



# UCD SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

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## A NOTE

*Julien Mercille, Head of School*

With another academic year concluded, I have no doubt our entire School is looking forward to summer. Hopefully, this means a bit of rest, relaxation, and travel for our undergraduate students who have just finished up their final assessments, while our academic staff and graduate students prepare for summer research (hopefully with some R&R as well!). Personally, I'm looking forward to a summer filled with many walks with my hyper-active dog Cara, who has a slight addiction to the game of fetch, pictured here.

This trimester, the School has again achieved some major successes. Among those, undergraduate and graduate fieldtrips took place for the first time since the pandemic began, and you can read more on those excursions later.

Our staff have captured several large grants that will bring new PhD and postdoctoral students to the School shortly, including the [Anne Buttimer Scholarship](#) on human-environment relations, including sustainability and climate change issues.

As we look forward to welcoming new and returning students next September, we're also saying goodbye (for now) to those that will be graduating shortly. Everyone at the School wishes you all the best with your next steps, whatever they may be, and we look forward to hearing of your triumphs!

I wish you all a productive and relaxing summer,

Julien



Cara at Glendalough, when I unsuccessfully tried to tire her during a 4-hour hike



## FIELDTRIPS



In March, 91 intrepid explorers and 8 Geography staff set off to explore the border region as part of the [GEOG20210 Field Studies in Ireland](#) module. Our enthusiastic students got their hands' dirty sampling soils at the Marble Arch Caves Geopark, braved wind and rain to hike the Sliabh Liag cliffs, interviewed locals at Enniskillen and Donegal town, and delved deep into our political history at Derry. They came away with a new understanding and appreciation for the complexity of this

fascinating part of our country, along with a host of new skills, including reading the physical landscape (drumlins anyone..?), mapping the urban environment and conducting in-person interviews. A great effort by the students and staff involved, well done to everyone and a huge thanks to the tutors without whom the trip would not have been possible! For more pictures, [click here](#).

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Despite threats of weather warnings and the odd snow flurry, the final year [GEOG30020 Historical Geography of Ireland](#) field trip took place in person and (mostly) in the sunshine on Friday 18th February. The group visited Blessington, Manor Kilbride, Naas and Maynooth, exploring relict 18th and 19th-century landscapes where they got to grips with a range of historic sources and survey techniques. Thanks to Sarah Foudy, tutor, who accompanied us on the day.

## FIELDTRIPS



The [GEOG30900 Overseas Fieldtrip](#) to Malta during the March research break was a major success! 20 students working in four groups studied:

- 'The Subterranean City'
- 'Geological Geopolitics',
- 'Cultural Crossroads',
- 'Tax Dodging and Tourism'.

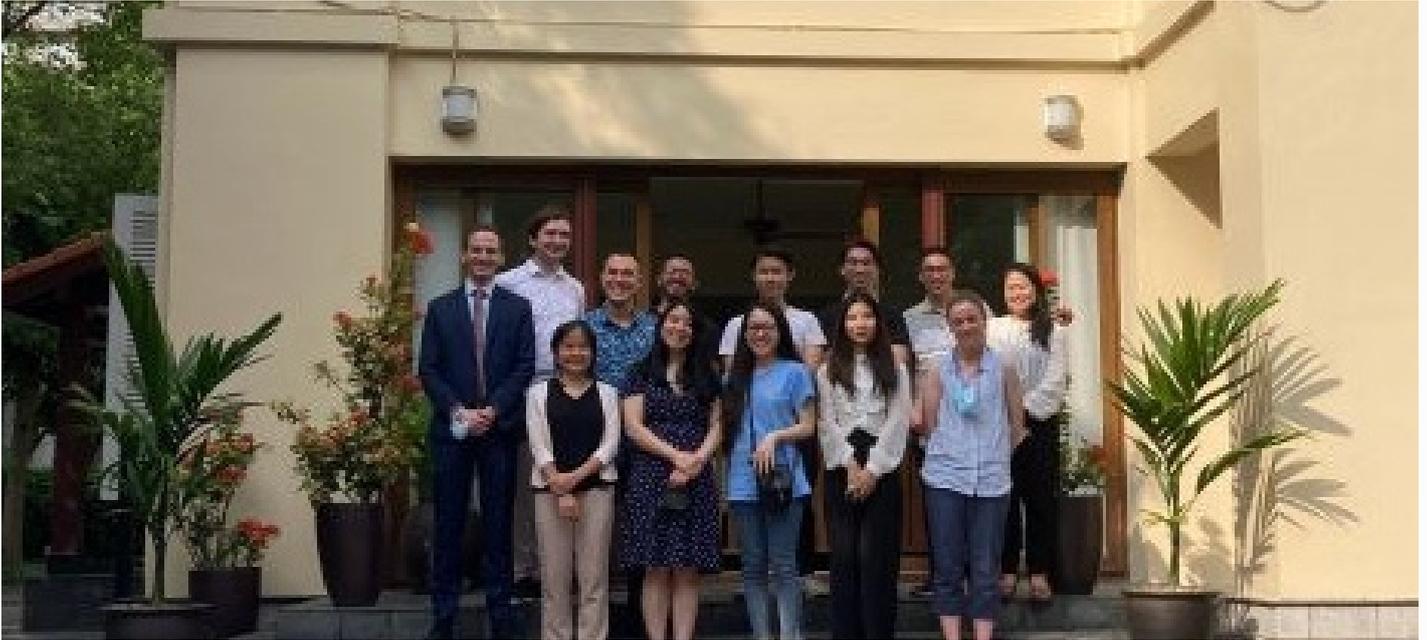
During the trip, students took photos, conducted interviews, and explored the majority of the island. An of course enjoyed the nicer weather Malta had to offer!



For the first time in 3 years, the [GEOG40940 International Urban Fieldwork](#) class led by Assoc Prof Niamh Moore-Cherry visited London in April. Eleven students were enrolled in the class, and we undertook four full days of fieldwork right across the boroughs of Hackney, Camden, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich and Newham. The fieldwork kicked off at the studios of Hassell Design, where we heard about the qualities of great urban places and how to think about developing 15-minute cities within cities. We combined visits to sites such as King's Cross, which is

the largest privately led regeneration project in Europe, and the Thames Barrier with a lecture from Dr Jessica Ferm (UCL) on the changing industrial structure of London and field walks on urban climate/built form (Dr Julie Fitcher, architect) and urban heritage and conservation (Dr Michael Short, UCL) led by colleagues based in London. We rounded off the week with a visit to Stratford and the Olympic Park, where we viewed the NLA New City Model, helping us to contextualise learning from the week and realise just how much travelling across the city we had done! There was general consensus that a lot was learnt, but more importantly, really positive relationships were built by students across the four programmes represented.

## FIELDTRIPS



We were delighted to be able to resume the [GEOG40830 Global South Fieldwork: Vietnam](#) masters module face-to-face again this year! Dr Christine Bonnin and four masters students travelled to Hanoi to undertake research projects in collaboration with students from Hanoi University's faculty of International Studies (pictured here at the Irish Ambassador's residence in Hanoi). Their diverse project topics include:

- Coastal risks in Cat Hai: a combined geospatial and qualitative approach to evaluate and assess regional vulnerability
- Legal geographies of sexual diversity in Vietnam: the implications of legal pluralism on the creation of spaces of exclusion and possibility;
- Data and dating? Gauging the efficacy of dating apps as tools for sexualities research in Hanoi;
- Beyond air pollution in Hanoi (using geotagging, pollution measurement data, and student interviews to understand perceptions and spatial differences of pollution in Hanoi)

The fieldwork module is funded through part of a larger Irish Aid project led by Christine and her partners in Vietnam under the VIBE programme.

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It's been great to see all our students out on field trips this term! Be sure to keep an eye on the module titles here when registering next September, and this could be you next Summer!

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



We got some excellent news during term - the School is in the top 100 Geography departments globally and ranked first in Ireland in the QS World University Rankings 2022! We are delighted with this brilliant result that reflects all the hard work that goes on in the School.



Assoc. Prof. Ainhoa Gonzalez and partners were the winners of the best the EPA Research Awards 2021 video of the year. Their project and the associated [Environmental Sensitivity Mapping \(ESM\) Webtool](#), developed by the research team, is a response to the need to enhance consistency and transparency in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) practice. You can see their winning video [here](#).



Assoc. Prof. Gerald Mills was featured in the Irish Times discussing all things [Mapping Green Dublin](#), as he discussed how to make your garden part of the 'urban forest'. You can read the article [here](#).



The School is holding several offerings of our Drone - Data Processing, Visualization, and Modelling Course over the summer. You can read more about what there workshop will include and register for one of the offerings on [our website](#).

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



The European Regional Development Fund has awarded Dr Arlene Crampsie & Asst. Prof. Christine Bonnin funding through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme for a new project – Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism (CUPHAT). It is led by Aberystwyth University, with collaborations from Dyfed Archaeological Trust and supported by colleagues from UCD Geography, Archaeology, Agriculture and Food Science, and Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore. The project explores ways to develop sustainable, cultural, and natural heritage-based tourism in the coastal upland areas bordering the Irish Sea. The project was officially launched at the National Museum of Wales on April 27th.

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The contribution of the [Mapping Green Dublin](#) project (Alma Clavin, Gerald Mills, Niamh Moore-Cherry and partners) to UCD's mission of working with communities was recognised recently at the launch of the [UCD Community Engagement report](#) as an important exemplar of community-engaged research with significant impact. The report also recognised the work of Ainhoa Gonzalez del Campo and colleagues at the Earth Institute working with community partners in Dundrum to build a community SDG dashboard to empower communities in making more sustainable living environments.

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With Dr Lisa Foran, School of Philosophy, Arlene Crampsie co-led a two-day research symposium in early May on 'Irish National Identity at Home and Abroad'. The event included an array of interdisciplinary panellists alongside insightful keynotes from Prof Katy Hayward, Queen's University Belfast, Emeritus Prof John Coakley, UCD, Dr Oisín Keohane, Dundee University, and Prof Mary Gilmartin, Maynooth University. The symposium was supported by a College of Social Sciences and Law Research Funding Award.

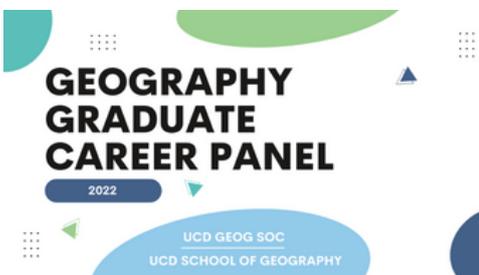
## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Repair Acts Ireland has launched its new website. The website contains stories and images of repaired items uploaded by individuals, and it also details a programme of events. The team will hold storytelling events throughout the summer, including intergenerational workshops, creating and telling stories between young people and adults. For our Declaration workshops, we aim to produce a set of statements, actions and demands that we can get behind at a local and national level, which will help us think more about how we can repair items. What would be important to you to be included in a Repair Declaration for Ireland? Visit our website [www.repairacts.ie](http://www.repairacts.ie) to upload photos of repaired objects and contribute to Ireland's first Repair Declaration.



Students from [GEOG40750 Reimagining Dublin](#) presented a small sample of their inventive ideas on biodiversity, community, accessibility & play for The Gaps Sallynoggin. Their ideas were developed with [A Playful City](#), Thorsten Peters, residents and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



In March, we held a virtual panel with the Geography Society and several Geography graduates to discuss the skillsets and knowledge gained from their time with the School. The panel also demonstrated the diversity of career opportunities available to Geography graduates! The video is still available on our [YouTube channel](#).

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

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to Francesco Ventura**, who was awarded his PhD. His thesis title was 'Radicalising homeland: agency, temporality and spatiality in Kurdish Freedom Movement's representations of Kurdistan'. His supervisors Assoc Prof Julien Mercille and Prof Alun Jones

**Congratulations to Dr Alma Clavin**, who was listed by The Irish Times as part of the Best young Irish talent: 50 people to watch in 2022. Alma was recognised under the Sustainability category for bringing academic, artistic and community excitement to the idea of repairing things. Funded by Creative Ireland, Alma is working with Teresa Dillon and in partnership with Westmeath County Council to create a Repair Declaration for the county to commit to repair standards, a critical part of supporting the circular economy.

**Congratulations to Albert Orta Mascaró**, who was awarded his PhD. His thesis title was 'Cities, networks, and region-building: exploring inter-municipal connections and strategies in the north-western Mediterranean'. His supervisors were Prof Alun Jones and Prof Federico Ferretti.

**Welcome to Assoc Prof Alejandro Lara** from the Universidad de Concepcion, Chile. He is the new Research Scientist in the EPA-OPR funded project 'Public Participation and Performance Criteria in Strategic Environmental Assessment: The Way Forward to Advancing Practice - SEAWAY'.

**Congratulations** to our students, **Marc Kynes** (BSc Social Sciences) and **Dave O'Mahony** (MSc Geospatial Data Analysis), for being awarded research funding by the @aisforum Student Research Collaboration! Marc and Dave will work with a team of students from the University of Papua New Guinea on the project 'An analysis of access to safe drinking water sources and risk mapping in relation to climate change, Papua New Guinea'. Read more: <https://bit.ly/38nossa>

**Congratulations to Prof Kath Brown** who was admitted to the Royal Irish Academy on Saturday! Well done Kath.

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## 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](mailto:geography@ucd.ie)

Wishing you all the best for the summer





## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Carvalho, C., Gonzalez Del Campo, A. and de Carvalho Cabral, D. (2022). Scales of Inequality: The Role of Spatial Extent in Environmental Justice Analysis. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 221, 104369.

Dekeyser, T., and Garrett, B. (2022) 'Illegal ethnographies: research ethics beyond the law', *Routledge Handbook of Research Ethics*, Routledge, London, England.

Ferm, J., Freire Trigo, S. & Moore-Cherry, N. (2022), Documenting the 'soft spaces' of London planning: Opportunity Areas as institutional fix in a growth-oriented city, *Regional studies*, vol. 56, no. 3, pp. 394-405. DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2021.1902976

Garrett, B. (2022) 'An Ethnography of Urban Exploration: Unpacking Heterotopic Social Space' by Kevin P. Bingham, *The AAG Review of Books*.

Garrett, B. (2022) 'Our top search term is nuclear': US bunker sales soar as anxiety over Russia rises', *The Guardian*.

Garrett, B., and Perlin, J. (2022) 'Life Underground: A Conversation Between Jenny Perlin and Bradley Garrett', *SLOAN Science and Film, Museum of the Moving Image*, New York City.

González, A (2022). Strategic Environmental Assessment Monitoring: The Enduring Forgotten Sibling. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, 1-9.

González, A and Connell, P. (2022). Developing a Renewable Energy Planning Decision-Support Tool: Stakeholder Input Guiding Strategic Decisions. *Applied Energy*, 312: 118782.

<https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/new-year-folder/dublin-in-the-1970s-and-1980s/>

Jones, A. (2022) Babelic organisations and the interpreters of geopolitical knowledge production, *Political geography*, vol. 95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102582>

Jones, A. (2022), "Emotionscapes of geopolitics": Interpreting in the United Nations Security Council, *Transactions - Institute of British Geographers* (1965), vol. 47, no. 1, pp. 47-62. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12452>

Kayanan, C., Moore-Cherry, N. and Clavin, A. (2022) Narratives, inequalities and civic participation: A case for 'more than technological' approaches to smart city development In Flynn, S. (ed) *Equality in the City: Imaginaries of the Smart Future*. Intellect Books, Bristol.

Moore-Cherry N., Kayanan C.M., Tomaney J., and Pike A. *Governing the Metropolis: An International Review of Metropolitanisation, Metropolitan Governance and the Relationship with Sustainable Land Management*. *Land*. 2022; 11(5):761. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11050761>

Zhang, Z. and Moore-Cherry, N. (2022) Urban Redevelopment, Displacement, and Governmentality in Nanjing's Historic Inner-City. *Antipode*. 54(3), 979-999 <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12801>