

General Biography

I am interested in being part of the Teaching Councils Researchers in Residence panel as I am passionate about research and the role of teachers and students in engaging with research to improve practice at a classroom, school, and societal level. I believe the purpose of education is to leave the world a better place than we found it and in order to do that, educators must constantly, listen, reflect, and engage with research to find new knowledge and ways to improve. In my current role, as a lecturer in Education in MIC, I support student teachers to understand the range of research methods available to gather data and to consider and address ethical issues pertinent to the research process. I have supported over two hundred students to successful completion of their undergraduate research dissertations and over 100 students to successful completion of their Masters' thesis. I have learned something from each students' research work. My own research has focused on providing a space for post-primary students and teachers to voice their experiences and perspectives.

As a parent, teacher, and lecturer, I believe, education has a key role to play in recognising discrimination and affirming diverse identities, human rights, and equality. As educators and researchers, we can make the world a better place by affirming the richness of human identities and promoting equality of status on the nine grounds of discrimination, namely gender, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, membership of the Traveller community, marital status, and family status. Hence the key area I would like to explore with schools is inclusion. By exploring issues of diversity with teachers and the whole school community we would enhance a critical understanding of the complex social, cultural, historic, legislative, and ethical challenges and opportunities that unfold due to the diversity of human identities. The end goal would be to address the needs of all students and leave the world a better place.