New publication in the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships

**December 2017**: Dr. Carmel Gallagher and Anne Fitzpatrick have published a paper in the Journal of Intergenerational relationships, entitled “‘It’s a Win-Win Situation’ – Intergenerational Learning in Preschool and Elder Care Settings: An Irish Perspective' [more].

**Abstract**

This paper explores the level and sustainability of intergenerational practice in early years and elder care settings in Ireland. The paper is based on a small-scale research study involving interviews with staff in five organizations and builds on findings from previous research conducted for the TOY project (http://www.toyproject.net). The paper examines the pedagogies involved as well as the community context of intergenerational practice in early years and elder care settings. The findings highlight that sustainable intergenerational practice is facilitated by strong pedagogies that support active and relational learning across the life course and by being embedded in robust community networks.

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**Launch of the Foreign Languages Strategy**

**4th December 2017**: Dr. Susanna Nocchi
represented One Voice for Languages at the launch of the Foreign Languages Strategy by Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton, TD. The delivery of the Strategy is a key action in the Minister’s Action Plan on Education which aims to make Ireland’s education and training service the best in Europe within a decade.

As regards Higher Education, the Foreign Language Strategy will

- increase the number of students in higher education studying a foreign language, in any capacity, as part of their course, by 20%
- increase the number of participants in Erasmus+ by 50%

It was also rewarding to see that DigiLanguages was mentioned indirectly in the Implementation plan. DigiLanguages is a National Forum funded project for the enhancement of digital literacies for language teaching and learning. Odette Gabaudan and Susanna Nocchi have been actively involved in the design and set up of the project and are now researching its implementation in the curriculum in DIT.

Pictured: Representatives from the committee of One Voice for Languages (l to r): Dr Deirdre Kirwan, Dr Kristin Brogan, Ms Sandrine Pac-Kenny, Dr Susanna Nocchi.

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**Learning across Drama and Social Care**

**4th December 2017**: Charlotte Tiernan, lecturer on the BA in Drama, brought her Year 2 students to Grangegorman to share their TIE (Theatre in Education) practical assessments with the BA Social Care Year 2 Drama Education students, taught by Antoinette Duffy. The theme for the TIE was cyber bullying and four groups presented a short piece of theatre followed by a workshop. Bradogue was full of students well before the 9am start and the excitement was infectious. The Social Care students went out of their way to give a big welcome to the Performance students who were being assessed on the day. A big ‘well done’ to both groups who worked extremely well together, contributing from their knowledge and experience to further our understanding of cyber bullying. This was a really enjoyable learning experience and a fun way to end the semester and we all hope to repeat it again next year.
New publication in the Irish Journal of Academic Practice

**January 2018:** Dr. Fiona McSweeney has published a paper in the Irish Journal of Academic Practice, entitled 'The Changing Role of the University: A Discursive Analysis of Good Teaching and Positioning of Academics and Students in Improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning in Europe’s Higher Education Institutions' [full text].

**Abstract**

Using the approach of critical discourse analysis this paper presents an examination of the notion of good teaching as constructed in the strategy document *Improving the quality of teaching and learning in Europe’s higher education institutions*. The aim is to draw attention to, and question how the language used in educational policy documents constructs particular meanings and purposes to concepts such as teaching and learning, as well as creating a particular version of the social relations within educational institutions. This in turn positions teachers and students in particular ways, constructing and limiting who they are and what they do. While contradictory discourses are found about the quality of teaching improvements are presented as being necessary for economic improvement. Similarly contradictory discourses are evident in relation to what good teaching is. However the need for reform is argued. Academics are
positioned as passively following an institution-led research agenda, hence uninterested in teaching and in need of training, threats, incentives and monitoring to improve their teaching. Students are positioned as having one choice, to gain the knowledge and skills required for employment.

Welcome to Dr. Fiona Broughton Coveney

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Fiona Broughton Coveney to the School.

Biography: Fiona's degrees are BCL (Law and French), PGDipEd, MA, PhD. Her doctoral research, which was conducted at University College Cork under the supervision of Professor Ursula Kilkelly, was in the area of international children's rights and also involved family law, domestic child law and medical law. Much of Fiona’s work is published in journals such as the Medico-Legal Journal of Ireland and the International Journal of Children’s Rights and Fiona has presented her research at many conferences on topics such as the law concerning pre-natal exposure to HIV, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and legal representation for children. Fiona has worked with the Child Law Clinic in University College Cork which involved liaising with lawyers on issues being litigated in the courts; preparing a briefing paper on children’s rights and the Constitution, and co-writing the ‘Know Your Rights Guide to the Law for Young People’, commissioned by the Irish Council of Civil Liberties and the Children’s Rights Alliance. She was also involved in a project auditing compliance with children’s rights standards of investigations undertaken by the Ombudsman for Children’s Office. She was the Director of the biennial International and Comparative Law Conference at Griffith College Dublin and was a member of the Research Ethics Committee there for four years. Fiona has previously lectured in law at University College Cork and lectured at Griffith College from 2008 to 2017. Her teaching interests are varied and have included International Children's Rights Law; Law and Social Work; Advanced Legal Research and Writing, Family Law; Child Law; Land Law; Contract Law; Business Law; Jurisprudence and Introduction to Law and Legal Skills.

We wish Fiona, pictured below, every success in her new position.
Dr. Susanna Nocchi commences as President of the Irish Association of Applied Linguistics

**January 2018:** Dr. Susanna Nocchi has commenced her term as President of the Irish Association for Applied Linguistics (IRAAL). Her duties are to chair general meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee; to represent IRAAL at meetings and conferences of AILA (Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée) and AILA Europe; and to organise the Association's annual conference.

IRAAL is affiliated with AILA (International Association of Applied Linguistics), AAAL (American Association for Applied Linguistics) and BAAL (British Association for Applied Linguistics).

TOYPLUS Consortium meeting on intergenerational learning (IGL), in Lleida, Spain

**22-23 January 2018:** Dr. Carmel Gallagher and Anne Fitzpatrick attended the third meeting of the TOYPLUS consortium on intergenerational learning (IGL), in Lleida, Spain. The meeting was attended by partner from seven countries.

The next stage of the TOYPLUS project involves piloting a blended learning course
on IGL developed by the TOY consortium. Participants from five countries including Ireland will pilot the online course in April/May 2018. Practitioners are currently being selected for the pilot course drawing from early years, older people’s and community sectors. The course will culminate in a week-long international training event in DIT Grangegorman from 14th to 18th May 2018. Following evaluation of the pilot course it is proposed to offer the course as a MOOC.

The Lord Mayor of Lleida hosted a reception in the City Hall for the members of the TOY Consortium.