



JSPS



UCD Geary Institute  
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**UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy / UCD Centre for Japanese Studies**  
**UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice**  
**UCD Ageing Network**  
*University College Dublin (UCD) & Chiba University research collaborations since 2016*

## **Public Seminar**

**[JSPS London Symposium and Seminar Scheme FY2025]**

**“Caring Communities in Japan and Ireland: Collaboration, engagement and intergenerational relations for realising Ageing in Place”**

Date/Time: Tuesday 28 October 2025, 10:00-16:00

Venue: [UCD Quinn School of Business](#) – QUI113, Belfield Campus, UCD

[You can click ‘UCD Quinn School of Business’ above to find Google map. A separate simple map can be found on the final page for those coming in from the front gate of the university]

## **Abstract**

Population ageing is a global phenomenon and presents a societal challenge in every industrialised economy. To optimise the mental and physical capacity and social participation of older people, an integrated, person-centred care model must be developed. Japan is at the forefront of ageing societies, having implemented several policy measures to support it. Ireland, a relatively ‘young’ country located in Northwestern Europe, is proactively addressing similar issues through reforms in its health and social care systems.

This interdisciplinary seminar brings together academics, practitioners, and early-career researchers from both countries to discuss current policies and practices at the intersection of life sciences (public health and nursing) and social sciences (social gerontology, social work, and public policy). It explores how older persons’ ability to age in place can be supported through community engagement (collaboration among municipalities, academics, and older people) and integrated housing concepts, such as multi-generational housing and ageing-friendly community approaches.

# Programme

## **10:15-10:35: Welcome & Opening remarks**

- Prof. Michelle Norris (Director, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy)
- Mr Koji Hirohata (Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Japan in Ireland)
- Mr Pat Brennan (Board Secretary, Carnew Community Care)
- Dr Diarmuid O’Shea (President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, RCPI)

## **10:40-11:00: JSPS London activities & funding streams**

- Prof. Masahiko Hara (Director, JSPS London) & Mr Yusuke Nishida (JSPS London)

## **Session 1 (11:00-12:00): Integrated Community Care in Japan**

- Prof. Mina Ishimaru (Chiba University, Japan) – “Different types of caring communities and a variety of collaborations”
- Ms Sanae Murai (WaWaWa-no-kai, Higashi-Chiba, Japan) – “Wa(和)-style Caring Community in Higashi-Chiba: In search of a community model which enables ‘living the life we/older people wish to live’”
- Dr Kaori Hotta (Gunma University, Japan) – “Social participation for older people in Japan: understanding the meanings of group volunteering opportunities”

## **12:00-13:00: Lunch Break**

*Served on the ground floor in Quinn’s Contemplative Space (the round room as you enter the building)*

## **Session 2 (13:00-14:00): Ageing in Place – Policy & Practice in Ireland and Japan**

- Dr Nat O’Connor (UCD) – “‘Ageing in place’ in the Irish context”
- Dr Taichi Sato (Chiba University, Japan) – “Starting with outreach: Caring of healthcare professionals for hard-to-reach groups in communities”

## **14:00-14:15: Tea/Coffee Break**

*Served on the ground floor in Quinn’s Contemplative Space (the round room as you enter the building)*

## **Session 3 (14:15-15:45): Promoting social inclusion in Ireland**

- Assoc. Prof. Sarah Donnelly (UCD) – “Fight against ageism and safeguarding older people in Ireland”
- Dr Catherine Elliott O’Dare (Trinity College Dublin(TCD)) – “Intergenerational friendship in Ireland”
- Dr Maria Pierce (Maynooth University) – “Caring communities for People with Dementia”

## **15:45-16:00: Closing remarks**

- Dr Catherine Elliott O’Dare (TCD) & Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (UCD)

This seminar is organised under the [JSPS London Symposium and Seminar Scheme 2025](#)