Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

An Institiúid Cúrsa Saoil & Sochaí
Institute for Lifecourse & Society

ENABLING EQUITY ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

Institute for Lifecourse and Society - ILAS
International Research Training Series

SAVE THE DATE

Constructivist Grounded Theory Methodology: An Introduction

Facilitator: Prof. Elaine Keane, University of Galway

Grounded theory is one of the most highly cited qualitative research methodologies, but it remains relatively poorly understood and used. In this course, we examine the core features of high quality grounded theory research design and key procedures in its implementation. Throughout, adaptations are emphasised in line with Kathy Charmaz's Constructivist Grounded Theory. Full course details are outlined in the schedule below.

This course is suited to academics, researchers, postgraduate students, and professionals seeking to learn how to design and implement a (constructivist) grounded theory study but will also benefit those doing more 'general' qualitative studies into which grounded theory techniques may be incorporated.

DATE: 12th & 13th January 2027

TIME: 10:00 - 16:00 daily

VENUE: Education Building, Block D, South Campus, Rm D102



Course Outcome:
By the end of this two-day course, participants will be able to plan, design, implement, and evaluate a constructivist grounded theory study across disciplines. The knowledge and skills can also be utilised in the context of any qualitative social science research project.

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

An Institiúid Cúrsa Saoil & Sochaí
Institute for Lifecourse & Society

in association with

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Scoil an Oideachais
School of Education

Schedule - Tuesday, 12th January 2027

Time	Description
09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome & Introduction *Prof. Elaine Keane, School of Education, University of Galway*
10:10- 11:15	Grounded Theory: Core Ideas & History and Development
11:15 - 12:30	The Literature Review & Researcher Positionality
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 14:45	Data Generation & Initial Coding
14:45 - 16:00	Initial Coding ct., Memoing & Focused Coding

Course Facilitator:
Prof. Elaine Keane, School of Education, University of Galway

Note: Activities & Discussion are embedded throughout each session

Schedule - Wednesday, 13th January 2027

Time	Description
10:00 - 11:15	Memoing ct. & Provisional Categorising
11:15- 12:30	Theoretical Sampling & Involving Participants
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 14:45	Developing & Presenting your Theory
14:45 - 16:00	Evaluating a CGT, & Developing your Project

Course Facilitator:
Prof. Elaine Keane, School of Education, University of Galway

Note: Activities & Discussion are embedded throughout each session

Course Facilitator



Professor Elaine Keane

Professor Elaine Keane, PhD, is Professor and Head of the Discipline of Education in the School of Education at the University of Galway, Ireland. Her research focuses on social class and education, teacher diversity, and constructivist grounded theory (CGT), and she has published widely and has led national and international projects in these areas, including as lead editor of Diversifying the Teaching Profession: Dimensions, Dilemmas and Directions for the Future (Routledge, 2023). She is Co-Editor of Irish Educational Studies, and was Inaugural Chair of the National Initial Teacher Education Diversity Network and Convenor of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) Special Interest Group on Teacher Diversity Research.

On CGT, Elaine has collaborated and published with Kathy Charmaz and Robert Thornberg and taught workshops in Ireland, the UK, Poland, Sweden, South Africa, and the USA, including with the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina and ResearchTalk Inc. She has taught CGT at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, since 2015 and was keynote speaker at the World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR) at Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, in February 2025, at the MCAST 4th Annual Conference in Qualitative Research Methods in Malta in November 2025, and at the 5th Conference on Qualitative Psychology, University of Warsaw, Poland in May 2026.

A member of the International Association of Grounded Theorists, Elaine is lead editor of the Routledge International Handbook of Constructivist Grounded Theory in Educational Research (2025). She has authored/co-authored chapters in many methodology texts, including The Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology (2026), the Routledge Encyclopaedia of Qualitative Methods (2026), the APA Handbook of Research Methods in Psychology (2023), The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research Design (2022), and The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research (5th ed., 2018). Since 2025, she is (EU) Editor of the International Journal of Qualitative Methods (SAGE) .
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1002-5119

Contact

Deirdre Conway
Administration and Engagement
EM: deirdre.conway@universityofgalway.ie

Prof. Caroline McGregor
Director
EM: caroline.mcgregor@universityofgalway.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/ilas

ILAS Constituent Centres

- Centre for Disability Law and Public Policy (CDLP)
- Centre for Applied Linguistics & Multilingualism (CALM)
- Community Engaged Research in Action (CORA)
- Community Engagement (CE)
- Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC)
- Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG)
- Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research (ICAN)
- PPI Ignite Network
- Psychology and Health Research Centre (PAHRC)
- UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (UCFRC)