



The Research Special Interest Group's (RSIG) remit is to promote research in the area of social care, so as to contribute to the further development of a vibrant social care research committee that supports and brings together students (both under-graduate and post-graduate), practitioners, educators, managers and service users.

The latter period of 2016 included the publication of a veritable smorgasbord of social care related research. In September, Social Care Ireland published a report on social care workers' experience of violence in the workplace. This research by Phil Keogh (DIT) and Catherine Byrne (CPD officer, IASCW) revealed some extremely concerning findings and presents a distressing snapshot of the challenges social care workers confront regularly, if not daily. This report attracted significant attention and it is sure to remain a reference point for many years to come. The report is available from <https://www.socialcareireland.ie/crisis-concern-complacency/>.

Also in September, the *Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies* released a special issue on 'Social care, social policy and social justice'. This special issue was edited by Karen Smith, Anne Marie Shier, Margaret Fingleton, and Kevin Murphy. It included articles on the experience of austerity on families (Liz Kerrins), agency working (Jim Cantwell and Martin Power), homelessness (Meabh Savage), older people (Carmel Gallagher), and students' and higher education (Ruth Harris and Brid Ní Chonail). Articles available via - <http://arrow.dit.ie/ijass/>.



Crisis, Concern & Complacency; Social Care Workers' experience of workplace violence.

The journal of *Administration* also published a social care themed special issue. Edited by Fiona McSweeney, Karen Smith and David Williams, this special issue included articles on registration and continued professional development (Catherine Byrne), marketisation in social care (Majella Mulkeen), accountability, pedagogy and leadership (Cathy Jones and Catherine Smey Carston), eating practices in residential care (Deirdre Byrne), home care services (Catherine Dempsey, Charles Normand and Virpi Timonen), the Meitheal model (Anne Cassidy, Carmel Devaney, Caroline McGregor and Fergal Landy) and, healthcare barriers for the Roma community (Gloria Kirwan and Deirdre Jacob). Articles available via - <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/admin.2016.64.issue-2/issue-files/admin.2016.64.issue-2.xml>



More recently (November, 2016), continued professional development (CPD) was to the fore, with two poster presentations given at the Health and Social Care Professionals conference – *‘Improving health – research driving innovations in healthcare’*. The posters detailed research around CPD with both students (Margaret Fingleton, Catherine Byrne and Martin Power) and practitioners (Catherine Byrne, Leon Ledwidge and Martin Power) see - <https://twitter.com/IascwIreland> The highlighting of such research was very timely in light of Dr John Byrne’s keynote presentation on preliminary survey findings in relation to building collaborations between Higher Education Institutes and the Health Service Executive. In his presentation, Dr Byrne noted the potential of CPD to foster and nurture research.

If you have research updates that you would like included in future bulletins, please email researchsig@socialcareireland.ie

To keep abreast of upcoming research in the field, we would like to hear from post-graduates and practitioners who are currently pursuing or who have recently completed social care related research. Please email us at researchsig@socialcareireland.ie with a brief outline of the research.

Regards,
The RSIG.

