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(PhD) Research working title: The Spatial Distribution of Welfare in Ireland

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Research interests (please include a paragraph summarizing your PhD project

The content of this thesis comprises of elements from three disciplines; economics, geography and geocomputation. Coming from an economics background enables me to take a multi-disciplinary approach to this thesis. Much of the research so far conducted in the area of spatial analysis has been carried out by geographers. Economists tend to use spatial modelling with a big "M" but a small "s" whereas geographers look at spatial modelling with a big "S" but a small "m". This thesis will attempt to bridge that gap.

The objective of this thesis is to examine whether or not a relationship exists in Ireland between space (spatial area) and welfare (individual's well-being). Through a combination of microsimulation and GIS (geographic information system) techniques, spatial distributions of welfare for Ireland will be created. Using a spatial microsimulation approach, such as the simulated model of the Irish local economy (SMILE), allows us to create a distribution of disposable income which previously did not exist. A spatial distribution of welfare will be calculated using: proxies of disposable income from census data 1996-2011, a housing component consisting of imputed rent and housing costs, results of a happiness survey and commute times and travel costs.

Publications:

EPA: Research Report 129: Are we willing to pay for good river Water Quality?

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