



School
of Social Work
and Social Policy

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE



Continuing Professional Development Programme 2017/18
Evening Lecture Series

Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8.00pm
3rd October -- 28th November 2017
Trinity College Dublin, Arts Building, Room 3074

**October 3rd: Trevor Spratt, Professor in Childhood Research & Director of Research,
School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

“Adversities experienced in childhood and later life trajectories”

In recent years we have come to better understand how adversities experienced in childhood impact upon the individual in a complex interplay between biology, psychology and society. In this lecture we will examine how physical and mental health and social circumstances are shaped by such early influences, together with the particular ways in which they find expression across the life course of individuals. Knowledge of these processes raises questions for both policy makers and professionals as to how they might shape services to ensure early and effective response.

**October 10th: Julie Byrne, Assistant Professor for Online Education and Development, Director - Postgraduate
Diploma in Social Policy & Practice, School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

"Business management of human service organisations: Is the tide turning?"

The Irish public sector has been swept up in the New Public Management wave which has brought a business orientation to the management of human service organisations. The corresponding emphasis on measurement, performance management and risk aversion has severe consequences for human services and the professional staff who provide them. In this lecture we will locate the individual experiences of social workers within this large-scale change. We will consider whether the tide is turning on this approach to human services management and consider some alternatives.

**October 17th: Gloria Kirwan, Assistant Professor of Social Work,
School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

“Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors’ – working with changes and challenges in current practice”

The concept of professionalism is a key issue in social work today. This lecture explores role expectations, potential role conflicts and the emerging theory of ‘new professionalism’ against the backdrop of fast-paced changes in society and increased external monitoring of professional practice. What do these changes mean for social work? Will innovative practice survive the inroads of the risk society and the ever-increasing demands for practitioner accountability? Is there room for optimism - is it possible that dealing with new challenges will strengthen rather than weaken the profession as a whole? The lecture invites participants to appraise the changing landscape of practice and to identify how they can draw on their professional experience and knowledge to mediate the challenges and demands they encounter in their work.

**October 24th: Patricia O’Connell, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist,
Lecturer on Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection & Welfare**

“The impact of neglect on child attachment”

This session will explore how neglect can lead to profound long- term effects on brain and physical development, social and emotional wellbeing. The impact of neglect on a child’s attachment patterns will be highlighted. Can attachment theory provide a relationship – based and developmental framework for practitioners, to liberate their capacity for thinking, feeling and action? The application of attachment theory to child protection and welfare and its organizational context will be discussed.

**November 7th: Robbie Gilligan, Professor of Social Work and Social Policy,
School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

“Re-visiting resilience – reflections on applying resilience-related Ideas in social work practice”

Twenty years ago, Robbie Gilligan published his first work on the theme of resilience and work with children. Resilience has continued to feature in his published work over the years. This lecture will review some key recent developments in international resilience research relevant to social work. It will also draw on insights from two recent publications by Robbie. The first is a chapter entitled 'Resilience Theory and Social Work Practice' in the seventh edition of the celebrated North American text book edited by Francis Turner *Social Work Treatment* and published in 2017 by Oxford University Press. The second is 'Resilience, Transitions and Leaving Care' a chapter in a book edited by Varda Mann-Feder and Martin Goyette *Leaving Care and the Transition to Adulthood* due to be published by Oxford University Press in 2018.

**November 14th: Kieran McGrath, Independent Child Welfare Consultant &
Deirdre Donnelly, Social Work Team Leader, TúsIa.**

“Dealing with ‘historical’ child abuse cases – major challenges ahead”

Since 1997 and the case of *MQ v. Robert Gleeson & City of Dublin VEC & Others*, commonly referred to as the “Barr Judgement”, Irish child protection services have been presented with a major dilemma: how to investigate ‘historical’ allegations of child abuse and do so within the requirements of Natural Justice & Fair Procedure. In the intervening years the situation has become more and more complex, especially since the cases of *PDP v HSE (2012)* and *EE v CFA (2016)*. TúsIa’s policies and practices have also been the subject of investigations by both HIQA and Office of the Ombudsman. This session will focus on the challenges faced by TúsIa social workers within an ever more demanding legal system and the need to address, often very, serious concerns of potential abuse. The session will also include details of a study of 18 ‘grey area’ cases of allegations of sexual abuse made against professionals and foster carers where no clarity existed about the abuse but great concern remained, leading to the carrying out of independent reviews.

**November 21st: Erna O'Connor, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Director - Masters in Social Work and
Fieldwork Co-ordinator, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

Integrating relationship-based social work & reflective practice

Subsequent to the publication in 1983, of Donald Schön’s influential text *The reflective practitioner: how professionals think in action*, reflective practice has become an established paradigm in many human service disciplines including social work. It has been argued that the more recent renewal of interest in relationship-based practice has emerged as a counterpoint to ever increasing demands of managerialism in health and social services. This presentation explores the linkages between these two perspectives and examines how they can be applied in an integrated way in social work practice.

**November 28th: Stephanie Holt, Associate Professor, Director - Postgraduate Diploma/MSc. in Child Protection &
Welfare and MSc in Social Policy & Practice, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.**

Domestic violence & pregnancy: implication for child and maternal health & well-being & social work practice

This presentation draws on primary research conducted with a range of front-line practitioners and international experts on the implications of the experience of domestic violence during pregnancy for both child and maternal health, and social work practice during this developmental period. This presentation connects directly with the first presentation in this series on the impact of early adversity on later life trajectories.

Application Form

This lecture series, offered as part of our Continuing Professional Development Programme 2017/18, will provide an overview of some of the issues, debates and innovations in social work practice today.

The sessions will be delivered by experienced lecturers and practitioners who teach on the professional courses in the School of Social Work and Social Policy. The aim of these interactive sessions is to stimulate reflection and discussion through exposure to current thinking, practice and research.

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

Cost: €100.00 for eight sessions
€70.00 (Reduced Rate for current TCD practice teachers)
€25.00 per individual session

Please register & pay with PayPal for 'CPD Social Work Trinity College Dublin', to secure a place.

If you have a general enquiry please contact:

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