SECTION 1: MIGRATION & ETHNICITY
Including discrimination and identity

MIGRATION


First and foremost, the results of this research have highlighted how complicated a topic emigration is and how nuanced individuals’ experiences of emigration can be. There exists no ‘typical’ emigrant, and no single set of circumstances or experiences that can be prescribed as being typical of Irish emigrants today. In fact, there are a number of ‘types’ of emigrant, from the educated younger person often portrayed in the media, to less educated emigrants who felt forced to leave out of economic necessity, to older emigrants who have left mortgages and/or children at home in Ireland. This report aims to represent the variety of emigrants who are leaving Ireland today, their disparate motivations and experiences, and their concerns for the future. It is hoped that the findings outlined will stimulate a number of public, academic and policy level debates on emigration.


This paper investigates the potential rupture that the United Kingdom’s “Brexit” referendum of June 23, 2016, might bring about in intra-European Union youth mobilities, with a specific focus on the London region. In many respects, and counter-intuitively given the Brexit result, London has already become a “Eurocity”: a magnet for young people, both highly educated and less educated, from all over Europe who, especially since the turn of the millennium, have flocked to the city and its wider region to work, study, and play. Now, these erstwhile open-ended migration trajectories have been potentially disrupted by a referendum result that few anticipated, and whose consequential results are still unclear. The main theoretical props for our analysis are the notions of “liquid migration,” “tactics of belonging,” “whiteness,” “privilege,” and “affect.” Data are drawn from 60 in-depth interviews with Irish, Italian, and Romanian young-adult students and higher and lower skilled workers, carried out in late 2015 and early 2016, plus 27 reinterviews carried out in late 2016, post-Brexit. Results indicate participants’ profound and generally negative reaction to Brexit and, as a consequence, a diversity of uncertainties and of plans over their future mobility: either to stay put using “tactics of belonging,” or to return home earlier than planned, or to move on to another country. Finally, we find
evidence that new hierarchies and boundaries are drawn between intra-European Union migrants as a result of Brexit.


This article describes a community-based participatory action research (CBPAR) project that examined the postmigration living difficulties (PMLD), help-seeking and community resilience of recent Irish migrants to London (n = 176). The majority of respondents were young adults, in managerial or professional occupations and in good or very good health. Mixed methods indicate inadequate planning for relocation and poor social support as the main difficulties in the initial stages of migration. Community factors promoting resilience included employment opportunities, local and transnational supports, and cultural familiarity and acceptance. Community participation in the action orientated phase of this CBPAR is discussed. (pay to view)

RETURN MIGRATION


The primary aim of this report is to update and develop the understanding and knowledge base of the situation of Irish emigrants moving back to Ireland from abroad. It was undertaken in response to increased national interest in the experiences of returning Irish emigrants arising from Central Statistics Office figures released in August 2016 which revealed a dramatic 74% increase in net inward migration to Ireland by Irish citizens. It also follows Crosscare Migrant Project’s 2016 report entitled ‘Irish emigrants’ perspectives of the emigration experience’ which, in association with GAA clubs around the world, examined Irish emigrant views on emigration and return migration. Subsequent to these findings and the CSO statistics, certain questions were being asked by the media, politicians and general public about the profile of recent returnees – why were they returning and how were they adjusting to life back in Ireland?


In line with our remit under the Emigrant Support Programme, we have focused this submission on three key barriers which we continue to encounter in our work with Irish emigrants returning to Ireland in marginalised situations. These barriers are:

1. The Habitual Residence Condition
2. Immigration and residency permission for family members
3. Access to homeless service


*A Hundred Thousand Welcomes?* analyses and critiques the experiences of returning Irish emigrants who have been denied access to social welfare support based on the Habitual Residence Condition (HRC) assessment under the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) over the past three years. The report outlines evidence of inconsistencies and misapplication of the assessment process that results in the adverse impact on returned Irish emigrants. The context of recent return migration and the barriers to accessing social welfare assistance are detailed in the Introduction, along with a brief outline of the work of Crosscare Migrant Project, the HRC assessment, and Ireland’s Diaspora Policy and the impact of HRC on returning emigrants.

**IRISH ETHNICITY & IDENTITY**

**DISCRIMINATION & SECTARIANISM**


This article explores the Irish migrant experience in Birmingham during and in the wake of terrorist campaigns carried out in Britain between 1969 and 1975 and attributed to the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Beginning with a discussion of the competencies with which Irishness was associated at the close of the 1960s in England, many of which were hinged on a notion of the Irish predisposition towards violence, the article continues on to take the political, cultural and religious “temperature” of the Irish community in Birmingham between 1969 and 1975, and follows on with a discussion of the specific strategies sought out by Irish immigrants to come to terms with the effect of events such as the “Birmingham Bombings” on their daily lives. Principle findings that emerge from the study indicate that IRA terrorism forced the Irish in Birmingham to engage with and adopt a number of distinct linguistic and cultural strategies in the post-1974 period, the cultivation of which indefinitely altered their relationship with Ireland as “home”, their visibility in the public British sphere and their associational patterns and practices within the migrant enclave. (Pay to view)
This article focuses on the history of Irish migrants in Birmingham in an attempt to enhance historical understanding of race, ethnicity and ‘whiteness’ in post-war Britain. To do so, it will look at two Birmingham histories: the Young Christian Workers’ Association’s report on the Welfare of Irish migrants in 1951, and anti-Irish violence in the aftermath of the Birmingham Pub Bombings of 1974. It will consider the extent to which Irish immigrants were victims of racism, what this meant in terms of discrimination and identity, and, in particular, how Irish experiences corresponded to that of black and Asian migrants. (pay to view)

IRISH STUDIES
ETHNIC MINORITY STUDIES
SECTION 2: IRISH LIFE IN BRITAIN
Including communities of place and experience
COMMUNITY

This article is based on a comparative study of working-class students’ experiences in English and Irish higher education. It highlights the lack of comparative studies on this topic based on qualitative research and why filling this gap is important in understanding access and widening participation. Drawing on biographical interviews with 139 people in a range of elite and non-elite institutions, the article discusses similarities as well as some differences between the data from the two countries in terms of class, identity and how working-class students view and value higher education. It maps out how the research relates to recent debates over social class and outlines the theoretical implications of these findings. (Pay to view)

This paper explores the experiences of recent Irish highly qualified migrants who, having left post-Celtic Tiger Ireland, arrive in post-‘Peace Agreement’ Britain. Our paper contributes to understanding the enduring salience of place and how expressions of identities are framed by specific place-based factors as well as by temporality. We explore how these migrants’ narratives, as ‘successful’ professionals,
are framed by complex intersections of historical legacies and changing socio-economic and intra-EU migration patterns. We consider the extent to which residual anti-Irish stereotypes remain, or indeed have re-emerged since the economic recession, and how these negative perceptions may impact on expressions of Irishness. Focusing on accents and other markers of identity, we discuss how Irishness may be constructed through a spectrum of visibilities at different times and in different places. This spatial-temporal perspective may help to go beyond a simplistic, one dimensional ethnic lens by highlighting the contextualities of identities.

(Pay to view)


Current British law does not ensure the rights for Irish citizens living in a post-Brexit UK. Despite increasing concern, British Ministers and officials have neither shown how current law will continue after Brexit nor set out a road-map to delivering its promises to Irish citizens. The Irish Government has failed to give the priority required for citizens’ rights. Both Governments should now consult widely on the contents of reciprocal legal guarantees they must put in place to prepare for Brexit

EMPLOYMENT

HOUSING

GENDER

TRAVELLERS

The Traveller Movement (2017): The last acceptable form of racism? The pervasive discrimination and prejudice experienced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

This report explores Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) people’s experience of prejudice and discrimination based on an online survey of 214 community members from across the UK. The Commission for Racial Equality previously described discrimination against GRT people as “the last respectable form of racism”, while a more recent report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission highlighted that GRT people continue to face bias and hostility in society. This survey sheds new light on the extent of that experience of discrimination and prejudice in areas such as education, employment, healthcare and access to services. It also reveals the full extent to which hate crime impacts on community members everyday lives, the coping mechanisms they use, and how likely they are to seek help.
This article discusses meanings of people–place relationships, relating to ethnicity–class–gender intersections. The case examined concerns the ‘contested place-making’ of Irish Travellers at Dale Farm (UK), where the Travellers were eventually evicted from a place they owned. The material consists mainly of online slideshows in the Guardian. Visuals and place share the role of concretizing news, situating them and underlining their truth claims. Hence, news visuals are well suited for discussions of relationships between places and peoples. The study comprises theories of media, place and identity, relating to mobility, minorities and globalization. Methodologically, compositional analysis, discourse-theoretical method and an intersectional approach are combined. The place conflict is rarely understood in terms of justice. Instead, ethnicity–class–gender intersections appear as significant in the imagery, countering certain old stereotypes, but also connecting to discourses of ‘threatening minorities’, and ‘bad mobility’. Manifested through excessive imagery of barricades/fences/walls/gates, ‘identity management’ meets ‘place management’, detaching some identities from some places. The Travellers thus appear as anomalies, separated from others. This is partly connected to the slideshow format, where linguistic elaboration on motifs is very limited, partly to the selection of certain themes and motifs in the slideshows, and partly to the societal politics surrounding the issue.

**SPORT & CLUBS**


This article examines a number of Irish professional soccer players’ career trajectories subsequent to their return to Ireland from the United Kingdom. More specifically, we explore their experiences following termination of their careers there, their adjustments to life after their professional football careers as well as the options and challenges in relocating into alternative professions and migratory positions. Moreover, how players cope and deal with the considerable difficulties in adapting to post-professional football career transition and termination is highlighted. Prior experience of League of Ireland or Irish League football does not impact on career duration in English League football. The majority of players that return following a career there stay in the game through participation as players with Irish professional clubs. This article also identifies the lack of structures, at many clubs in England and Ireland, for facilitating players’ adaptation to alternative careers following a career in professional football.
F Harkin (2015): **A sporting diaspora: Gaelic games and London's Irish community. Queens University Belfast.**

[http://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.695364](http://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.695364)

Central to this thesis is the Irish diasporic community in London and the ways in which Irish identities manifest and are (re)negotiated in this context. Using sport and more specifically Gaelic games as a study, this thesis examines the complexity of diasporic identities and provides an original dimension to our understanding of the experience of the Irish diaspora in London. This research considers the significance of the Gaelic Athletic Association and Gaelic games for London's Irish community and the extent to which the diaspora context complicates this. The significance of the GAA in London is influenced by the dynamics of the London Irish community and the context in which it is situated. The overarching Irish community in London is a multigenerational and heterogeneous collective encompassing varying interpretations of 'Irishness', contrasting experiences of living in London and different levels of engagement with the cultural forms, individuals and institutions associated with it. This study considers Irish identity as a process; a social construct continually being (re)negotiated and informed by the circumstances and diaspora context in which it is situated, and is thus is in a state of flux. There is no one uniform interpretation of 'Irishness' in London and diasporic identities are essentially reflective of the roots of individuals, their life trajectories and different modalities of self. This thesis adds new insights into the role the GAA plays in facilitating the construction of different modes of 'Irishness' in London. The thesis also explores the changing profile of the GAA as it expands to encompass a wider constituency of members and supporters from migrant Irish, the second-generation Irish population and wider society. In doing so, it provides new insights into the role that the GAA plays in the lives of members of London's Irish community and its significance as a marker of identity. (pay to view)


Sports are an integral component in the cultural landscape of a society or community, contributing towards a sense of collective identity and belonging. As a sporting and cultural organisation that holds a prominent position in Irish society, it seems obvious that the GAA would emerge in locations where Irish emigrants have established communities. Nevertheless, this aspect of the Irish experience abroad is often neglected in academic studies of the Irish diaspora. This study examines the role that the GAA and Gaelic games play in facilitating the construction of Irishness in London. The London Irish community is a multi-generational collective encompassing varying interpretations of Irishness, contrasting experiences of living in London and different levels of engagement with the Irish cultural forms and institutions associated with it. The recent arrival of large numbers of new Irish emigrants as well as the expanding London born second- and subsequent-generation Irish population is indicative of a continually shifting and evolving community. As the focus in diaspora studies increasingly turns towards the role of cultural institutions as markers of identity and community, this article uses the GAA
as a lens to shed fresh light on what it means to be Irish abroad in the twenty-first century. (pay to view)

CULTURE: MUSIC, DANCE, FILM, ART & LITERATURE


The nineteenth-century artist, Erskine Nicol (1825–1904) is well known for his anecdotal and humorous paintings of Irish themes. This article analyses one of his larger oils to show that on occasion he attempted a more serious representation of the rural Irish figure which asks for empathy as opposed to ridicule. The focus is on An Irish Emigrant Landing in Liverpool (signed and dated 1871; Scottish National Gallery). A key part of the analysis is an exploration of the relationship between the painting and a published account of a visit to England by the Irish emigrant depicted. (Pay to view)


This article explores the use of research-based theatre as an alternative mode of research representation and audience engagement in the field of Irish migration studies. Although theatre-based methods of research inquiry and presentation have attracted growing academic interest in recent decades, there are few examples of research-based projects that originate in literary or historical research, and fewer still that have resulted in full-scale theatrical productions. My English Tongue, My Irish Heart is one such work, a play that purposefully seeks to expand the public reach of research outward from universities into the communities that were originally studied. The first part of the article outlines the play’s origins and development; the second explores the chief conceptual and artistic challenges that arose during its creation; and the third presents a critical evaluation of the play’s reception, drawing on audience feedback data collected during its month-long tour of Ireland and the UK in May 2015.

SECTION 3: HEALTH & WELFARE
Including health, wellbeing, and services

HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH, DEMENTIA & SUICIDE
Terrorism and political violence exist fundamentally as communicative acts; inherently the acts themselves serve to inspire anxiety and fear. As the recipients of such a communicative act, victims of terrorism and political violence serve as the vehicle for the dissemination of these communications to both the intended and broader audiences. Their victimising experience is thus a complex interplay between a profound personal trauma and the political/communicative dimension of the attack. Given this complexity, this article addresses how victims’ needs are understood by victims of terrorism and political violence in both Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB). Through engagement with practitioners, victims, survivors, and community activists, this article conceptualises the existing perceptions amongst these different groups regarding needs, the delivery of services to victims in NI and GB, and examines the origins of the different approaches. Results demonstrate that victims’ needs are highly context-dependent at a public level, but relate heavily to the experiences of other victims of terrorism and political violence at a private level. (Pay to view)

PHYSICAL HEALTH

HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

MORTALITY

ELDER CARE

SOCIAL SERVICES


Despite research demonstrating the health promoting effects of social support, few studies have examined the moderating effect of functional social support on everyday unfair treatment for migrant communities. This study investigates whether functional social support moderates the association between unfair treatment and poor self-rated health for Irish migrants to the UK. Analysis of a purposive sample of Irish migrants in London was conducted (n = 790). Interaction was analyzed via hierarchical logistic regression. Irish migrants who perceived unfair treatment were over three times more likely to report fair/poor health (odds ratio = 3.47, 95% confidence interval = 2.0–6.02). Higher levels of support in times of crisis were associated with reduced poor health. Higher levels of instrumental or practical support from neighbors moderated against the negative effect of unfair treatment on
self-rated health (odds ratio = 0.29, 95% confidence interval = 0.08–0.96) and had a protective stabilizing effect. Instrumental support may have a protective-enhancing effect for female migrants. Results support other studies which indicate that instrumental support is most influential in the context of adversity. Interventions that promote neighborhood social capital may build resilience to unfair treatment for migrant communities in large cities.

INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE