

# CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES IN

## **SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE**



Evening Lecture Series 4th October – 22th November 2016 Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8.00pm Arts Building, Room 3074, Trinity College Dublin

#### October 4<sup>th</sup>: Robbie Gilligan, Professor of Social Work and Social Policy & School Director of Research

#### Social work in challenging times

Many new challenges face social work. These include wider economic and social changes, shifts in politics impacting welfare states and human rights, large scale migration, influential new thinking on provision in areas such as mental health and disability, and a generally widening gap between expectations and realities. How should social work respond? Clearly there are no easy answers. The lecture will explore some of the issues linked to these emerging challenges and also look at some potential responses that that seek to honour the essential features and traditions of social work

#### October 11<sup>th</sup>: Kieran McGrath , Child Welfare Consultant and previously Principal Social Worker in St Clare's Child Sexual Abuse Unit, the Children's University Hospital Temple St., Dublin

#### "Child Abuse Prevention: Is it possible to significantly reduce the level of Child Abuse?"

Without exception, every professional and policy maker involved in child protection signs up to idea that "prevention is better than cure" needs to be a priority. However, when one goes looking for effective services that actually prioritise Primary Prevention one finds that they are either very thin on the ground or non-existent. This seminar will examine the question of whether the level of child abuse could actually be significantly reduced in a relatively short space of time or whether this is merely a noble aim that could never become a reality. The starting point for this will be the 70:30 Pioneer Communities Project which is about to start in the UK, driven by the Wave Trust, which aims to reduce the level of child abuse by 70% by the year 2030. This is a serious attempt to go beyond mere rhetoric to practical application. The first Pioneer Community will be in Derry. Projects in the Irish context that have the potential to emulate what the 70:30 Project wants to achieve will also be examined, as will the stated approaches of HSE/Tusla to child abuse prevention.

#### October 18<sup>th</sup>: Catherine Conlon Assistant Professor of Social Policy , School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

#### **Concealed Pregnancy: A case-study from an Irish setting**

In this session I will discuss my involvement in research into women concealing pregnancy in Ireland that arose out of interested and concerned observations of social work and crisis pregnancy counselling and support staff attached to the antenatal and maternity departments of an Irish rural-based general hospital. Staff noted a recurring incidence in social work caseloads of women attending for antenatal care later than recommended guidelines, often having made no or limited disclosure of the pregnancy to significant others. These cases were considered to come within the staff's understanding of 'concealed pregnancies'. They initiated research on this topic in partnership with the Crisis Pregnancy Agency/HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

The overall aim of this study was to generate an understanding of concealment of pregnancy by a woman until the pregnancy is well advanced, sometimes up to the point of delivery.

October 25<sup>th</sup>: Kieran Stenson , Social Worker ,HSE Safeguarding and Protection team CHO area 6 (south Dublin-Wicklow). Tony McCusker Principal Social Worker with the HSE Safeguarding and Protection team CHO area 6.

#### 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse: National Policy & Procedures'

This session will explore the HSE procedure arising from 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse: National Policy & Procedures' and discuss the responsibilities therein. It will consider the underlying principles within which all abuse responses should be framed. It will give a clear understanding of how and where to report concerns of abuse. November 1<sup>ST</sup> : Aileen Mulvihill, Senior Medical Social Worker in Palliative Care. member of the national project group for the development of these bereavement standards.

### National Standards for Bereavement Care Following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death - What do they mean for social work practice?

This session will discuss the recently published National Standards in the area of maternity related bereavement care and will consider their significance for social work practice.

November 8<sup>th</sup> : Dr Michael Feely Assistant Professor and Director of the Bachelor in Social Studies at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Edurne Garcia Iriarte Assistant Professor and Director of the MSc in Disability Studies at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin.

Person-centred planning: What is the evidence base and how it can inform Social Work practice

This lecture aims to provide Social Workers with a review of current evidence on the effectiveness and implementation of person-centred planning. The lecture will use findings from a literature review commissioned by the National Disability Authority and the Health Service Executive to inform a national framework on Person Centred Planning. The lecture will introduce person-centred planning and why it is important. It will discuss a range of topics including key elements of person-centred planning, the role of facilitators, training needs and support and will offer recommendations for social work practice.

November 15<sup>th :</sup> Peter Mc Cartan , Faculty Member in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Family Therapy Training Programme.

Systemic Family Therapy and your patients, clients or service users.

How a Systemic Family Therapy approach can be useful in working with people in the context of the relationships. The focus will primarily be on the relationship between the Social Worker and the client/family.

Participants will be invited to explore and share their experiences of engaging with their clients.

November 22<sup>th</sup>: Dr Stephanie Holt, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare and the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies (online).

#### **Using Evidence to Inform Practice**

This presentation will synthesise the evidence base on social work responses to domestic violence, highlighting the challenges encountered by the profession who engage with families experiencing domestic violence. The overall aim of the presentation is to explore how the evidence base can and does support best practice.

#### **Application Form**

This evening course will consist of eight sessions run on Tuesday evenings, from October – November 2016. 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 postal order or cheque (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 NosEmail     |

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 |
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