

Geo News

Newsletter of GSI

Issue No. 60 September 2015

• <http://www.geographicalsocietyireland.ie> • Geographical Society of Ireland

Note from the Editor

Fellow Geographers,

I am delighted to present issue 60 of Geo News. In this issue, I highlight several new faces to third level Geography, Philip Lawton and Terry Morely who both have joined NUIG and Professor Peter Thorne, who is the new Director of the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units, Department of Geography in Maynooth. Peter takes over from John Sweeney who has recently retired (though stays active within the Department as Emeritus Professor of Climate). To mark the occasion a special Alumni event was held for graduates of Geography in Maynooth – and the launch of the John Sweeney post-graduate scholarship for climate change, which honours John's immense contribution to Climate Change science in Ireland.

Keeping with the theme of sustainability and climate change, the Consensus Project has launched their final report and has provided highlights from an international conference on sustainable consumption.

Topics such as Climate Change and Sustainability often require us to take a much wider Geographical perspective. To that end, I am delighted to include news from Dr. Chaosheng Zhang (recently elected as President of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health) who has established two platforms for facilitating collaboration between Ireland and China on issues including environment and health.

Our next issue (61) is now open for contributions, as always I look forward to receiving your news items for dissemination in Geo News.

Happy Reading!

In this Issue

New Faces in Irish Geography	2
Dr. Chaosheng Zhang Elected as President of Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH)	4
Professor Ron Martin (Cambridge) visits TCD Geography	4
ISEH 2016 & Geoinformatics 2016, Joint International Conference on Environment, Health, GIS and Agriculture	5
Two international platforms established to encourage collaborations between Ireland and China	6
Launch of CONSENSUS final report on Consumption, Environment and Sustainability (May 2015)	7
CONSENSUS researchers host international conference on sustainable consumption at NUI, Galway (May 21-22 2015)	9
Maynooth scholars put forensic spotlight on climate change at the 2015 Alumni Geography Lecture	10
Trinity GeogSoc celebrating its 55 th anniversary	12
Other News and Updates	14

Paul Alexander
paul.alexander@nuim.ie



New Faces in Irish Geography

We are delighted to highlight several new faces who have joined Irish Geography Departments in the past 12 months. The new researchers individual interests' highlights the diversity of Geography in Ireland. We, along with the GSI would like to extend our best wishes in their future research and look forward to their contributions in advancing our understanding of Irish Geography!

Dr. Philip Lawton (NUIG)



In September 2014, Geography at NUI Galway was delighted to welcome Dr Philip Lawton as Lecturer in Human Geography. Philip contributes to our undergraduate programme as well as the Environment Society and Development Taught Masters programme. He is interested in the relationship between society, urban form and everyday life within cities and has published on sub-themes including urban public space, culture, creativity and the city and urban policy formation.

Philip Lawton earned his PhD in the Department of Geography at Trinity College Dublin. His PhD was focused on the relationship between planning and use of urban public space. During this period he carried out research at the London School of Economics (2005) and the University of Amsterdam (2006). From 2008, he was employed on the ACRE - Accommodating Creative Knowledge Project within the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy at UCD. Upon finishing in UCD in 2010, Philip spent a number of months carrying out research on the relationship between social-mix and design in Amsterdam. This was followed by a year in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he was involved in teaching and research. Prior to joining NUI Galway, Philip took up a post in Maastricht University in 2012. His work was primarily focused upon the relationship between culture and urban transformation.

Prof. Peter Thorne (NUIM)

The Department of Geography at Maynooth University is delighted to announce the arrival of Peter Thorne, who is our new Professor of Physical Geography (Climate Science). Peter's main historical interests have been in the investigation of observed climate changes globally, with a particular emphasis upon temperature and humidity changes from in-situ measurements (marine, land and weather balloon). He has also undertaken publication on detection and attribution (which was the subject of my PhD thesis) and atmospheric reanalyses. Peter is originally from the UK, but has most recently been based with the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Bergen, Norway.



He is currently the Chair of the International Surface Temperature Initiative, and the Coordinator of a new Horizon 2020 programme GAIA-CLIM which is being launched in Italy in March. He was a Lead Author on 5th Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the 2014 US National Climate Assessment.

Dr. Terry Morley (NUIG)



In Spring 2015, Dr. Terry Morley joined the Discipline of Geography as our new Lecturer below the bar in Physical Geography. With a PhD in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine, USA, Terry brings his extensive experience of third level teaching, innovative field-based training and his extensive practitioner experience to this role. His previous experience in the environmental consulting industry involved performing environmental site assessments and wetland and endangered species surveys. He also prepared and managed environmental impact assessments, Biological assessments and technical reports for the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC). His private industry experience also included a role as the primary ecological risk assessor for US EPA hazardous waste sites in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Dr Morley's research interests focus on investigations of freshwater ecosystem functions. Specifically, he is interested in terrestrial-aquatic linkages between wetlands and small streams to promote conservation of these ecosystems and to explore how anthropogenic changes in habitat alter ecosystem function. One of his objectives is to assess land use impacts in order to develop Best Management Practices relevant for stakeholders in Ireland. In addition, current EU directives require the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. In this capacity, he is interested in enhancing our understanding of wetland and aquatic species and habitats suitable for inclusion in the conservation programs.

Other Departmental News

Dr. Frances Fahy, Head of Department NUIG



Since September 2014 Dr. Frances Fahy took up the role of Head of the Discipline of Geography while Dr. Aaron Potito remains as Head of the School of Geography and Archaeology.

Frances is the cluster leader of the Planning and Sustainability Research Cluster in Geography and is a member of the Centre for Environment, Development, and Sustainability research cluster at NUIG. Frances is the Past President of the Geographical Society of Ireland (2012-2014). She is a past Chair of the Planning and Environment Research Group (PERG) of the Royal Geographical Society (2007-2012). Frances was the recipient of the 2013-14 Fulbright Scholar Award and during her

research leave in the US she explored the experiences of academics involved in policy-relevant research in the field of sustainability.

Dr. Gerald Mills, Head of School, UCD

As of 2015, the School of Geography Planning & Environmental Policy at UCD has been reorganised into the School of Geography, with a new head of School, Dr. Gerald Mills who is currently president of the GSI. Geography at UCD was established as a subject in 1950 when Tom Jones-Hughes arrived from Wales to teach Commercial Geography. In 1960 a Department was established with Prof. Jones-Hughes as the first Chair of Geography. More than fifty years later, Geography remains a core part of UCD's undergraduate programme, has a vibrant graduate programme and is at the forefront of research and teaching in key areas of the discipline including geopolitics, Irish historical geography, planetary geomorphology, development geographies, urban studies and environmental change. In the 2015 QS World University Rankings, Geography and Area Studies at UCD was ranked in the top 100 universities globally.



Dr. Chaosheng Zhang Elected as President of Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH)



Dr. Chaosheng Zhang, School of Geography and Archaeology, National University of Ireland, Galway formally took over the position of President of Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH) in June at SEGH 2015 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Dr. Zhang has been involved in the SEGH for more than 10 years as a member, regional representative of Europe and active on the International Board.

SEGH (www.segh.net) was established in 1971 to provide a forum for scientists from various disciplines to work together in understanding the interaction between the geochemical environment and the health of plants, animals, and humans. SEGH members represent expertise in a diverse range of scientific fields, such as biology, engineering, geology, hydrology, epidemiology, chemistry, medicine, nutrition, and toxicology.

Dr Chaosheng Zhang is head of Ryan Institute GIS Centre, who teaches in the Discipline of Geography and Archaeology. He obtained his BSc in 1989 from Peking University and his PhD in 1995 from Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research interest focuses on spatial analyses of environmental variables, especially metals and nutrients in soils using GIS, geostatistics and other spatial statistical techniques. One of the current research directions of Dr. Zhang is spatial analysis of environment and health. Dr. Zhang has published more than 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Professor Ron Martin (Cambridge) visits TCD Geography

Professor Ron Martin (University of Cambridge) visited the Department of Geography in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on 30th June 2015 and delivered a public lecture on the **'Shocking Aspects of Regional Development: The Economic Geography of Resilience'**. The well-attended lecture was part of the TCD's 'Distinguished International Lecturers in Geography' series. Professor Ron Martin is an internationally renowned economic geographer. He is a Professor of Economic Geography in the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, and a Professorial Fellow at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK. He is also chairing the Research Committee of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and is a member of the UK Government 'Future of Cities' lead expert group. Professor Martin's visit to Trinity was supported by the College's Visiting Professorship & Fellowship Benefaction Fund.



Professor Ron Martin engaging the audience in the Haughton Lecture Theatre, Museum Building (Photo by Martin Sokol, TCD)

More Details of TCD Geography events are also available at: <http://www.tcd.ie/Geography/>

ISEH 2016 & Geoinformatics 2016, Joint International Conference on Environment, Health, GIS and Agriculture



Conference website: www.nuigalway.ie/iseh2016

GSI is proud to be a co-organizer of ISEH 2016 & Geoinformatics 2016, Joint International Conference on Environment, Health, GIS and Agriculture, Galway, Ireland, August 14 - 20, 2016.

The joint international conference of ISEH 2016 and Geoinformatics 2016 provides a historical opportunity for international experts working in several closely related areas of environment, health, geographical information system (GIS) and agriculture, to meet and share the latest understanding of the ever growing challenges between human and our changing environment. As a joint conference, delegates are allowed and encouraged to attend any sessions of both conferences and to extend their academic networks, while the two conferences are organised separately. This novel approach of conference organisation maintains the traditional identities of both conference series while provides a new opportunity of networking for all delegates.

Galway, located in the west of Ireland, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe and attracts more than 1 million international tourists annually. It is easily accessible, with frequent train connections with Dublin and frequent direct bus connections with Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport.

For query and more information, please contact:

Dr. Chaosheng Zhang (Chair, ISEH 2016 & Geoinformatics 2016)
Head, GIS Centre, Ryan Institute
School of Geography and Archaeology
National University of Ireland, Galway
IRELAND
Tel: +353-91- 49 2375
Fax: +353-91- 49 5505
E-mail: Chaosheng.Zhang@nuigalway.ie

Two international platforms established to encourage collaborations between Ireland and China



To encourage collaborations between Ireland and China in the field of environment and health, two international platforms have been officially established: SEGH China-Ireland Consortium and IMGA China-Ireland Concord. Dr. Chaosheng Zhang of National University of Ireland, Galway is the founder and co-chair of the two platforms.

The Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH, www.segh.net) was established in 1971 to provide a forum for scientists from various disciplines to work together in understanding the interaction between the geochemical environment and the health of plants, animals, and humans. SEGH recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary research. SEGH members represent expertise in a diverse range of scientific fields, such as biology, engineering, geology, hydrology, epidemiology, chemistry, medicine, nutrition, and toxicology.

The International Medical Geology Association (IMGA, www.medicalgeology.org) aims to provide a network and a forum to bring together the combined expertise of geologists and earth scientists, environmental scientists, toxicologists, epidemiologists and medical specialists, in order to characterize the properties of geological processes and agents, the dispersal of geological material and their effects on human populations. Medical Geology is the science dealing with the relationships between geological factors and health.

Launch of CONSENSUS final report on Consumption, Environment and Sustainability (May 2015)



The [CONSENSUS Research Project](#) has published its final research report entitled 'CONSENSUS: Consumption, Environment and Sustainability'.

The report was officially launched by Dr Jonathon Derham (Environmental Protection Agency Programme Manager) at the CONSENSUS international conference on *Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and Impacts*, which took place at the National University of Ireland, Galway on Thursday May 21st 2015.

This report outlines the insights gained from foundational and exploratory CONSENSUS research in relation to household consumption and lifestyles

across the island of Ireland. The report details international good practice and tools for governing that may enable consumption to become more sustainable. Novel methods and approaches are outlined, which support more collaborative and co-produced transdisciplinary action for addressing the complex dimensions of transforming consumption.

Involving researchers from the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD), CONSENSUS has advanced understanding of the drivers that shape everyday household consumption practices, while also identifying a range of regulatory, technological and lifestyle interventions that could facilitate more sustainable living in the future.

In response to the launch of the final CONSENSUS research report, Mr Kevin Woods of the Irish EPA said: 'This research marks a significant and important step in moving towards sustainability in the key areas of water, energy, transport and consumer behaviour. This report has an important role to play in influencing policy as a greater understanding of why many people consume unsustainably is an essential prerequisite for building appropriately formed and coordinated policy to enable more sustainable consumption. Such understanding needs to be developed across different spaces of consumption and spheres of governance, recognising that consumption is influenced by many factors including but also beyond individual attitudes and values'.

Please [click here](#) to download a copy of CONSENSUS Final Report.

Alternatively, all CONSENSUS outputs are available to download from the official CONSENSUS website at: www.consensus.ie.



Pictured at launch of the CONSENSUS Report (left-to-right): Dr Mary Jo Lavelle (Department of Geography, NUI, Galway), Mr Kevin Woods (EPA), Professor Henrike Rau (Department of Geography, Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich), Dr Frances Fahy (Head of Department of Geography, NUI, Galway), Mr Richard Manton (Department of Geography, NUI, Galway) and Dr Jonathan Derham (EPA).

ABOUT CONSENSUS:

The CONSENSUS (Consumption, Environment, and Sustainability) Project uses innovative social science and collaborative research methods to explore trends and solutions for sustainable household consumption in Ireland. Launched in 2009, this 7-year large scale research project involves researchers from NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin. CONSENSUS is funded by the STRIVE (Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for the Environment) Programme, which is administered by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency.

To cite this report:

Davies, A., Fahy, F., Rau, H., Devaney, L., Doyle, R., Heisserer, B., Hynes, M., Lavelle, M.J. and Pape, J. (2015) *CONSENSUS: Consumption Environment and Sustainability*. Environmental Protection Agency: Dublin.

CONSENSUS researchers host international conference on sustainable consumption at NUI, Galway (May 21-22 2015)

CONSENSUS, in conjunction with the [National University of Ireland, Galway](#), hosted its second international conference on sustainable consumption on Thursday May 21st and Friday May 22nd 2015 in Galway. The conference theme was '*Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and Impacts*'.

The conference [programme](#) comprised of a mix of presentations, panel discussions and lightning talks from policymakers, researchers and practitioners. Paper presentations include Professor Audley Geus (Kingston University, London), Professor Magnus Bostrom (Örebro University, Sweden), Dr Stewart Barr (University of Exeter) and Dr. Ben Wooliscroft (University of Otago) to name but a few.

All speakers' abstracts and biographies can be found in the conference proceedings booklet – [please click here to download this document](#).

According to the conference coordinator Dr Mary Jo Lavelle: 'Our two-day conference provided an international platform for scholars and policymakers in the field of sustainable consumption to discuss and debate on-going research in this important area. Our conference explored opportunities for future research collaborations and facilitated exchange of research ideas between currently existing sustainable consumption networks, as well as explored how a shift towards more sustainable consumption might be encouraged, measured and governed'.

Keynote Public Address:

Professor Martina Schäfer (Technische Universität, Berlin) provided the keynote address on the evening of Friday May 22nd 2015. Please [click here to listen](#) to Professor Schafer's address.

Panel Discussion:

The conference also featured a joint plenary from Prof. Philip Vergragt (Tellus Institute & Clark University, USA), Gemma Adams (Forum for the Future, London), Cheryl Hicks (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption & Production (CSCP) and Kathleen Stokes (NESTA). Please [click here to watch the video](#) of this joint plenary discussion:

Please [click here to view photographs](#) from the conference.

For further information on latest news, updates and publications, please visit [CONSENSUS website](#).

Maynooth scholars put forensic spotlight on climate change at the 2015 Alumni Geography Lecture

On the 7th of May, nearly 100 Maynooth alumni gathered to hear the latest research findings from a panel of climate scientists in the university's internationally recognised Geography Department.



L-R Rebecca Doolin, Director of External Relations, Maynooth University; Dr. Rowan Fealy of Maynooth University; Maynooth University Prof John Sweeney; Dr Jan Rigby, Head of the Maynooth University Geography Dept; Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan; Dr Conor Murphy and Prof Peter Thorne of Maynooth University

The panel, which included Emeritus Professor John Sweeney, a member of the 2007 Nobel Prize Winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change team, addressed different implications of climate change, putting a forensic spotlight on the culprits behind surface warming.

A central theme for the group were the myriad ways in which urban population density puts a unique human fingerprint on the local, regional and global climate and the importance of addressing cultural barriers to adapting to climate change.

Held at the Wood Quay venue of Dublin City Council, the event was led by Dr Jan Rigby, Head of Department and scholar on the impact of climate change and health, and Director of External Relations, Rebecca Doolin, with a panel discussion moderated by Irish Independent Environment Correspondent and 1997 alumnus, Paul Melia. In addition to Prof Sweeney, other speakers included Professor Peter Thorne, Dr Rowan Fealy, and Dr Conor Murphy.



Dr. Jan Rigby speaking at the Alumni Event and the Launch of the John Sweeney Post-Graduate Scholarship for Climate Change

Maynooth University President, Prof Philip Nolan, opened the event by announcing the creation of a new €5,000 scholarship to honour Prof Sweeney. The John Sweeney Post-Graduate Alumni Scholarship for Climate Change, sponsored by Bank of Ireland, will support a Maynooth graduate pursuing further education in the field of climate change.

The audience heard how the design of cities is a crucial factor which has been largely ignored in the battle over global carbon emissions. The contrast of population density across cities is generating distinct climates within the urban setting and despite its relatively small size internationally, Dublin has an 'Urban Heat Island' characteristic of most cities, the intensity of which is related to building density.

Dr Rowan Fealy discussed his work on a long-term urban monitoring programme in which, scientists at Maynooth University, along with colleagues at UCD, have been measuring carbon dioxide emissions arising from the landscape in Dublin city. These emissions largely arise from the economic activity of the city associated with energy use from transport and heating and lighting requirements.

Dr Fealy said that cities impart a distinct and measurable 'human fingerprint' on climate at various scales, an issue that will escalate.

"While urban areas occupy only about 3% of the total land surface of the earth, they are responsible for more than 70% of energy related greenhouse gas emissions and contribute an additional 1% of energy to the earth's atmosphere system," he said. "Therefore, cities represent a very real opportunity to mitigate the effects of future projected changes in the climate system through appropriate planning and design of our city infrastructure."

Meanwhile, Professor Peter Thorne discussed his latest research, which delves into recent explanations of the hiatus in planetary warming, saying that efforts to identify a single culprit are fraught with problems.

Dr Conor Murphy's recent work focuses on rural communities in the Global South that will be most affected by climate change. Specifically, he spoke about the importance of understanding the impact of traditions and culture when addressing ways to adapt to climate change, using lessons from his work in rural Zambia and Malawi.

Finally, Professor John Sweeney explored the intersection of "pests and policies," how Ireland in particular will be forced to cope with new and more active pests and invasive species, and the impact for long term crops such as trees. He also looked ahead to upcoming

climate talks in Paris and challenged policy leaders to put aside “national self-interest” for the good of the planet.

Trinity GeogSoc celebrating its 55th anniversary



Professors James Killen and Des Gillmor with their Honorary Lifetime Member certificates.

Dublin University Geographical Society (also known as Trinity GeogSoc) celebrated its 55th anniversary. Since its foundation on March 3rd 1960, the Society has been an important pillar of engaging students and promoting Geography in Trinity College and beyond. At a special event to mark the occasion, DU Geographical Society has presented Honorary Lifetime Member certificates to Professors James Killen and Des Gillmor, for their exceptional and longstanding contribution to the Society.

Mr Stephen McLoughlin, GeogSoc Chairman, in turn, received an award for the Best GeogSoc Committee Member. The event was a culmination of a vibrant year for GeogSoc which also saw a revival of the Society’s “Atlas” journal; re-opening of GeogSoc’s library; unveiling of the Society’s “Plaque of Honour”; an international fieldtrip to Riga; a photographic competition and series of public events linked to GeoWeek; a publication of a Geography calendar; strengthening links with Geography alumni; and the organization of social events such as Earth Ball; among others. An unprecedented surge in the membership of the Society was recorded among the students, Geography staff and alumni alike.



While being 55, Trinity GeogSoc is as young as ever and we wish the Society good luck for the next few decades!

GSI Postgraduate Travel Award

Mary Greene, PhD researcher at the Geography department NUI Galway, would like to thank the GSI for awarding her a generous postgraduate travel grant in Spring 2015. This travel grant supported her in undertaking a visiting PhD position at the Centre for Technology and Society at the Technical University of Berlin for a period of 4 months over the summer (May – September 2015). During this time, Mary gained international experience in her field and presented at two seminars at TU Berlin.

This opportunity enabled her to disseminate her research on the geographies of everyday consumption in Ireland to a European audience and forge new connections with colleagues in Germany. Being awarded the GSI Postgraduate Travel Award was a vital stepping stone in order to realise these dissemination and networking aims.

Other News and Updates

Professor Rob Kitchen Enrolled in RIA

Prof Rob Kitchen is a Professor and ERC Advanced Investigator in the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis at Maynooth University. He served as the director of the institute between 2002 and 2013. Professor Kitchen, along with co-author Martin Dodge, won the Meridian Book Award (presented by the American Association of Geographers for outstanding scholarly work in Geography) in 2011, and he was the recipient of the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal for Social Sciences in 2013.



Conferences

AAG Annual Meeting

Where?

San Francisco, United States

When?

29 Mar – 02 Apr 2016

Who?

http://www.aag.org/cs/events/event_detail?eventId=1022

Conference of Irish Geographers 2016

Where?

St. Patricks College Drumcondra, Dublin, Ireland

When?

5-7 May 2016

Who?

<http://www.conferenceofirishgeographers.ie/#!welcome/cjpx>

Call for Content!

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

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

Current Committee, 2015-2016

President 2012-2014:

Dr. Gerald Mills, University College Dublin

Vice-President:

Niamh Moore Cherry, University College Dublin

Secretary:

Dr. Karen Keaveney, University College Dublin

Treasurer:

Dr. Shane O Sullivan, Waterford Institute of Technology

Societies Liaison Officer:

Dr Martin Sokol, Trinity College Dublin

Editor, Irish Geography:

Dr Ronan Foley, Maynooth University

Editor, Geonews:

Paul Alexander, Maynooth University

PRO (Communications and Information Officers):

Irene Morris, Maynooth University

Postgrad Representative:

Mary Green, NUI Galway

Committee Members:

Dr. Nessa Cronin, NUI Galway;

Dr. Charlie Travis, Trinity College Dublin

Dr. Kathy Reilly, NUI Galway