

**IRISH SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION**

**E-NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 34, February 2015**

Welcome to the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA) e-newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year and highlights upcoming conferences, events, publications and other developments in the broad social policy area. Contact details are included below.

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**1. ISPA NEWS**

This is the 34<sup>th</sup> e-Newsletter of the Irish Social Policy Association. There will be four e-newsletters throughout the year. The following are the scheduled dates which you will receive your copy via email:

- Mid-September
- Mid-November
- Mid-February
- Mid-May

**Irish Social Policy Association Seminar**

The ISPA committee are busy putting plans in place for the next Seminar. We hope to be able to circulate information on this event over the coming weeks. Further details on this event and previous Seminars will be available from our website [www.ispa.ie](http://www.ispa.ie)

**Queries regarding the newsletter, any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

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## 2. UPCOMING EVENTS

- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

### SOCIAL CARE IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Breaking Barriers and Building Relationships

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Venue:** Radisson Hotel, Sligo

**Other Details:** For full Conference programme and registration details please go to [www.socialcareireland.ie](http://www.socialcareireland.ie). For further queries please contact [cpd@iascw.ie](mailto:cpd@iascw.ie)

### 2015 SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Venue:** Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 3

**Other Details:** For further information contact [Social.Inclusion@welfare.ie](mailto:Social.Inclusion@welfare.ie) or 01 704 43614/704 3245

### WOMEN AND AGEING CONFERENCE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

**Theme:** Women and Ageing: New Cultural and Critical Perspectives

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

**Venue:** University of Limerick, Limerick

**Other Details:** For more information about this event and to register please contact [ageing.women@gmail.com](mailto:ageing.women@gmail.com)

- **UPCOMING SEMINARS/ LECTURES**

### UCD SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE PUBLIC LECTURE AS PART OF THE UCD – TCD PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

**Title:** 'Good times, bad times: The welfare myth of them and us'

**Date:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 4-6pm

**Venue:** Newman House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2

**Speaker:** Professor John Hills, London School of Economics & Political Science.

**Discussant:** Professor Brian Nolan, Oxford University

**Chair:** Anne Vaughan, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Social Protection

**RSVP:** You are invited for a glass of wine afterwards. For catering purposes, we would be most grateful if you would confirm your attendance by email to

[elizabeth.hassell@ucd.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hassell@ucd.ie)

### CARDI INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON AGEING

CARDI, in association with the Irish Network for Research in Dementia and Neurodegeneration, Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, Alzheimer's Society Northern Ireland and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Aging, will host a three day International Training Programme on Ageing on the 22, 23, 24 of September 2015 in Trinity College Dublin. It will focus on the theme of dementia. This training event is aimed at PhD, post doctoral students and early career researchers. Further details will follow. Please see [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie) for more information.

### TASC LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

**Theme:** Will there ever be a Universal health service?

**Speaker:** Sara Burke, Journalist

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 12.45 pm

**Venue:** TASC Office, Castleriver House, 14-15 Parliament St, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.tasc.ie](http://www.tasc.ie) for further details

#### ESRI SEMINAR SERIES

**Theme:** Investment liberalisation, Technology Take-Off and Export Market Entry: Does Foreign Ownership Structure Matter?

**Speaker:** Holger Gorg (Kiel Institute for the World Economy; University of Kiel; IZA and CEPR)

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 1.15pm

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) for further details

**Theme:** The Incidence of Targeted Housing Subsidies: Evidence from Reforms to UK Housing Benefit

**Speaker:** Robert Joyce is a Senior Research Economist in the Direct Tax and Welfare sector at the Institute for Fiscal Studies

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 4pm

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

**Other Details:** Please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) for further details

- Upcoming Courses

#### **Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc), University College Cork: Applications open for September 2015**

The Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc) run by the School of Applied Social Studies at UCC is a four year, advanced programme which provides the opportunity for experienced professionals based in public sector, community/voluntary, international non-government and private sector organisations to work on complex issues that are of direct relevance to their professional practice and organisational contexts. As an alternative to the traditional PhD, the DSocSc provides a more structured learning environment which combines taught modules and research. Participants complete taught modules in the first two years of the programme in the areas of social research methods, social theory, and social policy debates and processes, and complete a 60,000 word thesis in Years 3 and 4. Taught modules in Years 1 and 2 are structured around four, five-day workshops in UCC, making it ideal for those who may be living at a distance from UCC.

Applications are now open for our September 2015 intake, through the Postgraduate Admissions Centre ([www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie)). The closing date for applications is **13 April 2015**. More information about the programme can be found on the DSocSc website (<http://drosocialscienceucc.com/>), which includes video clips of current participants explaining why they like the pedagogic approach taken in the DSocSc.

We welcome informal discussions from potential applicants: please contact the Joint Course Directors, Dr. Claire Edwards ([claire.edwards@ucc.ie](mailto:claire.edwards@ucc.ie)) or Professor Alastair Christie ([a.christie@ucc.ie](mailto:a.christie@ucc.ie)).

If you have a submission or suggestion on any upcoming events, seminars, presentations, launches or conferences and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) **DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

### 3. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Doyle, Martha (2015) *'The politics of Old Age: Older People's Interest Organisations and Collective Action in Ireland'*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Dalton, C., Kingston, A., Martin, A. M., O'Riordan, J., Caples, M. and Edwards, C (2014) *Living with an acquired brain injury: Barriers and facilitators to developing community supports as a basis for independent living: the experiences and perceptions of people with acquired brain injury*. National Disability Authority, University College Cork. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)
- MacFlynn, P. (2014) *A New Industrial Policy for Northern Ireland*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- Healy, T. (2014) *The Better is yet to come: a social vision and an Economic Strategy for Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.nerinstitute.net](http://www.nerinstitute.net)
- TASC (2015) *Cherishing All Equally: Economic Inequality in Ireland*. A PDF copy of this publication is available to download from [www.tasc.ie](http://www.tasc.ie)

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ESRI:

- Duffy, David / McQuinn, Kieran / Byrne, David / Morley, Ciara *Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2014*
- Curtis, John / Pentecost, Anne *"Household Fuel Expenditure and Residential Building Energy Efficiency Ratings in Ireland"*  
ESRI Research Bulletin 2015/1/1
- Lyons, Seán *"When Broadband becomes Available in an Area, Who Takes it Up and How Quickly does it Spread?"*  
ESRI Research Bulletin 2015/1/2

For details on any of the above ESRI publications and a comprehensive list of all recent ESRI publications please see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

#### UPCOMING/RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE POLICY PRESS (UK)

- *Children behind bars: Why the abuse of child imprisonment must end* by Carolyne Willow. This engaging book presents the shocking truth about the lives and deaths of children in custody. Drawing on human rights legislation, it outlines the harsh realities of penal child custody. The issues are explored through the lens of protection, not punishment, and the author finds there can

be only one conclusion: child prisons must close.

- *Families and Poverty: Everyday life on a low income* by Mary Daly, Grace Kelly. The central interest of this innovative book is the role and significance of family in a context of poverty and low-income. Based on a micro-level study carried out in 2011 and 2012 with 51 families in Northern Ireland, it offers new empirical evidence and a theorisation of the relationship between family life and poverty.

Further details on the above publications are available from [www.policypress.co.uk](http://www.policypress.co.uk)  
**If you wish to have a recently published book/paper listed in this section of future newsletters please e-mail details formatted as above to [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) DISCLAIMER: The ISPA does not take responsibility for advertising events. If you would like an event to be advertised it must be received one week before publication**

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#### 4. CAREERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

##### SAGE: RESEARCH AND INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Sage - Support and Advocacy Service for Older People

**Our mission:** To promote and protect the rights, freedoms and dignity of older people by developing support and advocacy services wherever ageing poses a challenge for individuals. Sage is committed to addressing individual and systemic issues and to the development of quality standards for support and advocacy for older people through public consultation. The service was originally developed by the HSE in response to the Leas Cross scandal in May 2005. In June 2014 the HSE and The Atlantic Philanthropies committed to funding the redevelopment of the service, under the governance of Third Age, based on a model of core paid staff and well trained and supported volunteers. The focus of the service is being broadened to include further development in nursing homes and a phased development of support and advocacy services in home, primary care, hospital, hostel and hospice settings. The Service is now recruiting for the following position: Research & Information Coordinator . This is fulltime position involving some irregular hours of working. For an informal discussion call Mervyn Taylor on +353 86 8227998 or email [mervyn.taylor@sage.thirdageireland.ie](mailto:mervyn.taylor@sage.thirdageireland.ie) Applications will be accepted via application form form only and must be submitted **by 5pm on Friday 27th February 2015**.

##### 0-2 INFANT HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME: PROGRAMME MANAGER

The 0-2's Infant Health and Wellbeing Programme is a new three-year programme (2015-2017) being developed as part of a long-term cycle of investment by The Atlantic Philanthropies with the aim of creating evidence-based policy, services and practices in Ireland. The 0-2's Infant Health and Wellbeing Programme is focused on developing an integrated programme of work, primarily within the Health Service Executive's (HSE) Divisions; Health and Wellbeing and Primary Care, to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for infants and their families. The work programme will be delivered by the HSE with implementation support from the Centre for Effective Services (CES). The Programme will be managed by the Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF).

The Programme Manager will be responsible for overseeing the effective development and implementation of the 0-2's Infant Health and Wellbeing Programme. Responsibilities will include strategic planning, programme management, financial management and collaborative working with key stakeholders.

The successful candidate will have excellent project management skills, with significant understanding of public sector contexts and current child health services. The candidate will have experience of collaborative inter-agency working. This is a full time role based in Dublin. If you feel you have the personal and professional capabilities required of this important role, please submit a cover letter and CV to [info@khf.ie](mailto:info@khf.ie) by 5pm, Thursday, 19 March 2015.

## FOCUS IRELAND: RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYST

The Research and Policy Analyst will be responsible for:

- Developing proposals for changes in public policy that will impact positively on Focus Ireland's customers and contribute to preventing homelessness and ending long-term homelessness.
- Assessing the implications for our customers and the organisation of economic and social trends, legislation and policy changes
- Supporting Focus Ireland services to understand and respond appropriately to the implications public policy impacting on them.
- Identifying strategic priorities for national budget and public policy development.
- Representing the organisation in policy networks and other fora
- Enabling Focus Ireland to lead and shape the public debate regarding homelessness and other policies which impact on it, using a wide range of public & policy for and media tools.

Responsibilities Include:

- Research, analyse and advise on relevant public policy;
- Lead/and contribute to the ongoing development and implementation of Focus Ireland's policy programme;
- Liaise with and maintain effective working relationships with the rest of the Advocacy team, services and other employees of the organisation.
- Liaise with and maintain effective working relationships with key external stakeholders including; Ministers' Offices, Government Agencies, Voluntary Sector Organisations, Research and Policy contacts in the private and not-for-profit sectors and media outlets.
- Contribute to the processes of setting strategic direction and the identification of new work areas and priorities for policy analysis, evaluation and research, taking into account the organisation's established directions and policy objectives;
- Take responsibility for the development of high quality practical policy advice on a wide range of social policies;
- Take responsibility for specific policy tasks, including policy projects where appropriate as directed;
- Manage projects and resources, ensuring they are completed by their specified timeframes, to a high standard and within their budget allocations.
- Effectively represent the organisation at local, senior official and national levels, in public forums and to the media, as appropriate.
- Prepare written monthly reports on progress on work tasks, emerging issues and any difficulties that may arise

- Write high quality papers, reports, submissions and summaries for internal and external audiences;
- Develop dissemination and communication plans for policy publications as required;
- Monitor all relevant external research and policy developments.

Ability to

- Analyse complex information from a wide variety of sources
- Understand the practical implications of policy proposals as they impact on services and customers
- Write clearly and quickly, and communicate effectively with a wide range of audiences
- Conduct other duties as required; including maintaining/updating databases, managing mail outs;
- Manage volunteers, interns, staff & conduct other duties as required

Criteria:

Essential criteria:

- ♣ A degree in a social policy or politics (or a related field)
  - ♣ Extensive experience working in this or a related field
- A keen understanding of social policy and policy development; specifically in the area of social care, social welfare and housing.
- ♣ Capacity to plan, prioritise and to manage multiple demands, and to work comfortably in a collegial office environment
  - ♣ Openness and flexibility to take on different administrative and support tasks;
  - ♣ A capacity to communicate effectively;
  - ♣ Writing and presentation skills in a range of formats for a range of audiences.
  - ♣ Experience of working independently and deliver projects to a high standard and on time
  - ♣ Ability to respond quickly when required to external policy changes which impact on demanding and often rapidly evolving work programme.
  - ♣ Understanding of the voluntary sector; Interest in social issues.
  - ♣ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and non-verbal);
  - ♣ IT literacy; including website and social media.
  - ♣ Ability to attend some meetings, events outside of normal business hours if required. (Will involve some regional travel)

Desirable criteria

- Experience of working in homeless services (or similar front-line services)
- Knowledge of youth policy and the alternative care system
- Detailed knowledge of the social welfare system
- Experience in writing effective press releases and/or writing articles for regional/national/specialist media.

Contract: This is a fixed term appointment for 2 years. 3 days a week. To apply please forward a CV to [recruit@focusireland.ie](mailto:recruit@focusireland.ie) Closing date: 5th March 2015.

## GENERAL CAREERS INFORMATION

The following websites are a good source of information on career opportunities in the social policy and research/social policy related area:

[www.activelink.ie/ce](http://www.activelink.ie/ce)

[www.publicjobs.ie/ce](http://www.publicjobs.ie/ce)

[www.irishjobs.ie](http://www.irishjobs.ie)

Also, many of the main third level institutions offer a wide range of social policy and research opportunities. We hope that future editions of the ISPA e-Newsletter will contain further lists of current vacancies in the field of social policy.

**If you have a submission or suggestion on any current vacancies and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie)**  
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## 5. CONTACTING THE ISPA

The following are the contact details of the association. We strongly encourage communication by e-mail.

ISPA Secretary Eoin Carroll: [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie)

Newsletter: [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie)

Treasurer: [treasurer@ispa.ie](mailto:treasurer@ispa.ie)

**PLEASE NOTE** that all submissions, suggestions, events and job vacancies should be sent to the [newsletter@ispa.ie](mailto:newsletter@ispa.ie) address. The closing date for receipt of submissions for the next issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

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## 6. MEMBERSHIP OF ISPA

If you or your organisation would like to become a member of ISPA, please complete the [membership registration form](#) (return address on the document). Alternatively, contact the ISPA secretary at [secretary@ispa.ie](mailto:secretary@ispa.ie)

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## 7. ISPA HISTORY AND CURRENT COMMITTEE

The Irish Social Policy Association, which was established in 1997, aims to provide a forum for the analysis, discussion and development of social policy in Ireland, North and South. The inspiration to form a cross border Association dedicated to social policy in Ireland came from Dr Patricia Kennedy and Dr Nessa Winston from the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University College Dublin.

The Association endeavours to broaden the debate on social policy by providing a forum for discussion that embraces the views and opinion of a wide range of relevant actors. ISPA brings together professionals and non-professionals with an interest in social policy, academics, policy makers, officials in the civil service and public service bodies, employer and trade union organisations as well as organisations and groups in the not-for-profit sector. Through the Association, discussions and debates have been stimulated on a variety of contemporary social policy issues.

## CURRENT ISPA COMMITTEE

The The ISPA Committee for 2014-2015 is as follows: Micheál Collins (Chair), Lorna Roe (Vice Chair), Eoin Carroll (Secretary), Michelle Murphy (Treasurer), Ann Stokes (Newsletter), Marcella McGovern (Post Grad Officer), Eamon Murphy (Website), Vivienne Byers, Geoffrey Cook, Sarah Craig, Catherine-Anne Field, Eithne Fitzgerald, Tony McCashin, Frank Mills, Nat O'Connor, Pdraig Rehill and Justyna Szewczyk.

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## **8. JOINING/LEAVING THE ISPA MAILING LIST**

If you wish to have your details added to the ISPA mailing please e-mail the following address with the word "ADD" in the subject line: [mailinglist@ispa.ie](mailto:mailinglist@ispa.ie)

To have your details removed from the ISPA mailing please e-mail the following address with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line: [mailinglist@ispa.ie](mailto:mailinglist@ispa.ie)

The ISPA updates our mailing list approximately once every six weeks.

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**A pdf copy of this and previous newsletters is available on the ISPA website at [www.ispa.ie](http://www.ispa.ie)**

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