

Name: Dr Dympna Casey- RGN MA BA PHD

Position: Senior Lecturer, Postgraduate Coordinator

Department: School of Nursing and Midwifery

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Research:

Academic Qualifications: RGN MA (Health Promotion), BA (Communication Studies), PhD.

Research Interests: Care of Older People ,Nursing and Health Promotion, Service Learning and Cultural Issues in Nursing.

Some examples of Dympna's completed research:

2005 National University of Ireland, Galway PhD entitled "*The nurse's role in promoting health: the reality of health promotion practice in an acute setting.*" A single qualitative embedded case study, employing data source and methodological triangulation was used in phase one. Action research was used in phase two to develop a health promotion-training programme and to examine the extent to which the nurses perceived they could incorporate the training and skills, into daily practice and thereby instigate a change in practice.

2004 Centre for Nursing Studies, National University of Ireland. Qualitative study using focus group to examining student's experiences of service learning.

2000/2001 National University of Ireland, Galway. A research project funded by the Western Health Board which examined "The Nurse's Role in promoting health: the reality of health promotion practice in nurse client/patient interactions in an acute setting"

Ongoing research:

2006-2007 National Council for Aging and Older People (NCAOP €120,000). Peer reviewed. A study of the provision of care for older people dying in Acute and Community Hospitals and Nursing Homes in Ireland: Towards a Quality of Life Focus.

2005-2006 National Council for Aging and Older People. A grounded theory study examining the quality of life of older people living with a disability or chronic illness

2005-2006 Health Service Executive West. An action research study implementing person centred care for older people in long-stay care.

2005-2006 Health Research Board. A mixed method research design examining the implementation and evaluation of a structured education programme and a new model of ongoing care for Type 1 diabetes in Ireland (DAFNE)

2005-2006 Millennium Grant National University of Ireland, Galway. A research project examining 'Nursing students' perceptions and experience of using health-promoting skills in the clinical setting'.

What aspects of Development Education (DE) are included in your work?

As a result of time spent working in Africa, Dympna has built up a range of links with organisations in Sub Saharan Africa. She uses these links to organise placements for her nursing students and has recently set up a charity to fundraise for these host organisations. The charity is called **SNO (Supporting Nurses Overseas)**. Its funding is only devoted to sustainable activities-for example they would fund training for one individual, who might then act as a community trainer to maximise the effect of the training across their community organisation.

Dympna is involved in Service Learning here in Ireland also and notes it is important not to neglect the positive effects that the practice of service learning can have near at hand in Ireland. She mentions that it may be a way in which students may revisit the practices of global solidarity and charity that Ireland was known for previously but has lost in the recent prosperity.

Are you are involved in teaching courses with DE components?

Dympna teaches an elective module called 'International Nursing: Nursing in the developed and developing worlds' (**NU314**) to undergraduate students on the four year degree programme. This is offered in semester two and concerns such topics as issues for nursing in developing countries, transcultural understanding, working with other cultures at home and abroad and personal care for those nursing in developing countries. Approximately 15 students elect to take this module each year and they generally then go on to carry out a four week long service learning placement in Sub Saharan Africa. Before they take up a placement the students must familiarise themselves with their intended placement site, fundraise the money for the costs of their trip, and they must also arrange their placement themselves in one of the host hospices, hospitals or schools of midwifery that Dympna has organised partnerships with. Also students traditionally fundraise to bring monies to the service learning site, deciding in partnership with the service learning communities which sustainable initiatives to focus on.

The module International Nursing: Nursing in the developed and developing worlds is compulsory for visiting American students who attend a semester in NUIG as part of a partnership with Fairfield University in Connecticut. These students are not offered the option of carrying out a placement in Africa but they do undertake six extra weeks of class work in the International nursing module – some of which is taught by Dr Su Ming Khoo of the DERN network. The presence of the students from the USA adds an extra international element to the undergraduate programme for all involved.

Recent events /Publications:

Oral Presentation Casey, D. & Murphy, K. Service learning as a method of understanding global health issues in nursing and developing reciprocal relationships with global health partners. Second Biennial International Global Health Conference "Equity Challenges in Global Health". NUI, Galway.

Oral presentation Mcllraith, L. Casey, D, and Boland, J. (2006). Civic Engagement in Higher Education: An Irish Perspective. The University & Civil Society: Autonomy and Responsibility Conference. Universita di Bologna Italy.

Oral Presentation Casey, D. and Murphy, K (2005). Embedding service learning into the nursing curriculum. 3rd Annual Teaching & Learning Conference: International Conference on Civic Engagement and Service Learning. National University of Ireland, Galway.

Oral Presentation Casey, D and Murphy, K. (2004) Developing Nursing Students understanding of globalisation & inequities through participation in an elective module & a placement in a different cultural context. DCI conference Cork 2004.

Forthcoming events: The department is hosting the second International Nursing Conference on April 6 and 7th 2009 in Aras Moyola, NUI, Galway.