

CareVisions: Reframing Collective Futures through the Feminist Ethics of Care

Dr Claire Edwards

(on behalf of the CareVisions team: Dr. Carol Kelleher, Dr. Jacqui O’Riordan, Dr. Felicity Daly, Dr. Cliona Loughnane)

The COVID-19 pandemic and current social, economic, and environmental crises have brought the significant deficits and inequalities in current care practices and policies in Ireland into sharp focus. The challenges exposed by these crises suggest that there is an urgent need to re-evaluate and re-envision the significance of care relations, policies, and practices in contemporary society. Despite the ‘carelessness’ witnessed during the pandemic (Chatzidakis *et al.*, 2020), COVID-19 also provided glimpses of alternative ways of care and caring, revealing interdependencies within and between communities and between those giving and receiving care. This presentation discusses the development of CareVisions, a three year, interdisciplinary, participatory research project based in ISS21 which draws on a feminist ethics of care as a way of exploring current care relations and re-envisioning alternative care futures in Ireland beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Core to the project is a recognition that we need to rethink how we conceptualise the term ‘care’ itself and move care from the personal to the political domain. Through a discussion of the project’s underpinning principles and methods, we aim to show how feminist ethics of care thinking might play a role in reframing and re-envisioning our collective social futures.