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And it Seemed Like Only Yesterday...: The Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies Celebrates it's 5th Birthday

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Introduction

It has been my good fortune to become part of the IJASS team almost three years ago, so when the editor, Dr. Niall McElwee, asked me how I would feel about writing a paper looking back over the last five years of the Journal I jumped at the opportunity. Already I look forward to writing a review for the Journal's 25th anniversary! A little premature you might say, but I don't think so. I travel hopefully and try to start each day as I mean to end it.

Indeed, keeping with the theme of traveling, attending international child & youth care conferences and speaking with colleagues from around the world, I am often asked to explain what I believe is the single most important attribute of a journal like the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies as many people notice my eastern Canadian accent and wonder of my Irish connections? The fact that this journal has the largest print-run of any professional journal in Ireland within the area of sociology/psychology/anthropology/social work/applied social studies speaks to the interest in it as a point of dissemination. My answer is always the same; "There are no boundaries for the IJASS". Geographical, cultural, and professional boundaries simply do not exist for the Journal. It truly is, as it was intended to be, a multi-disciplinary body of work. Students, academics, practitioners and supervisors are all represented at the Journal's table. It was created to be used by all of these groups equally.

Five Years On

Five years have now passed since the IJASS was first published in 1998. The Journal does a very useful job in filling the void that exists when one is trying to find literature relating to social care/child and youth care in Ireland. The fact that it is a multi-disciplinary journal has been beneficial on many levels to many. Students, practitioners, and academics alike are the beneficiaries. To the students trying to source information, for the practitioners who may be looking for the latest methods being used internationally to use in their own day to day work, and an academic looking to share their work with a wider community.

Articles appearing in the Journal over the last five years have come from all sorts of people and all sorts of places including, but not limited to, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, England, Scotland and the United States of America to just to name a few.

Many of the author's names that appear in the Journal are easily recognizable for they are wildly respected for their contributions to their respective fields over a number of decades whilst others are 'emerging' voices. In either case, let this serve as thanks for their efforts and contributions to those respective fields.

The journal was created to attempt to fill a void/gap that existed in social care material that was Irish. Share (2003) states that the IJASS has succeeded in meeting that objective. Before the IJASS there was a critical lack of information that was Irish, therefore practitioners, academics, students... were heavily reliant upon American, Canadian, and English sources to name but a few.

Dr. Niall McElwee founded the IJASS in 1998, in Waterford, Ireland and it has since moved to Kilkenny and then to Galway. As with social care, the journal is on a voyage of discovery. It's conception was a result of the struggle that the editor has faced in the field of social care over the last 10 years - the critical shortage of an Irish body of literature on social care/child and youth care. He felt that students/practitioners couldn't find any Irish reference literature (because there wasn't any). It is worth noting that the first dedicated textbook on social care is just being completed and will be published by Gill and Macmillan in early 2005 (edited by Dr Perry Share and Dr McElwee).

This journal is intended for practitioners and students. The journal was to be theirs. The idea was that they would be able to share their experiences, wealth of information and stay current on innovative practice ideas. Today, the editorial board of the journal is international, and boasts such highly esteemed names on it as Dr. Henry Maier in America.

An Ongoing Struggle

"Our Journals have too few readers and too few writers" (Mann-Feder 2002 as quoted in McElwee, 2003).

This quote could not be any more accurate. The IJASS has gained a reputation as being an excellent source for references relating to social care both in Ireland and internationally. The one thing that keeps it from being truly 'great' is you, the reader. If the Journal is not read, then it is not talked about or referenced, and if this is the case then article submission numbers will be low.

The importance of sharing our unique knowledge and skills that we possess amongst ourselves, with ourselves cannot be overestimated. Just as this similar exchange process of knowledge amongst ourselves has seen the CYC-Net become one of our greatest assets as a field.

To date there have been sixty articles published in the Journal (excluding this issue) as well as a number of other special features. For ease in attempting to locate an article that you really liked or perhaps one that you missed, I have listed them below.

Volume 1 no.1 Summer 1998

1. Where Angels Fear to Tread
Mary Horgan & Frances Douglas
2. Child Sexual Abuse in Ireland: A Historical and Anthropological Note
Kevin Lalor
3. Loneliness and Social Dissatisfaction in Irish Children
Aine de Rosite
4. The Search for the Holy Grail in Ireland: Social Care in Perspective
Niall McElwee

Volume 2 no.1 Spring 1999

5. Early Childhood Education - The Disadvantaged Child - How Early is Early
Eileen O'Neill
6. Disadvantage or Disadvantaging - Conceptualising Class Differences in
Education as a Disease or as a Process
Roland Tormey
7. Mental Health, Adolescents and Children - A Comparative Analysis of the Practice
/Policy Interface
John SG Wells
8. The Forgotten Ones: Maternal Abusers and Their Victims - A Pilot Study
Shane Dunphy
9. A Socio-Economic Analysis of Student Population in Third Level Education
Pat McGarthy
10. From Family to Care - issues for the Child
Paul Bailey
11. Social Care & the European Dimension
Damien Courtney

Volume 2 no. 2 2000

12. Editorial: Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse in Ireland: Some Cautionary
Comments
Niall McElwee
13. Editorial: The Future of Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder in Ireland
John S.G. Wells
14. The Freedom of Information Act, 1997: Some Observations
Anita Crowdle
15. The Changing Structure of the Homeless Population in Cork City: Implications
for Theories of Homelessness and Service Provision
Michelle Norris & Noreen Kearns
16. Single Pregnant Women's Encounters in Public: Changing Norms or
Performing Roles?
Abbey Hyde
17. Youth Work in Ireland
Hillary Jenkinson
18. Early Childhood Care and Education in Ireland and the Challenge to
Educational Disadvantage
Jackie O'Toole
19. Networking: Promotion of 'Horizontal' Partnership in the Local Development
Programme
Catherine Forde
20. Mental Health Care Policies in Switzerland
Stefan Kunz
21. He Light Beneath the Bushel - a Discussion Paper on Early Years Education and Care in
the Republic of Ireland
Francis Douglas & Mary Horgan
22. Time, Space, and Presences: Bangladeshi Girls' Friendships in an English Primary School
Dr. James G. Deegan

Volume 2 no.3 2000-2001

- Editorial
Niall McElwee
23. All the World's a Stage; Playing our part in the Social Care or Child and Youth Care Production
Niall McElwee
 24. The Education and Training for Work of People with Mental Health Problems-Issues Arising from Recent Changes in Ireland
J.S.G. Wells
 25. New Beginnings
Thom Garfat
 26. A Long and Winding Road To Employment? Disabled Young People in Northern Ireland Making The Transition to Adulthood
John McLaughlin, Marina Monteith
 27. Integrated Family Centres; Directions for Future Developments
Stan Houston, Billy McCullough, Trevor Spratt, and Felicity Hasson
 28. Obstacles to the Professionalisation of Residential Child Care in Ireland
David Williams & Kevin Lalor
 29. Crime, Punishment and Penal Policy
Ian O'Donnell
 30. Childcare in Ireland: Themes and Issues
Deirdre Horgan
 31. Research for Change - Young People, Youth Crime & The Use of Custody on Teeside
Keith Munroe
 32. The Theatrical Representation of Incest in Marina Carr's on Raftery's Hill
Eamonn Carr
 33. Book Review - Suffer the Little Children by Mary Raftery and Eoin O'Sullivan

Volume 3 Number 1 2002 Special Edition A Celebration of Foster Care

- Dedication: 'A Eulogy for Ted'
34. A Celebration of Foster Care
Siobhan Cregan
 35. Developing Care; Towards A Collaborative Practice
Fergus Hogan
 36. Foster Care in Ireland; Historical and Current Contexts
Rosemary Horgan
 37. Relative Care; Issues for Social Care Workers
Valerie O'Brien
 38. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; Implications for the Irish Care System
Frank Keating
 39. An Evaluation of Foster Parent's Attitudes Towards Birth Parents
Deborah Browne
 40. Learning to Cry Out Loud
Marie Cregan
 41. Believing in Fostering
Jill Kennedy
 42. But That's not what I meant,' Meaning-making in Foster Care
Thom Garfat