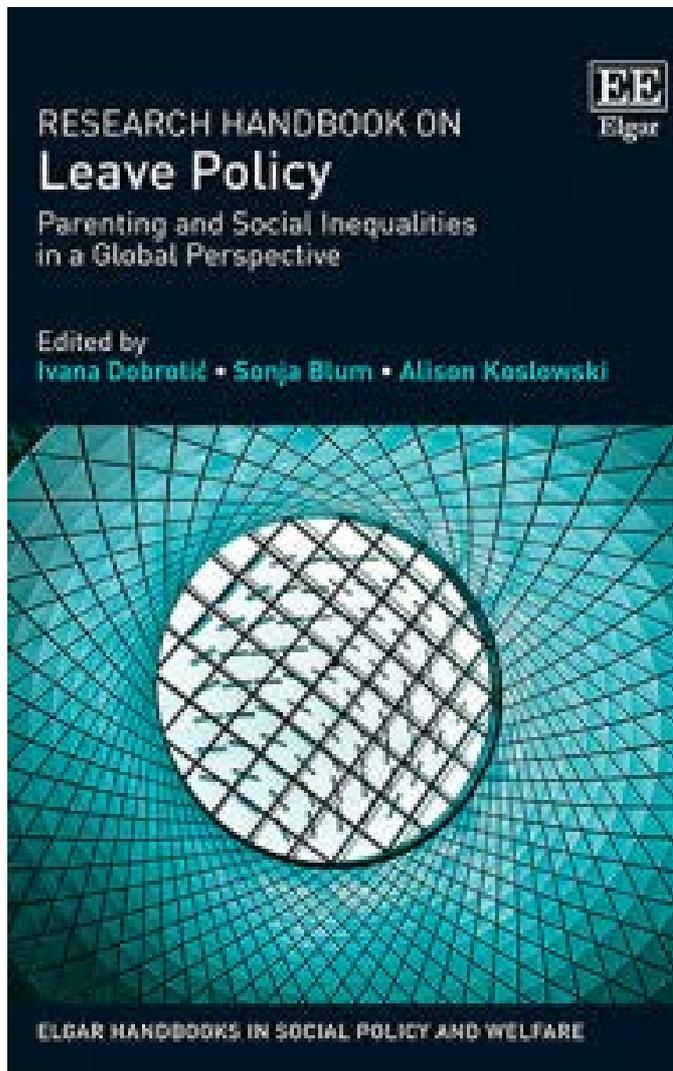
**'Dr Marie Moran, Equality Studies Centre, Director**

*Marie Moran*



# New Publications

## Book Chapter



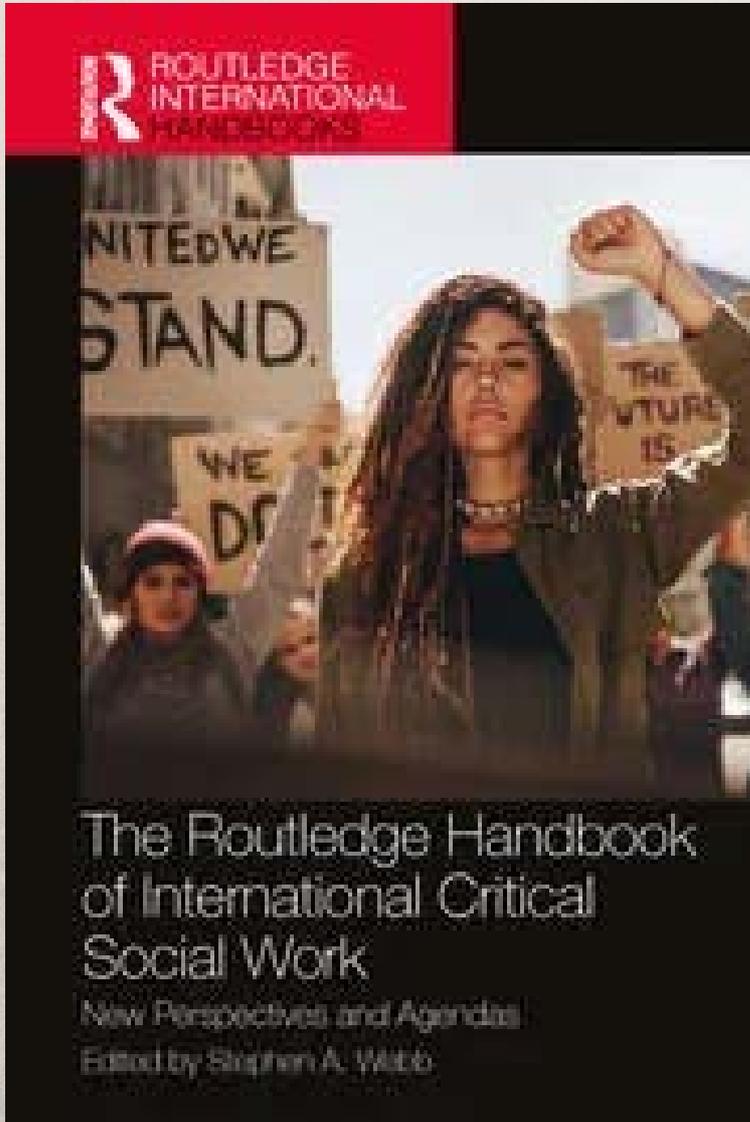
**Szelewa, Dorota** and Dorottya Szikra (2022). Chapter 8: Leave policies in populist and illiberal regimes: the cases of Hungary and Poland". In *Research Handbook on Leave Policy*. Edited by Ivana Dobrotić, Sonja Blum and Alison Koslowski, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, 99–113.

**Abstract:** The chapter compares policy changes in Hungary and Poland, two countries with the electoral victories of the right-wing populist parties during the 2010s. The goals of this study are twofold: 1) to provide a comparative overview of parenting leave policies of the two countries and 2) to analyse the politics of parenting leave reforms of populist and illiberal political regimes. Although family policies have been in the centre of their governance, they have not introduced paradigmatic changes to parenting leaves. Still, these schemes should be viewed as contributing to overall family policy change and related discursive framing. Common features of these policies include weak incentives for fathers to use a part of the leave and their bifurcated character. The countries slightly differ when it comes to their policy goals: while demographic growth and support for middle-class parents prevail in Hungary, Polish government is also focused on eradicating poverty.

**Web link:**

<https://www.elgaronline.com/edcollchap/book/9781800372214/book-part-9781800372214-17.xml>

## Book Chapter



Chapter 22|13 pages. Radical approaches to mental health social work. **Jim Campbell**, Kerry Cuskelly, Jim Walsh in A. Webb, S. (Ed.). (2022). The Routledge Handbook of International Critical Social Work: New Perspectives and Agendas (1st ed.). Routledge.  
<https://doi.org/10.4324/978100321196>

**Abstract:** This chapter was constructed during a series of dialogues between the authors, a social work academic, social work practitioner and advocate for survivors and service users. It begins with a critical analysis of conventional assumptions about the history and perceived benefits of the mental health system, and the development of the mental health social work role. The chapter then chooses two key areas of practice that illustrate the challenges and contradictions of the mental health role: the management of risk and use of law, and issues of engagement and empowerment with service users and survivors. It concludes with the application of a radical model to a case study to demonstrate ways in which mental health social workers can locate their role within systems of power and move beyond casework approaches. In doing so, it is argued that mental health social workers are better equipped to deliver meaningful opportunities for personal, social and political changes that can enhance the lives of service users and survivors.

The Routledge Handbook of International Critical Social Work is a companion volume to the Routledge Handbook of Critical Social Work. It brings together world-leading scholars in the field to provide additional, in-depth and provocative consideration of alternative and progressive ways of thinking about social work.

Critical social work is increasingly involved in a global conversation, and as a subfield of social work it is rapidly becoming an interdisciplinary field in its own right and promoting novel forms of political activism. The Handbook showcases the global influences and path-breaking ideas of critical social work and examines the different stances taken on important political and ethical issues. It provides the first complete survey of the vibrant field of critical social work in a rich international context. This definitive volume is one of the most comprehensive source books on crucial social work that is available on the international stage and an essential guide for anyone interested in the politics of social work.

# Journal Article

CDoyle, L., Montgomery, L., **Donnelly, S.**, MacKay, K., & Penhale, B. (2023). Assessment tools utilised in Adult Safeguarding practice within the UK and Ireland: Results from a small-scale qualitative study. *Journal of Adult Protection*. Available: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JAP-10-2022-0021/full/html>

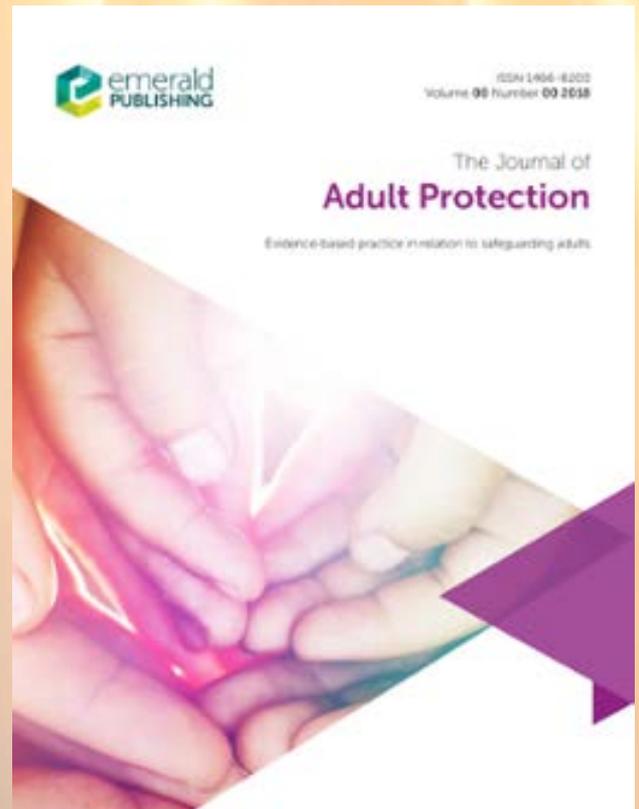
## Abstract:

### Purpose

Across the UK and Ireland, there are a range of processes and interventions offered to adults who, because of personal characteristics or life circumstances, require help to keep themselves safe from potential harm or abuse. The ways in which the statutory and voluntary sectors have chosen to safeguard these adults varies. Different models of intervention and the utilisation of a range of assessment tools, frameworks and approaches have evolved, often in response to policy and practice wisdom. Empirical research in this area is limited. The primary research purpose of the project on which this paper is based is to gather information on the range of tools and frameworks that are used in adult safeguarding practice across the UK and Ireland. In so doing, this paper seeks to contribute and inform the future development of an evidence based adult safeguarding assessment framework.

### Design/methodology/approach

A team of academics from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland wanted to explore the possibility of adapting a pre-existing assessment framework currently in use in family and childcare social work to consider its utility in assessing carers involved in adult safeguarding referrals. This paper reports on a small pilot study which sought to inform the adaptation of this framework for use in adult safeguarding. This paper is based on a qualitative study involving 11 semi-structured telephone interviews with adult safeguarding social work managers and experienced practitioners. Two to four professionals from each region of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland were interviewed to elicit their perceptions and experiences of engaging in adult safeguarding assessment processes and their views about models of assessment.



### Findings

This study identified considerable variation in and between the nations under review, in terms of the assessment frameworks and tools used in adult safeguarding practice. To a large extent, the assessment frameworks and tools in use were not evidence based or accredited. Participants acknowledged the value of using assessment frameworks and tools whilst also identifying barriers in undertaking effective assessments.

### Originality/value

There is limited evidence available in the literature regarding the utility of assessment frameworks and tools in adult safeguarding practice. This primary research identifies four themes derived from professional's experiences of using such frameworks and identifies broader recommendations for policy and practice in this area.

**Keywords:** Assessment; Adult safeguarding; Models; Frameworks; Tools; Approaches; Carers; Safeguarding.

# Journal Article

Rogan,C, Rock,B.,Begley, E., Boland, B.,Brazil, K.,Diaz-Orueta, U., **Donnelly,S** et al.(2023) Dementia research in Ireland: What should we prioritise?. HRB Open Res 2023, **6**:12 Available: <https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13563.1>)

## Abstract

Background: Dementia research prioritisation allows for the systematic allocation of investment in dementia research by governments, funding agencies and the private sector. There is currently a lack of information available in Ireland regarding priority areas for dementia research. To address this gap, a dementia research prioritisation exercise was undertaken, consisting of an online survey of professionals in the dementia field and workshops for people living with dementia and family carers.

Methods: (1) An anonymous online survey of professionals, based on an existing WHO global survey: The global survey was adapted to an Irish context and participants were asked to score 65 thematic research avenues under 5 criteria; (2) A mixed-methods exercise for people living with dementia and family carers: This involved two facilitated workshops where participants voted on the research themes they felt were important to them and should be addressed through research.

Results: Eight of the top ten research priorities in the survey of professionals (n=108) were focused on the delivery and quality of care and services for people with dementia and carers. Other research avenues ranked in the top ten focused on themes of timely and accurate diagnosis of dementia in primary health-care practices and diversifying therapeutic approaches in clinical trials. Participants in the workshops (n=13) ranked 'better drugs and treatment for people with dementia', 'dementia prevention/ risk reduction' and 'care for people with dementia and carers' as their top priority areas.

Conclusions: Findings from this prioritisation exercise will inform and motivate policymakers, funders, and researchers to support and conduct research to address the burden of dementia and ensure that the limited resources made available are spent on research that has the most impact for those who will benefit from and use the results of research.

## Keywords

Dementia, Research Prioritisation

## HRB Open Research



<https://hrbopenresearch.org/>

## Special Issue Journal

Saxonberg, Steven, **Szelewa, Dorota** and Formánková, Lenka (2023). Introduction to the special issue on “The role of experts in developing social policies: Social scientists reflect on their experiences in government”. *International Journal of Social Welfare* 32(1), 55–57.



### About the Special Issue:

The articles in this special issue show that focusing on one's own role in the process of decision-making, by critically applying already existing theories and concepts adds another layer of explanatory power to actor-centered and discursive institutionalist approaches. In fact, omitting researchers' own role and insight in the policy making process may lead to the loss of crucial evidence and with it the loss of a central, perhaps often critical explanatory factor. The self-reflective perspective is challenging in terms of methodology: the question is how to analyze one own's engagement, and how can scholars solve the issue of the necessary tension between the researcher and the research object. Engaging in participatory research, discussions about insider versus outsider in social research, researchers' positionality and auto-ethnographic research methods could be ways to address the problems. Further studies can bring a greater understanding of the complex dynamics between the actors involved in the policy making process, issue salience, and the political coalition in which policy recommendations are designed, discussed, and potentially enacted.

Web link <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12574>

## Journal Article



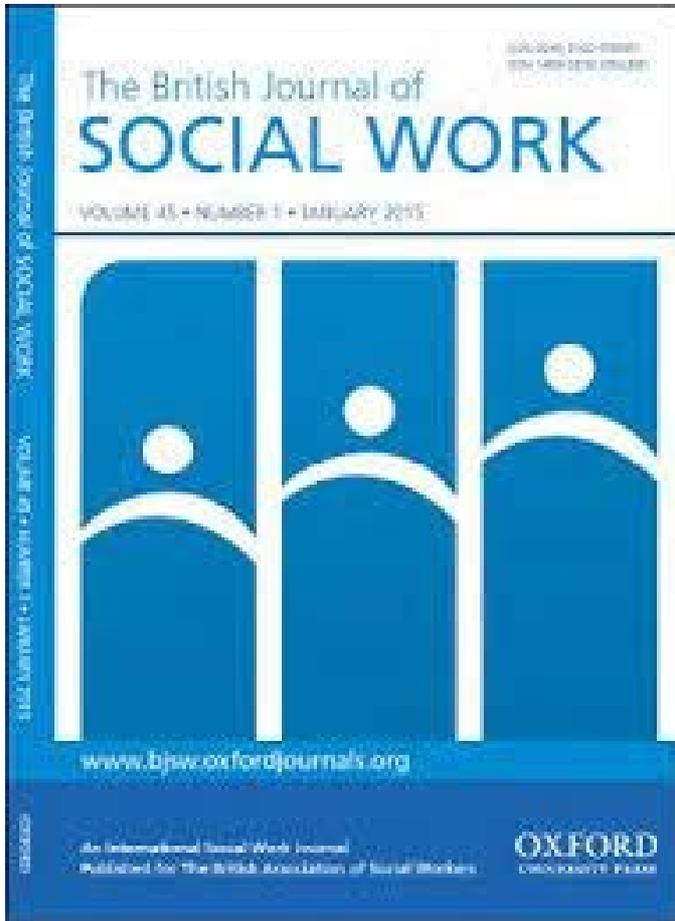
**Joseph Mooney** (2023) Personal narratives, public risk: using Foucault's 'confessional' to examine adult retrospective disclosures of childhood abuse, *Health, Risk & Society*, DOI: [10.1080/13698575.2023.2166019](https://doi.org/10.1080/13698575.2023.2166019)

### Abstract

Disclosure of childhood sexual abuse is a process that is often laden with boundary testing, decision-making and, at times, risk. Disclosures tend to be delayed, often into adulthood and later life, with disclosures to authorities remaining relatively low. In the Republic of Ireland adults who disclose experiences of childhood sexual abuse are directed towards child protection services due to an interplay between jurisprudence, child protection policy design, and mandatory reporting obligations, requiring social work practitioners to balance the social and the legal. This article compares Foucault's concept of the confessional to current social work practices of engaging with adult victims and survivors of abuse. It is argued that thinking about these interactions as a confessional-like system highlights a process of knowledge creation that is taking place when a personal narrative of abuse is shared, willingly or via mandated reporting, with a child protection agency under the auspices of a modern state. This 'confessional-lens' helps us identify a tipping of the balance in this area of social work practice, away from provision of care and person-centredness, across a boundary, to legalistic practice. Narratives of childhood abuse are transformed into knowledge deemed necessary to assess current risk to children. A process that places the adult on the periphery, leading to a potential for harm and re-traumatisation.

**Keywords:** Disclosure; Child Protection; Social Work; Foucault; Sexual abuse; Risk.

## Journal Article



Paula McFadden; Jana Ross; Julie Byrne; Niamh Flanagan; Rose Dolan; Gloria Kirwan; Eleanor Kelly; Caroline Shore; Orla McDonald; **Elaine Wilson; Paula Slavin;** Audrey Roulston; Claire McCartan and Markus Ketola. The Role of Social Work Education in Relation to Empathy and Self-Reported Resilience: Results from Entry to Exit of Social Work Education on the Island of Ireland during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *British Journal of Social Work* (2023) 00, 1–20  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcad046>

**Abstract:** The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of people’s lives worldwide, including the work of social workers and the education of social work students. Field placements are a significant part of social work education, but during the pandemic they were cut short and most teachings moved online. The current mixed methods study examined the effects of social work education on social work students’ empathy and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic on the island of Ireland. A matched sample of forty-nine students completed an online survey at the start (T1) of their degree and at the end (T2). A further 229 students who only completed the T1 survey were compared to 70 others who only completed the T2 survey. The results showed improved resilience in the cohort comparison. There were no differences in empathy in the matched sample nor between the cohorts. Thematic analysis of students’ narratives showed that they found the switch to online learning difficult, with some reporting negative impacts on their mental health and the abrupt ending of placements impacting their feelings of preparedness for practice. Implications of this study and future research areas are discussed.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, education, empathy, resilience, social work students

Accepted: January 2023

# Journal Article



**Alan Maddock**, Paul Best, Nil Ean, Cherie Armour and Nerrolyn Ramstrand. Rates and correlates of psychological distress and PTSD among persons with physical disabilities in Cambodia. *International Journal for Equity in Health* (2023) 22:30 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-023-01842-5>

## Abstract

**Background** Compared to the general population, persons with disabilities are at increased risk of poor mental health. The aim of this study was to determine the rates and correlates of psychological distress and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among persons with physical disabilities in Cambodia.

**Methods** From July to December 2021 data were collected as part of a mental health screening programme for persons with physical disabilities who access prosthetic and orthotic services. Psychological distress was measured using the Kessler-10 (K-10) and PTSD using the PC-PTSD-5. Bivariate and multiple linear regression analyses were conducted to identify factors associated with levels of psychological distress and PTSD among this population.

**Results** Our study found a high prevalence of psychological distress and PTSD in this patient cohort. Of the 213 participants, 31.5% were likely to be experiencing mild to moderate psychological distress indicative of a mental health disorder, with 13.6% likely to have a severe mental health disorder. Sixty-five percent of patients reported experiencing PTSD symptoms, with forty-six percent meeting the criteria for probable PTSD. Psychological distress was associated with pathological worry, rumination, and facets of mindfulness. Rumination and pathological worry were found to be significant predictors of psychological distress. PTSD symptoms were associated with pathological worry but not facets of mindfulness or rumination. Facets of mindfulness and pathological worry were found to be significant predictors of PTSD.

**Conclusion** Integration of mental health services within the disability sector is required to address psychological distress and PTSD symptoms among people with physical disabilities in Cambodia. Health system interventions, such as screening, referral, and the training of health providers, need to be strengthened. Further studies focussing on the psychosocial determinants of mental health of persons with disabilities in Cambodia are required.

**Keywords** Mental Health, Physical Disability, Psychological Distress, PTSD, Cambodia

## Journal Article

Kennedy, P., & **Pierce, M.** (2023). Minority Women Incarcerated: The Vulnerabilities of Traveller Women in the Irish Criminal Justice System. *Race and Justice*, 0(0).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/21533687231151699>

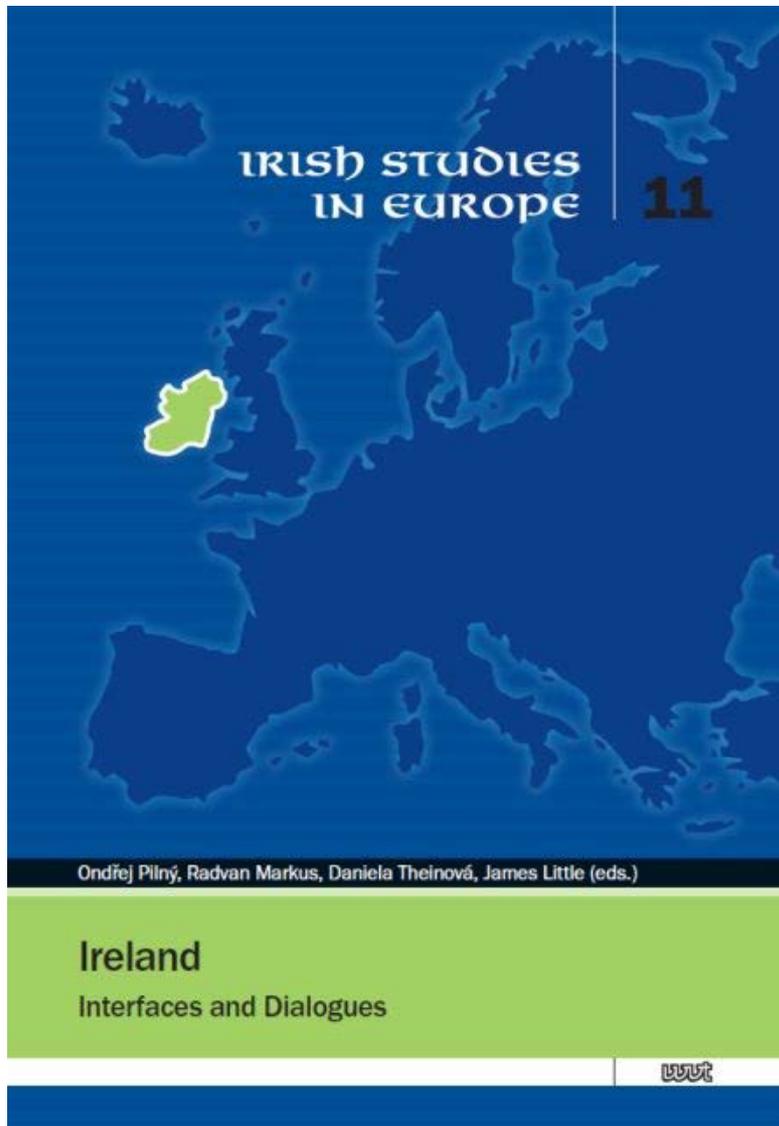


### Abstract

Women comprise a minority of the prison population, representing 10.6% of the prison population in Ireland in 2020. An issue of pressing concern is the over-representation of minority ethnic women among female prisoners. In Ireland, Irish Traveller women are 22 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Traveller women. Their risk of imprisonment is greater than Traveller men who are over-represented among male prisoners. Traveller women in contact with the criminal justice system are likely to have experienced extreme deprivation, social exclusion, and current and historical/intergenerational discrimination. This article draws on evidence from published literature and a qualitative study undertaken by the authors to examine the vulnerabilities of Traveller women in prison in Ireland and the multiple and complex reasons for their over-representation in prison. To improve the situation of Traveller women in prison, the UN Bangkok Rules can be used to guide the development of relevant legislation, procedures, policy, and action plans. Traveller women in prison must not be overlooked in the implementation of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, which places a legal obligation in Ireland on prison authorities to promote equality, prevent discrimination, and protect the human rights of all affected by their policies and plans.

**Keywords:** prisoner's rights, race and corrections, indigenous people, race/ethnicity, women, vulnerabilities

## Journal Article

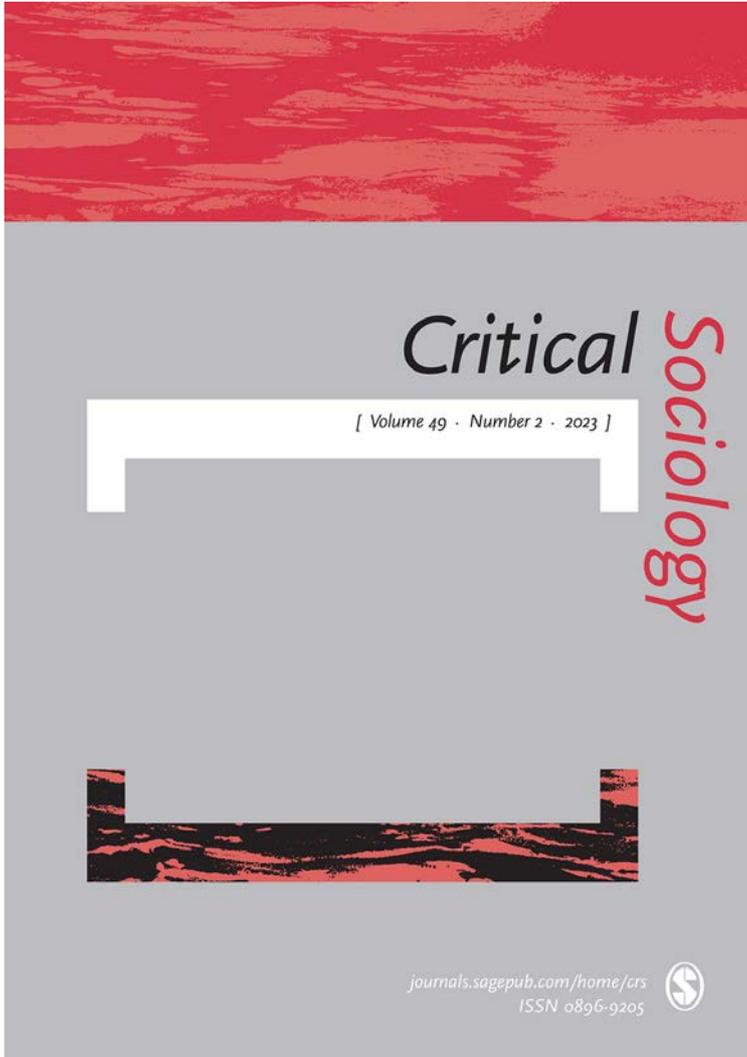


**Dr Mary McAuliffe** (University College Dublin)  
A "WOMAN'S DOOM": CLASS AND GENDERED VIOLENCE DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. Pages 83 – 96 in Pilný, Ondřej; Markus, Radvan; Theinová, Daniela; Little, James (eds.). *Ireland Interfaces and Dialogues*.

Ranging across the fields of history, literary studies, music studies, theatre and performance studies, film studies, media studies, and the study of material culture, this volume provides a snapshot of some of the most exciting emerging European research on Ireland. The essays gathered here approach Ireland as an interface, a locus that allows intercultural exchange, examining contact zones with other cultures as sites of productive and mutually enriching dialogue. Featuring three sections – Transnational and Intercultural Interactions, Dialogues with the Past, and Hauntings and Traumas – the collection aims at a discussion and further development of interdisciplinary dialogues in Irish studies, treating the frontiers of disciplines, research areas, and methodologies as interfaces that are changing how we understand Ireland past, present, and future. This dimension of the book is enhanced by two extensive interviews with renowned Irish documentary film-makers (Alan Gilsean, Gillian Marsh, and Pat Collins) and leading performance practitioners and activists (Lian Bell and Maeve Stone).

ISBN 978-3-86821-968-5, kt., 258 S., 18 Abb., € 32,50 (2022)

## Journal Article



**Moran, M., & Flaherty, E. (2022).** Rethinking the Concept of a 'Financial Elite': A Critical Intervention. *Critical Sociology*, first online December 2022.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205221143317>

### Abstract

While the concept of a 'financial elite' has become prominent within politics and the social sciences, it is not clear what value it holds for the analysis of inequalities of income, wealth and power under financial capitalism. Who are the financial elite, and what distinguishes them from other economically powerful groups? We delineate 'distributive', 'categorical' and 'relational' approaches to financial elites, arguing that various unresolved tensions have hampered clarification of the differentia specifica of the concept, and blunted its normative significance. We develop a new concept of financial elites that combines insights from elite studies and financialisation studies. We argue that the financial elite possess not only high incomes, but income primarily derived from 'rentier' channels, as endowed by the institutional structures of financialisation. Financial elites demonstrate the capacity not only to capitalise on these new accumulation channels, but to shape the institutional and regulatory landscapes in which they operate.

# Focus on our Researchers



**Dr Mary McAuliffe, Asst. Prof., UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. Email: [Mary.McAuliffe@ucd.ie](mailto:Mary.McAuliffe@ucd.ie)**

## **Tell me about your chosen area of research?**

Currently I am working on a book on gendered and sexual violence during the Irish War of Independence and Civil War, 1919–1923. For the last number of years I have been teaching a module 'Gender, War and Violence', which focuses on the experiences of women, civilian and militant, in war. As a professional historian my research lies in Irish women histories, and the histories of sexualities in Ireland. I had been researching suffrage and revolutionary women for many years, and the teaching of the above module led me to ask questions about the violent and trauma experiences of Irish women in war. While some women historians had begun research on violence against women in the War of Independence it was still generally accepted that these wars, 1919–1923 were, for the most part, 'clean wars'. However, over the past decade newly released archives, such as the Military Service Pension Applications, and the digitisation of newspapers of the period, have allowed a deeper look at histories from below, in particular, access to the voices and experiences of women. It has become very clear that gendered and sexual violence against women, whether they were militant Cumann na mBan women, or civilians, was tactical and systemic and used by all sides, English Crown Forces and Irish republican in the War of Independence (1919–1921) and again by both sides, the National Army and the anti-Treaty IRA in the Civil War, (1922–1923)

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

As a historian archival research is vital, and I spent many hours, days and months in the archives, be they digital or in the physical archives. However, as a gender historian I have to consider at all times that the archive is not gender neutral? and question the reasons, why, by whom, how and when, materials were created. One of the earliest influences on my research methods was 'Gender as a category of analysis' written by Joan W Scott in 1986, which I have always, and continue to find, a useful and critical analytical category. It has enabled me to provide new questions on old perspectives, redefine concepts of power and power relations, and make women, their lives, voices and experiences, bodies and sexualities visible.

## **Can you describe what the process of writing your most recent article was like?**

I have recently completed an article on the experiences of women in the Irish Civil War using the civil war in Kerry as a case study. Kerry was the place where the violence of the civil war was most intense and in which several of the worst massacres of that period happened. The tragic element of civil war has been always understood as a population turning on itself, as 'brother against brother'. In my research I look at the fundamental ways in which we also have to see Civil War from a women's perspective. In Kerry anti-treaty men were subject to extra brutal imprisonment, judicial murder and massacre, and the histories of massacres like that of Ballyseedy are well known, commemorated and memorialised.

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

I think what many scholars of the revolutionary period, including gender / feminist historians like myself, are doing is providing a deeply archival revisioning of our historical narratives – the histories we have accepted about the war and the foundation of the State. Revisionist history in its best sense! It is vital to understand the experiences of women, especially militant women, as this informed much of the misogynist attitudes of the Irish Free State and subsequent Irish Republic, to its female citizens. The trauma effects of the violence against women in the wars of 1919–1923 were to be long lasting, blighting the afterlives of many women, and most especially the militant Cumann na mBan women; now with access to archives such as the military pension application files we can revisit this period and use gender as a necessary lens of analysis of violence in the revolutionary period more broadly and the civil war more specifically. The violently misogynistic attitudes to militant and political women would persist on into the coming decades and would impact on the treatment of all women in the Irish Free State. What we can understand is that gender-based violence was as much a part of the Irish revolutionary wars, 1919–1923, as it was in all wars and revolutions of the period and, which, unfortunately, continues to be a reality of war, for women and girls, today.

### **Overall what do you find most interesting about your area of research?**

I have always been obsessed with history and I find so much of interest about my area of research that it is hard to say which is most interesting. However over this Decade of Centenaries it has been a real privilege to have access to all the newly digitised, opened, and catalogued archives.

This access has allowed new questions be asked, and in the area of gender, to hear the voices of women. It is also very heartening to see how interested people are in these ‘new’ histories, to hear the studies of women and indeed to contribute their own. There is rarely a time when I give public lectures on my research that I don’t get people telling me about their family’s experiences in the revolutionary period. My work as a public historian, be it in conferences and public lectures, or working on exhibitions or documentaries is something I find really satisfying. Most recently I am supporting the campaign to name the new National Children’s Hospital after the feminist, revolutionary and social reformer, Dr Kathleen Lynn.

### **What is next for you? What projects are you working on now?**

Once the book on gendered and sexual violence is finished I want to turn my attention to the histories of Irish sexualities, most particularly queer femininities. As part of my research on revolutionary women I took note of a small but influential cohort of suffrage, trade union and militant republican women who were involved in same sex relationships. I would like to dive deeper into that research and publish it as an extended article. I am also working with a colleague in the UK on an application for funding for a project on the history of Sex Education in Ireland. While I have enjoyed the decade of centenaries, I am ready to move on to new (albeit related) areas of research; sexualities, afterlives and sex education.



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