

Conference of Irish Geographers 2026

Connected Environments: Integration and Rebellion

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Advancing Environmental Change Research: Priorities, Uncertainties and Future Directions

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Michelle McKeown

Contact details: mmckeown@ucc.ie

Understanding environmental change across spatial and temporal scales remains one of the central challenges in physical geography. Rapid climatic shifts, land-use change, biodiversity loss, and alterations to biogeochemical cycles are reshaping terrestrial and aquatic systems worldwide. While advances in monitoring technologies, modelling approaches, and palaeoenvironmental reconstruction have greatly improved our capacity to detect and interpret environmental change, substantial uncertainties remain regarding the timing, magnitude, and drivers of ecosystem responses.

This session invites contributions that advance our understanding of environmental change processes and address key research priorities for the coming decades. We particularly welcome studies that integrate multiple lines of evidence across disciplines, including contemporary environmental monitoring, experimental studies, palaeoenvironmental reconstructions, and modelling approaches. We also encourage papers that critically examine uncertainties in environmental change research, including methodological challenges, proxy limitations, scaling issues, and the integration of observational and modelling datasets. Studies that inform environmental management, restoration strategies, and nature-based solutions are especially welcome.

By bringing together researchers working across diverse environments and methodological approaches, this session aims to highlight emerging directions in environmental change research and identify key priorities needed to better understand and respond to ongoing environmental transformations.

Arts-based and experimental methods in geographical investigation

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Carla Maria Kayanan, MU ; Juliette Davret, MU ; Oliver Dawkins, MU ; Rob Kitchin, MU ; Samuel Mutter, MU

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Within academia there has been an increase in and acceptance of projects that propose using arts-based and experimental methods to respond to global challenges that require reimagining, reinventing and reorganising approaches to research. In this session we seek to uncover the diverse forms of arts-based and experimental methods used in geographical investigation. We are looking for researchers who are currently engaged in research projects that adopt creative methods. Collectively, we aim to theorise the transformative potential of such methodologies for addressing pressing social, economic and environmental concerns. Beyond considering the benefits of creative methodologies, we are also interested in comprehending the challenges which emerge when incorporating creative methods into research inquiry and the ways we might mitigate or soften possible obstacles to such engagements.

We invite discussions on the use of arts-based and experimental methods including, but not limited to:

- The new and hybrid methods emerging in geography (and cognate disciplines)
- How different cultural and geographical contexts influence selected methods
- How specifically arts-based and experimental methods generate new ways of seeing, understanding and acting
- Limitations and challenges of using arts-based and experimental methods
- How creative methods can be used to co-create with stakeholders outside of the discipline and sector
- Misuse of and ethics around arts-based and experimental methods

Please submit abstracts (no more than 250 words) for this special session to Carla Maria Kayanan (carla.kayanan@mu.ie) by 15 March. We will alert you on the outcome of your abstract by 20 March to give you sufficient time to upload your abstract to the CIG portal before it closes on 27 March.

Commoning in Irish Land, Housing, and Environmental Justice: Radical Geographies and Infrastructures of Resistance

Workshop

Organisers and affiliations: Rebecca Vining, Maynooth University; Jack Edmunds-Bergin, Maynooth University

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In the face of intensifying enclosure from the privatisation of urban housing to the ecological degradation of Lough Neagh the "commons" has re-emerged as a provocation for radical geographers and activists alike. This session explores the different articulations of the commons present in contemporary Irish land, housing, and labour movements.

Grounded in the tradition of militant research, this workshop brings together a collaborative cohort of three PhD researchers and three activists from organisations. We move beyond a liberal view of the commons as mere "shared resources," instead framing "commoning" as an active social relationship and a manifestation of collectivised power. Following Massimo de Angelis, we treat the commons as a "non-capitalist space" (2003, p.7), inviting in contemporary groups demonstrating active resistance to the degradation of the public domain.

Key topics of exploration are including: How does the erosion of the commons dissolve the collective sense of subjective ownership and social reproduction; if we can institutionalise "commoning" approaches without succumbing to the pitfalls of localism or state co-option; and what researcher-activist partnerships look like?

The session will open with 6–8 short (5-minute) provocations that bridge our academic perspectives with on-the-ground resistance, followed by a co-designed interactive workshop. This space will be arranged to reimagine infrastructures of resistance, to find the overlaps of social movements and ascertain what shared life might look like.

Cultivating Change – Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Marie Taylor, TUS

Contact details: marie.taylor@tus.ie

Regenerative agriculture is increasingly recognised as a key approach for addressing climate change, biodiversity, soil health and rural resilience while supporting farm viability and resilient food systems. This session explores how regenerative principles

can be translated from theory into practice through education, applied research, and on-farm innovation and that integrate environmental, social, and economic objectives. Participants will consider how regenerative approaches can contribute to just and inclusive transitions in the agri-food sector and respond to real-world challenges.

Environmental Management of the Coastal & Marine Space during the energy transition

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Shauna Creane, University College Cork

Contact details: screane@ucc.ie

This session explores natural resource management and environmental change in coastal and marine environments within the context of the global energy transition. Bringing together Physical and Human Geography perspectives, it places particular attention on the role of coastal geomorphology, sediment dynamics, sea-level rise, ocean–atmosphere interactions, and ecosystem processes in shaping environmental risk and management responses. Contributions may examine how these physical processes intersect with offshore renewable energy development, coastal infrastructure, and marine spatial planning, as well as community experiences of coastal change and adaptation. The session also welcomes research on nature-based solutions, the assessment and protection of blue carbon stocks, and marine archaeology that sheds light on long-term environmental change and human–environment interactions. Overall, the session aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the sustainable and equitable management of coastal and marine spaces during a period of significant environmental and energy transformation.

Food Geographies of Connection, Integration and Rebellion

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Dr Dean Phelan, School of Geography, University College Dublin.

Contact details: dean.phelan@ucd.ie

Food is an unavoidably geographical phenomena. More than merely a necessity for sustenance, food—and the sharing of food—are foundational to how we connect to each other and the world around us. It is an unavoidably emotional, embodied and sensory phenomena. Food is both deeply personal and shared. It can simultaneously foster a sense of belonging to specific communities, identities and places, or act as a marker of exclusion by reinforcing borders, signalling difference and restricting access. While we

all must eat to survive, our experiences of food are never universal. As such, food is inescapably political. How and what we eat, where we eat it and with whom, can be revolutionary acts of defiance and radical care in the face of increasingly neoimperial, unsustainable and unjust global food systems, calling into question the ways we grow, produce, distribute, share, consume and govern food.

Yet, within geographical scholarship, the complexity of food as a site of social practice and topic of geographical and social theorisation remains under explored. This session invites scholars to explore food studies through a geographical lens, with a particular focus on themes of connection, integration and rebellion.

Potential themes include, but are not limited to:

- Cultural and emotional geographies of food.
- Just transitions of food systems.
- Political geographies of food performances.
- Radical geographies of foodscape transformation.
- New methodologies in food geography.
- Theorising food as a geographical concept.

Please submit your abstracts to Dr Dean Phelan (dean.phelan@ucd.ie) by March 27th.

Gender Equality, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Exploring Pathways in Rural Areas and Farming

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Maura Farrell, Rural Studies Cluster, Discipline of Geography, University of Galway; Aisling Murtagh, Rural Studies Cluster, Discipline of Geography, University of Galway; Louise Weir, Rural Studies Cluster, Discipline of Geography, University of Galway

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Existing research suggests women in rural areas and farming face numerous, diverse challenges, to gain economic empowerment through entrepreneurship and innovation. Research also points to how women can play a strong role in rural regeneration and sustainability, such as driving activities in areas such as sustainable agriculture and the social economy. Empowering women to lead sustainability innovations not only fosters gender equality but also potentially serves to tackle wider and diverse rural issues such as out-migration, service constraints and generational renewal. Traditional gender stereotypes, norms and perceptions of rural areas and farming are problematic in the context of this new rurality where gender equality and rural sustainability co-exist. The

findings of the FLIARA (Female-led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas) Horizon Europe project illustrate these patterns, as well as the need for further research. Papers are invited that intersect with issues related to gender and rural innovation and explore questions relevant to policy and practice. Empirical, theoretical, policy, methodological and practitioner papers are welcome. Papers could address some of the following topics, but are not limited to examination of:

- Women's current and future role in farm or wider rural economic diversification and sustainability.
- Place, gender and rural innovation, such as exploring intersections among feminist and geographic concepts and practice.
- Gender issues related to farm generational renewal.
- National or wider European policy analysis related to promising policy practices and policy gaps in gender sensitive policy in agriculture or wider rural innovation and entrepreneurship contexts.
- Gender perspectives on rural and farm entrepreneurship, exploring intersections such as with areas like digitalisation, circular economy, social enterprise, bioeconomy and the creative economy.

GeoAI and Earth Observation for Climate Risk and Urban Resilience

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Payam Sajadi, Assistant Professor, Irish Climate Analysis and Research UnitS (ICARUS), Department of Geography, Maynooth University.

Contact details: Payam.sajadi@mu.ie

Climate change is intensifying urban environmental risks across Ireland and globally, including pluvial and fluvial flooding, heat stress, water scarcity, and infrastructure vulnerability. At the same time, rapid advances in Earth Observation, artificial intelligence, and geospatial analytics are transforming how urban systems are monitored, modelled, and managed.

This session explores the integration of GeoAI and satellite-based Earth Observation for understanding and responding to climate risk in urban environments. We invite contributions that examine:

- AI/ML for spatial risk modelling and prediction
- Earth Observation for urban climate monitoring and hazard detection
- Multi-source data fusion (satellite, radar, in-situ, citizen sensing)
- Urban flood and drought intelligence

- Nature-based solutions and resilience planning
- Digital twins and decision-support systems for cities
- Geospatial approaches to climate adaptation and sustainability

The session aims to bring together researchers working at the intersection of geography, climate science, urban studies, and geospatial data science to explore how AI-enabled spatial intelligence can strengthen urban climate resilience.

Geographers in the policy arena: Building bridges between academia and evidence-based policymaking

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Juliette Davret, Oliver Dawkins, Carla Maria Kayanan, Rob Kitchin and Samuel Mutter, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute

Contact details: juliette.davret@mu.ie (corresponding organiser)

Geographic knowledge is essential for addressing contemporary policy challenges, from climate adaptation and spatial justice to urban resilience and resource management. Yet, significant gaps often exist between the production of geographic research and its effective uptake in policy processes. This session examines how geographers navigate the complex landscape of evidence-based decision-making and explores strategies for strengthening the science-policy interface.

We invite contributions that critically examine the relationship between policymaking (in both public and private sectors) and the use of geographical knowledge. Of particular interest are perspectives that interrogate power dynamics in knowledge production and the politics of “evidence” itself.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- institutional barriers and facilitators to evidence uptake in policymaking
- increased role of consultants in policymaking the evolution of GIS from data visualisation tools to strategic policy design instruments
- challenges around what does and does not qualify as evidence for policymaking
- participatory approaches to geographic knowledge production
- the use of emerging technologies (e.g. AI-enhanced spatial analytics) in reshaping the evidence base available to policymakers.

This session aims to share lessons learned from geographers working at the science-policy interface and to build practical frameworks for research-to-policy translation.

Please submit abstracts (no more than 250 words) for this session to Juliette Davret (juliette.davret@mu.ie) by 15 March. We will alert you on the outcome of your abstract

by 20 March to give you sufficient time to upload your abstract to the CIG portal before it closes on 27th March.

Geographies of Environmental and Social Transformation in Ireland

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Jesse Peterson, UCC; Soli Levi, UCC

Contact details: jpeterson@ucc.ie; slevi@ucc.ie

Submissions are invited for a session on new and emerging perspectives related to the intersections and interdependencies of environmental and social transformations in Ireland. In particular, we are interested in contributions that make critical inquiry into the imaginations and realities of detrimental environmental changes – such as habitat loss, environmental degradation and pollution, changing climate, etc. – and the multiple layers, contexts, and places from which society repeats entrenched forms of oppression, commodification, and extraction as well as generates new alternatives, improved relations, or radical resistances.

In an Irish context, we are particularly interested in learning about conceptual genealogies, methodological innovations, and empirical case studies that point to important shifts related to the role of aquatic space in environmental and social transformations, the challenges facing food-related inequalities and scope for food justice, the increasing integration and reliance upon digitized peoples and places, the aesthetic imaginaries and methods for speculating and creating new geographies, and how interdisciplinary work can assist in achieving respectful and mutually beneficial orientations for science and humanities scholarship.

This session invites geographical engagements with the social, spatial and political dimensions of transitions and transformations, and aims to critically address themes or questions related to the following:

- nonhuman values of environmental change
- politics of space as it applies to land and sea planning, use, and preservation
- distribution and circulation of energies, agencies, and biological materials
- ethical matters of concern related to socio-spatial transformations
- shifting environmental relations through emerging technologies and infrastructures
- making geographies through forms of interdisciplinary collaborations and intentional frictions
- and other related topics

We encourage contributions from scholars across the fields of geography, marine social science, political ecology, planning, rural studies, STS, and related fields.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 250 words, accompanied by max a 100 word biography to jpeterson@ucc.ie and slevi@ucc.ie.

Geographies of Solidarity

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Mary Gilmartin, Maynooth University; Liz Calhoun, Maynooth University

Contact details: Mary.Gilmartin@mu.ie; Liz.Calhoun@mu.ie

For this session, we invite papers that engage with the geographies of solidarity. By solidarity, we mean the practices, discourses, infrastructures, strategies and cultural artifacts that are used to identify synergies between struggles and to develop relationships of mutual support. Solidarity as a concept and practice has a long and complex history within labour movements, anti/de-colonial struggle, and transnational anti-racist and feminist movements. In the present moment, solidarity draws from these histories and experiences to confront and challenge current injustices, for example inequality, violence, climate change, racism or xenophobia. Solidarity is also a way of forging connections among struggles, which raises geographic questions as to how the specificities of place intersect the structural similarities in how places are formed and the challenges their inhabitants face.

This session is open to the exploration of geographies of solidarity in a variety of forms. How does solidarity take shape through discourses and practices? What strategies of solidarity are being developed, and how do these vary across space and time? How do specific infrastructures, for example of digital, transport, or energy networks, support or curtail solidarity? How do cultural artifacts facilitate or reshape solidarity? Additionally, we are interested in papers that explore how commitments of solidarity inform research methods and practices, as well as teaching and learning.

If you would like to take part in this session, please email the session organisers Liz Calhoun and Mary Gilmartin to express interest on or before Friday 20 March 2026.

Geography and Sustainability Education

Combined Paper and Panel Session

Organisers and affiliations: Shauna Creane, University College Cork

Contact details: screane@ucc.ie

Framed by the conference theme Connected Environments: Integration and Rebellion, this session invites participants to engage, collaborate, and critically rethink how geographical knowledge is produced, interpreted, and shared within education in Ireland and beyond. It explores how geography and sustainability education can both integrate diverse forms of knowledge - scientific, local, digital, and experiential - and, where necessary, challenge dominant narratives and practices in curriculum and pedagogy. The session seeks to foster dialogue across early childhood, primary, post-primary, tertiary, and teacher education contexts, highlighting innovative, inclusive, and transformative approaches to teaching and learning.

We welcome contributions that examine the role of emerging technologies, including AI, in geography classrooms; transformative learning in formal and informal settings; and strategies for developing young people's geographical thinking through creative curriculum-making and critical pedagogical tools. Papers addressing education for resilience and sustainability, as well as comparative and practice-based studies, are particularly encouraged. Overall, the session aims to explore how geography education can empower learners, teachers, and teacher educators to navigate and respond thoughtfully to a world characterised by rapid environmental change, social complexity, and interconnected risks.

GIS, Society, and the Challenge of Sustainable Development

Paper Session

Organisers and affiliations: William Durkan, Geography Department, University College Cork

Contact details: WDurkan@ucc.ie

This session invites papers that explore how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and GI-Science are being applied to address pressing societal grand challenges. Geography offers a unique integrative lens for examining the complex, interdependent relationships between people, place, and planet, while spatial data and analytical methods provide powerful tools for understanding these dynamics across scales.

We welcome contributions that demonstrate innovative uses of GIS in a broad range of areas across human, physical and integrated geographies. Conceptual, methodological, and applied papers are all encouraged.

By bringing together diverse perspectives, this session aims to highlight how GIS can support evidence-based decision-making, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and contribute to more just and sustainable futures. Submissions from established academics, students, and early-career researchers are warmly invited.

Historical geographies of connection, integration and resilience

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Arlene Crampsie, University College Dublin; Ruth McManus, Dublin City University; Jonathan Cherry, Dublin City University

Contact details: arlene.crampsie@ucd.ie; ruth.mcmanus@dcu.ie; jonathan.cherry@dcu.ie

In its endeavour to uncover the myriad ways that the environment and landscape has shaped and been shaped by past societies, historical geography has long focused on topics related to connected environments, integration and resilience. To this is added a more recent growth in demand for historical geography to provide important context in interdisciplinary research including, but not limited to, environmental history and humanities, development studies, and heritage studies. In these projects historical geography has been mobilised to provide vital temporal, spatial and place-based contexts that underpin understandings of how key global, national and local challenges have emerged and evolved over time.

This session then welcomes papers from historical geographers whose work focuses on the conference themes of connection, integration and resilience broadly defined. Papers showcasing case studies where historical geography has been applied in interdisciplinary projects relevant to these themes are particularly welcome, as are more focused historical geography papers that seek to address issues related to connection, integration and resilience in their purely historical context. Contributions related to all areas of historical geography are welcome and encouraged. For queries please contact arlene.crampsie@ucd.ie, ruth.mcmanus@dcu.ie, jonathan.cherry@dcu.ie.

Hydrology and climate change

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: David Archer Visiting Fellow, Newcastle upon Tyne and JBA Trust Skipton; Rory Moore Dept of Geography , Maynooth University

Contact details: davearcher@yahoo.com; RORY.D.MOORE.2026@mumail.ie

Ireland on the Atlantic fringe experiences the full blast of rainfall from frontal weather and cyclonic storms giving annual maximum river floods in winter. But intense summer convective rainfall sometimes exceeds the peak magnitude of winter floods and in the past has drowned more people, destroyed more bridges and flooded at least as much property. How is Ireland responding to these challenges?

Island at the Edge: Irish Geopolitics and the Political Geographies of Europe's Atlantic Frontier

Panel session

Organisers and affiliations: Prof. Gerry O'Reilly, Assoc. Prof., School of Geography and History, Dublin City University, Vice President, EUROGEO (European Association of Geographers); Dr. Nuno Morgado, Asst. Prof., Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies, Corvinus University of Budapest

Contact details: gerryoreilly30@gmail.com; morgado.researchprojects@gmail.com

This panel examines Ireland's evolving position and the spatial perceptions that shape its political geography from the late twentieth century to the present. Situated at Europe's Atlantic edge yet deeply embedded in transatlantic, European, and postcolonial contexts, Ireland offers a compelling case for rethinking the relationship between territory, sovereignty, and identity in a globalised world.

We welcome contributions exploring themes such as the geopolitics of the North Atlantic and Ireland's strategic location between the UK, the European Union and the United States; maritime sovereignty and energy infrastructures; migration, diaspora, and demographic change; Brexit and the reconfiguration of the Irish border; and the enduring legacies of partition and colonialism in shaping spatial governance. The panel also interrogates how political narratives – of neutrality, small-state diplomacy, and European integration – are not only projected on space but also contested across scales, from local border communities to supranational institutions.

Bringing together perspectives from political geography, international relations, and history, the session highlights Ireland as both a site and a lens for understanding contemporary geopolitical transformation. By foregrounding the interplay between

material space and political perception, the panel seeks to contribute to broader debates on borders, sovereignty, and neutrality in twenty-first-century Europe.

Just Transition, Climate Action and Adaptation in Rural Ireland

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Niamh Donnelly, Climate Justice in Development Research Group, Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin.

Contact details: Donneln3@tcd.ie

This session invites paper presentations that critically examine how green and low-carbon transition agendas are being articulated, operationalised, and contested across rural Ireland in the context of accelerating climate action and deepening pressures to adapt. We welcome empirically grounded and theoretically engaged contributions that interrogate the uneven geographies of decarbonisation and resilience-building: who defines transition priorities, how costs and benefits are distributed, and which rural livelihoods, knowledges, and landscapes are recognised, or marginalised, within policy and project roll-outs.

Papers may address, but are not limited to: renewable energy development; peatlands, forestry, and land-use reconfiguration; just transition and rural livelihoods; coastal and flood adaptation; community-led transition initiatives and participatory governance; and the socio-spatial consequences of climate policy instruments, funding regimes, and planning systems. We particularly encourage contributions that foreground questions of power, scale, and place, and that attend to intersecting inequalities and histories of rural dispossession.

Participatory and Just Energy Transitions

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Emily Gray and Frances Fahy, University of Galway; Benjamin Schmid, University of Lausanne

Contact details: e.gray4@universityofgalway.ie; frances.fahy@universityofgalway.ie; benjamin.schmid@unil.ch

The discipline of Geography is responding to calls for more just energy transitions with research into the processes of participation that shape energy systems. Energy communities and energy citizenship, for example, are novel and rapidly spreading forms through which people are becoming more involved in a sector dominated by large utility companies and industries. At the same time, this research calls into question how current energy governance frames and represents individuals and collectives as

participating citizens, and how such representations shape who is recognised, empowered, or excluded. This session examines the diverse ways in which people and groups are engaged in energy and how these intertwine with geography, including the institutional, political and discursive contexts through which participation is enabled, constrained, and framed. The proposed session will bring together new and emerging research from across Ireland, Europe, and the globe that explores how participation in energy can contribute to just energy transitions. We aim to explore how people engage in energy transitions, innovative methods and tools for enhancing engagement, the multiscale links between energy engagements, and the integration of multiple geographical approaches to understand and foster fairer, more just transitions.

We welcome papers on topics such as:

- The policies, politics, and governance of energy transitions
- Justice and energy transitions
- Energy communities and energy citizenship
- The representations of actors in energy governance and forms of agency in participation
- Participatory tools and methods in energy research and practice
- The integration of multiple geographical approaches to energy transitions

Please send any queries about the session and your abstract (max. 250 words) to e.gray4@universityofgalway.ie by 24 March 2026. Approved presenters will be asked to submit their abstracts to the session via the conference's presentation abstract submission portal.

Political Geographies of electoral processes and outcomes

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Caoilfhionn D'Arcy, Queen's University Belfast/Maynooth University

Contact details: caoilfhionn.darcy@mu.ie

Electoral processes and outcomes are central to the analysis of power, place and place-making within political and electoral geography studies. These specific studies illustrate how elections can have an impact on the everyday lives of people, and how geography can influence electoral behaviour and processes through social, cultural and structural factors. Agnew (1987), in an analysis of place and politics, stated that people are place-makers, who construct their lives and shape their world with physical and sentimental materials provided on a local, national and global level. However, conflicts may, and often, emerge when change occurs through social and spatial settings. In recent years, there has been an increase in support for right-wing politics visible

through the success of Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party in Germany, anti-immigration movements in the UK, Ireland and USA and increased racial violence. Furthermore, the continual underrepresentation of various social groups including women, migrant groups and ethnic minorities impacts descriptive and ultimately, substantive representation. To add further concern, society is facing increasing challenges including inequalities, climate change and global conflicts. These issues can be and are shaped by electoral processes and decisions, with previous studies grounding the analysis through place and place-making. This paper session aims to build on previous political and electoral geography studies through a spatial and temporal dimension. The session calls for papers which will deepen an understanding of the impact of electoral processes and outcomes on society, through a place-based geographical approach.

Resilience in Rural Environments: Climate Adaptation, Food Security, and Sustainable Livelihoods

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Fayaz Gul Mazloum Yar Nangarhar University

Contact details: fmazloumyar@gmail.com

Rural communities, particularly in developing contexts, are increasingly vulnerable to the accelerating impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. This session seeks to explore the critical intersections between environmental shifts, agricultural sustainability, and community resilience. We invite papers that investigate strategies for enhancing food security, optimizing livestock and crop management, and empowering rural populations through governance and localized interventions.

Aligning with the conference theme of 'Connected Environments,' this session aims to bridge the gap between physical geography (climate and land use) and human geography (social resilience and rural development). We welcome contributions that demonstrate how integrated approaches can foster stronger, more resilient communities capable of navigating the complexities of environmental change. The session will provide a platform for discussing both the challenges and opportunities in building sustainable rural futures.

Rethinking the production and integration of knowledge systems: the contribution of the indigenous.

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Adwoa Ofori - University College Dublin; Karen Keaveney - University College Dublin

Contact details: adwoa.ofori@ucd.ie; karen.keaveney@ucd.ie

Climate change and variability are major challenges facing today's world given the impacts and knock-on effects in various forms. Addressing such challenges leans heavily into scientific approaches. However, it has become clear that indigenous/traditional and local knowledge and practices are valuable and relevant. Nevertheless, there is failure to promote this (Carmona et al., 2023) despite the recognition that drawing on diverse knowledges and cultural values, including indigenous knowledge and local knowledge facilitates climate resilient development (IPCC, 2023). Notably, in addition to scientific knowledge, meaningful participation and inclusive planning, informed by cultural values, indigenous knowledge and local knowledge can help address adaptation gaps (IPCC, 2023). In essence, the voices of local and rural communities are crucial. But how can different types of knowledge systems (indigenous/traditional/locally embedded) merge with the scientific? This session explores topics around:

- i. The meaning of indigenous knowledge and how this is conceptualised,
- ii. The complementarity of indigenous knowledge with scientific evidence,
- iii. The contribution of indigenous knowledge to (climate) science and policy,
- iv. The challenges around the recognition, use and integration of indigenous knowledge.

We welcome papers that address or explore:

- indigenous knowledge (and similar phrases)
- linking 'non-scientific' knowledge systems with science and/or policy
- community engaged strategies/co-design through indigenous/ locally embedded/ traditional knowledge
- biocultural heritage
- ethnoecology
- bioregional weaving

Contact adwoa.ofori@ucd.ie or karen.keaveney@ucd.ie for further details.

Revisiting Radical Approaches to Irish Geography: Dependency and Uneven Development in Irish Political Economy

Panel session

Organisers and affiliations: Maynooth University: Juliana Sassi, Criostoir King; Dr. Patrick Bresnihan; Jack S. Edmunds-Bergin.

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In 1978, a group of Irish geographers convened in Dublin to debate “Radical Approaches to Irish Geography: Historical and Contemporary.” The proceedings, later published in a 1980 special issue of *Antipode*, marked a decisive intervention in the development of a radical critique of Irish socio-economic formation. Contributors demonstrated that Ireland’s development trajectory — including partition — had been profoundly shaped by (neo)colonialism, structural dependence on dominant capitalist economies, and a state-led, export-oriented model that reinforced Ireland’s subordinate position within the world economy.

Nearly five decades on, this panel revisits and extends that landmark intervention in light of the profound restructuring of global capitalism and the deep entrenchment of foreign direct investment at the core of Irish political-economic strategy. While earlier radical analyses emphasised industrial dependency, the contemporary conjuncture is defined by financialisation, platform capitalism, global value chains, and unprecedented capital mobility. Yet, as was the case fifty years ago, Ireland continues to be positioned as a “success story” of global integration. This apparent prosperity, however, coexists with acute crises in infrastructure, workers' relations, environmental governance, and social reproduction, all of which are shaped by persistent and unequal core–periphery relations at the global scale.

Influenced by Marxism, Dependency Theory, Anti-Colonial Theory, World-System Theory and the Irish Republican Socialist tradition, the panellists critically examine the evolving dependence–development nexus across key domains, including environmental governance, infrastructure provision, housing financialisation, and migration regimes. By reassessing Ireland’s insertion into a financialised regime of capital accumulation, the panel seeks to renew debates in the geography field on structural inequality, uneven development, and imperialism, while remaining attentive to the real possibilities for reshaping Ireland’s political and economic trajectory.

Sea level changes, storm surges and coastal management in Ireland: a critical time for action.

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Robert Devoy, Department of Geography, UCC.

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The greatest threat to Ireland's future coastal resilience, in times of climate change, and to its population, is arguably policy stagnation in governance and a lack of real actions; particularly as these concern remedial measures of costly mitigation and adaptation. This mainly papers based session will consider in particular the threats of sea-level rise (all scales), storm surges and flooding for the island of Ireland and the linkages of these to appropriate government, public and community actions.

Sustainable & Scalable GIS Solutions

Paper session

Organisers and affiliations: Paul Holloway, UCC

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Geographic Information Systems & Science (GIS) continues to transform how we analyze, visualize, and interpret spatial data. This session explores emerging trends, innovative methodologies, and practical applications of GIS in addressing complex real-world challenges. Presentations will highlight advancements in spatial analytics, data integration, remote sensing, web-based mapping, and decision-support systems. The session will emphasise interdisciplinary collaboration and the rejuvenated role of GIS in Irish Geography. We invite papers that include case studies which demonstrate how spatial technologies enhance data-driven decision-making and promote sustainable development. The session aims to foster dialogue, encourage knowledge exchange, and inspire innovative applications of GIS to solve pressing local and global challenges.

SUV CITY

Paper Session

Organisers and affiliations: Denis Linehan, Department of Geography, UCC

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The SUV promises expansion. Elevated above the road, insulated from weather and noise, surrounded by internal space engineered to feel generous, the driver is sold a particular vision of modern freedom: command, comfort, and the open horizon. It is

one of the most successful acts of spatial persuasion in the history of consumer culture. And it is, in the daily experience of millions of people, almost entirely a lie.

The reality of the SUV city is compression. It is the gridlocked arterial at 8am, the retail park roundabout, the forty-minute crawl across distance. It is boredom so structural it has become invisible, absorbed into the rhythm of working life as simply the cost of participation. It is exhaustion that arrives before the day has properly begun. The space the SUV was supposed to open up has instead been consumed by the sheer number of SUVs occupying it. The promise of expansion produces, at scale, its precise opposite.

SUV CITY takes this paradox seriously. It begins with the vehicle, not as engineering object, but as cultural artefact and follows it outward into the urban and suburban landscapes it has helped to shape. The edge city, that dispersed, auto-dependent settlement form that has quietly become the dominant mode of Irish and European suburban expansion, is one of its central subjects. These are places built around the assumption of the car, places where the absence of a vehicle is not inconvenience but exclusion. Their spatial logic, the wide road, the surface car park, the setback retail shed, reflects a particular theory of how people move, consume, and belong.

SUV CITY asks what that proposition has cost us. SUV CITY is an invitation to think across those boundaries. It brings together researchers, practitioners, architects, planners, artists, and writers to examine Irish automobility not as a technical problem to be optimised, but as a cultural condition to be understood: Research, Speculations, Expositions, Conversation, Poetry, Film – All Welcome.

Urban Climate Neutrality: Experimentation, Integration, and Resilience

Paper Session

Organisers and affiliations: Dr Ankur Prabhat Sati and Prof Gerald Mills, UCD School of Geography

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Urban climate neutrality is not only a technical problem; it requires broader changes in how cities are planned, managed, and used. Achieving climate neutrality involves coordinating urban planning, infrastructure, governance, and everyday behaviours. Cities therefore act as testing grounds where mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies must work together across sectors such as energy, transport, land use, and buildings. However, implementation remains challenging. Cities often face fragmented institutions, difficulties coordinating across sectors, uncertainty in modelling & assessment, and uneven levels of public engagement.

This session examines how urban climate actions are carried out, assessed, and expanded in practice. We invite contributions that explore how mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies are implemented, tested, and evaluated in urban settings. Submissions from geography, planning, climate science, engineering, and policy research are welcome, particularly those analysing implementation processes, governance challenges, and lessons from real-world urban initiatives. Both conceptual and empirical papers are encouraged, including comparative studies, case studies, modelling approaches, and practice-based research. We especially welcome contributions that critically assess urban experimentation, cross-sector coordination, and how knowledge and solutions can be transferred between cities.

Submissions may address (but are not limited to):

- Urban carbon accounting and monitoring
- Climate and urban systems modelling
- Energy, Traffic, and building decarbonisation
- Spatial planning and land-use transitions
- Urban greening
- Adaptation planning and climate risk assessment
- Living labs, pilot projects, and urban experimentation processes
- Citizen participation and co-creation