


<p>Name</p>	<p>Mr. John Hastings j.hastings@ucc.ie</p> 
<p>Title of study</p>	<p>Telling their own stories: Daily occupations of ‘oldest old’ men in rural Ireland</p>
<p>Supervisor(s)</p>	<p>Professor Jeanne Jackson and Dr. Caitríona Ní Laoire</p>
<p>Background/Abstract (350 words max)</p>	<p>Background Occupational identity (OI) is an emerging construct in the discipline of Occupational Science. Critiques of OI suggest an overemphasis on achievement based doing and individual choice (Laliberte-Rudman & Dennhardt, 2008). Accordingly there has been a move to broaden understanding of the construct (Phelan & Kinsella, 2009). This study aimed to expand OI by exploring narratives from the storytelling of single men from the oldest old generation living in rural Ireland.</p> <p>Method Five single men, aged 85-92 years, living alone in rural Ireland agreed to participate in the study. Data included semi-structured interviews, and observations as they participated in a purposeful activity. Narratives were analysed using four distinct lenses (McCormack, 2000).</p>

	<p>Results Participants experienced a range of occupational experiences and life events that influenced and continue to influence their unique identities. The opportunity for men to engage in storytelling and story-making about their lives helped to capture insights about themselves in the world, how they portray themselves as ageing and not ageing, and their anticipated selves. Participants also narrated differing levels of agency and purpose in their unfolding selves across their lives. Agency (the self) and setting (society/culture) have empowered and disempowered their participation in various ways, which consequently have impacted on their identities and sense of belonging. Participants expressed aspirations for positive occupational opportunities as they age in place.</p> <p>Conclusion Current conceptualisations of OI are too narrow to fully describe the relationship between occupation and identity. A multi-layered understanding of narrative and occupational identity development is required to recognise the many contributions of men from this age group.</p>
<p><i>Publications (e.g. articles, conferences etc)</i></p>	<p>Conferences</p> <p>27th April 2018. Postgraduate Student Presentation. Irish Gerontological Society, Dublin.</p> <p>18-19th May 2018. (dis)covering discourses. University College Cork, Cork.</p> <p>18th-21st June 2018. Memory & Narration. 10th International Oral History Association Conference. University of Jyväskylä, Finland. (College of Medicine and Health Postgraduate Student Bursary Awardee)</p> <p>2nd-5th July 2018. Narrative Matters. University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands.</p>
<p><i>Link to Orchid Profile/ Research gate profile/Iris profile or website</i></p>	<p>https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Hastings6</p>
<p><i>Biography e.g. qualification/training/work history (200 words max)</i></p>	<p>Following completion of his primary degree in Occupational Therapy at University of Ulster in 2002, John worked as an occupational therapist in the public sector for 5 years in the area of adult mental health addressing clients' needs in a variety of hospital and community based settings.</p> <p>In the Seychelles Islands he had the novel opportunity of collaboratively designing, delivering, and evaluating a new undergraduate programme in Occupational Therapy with local occupational therapists to attain WFOT</p>

	<p>approved standards. John draws on his undergraduate, postgraduate and lecturing experiences to support students and educators in his current role as Practice Tutor in the regional remit of West Cork, Kerry, and in Cork paediatric services.</p> <p>His Master's research focused on the attitudes of undergraduate occupational therapy students towards mental health service users before and after their practice education experiences. As a PhD candidate, John's interests include narrative, occupation across the lifespan, the oldest old generation, and rural living.</p>
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