CONFERENCE OF IRISH GEOGRAPHERS
25 — 27 MAY 2012
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND
Registration.

Friday 25 May, 4.00 – 6.00 p.m., Saturday 26 May, 8.00 – 10.00 a.m. Museum Building

Welcome

Friday 25 May, Museum 4, 6.00 p.m.

PROFESSOR JANE OHLMEYER, MRIA

Vice Provost for Global Relations, Trinity College
Dublin

PLENARY KEYNOTE LECTURES

Friday 25 May, Museum 4, 6.00 p.m.

‘Thinking Beyond Rio+20: Environmental Change and Sustainability in an Urbanising World’

Professor David Simon, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Saturday, 26 May, Museum 4, 6.00 p.m.

Provincialising Global Urbanism

Professor Eric S. Sheppard, University of Minnesota.

Sunday 27 May, Museum 4, 1.00 p.m.

Immigration and Spaces of Insurgent Citizenship

Professor Helga Leitner, University of Minnesota.
PAPER SESSION 1  26 May 9.00 — 10.30

1A  GSR-B  Neoliberalism, urban policy, the property crash and its consequences, (I)

Brendan Williams, *The Future Land Market Implications of the NAMA process*

Andrew MacLaran, *An Irish soft landing: an introduction to the property crash*

Kitchin, R., O’Callaghan, C., Boyle, M., Gleeson J. and Keaveney, K., *Placing Neoliberalism: The rise and fall of Ireland’s Celtic Tiger*

1B  GSR-A  Climate and environmental change (I)

Shaun Harrigan, Conor Murphy and Julia Hall, *Reconstructing River Flows – the Impact of Arterial Drainage on Long-term Trends in River Flow; a case study of the Boyne Catchment*

Julia Hall, Conor Murphy and Shaun Harrigan, *Investigation of Climate Driven Trends in River Flows from a Reference Network of Stations in Ireland*

Susan Hegarty, *Reconstructing the environmental history of Lough Cullin, Co. Kilkenny: a preliminary report*

1C  GLT  Geographies of Art and Literature

Ambra G. Bergamasco, *Creating prescriptive critiques through the use of experimental creative methodologies. Reflections on theatre based methodology deployed in Turin, Italy.*

Aidan McGovern, *Of Everyday Globalisations – affect, time and crisis through the works of Allan Sekula and Richard Serra*

Charles Travis, *From the Ruins of Time and Space: The Psychogeographical GIS of Postcolonial Dublin in Flann O’Brien’s At Swim Two Birds (1939)*

1D  Museum 4  Historical geographies of nineteenth century Ireland

Kevin Lougheed, *Geographies of governmentality: National Education in nineteenth century Ireland*

Ruth Guiry, *Poverty in Limerick City in the late 19th/early 20th Century: an examination of the sources*

Suzanne Pegley, *The Performance of Power*

Ronan Foley, *Borrowed Hospitals: Requisitioned Spaces of Recovery and Care*
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| 2A      | GSR-B | Neoliberalism, urban policy, the property crash and its consequences (II)  
Andrew MacLaran, *Five Decades of Boom and Bust – The Dublin Office Property Sector*  
Rory Hearne, *Recent geography of neoliberalism in Ireland: the evidence from Public-Private Partnerships*  
Dáithí Downey, *The Irish Housing Debt Trap and the Global Financial Crisis: housing stress, resilience and exclusion among Irish homeowners* |
| 2B      | GSR-A | Climate and environmental change (II)  
Jackie S. McGloughlin, "A pragmatic approach to climate change: the bigger picture"  
Elaine Treacy, *Assessing Temporal and Spatial Water Quality Variations at Lough Currane, Co. Kerry, Ireland*  
Kieran Hickey, *A bolt from the heavens! The historical record of lightning in Ireland and its impact on settlement and people* |
| 2C      | GLT   | Urban Climates  
Stephanie Keogh, Gerald Mills, and Rowan Fealy, *Urban eddy covariance flux measurements: Two locations in Dublin*  
Keith Sunderland and Gerald Mills, *Observations of wind within the urban environment and the potential for micro-wind turbines* |
| 2D      | Museum 4 | Geographies of culture and identity  
Shane O’Sullivan, *Creating an Integrative Multicultural Society in Rural Ireland: Insights from Co. Monaghan*  
Kathy Reilly, Valerie Ledwith, *Geographies of Education: Exploring Inequalities among Young Migrants in Galway*  
Adrienne Hobbs, *State structures of youth participation in the Republic of Ireland: locating within Children’s Geographies* |

12.30 – 2.00 LUNCH (MUSEUM 17) AND GSI MEETING (MUSEUM 4)
3A GSR-B Neoliberalism, urban policy, the property crash and its consequences, (III)

Rory Hearne, *The fate of regeneration schemes for disadvantaged inner-Dublin local-authority housing estates following the collapse of Public-Private Partnerships*.

Paula Brudell, *Surveyors of a neoliberal order and authoritarian consensus: the role of private consultancies in the mediation and depoliticization of highly political urban-development agendas*.

Sinéad Kelly, *“Make safe the city!”: examining the relationship between property capital and the state in processes of gentrification*.

3B GSR-A Climate and environmental change (III)

Conor Murphy, Neil Adger, Tara Quinn, Irene Lorenzoni, John Sweeney, *Social Contracts, Flood Risk and Climate Adaptation – a natural experiment from case studies in Ireland and the UK*.


David Taylor, *An appliance of climate change science in the developing world: the EUFP7 HEALTHY FUTURES project in eastern Africa*.

3C GLT Rural geography and forestry

John Noonan, *Biodiversity and Forestry: how appropriate forests can enhance biodiversity*.

Conor Lynch, David Meredith, Tamara Hochstrasser, Michael Wilson, Maarten Nieuwenhuis, *Do as your neighbours do – is the uptake of farm forestry influenced by neighbours?*

David Meredith & Kevin Heanue, *Attitudes to Farm Diversification in Ireland*.

3D Museum 4 Mapping Spectral Traces: Bodies, Space, Memory

Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto-Arponen, *Subaltern geopolitics and performative silence*.


Gerry Kearns, *Choreographing the Catholic Body: Testimony and Resistance in the Wake of Clerical Sexual Abuse*.

Lisa Godson, *Reproducing memories, reproducing space - the case of the 'Irish Lourdes'*.
PAPER SESSION 4  26 May 4.00 — 5.30

4A  GSR-B  Neoliberalism, urban policy, the property crash and its consequences, (IV)

Enda Murphy and Linda Fox-Rogers, *Neo-liberalism and entrepreneurial planning: the case of Irish planning legislation*

Linda Fox, *Power and Politics in Planning: Perspectives from Irish urban Planners*

Gordon MacLeod, *Scotland’s Smart-New Urban Development: Planning, Governance, Politics*

4B  GSR-A  Geographies of sustainable consumption

Anna Davies, *Imagining Urban Food Futures: ICTs and sustainable eating practices*

Laura Devaney, *Geographies of food risk governance in Ireland: performance, power and constraints*

Ruth Doyle, *Navigating pathways towards a future of sustainable consumption: reflections on a participatory backcasting procedure for sustainable household consumption*

4C  GLT  Climate and environmental change (IV)

Pete Coxon, Gareth J. Tye, Adrian P. Palmer, Ian Candy, & Mark Hardiman; *Annually-resolved natural climate variability during MIS 11: Where the wild-fires are... and Homo heidelbergensis*

John Sweeney, Rodney Teck, *Modelling the Impacts of Climate Change on Forest Pests*

Claire Cullen, *Deciphering the Geomorphic and Sedimentary Record of the Last Irish Ice Sheet in NW Donegal*

4D  Museum 4  Cultural and social geographies

Conor McCaffrey, *Thinking Geographically: An Introduction to Human Geography within a European Context*


Frank Houghton and Sharon Houghton, *Still Hiding the Evidence: continuing deficiencies in data on health inequalities in Ireland*

Sinead O'Shea & Ruth McManus, *Mobility in Tenement Dublin, a case study of Upper Buckingham Street, 1901-1911*
5A GSR-B Geographies of globalisation and development
Mohd Amir Anwar, *Bringing globalisation to the countryside: the political economy of SEZs in India*
Gen Ueda, *Bridging the scale gap: macro economic impacts of liberalisation on the regional system of local livelihood in rural Tanzania*
Mark Boyle and Rob Kitchin, *Diaspora centred development: A Sympathetic critique*
Pádraig Carmody, *The Informationalization of Poverty in Africa?*

5B GSR-A Geographies of religion
Kevin Griffin, *A geo-spatial and thematic investigation of writings on religious tourism*
Eoin O'Mahony, *Geographies of religious affect, or being on pilgrimage with Maurice Merleau-Ponty*
Martin Millerick, *Revising Whelan's Model of Tridentine Catholicism in Ireland: Some Observations and Reflections*
Weihsuan Lin, *“Evil Cult” or new religious movement: the Falun Gong and political conflict*

5C GLT Geographies of culture and heritage
Therese Conway, *Promoting Ecotourism through a Network*
Liam Mannix, *Heritage tourism in historic Irish towns*
Bernadette Quinn, *Social connections in festival spaces: the case of Temple Bar TradFest 2012*
Ciara Younge, *Civil Society & Volunteering: The Missing Link*

5D Museum 4 Geographies of urban change and modernisation
Philip Lawton, *From the Rejection of Modernism to the Emergence of a New Orthodoxy in Contemporary Urban Practice*
Maria Henar SALAS-OLMEDO and David MEREDITH, *Spatial analysis of travel mode choice in commuting trips: An assessment of workplaces in the Greater Dublin Region*
Stephen Rigney, *Townlands to New Towns to Housing Estates: property speculation and planning in a Dublin suburb*
Conor McCaffrey, *The Geography of Digital Divisions in Ireland*
6A GSR-B Economic geography

Proinnsias Breathnach, *The National Spatial Strategy ten years on: A critical reflection*

Niamh Moore-Cherry and Delphine Ancien, *Europe 2020 Strategy: The territorial dimensions of smart growth*

Irene McCausland, *Video Games Clusters – the key success factors derived from a number of case studies from across the world.*

Therese Kenna & Sinead O’Connor, *Students as Infrastructure: Re-Conceptualising Students in the University City*

6B GSR-A Geographies of voting and protest

Adrian Kavanagh, *Voter turnout levels in Dublin City 1997-2011: in time and in place*

Adrian Kavanagh, *Ireland in Eurovision 1997-2011 - Politics and Geography*


6C GLT Placenames and language/Logainmneacha agus teanga

Mary Kelly, *The Donegal Placename Project*

Rónán Galvin, UCD, *The music Landscape of south-west Donegal/ Tírdreach Cheoil iardheiscirt Dhún na nGall*

Liam Ó hAisibéil, *Logainmneacha Thuaisceart Ros Comáin: Aithint agus Anailis The Place-names of Northern Roscommon: Identification and Analysis*

Éamonn Naughton, *Regional Development and the Irish Gaeltacht – Challenges and Opportunities*

6D Museum 4 Neoliberal knowledges: PANEL SESSION

Mary Gilmartin, Lawrence Berg, Aisling Gallagher, Philip Lawton.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS 26, 27 MAY FREEMAN LIBRARY

• Gearóid McCarthy, *Negotiated Transnationality: an in-depth exploration of the experiences of Filipino labour migrants in Cork, Ireland*

• Sinéad O’Connor *The Internationalisation of Tertiary Education in Ireland: An Investigation of International Students, the University and the City*

• Richard Scriven, *Pilgrimage Practices: Embodied mobilities of pilgrims in Ireland*

• Ishwari Sivagnanam, *‘Small area’ Prevalence Estimation of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Ireland*

• Richard Williams, *Sexuality and the City: an investigation into the geographies of sexual minorities in Cork, Ireland*

[Poster presenters will be available during the coffee breaks to discuss their posters]
ABSTRACTS

P.J. Alexander

*Simulation of the Urban Surface Energy Fluxes of Dublin using LUMPS: Towards a robust relationship with local-scale surface classification.*

The urban climate has a distinctive impact on the inhabitants of cities. Thermal comfort, for instance, in an urban environment is influenced by physical features ranging from microscale details of the immediate surroundings to meso-scale attributes of the urbanised landscape. As identified by Oke (1987) within urban environments there are an endless array of surface configurations present, which leads to a virtually endless array of surface energy balances, thus micro-climates. Recent work by Steward and Oke (2010) have suggested the multiple influences of micro-climate can be simplified by aggregating the physical properties of the urban fabric at distinct scale levels, most commonly, the local-scale (~250-500m) using the conceptual framework of adopting a classification scheme for the urban surface, partitioning the surface into so-called Local Climate Zones (LCZ). The scheme to-date remains completely untested in terms of its ability to capture urban energy balance (UEB) processes. Thus there is currently no empirical evidence to suggest a relationship in LCZ and UEB though conventional theory would suggest one exists. In response to this, a UEB model is independently parameterised and run to a section of the surface of Dublin, Ireland. The parameterisation is then compared to a LCZ dataset and both are statistically compared to UEB observations during a period of investigation.

Mohd Amir Anwar

*Bringing globalisation to the countryside: the political economy of SEZs in India*

The implications of the market oriented approach towards the overall development of the marginalised low income groups have been the centre of much research around the world. This paper seeks to contribute one more chapter towards that ongoing endeavour by analysing the impacts of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India on the lives and livelihoods of the local population where they are being developed. SEZs have recently become the main pathways of the globalisation in India. Three different case studies (SEZs) were investigated by conducting semi-structured qualitative interviews both with the local population and policy makers. The fieldwork for this research was carried out between July 2009 and February 2010 in India. The findings suggest that SEZs, instead of becoming drivers of industrialisation in the rural areas, are recreating widening poverty and inequality among different classes of Indian population through land acquisition and its associated displacement and dispossession. Whereas the previous literature on SEZs has tended to be urban focused, recent shift towards rural areas is seen as an attempt by the Government of India to ‘bring globalisation to the countryside’.

Ambra G. Bergamasco

*Creating prescriptive critiques through the use of experimental creative methodologies. Reflections on theatre based methodology deployed in Turin, Italy.*

This paper wishes not solely to critically address the use of cultural creativity from both theoretical and practical aspects but also to bring forwards a prescriptive use of such thought, through a creative methodology. It wishes to do so by using the case of Turin, Italy as an example. By outlining the loops in the creative cultural literature and the academic critique already present
within the discipline, the research presented in this paper engages in the understanding of the processes involved in a creative act. In most cases, creative cultural practices used by the urban regeneration machine appears to be the practice of a representational rhetoric rather than an actual potenial for creative energies, which truly engage with socially excluded territories within the city. The prescriptive element is provided by the use of a creative methodology based on theatre practices that have been originated during fieldwork and in collaboration with a local dance – theatre company ‘Senza Confini di Pelle’. experimental creative methodology - embodiment – urban regeneration – creative cultural city

Ronan Bolton

*Climate Change, Energy Security, and the Development of Flexible Infrastructures*

The transition to a low carbon energy system will challenge traditional conceptualisations and framings of energy security. Rather than an essentially supply side issue to be addressed by national governments, energy security is increasingly a multi-dimensional and multi-scalar issue incorporating a wide range of risks and mitigation strategies. This paper explores the development of flexible energy infrastructures, both at the transmission and distribution levels, as an emerging response to the energy security challenges associated with the low carbon transition. These, for example, include threats to the stability of national and international electricity supply systems posed by the integration of intermittent renewable generation, but also risks of exposure to rising energy prices faced by certain communities, cities and regions. Drawing from a review of selected policy documents and a set of semi-structured interviews, in the paper we argue that the development of flexible infrastructures e.g. distribution level smart grids, city-scale district energy systems, and international super-grids, are emerging as a common response by actors at a range of scales in order to mitigate perceived risks associated with the low carbon transition, particularly in the context of liberalised energy markets. We discuss the key opportunities and challenges for infrastructure governance that this presents.

Mark Boyle and Rob Kitchin

*Diaspora centred development : A Sympathetic critique*

Growing interest in the role of global diasporas in the development of countries of origin signals nothing less than a paradigm shift within the field of Development. A new tradition of policy making, referred to as ‘diaspora strategy’, has come of age. Already, a wide range of diaspora strategies and associated diaspora schemes (institutions, instruments, policies, programmes, and initiatives) have been conceived and implemented. Moreover many countries are now participating in a global dialogue on best practice and through joint ‘policy transfer’ workshops, seminars, publications, toolkit manuals, and conferences are identifying exemplars of best practice and swapping and copying schemes. Against this backdrop, the purpose of this paper is to provide a (against the grain) sympathetic critical review of current practice. It is proposed that there exists a unique nexus between sending state diaspora strategies, diaspora agendas and, the strategic interests of host states and that it is this unique nexus which mediates, energises, brokers, and frustrates the contributions of diasporic groupings to homeland development. Diaspora centred development will be more effective if work is undertaken to build partnerships between each of these three stakeholders so as to bring them into a better collaborative alignment. Arguably the most critical agenda for the future is to create fora, mechanisms, dialogues, and platforms through which each stakeholder can negotiate their interests in diaspora strategising with an awareness of the compromises which might need to be made if the collective endeavour is to succeed. We submit that far from being a the latest conduit through which western models of development are
pedalled to the Global South, diaspora centred development provides a new opportunity for networks and dialogue to alter North-South relations.

Proinnsias Breathnach

The National Spatial Strategy ten years on: A critical reflection

Ireland’s National Spatial Strategy (NSS) was launched ten years ago, in 2002. In essence, the NSS comprised an ambitious plan to achieve greater spatial balance in the Irish economy through the cultivation of a number of regional “gateway” centres which would act as countermagnets to Dublin, which was seen to be benefitting disproportionately from the “Celtic Tiger” phenomenon. However, from the beginning implementation of the NSS fell foul of a range of obstacles arising from the inherent dysfunctionality of the Irish state apparatus. As a result, very little progress had been made towards achieving the NSS objectives prior to the Strategy’s complete derailment by the current economic crisis. This paper discusses the key obstacles concerned, including the intense localism of the political system which precludes measures which are spatially selective in their impact, the highly centralised nature of public administration and low level of interaction between government departments which render coordinated action at regional and local level virtually impossible, and the absence from the NSS of any serious consideration of the measures required to achieve coherent forms of economic development in the gateway centres.

Paula Brudell

Purveyors of a neoliberal order and authoritarian consensus: the role of private consultancies in the mediation and depoliticization of highly-political urban-development agendas

This paper is concerned with the role of international private consultancies in the transmission, mediation and depoliticization of highly political urban-development agendas. It notes the serious concerns identified by critical theorists arising from the transfer of such ‘inalienably public’ functions as planning (Fordham, 1990) to urban-development consultancies, which occupy a pivotal position within the panoply of private-development interests gathered around land-use and development issues. Following the advent of participatory governance during which private consultancies were entrusted with other equally inalienable public functions such as securing the societal consent necessary for the progression of such plans, the paper explores one site in Dublin city where the decision to entrust the preparation of an urban-development plan to a firm of international consultants afforded important insights into the growing vulnerability of working-class communities within an increasingly assertive and aggressive urban-regeneration environment. Specifically, this paper illustrates how the decision to outsource this critical function to private consultants assisted the local state in formally articulating an international urban-development policy agenda; in constructing the perfunctory lineaments of a public consensus sufficient to the state’s legitimation requirements, while functioning at all times to depoliticize and normalize the progression of a highly-political neoliberal land-use and development agenda.

Elaine Burroughs


Irish public discourses represent illegal immigrants in various ways; however, public discourses largely portray them negatively and assign them into the role of the ‘other’. As part of an overall
project that investigates Irish public discourses from the parliament and the newsprint media, this paper focuses on the findings of a Critical Discourse Analysis of parliamentary discourses from the Dáil, the Seanad, the Committee on European Affairs, and the Committee on Justice, Equality, Defense and Women’s Rights. Overall, this research has identified over 1,000 parliamentary discourses for the period between 2002 and 2009. This paper outlines how parliamentary members represented illegal immigration through five distinct argumentations (topoi), namely, ‘control’, ‘danger’, ‘economy’, ‘humanitarian’, and ‘culture’. Additionally, this work relays the manner in which individual political parties constructed illegal immigration. The case put forth in this paper is that the Irish State exercised its power discursively, by producing legitimate identities (citizens) and illegitimate identities (illegal immigrants). This discursive process functioned in broader power structures by justifying elite dominance and by allowing the nation to reproduce itself. Ultimately, governmental processes maintained inequality and justified the exclusion of illegal immigrants from Irish society.

Pádraig Carmody

*The Informationalization of Poverty in Africa?*

Mobile Phones and Economic Structure Many claims are made about the transformational developmental impacts of new ICTs, particularly mobile phones, on Africa. However, such claims neglect other structural dynamics and the contradictory impacts of mobile phones; which can reduce, but also sometimes increase poverty. This paper re-examines the role of mobile phones in African development and poverty drawing on the concept of articulation. While mobile phones are meant to help ‘flatten’ the world and allow for economic development through facilitating connection between places, they often serve to reinforce the dynamics of uneven development. Consequently while mobile phones may be ‘socially articulating,’ they recreate (new) forms of economic disarticulation, thereby replicating patterns of Africa’s exclusionary inclusion in the global economy. The occlusion of these dynamics in the literature arguably serves a useful ideological function: positing mobile phones as a technical fix for what are primarily problems of power mal-distribution.

Therese Conway

*Promoting Ecotourism through a Network*

This paper presents the results of a study that examines the strengths and weaknesses of a tourism network in the Greenbox, Ireland’s first planned and defined ecotourism destination which includes counties Fermanagh and Leitrim and parts of counties Cavan, Donegal and Sligo. The Greenbox was a government-led funded project established in 2003, which was managed by a network comprised of representatives from national tourism bodies, regional statutory bodies, rural development groups and local authorities on both sides of the international border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Ecotourism was selected as a potential contributor to the economy in this peripheral rural area in northwest Ireland because of its natural resource base, traditional farming landscapes and cultural traditions. The paper focuses on assessing the role of networking and appropriate forms of embeddedness and disembeddedness through the network, following Cawley et al (2007) and Saxena (2007). The paper presents the results of the interviews with the organizational representatives, who were members of the Greenbox Board. These results relate to the networking that takes place pertaining to ecotourism and its purpose, at levels from the local to the international. Following the culmination of funding, in 2008, the network ceased to function actively and consequently reflects the short term nature of some funding-led projects (Dredge 2006). However, a range of benefits arose in terms of increased awareness of the meaning of
ecotourism, the incorporation of ecotourism into policy documents and the emergence of a provider led ecotourism promotional group. The experience suggests that even a short term network can have more positive outcomes than is sometimes initially recognised.

Pete Coxon, Gareth J. Tye, Adrian P. Palmer, Ian Candy, & Mark Hardiman

Annualy-resolved natural climate variability during MIS 11: Where the wild-fires are... and Homo heidelbergensis

Marine isotope stage 11 (MIS 11, ca 410,000 yrs BP) is considered to be one of the best analogues for current and future climate change due to the similarity of orbital forcing patterns during these two interglacials. Marine and ice-core records suggest that MIS 11 was a particularly long interglacial, characterised by stable climates. The investigation of high-resolution climate records from MIS 11 can, therefore, allow us to understand how the climate of a Holocene-like interglacial might evolve in the absence of anthropogenic modification. MIS 11 sediments preserved in the palaeolake basin at Marks Tey, eastern England, offer the potential for such a study as they are considered to be annually-laminated (varved) throughout a large part of the interglacial (Turner, 1970, 1975). The lamination sets appear to be comprised, primarily, of three regularly occurring laminae types; 1) authigenic carbonate, 2) diatom blooms, and 3) organic detritus, although there appears to be some variability in the microfacies of these laminations. The carbonate laminations are the key to the study of climate variability during MIS 11, as they represent authigenic carbonate precipitation, consistent with temperature/biologically driven changes in lake chemistry during the summer months. Oxygen isotopic analysis of the carbonate therefore gives a proxy for summer temperature. A period of key interest in the MIS 11 sequence at Marks Tey occurs during the early part of the interglacial, where there is a short-lived increase in grass pollen relative to tree pollen, termed the Non-Arboreal Pollen Zone (NAPZ). The cause of this shift in pollen has been subject to debate, with natural wildfire (Turner, 1970) or climatic deterioration (e.g. Kelly, 1964) being suggested as possible forcing mechanisms. In this paper, as well as discussing the main characteristics of the MIS 11 sequence at Marks Tey, we will focus on the palynological, sedimentary, micromorphological and geochemical record of the NAPZ. In particular we discuss the potential role of abrupt, sub-Milankovitch, climate cooling in its genesis, whilst highlighting the complexity of ecological and landscape response that such a climatic event may generate. The study concludes by discussing the potential occurrence of 8.2ka-like events in pre-Holocene interglacials.

Arlene Crampsie

A Geography of Everyday Social Life in Ireland – The GAA Oral History Project

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), founded in 1884 in County Tipperary, is the largest amateur sporting organisation in the world. Established with the joint aims of forming an organisation for the preservation and cultivation of Irish national pastimes, and providing ‘rational amusement for the Irish people during their leisure hours’ the Association spread rapidly across Ireland. To mark its 125th Anniversary, the GAA commissioned a major history project to record the fullest possible picture of what the Association has meant to Irish people. The project has recorded oral history interviews, received written responses and collected photographic and documentary material from across Ireland and Irish communities abroad. The resultant digital archive, which will be available to researchers from the end of 2012, is unique in its ability to provide an understanding of everyday social life in Ireland throughout the late nineteenth, twentieth and early twentieth-first centuries. This paper will examine some of the insights which can be gleaned from the GAA Oral History Project Archive, provide a thematic overview of the information gathered and discuss its potential
uses for historical, cultural and social geographers not only of Ireland, but also the areas around the world where Irish communities have been established.

Claire Cullen

Deciphering the Geomorphic and Sedimentary Record of the Last Irish Ice Sheet in NW Donegal.

A four-phase reconstruction of the last Irish Ice Sheet of NW Donegal is presented. Phase I involves flow from a dominant dispersal centre in the Bluestack Mountains, from which ice moved northwards and northwestwards to some distance offshore; Phase II is dominated by bedform migration and reorganisation driven by funnelled flow and increased ice flux into the sea loughs of Mulroy Bay and Lough Swilly; Phase III is characterised by a strong topographical control on ice flow, resulting in the fragmentation of the ice sheet into a number of separate and semi-independent ice lobes and valley glaciers. Substantial glacial lakes formed during this phase in the interlobate areas as the ice margins uncoupled with periods of ice margin stabilisation demarcated by small discontinuous ice-contact moraines; and Phase IV involves the ice downwasting with thin dead ice aprons developing hummocky, chaotic, drowned kettle-hole terrain now characteristic of NW Donegal.

Anna Davies

Imagining Urban Food Futures: ICTs and sustainable eating practices

A key criticism of conventional policy responses aimed at promoting sustainable consumption, including sustainable food consumption, is that they yield only incremental changes rather than broader socio-technical shifts which are necessary for sustainability. Due to the limitations of current approaches, it is argued that imaginative, exploratory and collaborative techniques are needed to develop social and technological innovations. Participatory backcasting techniques are increasingly being used for such purposes and one variant has been employed in the CONSSENSUS project which is examining sustainable consumption in Ireland (see www.consensus.ie and Figure 1). This paper interrogates the findings of the research conducted with a range of stakeholders, researchers and citizen-consumers in terms of their visions of what sustainable eating practices might be in the year 2050. Specifically the role for, and desirability of, increased ICT interventions in these sustainable eating scenarios are drawn out for further consideration.

Laura Devaney

Geographies of food risk governance in Ireland: performance, power and constraints

Modern desire to consume fast, cheap and exotic food has resulted in the increased intensification, industrialisation and globalisation of the food supply. New ways of producing, processing and transporting food have emerged, bringing benefits to food safety, availability and preservation. However, reflecting the typical double-edged sword of modernity (Beck, 1992), these processes have also created risk, sparking numerous food crises worldwide. New ways of securitising food have thus emerged, including the establishment of food safety authorities (FSAs) across the EU. In 1999, Ireland became the first country to establish such an FSA – the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). Despite these significant shifts in governing arrangements, little work has been conducted regarding the performance, power relations and constraints of these new systems. Utilising empirical data from qualitative interviews conducted with food industry stakeholders, this paper seeks to address this by exploring the geographies of food risk governance in Ireland. In
particular, it utilises a case study of the FSAI to explore the scalar power relations and challenges evident here. Over ten years on from the FSAI inception, it can be considered an appropriate time to reflect on its institutional relations, performance and impact to date. The paper concludes suggesting some potential avenues for further governance reform.

Dáithí Downey

*The Irish Housing Debt Trap and the Global Financial Crisis: housing stress, resilience and exclusion among Irish homeowners*

From the 1980s onwards, a key constituent of the political-economic theory and practice known as neoliberalism has been the process of financialisation. Established by a de-linked, disintermediated, deregulated and increasingly destabilising global financial system, the financialisation of everyday life in Ireland has led – among others things – to the incorporation of spaces of social reproduction in the residential built environment into a secondary circuit of capital. New technologies and instruments of financialisation, in conjunction with neoliberal state housing and economic policy, have required assembly of financially self-disciplined subjects as homeowners at the residential level of locale, neighbourhood and household. Therein the individual subjectivities of the personal are increasingly incorporated into processes of financial deepening. From the 1990s onwards these processes manifested as a housing wealth effect, created by a credit-fuelled house price bubble, to produce a prolonged debt-based consumption cycle that in turn resulted in the over-indebtedness of households, and from which uneven participation in and distribution of reward from has deepened Irish social inequality. A significant disruption to this stage of financialisation has been rendered by the global financial crisis (GFC) underway since 2008. In Ireland the GFC is producing a growing number of negative and dystopian outcomes for newly incorporated, financialised and over-indebted Irish homeowners. A housing debt trap has been sprung for growing numbers of previously moderate - now low-income - households, experiencing reductions in disposable income or actual unemployment and a consequent erosion of their economic and personal resilience. Irish house price deflation since 2007 has been accompanied by growth in negative equity, default, mortgage arrears and mortgage restructuring, repossessions, abandonment and the voluntary surrender of housing. Heretofore securely housed households are now enduring unsustainable housing stress, growing tenure insecurity and exclusion. This paper will consider these issues with reference to empirical evidence and findings arising from a longitudinal study of over-indebted Irish homeowners conducted over the period since 2009.

Ruth Doyle

*Navigating pathways towards a future of sustainable consumption: reflections on a participatory backcasting procedure for sustainable household consumption*

Backcasting is occupying a more prominent role within policy-making and research circles concerned with the design and exploration of system-level changes to promote a transition towards sustainability. This paper reflects on a process of participatory backcasting employed by the Consensus project (www.consensus.ie) in its research on sustainable food, energy and water consumption in Irish households. This involved the engagement of stakeholders and citizen-consumers in the design and assessment of future visions for more sustainable consumption practices followed by looking back, or ‘backcasting’ from these visions to develop long-term action plans. Referencing the outputs developed at the various stages of this iterative process, the paper reflects on the potential benefits and challenges of participatory backcasting in creating long-term strategies for sustainable consumption. Particular attention is paid to exploring the value of taking
social practices (such as washing and heating) as the unit of analysis in this process and the benefits that this can have for promoting more holistic transition plans.

Ronan Foley

_Borrowed Hospitals: Requisitioned Spaces of Recovery and Care_

In historical geographies of mental health, research on the asylum and wider state structures focused primarily on formal institutional spaces. While ongoing levels of mental illness within society produced a steady flow of patients, the advent of modern intensive warfare during World War I saw a huge increase in demand. As a response a large number of previously non-medical spaces were pressed into action within a wider set of therapeutic networks linking ‘Home’ and ‘Front’. These temporary transformations of what Adams (1999) referred to as ‘borrowed buildings’ saw the creation of ephemeral hospitals, usually requisitioned by the state. Typical sites included public buildings, hydros, hotels and private houses. Drawing from a range of archival and imaginative material, this paper outlines the health histories of three such sites; St. Ann’s Hydro in Blarney, Mount Stuart on the island of Bute and Brighton Pavilion. Each site worked with specific groups of patients and treated then-contemporary forms of mental illness including ‘shell-shock’ as well as wider physical rehabilitative forms. This interest in a set of transformed spaces and bodies tells us much about the relationships between war, society and changing medical treatment but also about settings within which ‘proto-therapeutic’ geographies first emerged.

Linda Fox

_Power and Politics in Planning: Perspectives from Irish urban Planners_

The urban planning system in Ireland has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years as people begin to critically reflect on the particularities of Ireland’s economic demise. Mounting evidence and speculation surrounding the interactions of the political and economic spheres, particularly since the recent publication of the Tribunal of Enquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments, has cast doubt surrounding the democratic nature of the planning system as it seems that the interests of private capital increasingly preside over the common good. An analysis of power and politics in local government is thus considered timely in order to investigate the manner in which the Irish planning system operates. This paper offers insights from a series of qualitative interviews carried out with Irish urban planners that have been undertaken as part of an on-going body of research that seeks to explore such issues. In particular, the manner in which power relations arise, exert and manifest themselves in the planning process will be examined. In doing so, the extent to which the realities of the planning system can be aligned to a theoretical framework based on Marxist political economy perceptions of the state and Chomskyan notions of power will also be explored.

Rónán Galvin

_The music Landscape of south-west Donegal/ Tírdhreach Cheoil iardheiscirt Dhún na nGall_

This area is strongly associated with traditional music, especially fiddle music. Rónán studied the music landscape of the area and created a digital map exploring aspects of the tradition. He will also be focusing on the placename ‘Ard an Phléisiúir’.
Neoliberal Knowledges Panel Session

This panel session proposes to investigate the neoliberalization of academic life in various jurisdictions. Neoliberalisation has been a constant component of academic life, and has been accelerating in the past five years or so, especially since recent major financial crises. Neoliberalism and neoliberalization processes are geographically differentiated. Ireland, for example, has avoided the UK-style Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), but the RAE has nonetheless had significant impacts in Ireland. The most-recent financial crisis has resulted in all sorts of pressures around the world for ‘reforms’ to public sector funding, and this has certainly been acutely felt in Ireland too. Whilst actually-existing neoliberalism (after Peck and Tickell) takes many specific forms, we can see a number of tendencies: the development of hierarchically ordered spaces of knowledge production; an increase in the number and kinds of coercion felt by knowledge producers; the development of ever more divisive practices of measurement and audit; the increased reliance on formal and informal forms of privatized knowledge production; the tendency to favour instrumental research over basic research; and the transformation of academic subjectivities. Panelists from a broad range of geographic backgrounds will discuss the neoliberalization of academic life, focusing both on their own contexts, and on the potential implications for the Academy in Ireland.

Lisa Godson

Reproducing memories, reproducing space - the case of the ‘Irish Lourdes’

Political commemoration in Ireland in the 1920s and ‘30s has been described as a ‘chronicle of embarrassment’. The early years of the state were marked by political divisions that inhibited the public memorialising of the Great War, the 1916 Rising, and the War of Independence as well as earlier events. Unlike other newly independent nations, the Irish Free State neither celebrated its birth nor commemorated a heroic past – continuing enmities made it difficult for social or ‘collective’ memory to be enacted in a cohesive fashion. However, the same period saw an upsurge in public religious ritual – the spatialising of a seamless spiritual unity that supposedly transcended worldly animosities. This involved new forms of public religious devotion including new sites, new personnel and new forms of bodily participation. One such site was the ‘Irish Lourdes’, officially dedicated in May 1930. This extraordinary structure in Inchicore, West Dublin, was an exact replica of the original grotto at Massabielle near Lourdes in France, where Bernadette Soubirous had 18 visions of the Virgin Mary in 1858, and which became one of the most popular sites of Catholic pilgrimage in the world. While Lourdes shrines had been built around the world from at least the 1870s, the ‘Irish Lourdes’ was unusual in being a precise copy – it was designed by an Oblate priest who surveyed the original grotto and ‘carefully measured every rise, every indenture.’ Other aspects of the Irish Lourdes copied the original including its material and ceremonial culture. An analysis of this site – its conception, design and use – offers some insight into the way the Catholic Church employed particular spatial strategies to embed its power in the Free State. The Irish Lourdes generated a form of collective memory through the massing of bodies at prayer that promoted a collective forgetting of the individual bodies of both living devotees and the revolutionary dead. This case study suggests that, through the transcendence of historical time and physical place, a specifically Catholic chronotope was asserted.
Ruth Guiry

Poverty in Limerick City in the late 19th/early 20th Century: an examination of the sources

The spatial distribution of poverty and deprivation in nineteenth century towns and cities in Europe has often been linked with ill-health and unsuitable and overcrowded housing conditions (Prunty, 1999; Fraser, 1996; Kearns, 2006; Jones, 1999). However considerable ambiguity still exists regarding a suitable definition of 19th century urban poverty and how it can be accurately measured. To date, the majority of research outlines variations in poverty and composition of the poor by analysing the employment status of the head of household, urban/rural location, age and lifecycle stage and household composition (Kennedy, 1981). Whilst poverty is often associated with ill-health, it may also be defined as the deprivation of basic needs such as housing, education and a sufficient income, leading to marginalisation and exclusion from society. Tosi (1996), for example states that a person in poverty is ‘anyone who is in difficulty for a sufficiently long period of time, so that his/her standard of life is seriously affected, as against people with only temporary problems’ (Tosi, 1996, p.83). As previous studies have demonstrated, poverty can be defined in both absolute and relative terms. Its definition varies with regard to different attributes across different locations (Fuchs, 2006; Chinn, 2006). An examination of 19th century quantitative and qualitative data can aid in the refinement of the term ‘poverty’ and what exactly it meant to be in ‘poverty’ in the 19th century. This paper therefore aims to contribute to the poverty discussion through examining qualitative and quantitative sources for Limerick city in the nineteenth century.

Julia Hall, Conor Murphy and Shaun Harrigan

Investigation of Climate Driven Trends in River Flows from a Reference Network of Stations in Ireland

The ability to detect climate driven trends in streamflow records depends on long flow records and catchment characteristics. Undisturbed catchments representing near-natural river flows conditions with limited human influence such as water abstractions or artificial drainage are selected. To allow for both, linear and step change, sequential trend tests were performed on all possible periods (of at least 10 years in length) by varying the start and end dates of records for various indicators. Results from this study highlight that the current standard trend approach using fixed periods is not appropriate for analysing trends, as statistical significance and direction of trends from short term records do not persist when longer records are employed. High flow indicators reveal the largest number of statistically significant trends. Additionally, the results show that spring mean flow is dominated by natural variability and has a strong correlation with large scale climate drivers (e.g. the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO)). Trends found in streamflow correspond closely with those found in precipitation, increasing confidence of trends being climate driven rather than from human interruption. The importance of longer records in contextualising short term trends influenced by natural climate variability is highlighted.

Shaun Harrigan, Conor Murphy and Julia Hall

Reconstructing River Flows – the Impact of Arterial Drainage on Long-term Trends in River Flow; a case study of the Boyne Catchment

Long records of river flows are paramount in interpreting climate driven trends. The analysis of long-term trends in flow records in Ireland is hampered by the paucity of such stations. The majority of river flow monitoring gauges were established in the mid to late 1970s. The longest, continuous and best quality station in the Irish hydrometric register, the Boyne at Slane Castle, has been subjected to significant arterial drainage to improve the land drainage and to reduce the frequency and extent of overland flooding, particularly through river straightening and channel deepening. This paper uses river flow records from the pre-drainage
period along with meteorological data to train hydrological models to reconstruct the flow series for this catchment. Findings highlight the variability of trends throughout the reconstructed series. Evidence of climate-driven change points identified in previous work on this catchment is questioned due to the role of arterial drainage in altering the flow regime. This work demonstrates the importance of carefully treating human influences when assessing climate-driven trend, the usefulness of hydrological models in reconstructing river flows and the potential of a ‘moving windows’ approach in providing a deeper understanding of the evolution and persistence of trends.

Rory Hearne

The fate of regeneration schemes for disadvantaged inner-Dublin local-authority housing estates following the collapse of Public-Private Partnerships

This paper investigates recent regeneration developments in policy and practice Ireland. The international regeneration literature highlights urban renewal in terms of government policy at local and central level trying to bring about a transformation in the quality of housing and community environment and achieving social transformation through relocation of poor populations. This paper however, takes an alternative perspective and contextualises the development of a ‘neoliberal’ housing and regeneration policy in the form of Public Private Partnerships in Dublin City. It documents how the financial and property crash of 2008 resulted in the collapse of most of the Public Private Partnership regeneration plans for communities living in designated disadvantaged local authority estates across Dublin (and the model of private funding in Limerick, Cork and other urban areas). Dublin City Council set up a special taskforce in 2008 to try and deliver the regeneration of these failed PPP Projects. This paper presents an update of the status of these plans and look at the implications for the communities of Government and Dublin City Council regeneration policy. In particular the paper assesses the policy of ‘detenanting’, which can be argued has resulted in the destruction of a number of long standing working-class communities. This paper also provides evidence of the author’s participative and action research into the impact of social interventions included in the regeneration plans. It analyses the aims of the plans and assesses the key themes addressed by the plans and what outcomes were achieved. It questions to what extent addressing poverty is to be achieved through social mixing or interventions and what role state bodies (at local and central government) and community and voluntary organisations have played. It also investigates the impact of recent austerity budgets on areas of social regeneration such as education, policing, estate management, community development. Finally it looks at a response from one community – Dolphin House – in applying a Rights Based approach to improving housing conditions and achieving regeneration.

Recent geography of neoliberalism in Ireland: the evidence from Public-Private Partnerships

This paper explores the particular geography of the implementation of neoliberalism in Ireland. The theoretical framework is provided by a political economy analysis of the development of the role of the state in the last century or so in Western Europe focusing on the impact of neoliberalism on the welfare state, particularly its role in the delivery of public services and infrastructure. It details how public services and infrastructure developed on a large scale in the first decades of the 20th century onwards by states (governments and their administrations) and outlines the theories of Keynesianism and neoliberalism. It presents the critical analysis of neoliberalism by urban geographer, David Harvey and then outlines the extent to which such characteristics are evident in the implementation of neoliberalism in Ireland. Using Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a case study of neoliberalism in practice the paper details the outcomes of PPPs from the author’s research. PPPs were piloted as a new way to deliver key public services and infrastructure in Ireland
in 1999. Projects included waste water and water treatment plants, motorways, schools, social housing regeneration projects, light rail services. Key areas discussed include the changing role of the state, governance, privatisation, PPP project outcomes, and public sector reform.

Susan Hegarty

*Reconstructing the environmental history of Lough Cullin, Co. Kilkenny: a preliminary report*

Lough Cullin, situated at the confluence of the townlands of Gaulstown, Moanroe, Charlestown and Ballincrea in south of County Kilkenny, close to Waterford City, is the only natural lake in that county. It is located at an elevation of just over 10 metres above sea level in a small limestone basin to the south of the Walsh mountains. The modern lake (with an area of 5.5 hectares) occupies a larger basin which contains layers of peat and organic sediments interlaced with lacustrine sediments. To the north of the lake, an area of glaciofluvial gravels is to be found. This paper will present some preliminary results of an ongoing research into the geomorphology and environmental history of the lake basin and surrounding area – an area steeped in history and which possibly has a story to tell about landscape responses to Late-glacial to Holocene climate change in the south-east of Ireland.

Kieran Hickey

*A bolt from the heavens! The historical record of lightning in Ireland and its impact on settlement and people*

On average two to four people a decade are killed by lightning in Ireland and substantial damage to houses and other structures also occurs. This death and destruction occurs as a result of cloud to ground lightning strikes and occasionally ball lightning events. This paper will examine the long historical record of lightning strikes in Ireland and show that they were a far more serious threat to buildings and settlement in medieval times than at present, but the threat is by no means entirely eliminated by modern structures. Remarkably very little systematic research has been carried out on the vast array of records on these lightning strikes in Ireland. This paper will also analyse the events in terms of their causes, spatial and temporal variability. The paper will then look at the scale of the impacts of lightning strikes both medieval and modern on settlement and people.

Frank Houghton and Sharon Houghton

*Still Hiding the Evidence: continuing deficiencies in data on health inequalities in Ireland*

Health inequalities in Ireland are stark. Mortality rates for all-cause mortality are more than double among those in the lowest occupational class compared with those in the highest. Conditions particularly associated with poverty show an even higher differential. Mortality resulting from respiratory disease is in excess of 200% higher among the lowest occupational class compared to the highest. However, despite such significant differences, little attention has traditionally focussed on this topic in Ireland. A previous examination of this issue in 2005 revealed widespread and systematic efforts to reduce access to health information that would shed light on these issues. Since then a number of initiatives in access to health information have occurred which at first glance appear to have overcome many of the issues identified in 2005. An in-depth examination however reveals that issues of access, timeliness, scale, and media manipulation remain. To compound these deficits, under the guise of fiscal constraint, the Irish Government has
systematically closed key agencies that once provided both data and an invaluable social commentary on poverty, deprivation and exclusion in contemporary Ireland.

Adrian Kavanagh

**Voter turnout levels in Dublin City 1997-2011: in time and in place**

This paper will review over a decade of research on voter turnout levels in Ireland, with specific reference to the Dublin City constituencies. Covering a period stretching from the General Election in 1997 to the general election and presidential election contests of 2011, this will cover the end of a decades-long period of persistent turnout decline and a period of turnout improvement starting in the mid-2000s. Within Dublin City, persistent geographical trends with respect to voter turnout patterns can be observed across all these elections, with such trends being particularly influenced by demographic, socio-economic, residential mobility and political mobilisation factors. This paper will argue that a micro-level geographical analysis of turnout levels, with reference to turnout statistics at the electoral division and street/estate levels, is appropriate and will particularly focus on what evidence can be drawn from changing class-differentials in turnout propensity over recent electoral contests.

Adrian Kavanagh

**Ireland in Eurovision 1997-2011 - Politics and Geography**

With the 2012 Conference of Irish Geographers taking place during the Eurovision Song Contest weekend, it is an appropriate time to consider Ireland’s recent record in the contest. Far away from Ireland’s heyday in the early to mid 1990s, the 2000s have generally proved rather fruitless for Irish Eurovision prospects, although some improvement has been noted in recent contests. This paper will analyse the reasons for Ireland’s fall from Eurovision grace, paying particular focus to the political and geographical influences that have held sway here. But this paper will also widen out the discussion to consider the political and geographical implications of what Ireland’s changing Eurovision fortunes might signify - concerning Ireland’s pace in a rapidly changing Europe and the regions within Europe that Ireland is seen to be culturally closest to/most distant from.

Mary Kelly

**The Donegal Placename Project**

The significance of placenames for understanding the natural, built and cultural landscapes of contemporary Ireland is receiving increasing recognition by local community groups, government organisations, heritage officers, tourist organisations, and academics. As outlined by Whelan placenames constitute a rich tapestry of ‘narrative tags’ (Whelan 2004) which relay a myriad of meanings about place, landscape, geography, habitats, community, monuments, events, buildings, social structures, and families and serve to connect communities with the landscapes they inhabit. In doing so, placenames connect us to both the physical environment and to the past generations that have shaped our landscape. This paper presents the result of a recent placename collection project carried out in County Donegal
Sinéad Kelly

“Make safe the city!": examining the relationship between property capital and the state in processes of gentrification

Recent literature on neoliberal urbanism has emphasised the increasingly important role of cities as key sites of accumulation, a central aspect of which has been the accelerating volume and turnover of capital in the built environment and a more rapid transformation of urban space. At the city scale, the production of gentrification is intrinsic to processes of accumulation and for many, if not most, urban authorities, gentrification has become a core goal of urban policy. However, property-development processes are characterised by a multitude of risk categories; considerable barriers exist to effecting gentrification. Drawing mainly on property-development literature, this paper focuses on the nexus between property capital and the local state in developing strategies to transcend these barriers. Using the case of area-based planning in Dublin, this paper traces the ways in which the state mobilised urban policy to offset different types of property-development risk thus attempting to make the city ‘safer’ for new rounds and new geographies of capital accumulation. Updated material from the Inner-Dublin Residential Database is used to illustrate the changing geography of gentrification with subsequent analysis focusing on the material impacts of perceived risk-reduction measures. Finally, attention turns to how property-development considerations, such as yields, rents and risk, are likely to drive more explicitly the aims and content of urban policy in the aftermath of the property crash and debt-socialisation measures.

Therese Kenna & Sinead O’Connor

Students as Infrastructure: Re-Conceptualising Students in the University City

University cities have emerged as key centres in knowledge-based economies and in the lives of a growing number of young people engaged in higher education. While the research field centred on universities, urban development, student housing and student mobility is expanding considerably, there has been less research attention to the everyday lives of the students and the ways their social lives might contribute positively to the development of cities, and university cities in particular. The paper brings forth the notion of hard and soft infrastructures and networks within cities to reconceptualise the role of students in the city and begin to conceptualise the positive contributions of the student population to the city. In doing so, we utilise data from a survey with undergraduate students in the university city of Cork, Ireland to demonstrate the roles of students as infrastructure. The reconceptualisation of students sees them as equals in urban space who are also capable of forming communities, establishing new social and spatial relationships and creating diverse social norms within the city.

Stephanie Keogh, Gerald Mills, and Rowan Fealy

Urban eddy covariance flux measurements: Two locations in Dublin

(Eddy covariance refers to a direct measurement method employed to estimate exchanges of heat, water and carbon dioxide (CO2) between a surface and the overlying atmosphere. Measuring such exchanges requires sophisticated instruments and careful experimental design to ensure representative observations. A flux refers to the magnitude of something (i.e. heat, water, CO2) moving through a unit area per unit of time. Typically, eddy covariance flux measurements are carried out in natural or managed environments such as: peat lands, ice fields, oceans, forests and agricultural land, the aim of which is largely to investigate the exchange of CO2. An urban location represents a more complex setting in which to accurately investigate the aforementioned exchanges, consequently there is relatively less known about the energy balance and carbon...
balance of the urban surface and the city. This research is one of few campaigns worldwide undertaking urban eddy covariance flux measurements. Results of the flux measurements will be presented for a summer and winter period pertaining to (1) a city-centre and (2) a suburban location in Dublin.

Kitchin, R., O’Callaghan, C., Boyle, M., Gleeson J. and Keaveney, K.

*Placing Neoliberalism: The rise and fall of Ireland’s Celtic Tiger*

In this paper we provide an account of the property-led boom and bust which has brought Ireland to the point of bankruptcy. Our account details the pivotal role which neoliberal policy played in guiding the course of the country’s recent history, but also heightens awareness of the how the Irish case might in turn instruct and illuminate mappings and explanations of neoliberalism’s concrete histories and geographies. To this end, the paper begins by scrutinising the terms and conditions under which the Irish state might usefully be regarded as neoliberal. Attention is then given to uncovering the causes of the Irish property bubble, the housing oversupply it created, and the proposed solution to this oversupply. In the conclusion we draw attention to the contributions which our case study might make to the wider literature of critical human geographies of neoliberalism, forwarding three concepts which emerge from the Irish story which may have wider resonance, and might constitute a useful fleshing out of theoretical framings of concrete and particular neoliberalisms: path amplification, neoliberalism’s topologies and topographies and accumulation by repossession.

Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto-Arponen

*Subaltern geopolitics and performative silence*

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), there were 43.7 million forcibly displaced people in the world at the end of 2010. This is the highest level since the last fifteen years. The number of displaced children and young people is worryingly high. The general problematic of the socio-cultural in-betweeness of displaced people is widely recognised, but more attention to the emotive-spatial experiences and subaltern geopolitics is needed. The concept of subaltern geopolitics suggests that the position of some people is not completely other, resistant or alternative, but ambiguously marginal. I propose that displaced children and young people, particularly during the displacement but also after returning home, are practising subaltern geopolitics, i.e. trying to reconstruct the ties and sites of belonging. They are not outside the state or associated institutions, but their practices are characterised by the asymmetry of power relations and subordinated modes of representation (e.g. hooks 1990; Sharp 2000; Slater 2004). I also discuss how the challenge of “silence” can be overcome in studying the bodily and visual practices of remembering the displacement. By emotional silences I refer to often semi-conscious and unreflective bodily memories of displacement which are only rarely narrated, but continue to affect subject’s (re)production as political self (also Wood & Smith 2004; Parr 2005).
Philip Lawton

From the Rejection of Modernism to the Emergence of a New Orthodoxy in Contemporary Urban Practice

Beginning in the early 1960s, the modernist city came under attack based on a number of its perceived short-comings, including the rejection of the street (Jacobs, 1960), lack of diversity (Sennett, 1977), and mono-functional zoning (Delevo, 1978). With specific reference to urban planning, architecture, and urban design, the form of ‘urbanism’ which has evolved since has revolved around the virtues of walkable streets, mixed uses, and social interaction. Drawing upon official European documents, along with initiatives such as the European Capital of Culture, this paper examines the manner in which the ideal of the compact, sustainable city, and the focus on urban form, image and order, have come to be the predominant means by which notion of the ‘good city’ is measured. While the focus on these elements of the city seems laudable, it is argued that in its current guise it serves to down-play and, at times, ignore issues such as social exclusion, displacement, and the promotion of a more equal urban society. Following from this, the paper concludes with a brief discussion of the manner in which the current discourse has taken on a particular orthodoxy, which, although distinct, is comparable to that often associated with modernism.

Kevin Lougheed

Geographies of governmentality: National Education in nineteenth century Ireland

The passing of the Act of Union of 1801 transferred the government of Ireland from Dublin to Westminster. This began the intensification of direct British influence on everyday life in Ireland. Increasing control from London manifested itself through a new rationale of government which resulted in various state-run institutions emerging in the Irish landscape which intended to manage and shape the behaviour of the population. This paper looks at one institution, national education, and how it emerged within the changing rationale for the government of Ireland. Foucault’s concept of governmentality is used to inform how national education was used as a technology of government aimed at shaping the conduct of the population in relation to certain objectives. The connection between the national education system in Ireland and education systems established in other parts of the empire is explored, bringing the concept of governmentality to a broader Imperial context. The geography of national education in Ireland, and the factors influencing school distribution, is investigated using geostatistical methods such as geographically weighted regression to observe how this example of the emerging rationale of government manifested itself in the landscape, and how other societal actors interacted and impacted on this state strategy.

Conor Lynch, David Meredith, Tamara Hochstrasser, Michael Wilson, Maarten Nieuwenhuis

Do as your neighbours do – is the uptake of farm forestry influenced by neighbours?

The expansion of privately owned forestry in Ireland from the late 1980’s onwards is considered a major transition to a novel land use. The objective of this study was to determine if this land use conversion spread randomly across the landscape or in distinguishable clusters. A retrospective Poisson-based Kulldorff’s scan statistic was carried out on all private forestry plantations established between 1990 and 2007 aggregated at the district electoral division (DED) level. SaTScan software was used to identify both spatial and space-time clusters of high forestry establishment relative to the underlying population of farm households. Over 61 percent of new forestry stands occurred in purely spatial clusters that had a probability of lower than 0.05 of forming by random chance. Over 20 percent of forestry stands occurred in space-time clusters with
a maximum duration of 5 years and maximum cluster population of 0.9 percent of all forestry plantations. The clustered nature of land use change illustrates that initiatives to organize groups of local land owners may accelerate the adoption of novel land uses. It is hoped this enhanced understanding of the pattern of land use change might contribute to formulate policy for the development of an emerging biomass industry.

Conor McCaffrey

_The Geography of Digital Divisions in Ireland_

The term “digital divide” originally referred to a dichotomous split between those who can and those who cannot access the internet. The digital divide is now understood to be a confluence of a number of divides rather than a single clear cut split. The term “Digital Inclusion” encompasses the most contemporary approach to, and understanding of, digital divides. It focuses predominantly on skill and motivation as obstacles for those who can access the internet but do not. It is a term that has relatively recently come to the forefront as basic internet access is more widespread throughout Europe. There is a need for an up-to-date coherent report on divisions within Ireland which presents available data on all aspects of the topic. This study attempts to address this requirement. It is argued that, to gain a full understanding of digital divisions in Ireland, a temporal and spatial analysis is required. Through the application of digital maps it analyses key Central Statistics Office indicators from 2002 to the present day. All possible aspects of the divides are considered rather than specific elements. These are looked at in the light of the most current data and studies available at the European level. It found that there is still a stark divide between regions and counties relating to basic access and the speed of connections but this is slowly closing. Demographic trends, in addition to slow rollout of high speed broadband, account for some of the spatial characteristics of the divide. Data on skill and motivation are available for Ireland but are seriously lacking especially at the local level. This study presents a potential solution for this which is currently being formulated and tested within the Department of Geography at NUIM.

Conor McCaffrey

_Thinking Geographically: An Introduction to Human Geography within a European Context_

A successful course delivered to first year European Studies students in 2011/12 at NUI Maynooth has the potential to inform the development of a general model for effective university teaching and learning. The course introduced key concepts and themes which form the core of the discipline of geography but did so while drawing upon the full range of nationalities and subject disciplines within the student group. It was not tied to an undergraduate curriculum but stood alone (100% continuously assessed) as a European-based module and drew on considerations and methodologies which would not typically be combined within a first year Geography module. The aim of the module was: To integrate module content with the development of both generic and specifically geographic analytical skills; To facilitate the students learning actively while producing key resources for their peers rather than passively receiving information and; To foster a community or social network of learning. Students attended one hour in a lecture theatre and one methods class in a computer laboratory per week. Using various blended learning methods and a virtual learning environment (VLE), which had proved successful in earlier courses, a further step was successfully taken: much greater depth of engagement and analysis was achieved by actively exploiting the presence of students from a number of European nations. The content and approach facilitated enquiry-based active learning. The level to which the students engaged with the module and the consistent progression of their ability surpassed all expectations. Upon completion of the module, the majority of students could research, analyse and reference at a level that is
The potential of the basic model has been realised in that it can facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration between departments within a European Studies undergraduate curriculum. All the indications are that it may hold the key to teaching vital generic skills while enthusing first year students who can be lacking in motivation and confidence, and who too often have little or no experience of a learning environment which encourages innovation and criticism.

Gearóid McCarthy

POSTER

Negotiated Transnationality: an in-depth exploration of the experiences of Filipino labour migrants in Cork, Ireland

Each migrant has a story, a narrative which has a beginning, middle, and an end. Each migrant experience is both complex and multidimensional. It no longer suffices to speak of this experience in terms of exile from home – a unidirectional move in which the migrant permanently resettles and ultimately assimilates. In truth, most contemporary migrants reside in a transnational world, where borders have become porous and where greater mobility is key. In it, migrants forge and sustain simultaneous multi-stranded social relations that link together their societies of origin and settlement. Examining aspects of the transnational migrant experience, and exploring issues of identity, belonging, and place, this poster outlines the ways in which transnationalism, as a post-modern phenomenon, has transformed the perspectives on those categories. In particular, it focuses on Filipino labour migrants in Cork, who arrived between 2000 and 2010, a period which coincided with Ireland’s ‘Celtic Tiger’ era and subsequent economic downturn. Indeed, Filipino migrants are said to inhabit this ‘transnational space’ very effectively. Using in-depth, qualitative research methods, this research attempts to capture the nuances and the richness of the transnational experience, while offering a broader commentary on contemporary immigration practices and their implications.

Irene McCausland

Video Games Clusters – the key success factors derived from a number of case studies from across the world.

Ireland’s ambition is to be recognised internationally as “A Global Games Hub for the 21st century” by 2015 (Forfas, 2011). This paper aims to contextualise this vision by identifying the key success factors and associated processes which characterise clusters in the video games industry and by analysing certain commonalities using a number of case studies from across the world. The paper begins with an operational definition of the video games sector, with an overview of the sector’s economic importance today. The nature and structure of the industry’s value chain will be considered, outlining the different components and the main actors involved in the production and distribution of a video game. Academics, policymakers and governments have sought to better understand the dynamics of clustering as an effective tool for economic development to promote increased competitiveness, growth and innovation. A discussion on clustering theories as it relates to the findings of the case studies will set the context and the implications for policy development and implementation in Ireland for the video games sector.

Jackie S. McGloughlin

"A pragmatic approach to climate change: the bigger picture"

Can local authorities move forward on climate change when there is no push from central government? This paper offers insights based on research including two nationwide surveys, four case studies, and vulnerability assessments. Climate change has not been prioritised by the central government and this raises challenges at the local level. Local government responses are
constrained by competing priorities (similar to municipalities in developing countries) and by the management paradigm based on demonstrated risk. These constraints are heightened by the compartmentalised structures within local governments that leave climate change as an add-on issue and not mainstreamed.

This paper builds on the previously analysis identified where local authorities are in moving forward on climate change. The key players were characterised as 'overwhelmed', 'can do', 'starting out', and 'front-runner'. The current paper moves forward to identify triggers that will allow a shift in institutional culture, which will help advance climate measures in Ireland and other developed countries. At the end of the day, local champions (operating within government agencies) address climate change through their daily practices. Therefore, this paper considers the pragmatic recommendations, including international good practice examples, that can be made given the current political realities.

Aidan McGovern

**Of Everyday Globalisations – affect, time and crisis through the works of Allan Sekula and Richard Serra**

This paper looks at Allan Sekula’s Ship of Fools and Richard Serra’s The Matter of Time as works highlighting arcane facets of globalization by challenging the subjectivities of the observers. Both works question how we perceive, experience and understand time and space in contemporary life. Serra’s, Guggenheim Bilbao, installation produces a direct affect as the body moves through the space of the sculptures. Drawing on Massey (2005) and Till (2012) we address the affective realm of everyday life in terms of subjectivity and position.

Sekula’s work focuses on arcane slow-movements, and routinised practices of exploitation in global shipping in stark contrast to the rapid movements of capital and the geography of flows (Castells, 2010: Graham and Marvin, 2001). The photographs subject, The Global Mariner, serving as a real heterotopic space “that calls other spaces into question” (Sekula, 2002). These real spaces, I theorise are myriad, and are often exemplary like the Global Mariner. Focusing on the affective realms of place this paper theorises crisis spaces as a break with a time and space, and potentially an opportunity for a mimetic noise to fill a space “in an unforeseeable fashion, [that]...passes from the local to the global” (Serres, 2007: 41).

Andrew MacLaran

**Five Decades of Boom and Bust – The Dublin Office Property Sector**

The office development sector in Dublin has undergone five distinct cycles during the past fifty years. From the mid 1990s, the property development sector responded vigorously to a sustained demand for office space by both occupiers and investors, the stock of modern (post-1960) office space increasing by over 150 per cent by the end of 2010. In so doing, the scale of individual development schemes increased almost continuously and the geography of development also shifted towards off-prime locations into suburbia and docklands. Although the most recent boom, which lasted from 2005-2010, was less attenuated than the fourth boom (1996-2003), the quantity of space reaching completion comprised around 75 per cent of that which had been developed in the previous boom and resulted in a 25 per cent increase in the stock of modern (post-1960) office space, reaching 3.24 M sq.m. by late 2010. However, development outstripped demand and the boom endowed the city with a significant stock (380,000 sq.m.) of vacant newly-completed buildings. With an additional 386,000 sq.m. of previously-occupied space, the overall vacancy rate topped 23 per cent by late 2010. The paper reviews the changing scale and geography of recent
development together with trends in take-up and vacancy, finishing with some observations on the impacts on rental values and lease terms.

Gordon MacLeod

Scotland’s Smart-New Urban Development: Planning, Governance, Politics

No one can doubt the evangelical conviction and media-savvy elegance with which proponents of Smart Growth and a New Urbanism transmit their messages. And such dispatches resonate powerfully with many who have long been disillusioned with successive generations of urban planning theory and practice. Advocating the creation of compact and ecologically sustainable places, smart growth-new urbanists are vehemently opposed to the dominant twentieth century rationalist planning practice of subdividing land into isolated zones, which is considered to result in a sprawling landscape of car-lots, homogeneous suburban cul-de-sacs, jaded shopping malls, office parks, traffic congestion, and ‘soulless, crime-ridden, concrete deserts’. As well as being a blueprint with which to arrest such sprawl and to establish eco-towns befitting the early twenty-first century, the principles of smart growth and new urbanism have increasingly been deployed to ‘retrofit’ and ‘reclaim urban places once thought lost’ (Norquist, 2006): a notable example being the US Federal Hope VI program which aims to transform deteriorating public housing into liveable mixed-income neighbourhoods. In recent years, the principles of smart growth and a new urbanism have received a warm welcome in Britain, albeit a country that Andres Duany – pioneer and doyen of New Urbanism and author of The Smart Growth Handbook – deems to be enduring ‘baby sprawl’. Notable endeavours have been undertaken by the Prince’s Trust, the Royal Institute of British Architecture, and within government, perhaps most demonstrably in plans drawn up by the devolved Scottish semi-state. This paper focuses on the latter. It draws on a selection of sites – from the proudly master-planned eco-town of Tornagrain in the Scottish Highlands to the revitalization of Lowland Scotland’s ‘ordinary’ urban centres, fishing towns, and distressed inner city neighbourhoods – to offer a critical examination of these purportedly smart-new urban developments. In doing so it proffers an argument that while much research on smart growth-new urbanism has revealed important insights about principled commitment to ‘good’ design and sustainability, insufficient attention has been focused on critically examining the political economy – the economic drivers, growth coalitions, and associated networks and assemblages of power – through which smart growth-new urban projects are orchestrated.

Liam Mannix

Heritage tourism in historic Irish towns

In post-Celtic Tiger Ireland the words “tourism potential” are thrown about far too often as a panacea for unemployment. What usually happens is that after the initial proclamations are made typically not much is done. The fact that it usually takes five years for a viable tourist product to be created is either not known or not appreciated. Certainly heritage tourism can help. However, it should not be seen as an economic silver bullet for a struggling small town or indeed national economy. Regardless though of this there is a rush to exploit the heritage resource. The results can include a radical change in the character of the town, a loss of authenticity, degradation to monuments, financial loss, and conflict between residents. This presentation will focus on some of the common mistakes towns make in the creation of their heritage tourism product and provide solutions to insure that they mind their heritage rather than just mine it.
David Meredith & Kevin Heanue

**Attitudes to Farm Diversification in Ireland**

This paper seeks to enhance our understanding of the attitudes to farm diversification in Ireland. A range of state initiatives that are underpinned by substantial domestic and EU funds supports farm enterprise diversification. These initiatives aim to improve farm household income, diversify the rural economy and increase employment opportunities in rural areas. Despite these supports, which are underpinned by the activities of national and local institutions, the number of farms with a diversified enterprise in Ireland remains small. Notwithstanding the relatively low adoption of diversification, a renewed emphasis has been placed on farm diversification as a means of fostering rural enterprise development. Little information is, however, available regarding the perceptions of farmers and their attitudes to farm diversification. The absence of this knowledge hinders the effective targeting of potential diversifiers. A survey collected from a nationally representative sample of farms in Ireland is analysed to establish those factors, including place, influencing attitudes to diversification.

Martin Millerick

**Reflections on Revising Whelan’s Model of Tridentine Catholicism in Ireland.**

Following Whelan’s (1988) model, two regions of apparent strength and weakness in the geographical development of Tridentine Catholicism in Ireland are identified. One, a core region located mainly in the south and east is identified as a “zone of innovation”, “outward looking, dynamic and well connected”. Another, located mainly in the west and north was “lagging or passive” “introspective, static, self contained”. By using C18th and early C19th Cloyne Diocese, Co. Cork as a case-study, however, this presentation suggests that while both regions may be detected to some extent in Cloyne, each was dynamic, except in its own way.

Niamh Moore-Cherry and Delphine Ancien

**Europe 2020 Strategy: The territorial dimensions of smart growth**

Drawing on recent work undertaken for the ESPON-ERDF project, SIESTA, this paper examines selected territorial dimensions of the EU2020 Strategy. The Strategy which outlines the growth priorities for the EU over the next decade is designed around three key pillars, one of which is ‘Smart Growth’. This will be achieved through three flagship initiatives, namely Digital Agenda for Europe, Innovation Union and Youth on the Move. To measure progress in meeting the Europe 2020 goals, key targets for research/innovation, education and the digital society have been identified. This paper presents empirical data demonstrating the regional variations across Europe on a range of selected indicators and highlighting regions of promise and concern in relation to ‘smart growth’ goals. Given the policy emphasis in Ireland on the smart economy and particularly ‘smart cities’, the paper will conclude by positioning Ireland in relation to its European neighbours.

Conor Murphy, Neil Adger, Tara Quinn, Irene Lorenzoni, John Sweeney

**Social Contracts, Flood Risk and Climate Adaptation – a natural experiment from case studies in Ireland and the UK**

Flood Risk is mediated through state, society and individual action, with debate currently centred on whether experience of extreme events leads to adaptive responses or
reinforces existing vulnerabilities. In this research we use a natural experiment of flood events in November 2009 in both Galway and Cumbria (UK) to explore how different and evolving social contracts can be used as a mechanism by which adaptation to extreme events, and climate change proceeds. Rather than a smooth process, we see adaptation as something that occurs abruptly following crises or tipping points within the social contract of risk. We analysed data from policy documents, statements in the aftermath of the event and household surveys of 356 residents in western Ireland and north-west England. Our findings highlight significant differences between jurisdictions in perceptions of individual responsibility for flood protection, and highlights the role of experience in future risk perception and willingness to take action. Our findings support the idea that expectations within social contracts for state protection are critical in the promotion of adaptation to climate extremes. Adaptive measures are unlikely to be taken by individuals who perceive negligent public authorities as the root cause of flooding. Fairness, blame and liability therefore become dominant discourses among citizens who have been made increasingly more vulnerable by state decisions.

Enda Murphy and Linda Fox-Rogers

*Neo-liberalism and entrepreneurial planning: the case of Irish planning legislation*

Using a political economy approach, this paper analyses recent legislative change in the Republic of Ireland specifically in the domain of planning law. Previous research in this area has shown that legislative change (up to 2006) predominantly facilitates the interests of elite groups in society over those of the 'common good' and has been highly entrepreneurial in nature. Moreover, it has been shown also that changes in planning legislation have deliberately reduced the democratic nature of the planning system which is in the interests of private power. This paper continues this line of research by examining the most recent changes in planning legislation under the 2010 Act. Specifically, we examine whether there has been a change in the nature of the legislation to place more checks on development interests. We investigate whether in light of the recent economic crisis and housing crash the new legislation is now less entrepreneurial and more democratic in nature. We also offer some reflections about how changes in planning legislation fit within the broader agenda of neo-liberalism and class conflict in society.

Éamonn Naughton

*Regional Development and the Irish Gaeltacht – Challenges and Opportunities*

Since the foundation of the Irish state it has been the policy of successive governments to maintain and promote the use of Irish as a spoken language among the Irish population. A key element in this policy has been the conservation of the Gaeltacht, comprising a set of districts, for the most part located in the country’s western periphery, where Irish survives as a community language. The main measures which have been implemented towards this end have involved investment in employment and income creating activities and associated economic infrastructure in order to restrain outmigration and maintain/expand the Gaeltacht’s population base. Dedicated administrative structures were put in place to implement these measures. Despite the significant investment and subsequent population stabilisation which have resulted from these measures, the longstanding pattern of language shift and attrition in the Gaeltacht continues apace. This paper argues that the failure of existing policies to address and ameliorate the conditions which have contributed to the contraction of the minority language community within the Gaeltacht are, at least in part, related to their failure to address the broader socio-linguistic and cultural considerations which are key to the comprehensive and integrated planning for the preservation and development of minority language communities. Drawing on the international literature and
the experience of other countries relating to minority language planning, the paper sets out the broad outline of an alternative approach to Gaeltacht development capable of integrating the economic, socio-linguistic, cultural and other dimensions which impact on language conservation.

John Noonan

*Biodiversity and Forestry: how appropriate forests can enhance biodiversity*

Biodiversity within forests is much more likely to prosper where there are a mixture of trees, notably conifer and broadleaf. Sunlight is able to penetrate the forest floor and aid plant growth when this is the case. Furthermore, leaves from broadleaf trees decompose easier than conifer and add to the nutrient cycle. Conifers are advantageous because they provide shelter for birds. While small spruce thickets support flocks of songbirds, Scots Pine provide nesting sites for birds such as the long eared owl to roam in open space in mixed woodland and nearby fields. Trees such as ash, oak and beech can be found in some of our native woodland as well as plantations in lowland areas. Other trees such as elder provide berries for birds and animals such as the badger. The badger is also important as it spreads seeds around the woodland, changes soil texture and adds nutrients to the soil. Deadwood is also important as it adds nutrients as well as providing shelter for birds and invertebrates. Mixed forests that contain large broadleaf trees hold nutrients from runoff compared to conifer plantations. These nutrients are important for plants.

Liam Ó hAisibéil

*Logainmneacha Thuaisceart Ros Comáin: Aithint agus Anailís The Place-names of Northern Roscommon: Identification and Analysis*

Féachfar sa pháipéar seo ar léargas a thabhairt ar na modheolaíochtaí taighde agus anailís a mbaintear leas astu go forleathan in Éirinn i dtaobh logainmneacha a aithint agus a bhailiú ó fhoinsí stairiúla. Féadfar na foinní stairiúla seo a rianú siar go dtí tús na meánaoiseanna ar aghaidh go dtí lár an naoú haois déag nuair a socraíodh ar leaganacha galldaithe de logainmneacha na hÉireann. Baineann cur chuige na hoibre seo le leaganacha stairiúla de logainmneacha a bhailiú ionas go bhféadfar anailís theangeolaíoch a dhéanamh ar na leaganacha sin, d’fhonn bunleagan na nainmneacha a aithint. Labhrófar freisin ar fhéidearthachtaití troidiolachta nu a ata atach chun solais sa réimse seo a luaithte agus ata at an anailís theangeolaíoch curtha i gcrích. Bainfear leas as samplaí ó cheantar thaidhe an chainteora i.e. tuaisceart Ros Comáin ach féadfar an mhodheolaiocht oibre chéanna a úsáid in áit ar bith eile in Éirinn.

Sinéad O’Connor

**POSTER**

*The Internationalisation of Tertiary Education in Ireland: An Investigation of International Students, the University and the City*

In this poster, I will present my current research, which is concerned with understanding the internationalisation of universities in Ireland, investigating the social and academic experiences of international students, and examining the ways in which they engage with the city and use urban space and how this impacts their opportunities for cross-cultural participation and understanding. With university student bodies becoming increasingly diverse, and internationalization becoming a greater priority on university agendas, there is a significant gap in our knowledge about the experiences of international students in Ireland and their impact on university and city life. Studies have noted the barriers to fostering cross-cultural interaction between domestic and international students and the particular ways in which space can reinforce processes of racialization and segregation. This research aims to uncover the complex social and spatial factors influencing interaction between domestic and foreign students in the Irish context. The study will also determine the mobility patterns of international students in Cork, Ireland, and identify whether
their particular uses of private and public space leads to their segregation from their host nationals and inhibit integration. The methodology will combine quantitative, qualitative methods and mapping to achieve the aims and objectives.

Eoin O’Mahony

*Geographies of religious affect, or being on pilgrimage with Maurice Merleau-Ponty.*

Institutional religions are engaged in political secularisation processes with significant geopolitical consequences. However, much of this engagement is framed by a conflation of the institutional with the pre-personal. As a result, secularisation is often conceived of as a linear and ‘top-down’ process. This paper outlines analyses which examine the intersubjective and relational nature of religious belief and spirituality. In particular, how “exteriorities invite us to take up our subjectivity in various meaningful forms” (Rose, 2010). Such an approach echoes bodily intentionality as outlined by Merleau-Ponty. In this paper I look at pilgrimage practice as bodily intentionality to rescale religious practices as directly political. I use fieldnotes and photographs to highlight the features of Holloway’s (2006) sacred topologies where "embodied practices of the everyday that are sensed" are sources of signification, focusing on everyday occurrences of spiritual practice. The purpose of my paper is to address Kong’s (2001) suggestion that researching the sacred in the everyday brings about greater richness than confining research to ‘officially sacred’ places. Recent work by McKian (2012) points to an extra-geographical perspective which might prove fruitful.

Shane O’Sullivan

*Creating an Integrative Multicultural Society in Rural Ireland: Insights from Co. Monaghan*

A significant body of literature has been devoted to the personal experiences and problems encountered by economic migrants in Ireland, but relatively little attention has been devoted towards how government agencies and community groups in rural areas have responded to the significant in-migration of East Europeans into the country since 2006. Popular opinion perceives an ‘imagined white homogeneity of the countryside’ in contrast to the ‘imagined multi-othered heterogeneity of the city’ (Neal, 2002 p.447). This is simply a fallacy due to the widespread spatial distribution of migrants throughout Ireland and other developed countries. One principal tenet of a cohesive and integrated society, characterised by an embrace of diversity, equality and interculturalism, is universal access to public and social services (Lowry, 2006). However, gaps in service provision have emerged. This is due to either migrants showing a degree of apathy towards community-driven attempts to promote integration or community groups being ill-equipped to engage with immigrants due to a lack of expertise or financial resources. A key challenge for the rural host community is to recognise and understand the immigrants’ potential in being productive agents in respect to the social fabric of the community (Parra, et al. 2006). This paper will present insights from Co. Monaghan on the degree and quality of interaction between migrants; and service providers, statutory and non-statutory agencies.

Suzanne Pegley

*The Performance of Power*

During the second half of the 19th century, the social order, while beginning to change, remained firmly in the hands of the aristocratic and upper middle classes. This ruling class did not hide behind the walls of their respective estates but rather, with the supreme confidence of their positions, strode through the landscape performing their roles as agents of power. These performances could
range from acting as the representative of the Queen to a simple everyday practice of taking afternoon tea with the china and silverware at precisely 4:00PM. At the mid-point in the development of a thesis on the social networks of the power elite in mid Victorian Ireland, this paper will show how the minority were embedded in every pivotal position of influence and power and significantly so were all their friends and family members. Using digital mapping techniques, the data collected to date will demonstrate the three core themes of society, culture and sport around which that social networking revolved. The paper will also briefly consider the implications of a layered connectivity between the power elite and relational space.

Bernadette Quinn

*Social connections in festival spaces: the case of Temple Bar TradFest 2012*

Festivals are immensely important social practices, prized for centuries in virtually all human cultures as opportunities for affording participatory celebrations and forging collective identities (Turner 1982, Falassi 1987). Festivals have proliferated in recent decades and in the process have attracted increased attention from researchers. The ‘festivalisation’ of society has been strongly critiqued as has the overtly instrumental manner in which festivals have been harnessed to serve numerous policy goals, be they tourism, culture, urban regeneration or place marketing. Markwell & Waitt (2009) are not alone in arguing that once a festival becomes combined with entrepreneurial approaches designed to encourage people to spend money, the sense of collective identity can be illusory or, at best, a public relations exercise. The argument made here is that notwithstanding the changing roles that festivals play in contemporary society, the potential they offer to encourage civic engagement, social bonding and to develop collective social identities remains immense. The paper investigates the kinds of encounters that festival spaces facilitate, and draws on the literature on social capital to investigate the social connections, feelings of belonging and senses of community evident therein. Empirically, it draws on data gathered at the overtly tourism-oriented Temple Bar TradFest 2012.

Kathy Reilly, Valerie Ledwith

*Geographies of Education: Exploring Inequalities among Young Migrants in Galway*

This paper draws together the key findings of a research project exploring young peoples’ educational experiences in Galway. With a focus on second level schooling the paper examines the educational experiences of young people, and in particular young migrants, who have completed their Junior Certificate examination. The paper explores the practical and discursive mechanisms that perpetuate disparity and inequality of opportunity for young migrants and their families in the city and urban fringe of Galway. Throughout this discussion, the paper acknowledges multiple and varied geographies attached to school experiences, encompassing school-neighbourhood relations and the emerging differences associated with achievement and educational outcomes. These issues become framed within a series of over-arching themes relating to notions of accessibility, (in)equality, participation and learning outcomes.

Stephen Rigney

*Townlands to New Towns to Housing Estates: property speculation and planning in a Dublin suburb*
The Myles Wright report of 1967 conceived of Clondalkin as a planned new town that could provide living space for Dublin’s burgeoning population. It also set in train a process of property commodification that stitched the city’s rural hinterland into circuits of capital in Dublin and beyond, which ultimately produced a built environment strikingly dissimilar to Wright’s plans. This paper explores transformation of three townlands in Clondalkin from farmland to housing estates to shed light on this process through an examination of the actors involved, the circuits of capital and the strategies deployed to reconceive of this space as commodified housing property.

Maria Henar SALAS-OLMEDO and David MEREDITH

*Spatial analysis of travel mode choice in commuting trips: An assessment of workplaces in the Greater Dublin Region*

The economic and environmental implications of commuting are an issue of concern for planners and, increasingly, individuals. Whilst a significant body of literature has developed over a long period around understanding the characteristics of car-based commuters, by comparison, relatively little research considers all modes of travel. This paper uses micro-level spatial data for Greater Dublin Area to examine the link between the workplace, characterized by the number of commuters using different modes of transport, and a range of socio-economic and household variables. Spatial autocorrelation and geographically weighted regression techniques are used to model these relationships in order to identify the factors that are spatially linked. Results suggest the presence of spatial relationships between travel mode choice and the type of accommodation, age, socio-economic group and industry of employment, which allows us to characterize the profile of more or less sustainable commuters.

Richard Scriven  POSTER

*Pilgrimage Practices: Embodied mobilities of pilgrims in Ireland*

In this poster, I will present an overview of my engagement with pilgrimage practices, as an embodied mobility, in contemporary Ireland. The research will be based on pilgrimage as it is manifest in case-study sites: local/regional devotional sites, primarily holy wells, in the Cork/Kerry region and a national pilgrimage space, Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo. Pilgrimage, a religious/spiritual or meaningful/sentimental practice, has a distinctly spatial nature. Pilgrimage has been the topic of geographic interest for several decades now; however, the recent ‘mobilities turn’ offers new possibilities for the study of pilgrimage. Treating pilgrimage as an embodied mobility allows for research that is focused on movement as geographical concept. The active nature of pilgrimage means that both subjects (pilgrims) and spaces (sacred places/landscapes) can be seen to be defined by and to emerge through their interactions with each other. In theoretical and methodological terms, I am eager to engage with pilgrimage in terms of both its representational (meanings, symbols, narratives) and practical/nonrepresentational (experiences, beliefs, the sensual) natures. This research process aims to further both understandings and appreciations of pilgrimage practices and discussions regarding the geographies of mobilities.

Ishwari Sivagnanam  POSTER

*‘Small area’ Prevalence Estimation of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Ireland*

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a burgeoning public health problem. The rapid increase in the prevalence of the condition is mainly attributed to the global obesity epidemic. WHO estimates that over 80% of newly diagnosed cases of diabetes are of type 2. The direct costs incurred through health service provision and the indirect cost of premature morbidity and mortality are significant. Yet, estimating the true prevalence of type 2 diabetes is challenging due to the delayed onset of the condition, the cost of population screening for the condition and the absence of diabetes
registries. In this poster I discuss the problem of estimating prevalence at the 'small area' (a geographic area smaller than the county) level in Ireland. The Institute of Public Health (IPH) in Ireland, has projected an increase in estimated prevalence from 4.5% (143,618) in 2007 to 5.9% (232,644) in 2020. Using the model(s) implemented by the IPH, I take a closer look at two aspects of the prevalence estimation model(s) – geographic scale and obesity prevalence in Ireland. The results of my analysis are presented in the poster.

Martin Sullivan

There Will Be Blood: The Case of the Corrib Gas Development, Co Mayo.

The Corrib gas field was discovered off the west coast of Ireland in 1996 worth 8 billion euro with claims of total Irish western offshore deposits having a value of 420 billion euros. The decision to locate the gas processing refinery and experimental pipeline onshore at Ballinaboy resulted in a series of opposing actions in opposition for health and safety reasons. Local actions have developed into a glocal campaign that has divided the community, resulted in the use of NVDA tactics, anti-riot police and baton charges, with incidents of verbal abuse, assaults and intimidation on all sides. The imprisonment of select protestors has exacerbated tensions while the majority of those interviewed for this study believe fatalities to be inevitable if the project is forced to completion. Through coding interviews and policy documentation within a case study approach, this study argues that these actions are symptomatic of an inappropriate style of development being forced onto this particular space. To establish this, focus is given during this presentation on (i) the evolution of performances in the face of State pressure and (ii) how more appropriate and sustainable forms of development for this space have been disregarded.

Keith Sunderland and Gerald Mills

Observations of wind within the urban environment and the potential for micro-wind turbines.

Micro-wind generation refers to small turbines that can generate electricity from the wind. Whereas commercial wind energy is based on very large turbines located in exposed rural settings, micro-turbines are often located in proximity to houses. The advantage of former is their size but this requires that they are located far from the consumer. The latter have potential for supplementing energy supplies in the places that energy is required. However, locating these turbines in cities, where the bulk of demand is, has proved to be challenging because of the roughness of the urban landscape that slows air near the ground and generates considerable turbulence. Nevertheless, research has shown that it is possible to evaluate the nature of the wind resource in urban areas through careful site selection and an understanding of the urban effect on wind. This research seeks to understand this urban effect using observations to support a model of the wind close to the urban ‘surface’. This paper describes the research which is based on the examination of detailed wind information at two sites in Dublin. This analysis is supplemented with the results of a wind profile experiment conducted over a 4 day period in suburban Dublin. Wind sensors were placed at six heights extending from the ground surface to approx. 10 m, above the roof top. These data are used to assess the wind resource in urban areas and their suitability for micro-wind turbines.
John Sweeney, Rodney Teck

Modelling the Impacts of Climate Change on Forest Pests

Forests have a commercial lifespan which renders them vulnerable to climate change to a degree not relevant to annual crops. In particular, native pests such as the pine weevil and aphids may be rendered more viable with projected changes in temperature (especially frost frequency), and precipitation (especially summer droughts). Other pests currently expanding northwards and westwards, not currently in Ireland, such as the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, the Great Spruce Bark Beetle and the Oak Processionary Moth, may threaten forest productivity in future years. In conjunction with Welsh Forestry and Cofoord, this project seeks to assess the potential impact of these threats, how to develop better prediction, monitoring and identification systems and, most importantly, how best to use the weapons provided by nature to combat the threats. Regional climate modelling using the Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF) is used to downscale a coupled Global Climate Model: the Community Climate System Model (CCSM) to provide preliminary estimates of how and where the geography of Irish forests may alter in response to these climate-change related threats.

David Taylor

An appliance of climate change science in the developing world: the EUFP7 HEALTHY FUTURES project in eastern Africa

The Libreville Declaration (2008) recommits African governments to the effective implementation of policies linking environment - including climate - and health, with avoidable environmental health related deaths currently thought to be responsible for almost 2.5 million deaths in Africa each year. This paper discusses the health implications of a critical component of environmental variability - climate change - in sub-Saharan Africa. Focusing on eastern Africa, the paper outlines the magnitude of the problem in a region already characterised by poor health, low levels of preventative care and inadequate investment in both health delivery and climate change science. The paper concludes with an outline of the EU FP7-funded HEALTHY FUTURES project (http://www.healthyfutures.eu <http://www.healthyfutures.eu/>, which is coordinated by the TCD Geography and that aims to provide the scientific basis for improved anticipation of outbreaks of three water-related Vector-Borne Diseases (malaria, schistosomiasis and Rift Valley fever) - as a result of environmental (including climate) changes - in the East African Community region.

Charles Travis

From the Ruins of Time and Space: The Psychogeographical GIS of Postcolonial Dublin in Flann O’Brien’s At Swim Two Birds (1939)

Flann O’Brien’s At Swim Two Birds, (1939) serves as an avant-garde guide to the streetscapes and zeitgeist of post-colonial Dublin in the 1930s, and illuminates the perspective that ‘one man’s city is the sum of all the routes he takes through it, a spoor as unique as a finger print’ (Raban: 1998). Critics have observed that O’Brien’s mise en abîme reflects the concentric enfolding of modern urban events, and suggested that the very geography of Dublin, with its fiercely independent villages and suburbs, may have served as the template for its multiple narrative lines and spaces (Hasset, 1994; Kiberd, 2001) Therefore by engaging the theoretical lenses of Giambattista Vico’s ‘Historical Arcs’ in conjunction with Guy DeBord and the International Situationists’ concept of the derive within a Geographical Information System (GIS), I will illustrate the technology’s capability to engage the perspectives of history, critical thought and literature. Inspired by the Dadaists and the Surrealists, as well as the critical interventions of Henri Lefebvre, Walter Benjamin and -
paper will engage in a methodology which draws upon psychogeographical practices to explore and map At Swim Two Birds’ multi-dimensional, hyper-urban postcolonial perspective.

Elaine Treacy

Assessing Temporal and Spatial Water Quality Variations at Lough Currane, Co. Kerry, Ireland

A number of factors can influence the extent of nutrient enrichment within lakes. These factors include individual catchment characteristics, sources of nutrients, pathways of nutrient transfer and climatic factors. The current research examines these factors in relation to the historical water quality deterioration of Lough Currane Co. Kerry. Lough Currane, located close to the south-west coast of Ireland, has a known problem of nutrient enrichment and its catchment contains a number of potential nutrient sources including point, diffuse and intermediate sources. The location of the lake, close to the Valentia weather reporting station, aided the study of climatic fluctuations and their effect on lake water quality. The analysis of historical variations in diatom assemblages and DI-TP as well as historical documentary and climate records indicate that recent eutrophication is anthropogenically induced and is primarily associated with increased livestock density related to both point and diffuse sources. However, climatic fluctuations, particularly increased precipitation can enhance the effects of nutrient enrichment. The findings from this research indicate that a multi-site sampling approach allows the effects of individual nutrient sources to the nutrient enrichment of both an entire lake and individual areas within a lake to be determined.

Gen Ueda

Bridging the scale gap: macro economic impacts of liberalisation on the regional system of local livelihood in rural Tanzania

Although the impact of economic liberalisation on rural livelihood in Tropical Africa has been investigated for the last three decades, most existing studies focus either on the macro economic measures and outcomes at the national level or on the local responses by way of case studies on village households, thus manifesting a wide gap in both methodological and factual terms. This study attempts to bridge the scale gap, looking into the network of places, and livelihood therein, on the flank of Mount Meru, Northeastern Tanzania. The regional system is conceptualised as having the macro economic impacts felt at different places in the system in a spatially differentiated manner, depending on locational and geographical factors and the socio-economic characteristics that various households exhibit. The study also emphasises the importance of communal aspects in rural livelihood so as to avoid simplistic determination by the characteristics of individual places and households. The communal factors examined include irrigation management and farmland redistribution in the context of commercialisation of maize production in lower and drier areas and reciprocal exchange of milk for consumption among women at higher altitudes, both of which are in the same regional system, and are significant in the issue of livelihood security.

Brendan Williams

The Future Land Market Implications of the NAMA process

This paper analyses land-market issues which are critical considerations for the future operations of the NAMA initiative. As a major policy shift seems unlikely this paper analyses the financial and spatial implications of the process as presently constructed. This will include consideration as to
whether the cost to the taxpayer can be capped or contained and the individual sector and spatial
development impacts of ongoing decisions. The next stages of the NAMA process in 2012 involve
dealing with the core problem of the many marginal development-land transactions conducted
during the final stages of the property market boom in Ireland. This involves increased costs and
risk exposures for the taxpayer after the prime overseas investment assets are disposed of. The fact
that many of the development land deals involved a relatively closed circle of related interest
groups indicates that a high level of risk to the exchequer and potential for significant financial
losses arising across various sectors. The recent Mahon tribunal indicates that the unravelling of
complex and confidential land deals by vested interest groups are rarely or never in the general
taxpayer’s interest. Financial and development interests may wish the state to subsidise and
reflate the property market to previous levels. However, this may not be a feasible outcome nor in
the public interest. In particular, the paper will focus on demand potential in key property sectors
as such demand will have a significant impact on the outcomes of the process.

Richard Williams  POSTER
Sexuality and the City: an investigation into the geometries of sexual minorities in Cork, Ireland
In order to contribute to the growing international research on sexuality, this poster will conduct an
investigation into the geometries of sexual minority in Cork City with an over-arching focus on
inclusion of difference and the effects sexual dissidence has on citizenship. This poster will address
the spatial and social inclusion/exclusion of diverse sexual proclivity (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
transgender community) and diverse sexual practices (prostitution, adult entertainment and the
sex industry), both of these groups being connected through the way in which they are seen as
being “different” to the historical Irish ideal of the hetero-patriarchal family. Increased national and
local media coverage on issues to do with sex work and Cork’s LGBT community recently is
indicative of an increased visibility and potential widespread social acceptance of sexual minorities.
This prevalence is a relatively new phenomenon in Irish society, which has typically been host to
theological based social conservatism and makes this poster evermore timely. Through the use of
semi-structured interviews, thematic mapping and discourse analysis of popular media this poster
will suggest to what extent “difference” is included in Cork city and how those involved may be
deemed “partial” or “full” citizens.

Ciara Younge

Civil Society & Volunteering: The Missing Link

Community and voluntary activity has been seen by researchers and commentators as an
important cog in the Irish way of life over the last century. Such activity has both contributed to
and arisen from the economic, political, religious, and social in both urban and rural areas in Ireland
and quantitative research in this area is sparse. When taking note of the emergence of these
community and voluntary groups/initiatives in Ireland it can be said that they were born of a time
of ‘crisis circumstances’ (Varley & Curtin, 2002). Voluntary groups/initiatives vary significantly and
their varying scale and other features can be tied to the mechanisms of collective citizen action and
interfaces with institutions of governance. It is believed that a higher level of civic participation
leads to more effective governance, as those who actively participate in civil society also exercise
their civic duty to vote. As a result of this link it was hypothesised that higher voter turnout is
linked to a higher participation in voluntary activity. Data from the EU27 Member States and
Ireland were investigated and correlations were discovered between indicators of representative
democracy and participative democracy in a variety of geographical contexts proving this
hypothesis.
Location of Museum Building Trinity College Dublin, Atrium and Trinity Capitol Hotel