

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: ECOST-STSM-Request-IS1409-44112

STSM title: Genderewl COST Action IS1409 STSM

STSM start and end date: 08/04/2019 to 18/04/2019

Grantee name: Áine Teahan

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

Below is a summary of the main aims of my STSM:

- Network with other researchers associated with Working Group 2 in the University of Edinburgh.
- Develop interdisciplinary thinking in relation to my current research project.
- Develop my research capacity in this area
- Develop potential for future collaborative research outputs in this area.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

Work conducted during my STSM can be broken down into two overlapping groups: 1. Knowledge exchange with other researchers and 2. Book editing.

1. Knowledge Exchange

I gained valuable insights into the relationship and wider implications of family caring on the extended working life policies. I engaged with informal conversations with the project lead, Prof. Wendy Loretto, post-docs and PhD students to facilitate knowledge exchange and develop my understanding of the interplay between family caring and late life employment policies. These meetings often led to referrals onto meeting with other researchers in the University of Edinburgh with specific interest in dementia raising awareness.

2. Book editing

Proof reading, editing and amalgamating a 25 country chapters for book entitled Gender, Health and Extended Working Life.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

1. Knowledge exchange

I gained knowledge regarding the methodologies employed by Working Group 2 to collect information and analyse national 'late work' employment policies from gender, lifecourse and health and wellbeing perspectives.

Engaging with the research foci of Working group and raising awareness of the relevance of late life employment policies was achieved through informal meeting and conversations with experts, professionals and researchers in the area.

Informal conversations with the project lead, Prof. Wendy Loretto and other available researchers in the field facilitated significant learning and knowledge exchange. If possible I will attend any research events happening through the course of my STSM.

2. Book editing

Proof reading and editing 25 country chapters for book entitled Gender, Health and Extended Working Life. I gained valuable experience in editing skills and developed awareness of the publication process of books. In addition to gaining editing skills, I also gained a very in-depth understanding of gender issues which impact on pensions in later life. This aspect of the book tied in strongly with my own research on family carers of people with dementia.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

My overall PhD is exploring psychosocial supports for family carers of people with dementia. The phrase psychosocial is used liberally within the field of dementia research, generally defined as any intervention which has a psychological or social component. While social and psycho-emotion aspects of caring for a person with dementia have been researched extensively, very little attention has been directed towards the occupational and economic aspects in the Irish context.

Having explored the economic and occupational implications of caring and late life employment strategies there is definite scope for future collaborations in this area. I would be particularly interested in exploring the extent to which family carers of people with dementia's financial circumstances are impacted in later life as a consequence of their caring role and potential avenues towards addressing this issue.