

The Art of Citizen-Science: Monitoring a Climate Disaster

Geography Seminar, 28 November, 4-5:30pm
IONTAS Second Floor Seminar Room, North Campus, Maynooth University

A conversation with Kildare Co. Weather Observers, artist Martina O'Brien, Dr Catherine O'Connell, Irish Peatlands Conservation Council, Dr Lisa Orme, Co-Director MSc Climate Change, Geography & ICARUS), Prof Karen Till, Geography, and Lucina Rusell, Director, Kildare Co Council Arts Service

Weather observers play a significant, often unrecognised role, as citizen-scientists who collect important data that lead to new understandings weather and the formation of climate change models, all of which have been influential in affecting recent international and national policy. The Weather Observation Network in County Kildare is comprised of seven people who collect daily data for Met Éireann from privately installed Rainfall Stations on an ongoing basis, and whose members participated in a project with artist Martina O'Brien over the past two years. Tracing these hidden subjects and systems embedded within the landscape, O'Brien's seven-channel video artwork *Quotidian* explores the cross-temporal and spatial relations of planetary scale centres of climate calculation, local off-grid and offline voluntary Weather Observers, as connected through embodied practices, computational technologies and copper.

Our special guest speaker is Dr Catherine O'Connell, Chief Executive of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Joining her will be: artist Martina O'Brien, Dr Lisa Orme, Co-Director MSc Climate Change, MU Geography and ICARUS, Lucina Russell, director Kildare County Council Arts Service, and Professor Karen Till, MU Geography and Director of the MA in Spatial Justice.

As part of an extended international celebration of Science and GeoWeeks in November 2019, Kildare County's Weather Observers will informally meet before this event to discuss their work with undergraduate and postgraduate students in Geography. Following the symposium, the exhibition *Quotidian* will be launched at Illuminations Gallery, Maynooth University.

The conversation and exhibition launch is open to the public.

Supported by the IRC Steam New Foundations Scheme, Creative Ireland, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Maynooth University Social Science Institute, MU Department of Geography, MU Illuminations Gallery, the Space&Place Research Collaborative and the Geographical Society of Ireland.



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Artist's biography

Martina O'Brien holds an MA in Visual Art Practice at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire, 2014, having previously studied at undergraduate level at both Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design and the National College of Art and Design. Her work has been supported through various awards from The Arts Council of Ireland and Kildare County Council's Arts Office. Selected exhibitions include: Rising from the Hill: Local Systems in Global Contexts, curated by Francis Halsall & Kelley O'Brien, NCAD Gallery (2017), The Headless City, TULCA, curated by Daniel Jewesbury, Galway Arts Centre (2016), ART WORKS, VISUAL Carlow, selected by Annie Fletcher & Claire Feeley (2016), CASTING TERRITORY: A Contemporary River Keepers' Index of Lesser Known Patterns, RUA RED, Royal Dublin Society Library and Archive and The Waterways Centre, Dublin (2015), Continuum, Draiocht, Dublin (2015) and the Cube Space, The LAB, Dublin (2013). <https://www.martinaobrien.com/>