

CARE, HEALTH and HOUSING collaborative workshop

OCTOBER 18-19, 2022

DUBLIN 8, IRELAND

This two-day interdisciplinary and collaborative workshop will bring together people across academia, health and housing sectors to develop joint solutions to identify common ground and alleviate residents' pressure on inadequate housing conditions.

We intend to further develop an open access publication on emerging issues by exploring the experiences of social housing residents and community stakeholders in Dublin 8.

BACKGROUND

Housing quality can adversely influence multiple dimensions of health and exacerbate health inequalities which have been aggravated by Covid-19. Poor-quality housing is a key concern for many residents in social housing communities where it is estimated that the vast majority are living in overcrowded homes with damp, mould, cold and pests.

How can we develop better links between housing and health and ensure long-term strategic engagement between housing and health improvement sectors?

Research, community development organizations, housing alliances, and neighborhood initiatives play a crucial role in monitoring the recommendations of human rights mechanisms about social housing tenants' rights to adequate housing.

THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO:

- Raise awareness on the right to adequate housing that must be "habitable".
- Promote research collaboration between academia and local/national stakeholders to overcome the lack of information on housing quality at the community level to develop effective housing and health policies.
- Enhance residents' empowerment in vulnerable communities to address violations of rights to adequate housing.
- Identify solutions needed across the system to transform health, community care and housing.





www.cityofcare.com

Organization

The workshop is organized, funded and facilitated with the framework of the EU Marie-Curie CITY-OF-CARE research project at **Milan University** (G.A.890603) in partnership with:

Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute

Linda Connolly, Rob Kitchin,
Anne Hamilton Black, Orla Dunne

and the support of:

The Digital Hub

Caroline Viguier

Robert Emmet Community Development Project

Austin Campbell, Hilda Mungereza

National College of Art and Design

Brian Hand, Fiona Whelan

Registration

Attendance is free; please [register online through this link](#).

Questions

For any questions related to the workshop, please do not hesitate to contact us: mussi@mu.ie

Lidia KC. Manzo, project Principal Investigator: lidia.manzo@unimi.it

Dalila D'Ingeo, Medical Anthropology Teaching Assistant: daliladingeo@gmail.com

Shane Brock, Research Assistant and organizing team: shanebrock@live.ie

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

DAY 1 – October 18, 2022

Morning (9.30-12.30) – Session with students: introduction, theories and methods, visit to Oliver Bond House (@Boardroom)

Afternoon (14:30-18:30) – Collaborative Workshop (@Learning Studio)

14:00. Registration

14:30. Opening Welcome and Workshop Overview

Austin Campbell, Robert Emmet CDP: *Community Organizations and Housing Rights*.

Lidia KC Manzo, Milan University & Maynooth University: *Why Care, Health and Housing?*

14:50. Crisis, Experiences and the Legislation

Rory Hearne, Maynooth University: *The need of a Human Rights and a Health approach to Housing*.

Gayle Cullen Doyle, Oliver Bond Residents Group: *Nothing Fancy. Just Basic, Decent Accommodation. Just basic Rights*.

Mary Heavey, Community Law & Mediation: *Using Law as a Tool for Change, Experience and Limitations*.

- Collaborative dialogue facilitated by **Margaret Dorgan**

16:30. Coffee break

17:00. Healthy Homes, Air Quality and the Data

Leona Donaghy, Wholehearted Environments: *Homes and Our Health*.

Jeffrey Roe, Tog Hackerspace: *Grass Roots Community Air Quality Network*.

Kevin Credit, Maynooth University: *The Power of Open Data for Healthier Homes*.

- Collaborative dialogue facilitated by **Margaret Dorgan**.

18:30. Closing Remarks

DAY 2 – October 19, 2022

Morning (10-13) – Session with students: in group working activities. (@Learning Studio)

Afternoon (14:30-17:30) – Session with students: wrapping up and publication planning. (@Learning Studio)

Venues @ The Digital Hub

@Boardroom: 10-13 Thomas St, Do8 PX8H.

@Learning Studio: Digital Depot, Roe Lane (off Thomas Street), Do8 TCv4.



BOOK OF ABSTRACT

Opening Quotes from the workshop organising team

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing reveals that approximately 1.8 billion people worldwide live in homelessness and “grossly inadequate” housing¹. It states that they often inhabit overcrowded conditions, and lack access to water and sanitation, making them particularly vulnerable. Ultimately, it underscores that *housing has emerged as a key defence against COVID-19*. Over the two years of the pandemic, very few lessons have been learned. *Access to adequate housing is now, more than ever, a matter of life and death*.

Governments measures across the world on the right to adequate housing can, at best, be described as uneven and short term and, in many cases, simply cruel and reckless. It is the time to promote *systemic reform for new housing policies that put an ethics of care at the centre* and avoid going back to the “old normal”.

It is within this *post-pandemic uncertainty* that we seek to raise the discussion on *how to strengthen the significant role of social housing providers* at local, national, and global level, particularly as we are hopefully walking toward a recovery agenda.

(Lidia Katia C. Manzo)

The *history* surrounding both *public health* and *public housing* in the one hundred years since The Irish Republic has been formally recognised as a free state appears to be *cyclical*. During the infancy of this state, the Irish government and its institutions took it upon themselves to clear the diseased, overcrowded, cold, damp, and poverty-stricken tenement slums that had plagued our cities, our peoples’ health, and our reputation as a nation. In the decades of economic, social, and architectural experimentation that followed, they chose to replace them with safe, community-oriented, and publicly funded homes for all people, regardless of class, creed, or profession.

In the year of the nation’s centenary, Oliver Bond House and other public housing communities of its era have fallen into a *state of neglect*. Many residents face conditions akin to that of the tenements of old, and people of all ages are facing dire mental and physical health consequences as a result. *The state, and its institutions, are in breach of international codes of basic human rights*.

It is our hope that this interdisciplinary workshop will allow researchers, legal and technological experts, residents, community stakeholders, statutory agencies, and policymakers to collaborate in order to alleviate these issues, to *protect tenants’ health*, better *understand the basic human rights of neglected communities*, and to *break the vicious cycle of history for good*.

(Shane Brock)

The effects of *where* people live are pervasive. The concentration of marginality, crime, pollutants, litter and deteriorated buildings in a specific area impacts residents’ health and life opportunities and must be considered as *a form of injustice*.

Difficult life conditions, higher rates of negative health outcomes among adults and children in segregated neighborhoods and/or public housing reveal the effects of bad policies and discrimination against the health of some communities in favor of others. As suggested by medical anthropologist Paul Farmer, *we must understand that what happens to vulnerable people is never divorced from the actions of the powerful*.

However, across the globe, local resident’s movements have always *found in their communities the resources and the strength to rise, speak up and challenge the socioeconomic and health inequalities* affecting their families, children, and their neighbours. In order to support these actions, academics should promote and be part of partnerships with the groups engaged in those fights, transforming research as an important tool for policy change.

(Dalila D’Ingeo)

¹ Report A/75/148, 27 July 2020.

Speakers and Abstracts

Austin Campbell

Executive Director of the Robert Emmet Community Development Project.

Austin has been the Executive Director of the Robert Emmet Community Development Project (CDP) since 2019. There he holds responsibility for the management of community initiatives and programmes focused on supporting the Dublin 8 community to reach its full potential. Prior to joining Robert Emmet CDP, he held a role as a resettlement officer in homeless services. During this time, he co-founded and served as a director of My Streets Ireland, an organisation that works towards creating educational and employment opportunities for the homeless community through walking tour guides throughout Dublin. Austin holds a BA in Anthropology and History from Maynooth University and a Higher Diploma in Public Relations and Strategic Communication from DCU. He has won several awards for his atypical delivery of social enterprise programmes and dedication to charitable work. In 2019, his involvement with My Streets Ireland was recognised with the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Award in the Innovation for Change category. With an abundance of knowledge of innovation for the not-for-profit sector, Austin frequently speaks widely on improvement in the charitable and social economy sectors and has spoken in a TEDx talk focused on 'Accessible Education for Sustainable Communities'.



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Community Organizations and Housing Rights

Austin will welcome attendees to the collaborative workshop. He will introduce the innovative approach of Robert Emmet Community Development Project (RECCDP) and their ability to collaborate effectively with other organisations. In the summer of 2021, RECCDP moved a media campaign for better housing conditions calling on Dublin City Council to fast-track physical and social regeneration plans for Oliver Bond House. Community-based organisations play a crucial role in monitoring the recommendations of human rights mechanisms regarding social housing tenants' rights to adequate housing.

Lidia Katia C. Manzo

Assistant Professor of Sociology at Milan University, Department of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Mediations. EU CITY-OF-CARE Marie-Curie Fellow 2020-22. MU_SSI, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute: Member.

Lidia Katia C. Manzo is Assistant Professor and Marie Skłodowska Curie EU Individual Fellowship at the University of Milan to investigate how care circulates in a gendered, embodied way through social housing in European cities across different socio-political context and welfare regimes. She came to academia after years of experience in the field of Local and Community Development, where her role was to review and develop policy interventions and actions in Milan, Italy. After completing her PhD in Sociology from Trento University (Italy) and the City University of New York (USA) in 2014, she spent 2 years as lead-researcher for the EU-funded HOUWEL project (Housing markets and welfare state transformations) at the University of Amsterdam. She has also held an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral fellowship at Maynooth University Department of Geography from 2015 to 2018 to conduct ethnographic/community-based research on post-crash gentrification in the Liberties of Dublin. Her scientific production lies on shifting social-spatial inequalities, urban regeneration processes, policy reforms at the intersection of health and housing, and participatory/community approaches for more democratic urbanisation.



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Why Care, Health, and Housing?

The evidence on the relationship between housing and health is complex but compelling. Substandard housing conditions such as water leaks, poor ventilation, pest infestation, exposure to high or low temperatures and overcrowding, have been associated with poor health outcomes, most notably those related to respiratory infections, adverse cardiovascular events, and psychological distress, which the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified. Drawing on extended ethnography, CITY-OF-CARE research project focuses on forms of local activism, community-led interventions, and public actions to drive policy makers to remain committed to support a "fair regeneration" of Oliver Bond social housing community in Dublin 8. On the grounds that housing is an essential contributor to good health, now is the time for a joint public housing and public health agenda to create healthier homes by confronting the everyday impact of inadequate housing to tackle social inequalities more broadly.



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Rory Hearne

Assistant Professor in Social Policy at Maynooth University, Department of Applied Social Studies. Author.

Rory Hearne is an Assistant Professor of Social Policy in Maynooth University, specialising in housing policy and housing rights. He makes regular appearances on national TV and radio as an expert on Ireland's housing policy, including *Prime Time*, *The Brendan O' Connor Show*, and *The Blindboy Podcast*. He has written articles for *The Irish Examiner*, *TheJournal.ie*, and *The Irish Times*. He is the author of *Gaffs: why no one can get a house & what we can do about it* (2022), *Housing Shock: The Irish Housing Crisis and How to Solve It* (2020), and *Public Private Partnerships in Ireland* (2011). Rory completed his PhD in Trinity College in 2009, and subsequently worked in social housing regeneration, as policy analyst in economic inequality, and researcher in social policy, before joining Maynooth University. Rory is also host of the Irish current affairs podcast, *Reboot Republic*.



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The need of a Human Rights and a Health approach to Housing.

This presentation will introduce a human rights and health approach to housing. It will explore the 'psycho-social' role of housing, exploring the implications for public housing, housing need, and analyse Ireland's current housing crisis drawing on a rights-based framework.

Gayle Cullen Doyle

Chairperson of Oliver Bond House Residents Group.

Gayle Cullen Doyle is the Chairperson of Oliver Bond Residents Group. She has lived in the flats all her life and her children are the 5th generation to live there. She currently works at Solas Project in the Liberties as a youth worker.



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Nothing Fancy. Just Basic, Decent Accommodation. Just basic Rights.

We are a proud, strong, and united community. We have put generations of work into this estate. We want it to be a place where people can live safely and healthily for many more generations to come. Oliver Bond complex is 86 years old this year. It was built in 1936 and designed by the renowned city architect Herbert Simms. It has 397 flats spread across 16 blocks. About 1,200 people live here. That's like a small town. The vast majority of people in this complex are living with damp, mould, and cold. About a third don't have cold or hot running water. A third have problems with pests, including rats, and two-thirds don't have adequate vermin free refuse storage. These are not just side-line or minor complaints. These are very basic issues that go to the very heart of what decent, healthy, and safe accommodation should be. They highlight the very heart of what the right to adequate accommodation means.

Mary Heavey

Housing Solicitor at Community Law & Mediation.

Mary Heavey is the housing solicitor with Community Law & Mediation (CLM). CLM is an independent community law centre. It was established in Coolock in 1975 and opened a second law centre in Limerick in 2012. It provides free legal advice, advocacy, mediation, and education services to our communities and in so doing, seeks to address underlying issues of injustice and exclusion while working for real change. In 2021, CLM established the Centre for Environmental Justice which works to ensure climate change and other environmental harms do not disproportionately affect those who have contributed least to the problem, and that the State's response to environmental issues addresses inequality and protects the rights of present and future generations.



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Using Law as a Tool for Change, Experience and Overcoming Limitations.

There is currently no right to adequate housing in the Irish constitution. However, the Irish government has made a commitment to hold a referendum on housing and a public consultation was held over the summer inviting submissions on this issue. The right to adequate housing has been defined at an international level as requiring that, among other conditions, accommodation be habitable. Notwithstanding the fact that there is currently no constitutional right to adequate housing in Ireland, there are legal obligations on local authorities to maintain housing to a



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minimum standard. These obligations are contained in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. Furthermore, local authorities may be subject to other duties in relation to the standard of social housing in tort law, contract law and constitutional law. CLM frequently advises and advocates for clients who are living in grossly inadequate standards of social housing, many of whom are forced to live without heating or running water and with poor sanitation. There are options available to social housing tenants who are living in these substandard conditions to vindicate their right to a habitable home – however, unfortunately, these options can be somewhat limited.

Leona Donaghy

Founder of Wholehearted Environments.

Leona Donaghy is the founder of Wholehearted Environments, a healthy buildings consultancy which aims to make buildings healthier for people with an emphasis on the UN sustainable development goals and helping organisations become more sustainable. After working with people living in cold damp homes, investigating the issues of indoor air quality through PhD research at the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment and suffering from chronic health issues herself, Leona decided to put her knowledge of tackling symptoms by finding and solving building issues to good use. She helps clients by advising them on indoor air quality improvement, moisture management and selecting the most appropriate building materials to use on renovation projects. She is currently running healthy buildings courses through Queens University Belfast's open learning programme and offering sustainability advice to businesses, educational talks, training and mentoring to interested groups, organisations, and individuals.



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Homes and Our Health.

We spend most of our time indoors, around 90% of our time or 22 hours per day according to pre pandemic estimates, and most of this time is spent in our homes. We breathe more than we eat, consuming more air than anything else, yet we rarely stop to consider the quality of that air or the effect that the indoor space we occupy is having on our health. Unfortunately, indoor air has been shown to be much more polluted than outdoor air and there are many not well known or understood health hazards within a home that may impact on our health. Epigenetics has shown us that environmental factors can be more influential than biological ones. So, we undoubtedly have more control than we think over our health outcomes, whether it feels like that or not. In order to take control of our environment and thereby our health, we need to understand a few key things. In this short talk, you will get an insight into what makes a home healthy, and in order to understand this we must get an idea of the reverse of this i.e., what is it about a home that can be hazardous to our health. Also, what makes us humans more vulnerable to the risk factors of living in a home that has not been optimised for our health and what are some simple steps we can take to improve the indoor environment and thereby our health outcomes, today.

Jeffrey Roe

CEO of Tog Hackerspace.

Jeffrey Roe is working as a software/hardware engineer, currently employed by Telclit. For the last number of years, Jeffrey has gained a wealth of experience in building public transport systems from bike-share schemes, to parking and port traffic access management systems. In his spare time, he likes to make crazy projects like bubble machines, bone conduction, IoT projects and running community repair cafés. A big fan of getting people making, he co-runs 'Dublin Maker' an annual maker showcase festival and Dublin's Hackerspace Tog. He is currently chairperson of Engineers Ireland's electronic and computing division. He advises on a number of boards on cultural engagement and smart cities.



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Grass Roots Community Air Quality Network.

The quality of air all around us is important to everyone. There is widespread research to highlight its overall impact on our daily health and life expectancy. Currently, most governmental monitoring is limited by the number of sensors across Ireland. It is cost prohibitive to have stations in every area. This can often lead to missing out on local pollution sources or seasonal data (coal fires during the winter/event-based pollution). This talk will cover the approach in which Citizen Science/Community are taking to tackle these issues. We will go into the details of how 'low-cost air quality monitoring kits' are being made by non-technical people. The greater the learning that people gain from building these Internet of Things devices, the greater understanding of



atmospheric particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) levels mean. Finally, we will cover the power which this network effect of over 12,000 sensors around the world with 19 billion data entries, touching on the community that has formed around the 'Sensor.Community' platform and the work the citizen science is bringing forward.

Kevin Credit

Assistant Professor at Maynooth University, National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG), Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute (MUSSI), Geography.

Dr. Kevin Credit is a Lecturer in the National Centre for Geocomputation at Maynooth University. Broadly, his research is focused on better understanding how urban spatial structure and transportation systems influence economic, environmental, and social outcomes using quantitative approaches and large open-source datasets. Kevin's recent work looks at topics such as the impact of transit construction on carbon emissions, the role of third places in new business creation, and the development of spatial and causal machine learning methods.



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The Power of Open Data for Healthier Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Open data can be a powerful tool for making homes, neighbourhoods, and cities healthier. This talk covers the basics: what open data is, why it is important, and considerations for using open data effectively to inform policy and real-world outcomes. It explores several examples of how citizen science projects and others using open data have been developing a better understanding of the urban processes that affect health outcomes. The goal of the talk is to foster an ongoing conversation about using open data to benefit local communities in Ireland.



Oliver Bond House, Summer of 2021 © Pierluigi Cattani Faggion

