



The UCD Humanities Institute Presents

## AN INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCHERS

H204, UCD Humanities Institute  
Friday 27 June 2014 @ 9.45 am-1.30 pm

**Dr Miriam Galvin**

Dublin City University & Trinity College Dublin

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### DESCRIPTION

This workshop will discuss the principles and fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research methods and data collection.

The workshop will proceed in four parts:

- Part One: A **general overview of the research process** and the importance of selecting appropriate methods relevant to the research question. Each method is suited to answering research questions of a particular kind and analysing particular types of data. This will be followed by a more in-depth introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods. The presenter will discuss the characteristic features of a number of specific methods, focusing on their powers and limitations in relation to the types of data they are able to gather and the types of data analysis methods required.
- Part Two: **Introduction to Quantitative Methods** introduces and describes a number of common quantitative methods including survey/ questionnaire and content analysis.
- Part Three: **Introduction to Qualitative Methods** introduces and describes a number of common qualitative methods including interviews, focus groups, and observation/ ethnography.
- Part Four: **Questions and discussion** will focus on participants' particular research interests, research projects and questions related to these. This workshop will not cover all research approaches or methods in detail and participants are advised to follow up their attendance with additional reading and training in specific methods of interest.

## KEY THEMES

- Qualitative research
- Quantitative research
- Survey/ questionnaire & content analysis
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observation/ ethnography

## DATE & TIME

Friday 27 June 2014 @ 9.45 am-1.30 pm

## VENUE

Room H204, Humanities Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

Web: [www.ucd.ie/humanities](http://www.ucd.ie/humanities)

A campus map is available to download here: [www.ucd.ie/maps](http://www.ucd.ie/maps)

## SCHEDULE

9.30 am-9.45 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>
9.45 am-10.15 am	<b>General Overview: Research Methods in Context</b>
10.15 am-11.00 am	<b>Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods</b>
11.00 am-11.30 am	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>
11.30 am-12.15 pm	<b>Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods</b>
12.15 pm-12.30pm	<b>Short Break</b>
12.30 pm-1.30pm	<b>Questions &amp; Discussion</b>

## SPEAKER

**Dr Miriam Galvin** is a Research Fellow in the School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University, and a visiting Research Fellow in the academic Unit of Neurology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, at Trinity College Dublin. She has worked as a researcher and research consultant in academic and industry environments, and as a lecturer and tutor in Research Design and Methods (UCD, DCU, Hibernia College, Dublin) and Sociology of Education (Professional Diploma in Education, Hibernia College, Dublin). With extensive professional experience in social research, a variety of research designs and methodologies, and programme evaluation, her work includes a policy and practice review and analysis of national and international evidence-based best practice in the field of therapeutic interventions and residential child care services (Department Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin); a National Survey of Teachers' Responses to HIV/AIDS Education, Sexuality Education and Homophobic Bullying through the SPHE Syllabus (Centre for Educational Evaluation, DCU); patient and family experiences of Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) (Institute of Psychosocial Medicine, Dublin); and a range of projects with the Health Services

Executive (HSE) – Population Health Directorate. She has a multi-disciplinary academic background in human geography, population health, and psychosocial studies. Her PhD work explored representations of masculinities in discourses of paedophilia. Her interests are research methodologies, health services research, medical anthropology, narrative and discourse. She is currently working on a research project tracking the patient and caregiver journeys through terminal illness, including the conceptualisation and assessment of quality of life and caregiving experiences.

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY READING

1. Janet Smithson, 'Using and Analysing Focus Groups: Limitations and Possibilities', *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 3.2 (2000): 103-119.
2. Julia Snell, 'Interrogating Video Data: Systematic Quantitative Analysis versus Micro-Ethnographic Analysis', *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 14.3 (2011): 253-258.

These articles will be sent to delegates upon receipt of their registration details.

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## REGISTRATION

Registration is free and is open to postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers from all Colleges within UCD and from other universities. Places are limited so pre-registration is necessary. Registration operates on a 'first come, first served' basis. To register, send the following details to Dr Noreen Giffney, Training and Research Coordinator, UCD Humanities Institute: [noreen.giffney@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.giffney@ucd.ie)

1. Delegate's name, School/ Department and University where registered, supervisor's/ mentor's name
2. PhD/ postdoctoral project working title and short description of research topic (c. 150 words)
3. Short biographical statement (c. 150 words), including research interests, conference/ seminar presentations, teaching experience, and publications (These should be included in paragraph format in the 150 words)
4. Experience/knowledge of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods
5. If there is a particular aspect of qualitative or quantitative research methods that interests you for your research

Telephone 01-7164685 if you have any queries.

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## UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE

The UCD Humanities Institute comprises a vibrant research community of postgraduate, postdoctoral and academic researchers in the interdisciplinary fields of the humanities. The Institute has over fifty members from among the academic staff in the UCD Colleges of Arts & Celtic Studies, Human Sciences and Engineering & Architecture as well as hosting visiting fellows from other universities. The Institute's research theme, 'Culture, Society and Change', provides a broad framework for members' research initiatives in the areas of 'Culture, Identity, Expression', 'Gender, Culture and Identity', 'Space and Place', 'Visual, Textual and Material Culture', 'Understanding the Past' and 'New Directions in the Humanities'. The Director of the Institute is Professor Gerardine Meaney.

National and international experts regularly give lectures at the Institute as part of conferences, symposia, seminar series and other academic events. These talks are archived in the Institute's podcast series which has, to date, been accessed by over 30,000 web users. The Institute has, moreover, links with scholars based in a range of international locations, through alumni, research associates and memberships of consortia (European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN), the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI), the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC), the Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (CIAS) and Universitas 21). The Institute is home to a number of research and training initiatives, including the Nation, Gender, Genre; the Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive (IVRLA); and UCD Press. Doctoral and postdoctoral residents thus have opportunities to meet and discuss their own research with established and experienced researchers from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds, members of the institute, visiting fellows and distinguished guest lecturers.

The Institute is active in researcher training, convening a series of career development workshops for early stage researchers in the humanities, as well as a theory reading discussion group and a research writing group.

Web: [www.ucd.ie/humanities](http://www.ucd.ie/humanities)

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### UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS

This series of career development workshops provides early stage researchers (PhD students and postdoctoral researchers) in the humanities and wider afield with practical guidance regarding the professional experience required when applying for positions in academic institutions. The series also encourages researchers to begin reflecting on the skills they are acquiring through the experience of undertaking a programme of intensive and highly-specialised research, and how that skillset and the qualification of PhD might be useful for careers outside of academia.

Delegates are be offered opportunities to meet and discuss their work with a panel of academics, postdoctoral researchers, postgraduate students and other professionals who will talk about their experiences of, for example, managing research projects; working with PhD students' experience of emotional difficulties; presenting research at academic meetings; publishing research and assessing materials for publication; applying for research funding and assessing funding applications; conducting viva voce examinations; organising academic events; communicating research findings via digital media; undertaking qualitative and quantitative research in interdisciplinary settings; interviewing candidates for academic positions; and working post-PhD within, in collaboration with, and outside academia.

Each workshop begins with presentations by a panel of guest speakers, after which there will be time for questions and discussion. Each of the presenters gives short talks about their work in the area of their presentation, focusing particularly on the practicalities involved. The second half of each workshop provides time for delegates to talk about their own research and ask questions. Speakers address delegates' concerns and the specificities of each person's situation.

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## **Workshop 1: PhD Project Management, the PhD Experience and & Academic Event Organisation**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 30 April 2013 @ 9.00 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** PhD project management; psychological experience of the PhD; challenges of integrating PhD life with other aspects of life and identity; presenting at conferences; organising academic events

**Speakers:** Dr Cathal Coleman (Project Management Specialist), Treasa de Loughry (UCD EGS), Scott Hamilton (UCD EGS), Benjamin Miller (UCD EGS), Karoline Nicholson (UCD Student Counselling Service), Dr Emma Radley (UCD School of English, Drama & Film), Feargal Whelan (UCD EGS)

**Chaired by** Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute)

***Organised in collaboration with the UCD English Graduate Society (EGS)***

## **Workshop 2: Publishing Research**

**Date & Time:** Monday 17 June 2013 @ 9.30 am-1.00 pm

**Keywords:** Approaching a publisher; preparing a book proposal; monographs; publishing in journals & collections of essays; peer-reviewed & non-peer-reviewed publishing; publishing in print & online

**Speakers:** Dr John Brannigan (UCD School of English, Drama & Film), Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute), Dr Bettina Migge (UCD School of Languages & Literatures), Noelle Moran (Executive Editor, UCD Press), Dr Harvey O'Brien (UCD School of English, Drama & Film), Michael O'Rourke (Series Editor, Ashgate)

## **Workshop 3: Completing & Submitting a PhD Thesis & Taking a Viva Voce Examination**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 2 July 2013 @ 10.00 am-1.00 pm

**Speakers:** Dr Giulia Bruna (UCD Humanities Institute), Michael Kennedy (Senior Policy Officer, UCD), Dr Emily Mark-Fitzgerald (UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy), Dr Anne Mulhall (UCD School of English, Drama & Film), Dr Graham Price (UCD School of English, Drama & Film),

**Chaired by** Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute)

**Keywords:** Completing & submitting a PhD thesis; things to keep in mind for the viva; the experience of the viva from perspective of the examiner & the candidate

### **Workshop 4: Applying for Research Funding**

**Date & Time:** Friday 15 November 2013 @ 10.30 am-1.00 pm and 2.00 pm-4.00 pm

**Speakers:** Dr Jennifer Brennan (Irish Marie Curie Office), Dr Marc Caball (UCD School of History & Archives), Dr Catherine Cox (UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland/ UCD School of History & Archives), Dr Mark Empey (Department of History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth), Dr Nicole Grimes (UCD School of Music/ UCD Humanities Institute), Prof Gerardine Meaney (UCD Humanities Institute)

**Chaired by** Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute)

**Keywords:** Research funding available in Ireland & internationally; preparing a research proposal; assessing research proposals

### **Workshop 5: The Sex/ Gender Dimension Question on IRC Funding Application Forms**

**Date & Time:** Friday 17 January 2014 @ 10.00 am-12.30 pm

**Keywords:** The sex-gender dimension question on IRC funding application forms

**Speakers:** Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute), Dr Iseult Honohan (UCD School of Politics & International Relations), Prof Gerardine Meaney (UCD Humanities Institute), Dr Anne Mulhall (UCD Centre for Gender, Culture & Identities/ School of English, Drama & Film), Dr Aideen Quilty (Women's Studies, UCD School of Social Justice), Justin Synnott (Research Support & Programme Manager, UCD Research)

### **Workshop 6: Communicating Your Research via Digital Media**

**Date & Time:** Friday 7 March 2014 @ 9.45 am-12.15 pm (part 1) and 12.30 pm-2.30 pm (part 2)

**Keywords:** Communicating the value of your research in academic & non-academic contexts; using digital media; an introduction to podcasting; what makes communication 'good'?

**Workshop leader:** Deborah Dignam (Communications Manager, UCD Research)

### **Workshop 7: Applying for Academic Positions and Research Funding: Perspectives from Europe, the USA & Canada**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 10 June 2014 @ 9.15 am-1.30 pm/ Individual career clinics @ 2.30 pm-4.30 pm

**Keywords:** Building an international research profile; sourcing advertisements for academic positions; preparing an academic CV & cover letter; preparing for academic interviews; identifying research funding opportunities; preparing a research funding proposal

**Speakers:** Prof Margot Backus (Department of English, University of Houston, Texas, USA), Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan (Department of English, National University of Ireland, Galway), Prof Margaret Kelleher (UCD School of English, Drama & Film), Prof Michael Kenneally (Department of English, Concordia University, Canada), Prof Sarah McKibben (Department of Irish Language & Literature), Prof Maria Pramaggiore (Department of Media Studies, National University of Ireland, Maynooth)

**Chaired by** Dr Noreen Giffney (UCD Humanities Institute) & Dr Anne Mulhall (UCD Centre for Gender, Culture & Identities/ UCD School of English, Drama & Film)

**Organised in collaboration with the UCD Centre for Gender, Culture & Identities & the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) 2014**

## **Workshop 8: An Introduction to Qualitative & Quantitative Research Methods for Humanities Researchers**

**Date & Time:** Friday 27 June 2014 @ 9.30 am-1.30 pm

**Keywords:** qualitative research; quantitative research; survey/ questionnaire & content analysis; interviews; focus groups; observation/ ethnography

**Workshop leader:** Dr Miriam Galvin (School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University & Unit of Neurology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin)

## **Workshop 9: Careers in Academic & Non-Academic Contexts**

**Date & Time:** date to be confirmed

**Keywords:** Preparing academic CVs, covering letters, personal & teaching statements; academic interviews; post-PhD career opportunities in Ireland and internationally; how a PhD is useful for a non-academic career

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## **UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE THEORY READING GROUP**

The Humanities Institute Theory Reading Group has been running for two years. It will meet again from October 2014 to May 2015 in H204, Humanities Institute. The group is open to anyone with an interest in theory. Members from across the Colleges of UCD and from other universities are welcome. Some members attend all the meetings, while others attend less frequently.

If you are interested in joining the Organising Committee for 2014-2015, email [noreen.giffney@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.giffney@ucd.ie)

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## UCD HUMANITIES INSTITUTE RESEARCH WRITING GROUPS

The UCD Humanities Institute convened two research writing groups of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers during 2013-2014. Research writing groups are small groups of 6-7 people who meet together every 3-4 weeks to discuss a short piece of research writing (draft thesis chapter, conference paper, article, book chapter, funding proposal etc) by a member of the group. Group members read the sample in advance and discuss it in depth with the author. This process facilitates the author thinking through their ideas in a supportive and encouraging environment, guided by the members of the group. The group is interdisciplinary and is open to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Each meeting lasts 90 minutes. Members are welcome from across the Colleges of UCD and other universities.

If you are interested in becoming part of a research writing group in 2014-2015 in the Humanities Institute, email [noreen.giffney@ucd.ie](mailto:noreen.giffney@ucd.ie)

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### FURTHER DETAILS

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