

# Socheolas

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### ***Introduction.***

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## **Introduction:**

This is the seventh edition of Socheolas: Limerick Student Journal of Sociology to be published by the Department of Sociology at the University of Limerick. The articles in this edition embody Michael Buraway's (2005) argument that there is no incongruity between public engagement and rigorous research. They share an evident "commitment to the revelation of truth..." (Seale 2004, p.408) in that each one authoritatively challenges dominant discourses, framings and policies, with a view to uncovering the relations of power they camouflage.

The first article in this edition by Aillen Marron adopts a Frame Analysis approach to examine the representation of the Irish Health Service Executive (HSE) and its employees in the Irish Independent. She evidences that coverage of the HSE is constructed in a predominantly episodic and negative manner, characterised by sensationalist headlines and inflammatory content. Similarly, Teresa Shiels paper investigates how people with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) were portrayed by print media in Ireland in a particular year. She finds that the vast majority of the sample articles used Clogston's (1989) traditional model to portray people with TBI, in that the emphasis was on the impairment of the individual, rather than the civil rights of the person.

Kevin Russell's article presents a detailed analysis of *The Chawner's Last Chance*, a televised reality show, which illustrates the dynamics and function of middle-class disgust. Analysis of content, editing, camerawork and narration uncovers the manner in which class disgust is actively and consciously produced. The paper argues articulately that direct reference

to class is now eschewed in derisory discourse which is of increasing significance to the formation of class division.

The final three papers serve to give voice to those who frequently find themselves subject to others constructions of their needs, wants and actions. Caoilinn Shinnars-Kennedy's paper investigates the social experiences of students with disabilities at an Irish third level institution. The key findings of the research identify major factors which influence these social experiences including social participation levels, perception and attitude as well as policy and services. Gillian Moloney unfolds constructions of citizenship by directly examining young people's views and experiences of such. Her paper strongly supports a rejection of the "Youth Apathy Thesis". Finally, Diane O' Doherty's article uncovers the hidden and lived experiences of graffiti artists in contemporary Irish society, in the process giving a voice to individuals who are often depicted as masked or hooded villains.

The papers published in this edition of Socheolas evidence the contemporary importance of sociology as a discipline, in producing critical thinkers who are oriented towards and capable of producing meaningful, warranted and change-oriented social research. They demonstrate both the practical research skills which students acquire and exercise in the course of sociological studies and the capacity to use theory to uncover the latent meanings and ideological underpinnings of popular and political constructions. Socheolas remains committed to fostering these abilities to question dominant political and social discourses.

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## References

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Seale, C. (2004) 'Quality in Qualitative Research', in Seale C., Gobo G, Gubrium J.F, Silverman D., eds., *Qualitative Research Practice*, London: Sage, 409-419.