



ISS21 news



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Welcome from Acting Director



Welcome to the sixth edition of the ISS21 Newsletter! The past year has seen some changes as we have adjusted to being back on campus more and have enjoyed being able to host in-person events and meetings once again. A big change for us has been that ISS21 Director, Dr Claire Edwards, stepped down in June 2022 after five years in the role. We were very sad that her term of office came to an end but grateful for Claire's exceptional leadership in enabling interdisciplinary, scholarly and impactful social-science research to flourish in and beyond UCC. ISS21 continues to support cross-disciplinary engagement among social scientists through our nine research clusters and many projects, creating spaces where new connections are made and collaborations are forged and

deepened. The Institute currently hosts, or co-hosts, 16 research projects and we saw a further four excellent projects come to completion recently. From this wealth of research activity, ISS21 members are making significant contributions to the ways in which contemporary society and social issues are understood and impacting in important ways on scholarship, policy and practice. During the past year, as part of the UCC Futures initiative, the Institute has been involved in exciting collaborations with colleagues across the university to develop new research agendas, building on ISS21's strong track record in enabling creative, imaginative and impactful social-science research. Part of ISS21's mission is to support social scientists to respond to demands for reflexive forms of knowledge, innovative research practices, critical intellectual debate, and public engagement. I hope that this Newsletter gives just a flavour of some of the ways in which ISS21 members are contributing to this goal and I would like to thank all of our members and researchers who have contributed so much to the Institute during the past year.

Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire
Acting Director, ISS21

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

ISS21 Events

Including seminars with Irish and international speakers, research report launches & end-of-project events.



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ISS21 Research Projects

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

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New Research Fellow

Dr Julius-Cezar Macarie joins ISS21 as an MSCA Research Fellow.

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About ISS21

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

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Selected Events 2022

Gender Stereotyping & Combating Gender Bias, 12 Jan.

In the first event of 2022, the ISS21 Children and Young People Cluster hosted a seminar with Cormac Harris and Alan O'Sullivan (winners of the BT Young Scientists & the European Union Contest for Young Scientist), at which they presented the findings of their research on the prevalence of gender stereotyping in primary school children.

Migration from North America: An Overview from a Mexican Perspective, 22 February



Aranzazu González Hernández

As part of Refugee Week 2022, the ISS21 Migration and Integration Research Cluster and University of Sanctuary UCC hosted a seminar on return migration, with presenter Aranzazu González Hernández, University of Veracruz, Mexico.

Adapting Social Work and Health Practice following Covid 19 and other Disasters, 23 February

The ISS21 REACT Cluster, with colleagues in Applied Social Studies, hosted a seminar in which Prof. Margaret Alston (Newcastle University, Australia) discussed the response of social workers to increasing disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events (droughts, floods) which are often associated with climate change.

Mental Health Seminar Series, February - March 2022

The ISS21 Disability & Mental Health Cluster & Critical Voices Network Ireland co-hosted 3 seminars on different aspects of mental health policy and practice, with speakers Sonia Thompson and Dr Dina Poursanidou (Co-Directors of the Survivor Researcher Network, UK); and Jacqui Dillon (author and activist). Dr Poursanidou presented a further seminar on 18 November on survivor research in mental health.

Let's Talk About Climate Change, 20 September

As part of Sustainable Development Goals Week 2022, the ISS21 Ageing Cluster & the School of Applied Psychology collaborated with Cork County Council to organise a webinar on climate action across generations, featuring a discussion with Prof. Mick Smyer (Bucknell University, U.S.)

Securitised Borders: Human Security, Migrant Mobilities & Resistance, 23 September

Hosted by the Migration and Integration Research Cluster, this half-day event on border securitisation featured presentations from national and international experts, including a keynote presentation from Dr Maurice Stierl (Osnabrück University, Germany). Speakers explored border shifts and the related impacts on the everyday lives of migrants, as well as the role of activists and other non-state actors in exposing violence against migrants along the borders of Europe.



Dr Maurice Stierl

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

Environmental Policy Making & the Circular Economy, 13 Oct.

In this seminar, hosted by the REACT Cluster, Cillian Lohan (VP for Communications of the European Economic and Social Committee), discussed the history and evolution of circular economy policies within the EU, followed by a response from Dr Barbara Doyle-Prestwich (BEES, UCC).

Young People's Inclusion in Public Policy Making, 18 Oct.

Co-hosted by the REACT and Children & Young People clusters, this seminar explored young people's inclusion in public decision-making with speakers Dr Roberto Falanga (University of Lisbon), Dr Temidayo Eseonu (University of Manchester), Dr Catherine Forde, Dr Deirdre Horgan, Dr Shirley Martin (UCC).

The Good Life, 22 November



Professor Daniel Miller

Professor Daniel Miller (University College London) shared insights on what constitutes the good life in a seminar co-hosted with the PREC NIGHTS project. His presentation was based on research with retirees living in a small town in Ireland.

Other ISS21 Events

In 2022 the institute hosted several events at which ISS21 members discussed methodological and ethical issues in research, including children's research advisory groups (Deirdre Horgan & Shirley Martin), research ethics (Dr Kenneth Burns), and integrating gender in research (Prof. Carol Linehan, Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire & Dr Christine Gaffney).

Report launches & project events

During 2022 a series of events were held to present the findings of ISS21-affiliated projects and to launch research reports, as outlined below.

Enhancing the transition to energy citizenship, 27 January

In this seminar, Dr. Olive McCarthy (Centre for Co-operative Studies, UCC) and Gwen Harris (North Dublin Money Advice and Budgeting Service) presented the findings of the IRC-funded *ENERGISE: Enhancing the transition to energy citizenship* project. The issue of energy efficiency was explored from a social science perspective, focusing on the barriers and enablers to implementing energy efficiency measures in low-income homes.

Agency and Ageing in Place in Rural Ireland, 15 March



In a seminar hosted by the ISS21 Ageing Cluster, Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan (Applied Social Studies, UCC) reported on an IRC-funded study of the housing preferences of older people in rural areas, and the challenges they face to remain in their homes and localities as they age. The *Agency and Ageing in Place in Rural Ireland* project report was launched in UCC on 6 April, while the report of a second IRC study on housing needs – *Housing and Sustaining Communities on the West Cork Islands* – was launched in Bantry on 8 December.

Inclusive Volunteering Report Launch, 30 March



Margaret Scanlon & Shirley Martin (ISS21), Adam Lacey (Cork Volunteer Centre), Clara Ebili, & Anuj Agarwal (volunteers) (left-to-right)

At the end of March, ISS21 hosted an event to launch the report *Inclusive Volunteering: Exploring Migrant Participation in Volunteering*, with presentations from the report authors (Margaret Scanlon and Shirley Martin) and an opening address from Peter Scholten, Director of IMISCOE & Professor of Migration and Diversity Policy, Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Learning Disrupted Report Launch, 2 September



Eoin Kelly, National Learning Network speaking at launch

On 2 September, ISS21 and the National Learning Network (NLN) hosted the launch of the report *Learning Disrupted: Young People with Disabilities' Access to and Experiences of Learning and Work-Based Training During COVID-19* (Edwards and Harold). The report highlighted the challenges of transitioning to online learning during lockdown, as well as the potential of virtual technologies to enable greater flexibility in how people with disabilities participate in education, post-pandemic.

GendeResearchIreland Symposium, 14 November



Monica O'Mullane, Mariana Szapuová, Fiona Mackay, Charoula Tzanakou, Carol Linehan, Caitríona Ní Laoire.

A symposium was held on 14 November to mark the completion of the 4-year project *GendeResearchIreland: Exploring gender equality in Irish higher education*. Located within ISS21, this MSCA Fellowship project was carried out by Dr Monica O'Mullane and supervised by Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire. The symposium opened with a presentation on the findings of *GendeResearchIreland* from Dr O'Mullane, followed by reflections from an invited panel of international experts, namely, Professor Fiona Mackay (University of Edinburgh), Dr Mariana Szapuová (Comenius University, Slovakia) and Dr Charoula Tzanakou (Oxford Brookes University).

Care Seminar Series & Workshop

During 2022, ISS21's CareVisions project hosted a seminar series on different aspects of care. Themes included the dark side of care (with Dr Tiina Sihto and Dr Paula Vasara), care and capitalism (Prof. Kathleen Lynch), the care economy in crisis (Silke Staab and Laura Turquet) and producing knowledge about care (Dr Lizzie Ward). A full-day workshop was held on 14 October to showcase care-related research in UCC. In addition, the ISS21 SHAPE Cluster hosted a seminar on 2 March at which Dr Felicity Daly explored governmental discourses about care in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISS21 Projects

There are currently 16 ISS21 affiliated projects, most of which are co-hosted with schools and departments across the university (see opposite). These projects address significant intersectional social issues in the fields of gender studies, ageing, health and well-being, care-giving, migration, Deaf studies, early childhood education and care, welfare reform, and social justice.

Several major new projects have got underway since September 2022 including an MSCA research fellowship (see below) and two projects funded through the Health Research Board's 'Investigator-Led' and 'Emerging Investigators' funding streams, both of which are co-hosted with the School of Public Health. We are also delighted to be co-hosting the TOGETHER project which is funded through the HEA North-South Research Programme and explores the impact of prison-university partnerships. Several other new projects are in the pipeline, with details to follow shortly.

Details of on-going and completed projects are available on the ISS21 website at: iss21/researchprojects

Research outputs & impact

During 2022 ISS21 researchers continued to disseminate their research through national and international conferences, peer-reviewed journal articles, project reports, and other forms of print and broadcast media. Their research has contributed to academic as well as broader public and policy debates about key social issues in Irish society.

Research outputs from individual projects are available on the project websites (see opposite), while a compilation of outputs from all ISS21-affiliated projects is available [here](#)

ISS21-affiliated Projects

[PositivMasc](#): *Masculinities and violence against women among young people: identifying discourses and developing strategies for change* (2019-2023). PI: Dr. Claire Edwards. **Funder**: Horizon 2020. Project hosted with School of Applied Social Studies (ASS) and School of Law.

[IMMERSE](#): *Integration mapping of refugee and migrant children in schools and other experiential environments in Europe* (2018-23). PI: Dr. Shirley Martin. **Funder**: Horizon 2020. Hosted with ASS.

[P&PLAY](#): *People, place, policy and practice for play* (2020-2024). Project Coordinators: Prof. Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Helen Lynch. **Funder**: Horizon 2020 MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) Programme. Hosted with the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy.

[CareVisions](#): *Envisioning a care-centred society within and beyond Covid-19* (2020-2023). Co-PIs: Dr. Claire Edwards, Dr. Carol Kelleher & Dr. Jacqui O'Riordan. **Funder**: Carolan Research Trust.

[PRECNIGHTS](#): *Precarity amongst women migrant nightworkers in Ireland* (2022-2024). PI: Dr Julius-Cezar Macarie. **Funder**: MSCA Fellowship.

[Babbling Babies](#): *Experiences of an early communication and literacy programme for infants* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Ciara O'Toole. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with Speech & Hearing Sciences & Nursing & Midwifery.

[In Transit?](#) *Documenting the lived experiences of welfare, working and caring for one parent families claiming JST* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Fiona Dukelow. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with ASS.

[ISL-HEALTH](#): *Ensuring access provision to public health services for the Irish Deaf community* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Gill Harold. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with ASS.

[Socio-Cycle](#): *Exploring the socio-cultural significance of cycling in an Irish regional city* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Eileen Hogan. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with ASS.

[TEENT1D](#): *Teenagers transitioning to the self-management of type 1 diabetes (T1D)* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Eluska Fernandez. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with ASS.

[CO-AGE](#): *Exploring the potential of care co-operatives to support older people to age well at home* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Carol Power. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with Centre for Co-operative Studies.

[YOUNGCARERS](#): *Sharing the caring* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Carol Kelleher. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with Management & Marketing.

[Clean Slate](#): *Understanding the lived experiences of persons with criminal convictions* (2021-2023). PI: Dr Katharina Swirak. **Funder**: IRC. Hosted with Sociology & Criminology.

[SocialPaths](#): *Sex-specific socioeconomic pathways to cardiovascular disease risk across the life course* (2022-2026). PI: Dr. Linda O'Keeffe. **Funder**: Health Research Board. Hosted with the School of Public Health.

[Development of a health impact assessment \(HIA\) implementation model: enhancing intersectoral approaches in tackling health inequalities](#) (2023-2026). PI: Dr Monica O'Mullane. **Funder**: Health Research Board. Hosted with the School of Public Health.

[TOGETHER](#): *Collaborating across prison walls & borders: researching the impacts of prison-university partnerships, North and South* (2022-2024). PI: Dr Katharina Swirak. **Funder**: HEA North-South Research Programme. Hosted with the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

Recently Completed:

[AgeACTED](#): *Ageism challenged through ethnodrama*

[GendeResearchIreland](#): *Exploring gender equality in Irish higher education*

[Housing and sustaining communities on the West Cork Islands](#)

[Pathways towards stable housing for parents & children exiting residential services](#)

ISS21 hosts MSCA Research Fellow

In September 2022 we were delighted to welcome Dr Julius-Cezar (JC) Macarie who joined ISS21 as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Fellow.

Dr Macarie’s research project, *PRECNIGHTS*, will explore labour migration and precarity, focusing on the essential, yet invisible, women migrant night workers in Ireland. Through an innovative interdisciplinary and ethnographic approach, the research aims to contribute to scholarly debates on migration and inform key Irish and European stakeholders on migrant workers’ rights.

Linked to the ISS21 Migration and Integration cluster, *PRECNIGHTS* is supervised by Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire.

As a night ethnographer and migration scholar, Dr Macarie has for the past decade reached out to migrant nightshift workers because he is concerned with their invisibility from public debates, political agendas, and scholarly fields. As part of his doctoral research in London, he worked the ‘graveyard shift’ at the New Spitalfields market alongside migrants whose precarious working and living conditions he experienced first-hand. He founded the NIGHTWORKSHOP, an initiative to research and document the experiences of migrant night workers in cities. In addition, he campaigns for migrants’ rights with the [Nightworker Charter](#).

At a seminar on 12 December, hosted by the ISS21 Migration and Integration cluster, Dr Macarie introduced the PRECNIGHT project and presented findings from his earlier research (opposite).



Cross-university Collaborations

The European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC) is a three year (2020-2023) pilot European University initiative, funded by ERASMUS+ bringing together eight partner institutions across Europe, of which UCC is one. ISS21, working with AccessUCC and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit, is managing UCC’s contribution to a key strand of the UNIC initiative focused on creating a Superdiversity Academy. The aim of this strand of work is to explore how we can make our higher education institutions responsive to, and inclusive of, the increasingly diverse nature of our student body and wider city and society – whether through our teaching and learning, the research we do or our EDI structures and practices.

During 2022, ISS21 coordinated a series of online seminars with leading academics in the field of superdiversity as part of the UNIC Superdiversity Academy. From 17 to 19 March, we held an online ‘Superdiversity School’ for staff in UCC and other UNIC institutions exploring how we can use the concept of superdiversity to initiate critical change in higher education spaces.

In 2022, ISS21 participated in UCC’s initiative to map the university’s research to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Workshops were held across the university, with SDGs Champions from Schools and RICUs playing a key role in coordinating and moderating the workshops. Dr Felicity Daly (ISS21 Post-Doctoral Researcher) was ISS21’s SDGs Champion and a number of PIs and researchers from across the institute participated in the activity. Three ISS21-affiliated projects were submitted as SDG case-studies – *CareVisions*, *CO-AGE* and *Socio-Cycle* – details of which are available in the report: *The Contribution of UCC Research to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*.



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
- CARE21
- Children and Young People
- Disability and Mental Health
- Genders, Sexualities and Families
- Gender and the Academy
- Migration and Integration
- Poverties, Social Justice and Inequalities
- Research for Civil Society & Social Action (REACT)
- 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
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and a membership form.

