

## Summary Report – Research Ethics

**First name:** Edwina

**Last name:** Flavin

**Name of course:** MSc in Child Protection and Welfare, Trinity College Dublin.

**Completion date:** 2018

**Title of research study:** Working in a culturally competent way? Exploring the perceptions of social workers engaging with children and their families from minority ethnic groups.

**Abstract:** Ireland has experienced significant changes in population size and demographic make-up in recent decades, resulting in an increasingly diverse and multi-cultural population. Figures from the Central Statistics Office (2016)<sup>[1]</sup> indicate that there were 535,475 non-Irish nationals living in Ireland in April 2016, coming from 200 different nations. This generates an increased need for those in the caring professions to exhibit cultural sensitivity and competence in their practice. However, despite this long-term trend towards population diversity, services with statutory responsibility for child protection and welfare have not always developed in concert with these shifts in demographics. For example, the Logan Report (2014)<sup>[2]</sup> highlighted a deficit of cultural competence across state agencies interacting with minority communities and called for training to raise the cultural competence of staff in the public services. This paper reports on findings from a study with child protection and welfare social workers which aimed to ascertain their understanding of cultural competence and to explore their views on the importance and possibilities of cultural competence in their work with children and families from minority ethnic groups<sup>[3]</sup>. Based on findings from semi-structured interviews, the paper illuminates important information for child protection and welfare social workers about social work practice in a multi-cultural context. As we look to the future of child protection and welfare, this topic is certain to grow in importance as Irish society becomes increasingly diverse. [1] CSO 2016-Profile 7 Migration and Diversity [2] Garda Síochána Act (section 42) (special Inquiries relating to Garda Síochána) Order 2013. Report of Ms Emily Logan (2014) [3] This definition taken from the Cambridge English Dictionary used describes ethnic minority as 'a group of people of a particular race or nationality living in a country or area where most people are from a different race or nationality'.

Email address: [edwina.flavin@tusla.ie](mailto:edwina.flavin@tusla.ie)

**List of References:** *The Child and Family Agency Act 2013*. Accessed at [www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act\\_on/25/10/2017](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act_on/25/10/2017). Adital, B. and Strier, R. (2010) Rethinking Cultural Competence: What Can We Learn from Levinas?' *British Journal of Social Work* (2010) 40, 2155–2167 doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcp153 Advance Access publication January 4, 2010. Alfa-Ogbaje, J.O. (2014) Parenting in a Different Cultural Setting: Exploring the Challenges from the Perspective of Sub-Saharan African Migrants and Refugees in Ireland'. *Trinity College Dissertation Library*. Akilapa, R. and Simkiss, D. (2012) Cultural Influences and Safeguarding Children'. *Academic Journal Paediatrics* Vol 22 Issue 11, 490-495. Ballantine, C. (2017) Marginalisation and Oppression/ Child Protection and Migrant Families in Ireland. Accessed at [www.headstuff.org](http://www.headstuff.org) on 25/10/2017. Barn, R. and Das, C. (2014) Family Group Conferences and Cultural Competence in Social Work. *British Journal of Social Work* (2016) 46, 942-959. Beddoe, L. (2010) Surveillance or Reflection: Professional Supervision in 'the Risk Society'. *British Journal of Social Work* (2010) 40, 1279-1296. Benbenishty, R., Davidson-Arad, B., Lopez, M., Devaney, J., Spratt, T., Koopmans, C., Knorth, E., Witteman, C., Del Valle, J., and Hayes, D. (2015) Decision making in child protection: An international comparative study on maltreatment Substantiation, risk assessment and interventions recommendations, and the role of professionals' child welfare attitudes. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 49: 275-293. Bender, K., Negi, N. and Fowler, D. (2010) Exploring the Relationship between Self-Awareness and Student Commitment and Understanding of Culturally Responsive social Work Practice. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 19:1, 34-53. Boyle, D. and Springer, A. (2001) *Toward a Cultural competence Measure for Social Work with specific Populations*. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 9:3-4, 53-71. Carey, M. (2013) *The Social Work Dissertation: Using Small-scale Qualitative Methodology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Berkshire Open University Press. Central Statistics Office (2016) - Profile 8 Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion. Accessed at [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) on 13/01/2018. Central Statistics Office (2016) - Profile 7 Migration and Diversity. Accessed at [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) on 13/01/2018. Child and Family Support Agency (2013) National Child and Family Support Agency Staff Supervision Policy. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Coulter, C. (2015) Final Report, Child Care Law Reporting Project. Published by the Child Care Reporting Project, Dublin. Crawford, K. (2012) *Interprofessional Collaboration in Social Work*. Sage Publications Ltd. Crosse, R. and Canavan, J. (2016). Tusla – Child and Family Agency Research Needs Analysis Report. Dublin: Tusla – Child and Family Agency. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 25/10/2017. Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2015) *Children First Act 2015*. Number 36 of 2015. Accessed at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie> on 25/10/2017. Department of Justice and Equality (2008) Migration Nation - A Statement on Integration Strategy and Diversity Management. Office of the Minister for Integration. Accessed at

[www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie) on 19/03/2018. Department of Justice and Equality (2011) Ireland's National Traveller/Roma Integration Strategy. Office of the Minister for Integration. Accessed at [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie) on 19/03/2018. Department of Justice and Equality (2017) The Migrant Integration Strategy - A Blueprint for the Future. Accessed at [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie) on 19/03/2018. Dodd, S. and Epstein, I. (2012) *Practice-Based Research in Social Work-a Guide for Reluctant Researchers*. Routledge USA and Canada. Feize, L. & Gonzalez, J. (2018) A Model of Cultural Competency in Social Work as seen Through the Lens of Self-Awareness. *Social Work Education*,37:4,472-489, DOI:[10.1080/02615479.2017.1423049](https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2017.1423049) Furman, R. Lewis, CW. Shears, J. (2004) Faculty Attitudes Regarding Student's Preparedness for Culturally Sensitive Social Work Practice in the United States. *International Education Journal* Vol 5, No 3, 2004 <http://iej.cjb.net> 423 Gray, D. (2014) *Doing Research in the Real World*. Sage Publications. Harrison, G. and Turner, R. (2011) Being a 'Culturally competent' Social Worker: Making Sense of a Murky Concept in Practice. *British Journal of Social Work* 41, 333-350. Hawkins, P. & Shohet, R. (2012) *Supervision in the Helping Professions*. Fourth Edition. Open University Maidenhead: Philadelphia. Health Information and Quality Authority (2015) *Report on Inspection of the Child Protection and Welfare Services Provided to Children Living in Direct Provision Accommodation*. Health Service Executive (2011) *Child Protection and Welfare Practice Handbook*. Dublin. H.S.E. Irish Times (2017) "Tusla chief hits back at growing 'blame' culture against agency". Accessed at [www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs) on 31/5/2018. Jackson, K. and Samuels, G. (2011) Multiracial Competence in Social Work: Recommendations for Culturally Attuned Work with multiracial People. *National Association of Social Workers*. Jacob, D. and Kirwan, G. (2016) The Tallaght Roma Integration Project. Publication produced by Tallaght Roma Integration Project, Tallaght with financial assistance from HSE. Jacob, S. and Furgerson, S. (2012) Writing Interview Protocols and Conducting Interviews: Tips for Students New to the Field of Qualitative Research. *The Qualitative Report*, 17 (42), 1-10. Jani, J.S., Osteen, P. & Shipe, S. (2016) Cultural Competence and Social Work Education: Moving Toward Assessment of Practice Behaviors. *Journal of Social Work Education* 2016, Vol 52, No. 3, 311-324 Lord Laming (2003) *The Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report*. Crown Copyright . Logan, E. (2014) Garda Síochána Act (section 42) (special Inquiries relating to Garda Síochána) Order 2013. Accessed at [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie) on 19/3/2018. Lusk, M, Terrazas, S and Salcido, R (2017) Critical Cultural Competence in Social Work Supervision Pages 464-476 | Accepted author version posted online: 04 Apr 2017, Published online: 08 Jun 2017 *Human Service Organizations: Management, leadership & Governance* vol 41, 2017- issue 5. Manders, G. and Galvani, S. (2015) Learning from the Research Process: Discussing Sensitive Topics as a Cultural Outsider. *Social Work Education*, 2015 vol. 34, No 2, 199-212. Mercadal, T. (2013) Social Constructionism. *Salem Press Encyclopaedia*, 2013, 2.p. Accessed through discovery service for Trinity College Dublin. Mirsky, J. (2013) Getting to Know the Piece of Fluff in Our Ears: Expanding Practitioners' Cultural Self-Awareness. *Social Work Education* 2013. Vol.32, No. 5. 626-638. Mlcek, S. (2014)

Are We Doing Enough to Develop Cross-Cultural Competencies for Social Work? *British Journal of Social Work* 44, 1984-2003. O'Leary, Z. (2010) *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project*. Sage publications. Putnam-Hornstein, E., Needell, B., King, B., and Johnson-Motoyama, M. (2012) Racial and ethnic disparities: A population-based examination of risk factors for involvement and child protective services. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 37 (2013) 33-46. Robbins, S., Chatterjee, P., and Canda, E. (2011) *Contemporary Human Behaviour Theory-A Critical Perspective for Social Work*. Third Edition. Allyn & Bacon, NJ 07458. Roberts, D. (2014) Child Protection as Surveillance of African Families. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*. Vol 36. No 4, 426-437. Samantrai, K. (2004) *Culturally Competent Public Child Welfare Practice*. Brooks/Cole-Thompson Learning. USA. Social Workers Registration Board (2011) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics*. Dublin. CORU Teasley, M. (2005) Perceived Levels of Cultural Competence Through Social Work Education and Professional Development for Urban School Social Workers. *Journal of Social Work Education*. Vol.41, No.1 (Winter 2005). The Independent Guardian Ad Litem Agency (2016) *Getting it Right-Cultural Care Planning for Children from Ethnic Minorities in Alternative Care*. Accessed at [www.tigala.ie](http://www.tigala.ie) on 3/4/2018. Turnell, A. and Murphy, T. (2014) Signs of Safety Comprehensive Briefing Paper. Resolutions Consultancy, Australia. Tusla (2016) Proficiencies Reflection Guide for Social Workers and Social Care Workers. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Tusla (2017a) Child Protection and Welfare Strategy 2017-2022. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Tusla (2017b) Integrated Performance and Activity Report Quarter 1 2017. Quality Assurance directorate. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Tusla (2017c) Integrated Performance and Activity Report Quarter 2 2017. Quality Assurance directorate. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Tulsa (2017d) Integrated Performance and Activity Report Quarter 3 2017. Quality Assurance directorate. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 13/01/2018. Tusla (2018) Corporate Plan 2018–2020. Accessed at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) on 04/04/2018. Tusla (2018) Business Plan 2018. Accessed on 4/4/2018 [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) . Whittaker, A. (2012) *Research Skills for Social Work*. London: Sage publications. Williams, C. and Soydan, H. (2005) When and How Does Ethnicity Matter? A Cross-National Study of Social Work Responses to Ethnicity in Child Protection Cases. *British Journal of Social Work* (2005) 35,901-920.

Consent to display on NRO website (select): Yes