

# Geo News

*Bimonthly Newsletter of GSI*

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## Note from the Editor

Fellow Geographers,

Welcome to the third issue of GeoNews for 2014 – as we commence the 2014/15 academic year I am delighted to share with you the success stories of summer.

The previous issue of GeoNews was released in the build-up to the Conference of Irish Geographers 2014 held in UCD. In this issue, I provide highlights from yet another successful CIG which seems to be going from strength to strength. Eoin O'Mahony also provides a report from the CIG fieldtrip into the heart of Dublin city during the conference.

Over the summer, some geographical projects were instigated, many others continued to produce excellent outputs which benefit our understanding and knowledge, but also wider society.

Of course, we are always eager to acknowledge when Geographers are given due recognition by prestigious professional and public bodies; in this regard we are happy to share the news that **Professor Gerry Kearns** has been honoured by the **Association of American Geographers** for his prolific work on Historical Geographies, Society and Spatial Justice.

A number of excellent publications from CIG members were released over the last few months; these are highlighted for all our readers.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of GeoNews. I would like to thank all of our contributions over the past two months. The next issue will be out in the run up the Christmas break, as always if you are interested in submitting something for inclusion in GeoNews 60, please get in contact at the details below.

Happy Reading!

Paul Alexander

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## CIG 2014: Highlights



The 46<sup>th</sup> Conference of Irish Geographers (CIG) was held in University College Dublin May 08<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2014. The conference has an established reputation having run continuously since 1968 and this year was no exception



150 participants registered for the conference, just over 100 delegates presented papers in 26 sessions over a very busy three days. Professor Mike Raco (University College London) gave the keynote address to the conference entitled *Privatisation, Managerialism, and the Changing Politics of Sustainability Planning in London: Lessons From the Planning of the London Olympics*. A plenary was also given by Professor David Bailey (Aston University) on 'Place-based' policy approaches and the UK government's Localism Agenda. The conference dinner was held in Beaufield Mews, during the dinner the awards ceremony was held:



### Geographical Society of Ireland: Book of the Year 2014

'Public Private Partnerships in Ireland' Manchester Univ. Press

Rory Hearne, Maynooth University



### Geographical Society of Ireland: Geographer's Contribution to Society and Community Award 2014

John Sweeney, Maynooth University



### Geographical Society of Ireland: Special Recognition for outstanding achievement 2014

Robert Kitchen, Maynooth University



### Geographical Society of Ireland: Doctoral Research Award 2014

'Food risk governance in Ireland'

Laura Devaney, Trinity College Dublin

This year for the first time the proceedings of the conference were also published in the form of short (4 page) research articles. The full proceedings can be downloaded free of charge at [http://media.wix.com/ugd/c7bebb\\_54fcd89e11c849c3b48732d376ca0db9.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/c7bebb_54fcd89e11c849c3b48732d376ca0db9.pdf)

This PDF contains each of the published papers submitted by speakers at CIG2014

Alduraibi S. and G...	Spatial variability of magnetic susceptibility for the soils of County Kildare, Ireland
Alexander P.J.	The Effect of High and Low Resolution Geographic and Meteorological Data on a Surface Urban Energy Balance Model
Barrett L.	Inventing the 'Far East': Irish Missionary Representations of Twentieth Century Asia
Barry, A.	Geography, gender and sexual assault in Ireland: what do the statistics say?
Bonnin C.	From Subsistence to Consumption: the Emerging Middle Class in Vietnam
Bourke M.C.	The geomorphic role of fog in a coastal dunefield, Namibia
Boyle M.	Emerging geographies of responsibility: The case of diaspora centred development
Bradley KR and AL...	Simulating the impact of the growth of Dublin Vity 1988-2010) on the surface energy balance.
Bradley-Davies H....	The Mount Saint Lawrence Project Limerick.
Breathnach P.	Regional Economic Resilience in Ireland: The Roles of Industrial Structure and Foreign Inward Investment
Brennan M.	Flood risk perception at the community level: concordance and divergence from reality
Brennan M.	Quantifying Flood Risk Perception: A case study using cognitive maps and spatial statistics
Burroughs E.	Irish newsprint media representations of immigration and emigration in the aftermath of the economic crisis: A focus on the year 2012
Byrne R.	The Registry of Trees 1765-1910: the role of state, society and culture in the making of wooded landscapes in modern Ireland
Carmody, P.	Africa Rising? Rhetoric and Realities
Charlton R.	Enhancing student understanding and engagement with quantitative relationships: the development of a class database of specific stream power for Irish rivers calculated from streamflow data and Google E...
Cherry J. and Heg...	Digitising the Irish Historical Towns Atlas: opportunities and challenges
Collins P.	Gauging the impacts of the Volvo Ocean Race finale from the tourist, resident and business perspective.

CIG2014 The 46<sup>th</sup> Conference of Irish Geography, 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, UCD, Dublin.

## Spatial variability of magnetic susceptibility for the soils of County Kildare, Ireland

**Alduraibi, S <sup>1</sup>, Gibson, P. J. <sup>1</sup>**

*Dept. of Geography, NUI, Maynooth<sup>1</sup>*  
*Samar.alduraibi.2012@nuim.ie*

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Gerald Mills and Dr. Niamh Moore-Cherry for co-organising such an excellent CIG in UCD, we were all very impressed with the UCD science hub, the bar for CIG-2015 has been set very high.



Dr Gerald Mills, Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry and UCD President Prof. Andrew Deeks at the opening ceremony

The 47th Conference of Irish Geographers that will take place 21-23 May 2015 hosted by the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queens University Belfast.

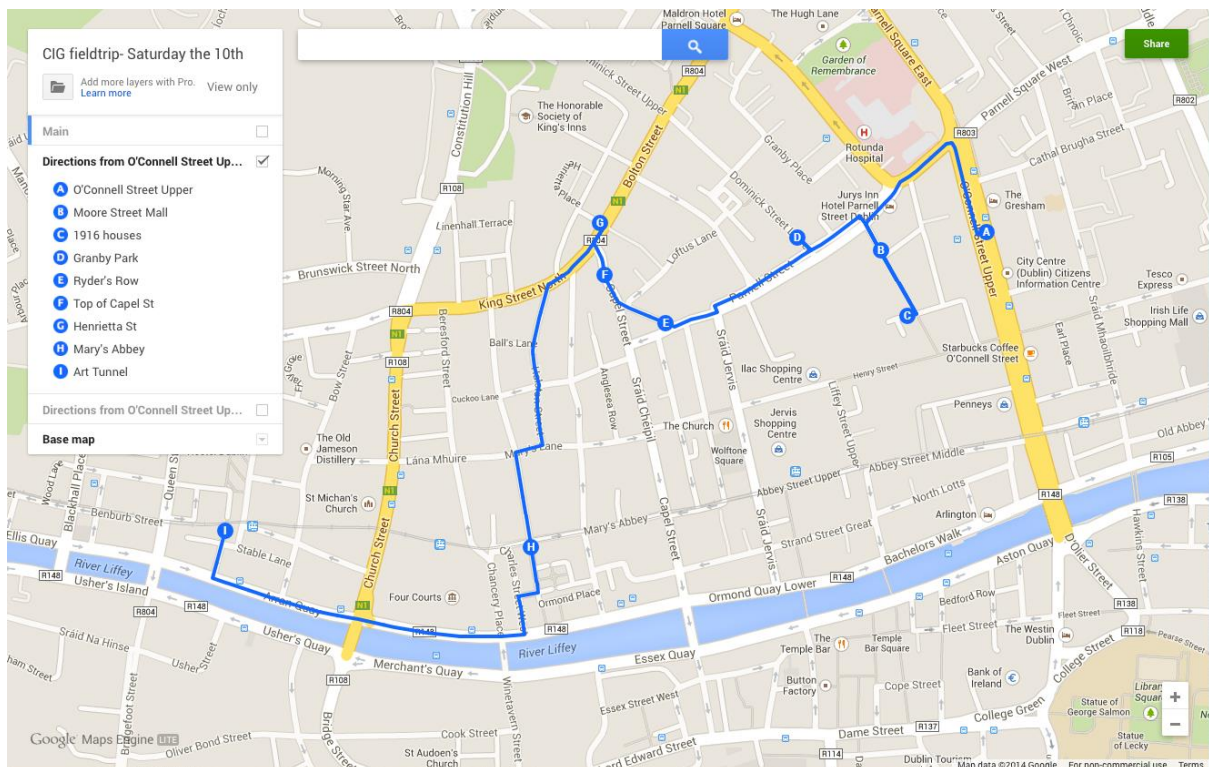
## Exploring alternative approaches to Dublin's urban development

### Conference of Irish Geographers fieldtrip report



By

Eoin O'Mahony, PhD candidate, NUIM



Dublin is again in the midst of a property-based boom. House prices are rising dramatically, banks are again offering 35 year mortgages and the City Council has just allowed a Strategic Development Zone in the south docks area. But just like the decade before 2007, this is based on speculation and private accumulation, not a vision of public space for all inhabitants. The fieldtrip offered on the Saturday afternoon of the Conference asked critical questions about these processes, across four decades of Dublin's history.

Although it rained solidly for 30 minutes before the fieldtrip was due to commence, we met outside the Gresham Hotel on O'Connell Street. The Gresham Hotel faces the old Dublin County Council headquarters and the now NAMA'd site originally planned for more retail space adjoining Moore lane and Moore street. At this end of the street lies a kind of nexus of capital, planning and speculative regeneration. Payments received by elected councillors from landowners in the 1970s were often received in Conway's pub, around the corner. This money, paid over to rezone banks of land in the extended Dublin suburbs,

circulated around this small area: Conway's the Council chamber and the planning offices. For Dublin's main street to be used in this way is not that unusual: the Council was central to allowing city land banks go unused for a long time.

The rain eased off and the nine of us walked around the north west corner of the street to Conway's pub and the rear of the NAMA's site proposed for redevelopment. At this point, the emphasis was on examining the current shape of Parnell street with this process. Parnell street was widened in the 1970s to make it one of the main traffic thoroughfares out of the city and extending to the western suburbs. As that process stalled, large tracts of land were held in reserve as surface car parking for almost two decades. This allowed for developers to buy up these plots and create the street we see today. The mixture of buildings styles and ages on the street are testament to this process. It is now dominated by traffic with little space for pedestrians.

Turning the corner on to Moore Lane, we walked in and around the Council plots leading on to Moore St. The emphasis at this point is on how the plan to redevelop the adjacent plots will impact upon the historic buildings on Moore St. itself. While there has been considerable effort put into preserving the buildings where the Irish rebels eventually surrendered in 1916, there is also a strong effort to create yet more retail space of a certain kind on this site, thus gentrifying the stalls on Moore street. This gentrification process however is an answer to a question that nobody asked. The traders on Moore street have made decent livelihoods from these markets for generations and, in all of its contingency, it works. I outlined the plans to redevelop this and the older Ilac centre directly adjacent. However, given that Moore street and the surrounding area works well already, it is hard to understand what more could be accomplished for city residents by its destruction. On the corner though is a newer development of the Moore St Mall. This underground retail space has quickly become another hub of migrant trading, developing its own geography in the context of the broader streetscape. Irrespective of the bigger plans speculative capitalists have for a place, social and cultural life thrives in many forms above and on the ground. In spite of the Council's plans to confine pedestrians to the road's traffic crossing, people continue to walk across the streets, dodging cars, living their lives.

As the afternoon dried up, we met with Anna and XX from the Dominick Street housing complex. They told us about the Granby Park initiative, their reactions to the temporary park project and their hopes for housing to be rebuilt on the site. Anna told us about how the area is composed of people who have lived and worked here for most of their lives but how the redevelopment plans of Dublin City Council and Zoe Developments fell through in 2009. Anna and XX spoke about how the apartments on the street form a community around work, leisure and community development. As city residents all of their lives, they have seen large changes to Parnell street and the area more generally. They broadly welcomed this but would like to see a little more green space provided. They were also

curious about our own group and we talked about our own conference and a little geography.

We proceeded along Parnell Street, taking a diversion up King's Inns street and pointing out the Chocolate Factory. Housed in the former Williams & Woods building, the Chocolate Factory is a creative community to host early businesses and artists on several floors. When it opened first, the Factory had a working roof garden but the current status of the vegetable growing roof garden is unclear. The Williams & Woods building was Dublin's first massed concrete building and is a significant feature in the inner city landscape. The sheer red-brick of the adjoining Parnell Centre dominates the streetscape, showing to the group that the function of the Parnell Street area has changed over a number of decades from industrial to leisure-based activities. The re-use of the Chocolate Factory for creative and start up projects indicates the class-based characteristics of property relations as well as a changing use of city space over time. At the top of the street, the group was able to get a view of Henrietta Street, a street which tells of the historical wealth of this part of the city but which has been let fall into general decay since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the five storey Georgian houses are being used as offices but a number are in ruin, beyond seeming economic repair while lower density housing was being built on the plains of Old Bawn and Hartstown. In some ways, the dilapidation of the buildings on the street points to the reversal of Dublin's city centre as a place for families to live and work that was brought about by developer-led politics from the 1960s. Housing success was measured by larger scale estates and the apparent unviability of renovating 250 year old buildings.

We moved across to the Markets area of the north city, where the Council is trying to revitalise the entire neighbourhood as a more consumer-friendly market. The old fish market moved to the suburbs over ten years ago but the Victorian Markets building stands as a register of the public efforts made to regulate and keep food cleaner for the north city's population. The plans include an underground car park and an extension of the public space but so far there are few signs that the plans are being brought forward. The short walk to Smithfield Square served to point out how public space can be made better to many uses, not just speculative development. Here we met with Sophie, one of the coordinators for the Art Tunnel project, a local resident inspired attempt to make a derelict site more attractive with art installations. The narrow strip of land, alongside the busy Luas Red line, is owned by a nearby business who were happy for it to be temporarily occupied for the summer of 2013. The Tunnel project allowed people to sit and be with the installed art for a short period before it was taken back into the control of the company that owns it. The lessons learned by the collective are being used in other nearby projects. The tour repaired to a nearby hostelry to warm up and dry out.

## Geographical Projects

### Workshop to Develop a Global Database of Urban Form and Function



Dr. Gerald Mills of UCD along with colleagues in International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis co-organised a workshop to initiate the development of a World Urban Database and Access Portal Tools (WUDAPT) project. This detailed characterisation of cities around the world will allow researchers to compare cities globally but also improve the way that urban areas are represented in many different models and applications from a local to a global scale.



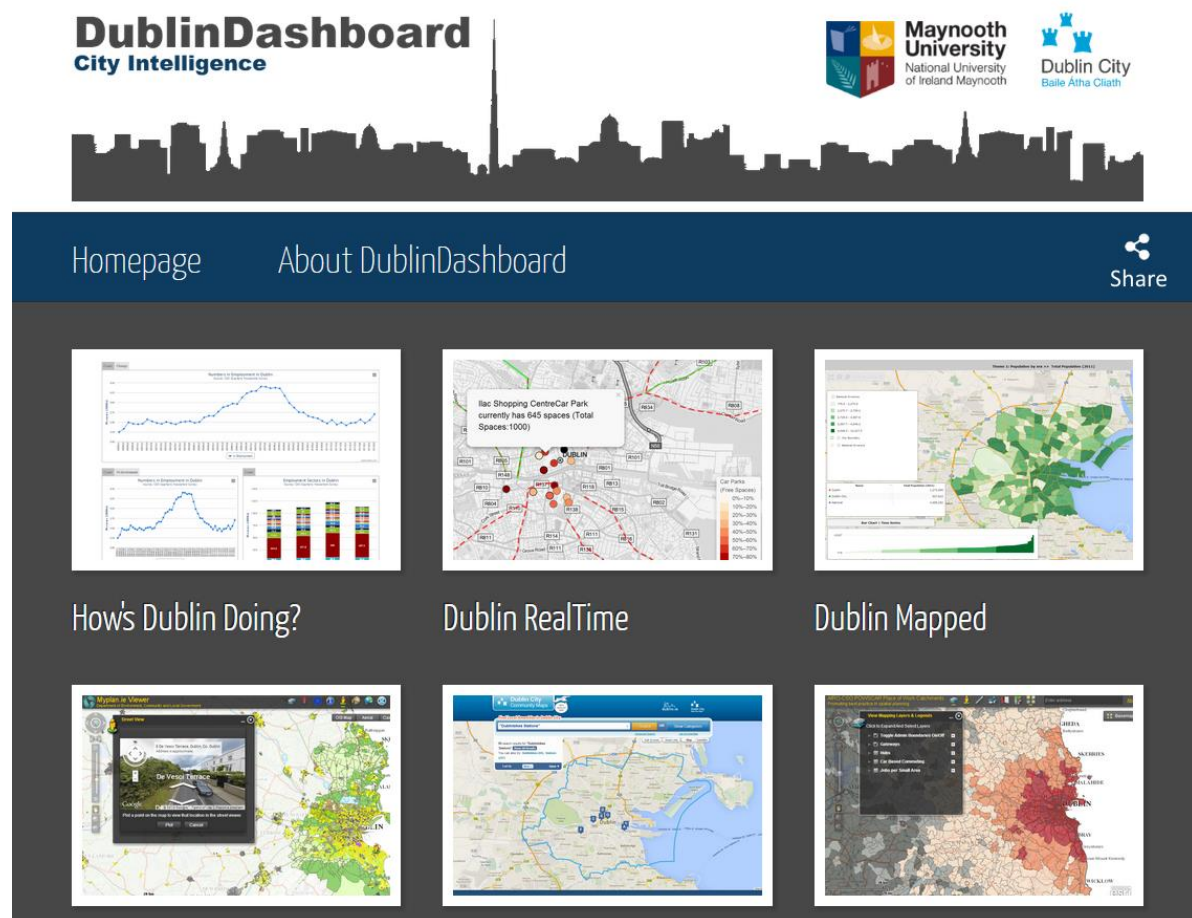
Urbanisation is a key driver of deforestation, particularly in tropical countries such as Indonesia and Brazil. Urbanisation also contributes to other global environmental problems such as climate change, and has led to increasing demands for food, energy and water. At the same time, cities are uniquely vulnerable to the consequences of environmental change, e.g. coastal inundation from rising sea-levels and increased air temperatures and pollution levels.

There is currently a pressing need for a global database on the composition, configuration and function of cities. This information is of extreme value for modelling the local climates of urban areas; in formulating solutions for sustainable development and mitigation of climate change; for determination of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; for integrated assessment models that holistically address the food-energy-water nexus; and to facilitate international comparisons of cities, which is not possible using currently available data.

The [workshop](#) brought together experts to discuss the development of a World Urban Database and Access Portal Tools (WUDAPT) that will become a future resource built by the community for access by all. Participation was encouraged from developing countries and mega cities in order to build an international community and provide hands-on training in mapping and documenting cities of all sizes.

You can view the introduction to the workshop [here](#).

## The Programmable City Project and NCG launch The Dublin Dashboard



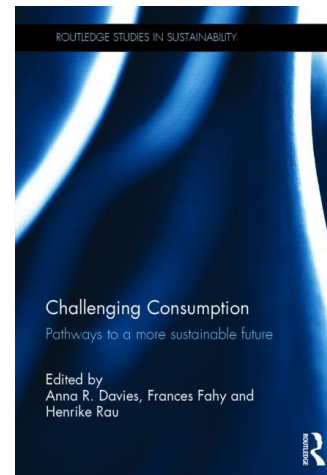
The Dublin Dashboard (TDD) provides citizens, public sector workers and companies with real-time information, time-series indicator data, and interactive maps about all aspects of the city. TDD pulls together data from major data sources -- including Dublin City Council, Dublinlinked, Central Statistics Office, Eurostat, and government departments, and links to a variety of existing applications -- to provide thousands of interactive data visualisations. The underlying data is freely available so others can undertake their own analysis and build their own applications and visualisations.

You can learn more at the their website <http://www.dublindashboard.ie/pages/ContactUs> or see the team speaking on RTE news about the project [here](#).

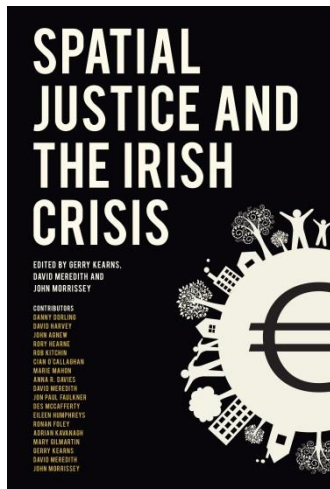
## Publications from GSI members

### ‘Challenging Consumption’

The [CONSENSUS](#) team from Trinity College Dublin and National University of Galway, have worked over the past five years to identify, develop and evaluate more sustainable consumption practices. The results of this work have been published in a new book [Challenging Consumption: Pathways to a more sustainable future](#) available for pre-order from Routledge. Informed by a number of disciplinary perspectives, Challenging Consumption is structured around four key themes in sustainable consumption research: Living, Moving, Dwelling and Futures. The collection successfully balances theoretical insights with grounded case studies, on mobility, heating, washing and eating practices, and concludes by exploring future sustainable consumption research pathways and policy recommendations. Theoretical frameworks are advanced throughout the volume, especially in relation to social practice theory, theories of behaviour change and innovative backcasting methodologies. The book draws on conceptual approaches which move beyond the responsibility of the individual consumer to take into account wider social, economic and political structures and processes to highlight both possibilities for and challenges to sustainable consumption. This approach enables students and policy-makers alike to easily recognise the applicability of social science theories.



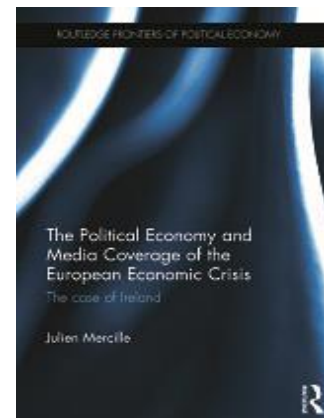
### ‘Spatial Justice and the Irish Crisis’



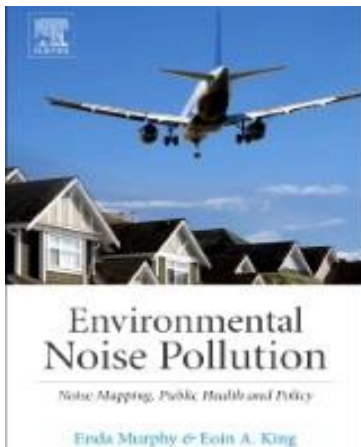
[Spatial Justice and the Irish Crisis](#), edited by Gerry Kearns (NUI Maynooth), David Meredith (Teagasc) and John Morrissey (NUI Galway), will be launched at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin on Monday, September 29 (1pm, Academy House, 19 Dawson Street). The book, grant-aided by the Publications Fund of NUI Galway, contains essays on spatial justice in Ireland by Anna Davies, Jon Paul Faulkner, Ronan Foley, Mary Gilmartin, Rory Hearne, Adrian Kavanagh, Gerry Kearns, Rob Kitchin, Des McCafferty, David Meredith, Cian O'Callaghan, and Marie Mahon and John Morrissey from Geography at NUIG. The crisis is set in general context with essays by internationally renowned scholars, John Agnew and Danny Dorling, and an interview that John Morrissey conducted with David Harvey.

### ‘The Political Economy and Media Coverage of the European Economic Crisis: The Case of Ireland’

Dr Julien Mercille (UCD) has published a new book on The Political Economy and Media Coverage of the European Economic Crisis: The Case of Ireland. The book covers the housing bubble that led to the crash, the rescue of financial institutions by the state, the role of the European institutions and the International Monetary Fund, austerity, and the possibility of leaving the eurozone for Europe's peripheral countries. It is published by Routledge.



## Environmental Noise Pollution



Dr. Enda Murphy (UCD) has published a new book on environmental noise with Prof. Eoin King, University of Hartford. The book is the first coherent work on this major environmental stressor and is a new benchmark reference across disciplinary, policy and national boundaries. It is published by Elsevier.

## Stormiest Winter on record for Ireland and UK

ICARUS researchers in the Department of Geography, Maynooth University, Tom Mathews, Conor Murphy and Shaun Harrigan along with Professor Robert L. Wilby (Loughborough University) have had their research published in the prestigious Nature Climate Change (Impact factor 14.5 in 2012) on the storminess of winter 2013/2014.

While meteorological agencies in the UK and Ireland have acknowledged winter 2013/14 was exceptional in terms of precipitation totals and extreme wind speeds, less clear was the extent to which the frequency and intensity of cyclones experienced during the period December 2013 - February 2014 were atypical.

Their published findings indicate that the period considered experienced the most severe storminess for at least 143 years when taking into account both cyclone frequency and intensity, calling for further research into the key processes driving extreme storminess.

You can read the full article [here](#)

**nature climate change**

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NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE | CORRESPONDENCE

**Stormiest winter on record for Ireland and UK**

Tom Mathews, Conor Murphy, Robert L. Wilby & Shaun Harrigan

Affiliations | Corresponding author

Nature Climate Change 4, 738–740 (2014) | doi:10.1038/nclimate2336  
Published online 27 August 2014

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**At a glance**

**Figures**

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To the Editor —

Meteorological agencies of Ireland and the UK have confirmed that winter (December to February) 2013–2014 (W2013–14) set records for precipitation totals and the occurrence of extreme wind speeds<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Less clear is whether storminess (characterized as the frequency and intensity of cyclones) during W2013–14 was equally unprecedented. We assessed multidecadal variations in storminess by considering frequency and intensity together and found that in the context of these large-scale cyclone characteristics, W2013–14 was indeed exceptional. Given the potential societal impacts, there is clearly a need to better understand the

## Other News and Updates

### Professor Gerry Kearns given prestigious honour by AAG

Professor Gerry Kearns (Maynooth University) has been recognised as the Association of American Geographers **Distinguished Historical Geographer** for 2015. Part of the citation reads: "Your sustained, powerful scholarship and your generative activities in the UK and the US have greatly enriched historical geography. You more than merit this award."

This is a phenomenal achievement and a tremendous personal recognition for Gerry's scholarship. It follows on from his book, *Geopolitics and Empire* (2009), winning the **Murchison Award** from the Royal Geographical Society as the most significant contribution to geographical scholarship that year.

All of us at the GSI wish to extend our sincerest congratulations to Gerry.



### Conferences

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> EUROGI imaGIne conference

**Where?**

Berlin, Germany

**When?**

8-9 October 2014

**Who?**

[www.imagine2014.eu](http://www.imagine2014.eu)

#### Climate Symposium 2014

**Where?**

Darmstadt, Germany

**When?**

13-17 October

**Who?**

[www.theclimatesymposium2014.com](http://www.theclimatesymposium2014.com)

Find more conferences @ [www.gsdi.org/upcnf](http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf)

### Call for Content!

If you would like anything featured in the next newsletter please email the editor ([paul.alexander@nuim.ie](mailto:paul.alexander@nuim.ie))

We would also encourage members to send in discussion pieces / articles / research highlights for inclusion in GeoNews.

## Current Committee, 2013-2014

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