

Dr Emma O' Shea graduated from UCC with a BA and an MA in Applied Psychology in 2011 and 2012 respectively. From 2013-14, Emma worked as the research assistant on the first Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals (INAD), and data mining on ODCACs (HRB-funding). She then assumed the role of Project Manager on the Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia.



Emma obtained her PhD in 2019, funded through the SPHeRE programme (HRB), at Dublin City University. It focused on multiple stakeholders' perspectives on respite and support services for people with dementia and their carers in Ireland. This project highlighted the need and preference of many for home and community-based supports, involving individually defined forms of meaningful engagement, for people with dementia. The thesis questioned the value of the term 'respite' and called for a change in terminology around care that is part-intended to give the carer a break, i.e., 'restorative care'. During her time as a PhD candidate Emma also worked on the Actifcare Project (JPND-funded), with Prof Irving.

As a post-doctoral researcher, Emma has been on the management team for the second round of INAD2. She was project manager for the MAP-PD project (HRB-funded) and interim manager for the DEMPALL (HRB-funded) project, focused on evaluating models of palliative care for dementia. She also obtained funding as PI from the Irish Research Council in 2020/21 through the New Horizons scheme to conduct the SUSTAINCARE project, which was completed successfully to time target. Currently, Emma is currently PI on a project funded by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, evaluating the ASI's new Day Care at Home service.