



Children's
Research
Network

Re-Launch Event



“The Importance of an All-Island Perspective in Children and Young Peoples’ (CYP) Research”



29th of August 2022 (12.30-14.00)

Registration is required to attend the free
[zoom webinar](#)

Programme Agenda

Time	Speaker	Affiliated Institution	Topic
12:30	Associate Professor Suja Somanadhan	Children's Research Network (CRN) University College Dublin (UCD)	Re-Launch introduction & Chair
12:35	Associate Professor Orla Doyle	UCD	Welcome from the UCD CHiD-RC
12:45	Dr Carmel Corrigan	Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)	Children's Rights and Participation in the Republic of Ireland
12:55	Dr Michelle Templeton	Queen's University Belfast (QUB)	Children's Rights and Participation in Northern Ireland
13:05	Dr Siobhan O'Higgins	National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)	Participative Health Research in the Republic of Ireland
13:15	Prof Amy Jayne McKnight	Queen's University Belfast (QUB)	Influencing cross-border collaborations and partnerships
13:25	Ayrton Kelly	CRN	Importance of an All-Island Perspective for Young People
13:35	Moderated by Dr Suzanne Egan	Mary Immaculate College(MIC), University of Limerick (UL)	Panel Discussion
14:00	Dr Suzanne Egan	Children's Research Network (CRN)MIC, UL	Closing Address

Speaker Biographies

Associate Professor Suja Somanadhan



Currently the Co-Chair of the Children's Research Network (CRN). Dr. Somanadhan is an Associate Professor and Head of the subject in Children's Nursing at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems. Dr. Somanadhan is a recipient of a Fulbright Scholar health impact award taken up a research role at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2022. Currently, Dr. Somanadhan has a number of research grants and leading projects in children and families' health and well-being related to primary and complex rare genetic conditions.

Associate Professor Orla Doyle



Currently the Director of the CHILD-RC at UCD and a founding member of the CRN, Dr. Orla Doyle is an associate professor at the UCD School of Economics. With expertise in the economics of human development, health economics, early child development, and education, and methods for evaluating policy interventions, Associate Professor Doyle has experience employing an all-island perspective in her research.

Dr. Carmel Corrigan



Dr. **Carmel Corrigan** is Head of Participation and Rights Education at the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) in Ireland. She worked for a number of public and private research and policy organisations, before spending 18 years as a freelance research consultant specializing in children's rights, participation, policy, and complaints investigation. She has conducted consultations with children living in Direct Provision accommodation, children experiencing family homelessness, children who received Guardian ad Litem services, the impact of Brexit on children's rights, and the development of a children's charter for Tusla, The Child and Family Agency.

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Suzanne Egan



Currently the Co-Chair of the Children's Research Network (CRN). Dr Egan is a researcher and lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. Her research examines the processes involved in imagination, thinking and reasoning, and the factors that support development in young children. She is the director of the Cognition, Development and Learning Research Lab in MIC, which focuses on the impact of activities such as reading, screen-time and outdoor play on early development,. Suzanne is currently the co-chair of the Children's Research Network.

Prof Amy Jayne McKnight



Amy Jayne McKnight is a Professor of Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health within the Centre for Public Health at Queen's University Belfast. AJ's research is focused on molecular factors that influence human disease, multi-omic associations with kidney disease, diseases common in ageing populations, and rare diseases. She has participated, led, or helped lead the robust discovery of hundreds of loci for rare diseases and complex polygenic traits, including identifying novel risk factors and biological networks. Together with colleagues, she has helped develop powerful approaches to integrative data analysis, which led to the identification of novel biological pathways for disease. Most of the AJ's research involves productive all-island, cross-border collaborations with funding from 4 US-Ireland awards and the SFI-DFE Investigators Programme Partnership, among others. AJ is passionate about translating high-quality research from academia, industry, and NHS collaborations into patient benefit. Her team regularly conducts outreach activities that promote increased public understanding of science-medicine.

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Michelle Templeton



Dr Michelle Templeton is Research Project Coordinator in The Centre for Children’s Rights at Queen’s University Belfast. She has extensive experience applying the centre’s methodology for conducting rights-based participatory research with children and young people - The Lundy Model. Her work on children’s rights spans diverse social and geographical contexts, and she has a particular interest in facilitating the co-production of research material and health and education interventions, with children and young people, for children and young people. A further practical application of this methodology is the co-production of many child/youth-friendly versions of legal texts, research documents, reports, etc., to make rights information accessible to children and young people.

Ayrton Kelly



Ayrton has a vast amount of expertise from the experience of youth participation and engagement. He has participated and engaged with a number of youth organizations including Spunout.ie, BeLoNG To Youth Services, Youth Work Ireland, Jigsaw Donegal, and Donegal Youth Service. In 2017, Ayrton became a participant in the Youth Advisory Group and subsequently the Oversight Committee for the development of the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2018). The insight gained from this experience informed his contribution to a forthcoming chapter on participatory policymaking, entitled: ‘Visible, valued and included: Prioritising youth participation in policy-making for the Irish LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (Ceatha, Kelly and Killeen, 2022).

Dr. Siobhán O’Higgins



Dr. Siobhán O’Higgins has a background in youth and community work, criminology, and sexology. Siobhán has been promoting sexual health since 1990 working with parents, young people, teachers, educators, prisoners, and professional groups, first as a youth and community worker, then as a teacher, lecturer, sexologist, and clinical researcher, in the Department of Health Promotion and since 2010 the School of Psychology, NUI Galway. Siobhán has published extensively in journals and contributed to books related to sexuality education, participative research methods, and, more generally, on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Over the past 9 years, Siobhán has collaborated with Pádraig MacNeela and Charlotte McIvor to translate research data into Consent workshops, dramas, training, and other resources to raise awareness and sow seeds that positively influence behavior in relation to sexual consent.