



ISS21 news



IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome from ISS21 Director



I am delighted to welcome you to the fourth edition of the ISS21 newsletter. For reasons that need little explanation, 2020 was a difficult year for everyone in the Institute, as in the wider University community. Research had to be paused, working practices reconfigured, and the boundary between people's home and work spaces became increasingly blurred. I am acutely aware of the personal and professional impacts that Covid19 has had on our postdoctoral and research staff, ISS21 cluster leaders and wider membership, and want to extend a particular thank you to everyone engaged in the Institute for their continuing work, support and collegiality

in these very difficult times.

Despite the evident Covid-related challenges, there were some real highlights for the Institute in 2020. Moving our events online, we ran a very successful Creative Methodologies Seminar Series, which saw presentations and participation from members across the University. Continuing to build international networks, the Institute joined Europe's foremost network of migration and integration scholars, IMISCOE, in the summer. We continued our grant success, and in December 2020 welcomed two new postdoctoral researchers to the Institute to work on a major new 3 year study, CareVisions, exploring how we can re-envision care relations and practices in Ireland within and beyond Covid19. CareVisions demonstrates more than ever why we need interdisciplinary social science research if we are to make sense of, and respond to, the societal dynamics and inequalities thrown up by the pandemic. I look forward to the Institute making a vital contribution to these debates as we move into 2021.

Dr. Claire Edwards, ISS21 Director

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21/>

ISS21 Events

Including seminars with Irish and international speakers, and the ISS21 Creative Research Methodologies Seminar Series 2020.

Page 2-3

ISS21 Research Projects

Find out more about our new and on-going interdisciplinary research projects.

Page 4

New Researchers

In Dec. 2020, ISS21 welcomed two new researchers, Dr Felicity Daly and Dr. Cliona Loughnane.

Page 5

Building international networks

ISS21 continues to build international networks through European and international projects and research networks.

Page 5

About ISS21

Find out more about who we are, what we do, and how to join.

Page 6

Events: highlights from 2020

Conversion to Islam in 'Multicultural' South Korea

On 31 January ISS21 and the Study of Religions Department hosted a seminar with visiting speaker Dr Farrah Sheikh (SOAS, University of London) on South Korean women's experience of conversion to Islam and their struggle for belonging in a society that continues to place a high value on homogeneity.



Dr Farrah Sheikh

Social & Cultural Significance of Music in Accommodation Centres & Carceral Spaces

On 30 January ISS21 co-hosted, with Applied Social Studies and the ISS21-affiliated MusConYP project, a seminar in which Dr Ailbhe Kenny (Mary Immaculate College) presented research on how children make and learn music in asylum seeker accommodation centres, and the social impact of music making within such centres.

A second seminar was held on 20 February, which explored the significance of music in carceral spaces, including prisons and refugee camps, with Tom Western (University of Oslo/University of Oxford) and Áine Mangaoang (University of Oslo).



Men's Sheds: Spaces of Social Inclusion, 27 February

In this seminar, hosted by the ISS21 Research for Civil Society and Social Action (REACT) Cluster, Dr Ray O'Connor and Dr Richard Scriven explored the different social features of Men's Sheds as distinct spaces that foster engagement, activity, and community purpose for (older) men in rural South Kerry.

Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) in Research, 13th October

ISS21 and Care Alliance Ireland co-hosted this well-attended on-line roundtable on PPI in family carer research. Presentations from Dr. Jon Salsberg (University of Limerick), Dr. Nikki Dunne & Jo Bergin (Family Carers Ireland) and Aisling Harmon (Family Carer) were followed by lively group discussions with participants. The roundtable was the first in a series of events to be held during 2020/2021, as part of the ISS21-affiliated CARERENGAGE project. Recorded presentations are available on the project website, accessible [here](#).

Sustainability and the Environment: Developing New Disciplinary Norms, 6 November

This timely and well-attended webinar explored the connections between environmental issues and the social professions, and looked at how educators and practitioners might envisage and develop innovative environmental education practices through greater collaboration. Speakers included Dr Eurig Scandrett (Queen Margaret University, UK), Dr Satu Ranta-Tyrkkö (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), Ann Moran (CUH) and Maeve Foreman (Mud Island Community Garden). This interdisciplinary webinar was the outcome of a collaboration between several ISS21 cluster leaders and members: further details & recorded presentations are available [here](#).



'Sustainability and the Environment' Seminar

Representation of Sexual Minorities in STEM, 15 Dec.

In this webinar Dr. Dario Sansone (University of Exeter) discussed the under-representation of sexual minorities in STEM fields, drawing on research he conducted with Professor Christopher Carpenter (Vanderbilt University, USA). The webinar was co-hosted by the ISS21 Genders, Sexualities and Families Research Cluster, the UCC LGBT+ Staff Network, and Athena SWAN. The recorded presentation is available [here](#).

The Special Rapporteur for Child Protection in Ireland: Stories from the Field, 9 Dec.

18 months on from his appointment as Special Rapporteur for Child Protection, Professor Conor O'Mahony presented an online seminar to explain what the role involves, and share some of his experiences so far. A recording of the seminar, which was hosted by the ISS21 Children and Young People Research Cluster, is available [here](#).



ISS21 Creative Methodologies Seminar Series 2020

In recognition of ISS21's commitment to support innovative methodological approaches, a seminar series was held in 2020 to share ideas and develop networks in the creative methodologies' arena. We were delighted to be able to host presenters from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and at different career stages – from PhD students and early career researchers to senior academics.

The first seminar in the series was held in UCC in early March, while the three remaining events were run online, with recorded presentations being made available in advance of live discussions with the presenters. Seminar recordings are available to view on the series web page, accessible [here](#).

Looking and Seeing: Developing Creative Visual Methodologies, 9 March

The seminar series got off to a great start on 9 March with presentations on different aspects of visual methodologies from visiting academics Professor Janice Haaken (Portland State University, US) and Professor Meta Newhouse (Professor of Graphic Design at Montana State University). Prof. Haaken discussed research ethics and ethical dilemmas in video-graphic methods, drawing on examples from her own documentary film making work. Prof. Newhouse explored the potential of guerrilla advertising techniques in communicating and disseminating research to different audiences beyond the academy. Her presentation provided rich examples of the ways in which visual representations can be used to draw people into research, both as audiences and participants.

Walking Methodologies, 17 June

The second seminar in the series explored walking methodologies as an innovative approach to conducting social research, with the potential to provide deeper understandings of participants' lived experiences and local communities. Over four papers, presenters described their use of walking methods in diverse research contexts, including research on the social and personal significance of dog walking; young people's experiences and perceptions of their neighbourhoods; migrant home-making; and revisiting sites of feminist resistance. A well-attended live discussion was held on 17 June with presenters Dr Eluska Fernández (Applied Social Studies), Jessica Amberson (Applied Social Studies), Dr Mastoureh Fathi (ISS21) and Prof. Maggie O'Neill (Sociology & Criminology).

Ethnographic & Biographical Methods, 2 September

Ethnographic and biographical methods were explored in this seminar, with presentations on the use of feminist biography in mapping Irish socialist feminism (Dr Elizabeth Kyte, Women's Studies); ethnographic approaches to researching post-war migration to North London (Siobhán Browne, Department of Folklore and Ethnology); and an exploration of the form and richness of recorded speech in research (Dr Clíona O'Carroll, Folklore and Ethnology). Discussions included the challenges of accessing historical sources; the value of object-based interviews in research; ethical issues in bibliographical and ethnographic research; and the practicalities of archiving interviews, images and other research data.

Research as Participatory Process, 9 November

The final seminar explored participatory approaches in research on cyberbullying, young people's perceptions of neighbourhood regeneration projects, and student experiences of different learning spaces in three universities. Presenters Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan (Applied Social Studies), Dr. Rebecca Dennehy (School of Public Health) and Dr. Katie Power (Law) highlighted the capacity of participatory approaches to engage and empower research participants, and maximise the impact and relevance of the research. Dr Monica O'Mullane (MSCA Fellow, ISS21) presented a paper on the use of a guided reflection tool in a gender equality change management project.



New ISS21 Projects

In May 2020, six ISS21-affiliated projects were awarded funding under the Irish Research Council's New Foundations Programme. The successful projects address important social issues in the fields of ageing, care-giving, volunteerism, participatory governance, and migration and border securitisation.

The EU-funded P4PLAY (People, Place, Policy & Practice for Play) project got underway in March 2020, led by a research team in UCC. This multi-partner European Joint Doctorates (EJD) programme will train a new generation of early stage researchers to develop and implement innovative play solutions to benefit the health and wellbeing of diverse children, families and communities.

Another major new project, CareVisions, got under way in December 2020. Funded by the Carolan Research Trust, the aim of this three-year project is to reflect on care experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and reimagine how we might construct future care relations, practices and policies in Ireland.

Our funders



ISS21-affiliated Projects

PositivMasc: Masculinities and violence against women among young people: identifying discourses and developing strategies for change (2019-2022). Dr. Claire Edwards (PI). **Funder:** Horizon 2020. Project co-hosted with Applied Social Studies (ASS) and the School of Law.

RRING: Responsible research and innovation networked globally (2018-21). Dr. Gordon Dalton (Project Coordinator); ISS21 Lead: Dr. Caitríona Ní Laoire. **Funder:** Horizon 2020. Project hosted by MaREI with contribution by ISS21.

IMMERSE: Integration mapping of refugee and migrant children in schools and other experiential environments in Europe (2018-22). Dr. Shirley Martin (PI). **Funder:** Horizon 2020. Jointly hosted with ASS.

GendeResearchIreland: Exploring gender equality in Irish higher education (2018-22). Dr. Monica O'Mullane (Research Fellow). **Funder:** Horizon 2020 MSCA Individual Fellowship Programme.

P4PLAY: People, place, policy and practice for play (2020-2024). Professor Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Helen Lynch (Project Coordinators). **Funder:** Horizon 2020 MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) Programme. Jointly hosted with the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

CareVisions: Envisioning a care-centred society within and beyond Covid19 (2020-2023) Co-PIs: Dr. Claire Edwards, Dr. Carol Kelleher and Dr. Jacqui O'Riordan. **Funder:** Carolan Research Trust.

AAPRI: Agency and ageing in place in rural Ireland (2020-2021). Dr. Siobhan O'Sullivan (PI). **Funder:** Irish Research Council (IRC). Jointly hosted with ASS.

CARERENGAGE: Centering & embedding family carers in the co-production of carer research, supports & policy (2020-2021). Dr. Carol Kelleher. **Funder:** IRC.

EMBRACE: Exploring mobility: borders refugees & challenging exclusion (2020-2021). Dr. Claire Dorrity (PI). **Funder:** IRC. Jointly hosted with ASS.

Building transnational research synergies: participatory governance for inclusive societies (2020-2021). Dr. Catherine Forde (PI). **Funder:** IRC. Jointly hosted with ASS.

Inclusive volunteering: exploring migrant participation in volunteerism in Ireland (2020-2021). Dr. Shirley Martin (PI). **Funder:** IRC. Jointly hosted with ASS.

RIFNET: Reconstituting the Irish family (starts mid-2021). Dr. Maeve O'Riordan (PI). **Funder:** IRC/ESRC. Hosted with the School of History and ASS.

Guidance for Public Bodies on Providing Access for Deaf Irish Sign Language Users (2018-21). Dr. Gill Harold (PI). **Funder:** Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Jointly hosted with ASS.

Socio-economic impact of Cork City Northwest Regeneration Programme, Phase 2 (2017-21). Dr. Cathal O'Connell & Dr. Siobhán O'Sullivan (PIs). **Funder:** Cork City Council. Jointly hosted with ASS.

MusConYP: Music consumption and young people's negotiation of space in direct provision: an A/r/tographic inquiry (2019-2021). Dr. Eileen Hogan (PI). **Funder:** IRC. Jointly hosted with ASS & the Glucksman Gallery.

Access, participation, achievement & progression in FET (2019-2021) Professor Fred Powell (PI). **Funder:** SOLAS. Jointly hosted with ASS.

ISS21 welcomes two new staff members

In December 2020 we were delighted to welcome two post-doctoral researchers, Dr Felicity Daly and Dr. Cliona Loughnane, both of whom will work on our new 3-year CareVisions project.

Felicity holds a Doctor of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and prior to joining UCC worked as a researcher on the multi-university 'Strong in Diversity, Bold on Inclusion' project led by the Institute for Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. Felicity co-created a mixed-methods agenda to explore socio-economic inclusion and wellbeing among sexual and gender minority populations in five African cities. In addition to her work as a researcher, Felicity has over two decades' professional experience in the fields of global health and social development. Cliona holds a Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc) from University College Cork and has worked in a number of research and policy positions in the health and social care sector. Most recently, she worked as women's health coordinator with the National Women's Council of Ireland, working to improve women's health outcomes and experiences of healthcare. Cliona was a member of the Government's Women's Health Taskforce, co-chair of the Women's Mental Health Network and, with NGO and academic colleagues, established the Health Reform Alliance.

In 2020, we also said goodbye to our friend and colleague Dr Mastoureh Fathi, who joined ISS21 as an MSCA Fellow in 2019. Although Masi is no longer based in ISS21, we are continuing our collaborations with her through publications and events.



Dr. Felicity Daly



Dr. Cliona Loughnane

Building international networks & preparing for Horizon Europe

In 2020 ISS21 played a leading role in UCC's successful bid to the EC Erasmus+ programme to establish The European University of Post Industrial Cities (**UNIC**) initiative. UNIC is an alliance of eight universities which sets out to develop innovative and sustainable means of university collaboration that will boost student and staff mobility while fostering social inclusion and 'superdiversity' in higher education. Over the next three years, participating universities will work together to share their experiences and develop best practice in responding to the needs of diverse populations in post-industrial cities. UCC's partner universities are: University of Deusto (Spain), Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Koç University (Turkey), University of Liège (Belgium), University of Oulu (Finland), University of Zagreb (Croatia) and Erasmus University Rotterdam (coordinator, the Netherlands). We look forward to working with colleagues in UCC, and in the wider consortium, to implement the UNIC programme.

ISS21 continued to develop its international networks during 2020 by joining **IMISCOE** (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe), an interdisciplinary research network specialising in migration, integration and diversity studies. IMISCOE currently consists of 56 research institutes from countries across Europe and from various disciplines, including sociology, political science, economics, law, demography, public administration, social geography and history. Becoming part of IMISCOE will provide ISS21 members (particularly those from our Migration and Integration Research Cluster) with opportunities for networking, training, research collaboration, and dissemination of research through events and publication.

As part of our involvement in UNIC, and our membership of IMISCOE, ISS21 participated in UNIC's timely lecture series, 'Migration and Corona'. On 6 May, Dr Piaras MacEinri (Department of Geography and ISS21) presented an online paper on the risks which the Covid-19 pandemic poses for asylum seekers living in Direct Provision.

During 2020, ISS21 participated in a series of workshops, coordinated by CACSSS and Research Support Services, on developing a research strategy for **Horizon Europe**, the EU's new 7-year funding programme for research and innovation. The workshops provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on our achievements during H2020 (including six projects and two MSCA fellowships) to identify the missed opportunities, and to plan ahead on how best to support our members in the course of Horizon Europe.



About ISS21

ISS21 seeks to develop, sustain and enhance excellent, impactful research on the social, economic and cultural issues shaping Ireland in the twenty first century. Researchers at ISS21 interrogate key societal challenges, dynamics, and interrelationships, by promoting collaborative, interdisciplinary research unified around the following thematic areas:

- Ageing
- Caring
- Children and Young People
- Research for Civil Society & Social Action (REACT)
- Disability and Mental Health
- Educating for the Professions
- Genders, Sexualities and Families
- Migration and Integration
- Poverties, Social Justice and Inequalities
- Society, Health and Political Economy (SHAPE)

ISS21 seeks to build interdisciplinary social science research capacity and demonstrate the significance of the social sciences within and beyond the university. Engaged research is a cornerstone of the Institute's work, with significant relationships forged with community and voluntary sector organisations, local and central government policymakers and other public sector bodies. As a member of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP), the Institute contributes to national debates on the direction and impact of the social sciences in Ireland.

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Joining ISS21

New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret Scanlon (m.scanlon@ucc.ie) for further details and a membership form.

