

Dr Kathleen Lynch B.SocSc, M.SocSc, Ph D.

Kathleen Lynch is Professor of Equality Studies in University College Dublin. Her major area of equality research has been in education and for the last 10 years she has been working on issues of egalitarian theory and practice with her colleagues in UCD.

They have published two major works in the field- Equality from Theory to Action (2004, 2009) and Affective Equality: Love, Care and Injustice (2009).

As an academic and activist, Kathleen has played a key role in founding the UCD Equality Studies Centre in 1990 and the UCD School of Social Justice in 2005. Kathleen also helped in establishing the UCD wide Egalitarian World Initiative Network (EWI) which she chairs at present.

Kathleen has been an advisor to the EU Directorate Generalate on Education and Culture (DGEAC) since 2007.

She works closely with a number of voluntary and community organisations devoted to the promotion of social justice and equality.

Dr. Maresa Duignan

Dr. Maresa Duignan is Early Years Education Specialist in the Early Years Education Policy Unit of the Department of Education & Skills.

Formerly Assistant Director of the Centre for Early Childhood Development & Education (CECDE), Maresa has been involved in the development and delivery of early years services since the mid 1990s.

Her particular research interest is in the professional preparation and practice of adults working with young children and her doctoral thesis focused on the Growth of Professionalism in Early Childhood Care & Education in Ireland (UCC, 2011).

She has been centrally involved in the development and publication of national policy in this regard including Quality Childcare and Lifelong Learning: A Model Framework for the Education, Training and Professional Development of the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector in Ireland (2002), Síolta, the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education (2006) and A Workforce Development Plan for the Early Childhood Care & Education Sector(2010)