Rediscovering Empathy
Values, Relationships and Practice in a Changing World
#rediscoveringempathy

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre
8th Biennial International Conference

Registration is available online at www.conference.ie
Day One: Thursday, 8th June 2017

9.15 – 10.00  Registration / Tea & Coffee

10.00 – 10.30  Opening Address

Professor Lokesh Joshi, Vice-President for Research, National University of Ireland, Galway

10.30 – 11.30  Empathy, Emotional Intelligence and Relationship-based Practice

Professor David Howe, Emeritus Professor of Social Work, University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom

11.30 – 11.45  Tea & Coffee

11.45 – 12.45  Why Love, Care and Solidarity are Political Matters: Affective Equality and Social Justice

Professor Kathleen Lynch, Chair of Equality Studies, University College Dublin, Ireland

12.45 – 2.00  Lunch

2.00 – 3.00  Activating Social Empathy: Learning with and from Youth Researchers

Professor Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement and Director UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, Ms Ashling Dunphy & Ms Ciara Beth Ó Ghríofa, Youth Researchers, UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

3.00 – 4.30  Parallel Sessions

The Parallel Sessions will involve a mix of paper presentations and creative workshops selected from a pool of National and International submissions. The sessions will reflect policy, practice and theoretical concerns.

4.30 – 4.45  Tea & Coffee

4.45 – 5.45  Roots of Empathy, Changing the World Child by Child

Ms Mary Gordon, Founder & President, Roots of Empathy, Canada

5.45 – 6.30  Evening Reception with music by The Headford Youth Orchestra, Galway, Ireland
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day Two:  Friday, 9th June 2017

9.00 – 10.00  The Teenage Brain Under Construction
Dr Jean Clinton, Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University, Canada

10.00 – 11.00  Firing Gandhi Neurons
Dr Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, Director, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

11.00 – 11.15  Tea & Coffee

11.15 – 12.15  Parallel Sessions
The Parallel Sessions will involve a mix of paper presentations and creative workshops selected from a pool of National and International submissions. The sessions will reflect policy, practice and theoretical concerns.

12.15 – 1.15  SPECIAL GUEST: FR PETER MCVERRY SJ

1.15 – 1.30  Closing Remarks
Professor Mark Brennan, UNESCO Chair in Community, Leadership, and Youth Development, Pennsylvania State University, USA

1.30 – 2.30  Lunch

*Conference programme subject to change

CONFERENCE THEME

Across the globe, the perceived decline in empathy, care and social solidarity is a cause for concern. Empathy is the ability and/or inclination to understand and experience another’s state or condition and, where appropriate, to respond through supportive actions. Research has shown that empathy in individuals is essential to healthy social and emotional functioning and contributes to the enrichment of civic society. Conversely, where levels of empathy are compromised, studies have found an increased propensity to engage in anti-social behaviour, such as bullying, aggression and offending behaviour. For practitioners, empathy in direct relationship-based working is increasingly recognised as a cornerstone of good practice in work with children, young people and their families, while for society, there is an urgent need for empathy informed policy and action to address structural inequalities and disparities. The biennial UCFRC conference draws on national and international expertise to explore the concepts of empathy and relationship based working as they relate to policy and practice with children, youth and families.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr Jean Clinton** is a Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster, division of Child Psychiatry and is internationally renowned as an advocate for children’s issues. She is on staff at McMaster Children’s Hospital with cross appointments in Pediatrics and Family Medicine, and an Associate in the Department of Child Psychiatry, University of Toronto and Sick Children’s Hospital, a senior scientist at the INCH (Infant Child Health) Lab at McMaster University and a Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy. She has been a consultant to children and youth mental health programs, child welfare, and primary care for almost 30 years. Dr. Clinton was recently appointed as an education advisor to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education.

**Professor Pat Dolan** is Director of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre and holds the prestigious UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, the first to be awarded in the Republic of Ireland. Professor Dolan has worked with and for families as a practitioner, service manager, and academic for over 35 years. He has completed an extensive body of research on family issues including longitudinal research on adolescents, their perceived mental health, resilience and social support networks and has published in a wide range of academic publications. His major research interests are Civic Engagement in Children and Youth, Family Support, Youth Mentoring Models, Empathy Education and Prevention of Youth Radicialisation.

**Ms Ashling Dunphy** is currently in fourth year at Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. She has been heavily involved in Foróige, participating in The Citizenship and Leadership Programme, and has been elected to the Foróige Reference Panel. Following the devastation caused by Storm Frank in January 2016, Ashling mobilised a clean-up initiative to assist those who had lost homes, or whose homes had been damaged. Using social media to recruit other volunteers, she led a group of 11 young people who offered support and comfort to those affected, especially the elderly. They were nicknamed ‘Angels in Wellies’. Ashling was awarded the 2017 National Spirit of Community Award.

**Dr Anantha Kumar Duraiappah** received a PhD in Economics from the University of Texas in Austin, USA and played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) while at United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). He also served as founding director of the Inclusive Wealth Report released at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012. At the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) he is focusing on how “Firing Gandhi Neurons” can be integrated into the curricula of the formal, informal and non-formal education systems. He leads his team in New Delhi in its endeavor to position MGIEP as a pioneering research institute on education for peace and sustainable development.

**Ms Mary Gordon** is recognized internationally as an award-winning social entrepreneur, educator, author, child advocate and parenting expert who has created programs informed by the power of empathy. In 1996 she created the Roots of Empathy program and went on to establish the national and international organisation, Roots of Empathy which now offers programs in primary schools in ten countries. The Nelson Mandela Children’s Foundation brought Ms. Gordon to South Africa in the late ‘90’s to share her expertise. Ms. Gordon is often a keynote presenter at international conferences such as the Skoll World Forum and UBS Global Philanthropy Forum, among others. Ms. Gordon has had several dialogues with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He has expressed the view that programs like Roots of Empathy will build world peace. Mary Gordon’s book *Roots of Empathy, Changing the World Child by Child* is available in multiple languages.

**Professor David Howe** is Emeritus Professor of Social Work at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. After working as a social worker he began his academic career in 1976. His research and writing interests have included social work theory, child and family social work, and relationship-based practices. He is the author of 20 social work books including most recently *Empathy: what it is and why it matters* (2012) and *The Complete Social Worker* (2014) both published by Palgrave Macmillan.

**Professor Kathleen Lynch** is the Professor and Chair of Equality Studies at University College Dublin. An academic and an activist, she is guided by the belief that the purpose of scholarship and research is not just to understand the world, but to change it for the good of all humanity. She has published widely on education and on equality. She is co-author of *Equality: From Theory to Action*, 2004, and *Affective Equality: Love, Care and Injustice*, (available in Spanish [2009] and Korean [2016]). Her most recent book, co-authored with Bernie Grummell and Dymphna Devine, is *New Managerialism in Education: Commercialization, Carelessness and Gender* (2012, 2nd ed. 2015).

**Ms Ciara Beth Ní Ghríofa** is a 17 year old youth researcher at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre who is interested in autism spectrum disorders and empathy education. She works to improve the lives of people who are on the autism spectrum by creating tools for people with ASD to use and by creating content to help the rest of the world understand ASD. In 2017 she competed at the BT Young Scientist and Technologist Exhibition, where she won the RTE Student award for the Best Project in Social and Behavioural Sciences, The Abbot “Life to the Fullest” award and first place in the senior social and behavioural science category for her project surrounding autism and eye contact. She is committed to helping other young people understand and accept each other regardless of their differences.
PARALLEL SESSIONS

Abstracts will be presented from the practice, policy, research and academic communities in relation to the conference themes, which are as follows:

- Policies, programmes and practices that promote or develop empathy;
- Building a culture of empathy in organisations and/or in the realm of interdisciplinary, interagency or collaborative working;
- Empathy in relationship-based working;
- Theorising or understanding empathy and relationship-based practice;
- Exploring links between empathy, inequality and social justice;
- Research findings related to empathy and social values.


UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UNESCO CFRC)

The UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at the School of Political Science and Sociology is part of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) at the National University of Ireland. Founded with support from The Atlantic Philanthropies, Ireland and the Health Services Executive in 2007, the mission of the Centre is to help create the conditions for excellent policies, services and practices that improve the lives of children, youth and families through research, education and service development. The UCFRC undertakes an extensive programme of activities nationally and at a global level with core expertise in the areas of Family Support and Youth Development. Research undertaken is strongly connected to applied work for children and families and is relevant to a diverse range of stakeholders including service users, policymakers, politicians, service managers and front-line staff. For further information please visit our website www.nuigalway.ie/childandfamilyresearch

REGISTRATION

Conference registration fee of €135 applies
Registration is online by visa, laser or mastercard only.

www.conference.ie
If you have any queries, please contact:

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