



Welcome from Head of SoGAIS

Welcome to the second issue of our School Newsletter, *Gortscéala*! Our School recently expanded from two to three disciplines, so that we are now the School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies. Existing synergies among colleagues in Geography, Archaeology and Irish Studies galvanised us to pursue the merger, which was enthusiastically supported by all three disciplines. With the incorporation of Irish Studies, our School is now comprised of over 30 academic staff, over 850 undergraduates, over 40 MA/MSc students and over 45 PhD students. This issue of *Gortscéala* thus highlights research, public scholarship and community engagement activities across all three disciplines during the past year. It is my pleasure to welcome Irish Studies to our School, and we look forward to working together into the future!

Dr Aaron Potito, Head of SoGAIS

EUGEO Congress 2019



Co-chairs of the 7th EUGEO Congress hosted by NUI Galway in May 2019, Dr Kathy Reilly and Dr Frances Fahy (contd. p.3).

Archaeology Improving Best Practices Inside Sensitive Farming Landscapes

The Discipline of Archaeology, working with the Rathcroghan Resource Community has been awarded a €984,000, 5-year grant by the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI), for its project, 'Farming Rathcroghan: Sustainable Farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape'. Awarded through DAFM, Joe Fenwick and Kieran O'Connor, along with PhD candidate Daniel Curley will develop best archaeological practices for working alongside active farming landscapes.



Farming Rathcroghan EIP-AGRI Project.

The Discipline of Archaeology has had a research interest in Rathcroghan, the ancient 'royal' capital of Connacht, and the general north Roscommon area over the past 40 years. The project represents the most recent positive relationship with the greater Rathcroghan community and most especially its farmers, who have been custodians of this remarkable landscape over the centuries. The project will formulate, test and develop a suite of innovative management solutions designed to sustain a viable and vibrant rural farming community in the context of a culturally and ecologically sensitive landscape. In so doing, the project aims to raise awareness among the general public of the significance of Rathcroghan as a farmed archaeological landscape and promote the proactive role of farmers and farming in the care and maintenance of the living landscape in harmony with its rich cultural heritage and ecological assets.

Speaking about the project, Joe Fenwick said, "The 'Farming Rathcroghan' project is an exciting new initiative with enormous potential for the future. Its objectives are to manage, care for and conserve this important archaeological landscape by implementing a programme of economically sustainable and ecologically sound farming practices, while also facilitating visitor access to the area."



Dr Farrell Recognised by NUIG President for Partnership with Coastal Community in Co. Kerry

Dr Eugene Farrell received the 2018 President's Award for Societal Impact from NUIG President Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh. This award stems from his work to empower local communities in The Maharees (Co. Kerry) to find solutions to increased pressures from winter storms and human activities that have led to increased erosion and flood risks, destabilisation of the fragile dune ecosystems, and conflict between the landowners, residents, and visitors.

Dr Farrell was instrumental in the formation of the Maharees Conservation Association when he provided a roadmap for the community to take action during a public lecture in February 2016. In their words he "challenged us to form a representative group; to engage with the relevant stakeholders; to increase awareness of the heritage of Maharees and to start the process to arrive at a coastal erosion risk management study. The prospect of this was daunting – many individuals and groups had failed before – but galvanised and inspired by Dr Farrell's passion for the area and his belief that something could be done, fifteen people of different backgrounds and persuasions formed the Maharees Conservation Association."

Dr Farrell says "We hear and read about climate change impacts every day in the media; we have new statutory laws for climate change legislated by our Government; and we research climate change science in our University. What we don't do effectively is engage with the relevant stakeholders for whom the new laws are supposedly designed to benefit (landowners, residents, visitors, managers) and create and mobilize scientific knowledge that can effectively inform and direct collective action with respect to the environment. It is incumbent upon the University - in our roles as educators and/or experts - to provide tools and forums to local communities that facilitate increased awareness, appreciation, and management of their coastal resources that have, historically, been neglected by the state."



Dr Farrell pictured here receiving his award from NUI Galway President Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh.

Dr Morrissey Receives 2018 President's Award

Dr John Morrissey has won the President's Award for Teaching Excellence for a second time. Programme Director of the MA in Environment, Society and Development and Lecturer in Geopolitics and International Development, John previously won the award in 2011.



Dr Morrissey pictured here with NUI Galway President Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh receiving his award.

Incoming PhD Students

Awatif Aljahdali (Ulf Strohmayer); V'cenza Cirefice (Kathy Reilly); Adrienne Foreman (Gordon Bromley); Tom Gorman (Terry Morley); Silvina Martin (Elizabeth FitzPatrick); Maeve McGandy (John Morrissey); Nuala Ní Fhluathúin (Nessa Cronin); Daniel Urban (Cathal O'Donoghue); Rachel Andrews (Nessa Cronin).

RURALIZATION Project Works to Support Rural Regeneration



The four-year, Horizon 2020-funded €5.9 million RURALIZATION project aims to develop knowledge and support policy making to help answer some of the challenges facing rural areas and support rural regeneration. Led by Maura Farrell and Geography's Rural Studies Cluster, RURALIZATION will work to improve understanding of rural regeneration, including the issue of access to land, define innovative instruments and strategies to facilitate generational renewal in agriculture and rural development, as well as support policy making to make rural dreams for new rural generations come true.

Dr Farrell said: "The balanced development of the EU is threatened by the unequal development of urban and rural areas. The issue of regenerating rural areas is not new. Innovative solutions exist, but need to be better applied and adapted. One size doesn't fit all. What is unique about this project is that it will find these solutions, assess and develop them with people in rural areas where they are used, and then look at how they can be applied in new contexts. The project also uses innovative methods, assessing the dreams of youth for rural futures, which then feeds into a proposed set of renewed policy options." Rounding out NUI Galway's team of researchers are Aisling Murtagh, Marie Mahon, Therese Conway, John McDonagh, and Shane Conway.

NUI Galway Hosts EUGEO Congress 2019

NUI Galway hosted the 7th EUGEO (Association of Geographical Societies in Europe) Congress in conjunction with the 51st Conference of Irish Geographers from 15-18 May 2019. The theme for this event was Re-imagining Europe's Future Society and Landscapes. 445 delegates from 37 countries shared research and forged new friendships, while still finding time to explore Galway and its surrounding environs.

The theme focused on the centrality of the concepts of society, environment and landscape within the Discipline of Geography and the importance of the relationship that exists between the physical and cultural landscape. With keynotes by Drs Michele Lancione of Sheffield University and Larissa Naylor of the University of Glasgow, EUGEO explored the full breadth of Geographic enquiry, including issues of homelessness and migration, climate change, renewable energies, marine spatial planning, rural development, and coastal resilience. The conference was supported by EUGEO, Geographical Society of Ireland, NUI Galway, Springer Journal (Exhibitor), Failte Ireland, EPA Research, Moore Institute, National Rural Network and RealSim.



EUGEO 2019 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Michele Lancione.

Dr Zhang Gives Plenary at UNESCO ICGG Conference

Invited by UNESCO International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG), Dr. Chaosheng Zhang gave a plenary talk at the Seminar on the International Scientific Cooperation Programme – "Mapping Chemical Earth" held in Langfang, China during October 15-17, 2018 with about 150 delegates. The presentation title was "Towards machine learning for identification of hidden spatial patterns and relationships in big data of environmental geochemistry". The "Mapping Chemical Earth" programme aims to produce maps for chemical components on the earth surface by collecting catchment sediment samples from all over the world.

EIP-AGRI Booklet Launched at Agriculture House

A new booklet on Ireland's 23 locally-led EIP-AGRI Operational Group Projects was launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, T.D. on the 17th of April, 2019 in the Agriculture House, Dublin. This publication was designed and produced by the National Rural Network team in the Discipline of Geography's Rural Studies Research Cluster at NUI Galway, Shane Conway, Maura Farrell and Aisling Murtagh, to highlight and promote the Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups nationally and internationally. A budget of €59m is set aside for these projects, funded under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.



Dr Conway and Dr Farrell pictured here launching the EIP-AGRI Booklet with Minister Michael Creed T.D.

School Faculty Stay Active through RTE Brainstorm

Dr Eugene Farrell – *We're at a critical juncture for coastal management in Ireland.*

Dr Shane Conway – *Meet the farmers of tomorrow.*

Prof Ulf Strohmayer – *Reclaiming the streets from the car; Can the citizen and planner ever be friends?*

Dr Frances Fahy – *Here are 9 reasons why geography matters.*

Dr Pat Collins – *Rural Ireland's biggest advantage? It's not like urban Ireland.*

Dr Richard Scriven – *On the road; 'Pilgrimages still move people to take to the road, travel to shrines and undertake new adventures at all stages of life.'*

Dr Siddhi Joshi – *Life's a (maerl) beach.*



Dr Cronin Appointed to Future Earth Ireland

Irish Studies Lecturer Nessa Cronin has begun a three-year appointment as a National Committee Member of Future Earth Global. The Future Earth Ireland working group leads regional efforts that accelerate transformations that achieve sustainable development goals and raising public awareness on strategies to combat global warming.

NUI Galway Arts Students Take Part in Chinese University Exchange Programme

Five NUI Galway students joined Geography Lecturers Liam Carr and Chaosheng Zhang at the Flying Dreams International Summer Camp in Geography (July 10-22, 2019) at Henan University, in Kaifeng, China. Here they explored the rich history of the Yellow River valley, known in China as the Huang He. The middle stretches of the Yellow River have served as the cradle of Chinese civilisation and a centrepiece to Chinese identity. The students joined 20 students from four Chinese universities to share their perspectives and ways of life during this two-week cultural exchange programme, while touring such famous sites as the Shaolin Temple, the Taoist and Buddhist Temples that lead hikers up Mount Song to Junji Peak and Xiaolangdi Dam, completed in 2000 and capable of producing 5.1 terra-watts of electricity annually. Rising third-year Geography student Clodagh Flood was impressed by the 1600-year old Buddhist artwork of the Longmen Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. "It was astounding to see 100,000 statues of the Buddha and his other disciples in a range of sizes from an inch to 57 feet!"



NUI Galway Brings Archaeology to the Classroom for Activity Week

As part of Claregalway Educate Together National School's 'Activity Week' (18-20 Feb. 2019) there were three archaeologically-themed sessions among a host of other novel educational, sport and craft activities given by the parents of kids attending the school. Markus Byrne (PhD candidate, NUI Galway) introduced 1st and 2nd classes to ogham inscription and each child was given the opportunity to write their name using this coded system of dots and lines. Joe Fenwick (Archaeological Field Officer, NUI Galway) introduced 3rd and 4th classes to a scientific study of 'ancient axes' and also 5th and 6th classes to the wonders of 'prehistoric pottery' as part of an archaeological artifact workshop. It was more fun than you can imagine, and the school-kids enjoyed it even more!

Nótaí/Notes Music and Ireland

Méabh Ní Fhuartháin and Verena Commins, both of the Centre for Irish Studies, co-edited *Nótaí/Notes: Music and Ireland*, a special issue of *Éire-Ireland: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies*, which was launched in NUI Galway on 7 June 2019 as part of the Galway Conference for Irish Studies. The volume was developed through two transatlantic conferences (with support from IRC), one at NUI Galway and one at Boston College. Launching the publication, Prof Mel Mercier, Chair of Performing Arts at the University of Limerick, gave an inspired synopsis of the contents noting the wide ranging of topics and inquiry, from dance halls to monuments of traditional music, from album sleeves to Thomas Davis, all speaking to the richness of discourse within Irish Studies on the matter of music.



Nótaí/Notes: Music and Ireland publication cover art.

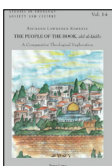
Irish Studies Hosts 'Women and Traditional/Folk Music' Symposium

Comhrá Ceoil, the music research network at the Centre for Irish Studies, hosted a one-day research symposium 'Women and traditional / folk music' on 9 February. Organised by Verena Commins and Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, this symposium was a dynamic response to the question of gender balance in traditional and folk music, and the FairPlé initiative, providing an opportunity to explore, challenge and react to the experiences of women in traditional and folk music. The keynote was given by Dr Tes Slominski (Beloit College, Wisconsin), a leading traditional Irish music and gender studies scholar and the symposium hosted an international field of presenters; academics, musicians and singers, researchers and those involved with the archiving of traditional and folk music, as well as an attracting an international audience.



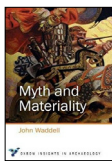
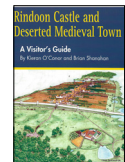
'Women and traditional / folk music' symposium participants.

Book Launches



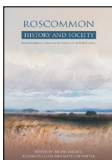
Joe Fenwick launched *The People of the Book*, ahl al-kitab; a comparative theological exploration by Dr Richard Lawrence Kimball in Charlie Byrne's bookshop on Friday 26 April 2019.

Rindoon Castle and Deserted Medieval Town (Kieran O'Connor and Brian Shanahan).



Myth and Materiality (John Waddell).

Lost and Found III: Rediscovering More of Ireland's Past (edited by Joe Fenwick).



Roscommon History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County (edited by Richie Farrell, Kieran O'Connor and Matthew Potter).

Care-Peat Project Aims to Restore Peatlands

Terry Morley is a lead PI for Care-Peat, a 3.5-year €6.2m Interreg North-west Europe-funded project that aims to reduce carbon emissions and restore carbon storage capacity of different types of peatlands across north-western Europe. Care-Peat will develop new techniques for analysing carbon emissions and test socio-economic strategies to encourage peat restoration in Ireland, England, the Netherlands, France, and Belgium. Northern hemisphere peatlands count for 3-5% of total land area, but store a third of the planet's soil carbon. Peatlands have a strong natural potential to save carbon and play an important role in nature-based solutions for climate change.



Care-Peat project partners pictured here conducting research.

Council of Irish Chiefs and Clans of Ireland Prize in History

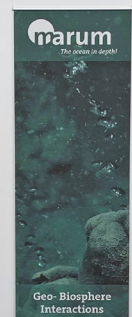
Archaeology PhD student Daniel Curley has been awarded the 2019 Council of Irish Chiefs and Clans of Ireland Prize in History for his essay, 'Uilliam Buide Úa Cellaig and the Late Medieval Renaissance of the Uí Maine Lordship'. The essay explores the career of the 14th century king of Uí Maine, Uilliam Buide Úa Cellaig. Inspected in this way, Úa Cellaig's career has served as an important case study in understanding the nature of later medieval Gaelic lordship, and shines a light on the medieval history of an understudied part of Ireland. Says Curley, "At its height in the 15th century, this lordship consisted of large parts of east Galway and south Roscommon. The settlement archaeology of the Úa Cellaig lordship – ringfort, crannog and cashel, towerhouse, and other fortified residences – shine a light on the late medieval and early modern period." His aim is to use this work to spur cultural tourism initiatives in this rural area.

Visiting Scholars

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (U. Murcia, Spain); Elly Walsh (San Jose State U., USA); Michelle McKeown (Manaaki Whenua, New Zealand); Russell Prince (Massey U., New Zealand); Aishling Gallagher (Massey U., New Zealand); Rebecca Windemer (Cardiff U., Wales); Maggie Jackson (Dartmouth College; USA); Lucia Gdovin (Erasmus Programme, Czech Republic); Patrick Mahony (Drew U., USA).

Dr Morley to Spend Year in Bremen as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow

Audrey Morley (NUI Galway, iCrag, & Ryan Institute) has been awarded funding of €94,686.80 under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship for her project ARCTICO. Audrey will be hosted for 13 months by the MARUM - Centre for Marine Environmental Sciences, Bremen University, and will leave for a 3 months secondment to the Alfred Wegener Institute, Hemholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven. Her work focuses on a key challenge in climate change science: establishing the magnitude of limits for future climate change. Through climate proxies, Audrey's fellowship year will provide critical insights that further our understanding of how the Arctic system – the planet's most sensitive and vulnerable environment with regards to global warming – will respond to continued warming. The ARCTICO project is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Programme.



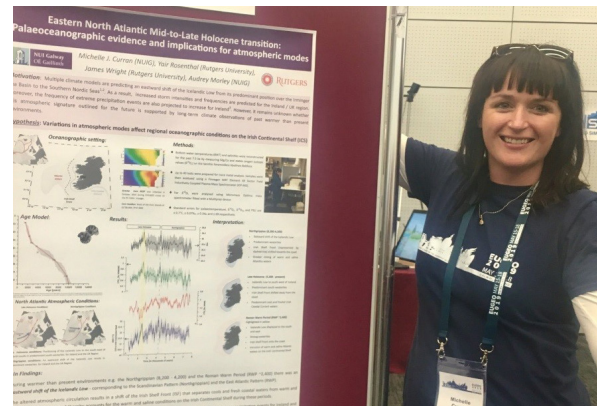
Dr Morley visiting Bremen U.

Visiting Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow Takes Up Residency at NUI Galway

Dr Maggie Jackson has been awarded a €184,590 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship for her project CoNTESTA, a 24-month fellowship within the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit (PRU) at NUI Galway. Hosted by Dr Gordon Bromley, Maggie will use cosmogenic nuclides to better date key periods of natural global warming and cooling over the past 50,000 years. Her fieldwork will be conducted in the Peruvian Andes, while lab analyses will be completed at the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques in Nancy, France. The research will be the first extended international research affiliation for the PRU's newly launched cosmogenic preparation facility. The work will improve knowledge on the causes and geographic extent of past climate events. The CoNTESTA project is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Programme.

Coastal Research Seeks Resilience Indicators

Eugene Farrell and partners at UCC have been awarded a three-year, €239,621 grant from EPA Ireland to identify features that constitute resilience for Irish coastal communities, and how those features might be realised through best international practice and stakeholder engagement. The project will produce resilience roadmaps that can be used by Local Authorities and coastal communities as they plan and implement strategies that strengthen adaptive capacity to the effects of a changing climate.



Michelle Curran won Best Poster Presentation at the EUGEO Congress 2019 hosted by NUI Galway.

School Funding, Grants and Awards

- Maura Farrell and Aisling Murtagh – RURALIZATION (€5,995,904, €500,150; H2020)
- Pat Collins – New Foundations to develop Village Plan for Moycullen 2030 (€15,000; IRC); Future Proofing the University (€55,000, NUI Galway Postdoctoral Position); Masterplan for Nuns Island (€250,000, Urban Regeneration Fund)
- Therese Conway – QA151 Research Grant for Returning Academic Carers (€10,000, NUI Galway Equality and Diversity Office)
- Michelle Curran – Ryan Institute Travel Award (€500); Research Travel Grant (€750, Marine Institute); Travel Bursary (€250, NUI Galway College of Arts)
- Frank Hall – County Roscommon Heritage Research Bursary (€1000; Roscommon County Council)
- Dakota Holmes – MI Travel Grant (€650, Potsdam Summer Communications School); ECORD Research Grant (€2600, U. Bremen); Ryan Institute Travel Award (€500, IODP Bremen Core Repository)
- Siddhi Joshi – Travel and Networking Award (€750; Marine Institute) International Rhodolith Symposium, Roscoff, France.
- Daithí Maguire – Ryan Institute Travel Award (€650, German Aerospace Center); Best Oral Presentation (Commendation, 6th Irish Geomorphology Scientific Workshop); Researcher Travel Award (€1000, Geological Remote Sensing Group)
- Audrey Morley and Kevin Lynch – Geospatial Facility Consolidation and Expansion Study (€24,300, NUI Galway Strategic Fund)
- Audrey Morley – Reconstructing Atlantic Overturning over Past 7000 Years (£548,105, Natural Environment Research Council)
- John Morrissey – Visiting Scholar LUISS University, Rome (€1800, NUIG College of Arts Research Award); Visiting Scholar St Antony's College, University of Oxford (£1000, British International Studies Association)
- Marta Cabello – IQUA Postgraduate Award (€555; INQUA 2019 Conference)



While part of the Flying Dreams International Summer Camp in Geography, Liam Carr captured this image of some of the 100,000 carvings that make up the UNESCO-listed Longmen Grottoes. Literally translated as 'Gates of the Dragon', the limestone cliffs beside the Yi River in central Henan Province hide 1400 caves, each home to carved depictions of the Buddha and his disciples. The earliest carvings date to the Northern Wei Dynasty (493 AD) while much of the work, including the famous 'Big Vairocana' Buddha were completed during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD).

School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies Committees Membership

Equality Officer

Prof Ulf Strohmayer

Head of School

Dr Aaron Potito

Deputy Head of School

Dr Kevin Lynch

Heads of Discipline

Dr Kevin Lynch - Geography

Maggie Ronayne - Archaeology

Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin - Irish Studies

Internationalisation

Dr Chaosheng Zhang (Chair), Dr Verena Commins,
Prof Elizabeth FitzPatrick, Dr John Morrissey

Community Engagement

Dr Liam Carr (Chair), Dr Pat Collins,

Dr Nessa Cronin, Conor Newman, Maggie Ronayne

Research

Prof Elizabeth FitzPatrick (Chair), Dr Gordon Bromley,
Dr Nessa Cronin, Dr Carleton Jones, Dr John McDonagh

Equipment, Laboratory and Fieldwork

Dr Stefan Bergh, Dr Siubhán Comer, Joe Fenwick,
Dr Eugene Farrell, Dr Karen Molloy

Teaching & Learning

Dr Valerie Ledwith (Chair), Dr Maura Farrell, Conor
Newman, Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, Maggie Ronayne