

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

# ESW Open Seminar Series

Monday 14 May, 4.30-6.30pm  
Room G22, Jubilee Building

## Robbie Gilligan

Professor of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College  
Dublin & Associate Director, Children's Research Centre

### The World of Work in the Lives of Looked- after Young People and Care Leavers: The importance of harnessing its transformative potential

---

Using a range of evidence and theoretical perspectives, Professor Gilligan explores why supporting participation in the world of work needs to be a much more central focus in provision for care experienced young people.

He will suggest that 'work' takes many forms and that these carry many layers of potential value for young people in care. He will show how positive experience in work can change identities, nurture educational aspirations, build social ties and more. He will argue that the world of work has the potential to offer 'windfall gains' to the care system and to looked after young people and care leavers.

*Professor Robbie Gilligan is currently a Visiting Professor (this term) in the Centre for Innovation and Research on Childhood and Youth (CIRCY) at the University of Sussex. He is co-principal investigator of the six-country 'Care-to-Work Pathways' study being conducted in Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Ireland, Spain and Sweden. The study is investigating how young adult care-leavers have made the transition successfully from care to the world of work, and how their work experiences have impacted their lives. Professor Gilligan is also a member of the Board of the European Scientific Association for Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents, and of the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood for Young People Leaving Public Care (INTRAC).*

---

US

UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX