

Research Conference , May 27-28 2011

Reykjavik Iceland

The day of departure came we flew out early Wednesday morning from Dublin - Gatwick- Gatwick- Reykjavik. On arrival I felt excited, and nervous, hoping that the conference would go well for us all, Iceland looked amazing, the weather was sunny, but was very cold, I was glad I had taken my heavy jacket with me. We took a bus from the airport to where we were staying, I sat by the window, looking out, I noticed how the landscape was completely different to the Irish landscape (not as green) as we got closer to where we were staying I noticed the houses were made of metal and wood and were brightly coloured.

On Thursday we went to the university of Iceland and listened to a presentation on the Icelandic version of the course, we then went to register early for the conference in the Grand Hotel, we put our names down.

We arrived early ***Friday*** morning at the conference center, we set up the stand, we placed the posters of Zoe Hughes (Life stories) and Siobhan Doherty, (Relationships, sexuality, care staff) we then went into a big hall for a preliminary session, there were a large number of people from all over the world, I felt privileged to be there with them all in the afternoon Niamh and myself got ready to make our presentation , both of us were nervous before hand. I had prepared well before hand, so when we got up to speak, I remembered everything, after our presentation, we got very good feed back from everybody in the room.

We were both delighted and happy that it went well. The people who organized the conference arranged a wine reception in the new concert hall, the building which looked beautiful, over looked the bay.

Saturday was the last day of the conference Edurne did her presentation, as I looked around the room, I could see people were listening very carefully to what she had to say, after her presentation she got a huge round of applause, when the conference was over we were all relieved it went well.

On Sunday we had time to look around Reykjavik. We took the fly bus, to the Bluelagoon was a breath taking place to be. We all got into the Lagoon and had a relaxing time it was magical.

I feel very privileged to have been chosen, to go to Iceland as I came to the end of my time as a student, on the contemporary living course NIID.

I am very grateful to everyone who has supported me, in my journey

I WILL MISS YOU ALL

TOMAS MURPHY