



UCD SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Julien Mercille, Head of School

Congratulations everyone for all the work accomplished this semester! The hard work that goes on in the School by our students, researchers and staff has continued on despite the ongoing pandemic. It was great to see the return to face-to-face teaching. Thank you all again for your ongoing collaboration as we continue to try and keep everyone safe.

In normal times, we would have organised a nice Christmas party and baking/cooking competition to build a huge School buffet, but keep your recipes for next time - it will happen!

Until then, I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. We look forward to welcoming you back to the School in January.



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Several students and staff members took part in two INFOMAR modules this trimester. It consisted of classroom based learning, as well as a weekend on board the Celtic Voyager for the seabed mapping. They were able to use all they had learned in their lectures and tutorials to conduct their own survey on the ship. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved! Our partners for these modules included, the team at INFORMAR, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Geological Survey Ireland, the Smart Sea School and the Marine Institute.



Launch of [Cities, governance and sustainability group website](#) - over the last few years, a group of scholars have been building our research capacity through funded research in the field of cities, governance and sustainability. We seek to not just investigate and understand key urban issues, but to support activism and engage with a diversity of stakeholders to support the emergence of more sustainable and equitable cities and communities. Why not discover more about our ongoing and past projects as well as keep up to date with our publications and resources on our new website.



Several fieldwork modules took place over the last trimester, which saw our students take trips to Carlow for [Mapping a Sustainable World](#); to Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal for the [Just Transitions project](#); Glendalough for [Making the Irish Landscape](#) and; to the Glenasmole Reservoir and along the Dodder for [River Catchment Management](#). It was great to be back in the field with students, and we look forward to taking more trips in Spring!





[Repair Acts Ireland](#) sees Dr Alma Clavin and Robin Ferguson collaborating with artist Teresa Dillon, Westmeath County Council Heritage Office, and the Westmeath Public Participation Network. The project gathers thousands of repair stories through intergenerational events, online storytelling submissions, and archival research detailing repair processes and histories. Using a mixture of artistic and applied research methodologies – including storytelling, data visualisation, speculative design, performance, and digital placemaking – the project will scope out the future of a revived repair culture and tools for how the community can contribute to it. The project is funded by the Creative Ireland Climate Action Fund and runs through to December 2022.



The [Irish Droughts](#) project team hosted an online project showcase in November to share preliminary findings of their IRC Coalesce funded project tracing the history of drought events in Ireland from the medieval period to the present. The event, which brought together researchers, water management practitioners, policymakers and the wider public, set Irish droughts in a wider international context before highlighting the evolving temporal and spatial impacts of droughts on people and society across Ireland. The event concluded with an audience Q&A considering how knowledge of past extreme events could be integrated into future planning and drought and low water management policies.



We were delighted to have a number of speakers join us this trimester for our Research Seminar Series. You can see recording for a selection of those events on [our website](#). Keep an eye out for the Spring dates as well!



Dr. Christine Bonnin and graphic recording artist Eimear McNally have produced [a video](#) to showcase a new online GIS module for sustainable development and climate change-related applications in Vietnam, part of a wider research and higher education project funded by Irish Aid in partnership with Hanoi University and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry. It uses an ethnic minority-positive storyline based on the team's joint fieldwork (participatory community mapping) with researchers, students and ethnic minority Yao and Hmong communities in Thai Nguyen province. The video is in Vietnamese with English subtitles.



A special thank you for the outstanding contributions of MSc Geospatial Data Analysis student Dave O'Mahony. Dave has developed an online GIS module for climate change-related education in Vietnam as part of an Irish Aid project with Christine Bonnin and Ainhoa Gonzalez. The module is based on free and open source GIS software (QGIS) and will be implemented by the project's Vietnam partner university's students and academic staff. Impressively, Dave has also just completed the delivery of an online training-the-trainers course to support academic staff in Vietnam with rolling out the module next year.



We celebrated GeoWeek 2021 with our favourite Geography related quotes and facts! To start the ball rolling we shared this gem from Barack Obama "The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together"





Assist. Professor Karen Keaveney and Assoc. Professor Ainhoa González, who have been awarded Irish Research Council - Coalesce funding for the project 'Citizen Rural: Digital Data for Participatory Democracy in Remote Places'. The project will establish a living lab in a specific study area to test these technologies with specific cohorts, e.g. farmers, small business owners, local officials. The project will soon recruit a Postdoctoral researcher - for enquiries, please get in touch with ainhoa.gonzalez@ucd.ie



In October, Jonathan Turner and Tine Ningal undertook GPS and drone fieldwork in the Glenmacnass area in the Wicklow mountains. It turned into quite a dramatic trip when the drone they were using flew away and didn't return to them. After searching for two hours, they had to give in for that day, but the following day Tine extracted the coordinates and returned with Ankur Sati to retrieve it. Fortunately, the drone was undamaged apart from a small bit of moist build up in the lens. After being thoroughly checked by Droneworks Ireland, the drone is back in operation and will return to the Wicklow Mountains to finish their research. You can see Tine's [ArcGIS StoryMap](#) with recounts the drone's journey.



Congratulations to the project team of the SDG Community Dashboard, who met with Dundrum 2030 last week to officially launch the project. The group includes UCD contributors Prof Ainhoa Gonzalez, Prof Edna Murphy, and Dr Shane McGuinness. The local Ambassadors aim to promote a sustainable future for Dundrum and put all the great Sustainable Development Goal 2030 projects in Dundrum on the map. You can find out more on their website [Dundrum 2030](#).

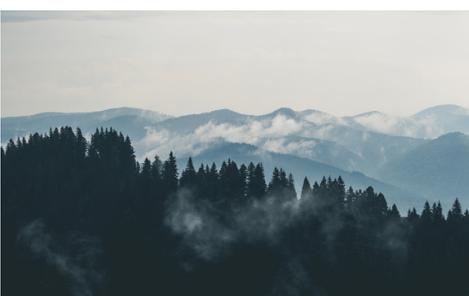




Assoc. Professor Ainhoa González has been awarded a Cullen Scholarship by the Marine Institute for the 'Development of a Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework for Ireland's Marine Planning Process'. The scholarship will engage a PhD student to understand the principal human-environment interactions in Irish waters to inform evidence-based marine planning and decision-making; and to develop and test a suitable GIS-based methodology for Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) to support Marine Spatial Planning in Ireland using existing spatial data sources. For enquiries on the PhD scholarship, please contact ainhoa.gonzalez@ucd.ie



Francesco Ventura virtually participated in the [3rd International Conference of Anarchist Geographers and Geographies](#), held in Oaxaca, Mexico, this year. His presentation was an extract from his doctoral dissertation, *Radicalising Homeland: Agency, Temporality and Spatiality in the Kurdish Freedom Movement's Representations of Kurdistan*, and focused on the spatiality of Kurdistan as developed by the Kurdish Freedom Movement, with the aim of overcoming statist geographies in the understanding of Kurdistan. Francesco's presentation, titled *A radical homeland: non-statist spatial representations of Kurdistan*, contributed to the debate about the theme of "antiauthoritarian geographies: autonomy, decolonization and libertarian struggles".



The [Mountain Research Group's website](#) is now live! The MRG, led by Graeme Warren (Archaeology) with Christine Bonnin and Sam Kelley (Earth Sciences) is one of the Earth Institute's new strategy priority projects. Stay tuned for details about MRG's upcoming spring seminar series.

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHAT WE GET UP TO OVER THE TRIMESTER? FOLLOW US ON [SOCIAL MEDIA!](#)





GOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to the new interim School Manager **Richéal Carroll-Kennedy** who joined the School this week. We all look forward to working with her in the new trimester and wish her luck settling in.

Congratulations to **Niall Buckley**, who successfully defended his PhD with very minor corrections. Niall's thesis was entitled "Modeling Dublin: A workflow for the application of an Urban Building Energy Model to evaluate carbon mitigation strategies at neighbourhood scales", and he was supervised by Gerald Mills.

Congratulations to **Dr Jonathan Turner**, who got a Teagasc Fellowship for a PhD student. We're looking forward to welcoming another PhD student into the School under this Fellowship.

Congratulations to **Dr Carla Kayanan** on her exciting new research project, 'Achieving Regional Equality - Urban-Rural Dynamics in Ireland's Southern Region', which will be funded by the Irish Research Council in partnership with the Southern Regional Assembly.

Congratulations to **Jenan AlDehan**, who graduated with her Doctor of Governance award on Monday 6th December 2021. Jenan's thesis was entitled "Governance of Irish Higher Education internationalisation strategy implementation: An exploratory study of Saudi Arabian students in Irish universities", and she was supervised by Niamh Moore-Cherry and co-supervised by Dr Cedric Chau (Institute of Public Administration)

Congratulations to **Assoc Prof Ainhoa González**, who has been appointed by the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as a member of the Board of Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

Congratulations to **Albert Orta**, who is participating in a research stay at the School of Geography from the Autonomous University of Barcelona Between October and January 2022. While finalising his doctoral thesis, he is working among others with Dr Abel Albet and Dr Antoni Durà on the subject of his research project.





NEW PUBLICATIONS

Clavin, A., Moore-Cherry, N. & Mills, G. (2021) 'Mapping green dublin: Co-creating a greener future with local communities', *Urban planning*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 96-109. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v6i4.4533>

Croke, J., Vítkovský, J., Hughes, K., Campbell, M., Amirnezhad-Mozhdehi, S., Parnell, A., Cahill, N. & Dalla Pozza, R. (2021) 'A palaeoclimate proxy database for water security planning in Queensland Australia', *Scientific Data*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 292-292. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-021-01074-8>

González, A and Therivel, R (2021). Raising the Game in Environmental Assessment: Insights from Tiering Practice. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 92, 106695.

González, A. & Therivel, R. (2022) 'Raising the game in environmental assessment: Insights from tiering practice', *Environmental impact assessment review*, vol. 92, pp. 106695.

Jobbova, E. (2021) *The Maya and Environmental Stress from Past to Present: Human response and adaptation to climate change in the Maya lowlands*. British Archaeological Reports International Series, Vol 8. Oxford: BAR Publishing.

Kayanan, C.M. (2021) 'A critique of innovation districts: Entrepreneurial living and the burden of shouldering urban development', *Environment and planning*. A, pp. 308518. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0308518X211049445>

Moore-Cherry, N. (2021) 'Public space by and for whom?', *Architecture Ireland*, vol. 319, pp. 13-16.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Twice a trimester not enough to get your fill all things Geography? You can keep track of us on our social media: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)

And remember, if you have any questions, you can always get in touch with Kate, our School's administrator by email: geography@ucd.ie

