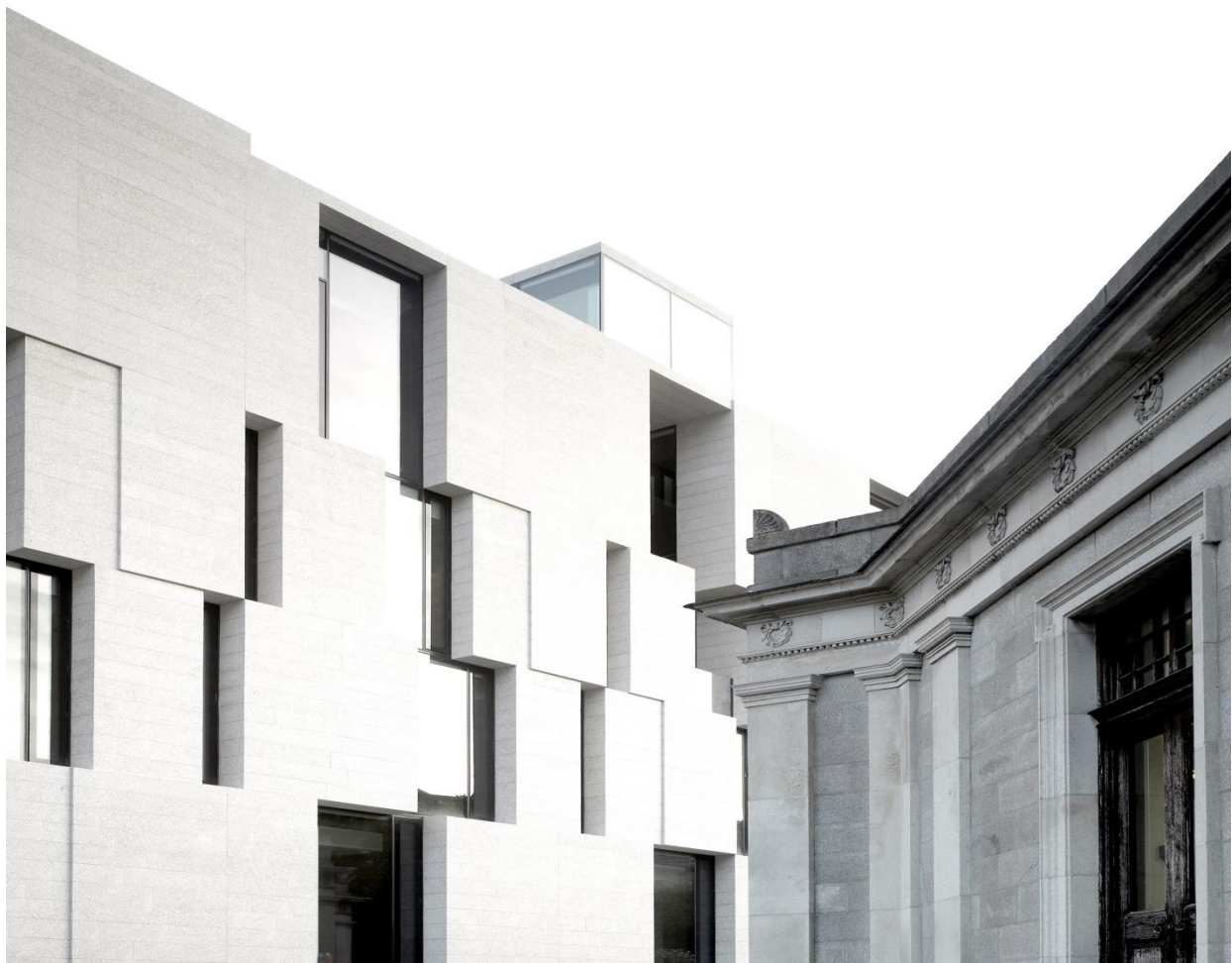




School
of Social Work
and Social Policy

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Accredited by the IASW



**Evening Course 6th October
– 24th November 2015
Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8.00pm
Arts Building, Room 3074,
Trinity College Dublin**

October 6th: Robbie Gilligan, Professor of Social Work and Social Policy & School Director of Research

Social work with migrant and refugees children and families: issues and challenges

Migration is deeply ingrained in the human story. In our time, it looms large presenting many logistical, ethical and policy challenges. Social workers have a strong moral mandate to promote the human rights of their clients, something even more relevant in the case of migrants and refugees. The session will explore some of the realities faced by immigrants and refugees. It will highlight the capacities they typically bring and the challenges they face. It will also focus on some of the potential elements in the social work response.

October 13th: Helen Buckley PhD FTCD, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin

Detecting and preventing child harm: It's not just about being in the right place at the right time but knowing what to do when you find yourself there.

While there is almost unequivocal support for the concept of community based parenting support as a preventive child welfare strategy, there have also been critiques of it as a 'warm and fuzzy' concept, often lacking empirical evaluation and sometimes missing the point. This paper will examine the assumptions underpinning the concept of early intervention. It will go on to discuss some of the challenges involved in identifying precisely what interventions are required for vulnerable families and recognising when they are not hitting the mark. It will examine the basis for some of the tensions that define the child welfare system and demonstrate their impact on services working with vulnerable families. Finally it will argue that a generic notion of early intervention needs to be replaced by a more nuanced approach that acknowledges both its possibilities and its limits.

October 20th: Peter Mc Cartan , Senior Medical Social Worker Department of Liaison Psychiatry , Beaumont Hospital Registered Systemic Therapy (Family Therapy) Supervisor/Practitioner and faculty member in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Family Therapy Training Programme.

How Poetry, Prose, Music and Art Open a Healing and Therapeutic Space to Social Work in an Acute Hospital Setting.

This lecture will invite Social Workers to explore and reflect on the possibilities that using poetry, prose, music and art, can bring to their social work practice and their reflections on their work. Participants are invited to bring and share "pieces" of poetry, prose, music and art work they have used in their social work practice.

October 27th: Maeve Foreman, Assistant Professor in Social Work, Director BSS , School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin and Muireann Ni Raghallaigh, Lecturer in Social Work , School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin

Social Work, Asylum Seekers and Refugees – Current Issues for Social Work

This session will draw on two recent studies conducted by Maeve Foreman with Dr. Muireann Ni Raghallaigh in UCD. The first study looked at social workers' experience of referrals of children and their families living within the Direct Provision system, and was the subject of a submission to the Irish Government's Working Group on the Protection Process in March 2015. Social workers drew on their experiences to raise several concerns, provide examples of good practice and suggest key changes to improve social workers' ability to provide a good service and improve the quality of life for those living within the Direct Provision system.

The second study, 'Transitioning from Direct Provision to life in the community', is being conducted in partnership with the Irish Refugee Council with funding from the Irish Research Council under its New Foundations – Engaging Civil Society strand. Preliminary findings from this study were the subject of a submission to the Irish Government's Interdepartmental Taskforce on Transitional Supports for Persons Granted Status in Direct Provisions in September 2015, and highlight the many challenges facing those granted asylum in Ireland today. These will be presented, together with a discussion on the potential role for social work in addressing some of these challenges.

November 3rd: Kieran McGrath, Child Welfare Consultant

Evaluation of Child Sexual Abuse allegations in the context of Custody and Access disputes

Social workers employed by Tusla (the Child & Family Agency) who are involved in processing complaints of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) are faced with a multitude of challenges, particularly at a time of rapidly changing policies. Since the establishment of the Garda Special Investigation Units and significant policy shifts in the wake of the Ferns Inquiry, the evaluation of CSA has become much more orientated towards meeting the needs of Criminal Law enforcement and less towards, purely, child welfare concerns. The enhanced role for An Garda Síochána (AGS) can make the task of Tusla social workers much harder when such cases end in a decision by the DPP not to prosecute, the most common outcome, occurring as it usually does after considerable delay. Naturally, this leads to understandable frustration on the part of families. Nowhere is this more noticeable than in cases that arise in the context of Custody and Access (C&A) which are, invariably, among the most difficult and emotionally-charged cases in this, already, complex field. These themes will be explored and the presenter will offer some guidelines on how some of the obvious pitfalls in this area can be ameliorated, if not totally avoided.

**November 10th : Erna O Connor , Assistant Professor in Social Work, Director of the MSW Programme and Fieldwork Co-ordinator
School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin**

Responding to Bereavement and Trauma: A Relationship-Based Social Work Approach

This presentation draws on practitioner research exploring people's experiences of trauma and loss which lead to their engagement with the social work service of a hospital emergency department. The elements of a relationship-based social work response and its use as a resource in understanding and managing feelings, experiences and demands of living in the aftermath of trauma are discussed. A conceptual framework to underpin relationship-based social work practice in this context is proposed. The implications for social work practice, inter-disciplinary practice and for practitioner research are considered.

**November 17th : Julie Byrne, Assistant Professor for Online Education and Development , School of Social Work and Social Policy,
Trinity College Dublin**

From Management to Managerialism: The Impact on Social Workers

The function of management in organisations is to plan, organise, lead and control organisational resources to achieve success. In many human service organisations a narrow focus on control along with disagreement on the definition of success has distorted the role of management and created an approach called 'managerialism'. Managerialism requires employees to engage with techniques such as risk management, standardisation and performance management. For professionals its impact can be significant; limiting discretion, influencing practice and damaging job satisfaction.

In this session we will explore why management morphs into managerialism, the consequences for professional social workers and what can be done to survive or even thrive in such an environment.

**November 24th: Trish Walsh, Assistant Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin and
Sarah Donnelly, Lecturer in Social Work ,School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin**

How to use evaluation research to promote better end-of-life care in residential settings: an Irish case study

In 2013, the Irish Hospice Foundation commissioned us to carry out an independent evaluation of one of their training initiatives aimed at improving end-of-life care in community hospitals across Ireland. Following a mixed methods strategy (combining analysis of existing data, a postal survey questionnaire and qualitative fieldwork with multidisciplinary staff and managers), the findings were widely disseminated through international palliative care, gerontological and social work conferences. In this seminar, the findings will be presented and their implications in relation to the role of social workers discussed.

Application Form

This evening course will consist of eight sessions run on Tuesday evenings, from October – November 2015. It will be presented by experienced lecturers / practitioners who teach on the professional courses in the School of Social Work and Social Policy.

The course will provide an overview of some of the issues, debates and innovations in social work practice today. The sessions will aim to be interactive and to stimulate discussion.

The course is restricted to professionally qualified Social Workers and may be of particular interest to prospective and established practice teachers.

**Cost: €100.00
€50.00 (Reduced Rate for current TCD practice teachers.)**

Please fill in contact details below.

Please return with appropriate cheque/postal order (**made payable to T.C.D. No. 1 account**) to:

Fieldwork Unit - Evening Course, Room 3063, School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Payment must be made prior to start date.

Name

Agency

Postal Address.....

Area of practice

Email.....

Address

Tel Nos.....Email

If you have a general enquiry or would like information on becoming a practice teacher with the School of Social Work and Social Policy in Trinity College please contact :

Emma Mc Conkey Fieldwork.unit@tcd.ie 01 896 4579

Erna O'Connor CONNORER@tcd.ie 01 896 2627

Patrick O'Dea PAODEA@tcd.ie 01 896 2991

