

KEYNOTE / PLENARY 1

Prof. Kathy Hall, UCC

- Professor of Education and Head of the School of Education in University College Cork.
- She has conducted research and published in the areas of learning, inclusion, literacy and assessment.
- Recent publications include *Networks of Mind: learning, culture, neuroscience* (Routledge, 2013) with Curtin and Rutherford;
- *Loris Malaguzzi and the Reggio Emilia Experience* the latter co-authored with OMEP colleagues in UCC;
- *Pedagogy and Practice: Culture and Identities* (Sage, 2008) with Murphy and Soler.
- She supervises doctoral studies in a range of areas including childhood and education studies.



KEYNOTE / PLENARY 2

Dr. Maggie Koong, OMEP World President

- Received her Master of Education from The University of Hong Kong and Doctor of Education from University of Durham.
- An experienced and highly respected early childhood education leader and advocate, she is Chief Principal of various kindergartens and a primary/secondary school in Hong Kong and China.
- She has consistently advocated for high quality and equitable early childhood education and has been directly appointed by the Government of Hong Kong SAR to serve on key Government committees on education, equal opportunities, women services, children and youth services and medical services since 1993.
- She has been regularly invited to present and share her insights and exemplary practices in numerous international conferences, in the areas of gender awareness in young children, teachers' roles, gender equality, humanity in action, family-school partnership, empowerment and leadership training, children's rights, multiculturalism and globalisation, women's participation, youth leadership training, change and bilingual education.
- Her leadership and strong contributions to the society, especially in the early childhood field is well recognised through the honor of 2000 Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award and the 2013 Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) Award in Hong Kong.
- Dr. Koong is currently the World President of OMEP.



KEYNOTE / PLENARY 3

Prof. Noirín Hayes, Trinity College/Dublin Institute of Technology

- Professor Nóirín Hayes is a developmental psychologist.
- She is Visiting Professor at the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin and maintains her affiliation to the Dublin Institute of Technology, through the Centre for Social and Educational Research.
- Her specialist field is child development and learning, with particular interest in early childhood development, educational wellbeing, pedagogy, and children's rights.
- She has an active research portfolio working with postgraduate students and researchers. She has also been active in shaping early years policy developments in Ireland.
- She is the author of a number of books, reports and research articles on practice and policy including Engaging Children: Towards a Nurturing Pedagogy [co-authored] and Early Childhood: An Introductory Text which is in its fourth edition and has been a core text since its original publication in 1993. Her most recent book is Early Years Practice: Getting It Right from the Start (Gill and Macmillan, 2013).
- She has served on a number of government working groups, commissions and advisory groups most recently the National Early Years Strategy Expert Advisory Group.
- Professor Hayes is a founder member of the Children's Rights Alliance, a member of the board of Start Strong and of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. She is a patron and past Chair of OMEP Ireland.



KEYNOTE / PLENARY 4

Prof. Pia Rebella-Britto, UNICEF

- Pia Rebello Britto, Ph.D., Global Chief and Senior Advisor, Early Childhood Development, UNICEF, is internationally renowned for her expertise in early childhood policy and programmes.
- Dr. Britto obtained her doctoral degree in developmental psychology from Columbia University and prior to joining UNICEF she was an Assistant Professor at Yale University's Child Study Center.
- Dr. Britto has worked in low, middle and high income countries developing integrated systems and policies for early childhood. In particular, she has investigated the role of governance and finance of national systems in achieving equity, access and quality, conceptualized models for implementation and evaluation of quality early childhood services and parenting. Most recently, Dr. Britto is involved in work examining the relationship between early childhood and peace building.
- Within the United States, Dr. Britto is known for her scientific work on young children's early literacy development, early intervention program evaluations, and identity development of Muslim and Arab children.
- Dr. Britto is the recipient of several national and international grants and awards in recognition for her work and has published numerous books, articles, chapters and reports, and has presented extensively at conferences, meetings and workshops (academic and non-academic) globally.



KEYNOTE / PLENARY 5

Linda Pound, Early Years Consultant, UK

- Linda has worked in three universities and was an LEA inspector responsible for the early years for almost ten years.
- In addition she has been head of a nursery school and deputy head of a primary school.
- In her current role as an education consultant, she provides training, advice and support for early years practitioners around the country and overseas.
- Linda writes extensively for a range of audiences. Two new books on theory and theorists were published in 2011. In November 2010 'Teaching mathematics creatively', co-authored with Trisha Lee, was published.
- Her major areas of interest are learning and curriculum in the early years. Current work focuses on expressive arts in the early years and the relationship between communication and emotional well-being.



KEYNOTE / PLENARY 6

Prof. Cécile De Hosson, Université Paris Diderot

- Associate Professor in Physics and Physics Education Research, Paris
- Fields of research include Impact and conditions of the use of history of science in physics education research and for science
- Teachers' training: development, implementation and analysis of teaching-learning sequences based on historical grounds (geometrical optics, statics of fluids, elementary astronomy).
- Inquiry-based science education and teachers training Exploration of the innovating potential of Virtual Reality (VR) for the teaching of special relativity. This research conducted between 2009 and 2012 exploits advanced interfaces in order to 'immerse' a student in the middle of unusual phenomena otherwise inaccessible to human experience. The exploration of the cognitive modifications and pedagogical advantages associated with the 'immersion' is part of the main goals of the research.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Karl Kitching, UCC

- Dr. Kitching is a lecturer in Education in the School of Education, University College Cork since September 2008. Prior to this position, he worked as a full-time researcher in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and also as a primary school teacher in Dublin 15.
- He is currently working on the following: A book entitled *The Politics of Compulsive Education: Racism and Learner-Citizenship*, to be published by Routledge. This book examines the mutual rise of modern education and racism, from the Imperial Age to the Global Age. Using a variety of concepts and in-depth research, it poses new ways of framing and furthering the existing scholarship on racism, migrations and education.



Nectarios Stellakis, OMEP Vice President for Europe.

- Assistant professor at the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education, University of Patras, Greece.
- He has studied Primary as well as Preschool Education.
- He has an MA in Language Acquisition from Essex University, UK and a Ph.D. in Educational Sciences from University of Patras.
- His research mainly deals with early literacy, written language development, learning of spelling, family literacy and in-service kindergarten teachers' training.
- He is Regional Vice-President for Europe of OMEP for the period 2013-16.



Assoc. Prof. Libby Lee-Hammond, Murdoch University, Western Australia.

Presenting: Indigenous/First Nations Early Childhood Practices: Preserving Indigenous Languages and Cultures.

- Libby has worked alongside Western Australian Aboriginal Communities for over a decade. Developing relationships with families from Mungullah Aboriginal Community has been a defining experience for her and has resulted in relationships of mutual respect and a common vision for children's futures.
- Members of the Yingarrda language group regard Libby as 'Aunty'. It is from this place that she has developed a deep appreciation of the richness of Aboriginal culture and language and this has informed a range of projects working alongside Aboriginal children and families.
- Projects are collaboratively designed to enable families and children to contribute an authentic voice in the early years of education and value Aboriginal culture and history as central to learning.
- Libby is passionate about social justice and enabling families to overcome systemic barriers to effective participation in education.
- In 2013 Libby and her colleague Elizabeth Jackson-Barrett won the Western Australian Children's Week Communities Award for their 'Bush School' project engaging Aboriginal children and their teachers in an outdoor learning project in Perth.
- Libby's cultural heritage is Skolt Sami, Welsh and Irish.



Dr. T.J. ÓCeallaigh, Uas.

- Is a lecturer in the Department of Language, Literacy and Mathematics Education at the Faculty of Education, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland.
- His main research interests focus on the pedagogy required for the successful integration of language and content instruction and on initial teacher education and continuing professional development, with particular reference to language immersion contexts.
- T.J. is the coordinator of a blended learning postgraduate programme, M. Ed. in Irish-medium Education, at Mary Immaculate College.
- Paper Title: Inventing Tomorrow: The Irish Language as a Cultural Tool in Early Childhood Care and Education in Ireland.



Dr. Deirdre Horgan, UCC

- Dr. Deirdre Horgan is a lecturer in social policy in the School of Applied Social Studies and co-Director of the BA (Early Years and Childhood Studies) at UCC.
- She has research interests in children and young people's participation, children's rights and citizenship, child welfare and protection and childhood migration.
- Deirdre is currently Principal Investigator on *Seen and Not Heard?* an Irish Research Council (Department of Children and Youth Affairs/Department of the Environment Community & Local Government funded) project on children and young people's participation in their homes, schools and communities.
- She was previously PI on a research project commissioned by the Children's Rights Alliance on the Safe Care of Trafficked Children in Ireland (2012).
- She co-edited a book, O'Riordan et al., (2013) *Early Childhoods in the Global South: Local and International Contexts*, published by Peter Lang.
- Deirdre is a member of the steering committee for the ISS21 Children and Young People's Research cluster at UCC.



Prof. Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson, UNESCO Chair ECE/ESD, Sweden

- Is professor in Early Childhood Education at Gothenburg University and has an UNESCO Chair in ECE and Sustainable Development.
- She is the recently past world president of OMEP, and works for both UNICEF and with CCNGO/EFA Coordination Group 2014-2016.



Prof. Fred Powell, UCC

- Has been Professor of Social Policy and Head of the School of Applied Social Studies at University College, Cork, since 1990.
- In 2008 he was appointed Dean of Social Science at UCC.
- Born in Dublin, he holds degrees from Trinity College, Dublin, the University of Edinburgh and University College Dublin.
- Previously he lectured at the University of Ulster.
- He has been an Instructor on the Extension Programme of the University of California, San Diego, and has lectured in the UK, Italy, Portugal and France.
- He is chair of the Board of the M.Plan in UCC, Principal Investigator and Chair of the PRTL4-funded Institute for Social Sciences in the 21st Century (ISS21) at UCC and has recently been appointed Chair of the MBS in Asian Business, a joint venture between UCC, NTU Singapore and the Farmleigh Fellowship.



Dr. Brian Murphy, UCC

- Dr. Murphy is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, UCC, Cork, Ireland and is course leader for the new professional Master of Education (PME) initial teacher education programme.
- His research interests are in the areas of language and literacy pedagogy and policy as well as in all aspects of teacher education.
- He has worked extensively on national policy issues pertaining to literacy with the Irish Department of Educational and Skills.
- He is a member of the National OECD PISA Advisory Committee for Ireland and of the Executive Committee of the Reading Association of Ireland (RAI), as well being the Irish representative on the International Development in Europe Committee of the International Reading Association and the Federation of European Literacy Associations.



Dr. Maura Cunneen, UCC

- Dr. Maura Cunneen is a Lecturer in the School of Education, University College Cork.
- She is currently a Lecturer in Education and a Co-Director of the B.A. (Early Years and Childhood Studies) Degree Course.
- Among her areas of interest are the historical and current developments of Early Years Education and Care in Ireland and worldwide, gender in the early years, educational disadvantage and comparative curricula.



Dr. Ulla Grob-Menges, OMEP Switzerland

- MA Sociology / History; University of Zürich
- 1970–75: Different assignments as assistant at University of Zürich and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich.
- 1976 – 1980 Living in Paris and Belgium.
- 1980 – 1994 - Editor and freelance journalist.
- 1989 - 2010 Managing director of the Swiss Association of Daycare Centres (KiTaS) till 2013 editor KiTaS Journal.
- July 14, 1945 / Frankfurt / Main (Germany)
- Married, daughter and son, one grandchild (second expected end of July).



Prof. Judith Wagner, OMEP Deputy President and Representative to the United Nations
Amber Ericksson, OMEP Youth Representative to the United Nations
Grace Jepkemboi, OMEP Representative to the United Nations
Maria Pia Belloni Mignatti, OMEP Representative to the United Nations

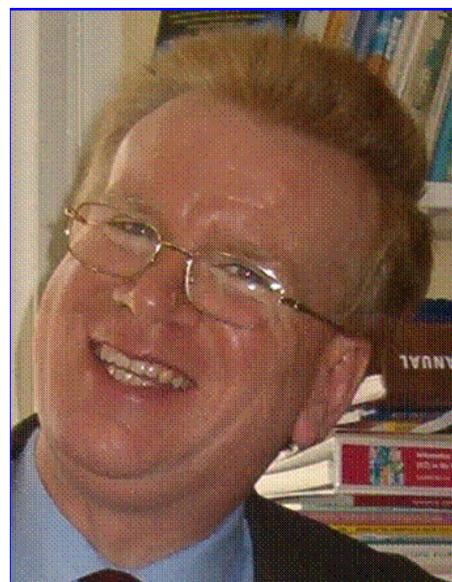
This session will begin with an overview of the 10 most serious problems facing the world's children, including poverty, trafficking, abuse, disaster, war, and displacement – all of which affect all aspects of children's development from play and creativity to identity development, relationships, and learning.



The session will also include presentations on OMEP projects designed to help young children in refugee camps in Kenya and Jordan. Join us to learn what OMEP is doing to help these innocent and vulnerable children and how you can help.

Dr. Declan Kennedy, UCC

- Graduated from University College Cork with a BSc in Chemistry, a Higher Diploma in Education and an MSc in X-ray crystallography.
- He subsequently studied science education at the University of York, England and graduated with a Masters Degree in Education and a PhD in Education.
- He spent over 20 years teaching science in Colaiste Muire Secondary School, Cobh, Co Cork.
- He was appointed lecturer in science education at University College Cork in 1998 and was promoted to senior lecturer in 2006.
- His main work involves training of science teachers, providing continuing professional development courses for practising science teachers and carrying out research in the area of science education.
- He is the programme co-ordinator of the BSc in Science Education, the Masters in Science Education and the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Primary Science at University College Cork.



WORKSHOP GUEST FACILITATORS

Dr. Sharon Phelan

- Lectures in dance at the Institute of Technology, in Tralee, Co. Kerry.
- Sharon was Artistic Director of the Ionad Culturtha in Ballyvourney, County Cork.
- She also danced internationally as a full-time professional Irish dancer with Siamsa Tíre - the National Folk Theatre of Ireland.
- Initially, Sharon trained as an Animateur in Dance, with the Department of Education.
- Today, she is the national dance facilitator with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST).
- Sharon has published numerous academic papers focusing on Irish dance from cultural and educational perspectives.
- She is currently publishing a book titled Dance in Ireland – Steps, Stages and Stories with Cambridge Scholar’s Press.



Triona O’Connor

- Triona O’Connor graduated in 2008 from the BA in Early Childhood Studies in University College Cork.
- Diving straight into a senior position in a private full day care setting Triona quickly realised through practice based learning the benefits of an enriched artistic programme and returned to college part time in Crawford College of Art and Design in 2009 to complete a Master in Teaching Visual Arts Education in the Early Years.
- Triona continued to Manage Private Full Day Care Childcare Centres until in 2013 an opportunity to move to a Community Childcare Setting presented itself.
- It is here Triona continually challenges herself and her colleagues in their aim to produce an art enriched learning environment for the children in their care.



Abstract

The social and economic benefits of integrated, seamless programs of early childhood development, care and education are being discussed and promoted both nationally and internationally. Progressive thinking in the realm of incorporating art education in the early years is inspirational however embracing arts education, wholeheartedly implementing without restriction or obstruction is a feat in itself. This workshop will explore what it truly means to be creative without boundaries. It aims to provide an interactive learning environment where the participants will have space and time to explore the materials provided and learn positive ways to impact on the environment for our children.

Kate McCarthy

- Kate teaches drama and theatre at the School of Humanities, Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), Ireland.
- Kate's PhD research, at the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin, investigates the relationship between educational drama and applied theatre.
- Kate holds a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies and English, and an MA in Drama and Theatre Studies from University College Cork, Ireland.
- She is an editorial associate of the OMEP Ireland Journal of Early Childhood Studies, *An Leanbh Óg* (The Young Child).
- Kate has worked as a drama facilitator for youth theatre companies, community drama projects and school-based projects in Cork, Waterford and the UK.



Workshop title: Let's play/pléigh*!

In the epilogue to their book, *Imagination and play in the electronic age* (2005), Dorothy G. Singer and Jerome L. Singer pose the following question: 'How can parents and other adults continue to stimulate a child's imagination?'. Through a series of drama-based activities led by the facilitator, participants will engage in a practical exploration of this question. The workshop aims to draw on the participants' experience of play-based activities in the early childhood setting and offers an opportunity to share ideas and approaches.

*Pléigh- an Irish word meaning discussion

Participants: 10-20 participants.

Margery Ouvry

- Author, Freelance Trainer and Consultant in Early Years Education
- Marjorie Ouvry is still fascinated by how young children think and learn after over 40 years in the teaching profession.
- She trained as a Froebelian teacher in Aberdeen and taught primary and nursery children there, moving to London to be a Nursery Nurse Course Tutor, lecturing in child development and education.
- She then became head teacher of two large maintained nursery schools, one of which was the famous Rachel McMillan Nursery School, an education researcher at Goldsmiths and always a campaigner for high quality nursery education and (sadly) has even been an Ofsted inspector!
- Marjorie is passionate about the importance of play, child- initiated-adult-extended learning, outdoor play and of the vital place of music, movement and singing in the education of young children.
- One of her bestselling books is on outdoor play and is entitled 'Exercising Muscles and Minds' and another is 'Sounds like Playing', which describes appropriate and child- initiated ways for young children to learn more about music.
- Now as an independent Consultant in Early Years Education, Marjorie travels widely to speak at national and international conferences and runs courses for practitioners from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors on all aspects of the early years curriculum.
- She has been chair of London Branch of Early Education and is still an active committee member.
- Among her qualifications, she holds a Masters Degree in Education from the University of London and a postgraduate diploma in Performance from Trinity College of Music.

