


<p>Name</p>	<p>Ms. Joy Kelleher 11630661@umail.ucc.ie</p> 
<p>Title of study</p>	<p>An Exploration of the Lived Experience of Voice Hearers Living in Ireland.</p>
<p>Supervisor(s)</p>	<p>Professor Jeanne Jackson and Mr. Eoin Gorman</p>
<p>Background/Abstract (350 words max)</p>	<p>Hearing voices refers to the experience of hearing one or more voices that other people cannot hear. Approximately 13% of the population hear voices that others cannot (Beavan et al, 2011). Regarded as auditory-verbal hallucinations in clinical mental health, the content and experience of hearing voices is often disregarded as a symptom of conditions such as schizophrenia and is often disregarded by health professionals as largely irrelevant (Loneragan, 2017).</p> <p>While the medical model categorises unusual experiences into pathological and non-pathological, a growing number of researchers and clinicians view hearing voices as a variation on normal human experience (Beavan, 2011). Largely considered a marginalised group by mental health service providers, a trend has emerged in the last few decades viewing hearing voices as a meaningful experience (Suri,</p>

	<p>2011) as growing numbers begin to self-identify as voice hearers, elevating their experiences beyond that of mere symptomology.</p> <p>This research will explore the lived experience of voice hearers, exploring the complexity and meaning of the phenomenon for the person and the emergent community in Ireland. Using an Occupational Science lens this work will examine how the experience of hearing voices shapes and influences people’s daily lives. This research study will utilise an interpretative phenomenological approach (IPA) to further our understanding of voice hearers lived experiences in contemporary Ireland through exploration of their subjective experience of engaging in meaningful, daily occupations. Using IPA methods such as narrative interviewing, object elicitation and personal reflexive analysis will provide this research with an idiographic focus, capturing insights into how a given person, in a given context makes sense of a given phenomenon. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this research will inform the evolving composition and nature of specialist mental health services in Ireland.</p>
<p><i>Publications (e.g. articles, conferences etc)</i></p>	<p>Joy,s undergraduate research project which was carried out in conjunction with the Community - Academic Research Links (CARL) and a local community organisation (Gay Project). On completion, the final paper was published online on the CARL UCC page. Furthermore, the findings from the research study were published in an article by the national LGBT magazine GCN (Gay Community News).</p>
<p><i>Link to Orchid Profile/ Research gate profile/Iris profile or website</i></p>	<p>https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5420-2706</p>
<p><i>Biography e.g. qualification/training/work history (200 words max)</i></p>	<p>Joy obtained her bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from University College Cork in 2020. Joy is interested in understanding how diverse groups of people live out their personal vision of a meaningful life. Further research interests centre on critical perspectives in mental health, service-user led movements, Mad Studies, human rights-based healthcare, and social justice.</p> <p>Joy completed her final year project in collaboration with a local LGBT community organisation, investigating factors that influence occupational participation for older gay men living in Ireland. This research project utilised an occupational science focus and was awarded “highly commended” (top 10% of applicants) in the Global Undergraduate Research Awards.</p>

	Joy has spent time volunteering with the listening service Niteline in UCC for the last two years, and in 2019 she participated on a panel of young people, assisting in developing content for the youth health promotion website spunout.ie. In third year, Joy worked with an Early Intervention in Psychosis team as part of a ten-week placement, this experience provided insight into the realities of mental health practice and motivated Joy to pursue a career in mental health.
<i>Funding body (if relevant)</i>	Application made to Irish Research Council for postgraduate funding.