

Maynooth University Department of Geography invites you to attend our **RESEARCH POSTGRAD PRESENTATIONS**



Date: May 3rd

Time: 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Location: Rocque Lab, Rhetoric House



Christopher Philips – *'Drivers of transformative adaptation: Responses of a coastal community to the loss of a significant place.'*

Christopher graduated from Maynooth University in 2016 with a BA Single Honours Geography. He was awarded the Alumni scholarship to study an MSc in Climate Change. On completion of the MSc Climate change he was also awarded the John and Pat Hume Doctoral Scholarship which allowed him to pursue PhD

research. His research interests span disciplines such as climate change adaptation, vulnerability to climate change, hydrology, coastal management and environmental psychology. His research focuses on the disruption of place attachment through loss of significant landscapes and the resultant responses initiated by affected communities. The aim of this research is to work with communities on the front line of environmental issues and climate change to better understand the psychological processes that lead to environmental action or adoption of adaptation strategies.



Darren O'Rourke – *'Geographies of reconfiguration: The case for participatory health service planning.'*

Health service planning is increasingly important in Ireland, as we contend with a growing, ageing and uniquely dispersed population. Internationally, there have been a number of moves towards involving citizens in health service planning decisions. This is motivated by a variety of impulses including a desire to increase accountability, reduce the 'democratic-deficit', create a more informed citizenry, and reduce public opposition to planned reconfiguration.

Building on Irish and international literature, my research aims to explore the geographies of health service reconfiguration in Ireland and, employing a mixed-methods approach including participatory-GIS, to design and pilot an optimal model for public involvement in health service planning here. Today, I will present a draft research proposal.

Department of Geography Seminar Series

All are welcome

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Paul O'Connor – *'Ensemble reconstructions of river flows for the island of Ireland from 1700 to 2016.'*

Long term river flow data are instrumental in helping to identify the risks posed by hydro-climatic extremes of floods and droughts. They assist in providing greater understanding of the drivers of hydrological variability which is fundamental in planning, operation and management of water resources. In Ireland the absence of long river flow records and confounding factors of catchment change from human activities mean that such foundational data are lacking. This research seeks to rectify

this knowledge gap by developing probabilistic river flow reconstructions for 35 catchments that comprise the Irish Hydrometric Reference Network (IRN). Historical gridded climate and reanalysis datasets will be employed in order to facilitate flow reconstruction at various timesteps and record lengths for each of the catchments. An ensemble of hydrological models will then be used to derive annual river flow values from 1700-2016, monthly flow values from 1766-2016 and daily flow values from 1850-2016. This presentation will focus on the initial development of the methodology required to generate the flow reconstructions for a single catchment and will outline the approach to be taken to realise the ultimate objectives of the research.



Alexis O'Reilly – *'Understanding Farmers Subjective Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Rural Isolation.'*

Rural areas are generally perceived as having a superior Quality of Life compared to their urban counterparts. Quality of Life and wellbeing is important and is a wider priority at national level, and central to public health as developed through the Healthy Ireland strategy. While much of the thrust of this has been around public obesogenic environments and active living in urban areas, rural areas are identified for specific attention through the Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network.

Other research has challenged the assumptions of the rural as an idyllic social space in terms of access to and utilisation of health care services and supports. In addition, the generally older population in rural areas have poorer healthy outcomes and even when age-standardised, emerge as areas with high mortality (Rigby et. al., 2017) The intersection of general impacts associated with the recent recession including planned or actual rationalisation of public and private services, e.g. health services, banks, postal services and retail services, have the potential to negatively impact on rural communities in general and, particularly, vulnerable segments of the community, i.e. those experiencing or at risk of isolation. Farmers are, by virtue of the nature of their work, which involves long period of working alone, and changes in farm household that have seen substantial growth in the number of spouses working off-farm, one such group. My research will examine the geography's of rural health, framed by the key elements of geographical location, age, familial, social and individual factors.

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