

Geo News

Newsletter of GSI

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Note from the Editor

Fellow Geographers,

It is with mixed feelings I present Issue 63 of GeoNews. While this issue comes after yet another successful Conference of Irish Geographers (CIG 2017) held in University College Cork this year, it also follows the passing of our friend and colleague, Professor Anne Buttimer in July.

I first met Anne when I matriculated to UCD in 2006, where it was clear to even an undergraduate that she was highly respected and cherished, not just within Geography, but across the University at large. Later, I would come to realise how this reputation extended well beyond Belfield, and indeed, how well regarded she was across the world.

In more recent years, Anne always took the time to write to me with news of her awards and activities for inclusion in GeoNews, she was always humble when doing so, but I heard from her often, such was her renown.

I am pleased to include in this issue a piece from her friend and colleague, Gerald Mills, who delivered the eulogy at her requiem mass in Dublin, before she was returned to her home Cork to rest. I think you will all agree, this is a wonderful tribute to Anne as an Irish Geography, a scholar and an outstanding person.

Anne was part of our community, which we can proudly say is vibrant and filled with dynamic research from young geographers. I am happy to include two such examples.

Firstly, we have a piece from Abigail Cronin who has sent in an overview of her paleo-environmental reconstruction research in the South-West of Ireland. She has uncovered evidence in the sediments which suggests the area may have experienced a Tsunami in the past c.1400 AD.

Secondly, we have the finalists for the Cartogram Contest which ran as part of CIG this year. These are presented here for our readers.

I also provide a quick overview of the conference this year, highlighting the keynotes, awards and breakdown the attendees.

One of the special sessions at the conference this year was on career development, or rather, life "post-PhD". It is fitting that I include a piece from Frank Houghton who gives his own insight into competing for academic posts in the USA.

As always, I would encourage all our members to contribute to GeoNews, this can be news items, announcements, research overviews, opinion pieces, maps and everything in between – all are always welcome.

The next issue will be announced shortly – until then I wish you all happy reading.

Paul Alexander

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A Tribute to Anne Buttimer (1938-2017)

By Gerald Mills
School of Geography
University College Dublin



I am currently Head of the School of Geography where Anne occupied the Chair 1991 to 2003 – in fact, I was hired at UCD by Anne in 1997 and was a colleague for 20 years, that is, 14 years after she 'retired'. Of course, Anne never retired, she was a constant in international geographical circles, in the International Geographical Union, the Royal Irish Academy and in the School itself.

In a recent article about Anne, she said that Geography had provided a 'wee' space for her to continue her work – what she neglected to mention is that she also had two rooms of books and four filing cabinets of materials. As anyone who knows Anne can testify, the 'research project' was an all-consuming focus of attention and she could never retire. And what was that geographic project?

It was multi-faceted but was human-centric in essence. A core part revolved around the idea of dialog and of understanding through conversation. Fundamentally, I think of

Anne as the consummate intellectual, interested in big ideas and the capacity for sharing knowledge across disciplines. To facilitate this she was centrally involved in the creation of communities of academics that crossed language and national boundaries.

Anne was Ireland's preeminent geographer. She was educated at UCC and then at the University of Washington. So, how did an Irish woman from Cork emerge to be one of the leading geographers of her generation? To answer that we can apply the same life-story approach that she would take when she wanted to know what made other's 'tick'. There is no doubt that her native intelligence provided a solid foundation; to this could be added an intense work ethic that was inculcated from childhood; an appreciation of lived landscapes that was formed by her farm upbringing; a desire to share knowledge, which can be attributed to her Dominican training and; her wide reading in

European geographical and philosophical traditions.

At Washington where she completed a doctorate, she was exposed to one of the wellsprings of a new type of geography that saw its goal as providing the mathematical laws that underpinned behaviour and patterns over space. Her prior education and experience coupled with her tenacity provided the spark for her independent vision for geography. Given the dominance of this approach, it took some courage to forge a different path that placed humans at the heart of her geographical worldview. She managed to integrate her philosophical approach to abiding concerns for social justice and geographical theory into an alternative geography that gained traction through the 1970's and 80's. She did this both by developing and articulating her geography while at the same time establishing alliances with geographers internationally; her election to President of the International Geographical Union was a recognition of her global standing. The connection with Sweden was especially strong; one of her proudest moments was when she was awarded the Johan August Wahlberg Gold Medal by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in 2009. This was one of the great many awards she received over the years.

In 2014 (11 years after she had technically retired) Anne received the Vautrin-Lud International Prize for Geography; to give a sense of her standing this is part of the acknowledgments:

Anne Buttmer enjoys a global reputation for having inspired many

colleagues, and not only geographers. At the various stages of her career, she has introduced innovations, stimulated thought about the practice of geography, advanced the notion of 'values' into scientific work, and demonstrated how an individual's biography influences the choices and working practices undertaken by geographers. She has also emphasised the role of geography in spatial planning and in solving problems, such as those associated with sustainable development and climate change. Her publications and lectures have guided several generations of scholars. By awarding her the Vautrin-Lud Prize, members of the international geographical community express their thanks for her remarkable devotion to the geographer's craft, and also for her many innovations, her publications, and her practice of geography as a 'humanistic' branch of knowledge.

Most recently, she was delighted to receive UCC's Distinguished Alumni award. The award itself is a sculpture that captures the emergence of a tree from a seed, it shows the trunk and the spreading branches. I cannot think of a better analogy for Anne's career and the profound influence she has had on the discipline and countless students. She was delighted that the Irish geographical community, many of whom she inspired, took up the path she made by competing for, and winning, the right to host the Congress of the IGU in Dublin in 2024.

In 1991 Anne joined UCD, which as she says, was the first job she had ever applied to. She arrived as someone at the peak of her reputation and brought her worldview to Dublin, which she considered the second city of Ireland (no, Belfast was not the first). Her

attentions at UCD were also focussed on developing an intellectual community by making significant changes to the Department (such as creating a common area for staff and students to have coffee) and bringing her international contacts to Geography in Ireland. Her major project at UCD was on Landscapes and Life, which brought together her interests in the places that people occupy and the potential for achieving a balance between society, environment and livelihoods (that is, sustainability) at an appropriate scale. In many ways it encapsulated her geographic understanding of the world and the place of humans within it. Nevertheless, her previous work continued unabated and she was 'research active' to her death.

In recognition Anne's contributions and influence, The School of Geography had created the *Anne Buttimer medal* to recognise undergraduate achievement in Geography; the first recipient will be awarded this Autumn.

When she came to Dublin she established a home with Bertram just across the road from UCD. She and Bertram were generous people and held regular events for staff and students. Together they were a formidable team; Bertram had retired as Rector of Lund University and was a Research Fellow in Mathematical Physics at UCD, on the invite of his good friend Professor Michael Hayes. It was at UCD that he published by magnus opus 'Cracks and Fracture' with Academic Press, a thorough mathematical treatment of material failure that encapsulates cracks in the shell of the Earth and hairline fractures on cups and saucers. A lasting memory

of mine is seeing the daily trek that Bertram and Anne made across the Stillorgan road onto campus, both marching briskly, he carrying her bag to her office, where they went their separate ways. Bertram's death in 2005 affected her deeply

Anne was always concerned about maintaining links with previous generations. Her grandest research work was encapsulated by the Dialogue Project, which captures an extraordinary cross-section of academics and their worldviews. Anne interviewed everyone personally and created a reflective environment for discussing personal lifestories. The videotaped testimonies will stand the test of time and offer an insight into intellectual developments from those that participated. I have no doubts that since Saturday morning Anne is developing a network of geographers back to Strabo and will be busy recording the lifestories of the disciples.

Anne's contribution to UCD was not just academic. In honour of Bertram, she established a Medal in his memory, awarded annually to UCD's Best PhD student in Mechanical Engineering. She gave a sizable donation to Geography that will be used to write the history of Geography in Ireland and redesign the teaching and research spaces.

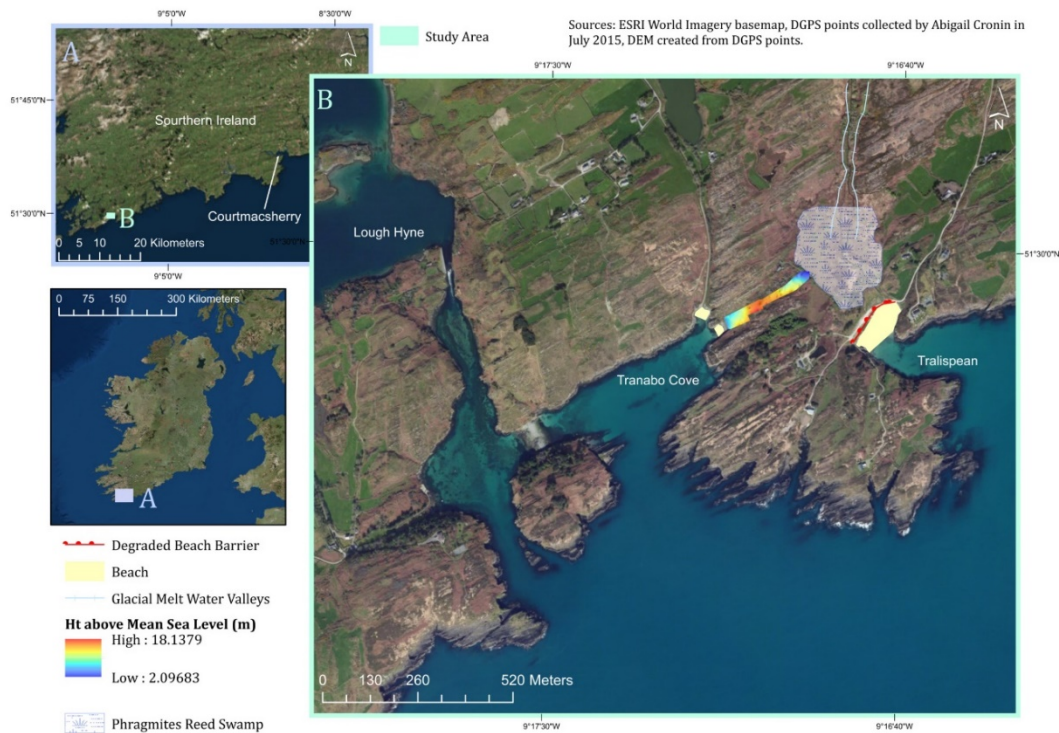
When Anne passed, international geography lost a leading light, the university lost an academic gem and the School lost a friend and leader.

May she rest in peace.

Suspected Pre-Lisbon 1755 tsunami event in South-West Ireland

By Cronin, A., Devoy, R., Bartlett, D., O'Dwyer, B.

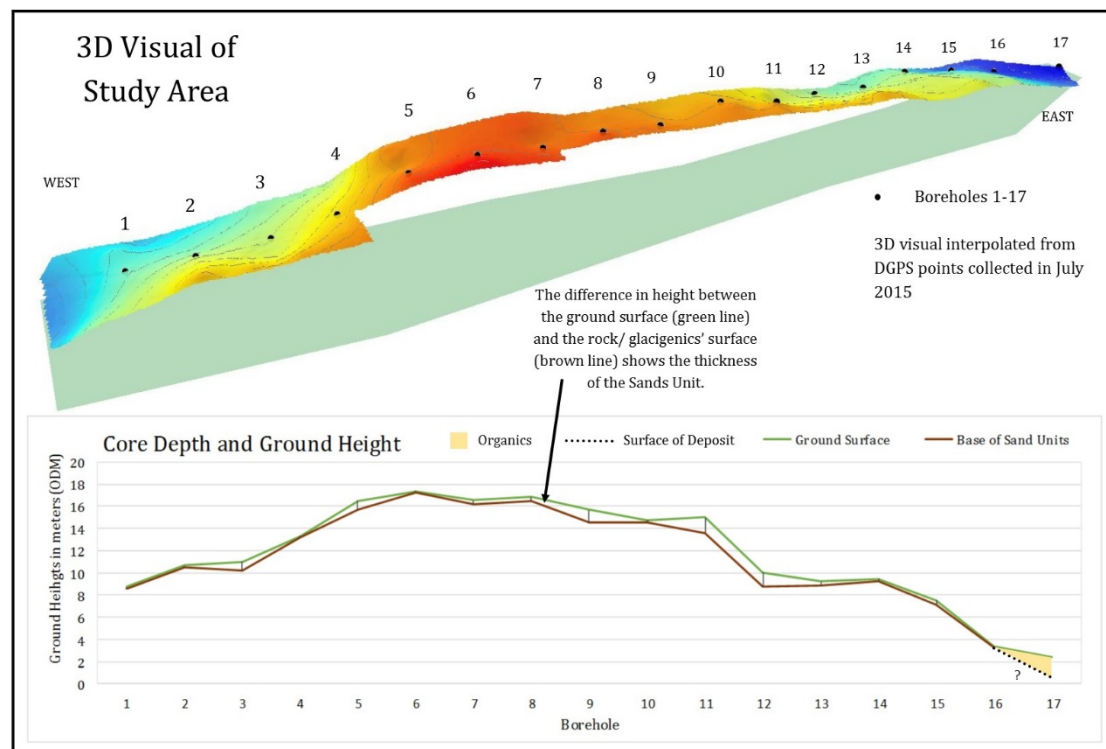
A sequence of high-elevation sands has been found at Tralispean beach, West Cork, Ireland. The deposit contains both broken and whole marine shells, as well as many large boulders (<2m diameter).



Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) and differential GPS (dGPS) show that the sediments cover an extensive area and reach a maximum height of c.18.5m above ODM, with interconnected pockets of sand thicknesses of >1m. Coring, lithostratigraphic study, particle sizing, organics loss-on ignition, and carbonate content analyses have been used, together with examination of micro and macrofossils, to establish the composition and characteristics of the sediments.



These studies indicate that the shelly sands at the site were deposited rapidly, under high energy conditions. Informal interviews with local people, as well as the extent of the sands, suggest that the deposit is not the result of human activities. The height of the sediments, the presence of numerous large boulders within the shell-rich sands, together with the particle size and other sedimentary data indicate also that these sediments are not the result of storm actions.



It is suggested that the sedimentary sequence and linked terrain features resulted from a tsunami event. Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon dating places the age of such an event at c.1465 AD. At present, no clear historical record has been identified of any tsunami impacts affecting the south coast of Ireland other than from the Lisbon earthquake of 1755.

Further research is required to establish the likely origins of the sedimentary sequences recorded and assess its significance for coastal functioning in the wider Northeast Atlantic Region. The team aim to further investigate the site in the near future.

About the Author:



Abi is a graduate of University College Cork, with a BA in English and Geography. In 2015, before joining MaREI, she completed the MSc in Applied Coastal and Marine Management in University College Cork, where she carried out the research in Tralispean, Cork as part of her masters thesis.

Abi joined the Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy in February 2016 as a researcher. Here she contributes and leads on a number of technical and research reports which contribute to the various ongoing projects within the EO group, whilst conducting various project coordination, science communications and outreach activities. Abi is recently back from the North South Atlantic training transect, where she was amongst 25 researchers chosen from a pool of 500 to take part in the project coordinated by the Alfred Wegner Institute (AWI), the Strategic Marine Alliance for Research & Training (SMART), and the NF-POGO Centre of Excellence. During the transit, students were trained in the principles of oceanographic and atmospheric interactions and their impacts on climate. Cronin will soon be at sea again, after being awarded a position on the Training Through Research Surveys (TTRS) Scheme she will be training in seabed bathymetry techniques alongside the INFOMAR team on the RV Celtic Explorer in July/August.

Considering Working in the Academy Across the Pond? Advice about the Campus Visit and Other Notable Differences

By Frank Houghton

Postgraduate students, postdocs and junior faculty may well be interested in working in an academic setting in the USA. However, it is important to be aware of several important differences in the application and hiring process between the US and Ireland. This short piece is designed to help those considering such a move approach the task in a more informed and measured manner. This piece is based on the author's own limited experience which involved multiple job applications, two campus visits and then subsequent employment for three years as a tenured Associate Professor at Eastern Washington University (EWU) in Spokane, Washington State. Numerous Geography faculty in Ireland have US academic experience and it is hoped that they will row in with their comments and advice.

The first thing to note when considering working in the US is the difference in the hiring cycle. Although of course a small number of jobs appear continually, and may well need to be filled in a rush, the standard hiring cycle starts in the Autumn ('Fall') for the following academic year. Many posts are therefore advertised 8 to 10 months before they will be filled. This is far longer than the standard practice in either Ireland or the UK.

Therefore, it is important to consider this difference in timing when starting a search. In terms of searching for a post the American Association of Geographers (AAG) maintains an excellent disciplinary specific database of current academic posts that is freely accessible (<http://jobs.aag.org/jobseeker/search/results/>). More generic sites such as HigherEdJobs.com, The Chronicle of Higher Education (www.chronicle.com), and The Times Higher Education Supplement jobs page (UNIJOBS) also being useful sources of academic jobs there (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/>).

It is also worth noting that if you are considering applying for an academic post in the US you will need more documentation prepared in advance than is routinely required for applications for Ireland or the UK. In addition to the standard curriculum vitae and application form, US academic jobs may routinely require the following separate documents:

1. Statement of Teaching Philosophy
2. Research Plan
3. Student Teaching Evaluations
4. References

The Statement of Teaching Philosophy is often a one to three-page reflective overview of your personal teaching style and vision, while the research plan is often a document of a similar length outlining your research plans over the next three to five (or more) years. It is not unusual for would-be employers to also request an overview of samples of student feedback on your teaching, including both quantitative metrics and qualitative comments. References are also often requested at the initial application stage, rather than subsequently at hiring or final decision-making stage. Thus, it is usual to have a set of rather generic references in PDF format that can be used repeatedly to accompany applications.

While the documents listed above are often routinely requested, you may also be asked to provide examples of course/ module/ unit syllabi that you have developed. It is also worth noting that if you are applying to one of the faith based universities in the US (of which there are many), you may well also be asked to write a statement on how your faith influences your teaching (as an atheist I cannot say much more on this as I did not apply to such Universities- however I know that these documents were routinely requested by the two faith based Universities in Spokane, Gonzaga University [Jesuit] and Whitworth University [Christian- Presbyterian]). Rarely one may also be asked to include copies of up to three recent peer reviewed publications as part of

the application process, and electronic copies of transcripts/ certificates.

Your completed application will be reviewed by a search committee that may well include not only faculty of different ranks from within the relevant Department, but also occasionally allied faculty, a community/industry representative and students (usually postgrads). It should be noted that student input into the hiring decision making process is often a standard element of the process.

If you are short-listed, the next standard element in the process is a telephone screening interview. This can often take place anytime between November and February and is usually arranged with some flexibility in relation to your schedule. However, it is in relation to the Campus Visit that differences in the hiring process are most apparent. Many academic interviews in Ireland or the UK may involve as little as a one-hour time slot. In this brief space you may be asked to give a ten-minute presentation, be interviewed ('grilled') for forty minutes, and then finally be invited to ask a question or two as the process wraps up towards the 55 minute mark. Alternatively, you may at best be asked to give a longer presentation followed by the standard 45 minutes to 55-minute interview. During this process you are almost undoubtedly one of many candidates attending the university that day.

The Campus Visit, as its name implies is often routinely a one to two-day structured visit to a campus (my own such visit to EWU lasted three days). During this visit you will probably be the only candidate visiting at that time. This visit will often involve a series of one to one meetings with key individuals such as the Head of Department, Dean of the College, and the Provost and/ or President of the University (depending upon the seniority of the post you are applying for and the size of the University). At each of these meetings (which are usually rather repetitive) you need to 'sell' yourself and your potential, as well as explore more about the University and any potential offer. You can also expect to deliver an open lecture and be interviewed by the search committee. You may well also meet not only the Departmental Personnel Committee (DPC), but also the College Personnel Committee (CPC), both of whom may make comments on the appropriateness of the level of an offer, should one be made. It is important to note that this scripted timetable may well start with a breakfast meeting (for which you could be collected as early as 7.30am), and will also usually include a lunchtime meeting and a dinner. It should be remembered that there is very little downtime throughout the entire process. Although you will probably be given at least thirty minutes before your presentation to 'prepare' yourself, other than that you are effectively 'on show' and

'performing' throughout the entire period. Do not be surprised if your visit involves meeting one or more classes of students (even if this is impromptu and not on the original itinerary).

Some Universities may deliberately schedule you for an 'informal' meal or meeting with faculty that are not on the search committee, to facilitate you asking more awkward questions. You can also probably expect a tour of the campus and even the locality. At EWU I was lucky enough to be given not only a great tour of the city by a veteran Professor of Urban & Regional Planning, but also an extended tour with a realtor/ estate agent. It is worth noting that it is often standard practice for applicants to send thank you emails to members of the search committee and even key personnel they met during their interview (even the telephone interview) and campus visit.

The initial negotiation around salary and conditions is often absolutely vital. Unlike Ireland and the UK, in the US many third level institutions do not have formal or uniform salary scales for faculty. Salary is often based on what the market dictates and what can be negotiated. Thus, for example Assistant Professors in Accountancy may well be paid more than full Professors of English Literature. You may also find that there are no set increments. Any annual pay rises may well be a percentage of initial salary, as could be subsequent promotional

pay rises (at EWU promotion to Associate Professor and Full Professor were each accompanied by a 10% salary 'bump').

It is important to discuss issues such as funding to support research over the first couple of years (sometimes referred to as 'Summer Support'/'Summer Dollars', as traditionally many academic salaries in the US are paid over a nine-month period excluding the summer [this is often still the case]). If you have been teaching for a period you may well also want to negotiate the timeline for potential promotion. In some Universities this is very formalised. For example, at Eastern Washington University progression from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor was possible after six years, and from Associate Professor to full Professor after four years. Exceptions to this timeframe may need to be written in to the offer letter which effectively forms a legal contract. Remember to ensure that further negotiations around issues such as relocation costs are conducted before formal acceptance of a post. It is usual to try and negotiate a higher offer, than that originally put forward.

In my experience the campus visit was focussed significantly around the issue of how a person would 'fit' into the department, college, and locality. Teaching ability, research potential, publishing records were all vital to getting to the campus visit stage, but

once there the focus was much more interpersonal.

Outlined above is a brief overview of academic hiring in the US based on my own limited experience. Obviously different institutions almost by definition will differ. However, hopefully it may act as a guide to some potentially embarking on, or considering, such a move. I know that the different format certainly took me by surprise in my first campus visit to the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

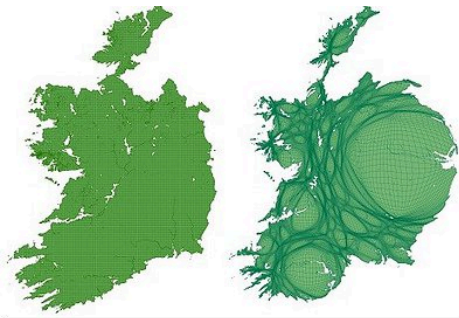
Comments from others with experience from the US are welcome.



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Cartogram Contest Entrants at CIG-2017



MAY 2017 IRISH CARTOGRAM CONTEST AT CIG 2017

Calling all Geography Students!

We are looking for the most interesting cartogram for Ireland which fits in with the conference theme this year 'Disruptions and Transgressions'. Entries will be presented at the 49th Conference of Irish Geographers and delegates at the conference will vote for the most interesting cartogram. A prize will be presented for the winning entry at the conference dinner and runner up - all entrants will have their work featured in GeoNews with the possibility of a publication in *Irish Geography*.

Full training will be given to each entrant on how to generate a cartogram, thereafter entrants are free to pick a variable of their interest and generate the most interesting cartogram!



Who Can enter?
The contest is open to all graduate students, collaborations are allowed

What are the rules?
You can use any variable you want so long as it is in good taste. You must focus on Ireland. Only one entry per person / group.

What is the prize?
Winning entries will be recognized by the Geographical Society at the conference dinner. All entrants will be featured in the Society Newsletter "GeoNews"

Prizes are kindly sponsored by the GSI.

MORE INFORMATION

To enter simply send an e-mail to

paul.alexander@ucc.ie

with the subject "Cartogram Contest"

As part of the Conference of Irish Geographers 2017 a cartogram contest was run for geography students across Ireland. A number of entries were received, many were the first maps ever created by students, let alone their first time generating a cartogram!

Here we are happy to showcase the 3 finalists which includes the winning entry by Joanne Ahern (pictured below with GSI president Professor Niamh Moore) as voted by conference delegates.

I think all our readers will join me in congratulating all the finalists!



Children in the Republic of Ireland waiting over a year for initial Occupational Therapy Assessment

By Darren O'Rourke

Finalist Cartogram Contest 2017 (runner up)

Can you tell us something about your topic?

Occupational Therapy (OT) services are designed to help people who have a disability to achieve the maximum degree of independence in ordinary living. In paediatric OT, timely initial assessment is essential to ensure growing children receive the most appropriate services, supports, and aids and appliances, to improve their quality of life and opportunity for personal development.

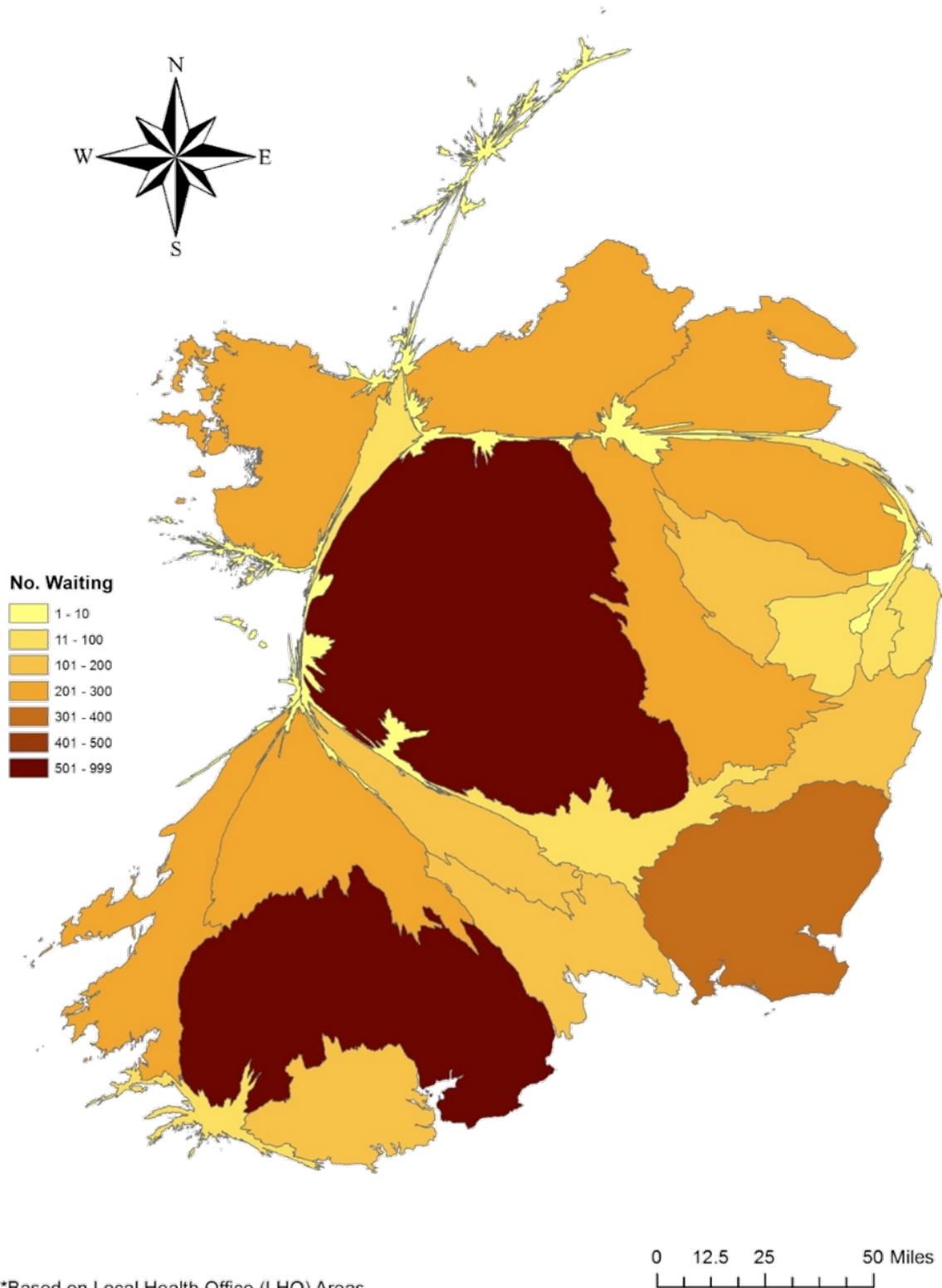
What does the Cartogram show?

This cartogram shows the number of children (persons <18 years of age) in the Republic of Ireland waiting greater than 12 months for an initial OT assessment. The data is presented per Local Health Office (LHO) Area and are accurate as of January 2017.

It shows that there is considerable variation in the numbers waiting across the 32 LHO areas. For example, 966 children are waiting greater than 12 months for an initial OT assessment in the Laois/Offaly area; 584 in North Lee; 357 in Wexford and 291 in Cavan/Monaghan, while 10 LHO areas – including Donegal, Limerick, Galway and Meath – have less than 2 children waiting greater than 12 months.

This cartogram reflects the fact that, for children in the Republic of Ireland, place of residence has a very significant bearing on your likelihood of waiting greater than 12 months for an initial OT assessment and, by extension, accessing necessary supports and services in good time.

Children in the Republic of Ireland waiting >12 months for initial Occupational Therapy Assessment



Public Disorder

By Louise Sarsfield Collins

Finalist Cartogram Contest 2017 (runner up)

Can you tell us something about your topic?

Using data from the Central Statistics Office this cartogram depicts the number of 'Public Order and Other Social Code' offences recorded during 2016. These are mapped onto the 96 Garda District Areas in the country. Such offences include, inter alia, disorderly conduct in a public place, intoxication in public, threatening or insulting behaviour in public, rioting, violent disorder, affray and failure to comply with the direction of a member of An Garda Síochána.

Such offences are largely criminalised through the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 and principally used to police public areas and deal with crowd control at public events. 29,158 such offences were recorded in 2016 – 82 percent of which were for disorderly conduct.

What does the Cartogram show?

Unsurprisingly, there are more offences committed in urban areas than rural areas with Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, and Waterford looming large. Dublin in particular dwarfs the surrounding areas as it dominates the eastern side of the country. However, a closer look at the distortions created by the cartogram reveals that rural areas such as Counties Kerry, Kilkenny and southern Mayo are unexpectedly sizable. It is difficult to know exactly why this might be; but Ireland's love affair with alcohol might go some way to explaining these features. Towns such as Killarney, Westport and Kilkenny are popular for stag and hen parties (and similar mini-breaks) where consumption of large volumes of alcohol is common. Another event-based factor may be festivals such as the Rose of Tralee (Kerry) and Electric Picnic (Laois), as well as the numerous festivals and events in the greater Dublin area.

Festivals and party tourism, however, do not explain all public order offences. The border areas, in particular Letterkenny district, are pronounced on the Public Disorder Cartogram. This raises interesting questions for further consideration and analysis.








Public Disorder



Legend

Public Order & Other Social Order Offences 2016

	22 - 117
	118 - 228
	229 - 432
	433 - 1092
	1093 - 1938

Cities and the Geography of Vacancy in the Republic of Ireland

By Joanne Ahern

Finalist Cartogram Contest 2017 (Winner)

Can you tell us something about your topic?

This cartogram tentatively attempts to demonstrate the effect which cities can have on the percentage of vacant residential property in their surrounding hinterland. The cartogram uses data from the 2011 Census in the Republic of Ireland (available from www.cso.ie).

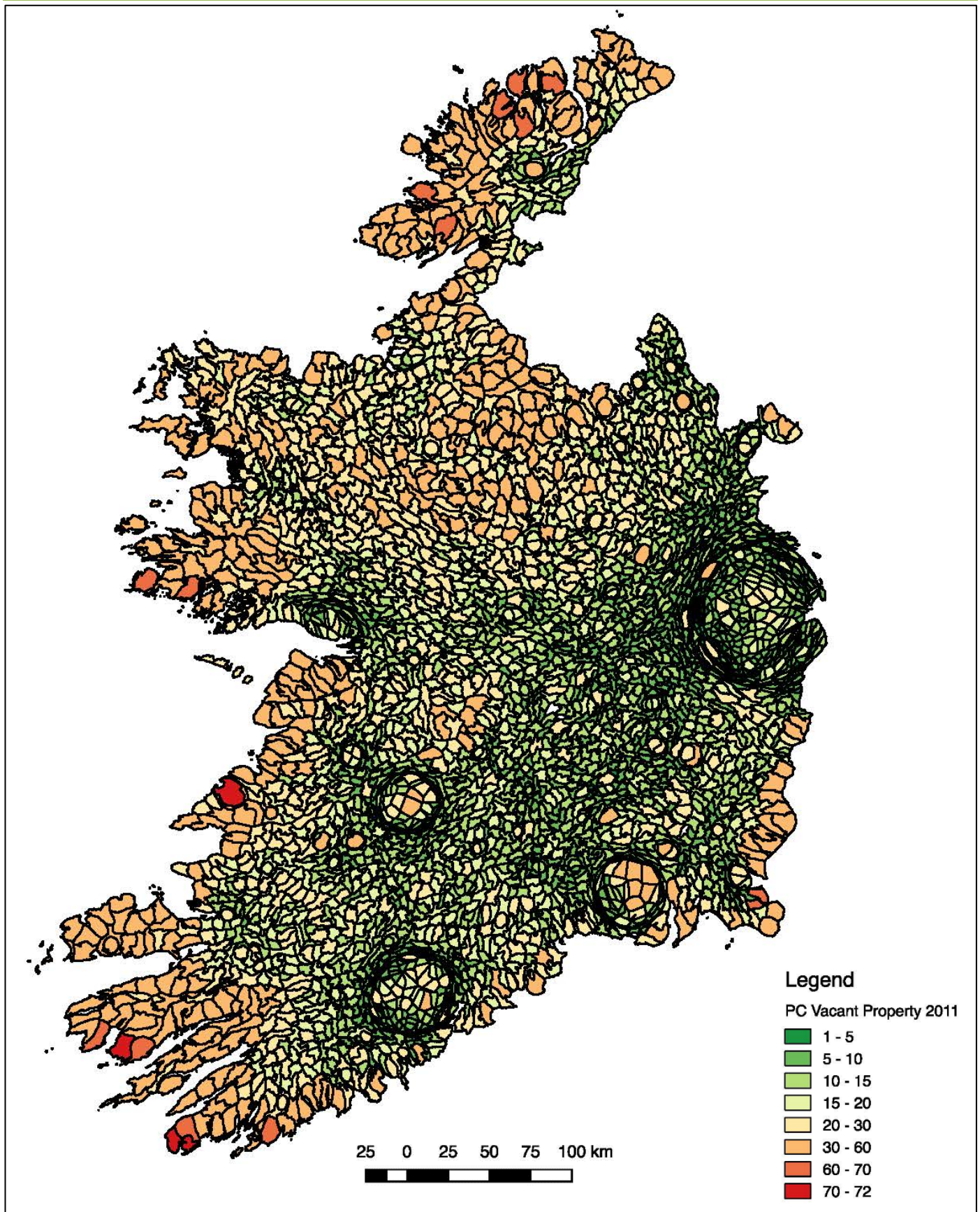
The cartogram stretch is based on the quantity of vacant residential property as a percentage of overall vacant property in each Electoral District (i.e. $(\text{Number vacant})/(\text{Total number of properties})$) therefore, absolute numbers (e.g. towns / cities) don't artificially skew the resulting cartogram.

What does the Cartogram show?

The cartogram demonstrates that some cities in Ireland have a significant influence on the volume of vacancy in their surrounding areas. The influence of Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Limerick on their surrounding area is clear with Galway showing a minor impact on its peri-urban area. However, Galway also demonstrates less vacancy as a percentage of its city centre than the other four cities. There are several possible explanations for the rings surrounding the four other cities, for example, the loss of population from the city centre to the suburbs and surrounding hinterland can play a role, as can the sudden stop in construction in some areas during the financial crisis, also green belts certainly play a part.

This is to name just a few possibilities here, as the manifestation of vacant proper is the result of varied and complex processes at work.

Cities and the Geography of Vacancy in the Republic of Ireland



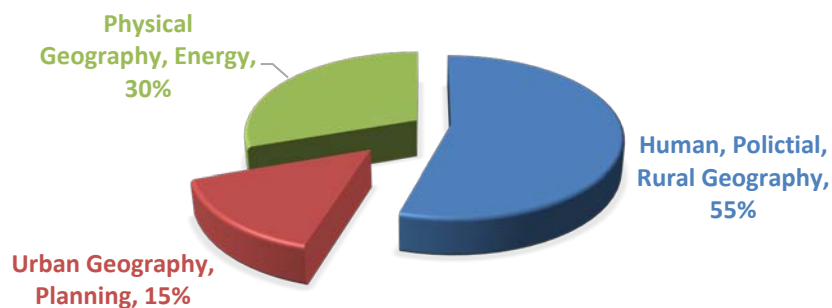
49th Conference of Irish Geographers, UCC

The Geographical Society of Ireland and the Department of Geography, UCC hosted the 49th Conference of Irish Geographers from Thursday 4th of May to Saturday 6th of May 2017. Below are some key highlights from the conference.

The sessions...

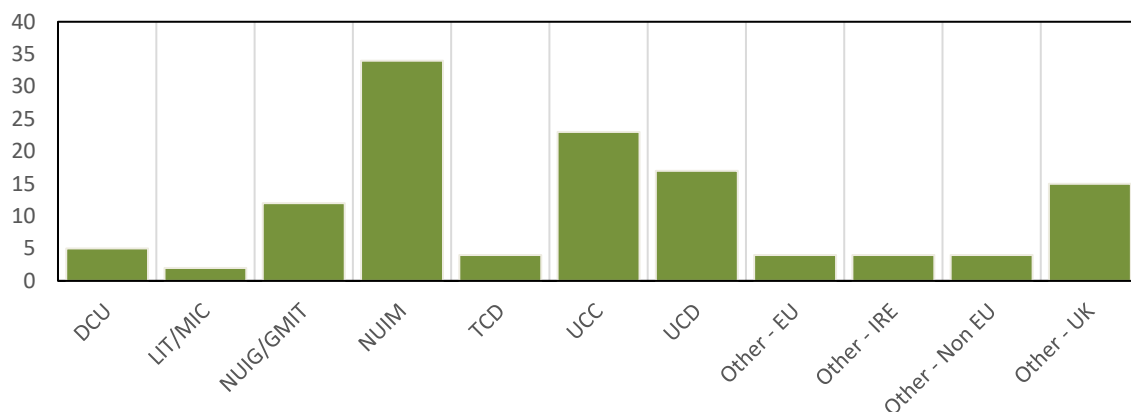
There were 37 sessions in total during the conference, which varied in topic but all broadly centred around the theme *Geographies of Disruptions and Transgressions*. Attempting to classify such diversity is very difficult, below is my own attempt based on a modifying the classification I used back in GeoNews 58:

SESSIONS AT CIG-2017 BY BROAD THEME



NUIM (Maynooth University) had the highest number of presenters based on the affiliation of the lead author at 34, followed by University College Cork at 23 and University College Dublin at 17, together these three accounted for ~ 60% of the all the lead authors. There were 23 lead authors from Non-Irish affiliated institutions, of which two thirds were from UK institutions.

Corresponding Author by Institution



The Key notes...



BRADLEY GARRETT is a visual ethnographer based at the University of Sydney interested in how people build relationships to places through subversive actions. He writes a regular column for Guardian Cities and his research has been featured on media outlets worldwide including the BBC (UK), ABC (Australia), and Time Magazine (USA). He is the author of *Explore Everything: Place Hacking the City* Verso (2013), *Subterranean London: Cracking the Capital* (2014), *London Rising: Illicit Photos from the City's Heights* (2016) and *Global Undergrounds: Exploring Cities Within* (2016). From 2017, Dr Garrett will be working on a multi-year ethnographic project with doomsday preppers. His work can be found at www.bradleygarrett.com

Keynote Lecture: Thursday 4th May *Countering Geographies of Dread*

Neoliberal spaces around the world are comprised of three consistent tropes: privatised 'public' space and security, persistent surveillance systems and spatial inequality. As privacy is subsumed by omnipresence and daily life becomes toxified by dread perpetuated by connectivity, populist cynicism crescendos - as exemplified by Brexit in the UK and the election of Donald Trump in the USA. Yet as Guattari wrote in his 1996 essay *Towards a Post-Media Era*, 'new technologies foster efficiency and madness in the same flow... It can blow up like a windshield under the impact of molecular alternative practices.' Perhaps there is hope yet for heterogeneity amidst these sociopolitical reformations. Yet the logic of capitalism, based more on appropriation than suppression, often means that the emancipatory potency of successful alternative practices are sapped where their aesthetics become yoked, or that these practices lay low with awareness of that danger, remaining localised and disjointed, if effective. With this in mind, as researchers who collect information, (co)produce knowledge and raise awareness, we are capable of inflicting great harm on those we work with and on their alternative practices. In an age of dread, how are we to research transgressions against homogeneity without reifying, essentialising and therefore undermining the very practices we find promising?



JENNY PICKERILL is Professor of Environmental Geography at Sheffield University, England. Her research focuses on how we understand, value and (ab)use the environment. She is particularly interested in inspiring grassroots solutions to environmental problems and in hopeful and positive ways in which we can change social practices. This work includes a concern for justice; recognising that the broader context of environmental problems is often inequality, colonialism, racism and neo-liberalism. She is currently researching global eco-communities and activism in Australia. She has published 3 books and over 30 articles on themes around environmentalism.

Keynote Lecture: Friday 5th May *Disrupting the environment: Eco-communities and the reconfiguration of place*

Self-build, self-organised and collective attempts to provide homes and livelihoods in rural Britain are driving the growth of eco-communities. These grassroots, often deep green ideologically-driven projects are benefitting from state support for self-build and, in Wales, One Planet Development legislation allowing low impact lifestyles in previously restricted greenfield sites. These eco-communities are radically reconfiguring landscapes from farmland to permaculture gardens, off-grid homes and learning spaces. Such projects are putting into practice new forms of nature-culture relations and new social relations. They are building new forms of lived-in peopled landscapes that are not so much a nostalgic quest for a rural idyll of the past, but rather new climate change resilient dynamic places where the inseparability of people and the environment is understood and practised. This lived environment disrupts conventional notions of nature in multiple and challenging ways. The environment is being reconfigured to accommodate the new socio-materiality's of eco-communities and, in so doing, map out an alternative environmental future. The possibilities and implications of these disruptions are examined using empirical examples from recent research in Britain.

Members Updates

Membership fees

As agreed at the AGM of the Society in May 2017, there will be a small increase in the subscription fees of the Society effective from the next renewal/January 2017. There has not been a fee increase since 1999 when the Euro was introduced. We hope you agree that your membership is excellent value comparatively and we have minimized the increases.

The new fee rates are as follows:

***€40 for full members (previously €30) and
€20 for students/unwaged/retired (previously €15).***

If you pay by standing order, we would be grateful if you could please amend the instruction to your bank.

GeoWeek 2017

GeoWeek 2017 will take place from the 12-18th of November and we invite members to get involved by supporting local events or hosting events of their own. Details of events across the country will be available on the website in the coming weeks.

Conference of Irish Geographers 2018

We are delighted to announce that the 50th Conference of Irish Geographers will take place at Maynooth University from 10th-12th May 2018. The conference theme is *The Earth as Our Home*. Registration and call for organized sessions/abstracts will open soon. For full details, please see: www.conferenceofirishgeographers.ie

GSI Lifetime Contribution Award - presentation

At the 2016 Awards ceremony in Cork last May, we announced that the GSI Lifetime Contribution award was being awarded to Prof Mary Cawley, NUIG. Mary was unable to attend that event but there will be a special presentation on Friday 3rd November 2018 at 5pm. The event will take place in The Staff Club, The Quad, NUI Galway. All members are welcome; if you wish to attend please email: Frances.Fahy@nuigalway.ie

Upcoming Events



26th Annual Colloquium Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (CSRS) International Geographical Union (IGU) Infinite Rural Systems in a Finite Planet: Bridging Gaps towards Sustainability

Santiago—A Veiga—A Ulloa (Galicia) 16-21 July 2018

Six thematic sessions will be held, as follows:

- 1 Bridging gaps between agri-food networks
- 2 Bridging gaps between rural (multifunctional?) activities
- 3 Bridging the gap between conflicting land-uses
- 4 Bridging gaps between rural imageries, and the "grim reality"
- 5 Bridging gaps with rural remote, low-density and mountain areas
- 6 Bridging gaps between urban expansion, and agriculture and open spaces preservation

This Colloquium particularly welcomes contributions from and about Africa and Latin America, world regions underrepresented by ongoing activities of the IGU CSRS. We welcome presentations and papers in Portuguese and Spanish, which, together with the IGU official languages (English and French), should encourage researchers from across the planet to take part in the sessions to be held in July 2018. Parallel sessions will be designed taking into account the languages and the thematic orientations. The meeting includes a field excursion from 18-21 July to A Veiga and A Ulloa

Scholarships for PhD students from the Global South: The CSRS Chairs offer two scholarships to PhD students from the Global South (UN developing countries) to cover the fees. In addition, accommodation in Santiago (15, 16, 17 and 21 of July) will be included for these two selected PhD candidates. For eligible PhD candidates, when submitting your extended abstract (before 15 January 2018), please express your wish to be considered for one of these scholarships. The Organising and Scientific Committees will assess who is granted the scholarship depending on the quality of their submitted extended abstract.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 January 2018: Extended abstracts should be sent, together with the registration form (containing the wish to participate in the fieldtrip and to be eligible for scholarship, if applicable).

Web site for further information: www.26ruralcolloquium.eu

Professor Gillian Rose on Gender, Postgraduates, and Early Career Work at Maynooth University 26th of October

The Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG) and the Geographical Society of Ireland Postgraduate and Early Career Network (GSI-PGEC) would like to invite you to a conversation with Professor Gillian Rose on Gender, Postgraduates, and Early Career Work. The event will take place on the 26th October 2017 at 15:15 in the Rocque Lab, Dept. of Geography at Maynooth University. For those not able to join us in person we will be live-streaming the event on the SWIG Twitter account @SWIGIreland.

A Conversation with Professor Gillian Rose

**Where:**

Rocque Lab, Dept.
Geography,
Maynooth University

When:

26 Oct. 15.15 - 16.45

Please join us for a
conversation with the
esteemed Prof. Rose on
Gender, Post Graduates, and
Early Career work.

All are welcome!



2nd and 3rd November 2017: *The Earth Observation (EO) 2017 symposium*

This two-day event at Maynooth University will kick-off with international key-note speakers from the European Space Agency and Group on Earth Observation, opening the 11th Irish Earth Observation Symposium on Thursday 02/11/2017. The symposium will include presenters, speakers, & experts from the EU Commission, Copernicus Support Office and Irish agencies explaining how Copernicus works, as well as examples of how Copernicus is currently being exploited across Ireland. Registration is free but places are limited. To register please go to <http://infosessionireland.eventsite.be/>

14th November 2017 at 18:30-20:00: *Masterclass for GSI Members – Communicating Your Geographic Research with Impact.*

Join award-winning broadcast producer and communication specialist Paul Bader for a focused, practical, 90-minute session. Learn how to simplify complex ideas (without dumbing down), how to find subjects and stories that will engage your audience, and how to deliver them with impact. Includes practical exercises. The Masterclass is for researchers from current PhD to professor. It is aimed at anyone who has to communicate their work beyond their peer group, including public outreach and engagement.

Paul Bader is part of the Screenhouse team delivering media skills training to the Royal Society, London. Creative Director and Founder of award winning science TV production company Screenhouse, Paul is currently producing a series of science and entertainment films for the BBC One Show, and recently made a film for the BBC about incredible aerial inventions.

This is a members only CPD event and spaces are limited to 20 participants. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/masterclass-communicating-your-geographic-research-with-impact-tickets-38936966515>

8th December 2017: *Planning for the Dublin city-region: 50 years after Myles Wright*

This all day symposium, organized by the Geographical Society of Ireland, will consider the future of the Dublin city-region fifty years after the Myles Wright plan for the city. The event will take place in University College Dublin, Further details of the programme and registration will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

Other News and Updates

Supporting Women In Geography (SWIG) Committee voted

At CIG-2017, a new SWIG Ireland Committee for 2017-2018 was voted in, here are the committee members

- Rachel McArdle, Convener, Maynooth University
- Aoife Delaney, Co-Convener, Maynooth University
- Joseph Robinson, Secretary, Maynooth University
- Aoife Kavanagh, Treasurer, Maynooth University
- Dr. Christine Bonnin, University Liaison Officer, UCD
- Joanne Ahern, Public Relations & Social Media Officer, Gran Sasso Science Institute
- Kate Flood, Student/Undergraduate Liaison Officer, NUI Galway
- Dr. Mary Greene, NUI Galway, Member at-large
- Catherine Hayes, Maynooth University, Member at-large

We wish the new committee the best of luck and welcome their news and updates to include in GeoNews!

Conferences

12–13 October 2017

Spaces and Flows: Eighth International Conference on Urban and ExtraUrban Studies, University of Hull, Hull, UK, <http://spacesandflows.com/hullconference-2017>

7-8 December 2017

Oxford Symposium on Population, Migration, and the Environment, Oxford, UK, <https://www.oxford-population-and-environment-symposium.com/>

Call for Content!

If you would like anything featured in the next newsletter please submit through our new online submission form:

<http://www.geographicalsocietyireland.ie/geonews-submission.html>

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

Current Committee, 2016-2017

President:

Assoc. Prof. Niamh Moore-Cherry, University College Dublin

Vice-President:

Dr. Adrian Kavanagh, Maynooth University

Secretary:

Dr. Karen Keaveney, University College Dublin

Treasurer:

Dr. Shane O Sullivan, Limerick Institute of Technology

GSI Liaison Officer:

Dr Eimear Heaslip, NUI Galway

Editor, Irish Geography:

Dr Ronan Foley, Maynooth University

Editor, Geonews:

Dr. Paul Alexander, Central Statistics Office, Dept. of An Toiseach

PRO (Communications and Information Officers):

Dr Irene Morris-Cadogan, Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Business Manager, Irish Geography:

Prof. Mary Gilmartin, Maynooth University

Postgrad Representative:

Mary Greene, NUI Galway

Committee Members (without portfolio):

Dr. Eoin O'Mahony

Dr. Richard Scriven

Dr. Kathy Reilly, NUI Galway

Dr. Patrick Bresnihan, Trinity College Dublin