

Beyond Activation – Towards a Liberating Vision for Adult Guidance in an emerging Ireland

**Saturday 16th April 2016 9am–5pm
Conference for Adult Guidance Practitioners**



Welcome

The Department of Adult and Community Education has been running a suite of courses in Adult Guidance Counselling for the last 21 years. We are dedicated to providing learning opportunities that are underpinned by a commitment to personal and social empowerment and transformation. As part of our 40 year anniversary we are hosting a conference for our Graduates and Guidance Practitioners in the emerging field of Adult Guidance in Ireland.

The wellbeing of guidance practitioners, and our sense of being agentic and proactive in our professional roles, has been heavily impacted by the recession and the subsequent changes in labour market and educational policies. The conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the various discourses that have shaped the practice of guidance counselling in recent years. It will create large and small group spaces for input, discussion and reflection on the values and beliefs that shape our practice such as, creativity, equality, justice and critical social engagement.

The conference will seek to provide opportunities for Adult Guidance practitioners and graduates to reflect on practices and values that can resource us to stay alive and responsive in these challenging times.

'Guidance facilitates people throughout their lives to manage their own educational, training, occupational, personal, social and life choices so that they reach their full potential and contribute to the development of a better society.'

(National Guidance Forum Report 2007.6)

Keynote presentation

'Telling tales': The contribution of narrative career counselling in a challenging social and economic context

Hazel Reid is Professor of Education and Career Development and the Director of Research in the Faculty of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University, UK. Her most recent book is *An Introduction to Career Counselling and Coaching* (2016) for Sage Publications, which addresses emerging theory and practice in the career counselling field.

In her research Hazel has been concerned with the development of an approach to Career Guidance that takes full cognizance of the fluid and precarious nature of careers at present and into the future. Modern discourses of employment, and employment services, require of people a much increased responsibility for the design and maintenance of their own careers. Hazel has a particular interest in a narrative approach to practice in which clients are supported to learn from the turning points and transitions in their lives in order to forge a viable career narrative in their social and economic context. The presentation will draw on four studies into the application and evaluation of narrative career counselling in order to outline the benefits and illuminate this approach in practice. Examples from the research will be shared with the conference participants providing an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into alternative, more creative and empowering approaches to adult guidance.

Why attend?

This conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on your guidance practice with colleagues, engage in stimulating discussions, hear new ideas and rekindle your passion in adult guidance. It is open to all practitioners who work in the field of adult guidance and are interested in making a meaningful contribution to peoples' lives.

Practitioner workshops

There will be an opportunity to choose two workshops, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, which will be facilitated by past graduates and staff. The workshops will provide a space to reflect on your work and the passion and hope that you bring into adult guidance. You will also be introduced to new and emergent developments in guidance practice.

The Changing Faces of Careers Services in Higher Education

We will explore the migration of careers services from the traditional Careers & Appointments Service to the newer models of Skills and Employability or Enterprise and Student Development as a response to the changing landscape of graduate recruitment.

Brendan Baker is Head of Career Development Centre at Maynooth University and Chair of AHECS, the Association of Higher Education Careers Services.

As a mature student, how do I gain entry to third level education? Reflections on mature and late entrant assessment processes for admission to a university.

This workshop will explore the experiences of mature and late entrant applications for university admission. John and Emer will consider post-entry experiences and draw on evidences from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. **John McGinnity**, Admissions Officer/Assistant Registrar, is committed to the inclusion of mature students in Maynooth University and works closely with **Emer Sheerin**, Mature Student Officer MU.

Developments in guidance at European level – the impact on policy and the provision of adult guidance in Ireland – if any?

An interactive workshop for adult guidance practitioners to highlight developments in guidance at EU level and how these can inform practice and provision at national and local level. **Jenifer McKenzie** is Director of the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) and is one of the Dept of Education and Skills designated representatives for Ireland at the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN).

Groupwork as a resource to Adult Guidance

This workshop will outline a psychodynamic approach to groupwork which lays the foundation for the successful creation of a learning group context in adult guidance.

Mick Fahy is a Tutor in Adult Guidance for fifteen years and is a training group analyst with the Irish Institute of Group Analysis.

Innovative Approaches to Support and Supervision

This workshop explores creative approaches to self care, support and supervision for front line guidance practitioners. **Ann McKeon** has worked extensively with adult guidance practitioners. She was recently involved in the development and delivery of a three year long initiative to provide support and supervision to activation teams.

The importance of IT Career Tools in the Guidance Process

This workshop provides a reflective and practical space to explore some on-line guidance resources that can support adult learners and job seekers in their career development. **Bernadette Walsh** provides nationwide training on the best use of CareersPortal guidance tools for supporting adult clients, learners and job seekers.

A Liberating Vision for Criminal Justice Guidance?

This workshop examines changes that have taken place in guidance practice in the criminal justice setting, which includes guidance as part of a community sanction and/or a period of imprisonment. We examine what is distinctive about criminal justice guidance and explore whether practice now needs to be 'liberated' towards a different set of goals. **Maria Walsh** has extensive experience of criminal justice guidance through her work with the Irish Association for Social Inclusion of Offenders (IASIO). **Barry Owens** is a Programmes Manager with IASIO, with specific responsibility for prison based guidance work and some of its community based guidance operation.

A Narrative Approach to Adult Guidance

This workshop explores how a narrative approach to guidance practice can add creativity to sessions and make them more meaningful for clients. This workshop will give an overview of some narrative frameworks and will provide a chance to try out and evaluate some practical tools. **Orla Hicks** has a keen interest in narrative approaches to guidance and integrating narrative tools into the adult guidance process.

Skype Guidance

The workshop will share insights developed over a period of time in using Skype as a platform for 1-1 Guidance Counselling as well as delivering Professional Supervision. **Rico Stein** is the Coordinator of the Kerry Adult Guidance and Information Service with the Kerry ETB and an IGC Counselling Supervisor.

Is Unconscious Bias the next big diversity challenge in the workplace?

There is a growing body of research that suggests that unconscious bias influences key decisions in the workplace and are responsible for some of the enduring inequalities that are evident today. We will explore unconscious bias and its impact and examine potential tools to combat it. **Ann Doran Byrne** has extensive experience working as a Career Guidance Counsellor at second and third level and is an associate Lecturer in Maynooth University.

Visioning for the Future (Large Group)

We will reflect how we incorporate a liberating vision of Adult Guidance in our practice. Facilitated by **Mary B. Ryan** and **David McCormack**, Co-Directors of the Adult Guidance and Counselling Suite of Courses in Maynooth University

Format of the conference

09.00am	Registration and signing-up for workshops
10.00am	Welcome and keynote presentation
11.30am	Coffee break
11.50am	Practitioner workshops
1.15pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Practitioner workshops
3.50pm	Coffee break
4.10pm	Visioning for the Future (large group)
5pm	Close

Where

Iontas Building, North Campus, Maynooth University.

Cost

€70.00 includes tea/coffee and light lunch
€30.00 for current students.

Further details and to book your place

please visit www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education/events

Conference Co-ordinator

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We particularly welcome graduates from the Certificate Course and the Diploma/Postgraduate Diploma in Adult Guidance and Counselling.