

Australia's past and present climate of extremes: are we looking at a continent on the edge?

Maynooth University Department of Geography invites you to attend a seminar presented by:



Jacky Croke UCD

Date: 14th March

Time: 4pm

Location: Rocque Lab, Rhetoric House

This seminar looks back over several decades of research in past and present climate in the Australian Continent. Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth with approximately 70% of the area classified as arid or semi-arid. Australia is well-recognized as a landscape dominated by extremes with documented evidence for extreme flooding and droughts. Over the past decade, the country has witnessed significant extreme events including some of the largest floods and droughts on record and wildfires that at first glance appear 'unprecedented'. This talk briefly reviews some of the paleoclimate records for floods and droughts, with particular attention on the state of Queensland. Current IPCC predictions for this state indicate it may experience some of the most severe changes in climate under future climate changes. This is discussed here in the context of how we as geographers and earth scientists contribute to helping to address this problem and encouraging industries and government to be proactive in seeking solutions.

