

## **Art, Climate Change and the Citizen-Scientist: A Conversation with Kildare County's Weather Observers**

19 November 2018, 4-5pm  
Old Callan Building, South Campus, Maynooth University

With artist Martina O'Brien, Dr. Conor Murphy, ICARUS, Prof. Gerry Kearns and  
Prof. Karen Till, Department of Geography,  
in collaboration with Kildare County Arts Council



*Images courtesy of Martina O'Brien © 2018.*

What is the role of citizens' weather observations in modelling climate change? Visual artist Martina O'Brien's new multimedia project *Quotidian* explores linkages between planetary scale systems of climate observation through a local engagement with an off-grid and offline community of voluntary Weather Observers situated within the boundaries of Co. Kildare. This small community of Weather Observation Network members comprise of seven people who collect daily data for Met Éireann from privately installed Rainfall Stations on an ongoing basis. Tracing these hidden subjects and systems embedded within the landscape, the artwork looks at their recurrent periodic recordkeeping as a personal rhythm tied to the body and considers their long-term recording role in the face of computational technologies and eventual automation. *Quotidian* will culminate in an exhibition at Illuminations Gallery, Maynooth University, as part of the international celebration of Science and GeoWeeks in November 2019.

As part of *Quotidian* and GeoWeek Ireland 2018, Kildare County's Weather Observers will meet for the first time to discuss their work, in conversation with artist Martina O'Brien, and with Climate Change, Historical and Cultural Geographers at Maynooth University, Dr. Conor Murphy (ICARUS), Prof. Gerry Kearns and Prof. Karen Till. Undergraduate and MA/MSc classes in Geography, Climate Change and Global Environmental Change will be in attendance. The conversation will be held on 19 November from 4-5pm in the Old Callan Building on South Campus and is open to the public. A small overview of artist Martina O'Brien's work in progress and Climate Change research at Maynooth University's ICARUS will also be on display at Maynooth University Library lobby from 16 November and running throughout GeoWeek.

These special events are supported by Kildare County Arts Council, the Department of Geography at Maynooth University, ICARUS, and the Geographical Society of Ireland.