

# ISS21 news



## Welcome from ISS21 Director



Professor Maggie O'Neill, ISS21 Director

Welcome to the 7th edition of the newsletter and my first as Director of ISS21. It is a privilege to take on the role and work with Margaret Scanlon, the executive team, the board and the interdisciplinary research clusters and cluster leads, to advance the mission of ISS21, which is to generate imaginative, interdisciplinary, impactful social science research knowledge/s and methodologies to better understand and respond to societal complexities and challenges.

There is no doubt that ISS21 is well positioned to do this, given the long history of social science research evidenced in the current 18 affiliated research projects, as well as seminars and research dissemination events that address key and emerging societal challenges and the drivers for change, often using participatory, creative, socially engaged methodologies. Ageing, global inequalities, loss of social trust, social conflict, war, migration, populist authoritarianism, increases in racism and incivilities, particularly in relation to new arrival communities, are some of the issues our affiliated researchers and civil society partners are grappling with. Developing our local and international collaborations and networks, supporting and building the capacity of doctoral students and early career researchers and working in partnership with community and academic partners is central to the mission of ISS21 both now and into the future.

We have a number of visiting academics joining us in 2024 and look

forward to working with them and ISS21 research fellows and staff to continue to build our local, national and international research footprint through theoretical, empirical, blue skies and research impact.

ISS21 is also the lead partner in an exciting 'Futures' focused research development at UCC – Collective Social Futures (CSF). CSF is a cross university research platform that developed in response to a call to identify areas of strategic importance to UCC Futures. CSF hosted a Festival of Social Science over two days, which was a wonderful celebration of social science research and community engagement (see page 6). What is clear to all in ISS21 is that the key global challenges and how we might understand, envision and enact our collective social futures, need to be understood and addressed from sociological and inter-disciplinary social science perspectives, because they are deeply social issues. I look forward to working with everyone in ISS21 and encourage new membership and research clusters!

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

## Selected Events 2023

### 'At your Age?!' Ethnodrama, 26 January



Project team (Eleanor Bantry White, Elaine Desmond, Fionn Woodhouse) & research participants

A performance of 'At your Age?!' was staged at the Granary Theatre, Cork on the 26 January. Produced as part of the innovative AgeActed project, the play explored the themes of ageing and ageism, and was performed by the research participants.

### Border Securitisation and the Criminalization of Migration, 24 February

As part of Refugee Week 2023, the ISS21 Migration and Integration Research Cluster and UNIC hosted a seminar with Dr. Gustavo de la Orden Bosch (University of Deusto). While discussions on EU border management usually focus on external borders, this seminar highlighted developments in border restrictions at the Franco-Spanish border in the Basque Country.

### Qualitative Research in Cross-cultural and Non-Western Settings, 22 March

The ISS21 REACT Cluster, with colleagues in Applied Social Studies and the UCC Ethics Committee, hosted a seminar in which Prof. Divya Sharma (Western Connecticut State University) discussed ethical and methodological approaches and challenges in conducting qualitative research in cross-cultural and non-Western settings.

### Unleashing the voice within: Challenging Current Responses of Mental Health Systems to Young People in Distress, 3 April

This timely event explored different ways of supporting young people experiencing distress, beyond the current services available, with contributions from mental health campaigners, youth work organisations, and student representatives. Co-hosted by the ISS21 Disability and Mental Health Cluster, CVNI and Mad in Ireland.

### Canadian & Irish Research and Practice in Housing First & Rapid Rehousing, 20th April

In this half-day event, visiting speakers Prof. Stephen Gaetz (York University, Toronto) and Dr Melanie Redman (President of A Way Home Canada), along with researchers from UCC, shared their research on homelessness and on initiatives to tackle homelessness in Canada and Ireland.



Joe Finnerty, Margaret Buckley, Steve Gaetz, Melanie Redman, Paul Frewen

### Duty to Care and Solidarity: Counter-hegemonic Civic Acts in Authoritarian Contexts 21 April

Visiting speaker Dr. Violetta Zentai (Central European University) explored the cumulative experiences and consequences of conducting civic solidarity acts during the Covid-19 pandemic and in the current war-related displacement of Ukrainians in Europe. The seminar was jointly hosted by ISS21, PRECNIGHTS and the Doctor of Social Science Programme.

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

### Leaving No One Behind: Health Inequalities on the Island of Ireland, 27 April

Co-hosted by the ISS21 SHAPE and REACT research clusters, this one-day symposium brought together academics, policy makers and practitioners to discuss health inequalities on the island of Ireland. A number of themes were explored through panel discussions, including health economics, mental health provision, and health in the community.

### Competing Requirements in Hungarian Higher Education, 31 August

Visiting academic Prof. Ágnes Kövér-Van Til (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) discussed Hungarian gender policy, and the contradictions with the EU's gender mainstreaming expectations.

### IMMERSE Conference, 15 September

This conference presented the findings from the Horizon 2020 *IMMERSE* project on the integration of migrant children in schools, along with contributions from policy makers, key stakeholders and young migrant activists. Highlights of the day included the *IMMERSE* children's art and poetry exhibition.



Emma Quin (ESRI) delivers keynote presentation.

### Belonging and Narrative, 20th September

Hosted by the Dept. of Sociology and Criminology and ISS21, this half-day symposium included keynote presentations from Prof. Nira Yuval-Davis (University of East London) and Prof. Molly Andrews (UCL).



## Every Moment Counts: Promoting Mental Wellbeing and Inclusion in Schools, 13 Nov.

Fulbright Scholar Dr Susan Bazyk presented a seminar on her innovative work in school inclusion, focusing on the Every Moment Counts programme. Hosted by the ISS21 Children and Young People Research Cluster.

## Navigating the Hostile Environment - Afghan Evacuees in London, 14 November

Drawing on qualitative research, Professor Louise Ryan (London Metropolitan University) explored the experiences of Afghan evacuees during their first year in London. Seminar co-hosted by the Department of Sociology & Criminology and the ISS21 Migration and Integration Research Cluster.

## Other ISS21 Events

During 2023, ISS21's CareVisions project hosted several events on different aspects of care including 'Valuing Care in Feminist and Disability Politics' 24 April (with Prof. Janice McLaughlin), 'Informal Care and the Precariousness of Migration Experience' 13 Nov. (with Prof. Herz; Frida Andréasson and Prof Jesper Andreasson), and the launch of the CareVisions report, 12 December (with keynote from Prof. Joan Tronto).

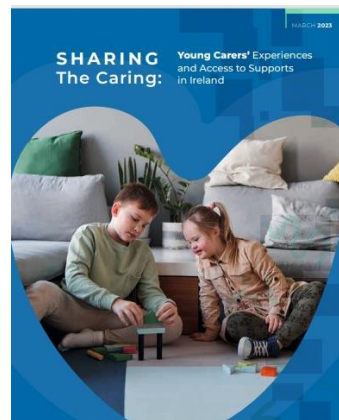
In March, the Children and Young People Cluster contributed to an interdisciplinary conference celebrating 25 years of Early Years and Childhood Studies in UCC, with keynotes from Dr Geraldine French (DCU) and Maire Mhic Mhathúna (Qualifications Advisory Board for the ELC Sector).

ISS21 seminars provided opportunities for members to report on their research. On 25 April, Dr. Mastoureh Fathi (Sociology & Criminology) presented a paper on home making among migrant groups, based on the findings of the EMNaH project. Other ISS21 members reported on their research at report launches (opposite).

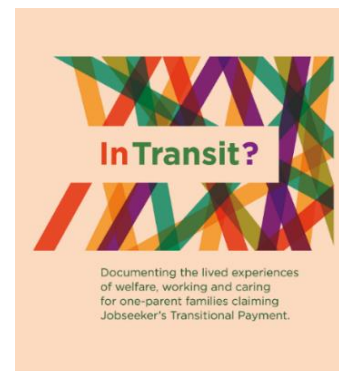
## Report Launches

During 2023 a series of events were held to launch research reports from ISS21-affiliated projects, shown below. (Click on images for details & reports).

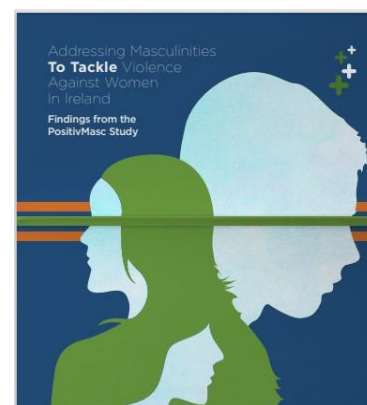
### Young Carers Report, 7 March



### In Transit? Report, 25 May



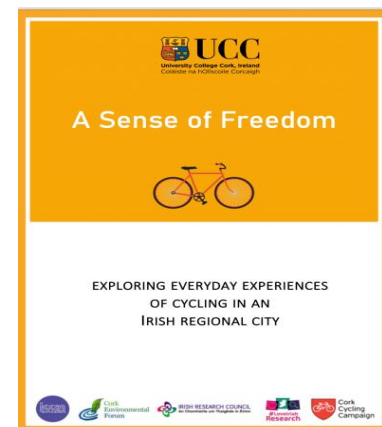
### PositivMasc Report, 30 August



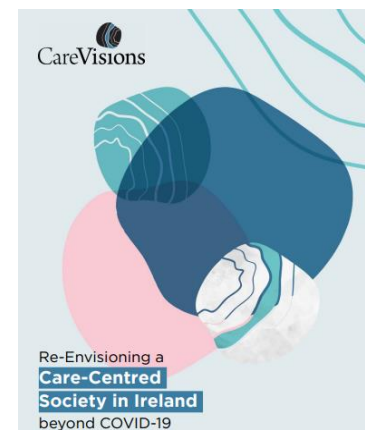
### ISL Health Report, 12 September



### Socio-Cycle Report, 14 November



### CareVisions Report, 12 December



## ISS21 Projects

There are currently 18 ISS21-affiliated projects, most of which are co-hosted with schools and departments across the university (see opposite). Projects are linked to the themes of the ISS21 research clusters and address significant intersectional social issues in the fields of Deaf Studies, migration, health and well-being, ageing, civic engagement, and equality and social justice.

Several major new projects got underway during 2023 funded through the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme, the IRC Advanced Laureate Awards, and the HRB's Emerging Investigator for Health Awards. We are also delighted to be co-hosting two of the recently announced IRC New Foundations awards. 2023 also saw the completion of several ISS21-affiliated projects, including two long-running Horizon 2020 projects – PositivMasc and IMMERSE.

Details of on-going and completed projects are available on the ISS21 website at: [iss21/researchprojects](https://iss21/researchprojects)

## Research outputs & impact

During 2023 ISS21 researchers continued to disseminate their research through national and international conferences, peer-reviewed journal articles, project reports (see p.3), 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 webpages (on the ISS21 website), while a compilation of outputs from all ISS21-affiliated projects is available [here](#)



## ISS21-affiliated Projects

**CODA: A Hidden Minority Amongst the Majority** (2023-2028). PI: Dr Noel O'Connell. Funder: SFI-IRC Pathway Programme. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**Walking Borders, Risk and Belonging: Advances in ethno-mimetic research in the making and re-making of three European borders** (2023-2026). PI: Prof. Maggie O'Neill. Funder: IRC Advanced Laureate Awards. Hosted with the Department of Sociology and 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 Investigator-led Project Award. Hosted with the School of Public Health.

**HIA-IM - Developing a Health Impact Assessment Implementation Model: Enhancing intersectoral approaches in tackling health inequalities (HIA-IM)** (2023-2026). PI: 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.

**CareVisions: Envisioning a care-centred society within and beyond Covid-19** (2020-2024). Co-PIs: Dr. Claire Edwards, Dr. Carol Kelleher, Dr. Jacqui O'Riordan. Funder: Carolan Research Trust.

**TARA Trauma, Attachment, Resilience into Action** (2022-2025). PI: Dr Maria Lotty. Funder: Dublin South Central, TUSLA – The Child and Family Agency. Hosted with ACE.

**Deep Societal Innovation for Sustainability and Human Flourishing** (2024-2028). PI: Prof. Edmond Byrne, co-PI: Prof. Maggie O'Neill and Dr Ian Hughes. Funder: EPA. Hosted with Process and Chemical Engineering & ERI.

**Education First? Lone parents' lived experience of the challenges and benefits of participating in higher education** (2023-2024). PI: Dr Fiona Dukelow. Funder: IRC New Foundations. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**SMILE Sensors for Monitoring Isolation and Loneliness Among Older People: New pathways for early identification and support** (2023-2024). PI: Prof. Eleanor Bantry White. Funder: IRC New Foundations. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**Volunteer Recognition: developing questions for the Irish Census** (2023-2024). PI: Dr Shirley Martin. Funder: IRC New Foundations. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**Youth Volunteering: Building capacity for the future** (2022-2024). PI: Prof. Fred Powell. Funder: IRC New Foundations. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**PRECNIGHTS: Precarity Amongst Women Migrant Nightworkers in Ireland** (2022-2024). PI: Dr Julius-Cezar Macarie. Funder: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Research Fellowship.

**P4PLAY: People, Place, Policy and Practice For Play** (2020-2024). Project Coordinators: Prof. Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Helen Lynch. Funder: Horizon 2020 MSCA ITN Programme. Hosted with the Dept of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy.

**CoPPer: Cooperation to Promote a European Volunteering Programme in Probation Services** (2022-2025). PI: Dr Katharina Swirak. Funder: Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union. Hosted with the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

**The External Voice in Defining an Engaged and Inclusive Institutional Research Culture: Engaged & Inclusive Research Culture Alliance** (2023-25) PI: Prof John O'Halloran; Co-PIs: Prof. John Cryan, Dr Martin Galvin, Prof. Maggie O'Neill. Funder: Wellcome. Cross-university collaboration.

**MiEdC&E - Migrant Education: Challenges and exclusion** (2023-2024). PI: Dr Claire Dorrity. Funder: UNIC Seed Fund Initiative. Hosted with the School of Applied Social Studies.

**Enabling Diverse Student Voices in UCC** (2023-2024). PI: Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire. Funder: HEA Access funding via Access UCC. Hosted with Access UCC.

## ISS21 Welcomes Research Fellow & New Staff Members

During 2023 we were delighted to welcome Dr Noel O'Connell, who joins ISS21 as a Research Fellow under the SFI-IRC Pathway Programme. Dr O'Connell's research project, *CODA: A Hidden Minority Amongst the Majority* (2023-2028) will explore how hearing children of deaf adults (CODAs) experience the courtesy stigma (or stigma-by-association) of their parents and the cultural resources they use to become agents of their own empowerment.

CODA adopts novel cross-disciplinary research approaches by combining theory from Sociology with insights from Deaf Studies and Childhood Studies in order to explore two fundamental social concerns: (1) the problem of courtesy stigma affecting children and families; (2) and the complex nature of identity in an ableist society. The CODA project is co-hosted

with the School of Applied Social Studies.

We were also delighted to welcome several new researchers who joined ISS21-affiliated projects during 2023, including Dr Tara Kenny and Kirsty Nash both of whom work with Dr Monica O' Mullane on the *HIA-IM* project; and Caitríona Honohan who joined a research team led by Dr Caitríona Ni Laoire on the *Enabling Diverse Student Voices in UCC* project.

During 2023 we also said goodbye to valued research colleagues and friends from earlier projects, including Dr Felicity Daly and Dr Cliona Loughnane (*CareVisions*), Dr Reana Maier (*IMMERSE*) and Dr Robert Bolton (*PositivMasc*). All have gone on to research and academic roles in Ireland and the UK, and we wish them the very best for the future.

We look forward to hosting Dr Wajeehah Aayeshah as a visiting research fellow during April-June 2024. Dr Aayeshah is a lecturer in Curriculum Design for Arts Teaching Innovation at the University of

Melbourne. Her current project 'kindness in pedagogy' explores kind academic practices, including engaging 'Students as Partners', 'joyful teaching', and creating 'equity-driven academic culture'.



Dr Noel O'Connell, Research Fellow, ISS21 & School of Applied Social Studies

### Collective Social Futures Festival of Social Science 2023

On 20-21 November 2023 UCC Futures: Collective Social Futures hosted a Festival of Social Science, opening with a book launch for *Social Networks and Migration: Relocations, Relationships and Resources* by Professor Louise Ryan; and an evening of music and performance from bands Citadel and Misneach, performance poet Will Keohane and UCC Department of Theatre students. This was followed by a full-day symposium linked to the key themes of Collective Social Futures and showcasing social science research from across across UCC.

Find out more at the following link: [Festival of Social Science](#)

Look out for more events in 2024!



Full house as Misneach perform at opening of festival.



## 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.

## Contact us

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## Joining ISS21

New members are always welcome.  
Contact us for further details and a  
membership form.

