

Thursday 15th December 4pm – Maynooth University Psychology Department

Dr. Maria Pertl (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland)

Stress and Cognitive Functioning among Spousal Dementia Caregivers in Ireland



Maria Pertl is a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She will present findings from the *DeStress* study, which examined relationships between stress and cognitive function and is the largest study on the health and wellbeing of spousal dementia caregivers in Ireland to date. Maria led *De-Stress*, which was funded by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and the Health Research Board, while working as a post-doctoral researcher in the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. Maria previously held a postdoctoral position in the School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), investigating decision making among people with depression. Maria completed her PhD, MSc, and undergraduate degree in Psychology in TCD. Her doctoral research, conferred in 2013, investigated the contributing factors to cancer-related fatigue and evaluated the effectiveness of a psychological intervention for cancer survivors with persistent fatigue. Maria has also worked on several research projects on cancer screening and prevention. Her research interests include the impact of stress on health, the development and prevention of chronic health conditions, cognitive aging, caregiving, psycho-oncology, and cancer-related fatigue.