

## **Abstract**

### **AN EXPLORATION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' ACCOMMODATION EXPERIENCES IN GALWAY CITY**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
Jessica Dolan

This research employed mixed methods to explore students' experiences of sourcing accommodation in Galway city during the current Irish housing crisis. Secondary data sources helped to develop an overall picture of the connections between the student population and the city's built environment across the interrelated sectors of employment, higher education, housing, and transport. A survey was then developed to provide space for students to express their own views on these existing systems, and how they could be transformed to better meet their various needs. In the interpretation of these narratives, a rights-based, reflexive theoretical framework was implemented. Thoughts on both the potential positives and pitfalls of the chosen research design were subsequently outlined. It was hoped that such insights could act as an invitation for further reflection regarding the means by which student voices are included or excluded from wider academic, political, and public discourses in Ireland.