

# **Sociological Association of Ireland Postgraduate Conference 2011**

**LOCATION: AM150 , Ó Tnúthail Theatre, ARTS MILLENNIUM BUILDING,  
NUI GALWAY**

Hosted by: School of Sociology and Political Science  
National University of Ireland, Galway

**Saturday 5th February**

## **Programme:**

**10.30-10.45** Registration, **Foyer of Arts Millennium Building**, NUI Galway.  
Tea, coffee and biscuits available

**11.00** Welcome and Opening Remarks by Dr James Browne, Uachtaran, NUI Galway. **AM 150 (Ó Tnúthail Theatre), Arts Millennium Building**

### **11.15-1.00** Session 1

- Stream 1: Migration, Identities, Power (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre).  
Facilitator: Mark Haugaard
- Stream 2: Education, Inclusion and Social Mobility (Seminar room AM105). Facilitator: Brian McGrath

**1.00-1.15** Paula Meaney, Irish Journal of Sociology (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre)

**1.15-2.15** Lunch (An Bialann)

**2.15-3.00** Plenary: Dr. Sinisa Malesevic, 'Sociological Theory and Organized Violence' (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre)

### **3.00-4.20** Session 2

- Stream 3: Innovative Methods in Social Research (Seminar room AM105). Facilitator: Henrike Rau
- Stream 4: Media and Cultural industries (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre).  
Facilitator: Kate Kenny

**4.20-4.45** Tea, coffee and Biscuits, **Foyer of Arts Millennium Building**

### **4.45-6.05** Session 3

- Stream 5: Health and Caring (Seminar room, AM105). Facilitator: Su ming Khoo

- Stream 6: Society, Nature, Environment (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre).  
Facilitator: Henrike Rau

## **6.05-6.15** Closing Remarks (AM150, Ó Tnúthail Theatre)

### **Please note:**

- All presenters will have 20 minutes. This will include presentation time, discussion and Q&A.
- Ensure that a registration form has been submitted (available from SAI)
- Please bring the conference fee of 20 euro on the day (cash, cheque, bank draft or PO only)

**Contacts:** Dr Kate Kenny, NUI Galway and Dr Henrike Rau, NUI Galway

### **Stream 1: Migration, Identities, Power**

**Facilitator: Dr Mark Haugaard**

### **Philanthropic Funding for Immigrant NGOs in Ireland: Does the Piper Call the Tune?**

Paul Dunbar, University College Cork. [pauldunb@gmail.com](mailto:pauldunb@gmail.com)

The dramatic rate of increase in immigration during the ‘Celtic Tiger’ era in Ireland produced a parallel increase in the number of organisations providing services and support to Ireland’s newcomers. Philanthropic organisations such as the *Atlantic Philanthropies* and the *One Foundation* provided much needed funding for these groups which would otherwise have found it difficult to raise the necessary resources in the traditional manner (donations, state funding, membership fees). The resultant injection of funding led to a dramatic increase in the capacity and resources available to organisations throughout the country that engaged in service provision, campaigning and advocacy for immigrants. The purpose of this analysis is to critically reflect on how funding from philanthropies affects the character, strategy and objectives of the immigrant NGO sector. The research is informed by literature on social movements, elites, philanthropy, immigration and neoliberalism. Interviews for the research were conducted with representatives of the two aforementioned philanthropic foundations as well as a number of immigrant NGOs. The research concludes that recipients of philanthropic funds developed into professional organisations, engaged in national policy lobbying and campaigning and became somewhat detached from their membership and support base. There was also a move away from the traditional community development approach which was seen as expendable by the funders. There is also evidence to suggest that NGOs are planning their future strategies with a view to satisfying the goals and objectives of their funders.

### **The Socialisation of Nationalism.**

Judith O’Connell, Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway, Ireland  
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The concept of nationalism can be said to have begun solely as the project of rulers seeking to harness people to states. According to Ernest Gellner to ensure this occurred in unilateral manner, homogeneity of language and cultural mores had to be achieved for the cohesiveness of the nation. This ensured the perpetuation of what Benedict Anderson termed the *Imagined Community*. Through my application of Pierre Bourdieu's theories of socialisation to Gellner's thoughts on the nation as a social construct we can understand how nationalism can be internalised and perceived as entirely natural. The nation is thus understood as a perennial force of which the citizen is but a part.

In Michael Billig's work *Banal Nationalism* the importance of the unfurled flag atop buildings is highlighted. Its banality is that which makes it more powerful, reinforcing the nationalist sense of community. It can be perceived as a tool of national socialisation. The utilisation of maps and globes is commonplace and could also be said to possess the same impact. The image of the nation is reiterated and reinforced. Geographical representations of the nation serve to influence and inform a society's perception of itself. World maps and indeed time zones act as subtle yet powerful means through which to reinforce nationalism. Accordingly we can surmise the impact of seemingly innocuous information on individual perceptions of the world and their nation. The natural world is shaped to become a symbol for national identity. Maps and time zones are not mere innocent representations of geographical areas but possess major political and social significances.

### **Analysis of Labour Market Performances of Slovak, Polish, Lithuanian, and Latvian Migrant Workers in Ireland**

Pierce C. Parker, Department of Sociology, University of Limerick  
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This study greatly enhances our understanding of the estimated 120,000 people from the ten new EU member states who are currently working in the Republic of Ireland. The study surveys 1,144 respondents from the four most populous new EU10 state residents in the Republic of Ireland (Poles [2006 Central Statistics Office *Census* figures: 63,276 residents], Lithuanians [24,638 residents], Latvians [13,319 residents], and Slovaks [8,111 residents]), using an innovative variation of snow-ball sampling method called, "respondent-driven sampling (RDS)." The results from the study show that almost all of the EU10 migrant workers in Ireland earn less than the Irish industrial average wage of €21.90 per hour. They also demonstrate that there are significant earnings differences among the four EU10 nationalities in the Irish labour market, and Latvians suffer the most severe immigrant wage penalty of nearly 50%. Immigrant wage penalty is their diminished earnings potential due to their migrant worker status in Ireland. In-depth regression analyses, however, reveal that these differences are due to gender, lower level of education, age, and most importantly, lower level of English language proficiency.

### **"Is Ireland still exceptional? Patterns of secularization and religious change in Ireland and Europe in the EVS data"**

Caillin Reynolds, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, [Caillin.Reynolds@mic.ul.ie](mailto:Caillin.Reynolds@mic.ul.ie)

Ireland has often been cited as an exception to theories of secularization<sup>1</sup>, both north and south fitting awkwardly within the general patterns of in Western Europe. In comparative international surveys, Ireland remains exceptionally high on key indices of individual religiosity. But these comparative figures mask a decline that has been evident since the 1960s, a decline which has become more pronounced in the last decade. Furthermore, this persistence is often explained away as a remnant of cultural defence from our colonial history, tied up a sense of collective identity. The persistence is evident in the proportion of Irish people who belong to a religious denomination, almost 90% in 2008, and 95% of these Catholic. In recent in-depth study of Irish Catholics, Inglis<sup>2</sup> argues that more and more Irish people are becoming more like their institutionally-detached European counterparts, belonging to a Catholic heritage in name and occasional beliefs, but that increasingly these cleavages no longer influence individual's everyday lives. This paper examines these claims using the most recent EVS data, collected in 2008/09 in over 35 countries, and collected in Ireland in 1981, 1990, 1999 and 2008. In particular, the paper will attempt to answer what relevance religious identity, beliefs and practices have in individuals' everyday lives, specifically the influence of these variables on a selection of social and moral values. The findings are discussed in relation to more general theories of secularization, and what relevance alternative theories of religious change might have for the Irish case.

## **Positive Power: The use of State Technologies to Counter Islamophobia**

James Carr, University of Limerick [James.Carr@ul.ie](mailto:James.Carr@ul.ie)

Ireland's Muslim communities hail from a diverse array of regions around the globe, including Irish born Muslims. Historically the concept of racism has revolved around one's phenotypical characteristics. However, this biological perspective has evolved to recognise and incorporate racism and discrimination premised on aspects of a person's culture including their religion. This research examines the existing statistical and qualitative methods employed to measure hate crime and discrimination in Ireland. Specifically, it focuses on offences committed against Muslim communities in Ireland on the basis of their faith. It is argued that the inadequate recording of religiously aggravated crime and discrimination against Muslims in Ireland is tantamount to institutional racism. Governments need to be able to identify who the targets of racially or religiously aggravated offences through disaggregated data collection if they are to form effective policies to address these phenomena. Contrary to recent events which have witnessed an ascendancy of right wing political groups and governments across Europe and an associated negative form of state management of minority groups. I contend, drawing on the work of Michel Foucault, that governmental technologies of state can be utilised in a more positive sense to inform us of the true nature of hate crime and discrimination in an Irish context. It is only by revealing the extent of these offences against Muslim communities in Ireland that the creation and implementation of effective policy interventions that ameliorate the position of those subjected to cultural racism can be enacted.

## **Stream 2: Education, Inclusion and Social Mobility**

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<sup>1</sup> e.g. Featherstone, R. and Sorrell, K. (2007) 'Sociology dismissing religion? The presentation of religious change in introductory sociology textbooks', *The American Sociologist*, 38(1), 78-98.

<sup>2</sup> Inglis, T. (2007) 'Catholic identity in contemporary Ireland: belief and belonging to tradition', *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 22(2), 205-220.

**Facilitator: Dr Brian McGrath**

**Teacher-on-teacher workplace bullying: An in depth study in post primary schools in Ireland.**

Genevieve T. Murray, Trinity College Dublin. [murraygt@tcd.ie](mailto:murraygt@tcd.ie)

Humanity has always been beset by bullying and until recently, society has tacitly accepted the practice, however as the horrific consequences of abuse now emerge, such resolute consent is now being questioned. (Field.1996: xxii)

Bullying in the workplace has become a social and legal issue in society today. Workplace bullying of adults by adults has created enormous emotional and psychological pain for individuals. Any person in society irrespective of their profession, gender or status can be bullied at work. Bullying knows no boundaries of age, gender, level of education, socio-economic status, types or status of job, whether in the private or public sectors (O'Moore et al. 2001). Workplace bullying can occur in isolation with no witnesses Rayner (1997) therefore it is very subtle and destructive and leaves the victim in a very vulnerable and powerless position. Adults feel inadequate and childish when having to admit to being bullied. Bullying has been a 'taboo' subject for so long and many of the reasons why adults are nervous and shy about admitting to being bullied include: embarrassment, fear, ignorance, secrecy (Field. 1996). When the problem of bullying in schools in Ireland is mentioned one associates it with pupil-on-pupil bullying. However, in the last decade findings of research surveys carried out by the INSWB, (2000) and TFPWB (2001) identified the education sector as having a high incident rate of workplace bullying, with the most recent findings of the ESRI (2007) where the education sector had the highest incident rate (14%) of workplace bullying in Ireland.

**OBJECTIVE:** ESRI (2007) identified the education sector as having the highest incidence of workplace bullying in Ireland. This study exams the nature, incidences and experiences of workplace bullying among teachers in the post primary school sector. The research explores whether this behaviour is horizontal or vertical or a combination among teachers.

**METHODS:** A mixed methods approach, in-depth interviews, questionnaires, focus groups is utilised to gain a broad understanding of this issue.

**RESULTS:** Data collection is ongoing and the present paper presents the rationale for the study and preliminary results from the field work.

**CONCLUSION:** A preliminary pilot study indicated bullying among teachers was a real issue and worth exploring to examine the factors that give rise to bullying incidents and those that are associated with stopping the bullying behaviour

**Lesbian and Gay Teachers Disclose(:) The Workings of Heterosexual Privilege in Irish Schools**

Aoife Neary, University of Limerick [aoifeneary@hotmail.com](mailto:aoifeneary@hotmail.com)

This paper addresses the complexities of the process of disclosure experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) teachers in primary and post-primary schools in Ireland. It argues that these complexities and tensions are an illustration of the workings of the privileged position afforded heterosexuality in the Irish education system and the dividends that accrue to those who occupy a 'normal' sexual identity.

LGBT teachers in Irish schools have struggled with managing their sexual identity in a context where the policing of normative sexual identities has resulted in deep silences, non-recognition and misrepresentation around sexual orientation (Gowran, 2004). However, many teachers have tried to counter this silence by 'coming out' or disclosing their sexual identity. Drawing on a qualitative study of eight self-identified lesbian and gay teachers the paper argues that for most of these teachers the process of disclosure is both valuable and necessary on a personal and professional level and fulfils a desire for openness, authenticity and honesty. Irrespective of their positioning along the continuum of disclosure, all teachers see the value of this process in resisting powerful influences, shaping attitudes and affecting change. However, their stories illustrate the multifaceted complexity of this process where many continue to struggle with their identity within a web of personal, school and external issues that reveal the privilege of heterosexuality and provide some insight into how this is perpetuated within the Irish education system.

### **Travellers' Experiences of Education in County Sligo**

Tamsin Cavaliero, Sligo IT [cavaliero.tamsin@itsligo.ie](mailto:cavaliero.tamsin@itsligo.ie)

Work in progress paper. In 1998 Liegeois argued that the norms and values of the dominant group, perpetuated in the formal education setting, contribute to Travellers' experiences of alienation and marginalisation. Furthermore, O'Hanlon and Holmes (2004) claimed that 'pupils learn best and are highly motivated when their school curriculum reflects their cultures, experiences and perspectives'. In addition, there is much theoretical and ethnographic data on Travellers' experiences of education which argues that Travellers view education as increasingly important in today's society, but participation is affected by the sense of 'not belonging' at school. This research attempts to explore the extent to which this has been the case from the perspective of Travellers in County Sligo. In order to investigate this thirty Travellers completed semi-structured interviews. This experiential based qualitative research revealed that all Travellers experienced discrimination at some point during their time in school, which, combined with the misperception that Travellers are a homogenous group, served to polarise the divide between the Traveller and settled communities. The lack of recognition of Traveller culture and history combined with the negative value judgements experienced by Travellers has further contributed to a lack of participation in the formal education system. Based on the findings of this research I will suggest that the lack of a culturally relevant curriculum ignores the contribution of many Travellers to Irish history and society. This lack of visibility of Traveller culture within the curriculum affects the ways in which Traveller pupils' construct their identities as 'outsiders' in school. This self perception as outsiders contributes to their negative experiences in school. I will argue that if a more genuine dialogue is to be established between Traveller families and the school, then more appropriate representation of Traveller history and culture is required in the curriculum.

### **Smithy of the Soul: Colonialism, Resistance, and Irish Education**

Susan Martin, GREP UCC [smariem13@gmail.com](mailto:smariem13@gmail.com)

Across seven centuries, England's and the British Empire's social and political efforts to deny and destroy Irish culture--efforts that are intrinsic to the sweep of any "Empire"--bred resistance that spread beyond conventional political spaces. Many who took up the fight for freedom and independence used the classroom as their

battle ground: movement away from state-proscribed curriculum was recognized as a means of cultural survival and self-determination for Irish children. This resistance began in the eighteenth century, in part, with the hedge schools that operated in violation of the Penal Laws and state-sponsored schooling, and was re-ignited by the efforts of Pádraig Pearse. Resistance-via-education culminated in Pearse's efforts as Headmaster of St. Enda's school for boys, and as an educational activist-writer until his execution in 1916.

A closer look at Pearse's writings and work indicates that they are, although separated by time and space, consistent with the work of key critical pedagogists Paulo Freire and Henry Giroux, both of whom wrote in the last half of the twentieth century well outside of the Irish context. Pearse's work converges with their democracy movements that emerged in opposition to neo-liberal attempts to forge a global economy and indoctrinate students, parents, and educators into a market-driven educational ethos. The battlegrounds for all are, however, closely aligned, as current neo-liberal attempts to control schooling and students closely mirror those of the British Empire: produce obedient citizens and workers in a global, capitalist enterprise.

### **Stream 3 Innovative Methods in Social Research**

**Facilitator: Dr Henrike Rau**

#### **The Management and Treatment of Convicted Sex Offenders in the Republic of Ireland.**

Karen O'Callaghan, IT Sligo, [kkocallaghan@gmail.com](mailto:kkocallaghan@gmail.com)

This research examines the management and treatment of convicted sex offenders in the Republic of Ireland. As well as detailing the process and agencies involved in the management, assessment and treatment of sex offenders upon conviction in the Republic, a comparison will be made with the policy and practice in Northern Ireland, in order to shed more light on what is happening within the Republic to effectively manage this cohort of criminal. This research seeks to critically examine the case for implementing the sex offender treatment within a prison regime, while also examining the literature regarding the efficacy of the treatment provided. The primary research was carried out using qualitative methods, essentially 9 semi-structured interviews with experts and professionals involved in the management, assessment and treatment of sex offenders within the Department of Justice agencies, and also within the community. The method of sampling used was purposeful, in order to ensure that those with the most knowledge and expertise from each agency and organisation were involved. The secondary research was carried out using books, journals, conference proceedings and newspapers. The main findings illuminate what is happening within the IPS to treat their population of sex offenders, how the new programme is being received by both staff and inmates, as well as what the experts consider to be 'missing' from the new sex Offender Management Policy in the Republic of Ireland.

#### **Art in Qualitative Research: 'Children's Methods' or Communicative Competency?**

Susan McDonnell, GREP (Social Science) at UCC, [mcdonnell.susan@itsligo.ie](mailto:mcdonnell.susan@itsligo.ie)

Visual methods offer possibilities for extending the qualitative research model by producing verbal accounts in interaction with art-making or visual representation, with written texts that may be contextualised by participant-produced images.

Drawing, mapping, collage and other art-making approaches have been widely adopted as ways of encouraging children to elucidate ideas and opinions on abstract or complex issues (Clark and Moss, 2001). Notwithstanding their aspiration to enhance children's participation in research, there have been some critiques of the tendency to treat art-based methods as inherently 'child friendly', on the grounds that the use of specialised methods implies a reduced capacity in terms of attention span, confidence or verbal skills (Punch, 2002), based on the same constructions that exclude young people from knowledge production (Thomson, 2007). This paper explores the role of arts-based methodology in the early stages of research with young children, exploring to what extent ethnicity and/or nationality are salient aspects of their identities through considerations of the physical, the family, school, cultural worlds, and the wider community. While the production of raced categories in childhood is an area of interest, the choice of methods in this research have been central in seeking to approach issues of identity in an holistic manner that avoids reifying 'race' or defining children primarily in terms of ethnicity. Approaching children's art as a process of 'encoding and decoding intentions....and building concepts at the same time' (Cox, 2005:122) where talk and drawing are interactive, the paper will discuss emerging insights and consider the extent to which art-based research with children may integrate the multiple modalities of children's meaning-making as 'thinking in action' (Cox, 2005:123) as a means of generating rich data; with the potential to be more widely utilised in research with adults.

Clark, A. and Moss, P. (2001) *Listening to Young Children: The Mosaic Approach* National Children's Bureau and Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Cox, S. (2005) Intention and Meaning in Young Children's Drawing. *Journal of Art and Design Education* 24(2)

Punch, S. (2002) Research with Children: The Same or Different from Research with Adults? *Childhood* 9(3): 321-341

Thomson, F. (2007) Are Methodologies for Children keeping them in their Place? *Children's Geographies* Vol. 5, No. 3, 207 – 218, August 2007

### **Showing as telling: Visual narratives and online performances in youth research**

Orla McGarry, School of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway  
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Visual imagery has come to play an increasingly prominent role in the lives of younger people. With the increased accessibility of the internet and availability of photographic and video recording technologies, contemporary adolescents spend large proportions of their lives both viewing and creating visual images. While the effect of such developments on adolescent identity has received some discussion (Young, 2008), its utility as a methodological tool in youth research has received little academic attention. This paper provides a practical discussion of the efficacy of visual methodologies in conducting grounded theory research with members of an immigrant community in the west of Ireland. A sample of 32 adolescents participated in focus groups, visual narratives, interviews and an interactive blogging project. Visual narratives were created by participants through photographic and video footage or by displaying objects of personal importance. Interview discussions

centred on these narratives, enabling participants to direct the research process. A specifically created blog site further provided participants with an interactive forum on which to showcase and develop their visual narratives. While many ethical issues had to be taken into account in the design and monitoring of this research tool, it afforded significant insight into aspects of participants' lives which might otherwise be inaccessible to an adult researcher. The field of youth research has traditionally been hindered by a lack of appropriate research methods (Hill, 2005). This paper addresses the need for innovative methodologies which allow younger participants to engage with, and to take ownership of, the research process.

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## **Stream 4: Media and Cultural industries**

**Facilitator: Dr Kate Kenny**

### **Do Not Adjust Your Sets: The Problems with RTÉ Television News**

Mark Cullinane, UCC [mcullin@gmail.com](mailto:mcullin@gmail.com)

What is 'the news'? Why does it look and sound the way that it does? And why does this even matter? This presentation offers an invitation to think critically about television news, conceiving it as a product of culture and the inevitable result of a process of social reality construction.

It will briefly outline the outcomes of a research project that sought to examine the extent to which RTÉ Television News can be considered implicitly or explicitly supportive of the prevailing dominant ideologies in contemporary Irish society. It will then offer a more general analysis of what I see as some of the fundamental structural pathologies of television news, and how these intertwine with the professional values and routines of journalists. Some provisional and tentative remedies to these pathologies are suggested, with the aim of reducing systematic distortions in mass communication, contributing modestly to a broadly Habermasian project aimed at revitalising the public sphere as a modern-day *agora* of deliberation on competing ideas. Given RTÉ's large audiences and high levels of public trust, it is asserted here that the implications of news pathologies have far-reaching implications for areas as diverse as journalistic practice, the media's regulatory environment and the health of our democracy itself.

### **'Discovery' in the Irish Music Industry.**

Michael Mary Murphy, Dun Laoghaire IADT, TCD [Michael.Murphy@iadt.ie](mailto:Michael.Murphy@iadt.ie)

Frith (2001, 26) stated that the output of the music industry is 'shaped by the problems of making music a commodity and the challenges of adapting money-making practices to changing technologies.' The transnational process of the music industry may operate in different methods in national territories. This paper interrogates the discourse around 'discovery' in the Irish recorded music industry. Key questions are: How did amateur and professional members of the Irish music industry and scene interact? Did the power relations in the Irish music industry reflect the operation of power groups in Irish society as a whole? Can sociology illuminate the changes in the functioning of those power relations over time? I am using discourse analysis to examine the narrative of artists being 'discovered' by

industry professionals. These professionals function as 'gatekeepers' in the cultural industry.

Simon Frith, Will Straw and John Street (editors) *The Cambridge Companion to Rock and Pop*, Cambridge University Press, 2001

### **Just not that into it? The impact of technology on Female involvement in the Dublin music scene**

Caroline O'Sullivan, Dundalk Institute of Technology, [caroline.osullivan@dkit.ie](mailto:caroline.osullivan@dkit.ie)

Tepper and Hargittai suggested that "the digital revolution and the arrival of new technologies should democratise the discovery of new music and the capacity for individuals to become opinion leaders in culture" (2009:230) however women continue to be underrepresented in key roles across all sections of the Dublin music scene, This paper will seek to question why women continue to be on the margins of the scene where they are active consumers. I will investigate contemporary practices around the production and consumption of music in relation to the performance of music, along with the phenomena of clubbing and gig going and online social networking, and will contrast this with historical practices prior to the Internet era to examine and understand the traditional barriers to female involvement and to see while they on the surface appear to have been eroded a new set of barriers seem to be appearing in their place.

### **The Enactment of Gender by Solo Creative Workers**

Lisa Wixted, University of Limerick, [Lisa.Wixted@ul.ie](mailto:Lisa.Wixted@ul.ie)

My research project aims to explore the ways in which solo creative workers enact gender through their everyday social practices. For the purposes of this research, the use of the label 'solo creative workers' describes self-employed individuals involved in the production of creative outputs i.e. what Chris Bilton and Ruth Leary refer to as "symbolic goods" (ideas, experiences, images) where value is primarily dependent upon the play of symbolic meanings" (2002, p.50), for example digital media content. The rationale for this research and the reason that I am interested in these new workers is because I suspect that they might demonstrate interesting ways of enacting gender due to (or in spite of) their atypical style of working, that is, their work does not appear to be carried out within the traditional temporal, spatial or contractual boundaries of paid work. Furthermore, I speculate that this group of workers may be illustrative of the implications of wider trends related to new forms of work in society today such as the increasing individualisation of work and the influence of information and communication technologies. I intend to use a perspective which emphasises the role of women (and men) as social actors involved in constructing and performing gender through their everyday practices (while subject to multiple constraints). I intend to try to meet the research objective though qualitative research with members of the solo creative worker community in Limerick.

Reference: Bilton, C. and Leary, R. (2002) 'What can managers do for creativity? Brokering creativity in the creative industries', *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 8(1), 49-64.

## Stream 5 Health and Caring

Facilitator: Dr Su Ming Khoo

### Access and utilisation of health services among Nigerian migrants in Ireland

Saheed Akinmayowa LAWAL, Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin  
[lawals@tcd.ie](mailto:lawals@tcd.ie)

All visitors to Ireland who hold a European Health Insurance Card are entitled to free maintenance and treatment in public beds in Health Service Executive and voluntary hospitals. Outpatient services are also provided for free. But for neither migrants nor visitors outside the EU health care delivery takes a different dimension. The study aims to examine access to health care services and effective utilization of health services in Ireland among Nigerian migrants in Dublin. An extensive qualitative study which will comprise of 30 case studies based on migrants experiences and will include 20 expert interviews and 50 in-depth, semi-structured interviews to explore this issue. Informants will describe how challenging it is to access health services especially before they got officially registered to reside in the country. Whether those who still live in Ireland illegally and have no form of access to health services, result to self medication and fraudulent techniques of getting health services. Also anticipated results from the study may reveal increased spread of infections and diseases among migrants also to the wider public in Ireland and need to incorporate non EU-migrants into the health system. Framed by these challenges, the research hopes to propose a conceptual model of access and utilisation of health care services among migrants as influenced by four factors—availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability. The study hopes to provide information on the nature of health care delivery in Ireland among migrants, increase their access to services and utilization, and improve health care delivery in Ireland.

### I am But a Man

Mark Timoney, Dept of Humanities I.T Sligo [timoney.mark@itsligo.ie](mailto:timoney.mark@itsligo.ie)

My research to date has essentially been concerned with Harm amongst Social Care Practitioners in Ireland. However my concern has been with regards two specific areas

- 1: Does the system which Social Care Practitioners find themselves employed in cause harm to them by lack of support policies, supervision etc
- 2: Does Social Care as a profession attract a certain type of person to its ranks. What is meant by this is do we have a high number of Social Care Professionals who have at some point in their lives needed additional support, been in care or suffered an existential crisis of some point and now turn to the profession in order to say thanks or indeed aid their own healing.

My paper will discuss 3 areas

- 1: Self
- 2: Harm
- 3: Care

It will offer some historical and philosophical insight to each of these three areas seeing where they although very distinct and individual areas or discussion do in fact overlap. Also I will outline how we as people tend to store trauma on a cellular level and unless we manage it correctly are indeed almost cursed to be attracted to the same situations unconsciously. The object of the paper in to question the title I am

But A Man on a number of levels using Existentialism, Symbolic Interactionism, Psychoanalysis and Phenomenological Theory.

### **Can Potentiality and Hope Accelerate and Legitimise Scientific Research? The Case of Embryonic Stem Cell Research in Ireland.**

Gemma Moore, School of Sociology, University College Dublin ,  
[gemma.moore@ucd.ie](mailto:gemma.moore@ucd.ie)

The ethical issues surrounding human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research present significant challenges for policy makers. While the potential benefits which stem cell technology offers to the wider community are many, so too are the ethical dilemmas that arise. There is currently no legislation or national policy in Ireland governing hESC research. However there have been several recent development in the area. In December 2009 the Supreme Court ruled that the protection of the unborn does not extend to embryos outside the womb, implying that, under the Constitution, frozen surplus IVF embryos could potentially be used for hESC research in Ireland. In November 2009 the Medical Council, which regulates doctors, but not scientists, revised their guidelines allowing for the destruction of surplus IVF embryos by Irish doctors. The paper will address the current legal vacuum in Ireland and explore policies from other countries including the U.K., Germany and the U.S. Sociological theory regarding the role of science in society will be explored with particular reference to Habermas (1971, 2003) and Beck (1992, 2005).

**Stream 6:** Society, Nature, Environment

**Facilitator:** Dr Henrike Rau

#### **The Architecture of Egoism**

Paul O'Connor, GREP UCC [cuiagemumhan@hotmail.com](mailto:cuiagemumhan@hotmail.com)

A central feature of late modern society is an extreme individualism which rejects both the physical limits imposed by nature and the constraints of community and society. This subjectivity is encoded in, and reinforced by, the physical fabric of our cities and suburbs. Disaggregated settlements where spaces for work, leisure, home and commerce no longer relate to each other or form an organic unity; hermetically-sealed buildings whose temperature and light are artificially controlled; residential areas characterised by far-flung commuter suburbs, gated communities and isolated apartment blocks; commercial outlets that place a premium on convenience and minimal engagement between customer and vendor; a transport network that creates an alternate landscape which substitutes for the original contours of the land – these are just some of the ways in which the physical fabric within which we live our lives enacts a denial of history, community, and ecology. This built environment both reflects and reinforces the mythology of limitlessness which is central to modern culture and to the contemporary subject. Ironically, however, it is only made possible by massive transfusions of cheap energy. The architecture of egoism therefore both encapsulates the ecological predicament of late modernity in the face of rapidly encroaching ecological limits, and makes it more difficult for us to face up to it.

## **Mobility Practices in Ireland: What are the merits and drawbacks of a practice approach to the social-scientific study of mobility practices?**

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Ireland continues to be over-dependent on private car use which causes many social, economic and environmental problems that require urgent action. But how could private car use be reduced? And are there more sustainable mobility alternatives? To answer these questions, it is important to first explore existing social-scientific approaches to mobility, some of which also underpin current transport policy in Ireland. Up to date mobility behaviour research has been dominated by socio-psychological approaches frequently based on rational choice theory and focusing exclusively on individuals. This paper presents arguments that human mobility behaviour cannot be adequately explained by current socio-psychological and economic approaches that adopt a rather narrow view of human behaviour as individualistic and de-contextualised. Instead, more sophisticated theoretical concepts are required that take into account the social and material context of human behaviour. In recent years, practice theory has been introduced to consumption studies as an alternative to overly simplistic but commonly used models (cf. Shove and Pantzar 2005, Warde 2004). This paper sets out to explore the merits and drawbacks of applying practice theory to exploring mobility practices in Ireland.

## **Child: 'What happens if a worm goes up the badger's nose?'**

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This is a poignant question which demonstrates curiosity, intrigue, imagination and concern towards the eating habits of a badger. But for children in Ireland are these questions and encounters with different habitats, flora and fauna a rare occurrence? The increasing (sub)urbanisation of Irish society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century dramatically altered people's relationship with their biophysical environment which in turn coincided with changes in the status of environmental education. The goal of this study is to theoretically explore and empirically investigate the relationship between environmental education (EE) in Ireland and people's views and habits regarding the environment. In the past members of Irish farming communities often passed on knowledge about the land in informal ways. The names of mountains, lakes, bogs and fields had symbolic meaning and local significance, and most children learned about soils through touch, flowers by smell and animals through observation. These informal methods of learning have been marginalised by more formal approaches, with many EE programmes taking place in class rooms in urban-based primary schools. This paper will explore how a child's contact with nature both reflects and shapes their environmental attitudes and behaviours. A preliminary analysis of qualitative interview data with a number of interviews with naturalists, teachers and families will show the importance of a child's hands-on contact with nature and how that can evolve into pro environmental attitudes and behaviours as an adult.

## **Teleworking: what are the practices involved in location independent working?**

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Teleworking has, heretofore, often been suggested as a method of generating significant savings in our CO2 emissions, in addition to reducing commuting time and congestion, by way of travel suppression. The widespread adoption of the cellular phone over the past few decades coupled with huge advancements in broadband capabilities, and the growth in the service and knowledge-based economies, has created increasingly location independent employment opportunities. However, the assumed social and environmental benefits of teleworking have been promoted without a clear understanding of potential drawbacks for society and the environment. Approaches to teleworking previously adopted in Ireland have tended to consider teleworking's substitution effects only, ignoring some of the significant lifestyle and social changes that would be required to turn teleworking into an effective virtual mobility tool. This paper will bring practices into the centre of the discussion and research on teleworking, as well as examining the sociology of Information and Communication Technology adoption. By using a practice theory approach to determine the components that make up the routine practices surrounding teleworking, it is hoped to change, or introduce, some dynamic(s) in these practices with a view to making teleworking more tangible and viable, in the context of travel suppression and with assisting the sustainable consumption of distance.

**End of Programme**