



NATIONAL PRACTICE TEACHING IN SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpáirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative e-newsletter. In this edition, we have lots of exciting news and updates to share with you!

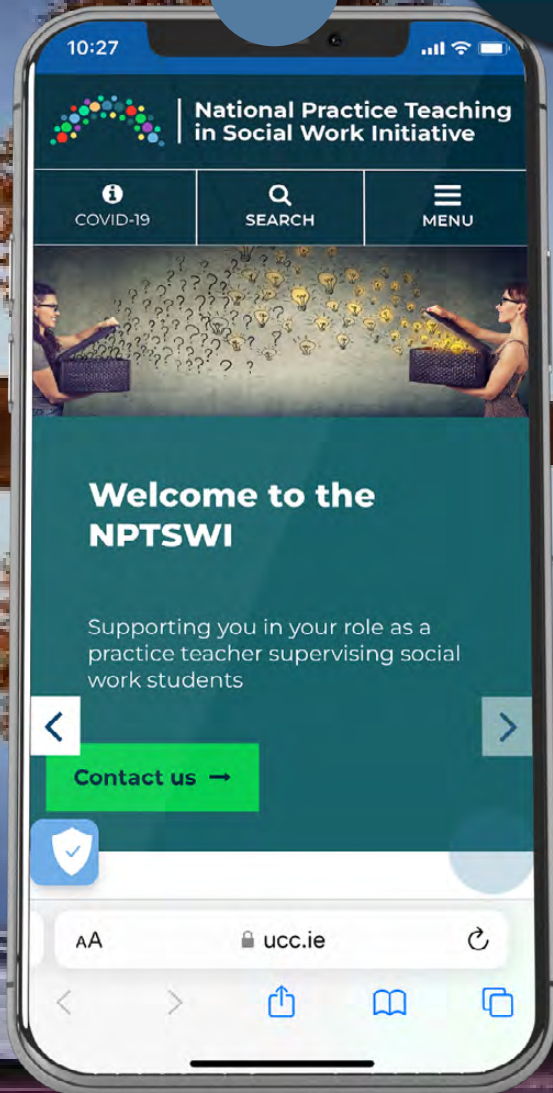
Funding from the DCEDIY for a second year allowed us to expand on our work and continue to profile practice teaching within the profession of social work. We are excited to announce that we are hosting the first Practice Teaching in Social Work conference in UCC on 02/03/23. This conference is a culmination of a series of CPD events hosted by The National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative (NPTSWI) in collaboration with the IASW. It is great to be organising an in-person event and in this edition, we introduce you to some of the presenters. This is a free event and registration for this conference is now open here: [NPTSWI Conference](#).

Another new and exciting development: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/> is the introduction of a website with learning and teaching resources for practice teachers.

In our Practice Education corner, Jennifer Conroy, a graduate of the BSW in UCC and Emer Coyne, a practice teacher, offers helpful advice to students and practice teachers as they embark on their placements. As always practice placements would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of social workers. Students have told us the importance of placement in how they learn how to be social workers, and placements are also a positive way for social workers to meet their professional CPD requirements. We would love to hear from you if you are available to supervise a student in 2023.

As an Initiative, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the coming year. On behalf of myself and the NPTSWI team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Best wishes,
Lyn
Project Coordinator
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MEET THE NPTSWI TEAM WHO ARE WE?



LYN DORNEY

PROJECT COORDINATOR OF THE NATIONAL PRACTICE TEACHING IN SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE.

Lyn is a professionally qualified, CORU registered social worker and holds a postgraduate qualification in practice teaching (social work). Lyn is an experienced tutor and practice teacher. Lyn teaches on the undergraduate social work course in the School of Applied Social Studies in UCC and has 18 years of experience working as a social worker across a diverse range of areas. Her teaching and learning interests include social work skills and practice teaching and learning.

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BRENDA FEENEY

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF THE MA IN SOCIAL WORK IN ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY.

Brenda is a Practice Education Coordinator and Lecturer in social work and a professionally qualified and registered social worker, with extensive experience in social work practice. Brenda worked as an Independent social work Consultant. Brenda is currently engaged in Doctoral studies at Queens University, Belfast.

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ELEANOR KELLY

LECTURER AND PRACTICE LEARNING COORDINATOR ON THE MASTER'S IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME, UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY.

Prior to joining the University of Galway in 2019, Eleanor was a Principal social worker in a CAMHS service and has worked in social work for over 30 years. Eleanor completed her Masters in Systemic Psychotherapy in 2014. Eleanor's teaching and research areas of interest are practice teaching and learning and the continuing professional development of social work practice.

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DR ERNA O'CONNOR

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND PRACTICE EDUCATION COORDINATOR, TCD.

Prior to joining the university Erna worked as a social worker in drug treatment and HIV services and a social work team leader in hospital-based social work. Her teaching and research interests include practice teaching and learning, health-related social work, reflective and relationship-based practice and transnational social work.

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MEET THE NPTSWI TEAM WHO ARE WE?



PAULA SLAVIN

PLACEMENTS ALLOCATIONS MANAGER WITH THE PROFESSIONAL MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME, UCD.

Paula has 20+ years of experience in practice as a professionally qualified CORU registered social worker. Paula works with the Director of Professional Practice and together with the Senior Programme Manager form the School's Practice Learning Team.

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SINÉAD WHITING

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND PRACTICE EDUCATION COORDINATOR, TCD.

Prior to taking up this role Sinéad worked as a social worker in the areas of child protection, fostering and adoption. Sinead's teaching and research interests include adoption within child welfare systems, experiences of adult care leavers, social work skills and practice teaching and learning.

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JOANNE ROSE

PRACTICE PLACEMENT COORDINATOR AT THE SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES, UCC.

A professionally qualified, CORU registered social worker since 2003 Joanne holds postgraduate qualifications in practice teaching (social work) and the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). Joanne's research interests include social work practice teaching, placements and the intersection between academia and practice.

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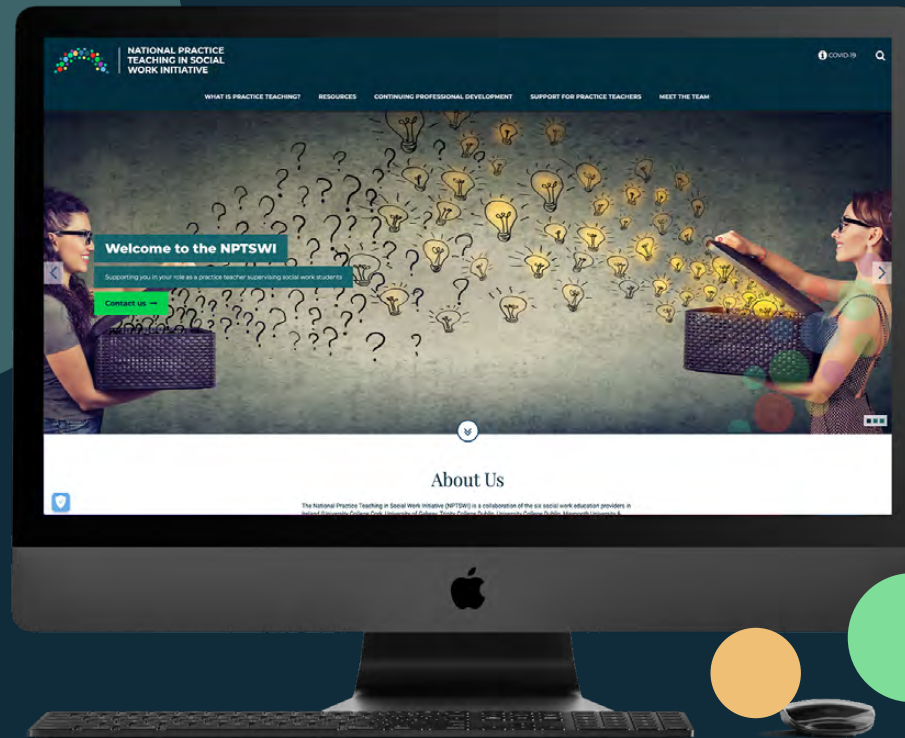


DR BRIAN MELAUGH

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY.

Before taking up an academic position Brian worked extensively in the area of drug practice and policy and was CEO of the Ana Liffey Drug Project in Dublin. Brian is a former Chair of UISCE, an organisation which promotes the rights of drug users and is on the Board of Merchants Quay Ireland and Safety Net. In terms of teaching/research areas these include drug policy, management and social work, ethics and critical social work.

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NEW WEBSITE AND RESOURCES FOR PRACTICE TEACHING IN SOCIAL WORK

The NPTSWI is pleased to announce the creation of a learning and teaching website for practice teachers. View it here <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/>.

Resources will continue to be created and added to this website to support practice teaching.

Each month a new video will be added to the resource section of the website to support practice teachers. December's bespoke resource was created by Dr. Carmel Halton "Promoting Reflection in Social Work". See it here <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/resources/#video-series>.

Resources for practice teachers are listed under the following headings: Assessment, Supervision and Reflective Practice, Communication and Feedback, Addressing concerns on placement, Theory to Practice and Ethics and Governance issues.

Check out Dr Kenneth Burns' video on Social media and practice teaching here <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/resources/#video-series>.



NATIONAL PRACTICE TEACHING IN SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE

NPTSWI PRACTICE TEACHING CONFERENCE

The National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative is pleased to announce the first National Practice Teaching Conference, which will be held on the 2nd of March 2023 in UCC, Cork, Ireland.

“Educating together for Practice Teaching in Social Work in the 21st Century”

We look forward to welcoming you to Cork for this in-person event. As well as keynote speakers, we will have researchers presenting their most recent research. The keynote biographies are on the next page. Practitioners, students and tutors will discuss innovative ways of working and researching on placement and it is a fantastic opportunity for practice teachers to network and meet colleagues.

Registration is now open NPTSWI Conference here <https://conference.ucc.ie/educating-together-for-practice-teaching-in-social-work-in-the-21st-century/register/Site/Register>



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Meet the presenters of “Educating together for practice teaching in social work in the 21st Century” Conference.

We are privileged to have Irish and International speakers joining us on the day and are delighted to introduce them in this edition.

Mark Doel



Professor Doel, PhD, is a registered social worker and Professor Emeritus at Sheffield Hallam University, UK. He has twenty years' community-based social work practice, specialising in groupwork and task-centred practice. He has experience as a social work teacher and trainer, practice educator, head of school of social work, a researcher, project director, PhD supervisor, and external examiner. He leads workshops in practice education, groupwork and dilemmas in social work practice. Mark has published many scholarly articles and chapters as well as 23 books, most recently a second edition of *Social Work: The Basics* (Routledge). He recently published a novel, *In Soviet Times People Knew Where To Cross The Road*.

Mark has many connections with Ireland, including External Examinerships past and present at UCC, Trinity College, NUI Galway, Maynooth and with the Practice Teaching Programme in Northern Ireland.

He is researching the use of objects in direct practice, in collaboration with Coram/BAAF. Mark has lived and worked in the US, has extensive experience in eastern Europe, including both Russia and Ukraine, and works alongside community activists in Kolkata, India. He is Honorary Professor at Tbilisi State University, Georgia, Visiting Scholar at Pretoria University, South Africa, and at Universidad de los Lagos, Chile. He is a former Vice-President of the International Association for Social Work with Groups.

Mark helps plan the annual Nether Edge Festival, a community celebration in a neighbourhood of Sheffield.

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/staff-profiles/mark-doel>
<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/news/profile-mark-doel/>
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Siobhan Maclean



Siobhan has been a social worker for 32 years and became a practice educator in 1995. Siobhan has worked independently for a number of years. As an independent her work is varied but includes training, devising practice learning resources and consultancy work. Siobhan still very much enjoys working as a practice educator and currently works with a few students a year in an off site capacity.

In 2004 Siobhan was appointed to the position of Secretary of the International Federation of Social Workers, holding this position for eight years. She still maintains close international links and enjoys working to support practice educators in countries where social work education is in the early stages of development. She recently Co-Directed an IFSW project on 'new social workers' which explored the experiences of those in the final year of study and through the first five years in practice.

Siobhan has written widely, mostly around social work theory and critical reflection. She is committed to making the knowledge base accessible to busy practitioners and set up Kirwin Maclean Associates as an independent publishing organisation based on the values and ethics of social work.

Siobhan recently moved to Northern Ireland where she has enjoyed taking on the practice teacher role. Moving contexts and getting used to a different set of standards and paperwork has reminded Siobhan just what it feels like to be new to the practice teaching role! Siobhan is a Visiting Professor at the University of Chester. She is also an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Practice Teaching and Learning.

NPTSWI Practice Teaching Conference - Speakers



Marguerita McGovern

Marguerita McGovern has many years experience as a Practice Learning Co-ordinator and guest lecturer on the Masters in Social Work programme at University of Galway, Ireland. In addition she has designed and worked on the Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Teaching, Supervision and Management available at the University of Galway. Her professional social work practice has covered areas within the Northern Ireland health services and as a Psychiatric Social Worker in University College Hospital, Galway.

Marguerita has presented at numerous conferences in the U.S. and Ireland. To date she has made a series of seven eBooks to support and 'wrap around' the placement experience. These include topics such as; language, beginnings and expectations, failing forward, reflective practice, urban and rural home visiting, endings and group work. Marguerita's latest published research is focused on examples of Irish students failing placement.



Erna O'Connor

Dr Erna O'Connor is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Practice Education Co-ordinator at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin. She is the School's Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning.

Erna is a CORU registered social worker. Prior to joining the university, she worked as a social worker in drug treatment and HIV services and a social work team leader in hospital-based social work. Her PhD dissertation was based on a practitioner research study on relationship-based social work in response to trauma.

Erna's teaching and research interests include trauma, bereavement, relationship-based practice, reflective practice and practice teaching and learning. She has published on many aspects of social work practice education including relational practice in social work placements, experiences of failing students and social work placements in the context of Covid.

Erna is a board member of The Global Partnership for Transformative Social Work and a member of the National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative team.



Prof. Audrey Roulston

Professor of Social Work in Palliative Care at the School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work in Queen's University, Belfast.

Prior to joining Queen's, Audrey was a social worker in adult services, specialising in palliative care. Her research interests include palliative care and deaths in prison custody, decision-making at the end-of-life, bereavement, student supervision, failing students and motivation to study social work. a.roulston@qub.ac.uk



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NPTSWI Practice Teaching Conference - Speakers



Dr Helen Cleak

Dr Helen Cleak PhD is an Adjunct Associate Professor at La Trobe University Victoria, and the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. She has been a Director of Field Education for over two decades and her co-authored book, 'Making the Most of Field Placement' (5th edition) has been adopted as the major fieldwork text in most Australian social work programs. She has developed strong research collaboration with academics from Trinity College, Republic of Ireland and Queens College, Northern Ireland and the group have published in the areas of student satisfaction with their practice learning, the learning activities that promote students confidence and sense of professional identity and issues relating to students who fail placement. She is on the Editorial Board of Australian Social Work and is a program accreditor for the Australian Association of Social Workers.



Elaine Wilson

Elaine Wilson is the Associate Dean, Graduate Social Sciences, UCD and is an academic in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Policy. She graduated from University College Dublin with a Master Social Science (Social Work) and worked as a Senior Medical Social Worker and Acting Head of Department in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. Having worked as an oncology social worker for a number of years, she took up a Research Fellowship position with The Cancer Clinical Research Trust. This position involved health economics research as well as doctoral research into the psycho-social effects of early stage breast cancer on young women. She has two primary areas of research interest. 1 - Social work education, with a particular focus on practice learning, practice teaching and adult learning. 2 - The psycho-social needs of people with cancer, the needs of people as they make the transition from treatment to survivorship, and the social construction of illness.



Dr Niamh Flanagan

Dr Niamh Flanagan is an Assistant Professor and Director of Social Policy Programmes in the Department of Applied Social Studies Maynooth University, Ireland, where she teaches child and family policy, policy for practice and policy research and analysis. She has lectured in research methods and social policy in several third level institutions and has specialised in teaching research for practice to social workers, youth workers and community workers. Niamh plays an active role in the promotion and development of research among social work practitioners at institutional and national levels. This dual interest in research and social work was the driving force behind her doctoral research on the information behaviour of social workers which was funded by the Irish Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and prompted the development of a Mentor Strategy in the Irish Child & Family Agency, Tusla. Niamh's work as an independent research and policy consultant, partnering with a broad range of organisations from academia, local community groups to government departments, has inspired a keen interest in creative research methodologies which respond to the unique characteristics of research participants. Her research interests include child and family studies, domestic violence, information behaviour, and learning on professional placement.



PRACTICE CORNER: Advice To Practice Teachers And Students



Emer Coyne, Senior Medical Social Work Practitioner and Practice teacher discusses the benefit of being a practice teacher and offers valuable advice.

"Being a Practice Teacher in Social Work always brings me back to my time as a student. I was so lucky to have been given the opportunity to learn skills from excellent social workers in differing fields of work. It is important for me professionally to be able to repay that to the next generation of Social Workers. Being part of their education is a privilege.

In my experience of practice teaching, students bring a wonderful 'freshness' both to the team and to me as a practitioner. Practice Teaching is always a very rewarding process and fulfilling to see a student's confidence and skills develop as the placement progresses. My advice to any social worker considering practice teaching is to not hesitate and make the commitment. I have facilitated students through the uncertainty of the covid pandemic in 2020 and the health service cyber-attack in 2021, along with other bumps in the road along the way. Following these challenges, I feel that when a practice teacher and student demonstrate a commitment to the placement, it will be a positive experience for both sides and an important professional relationship that continues for years.

Practical tip: An organised placement works well as the student knows what is expected of them and the practice teacher knows what learning experiences to offer. Plan week-by-week aims and objectives in supervision!"



Jennifer Conroy: Graduate from BSW in UCC reflects on her placements and offers advice to students going on placement.

"I had the advantage of observing both sides of the Covid-19 pandemic through my work placements as a BSW graduate of 2021. Both were outstanding, and it was great to experience social work practice before COVID-19 and during the pandemic. Throughout my placements, I was able to gain a great understanding of the profession's versatility as well as a perspective on the extent to which the pandemic affected patients, service users, and the profession itself.

On reflection of my experiences, I think it is important to be flexible and make the most of your time. Whatever field of social work you are placed in, learning from experiences and personal growth are what will shape you into the best social worker you can be, so embrace the challenge, give it your all and ask lots of questions. I had an incredible tutor and practice teachers who respectfully guided me as I navigated through both placements. They supported and challenged me throughout which really enhanced my professional development. Through critical reflection and excellent supervision, I had the opportunity to recognise what my own unique skillset can bring to my practice which enriched the development of my social work skills, values and competencies.

I am currently working as a Medical Social Worker and Advocacy manager with Silverstream Healthcare. I am based in Riverstick Care Centre which, in partnership with SSWHG, has a transitional care unit for acute patients (currently from CUH) and a long-term care facility".



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CPD: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In Year 1 the NPTSWI hosted a series of online CPD events in collaboration with the IASW online. Into Year 2 these CPD events remain online allowing for increased accessibility for busy practitioners encouraging national collaboration and a creation of a network of practice teachers.

Details of upcoming events and presentations from these CPD events are available on the NPTSWI website here at <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/continuingprofessionaldevelopment/>.

All Colleges provide CPD to support your practice teaching. Contact them directly for further details.

UCD Practice Teacher Workshop taking place on 9th & 10th January 2023 in UCD. We are delighted to have Professor Jo Finch from the University of Suffolk facilitating the workshop on the 10th of January 2023. Jo is known internationally for her work on practice learning and has published widely on this topic. Her research interests center on practice teaching, learning, and assessment with a particular focus on the challenges and issues raised by struggling or failing students, from the perspective of practice educators and social work tutors.

Please contact paula.slavin@ucd.ie directly for further information.

JOURNEY OF LEARNING

By Sue Jordan, Cork.

*“So Social Work what in essence does it mean,
Is it about doing good that makes students so keen,
You travel on a journey of learning theories and knowledge,
This is all done in the safety of college.
But for the real deal, well this happens on site,
Live learning, real people, and reports to write.
For it is here where you put your learning to test,
Through social work placements to achieve your best.
You put theory to practice, with guidance and direction,
Under the supervision of your practice teacher for protection.
While now as a student this will be the route you will take,
Our hope is in time a skilled practice teacher you yourself will make”.*



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WE ARE ENCOURAGING CORU REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS NATIONALLY TO CONTACT THE HEI'S IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PRACTICE TEACHING IN 2023

Placement dates for the next placement cycle are as follows:

UCC 9th January - 14th April 2023 Register your interest here	UCD Jan 23rd - April 28th 2023 Register your details here	University of Galway 9th Jan - April 13th 2023	ATU 23rd Jan - 5th May 2023	Trinity(MSW) 9th January – 14th April 2023	Maynooth University 30th January -12 May 2023.
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We hope you enjoyed our NPTSWI e-newsletter.
If you would like to be included on our website, please contact;

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