

2019-02-18

## Editorial Foreword

Follow this and additional works at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ijass>

---

### Recommended Citation

(2019) "Editorial Foreword," *Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies*: Vol. 19: Iss. 1, Article 1.  
Available at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ijass/vol19/iss1/1>

## Editorial Foreword

Dr. Ashling Jackson, [ajackson@ait.ie](mailto:ajackson@ait.ie)

Dr. Colm O'Doherty, [Colm.ODoherty@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:Colm.ODoherty@staff.ittralee.ie)

© Copyright Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies ISSN 1393-7022

Vol. 19(1), 2019, 1-2.

Continuing in a similar vein to the last two editions of IJASS, this edition is also a general edition, carrying a range of papers, reflecting current and emerging issues in the applied social sciences. Again, we would like to proffer a sincere thanks to all our external paper reviewers for their involvement in this edition. Your input is very much appreciated.

In the opening paper, Eileen Finan and Bernadine Brady, in *“They Pulled Me Through the Darkest Times”: Exploring the Social Benefits of a Women’s Group in Rural Ireland*, examine the experiences of being part of a rural women’s group in Ireland. They identify that increased self-confidence, community and social integration, and a positive impact on children and families are discernible benefits. They recommend that social policy should focus on building close sustainable social support networks in communities for the good of members.

Clay Darcy in *“We Don’t Really Give a Fiddlers About Anything”: The Ambiguity, Contradiction and Fluidity of Irish Masculinities* sociologically examines Irish men’s conceptualisation of masculinity and their understanding of what it means to be a man in contemporary Irish society. His research findings suggest some Irish men are moving away from a rigid and stereotypical notion of masculinity to a more fluid and progressive construct. He argues that the ambiguity, contradiction and fluidity of Irish masculinities gives some men greater flexibility in how they express their gender identity.

In *Food, Connection and Care: Perspectives of Service Providers in Alternative Education and Training (AET) Settings*, Michelle Share and Marita Hennessy explore the everyday food practices of young people in AETs to understand educational responses to food and eating in AETs, and determine how these educational responses might be optimised. Using a social ecological methodological approach, they show that AETs experienced challenges as follows: food provision resources, expertise to address food issues and the tension between AETs’ holistic educational response to food and their obligation to provide certification and employment pathways. They highlight that there is an opportunity to harness the interest in food, education and empowerment in these settings to bridge the social and nutritional dimensions of food for/with young people.

How care-experienced young people in Ireland fare in accessing opportunities in higher education is considered by Eavan Brady, Robbie Gilligan and Siobhan Nic Fhlannchadha in *Care-experienced Young People Accessing Higher Education in Ireland*. Preliminary evidence from an initial analysis of a small dataset related to care-experienced applicants to the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) programme forms the basis for this paper. The authors contend that there is an urgent need to collect, and draw on, data related to the educational attainment and progress of both children in care, as well as those who have left care in Ireland. This can effectively inform policy and practice, and demonstrate a commitment to understanding and addressing this issue.

In the penultimate paper, *Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect by Salaried Primary Care Dentists*, Evelyn Crowley, Gerald Byrne and Brett Duane explore the reporting of child abuse and neglect by salaried primary care dentists, prior to the introduction of mandatory reporting in Ireland. They also identify barriers to reporting. Through their survey research, they show that lack of certainty, fear of being identified as the reporter, fear of violence or unknown consequences to the child, fear of violence to oneself, other staff and family, lack of knowledge of the referral procedures, lack of confidence in the child protection service and their ability are some of the concerns for salaried primary care dentists. Keeping with the theme of child protection and mandatory reporting, the final paper in this edition by Margaret Nohilly, *Child Protection Training for Teachers and Mandatory Reporting Responsibilities*, discusses interview findings from primary research completed with Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) for child protection in Irish primary schools. Current training models that are available to schools, as well as training requirements for both DLPs and teachers are considered.

This edition of IJASS also includes a review of *The Political Economy of the Irish Welfare State* by Fred Powell (published by Policy Press in 2017), as well as a review of *A Shared Experience - John Cross, His Life, Thoughts and Writing* by Charles Sharpe (published by Abbeyhill Press in 2018).

Again, in this edition, we have attempted to provide a selection of some of the insightful, topical and timely writing from the applied social sciences. We hope that you find it an informative and interesting collection.