

RESEARCHING CARE WORKSHOP 2022

CareVisions and ISS21 Workshop 2022

10am – 3.30pm, Friday 14th October
Room 302, Brookfield Health & Science Building

Programme

10.00 – 10.10	Opening	Dr Claire Edwards , School of Applied Social Studies / ISS21
10.10 – 10.50	Keynote Presentation Postgrowth, care and social policy: making connections	Dr Fiona Dukelow , School of Applied Social Studies (presenter) Prof. Mary P. Murphy , Department of Sociology, Maynooth University
10.50 – 11.10	Developing the CareVisions project	Dr Felicity Daly , ISS21 Dr Cliona Loughnane , ISS21
11.10 – 11.40	Coffee break	
11.40 – 12.00	Exploring the potential of the co- operative model to provide home care services to older people	Dr Carol Power , Centre for Co-operative Studies and Cork University Business School Dr Caroline Crowley , Centre for Co-operative Studies
12.00 – 12.20	Failed in Childhood, Punished in Motherhood: Intergenerational Experiences of the Care System	Arhonda Lynch , School of Applied Social Studies

12.20 – 12.40	Uncared-for women and 'promiscuous care': Challenging the inclusivity of a feminist ethic of care for activist mothers of disabled children and disabled sex worker activists	Doris Murphy , Sociology and Women's Studies Dr Liz Kyte , Women's Studies / We Care Collective
12.40 – 13.20	Break	
13.20 – 13.40	Does international law care? Towards a care ethics approach to international law during crisis and beyond	Dr Henrietta Zeffert , School of Law
13.40 – 14.00	Curating for Communities: Projects, programmes and exhibitions at the Glucksman	Tadhg Crowley , The Glucksman
14.00 – 14.20	“That is probably the worst thing, not being able to hold her hand” A Qualitative Exploration into the Family Experience of Nursing Home Residents Life and Death During the Pandemic	Graham Gillespie , School of Applied Psychology
14.20 – 15.20	Panel discussion: How might we re-envision care in the 21st century? For society, health, and the planet/environment Dr Claire Edwards , Moderator Dr Paul Bolger , Environmental Research Institute (ERI) Dr Jacqui O’Riordan , School of Applied Social Studies / ISS21 Dr Valeria Venditti , School of Nursing and Midwifery	
15.20 – 15.30	Close and invitation to join the ISS21 Care21 Research Cluster	Dr Carol Kelleher , Department of Management and Marketing, Cork University Business School / ISS21

Contact details

CareVisions: <https://www.carevisionsucc.ie/> | Twitter: @CareVisionsUCC

ISS21: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/iss21> | Twitter: @ISS21UCC

Abstracts

Postgrowth, care and social policy: making connections, Fiona Dukelow and Mary P. Murphy

In this talk we discuss the growing interest in degrowth/postgrowth thinking and its implications for social policy and, in particular, care. If care has been on the margins of social policy the same can be said for the role of care in postgrowth thinking. This talk seeks to make connections between them and does so by drawing on eco-feminist insights on care that connect care of people with care of the planet, and which fundamentally challenge the current logics of welfare capitalism. We look at how these connections offer resources for re-imagining the welfare-work-care nexus and ground the discussion by highlighting practical possibilities for re-imagining this nexus in the Irish social policy context.

Developing the CareVisions project, Felicity Daly and Cliona Loughnane

CareVisions (2020-2023) is an interdisciplinary research project reflecting on care experiences during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic to re-imagine future care relations, practices and policies in Ireland and internationally. Inspired by feminist ethics of care perspectives and by the Irish tradition of relatedness and living in community, CareVisions prioritises the creation of deliberative and participative spaces to enable debates about care that include a wide and diverse range of voices of participants in care networks. This presentation focuses on the process of conceptualising, operationalising and illustrating a feminist ethics of care in the development of the project and its different empirical strands. We will also share key emerging themes from research co-created with disabled people and asylum seekers.

Exploring the potential of the co-operative model to provide home care services to older people, Carol Power and Caroline Crowley

Most Irish people would prefer to remain in their own homes as they age (Age Friendly Ireland, 2015; O’Sullivan et al., 2022). Home care is provided to support older people to remain in their own homes. However, currently, there are over 5,000 people who have been approved for care but there is a significant shortfall in the number of people willing to take up employment in the sector. CSO population projections indicate that the number of people aged 80+ will quadruple by 2051, creating additional demand for home care services.

Privatisation has been a key trend in the home care sector in the last 10 years, where private care companies tender for public contracts. Low pay and poor working conditions of carers employed by for-profit companies have been highlighted in media reports. International research suggests that care co-operatives – organisations owned and governed by service users and/or producers – may provide better wages, working conditions and benefits that help reduce employee turnover in the sector (ILO, 2017). Furthermore, co-operatives have the potential to improve the quality of care and how care is experienced by older people by involving them in the co-design and co-production of care services.

Using deliberative inquiry, the CO-AGE project explores the potential to develop home care co-operatives to support independent living and healthy ageing in the community in Ireland. In this paper, we will report on the preliminary findings of the research.

This research is funded by the IRC New Foundations scheme. Age Action Ireland are partners in the project.

Failed in Childhood, Punished in Motherhood: Intergenerational Experiences of the Care System, Arhonda Lynch

This paper will explore the intergenerational experiences of women who have encountered the state care system as children and adults as mothers. This paper will have an emphasis on addiction and the barriers to support-seeking for women who are mothers. Women who use drugs problematically have often been failed in childhood, shamed as women in adulthood, and further punished in motherhood. This study was conducted through a feminist lens with an emphasis on intersectionality to consider the structural factors impinging on the lives of women through the 'care-system'. While state care history was not a core focus of the original study, the reoccurring incidence of women who had experience of the care system as children having their own children taken into the care of the state in adulthood was repeatedly highlighted by participants. The paper will discuss this theme which arose in a qualitative study with practitioners (n=10) from a range of health and social care services. The prevalence of harsh treatment experienced by women when they try to engage with state services will be examined along with the pervasive punitive systems they come up against. This reoccurring theme will be the focus of the paper along with a reflection on care ethics, shame-based ideologies around womanhood and the paternalistic conceptualisation of addiction.

Uncared-for women and 'promiscuous care': Challenging the inclusivity of a feminist ethic of care for activist mothers of disabled children and disabled sex worker activists, Doris Murphy and Liz Kyte

This paper explores how Irish feminist activist groups challenge the inclusivity of a feminist ethic and model of care. We use two Irish groups to illustrate our ideas: the We Care Collective, for mothers of disabled children; and the Red Umbrella Front, a collective of sex workers, some of whom identify as disabled women. Ignored and uncared-for, these groups are organising themselves in radical collectives of care. But they do so at the margins of the feminist movement, with little recognition from mainstream feminist organisations, where the maternal and sex work remain vexed questions.

This paper draws on two recently published manifestos: the eco-feminist, queer and Green New Deal-inspired theorising from the Care Collective (2020); as well as 'Feminism for the 99%' (Arruzza et al., 2019). We also consider conceptualisations of care by Irish sociologists Mary Daly (2021) and Kathleen Lynch (2022).

We argue that to include stigmatised and uncared-for groups of women within Irish feminist discourse, we require a more generous and solidarity-based ethic and model of care - such as 'promiscuous care', developed within queer communities in response to the AIDS crisis (Care Collective, 2020). Until then, can we honestly call our model of care feminist and inclusive?

Does international law care? Towards a care ethics approach to international law during crisis and beyond, Henrietta Zeffert

If care were at the centre of the global response to the pandemic – and specifically the response of international law – the world would look very different. Against realists who argue

that the path to security is by maximising military power, maintaining autonomy and avoiding dependence on others, care ethics emphasises cultivating relations of trust and cooperation, valuing interdependence and recognising mutual vulnerability.

This paper argues that a feminist care ethics perspective could shift the focus of international law away from a 'crisis' paradigm towards a more caring future. Taking the case of international law's response to the pandemic, the paper investigates how commitments to care are often silenced or ignored within the discipline. However, it also explores how care ethics brings an 'expanded moral imaginary' (Robinson 2020) that moves beyond binaries and hierarchies, in turn supporting and strengthening international law while changing the claims it makes about the world to better attend to the needs of others. In doing so the paper highlights the contribution of care ethics to debates about the 'everyday', the postcolonial and the pluriverse in international law and outlines some strategies for translating care theory into practice.

Curating for Communities: Projects, programmes and exhibitions at the Glucksman, Tadhg Crowley

The word curate derives from the Latin *curare* 'to take care of', and while historically the role of the curator was to care for the valuable possessions within a collection, the 21st century curator's role is as much about how they programme, include and care for all the communities that engage with the museum.

The Glucksman is an art museum located on the main campus of University College Cork that focuses on developing projects for both communities of interest and communities of place, relating to our [exhibition](#) programme as well as the three priority strands of our education programme: [Health and Wellbeing](#); [Equality and Diversity](#); [Climate Action and Sustainability](#)

This presentation will focus on partnerships and projects that have been developed with communities who may not ordinarily or easily access cultural experiences.

1. In 2015, the museum initiated a series of creative projects and activities for young asylum seekers that sought to provide positive creative opportunities to the newest residents of the community. Supported by University colleagues in the early years the programme is now run-in partnership with Cork Migrant Centre and provides creative opportunities to children and adults.
2. The museums Creative Ageing programme connects contemporary artists with older people residing in the city's learning neighbourhoods. These projects support the exchange of knowledge, stories and experiences and lead to the creation of new artworks for the University Art Collection.
3. The Glucksman and Good Shepherd Cork have partnered on a series of initiatives to support women and families experiencing homelessness. Weekly art classes, the loan of artworks into residential spaces and large public art projects have all been established to enable the community to have a voice and to feel moments of positivity and respite from daily struggles.

"That is probably the worst thing, not being able to hold her hand" A Qualitative Exploration into the Family Experience of Nursing Home Residents Life and Death During the Pandemic, Graham Gillespie

Objectives: This study examined the experiences of family members who lost a relative in a nursing home during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland, specifically experiences of life and death in nursing homes during this time and subsequent experiences of loss for families.

Participants: Nine participants (seven women and two men, age range: 41-78), who lost a relative during the first three waves of the Covid-19 pandemic took part.

Method: This study employed a pragmatist qualitative design through conducting one-to-one semi-structured interviews via Microsoft Teams. The data was analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

Results: Five themes were identified. Three of these themes related to participant experiences of their relatives living and dying in nursing homes during Covid: Participants' Experiences of their Relatives being "Locked In" and Themselves being "Locked Out" of Nursing Homes, Family Concerns about Care Practices, and Communication Issues, while the final two themes, Residents' Deaths as 'Bad Deaths' for Family Members, and Difficulties Grieving," related to their experience of loss.

Conclusions: Practice implications for care during pandemics are discussed, and recommendations made.