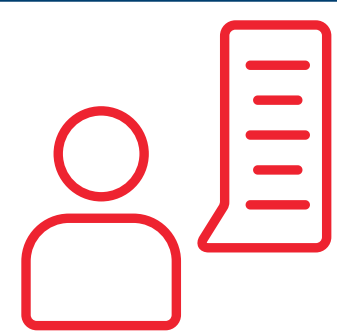


Title: Participatory arts for advocacy, activism and transformational justice with young people living in Direct Provision

Presenter: Dr Amin Sharifi Isaloo, Department of Sociology & Criminology



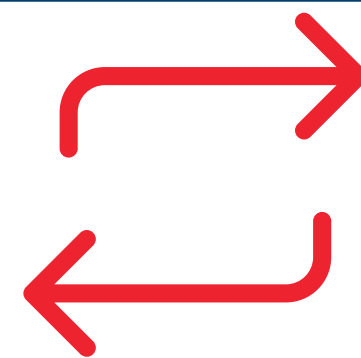
Case Study Synopsis

Synthesising expertise from Sociology, Criminology, Applied Social Studies, Food Business and Development, Theatre, and Applied Art disciplines, while also connecting to advocacy and activism through the partnership with Cork Migrant centre and arts based participatory action research, this project builds on an initiative which began during the first Covid-19 pandemic aimed at creating a space for young people seeking asylum to express their voices through the medium of theatre. The initiative developed from initial conversations that were held by speakers at a UCC Dept Sociology & Criminology webinar on Migration, Race and Ethnicity. This group facilitated the development of online performance and drama workshops which enabled young people in direct provision to familiarise themselves with teamwork exercises and basic techniques of acting and role-playing. The workshops allowed for expression of emotions, stories and voices through creativity. This New Foundations project advances this initial initiative by seeking to further establish and strengthen collaboration with the civic society partner, the Cork Migrant Centre and work with young people to create change through participatory methods.



Key Impacts

- Through performative and creative methods, the participants had opportunities to share their stories and lived experiences of negotiating direct provision and their sense of 'belonging' as young people through the medium of interactive theatre and walking conversations, in an inclusive, enjoyable and highly creative way.
- Combining theatre and walking methods as a creative practice, the project worked with the young people and the Cork migrant centre as co-producers of knowledge and active participants. The project generated new knowledge in the area of migration and refugee studies while also addressing social inclusion within Irish society through innovative interdisciplinary methods. Closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Goals, in particular Goal 10, to reduce inequality within and among countries and Ireland's National Planning Framework policy objective aimed at creating a diverse and inclusive society.



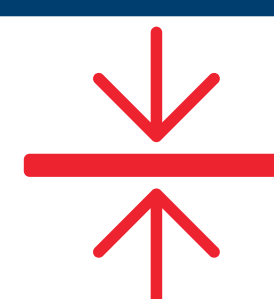
Intended Changes

Our aim was that the project would allow for an organic transfer of knowledge between academia, civic society and the voluntary sector allowing all groups to develop expertise in supporting and empowering young people seeking asylum through the following aims and objectives:

- 1) Improve the lives of young asylum seekers by conducting arts based participatory research to explore their experiences of direct provision and senses of belonging.
- 2) Generate and disseminate better knowledge, understanding and interventions.
- 3) Promote social justice using walking research and theatre practices.
- 4) Facilitate an inclusive, open space for young people's stories and voices.
- 5) Provide an innovative resource and toolkit as a legacy of the project.

The expected outcomes from the project were:

- 1) Participants will learn practical skills through theatre and walking workshops which will allow for building of confidence and self-esteem, fostering inclusion and a sense of belonging.
- 2) Interdisciplinary collaboration amongst academics, NGO and activists.
- 3) A short film documenting the project.
- 4) A report documenting the participatory research.
- 5) A toolkit will be documented on a WordPress website.
- 6) Academic outputs, for example peer-reviewed journal article.
- 7) Final project report to the IRC.



Area of Alignment

Learning & Teaching
Research & Innovation



Video Links | Graphics

Drishane Thetra Walks link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlrxhmyW4-A>

