

GORTSCÉALA



OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway

The Newsletter of the School of Geography and Archaeology • NUI Galway • 53.3°N 9.1°W

September 2018

Welcome from Head of SoGA

Welcome to the first issue of our new School Newsletter, *Gortscéala*! The School of Geography & Archaeology is a wonderfully vibrant and inspiring place to work and study, and this new newsletter captures some of our core passions: fieldwork, public scholarship and making critical knowledge count. *Gortscéala* showcases our public scholarship and community engagement efforts in a way that reflects the wide range of impactful scholarly endeavours undertaken across the school. Last academic year, we had a range of research funding and research award successes, a number of important book launches, and our School public lecture series was standing room only each week - a testament to our passion for telling stories from the field!

~ **Dr John Morrissey, Head of SoGA 2017-2018**



MSc in Coastal and Marine Environments students listen to Killary local Tom Nee describe how bogs are formed.

School Secures €2.6m for Research

Highlighted by a €2.2m INTERREG award, SoGA faculty and researchers secured over €2.6m in new research awards in 2018. The Maritime, Ocean Sector and Ecosystem Sustainability (MOSES) Project is a three-year research portfolio examining the European Blue Growth Agenda and its socioeconomic impacts across the Atlantic Area. Dr Frances Fahy and Dr Liam Carr, both with the Discipline of Geography, are leading efforts to contextualise how the Wild Atlantic Way - a 2500km-long planned coastal tourism route - is changing lives and livelihoods in rural communities along Ireland's west coast. Other MOSES partners are based in the UK, France, Spain, and Portugal.

Dr Audrey Morley was awarded €147,200 from the iCrag-GSI Environmental Geosciences Postgraduate Programme to support doctoral student studies on abrupt climate change impacts to ocean circulation. Dr Morley also secured ship time aboard the Marine Institute's R/V Celtic Voyager for the fourth consecutive year. This four-day research cruise off the Aran Islands is a centrepiece for Geography's Marine and Coastal Environments MSc Programme. This October, MSc students will take sediment cores, water samples, and assess coastal change on Inis Mór.

Prof Elizabeth FitzPatrick received a Royal Society of Edinburgh European Visiting Researcher for 2018-2019. The award is funded by the Caledonian Research Foundation for travel in respect of Prof FitzPatrick's case study of the medieval royal forest of the Isle of Arran, for the Atlas of Finn mac Cumail's Places.

Other Awards

Dr Maura Farrell - Water: Mitigating agricultural impacts through research and knowledge exchange (€105,000 from National Rural Network / EPA / Teagasc); Dr Gordon Bromley - Franklin Research Grant for Climate Change Studies (\$6000 from American Philosophical Society) & Dr Stefan Bergh - Mullaghfarna: A place apart (€2000 from CASSCS).

Save the Date

EUGEO
2019
MAY 15-18
GALWAY, IRELAND



7TH EUGEO CONGRESS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE

Dr Fahy Recognised by NUIG President for Service to University, Irish Communities

Dr Frances Fahy was one of four inaugural winners of the President's Awards for Societal Impact. These awards were developed to recognise outstanding staff contributions across the University who seek to use their skills and knowledge to improve the University's contribution to communities across Ireland, stimulate excellence, and help improve the visibility of the University's impact on society.

Speaking on Dr Fahy's nomination, the Deputy Director of EPA Ireland Dara Lynott (now CEO of Electricity Association of Ireland) noted her 'immense impact on the development of environmental policy' and how her research's ability to influence change beyond the academic sphere. Her contributions toward establishing National Geography Awareness Week was also noted. Showing there remained much to do, Dr Fahy spent the summer presenting across Ireland and Europe, including a performance in Mullingar at the 2018 Body and Soul Music Festival, where she debunked myths surrounding sustainability.



Dr Frances Fahy receiving her President's Award for Societal Impact from NUI Galway President, Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.

Creative Economies in Peripheral Regions

Dr Pat Collins' work is the first study on creative economies that draws on research carried out across four EU member states. Driven by changing tastes, spurs of economic development present in new and innovative ways. Yet for peripheral communities, opportunities may be fleeting or stunted by lack of resources, support, or infrastructural diversification.

Creative economies are born from communities producing their creative energy in new and marketable ways. If allowed to mature, creative economies offer these communities tangible livelihoods and identity, while supporting regional and national economic growth.



Dr Pat Collins (centre) stands with co-author James A. Cunningham (left) and Minister for Community Development and Galway West TD Seán Kyne at the launch of their book, *Creative Economies in Peripheral Regions*, at the O'Donoghue Centre, NUI Galway.

The Long War: CENTCOM, Grand Strategy, and Global Security

Dr John Morrissey has published a new book with University of Georgia Press on the political economy and geopolitics of US military interventions in the Middle East over the last 30 years. Entitled *The Long War*, the book engages a wide range of scholarship on imperialism, neoliberalism and postcolonialism, in critiquing the US military's role in enacting US foreign policy in the most energy-rich region on earth, and in documenting the profound human consequences of military biopolitical violence. It was shortlisted for the prestigious American Association of Geographer's Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award in 2018.



Geographical Society of Ireland Awards 2018

The Discipline of Geography at NUIG swept the board at the 50th Conference of Irish Geographers held in Maynooth University in May 2018. Dr Shane Conway was awarded the Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI) Postgraduate/Early Career Network (PECN) poster prize based on a paper that he recently published in the *International Journal of Agricultural Management* focussing on the *Farmer-Farm Relationship in Later Life*. Dr Mary Greene was awarded the GSI Doctoral Research Award for her critical geographical research on *Consumption Biographies*. Finally, PhD student Michelle Curran received the GSI Postgraduate Fieldwork/Travel Award to part-funded her attendance at the European Geosciences Union in Vienna, where she presented her research.



Dr Shane Conway is pictured here receiving his prize from Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry, immediate Past-President of the Geographical Society of Ireland.

Keeper of the Gael, FitzPatrick Brings Medieval Ireland to Life

Prof Liz FitzPatrick is curating an exhibition for the Capital of Culture 2020 in partnership with Galway City Museum and the National Museum of Ireland. The multi-media exhibition entitled, *Keepers of the Gael: Culture and Society in Gaelic Ireland AD 1200-1600* will highlight the reputed origins of Gaelic peoples, their customs and cultural practices, the territories, landscapes and settlements in which they lived their lives and the influential roles that the Gaelic arts and their practitioners played in society.

It aims to demonstrate that the past can enlighten some of the critical issues of human identity in our contemporary world. Prof FitzPatrick has, to date, attracted 27,500 in private philanthropy for this exhibition through Galway University Foundation with match funding from Creative Ireland and Galway City Museum providing an overall budget of 80,000 for this Capital of Culture event.



Project Ireland 2040 Rural Event with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

Dr Maura Farrell was an invited guest speaker at the Government of Ireland's Project Ireland 2040 *Creating Stronger Rural Economies and Communities* event held in Westport, Co. Mayo. on Friday the 13th of July 2018. This event was co-hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Agriculture. Dr Farrell spoke about the potential of family farm diversification in leading rural Ireland forward over the next 20 years in a session with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at this event.

Case studies and carried out by Dr Farrell and Dr Shane Conway as part of their work with the Irish National Rural Network were also included in a Project Ireland 2040 report entitled *Strengthening Rural Economies and Communities* launched at this event.



Dr Maura Farrell is pictured here (2nd from right) on a discussion panel with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D. and Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring T.D.



The late medieval settlement of the Ó hUiginn Gaelic learned family of poets, at Kilcloony, Milltown, Co. Galway.

2017-2018 SoGA Awards and Achievements

Dr Mary Cawley - Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI) Lifetime Achievement Award
 Dr Frances Fahy - 2017 Enterprise Ireland 'Champion of EU Research' Award
 Dr Kieran O'Connor - 2018 Samuel H. Kress Lectureship in Ancient Art, Archaeological Institute of America



Dr Mary Cawley is pictured here receiving the Geographical Society of Ireland Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 from Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry, immediate Past-President of the GSI. Dr Cawley has spent her career exploring the geographies of rural social and economic change. Her varied interests have led to work on agriculture, tourism, and population change. Her 2008 publication, 'Integrated rural tourism: concepts and practice', co-authored with Prof Desmond A. Gillmor, has helped expand the field of rural studies by introducing analytical frameworks that examine community identity within the context of its natural surroundings, resources, and skillsets. Her work has informed rural development policy and planning throughout western Ireland and beyond.

Local's Knowledge Improves Energy Planning for Inis Oírr

Dr Eimear Heaslip shared her unique insights at the 2017 TEDx Galway series on how situated knowledge can improve community energy planning. '(em)Powering Communities: Situating Energy Knowledges' is based on a year-long embedded study on the energy consumption habits of Inis Oírr. Dr Heaslip lived with members of the island's community, capturing ideas they've developed to secure a reliable source of energy. She found they shared ingenious strategies with neighbours, increasing energy independence for the island without incurring unnecessary economic costs.

Dr Heaslip is now a Post-Doctoral Researcher on the NUIG-led, Horizon 2020-funded European Network for Research, Good Practice and Innovation for Sustainable Energy (ENERGISE) Project. ENERIGISE adopts a 'Living Labs' approach across 30 European countries to directly observe existing energy cultures while testing both household and community-level initiatives to reduce energy use.



Dr Eimear Heaslip, presenting at 2017 TEDx Galway.



Dr Karen Molloy participates in 'Soapbox Science Galway' at Spanish Arch. Her talk was entitled 'Pollen: Nature's Time Machine'.

Engaging Minds: For SoGA, It's All In a Day's Work

Students and staff from SoGA were again active in the community, giving over 50 public talks over the past year. Dr Kieran O'Connor was the 2018 awardee of the Samuel H. Kress Lectureship in Ancient Art. His lectures - 'Elite Settlement in Gaelic Ireland, 1169-1350' and 'The Castles of Ireland' took him on extended tour of the United States. Closer to home, Dr O'Connor profiled Fr Sean Tynan at the Keadue Heritage Week Lecture, and gave an oral history of the Granard Castle at the Granard Library.

The 2018 SoGA Spring Lunchtime Lecture Series, coordinated by Angela Gallagher, was a rousing, standing-room only success. Held again at Town Hall Theatre, Gordon Bromley, Michelle Comber, Joe Fenwick, Noel McCarthy, Aoife Ní Fhlatharta, Kieran O'Connor, Richard Scriven, and Ulf Strohmayer shared their research to a receptive audience.

Dr Kevin Lynch and Dr Audrey Morley spoke before the Joint Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government ahead of 'Prohibition of Micro-Plastics Bill 2016' debate.

Dr Morley supervised three students from Coláiste Iognáid, Galway, for BT Young Scientist 2018. 'Think Before You Drink: Microplastics' won the Special EPA Award for Aoibhe Briscoe, Ellie Concannon, and Kate Owens.

Volunteers Making a Major Impact in Rural Communities

Results obtained from survey data and interviews carried out with rural volunteers by Final Year Geography Students, as part of a Project-Based Learning Approach, have been published in a Volunteer Ireland report entitled 'Rural Volunteerism: Impacting Development and Sustainability'.

This research, led by Dr Maura Farrell, in conjunction with Volunteer Ireland, Galway Volunteer Centre, Pat Kennedy (eTownz Project), other members of the Rural Research Cluster (Brian Leonard, Aoife Ní Fhlatharta, Dr Marie Mahon, Dr John McDonagh, Dr Therese Conway and Dr Shane Conway), and NUI Galway's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) explored the wide range of impacts that rural volunteerism has on the development and sustainability of rural communities. Research findings reveal that volunteers play a critical role in providing local services such as children's facilities; creating employment and improving the economy by delivering local festivals; and creating social links by fostering opportunities to meet new and diverse people. Such voluntary actions contribute positively to the lives, activities and social capital of rural inhabitants.

The report was launched in NUI Galway by Minister Sean Kyne TD, Minister of State for Rural Affairs and Natural Resources and Pat Spillane, Ambassador for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland to mark National Volunteering Week (14th – 20th May 2018).



Laser-Scanning and Photogrammetry Workshop

A 'Laser-scanning and Photogrammetry Workshop' was held in the Discipline of Archaeology and Moore Institute Seminar Room on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th July 2018. This initiative was hosted by the Discipline of Archaeology, and was presented by Robert Shaw and Gary Devlin of the Discovery Programme (the Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland, Dublin), Ryan Lash of the Inishark Archaeological Field Project (University of Notre Dame, USA) and Joe Fenwick (Archaeological Field Officer, SoGA). SoGA is currently acquiring its own specialist expertise in the areas of topographical survey of archaeological monuments and landscapes through photogrammetry and structure-from-motion techniques and 3D artefact modelling using laser scanning.

One item that was digitally reconstructed during the workshop was a cross-slab uncovered by the Cultural Landscapes of the Irish Coast (CLIC) Project, directed by Dr Ian Kuijt of Notre Dame. His team was excavating around Clochán Leo, an early medieval stone hut on Inishark Island, Co. Galway, when they found the cross-slab. Now made whole through digital reconstruction, excavators actually recovered the slab in two fragments during different field seasons and in different locations - one fragment outside the clochán entrance and another inside the clochán itself. The 'expansional' cross design is closely paralleled by finds on nearby High Island and likely dates between the late 9th and early 11th century.



Angela Gallagher laser-scanning an inscribed stone under the supervision of Robert Sands.



A digital reconstruction of a cross-slab from Inishark, Co. Galway. The original relic was laser-scanned during the course of the workshop.

SoGA Again a Magnet for Visiting Scholars

The 2017-18 Academic Year saw a rich diversity of visiting scholars and researchers collaborating with SoGA colleagues while at NUI Galway. Chris Barton (Francis Marion U., Florence, South Carolina) conducted research on 19th Century community of Great Blasket Island as a US Fulbright Scholar, while Monica Mulrennan (Concordia U., Montreal) visited as a Moore Institute Fellow capturing the traditional practice of seaweed harvesting in Connemara.

SoGA proudly hosted: Chris Barton (Francis Marion U.); Thoraddur Bjarnson (U. Akureyri, Iceland); Christoph Cludius (LMU, Munich); Charlotte Jenson (Aalborg U., Denmark); Ruth Lane (Monash U., Australia); Donna Lybecker (U. Idaho); Giulia Mininni (Keele U., UK); Monica Mulrennan (Concordia U., Canada); Elisabeth Süßbauer (Tech U. Berlin); Pasi Toivanen (U. Tampere, Finland); Erika Wolters (Oregon State U.).

PRU Team Battle Through the Elements in Search of Sediments

Members of the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit (PRU) have engaged in several coring expeditions in different parts of Ireland during the last year. These included inter alia collaborations with the Marine Institute, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Institut für Geographie, Augsburg University to retrieve sediments from the bottom of lakes and bogs – and tropical montane glaciers!



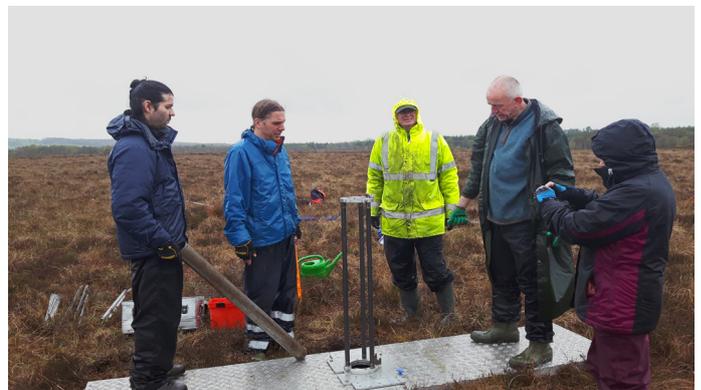
Sediment coring on Lough Feeagh, Co. Mayo as part of BEYOND2020 Marine Institute led project, August 2017.



Holocene sediments (one of 6m) recovered from Lough Feeagh showing banding/laminations.



Dr Gordon Bromley led a PRU team to Nevada Corapuna (elev. 6450m), Peru to sample glacial and volcanic landforms in July 2018.



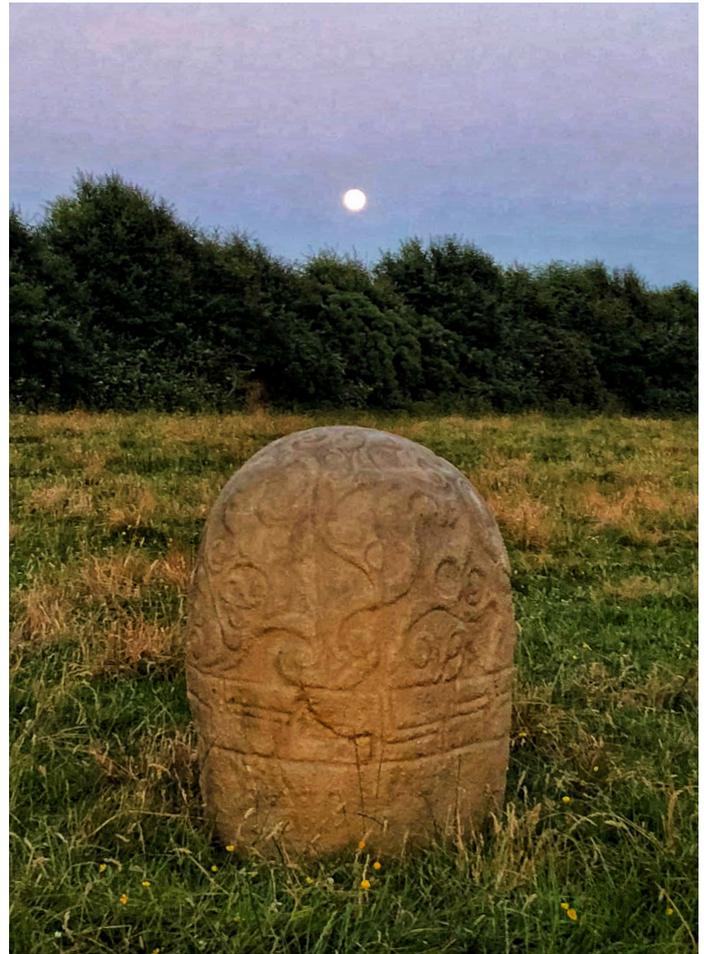
PRU coring team preparing to core Ballyblood Bog with Prof. Dr. Arne Friedmann (Augsburg University). A core consisting of 8m of peat, marl and clay was recovered.

H2020 IMAJINE Project Management Meeting

Members of the H2020 IMAJINE Consortium met recently in Aberystwyth for their first project management meeting. The *IMAJINE project* – Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe – runs for 5 years (2017-2021) and involves 15 partners from across Europe. The NUI Galway team includes Dr Marie Mahon, Dr Maura Farrell, Dr John McDonagh and Dr Pat Collins.



H2020 IMAJINE project consortium meeting, Aberystwyth, Wales, June 2018.



On June 24th, Conor Newman and his postgraduate student Suzi Hogan placed a replica of the famed Turoe Stone near its original location on Turoe Hill, Loughrea, Co. Galway. As they were finishing for the day, they noticed that the stone appeared to sit in line with the setting sun and rising full moon. The original Turoe Stone, dating from ca. 100 BCE, is associated with the Rath of Feerwore, but was moved to its current location in front of Turoe Farm in the 1850s. The fibreglass replica was cast as a prop for 1969's *Alfred the Great*.

School of Geography & Archaeology 2018-2019 School Committees

Head of School

Dr Aaron Potito

Heads of Discipline

Mr Conor Newman - Discipline of Archaeology
Dr Kevin Lynch - Discipline of Geography

Community Engagement

Dr Liam Carr (Chair), Dr Pat Collins,
Dr Kieran O'Connor, Maggie Ronayne

Equipment, Laboratory and Fieldwork

Dr Audrey Morley (Chair), Dr Stefan Bergh,
Dr Siubhán Comer, Dr Joe Fenwick, Dr Karen Molloy

Internationalisation

Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Chair), Prof Elizabeth FitzPatrick

Research

Prof Elizabeth FitzPatrick (Chair), Dr Gordon Bromley,
Dr Audrey Morley, Dr Carelton Jones

Teaching & Learning

Dr Valerie Ledwith (Chair), Dr Terry Morley, Conor
Newman, Maggie Ronayne, Prof Ulf Strohmayer

Equality Officer

Prof Ulf Strohmayer