



Sociological Association Of Ireland

52ND

ANNUAL

Plenaries, papers, events

May 8th & 9th 2025

CONFERENCE

The SAI Annual Conference will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Criminology in UCC on the 8th & 9th of May 2025. Sociologists in Ireland and internationally will convene there to share their research and initiatives in a convivial and interactive environment. We have decided to offer a more open approach for this year's conference by not assigning a theme. We encourage a diverse range of topics to encourage creativity and freedom. Thus, we welcome submissions on any theme. We look forward to seeing you in Cork in May!

Submissions

- > The deadline to submit your abstracts is 1st December
- > Abstract decisions will be given by 13th December
- > Early bird-registration is 28th February
- > Registration closes 25th April
- > Conference takes place 8th-9th May

University College Cork

SAI25@ucc.ie

more info at sociology.ie

Keynotes:



Mary Philomena Mullen (Black
Studies, TCD)



Gemma Kloppe-Santamaría
(Sociology and Criminology,
UCC)

Round table plenary on Home,
Migration and the Far Right





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While we are running without a theme, we expect that discussion and debate at the conference will turn to pressing contemporary issues and challenges. Politically it is the year of elections globally, and democracy is increasingly under threat, with authoritarianism, a coarsening of political rhetoric and action, a lack of alternatives and stasis, but also people power, protest and activism. Wars rage in Sudan, the Middle East, Ukraine and elsewhere, all devastating, but with different levels of attention and types of support provided. As war spreads, more countries are abandoning their neutrality. The peace on this island has been destabilised as the political settlement on 'these islands' has been disturbed. Migration has become more and more politicised, with protests, racist attacks, Far Right mobilisation, inadequate accommodation and services for International Protection Applicants, and stricter policing of borders.

Economic life has been dominated by ongoing inflation, particularly of housing costs, and difficulty in accessing essential services, from housing, childcare, and health, with periodic tragedies caused by this dearth. Concerns have intensified about the standards with which public services and infrastructure projects are managed, and money is spent. A budgetary bonanza runs parallel to scarcity through corporation tax receipts and windfalls. Fiscal opulence and the tax strategy it is based on has resulted in less friends in an EU fretting about its competitiveness. While the essentials of life have become more costly, a consumerist and mediated culture deepens, shaped by algorithmic power, surveillance and AI. Despite movements to increase sustainability, it has been a year of heatwaves, floods and droughts as the climate catastrophe deepens. Localised disease outbreaks presage the next big one.

The past remains a troubled source of unresolved conflict and injustice. Legacies of abuse, the denial of harm and of state violence continue to be disclosed. How family and care are defined and supported has been reopened, and how an ethic of care can shape policy is an ongoing struggle.

Life and events have been shaped and mediated by the key sociological concerns of gender, family, sexuality, class, ethnicity, race, age, and the organisation of social services, work, media, leisure and religion. What are the inequalities and solidarities that characterise these, and what are the movements, narratives and ways of being that address them?

How do sociologists make sense of these times? How does the contemporary climate shape the research that we do? Sociology is a means of clarification, mobilisation and change that addresses these times, and we hope to hear your contribution.

The conference will offer a welcoming and convivial space for the broad sociological community to assemble, discuss and problem solve. We hope to see you there.

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words.

We welcome sociological research on any topic.

Abstracts and any questions to: SAI25@ucc.ie



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Format

- > Oral presentations, with 15 minutes presentation and 5 minutes questions
- > Panels, with speakers, for 60-80 minute sessions
- > We welcome traditional papers, but also invite proposals for creative ways to communicate sociological research that can help undiscipline the discipline. You can submit a 'special event' proposal to this end. Special events can take place in a 20 minute slot in a panel, or during breaks in the conference schedule.

Content

- > We welcome all sociological research
- > The conference is especially keen to showcase/create space for feminist and decolonial analysis in Irish sociology and strongly encourages scholars working in those areas to submit, to address the gaps in the Irish sociological canon. We encourage all contributors to consider employing a feminist and decolonial lens in their paper.
- > We encourage research that is in dialogue with wider publics and communities, to provide models of how sociology is engaged in politics, causes, movements and communities.

Financial Aid

- * Lower price tickets will be available for people in precarious employment
- * Please indicate if you wish to apply for additional financial aid in the email that you are attaching your abstract to. We can offer free tickets, transport, and potentially other supports to a number of people

Suggested themes

- * Adaption to and creative responses to social crises
- * Democracy, protest and activism
- * Peace, war and militarism
- * Migration and borders
- * Far-Right mobilisation
- * Work and welfare
- * Health and medical sociology
- * Space, urban planning, regional development
- * Inequality and poverty
- * Housing and homelessness
- * Care
- * Decolonisation
- * Climate catastrophes
- * Gender, sex and sexualities
- * Racial injustice and inequalities
- * Social class
- * Online living and mediatization of social life
- * Leisure, sociability, art, sport and consumerism
- * Creativity and AI
- * Harm, violence, rule breaking
- * Religion, meaning and spirituality
- * Childhood, education, socialisation and aging
- * Qualitative, quantitative, computational and creative methods
- * Social theory
- * Teaching Sociology

If you have any questions about the conference, please email SAI25@ucc.ie