Rural Research: Going Global and Staying Local

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Presentation Overview

- Presenter
- Rural Context
- Key Rural Concepts
- Current Rural Research

- Local to Global:
  - National Rural Network
  - IMAJINE
  - RURALIZATION
Dr Maura Farrell

Lecturing

- **Area:** Rural Geography, Discipline of Geography, School of Geography and Archaeology.

- Undergraduate and Post Graduate Teaching

- Post Graduate Supervision
  (MA’s and PhDs)

Research

- An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bla agus Mara
  Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

- National Rural Network

- An Roinn Forbartha Tuarlaigh agus Poláil
  Department of Rural and Community Development

- Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe

- Building Shared Knowledge
- The territory of the EU-28 covers almost 4.5 million km².
- Rural regions cover 52% of the EU territory.

36.47% Population in Rural Ireland

2015
28.0% of the EU's population live in a rural area
Defining Rural

Endless Issue, but hugely significant – target policy, ensure development and sustainability of rural regions.

Two main conflicting narratives:

Pastoralism: Rural as a ‘repository of cultural values’ or ‘national identity’ – romantic view igniting the need to protect the rural (Murdoch et al., 2003).

Modernists: Rural areas – essentially backward and require transformation and development – often sets rural against urban (Brown et al., 2016).
Defining Rural – The Academics

- Rural studies have for decades highlighted rural idylls as something to either aspire to, or as a ‘repository of values’ (Williams, 1973; Marx, 1964 and Short, 2006 and many others).

  - Bunce (1994) suggests it was the popular viewpoint of ‘armchair urban residents’ while Halfacree argues its idealism imposed on rural society by middle-class outsiders and policy makers.
  - ‘Idealistic’ or…..in fact…..‘useful’ from a marketing perspective?

- Hoggart (1990) suggesting, ‘We do away with the rural’ or Halfacree’s (1993) presentation of four broad approaches to defining the rural: Indices of Rurality; Socio-cultural Definitions, the Rural as a Locality and the Rural as a Social Representation.

  Social Representation (Social Construct, Woods, 2011): Rural seen in terms of social representation – what people think of as rural – symbols, signs and images which people conceive as rural.

- More recently, Shucksmith (2018) provoked a discussion on a future vision for the rural or a ‘Good Countryside’.
Defining Rural: Using Demographics

Using Structural or Demographic Definitions - Example: Ireland

- **OECD**: local administrative units level 2 with a population density below 150 inhabitants per $\text{km}^2$ as rural.

- **CSO**: Defines rural population as those living outside settlements of 1,500 people.

- **CEDRA**: Areas outside the administrative boundaries of the five main cities (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford).

- **Action Plan for Rural Development**: Refers to CEDRA and provides a map of population densities but does not specify a definition of rural.

- **National Planning Framework (NPF) Ireland 2040**: All areas outside towns of 10,000, unless they are within the immediate or ‘metropolitan’ catchment of a city (McHenry, 2017).
Key Rural Issues: Change

- **Rural Change:** Rural is never stable – always changing (Social, demographic, economic, political, environmental..).

- Driven by social and technological innovation and globalisation – **Rural Restructuring**

- But no ‘grand narrative of rural change’ (Brown et al. 2016) – largely due to the diversity of rural areas – **Rural is not Homogenous.**
  
  - Some areas active shaping their destinies, some are powerless; but all with their own histories.
  - Leading to many narratives of rural change:

  - An Agri-Centric Narrative
  - Urban-Rural Narrative
  - Competitive Economy Narrative (Global)
  - Places ‘Left Behind’ Narrative
  - Amenity-Based Economy Narrative
  - Society-Nature Interrelationship Narrative
Rural Change Narratives: Current Research
Local to Global: National Rural Network Project

Tender

- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
- 5 years – €2.5 million
- Funded by DAFM, EAFRD, EU Structural Funds
- **NUIG Involvement:** Dr Shane Conway, Dr Aisling Murtagh, Dr Therese Conway, Dr Marie Mahon and Dr John McDonagh,
The National Rural Network (NRN) – is a component of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 and endeavours to assist in the efficient and effective implementation of the RDP.

NRN aims to:

- Maximise the **beneficial outcomes** of the RDP 2014-2020
- Increase the **involvement of stakeholders** in the implementation of rural development;
- Improve the **quality of implementation** of Rural Development Programme;
- Inform the **broader public** and **potential beneficiaries** on rural development policy and funding opportunities;
- **Foster innovation** in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.
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<td>EIP-AGRI: European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability</td>
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The LEADER approach – hugely significant component of EU Rural Development Policy for over 20 years.

Embraces local entrepreneurship, Local individuals, local innovations, culture and the environment....

Bottom-Up, Local Development Approach - allows local actors develop areas by using its endogenous development potential.

Funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Since 2014 - approach, called “Community-Led Local Development”

Administered and led by at a local level by Local Action Groups (LAG).
The LEADER Model: Current Research

National View

Funding Awarded by Theme

- Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation: 51.2%
- Rural Environment: 3.6%
- Social Inclusion: 45.2%

1867 Projects approved = €64.4m = 39% of budget.

Highest figures:
- Theme 1: Rural Economic Development, Enterprise and Job Creation – 49.5%
- Theme 2: Social Inclusion – 46.5%
- Theme 3: Rural Environment – 3.7%

180 jobs created in rural areas
Works on tourist facilities attracting 350,000 visitors
6,600 young people involved in youth projects.
The LEADER Model: Current Research

Qualitative Analysis

- Mapping Local Action Groups and Implementing Partners
- Carrying out Case Studies on the three Thematic Areas of the LEADER Programme
- Dissemination of all material:
  - Newsletters/e-Bulletins/Press (local and National)
  - Storyboard
The European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability – EIP-AGRI exciting and novel approach to research and innovation.

EIP-AGRI relates to the pooling of expertise and resources by bringing together public and private sectors at EU, national and regional levels.

EIP-AGRI works to:

- Combine supply and demand side measures
- Focus on forming partnerships, using bottom-up approaches
- Link actors of different types (Farmers, Researchers, NGOs, Government Agencies etc.) to work on a problem, issue or innovative idea (Multi-Actor Approach).
Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

1. Inishowen Upland Farmers Project
2. Cúra Créafóige - Cultivation Renewal Programme
3. The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland
4. Farming Rathcroghan Project
5. Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)
6. North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environmental Scheme
7. Caomhnú Arann
8. Hen Harrier Project
9. Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)
10. Mulkear EIP
11. Allow Project - Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments
12. Biorefinery Glas
13. Pearl Mussel Project
14. Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks
15. Ovi Data
16. Protecting Farmland Pollinators
17. The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme
18. Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)
19. Blackstairs Farming Futures
20. Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT)
21. DANÚ Farming Group
22. Small Biogas Demonstration Programme

*The location points for each EIP-AGRI Operational Group relates to the group’s Lead Partner, however the Operational Groups, in most cases are far reaching regionally and nationally. A specific indication of ‘Geographical Location’ for each group can be found in the EIP-AGRI Project Storyboard Database on the National Rural Network website and also on the EIP-AGRI Service Point website.*
# Stream A – General EIP-AGRI OGs

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<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Project Overview</th>
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<td>Biomass to Biochar for Farm Bioeconomy (BBFB)</td>
<td>Biomass to Bio-carbon for farm Bio-economy (BBFB)</td>
<td>Limerick / Clare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximising Organic Production Systems (MOPS)</td>
<td>Maximising organic production through integrated cropping systems</td>
<td>Westmeath</td>
<td>Stream A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ovi Data</td>
<td>Increasing sheep genetic gain in Ireland through scientific data capture and analysis</td>
<td>Cork / Kerry</td>
<td>Stream A</td>
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<td>Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments</td>
<td>Protection of high ecological status water bodies.</td>
<td>North Cork</td>
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<td>Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE)</td>
<td>Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE Project)</td>
<td>Cork / Kerry</td>
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<td>Biorefinery Glas</td>
<td>Small Biogas Demonstration Programme</td>
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<td>Blackstairs Farming Futures</td>
<td>Sustainable farming project in the Blackstairs Mountains</td>
<td>Carlow / Wexford</td>
<td>Stream B</td>
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<td>Caomhnú Arann</td>
<td>Managing the habitats of the Aran Islands to maximise their agricultural and ecological output</td>
<td>Mayo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cúlra Créafóige</td>
<td>Cultivation Renewal Programme</td>
<td>Donegal</td>
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<td>DANÚ Farming Group</td>
<td>Project plan for a biological farming transition programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT)</td>
<td>Wider adoption of sustainable conservation tillage systems</td>
<td>Leinster</td>
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<td>Farming Rathcroghan Project</td>
<td>Sustainable farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape</td>
<td>Roscommon</td>
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<td>Inishowen Upland Farmers Project</td>
<td>A whole farm approach to landscape management</td>
<td>Inishowen, Donegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulkear Integrated Catchment Management Partnership</td>
<td>On Farm Technology Transfer to Enhance Water Quality in the Mulkear Catchment</td>
<td>Limerick and Tipperary</td>
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<td>North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environment Scheme</td>
<td>Conemara West Locally Led Project</td>
<td>Galway / Mayo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protecting Farmland Pollinators</td>
<td>Encouraging whole farm polinator friendly</td>
<td>Waterford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irish BioEnergy Association (IrBEA)</td>
<td>Small Biogas Demonstration Programme</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>Stream B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks</td>
<td>Conservation and restoration of Upland Habitat in the MacGillycuddy Reeks</td>
<td>Cork / Kerry</td>
<td>Stream B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)</td>
<td>Addressing the complex agricultural, environmental and socio-economic challenges associated with the land management of the Wicklow/Dublin uplands</td>
<td>Dublin / Wicklow</td>
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<td>The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland</td>
<td>Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland</td>
<td>Galway / Midlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme</td>
<td>Sustainable Farming Scheme</td>
<td>Wexford</td>
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OG Survey

Aims: Examine the initial ‘Start-Up’ Process for the Irish OGs

- Set-Up
- Expectations and Changes
- Challenges and Successes
- Assistance Required
Strong multi-actor approach in many OGs.

Groups with a shared history or ethos appeared to establish themselves quicker and easier.

High level of commitment needed from all OG members, with many underestimating this.

Challenges across the board, but most felt they were surmountable.

Many positive successes at this early stage.

Definite need for continuous workshop assistance, networking and communication skills development.
NRN: Local to Global

NRN Project – work and material produced
Local/National

Research carried out and disseminated
Local/National and Global

To-date: National and International reach – via EU Commission, ENRD, EU Countries and OECD has been considerable.

Crosses the divide of many if not all Rural Change Narratives currently discussed within Rural Studies: Agriculture to Local Development………

Extensive material currently being produced via NRN work – hugely enhanced prospects for production of academic material – direct access.

Considerable academic material planned…
IM AJINE Project: Horizon 2020

IM AJINE: Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe:
LEAD Partner: Prof Mike Woods Aberystwyth University
Principal Investigator: Dr Marie Mahon
NUIG Members: Dr Maura Farrell, Dr John McDonagh and Dr Pat Collins
Project Duration: 2017-2022
Funding: €5m

IM AJINE Aims:
- To formulate new integrative policy mechanisms to enable European, national and regional government agencies to more effectively address territorial inequalities within the European Union.

Why IM AJINE:
- It responds to evidence that spatial inequalities within the EU are increasing and particularly timely in examining the geographically differentiated impacts of the post-2008 economic crisis and the adoption of austerity policies.

How IM AJINE:
- Through an inter-disciplinary and multi-scalar approach that integrates perspectives from economics, human geography, political science and sociology and combines macro-scale econometric analysis and the generation and analysis of new quantitative survey data with regionally-focused qualitative empirical case study research in 11 EU member states.
Key Role: Work Package 5: Migration, Territorial Inequalities and Spatial Justice

Aim: To examine connections between trans-national migration and long-distance commuting and perceived and actual spatial inequalities

How: Through case study research

Where: Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and Wales.

Ireland:
- Initially population data analysis – literature review and case study site selection
- Polish population selected – North and North East Galway area
- 30 case study interviews – 15 Polish and 15 Residents
- To date – 16 interviews complete: 12 Polish and 4 Residents

Initial Findings:
- Rural perception – very different
- SME Business Development strong – trade business, shops, restaurants etc., but little knowledge of rural development funding potential
- Strong work ethic
- Less connected to Poland – via remunerations
- Gender and language issues prominent.
RURALIZATION Project: Horizon 2020

**Lead Partner:** Delft University of Technology, Netherlands  
**Principal Investigator NUIG:** Dr Maura Farrell  
**NUIG Members:** Dr Marie Mahon, Dr Aisling Murtagh, Dr John McDonagh, Dr Therese Conway and Dr Shane Conway.  
**Project Duration:** 2019 – 2023  
**Funding:** €6m

**Context:** European economic, social and territorial cohesion is threatened by the unequal development of growing urban and declining rural areas.

**Aim:** Trigger a process of RURALIZATION as counterforce to urbanization.  
Develop a new rural frontier offering new generations stimulating opportunities for economic and social sustainability within a rural context.
RURALIZATION Project: Overview

Framework for research and innovation

Foresight analysis to identify opportunities

Facilitating: rural newcomers and new entrants to farming

Tools to provide access to land

Policy design and assessment

More Opportunities for New Generations

More Economic Activities

Relative Younger Population

Renewal of Population

More Young People Move in and Less Move Out
RURALIZATION Project
Partners: 18

Netherlands
Ireland
Poland
Italy
Spain
Hungary
Finland
Germany
Belgium
Spain
United Kingdom
Hungary
Romania
France
RURALIZATION Project: Work Packages

WP1 Management

WP3 Framework for research and innovation

WP4 Foresight analysis

WP5 Rural newcomers and new entrants to farming

WP6 Access to land

WP2 Dissemination & Exploitation

WP7 Policy design and assessment
**RURALIZATION Project: Work Package 3**

### WP3 Framework for Research and Innovation

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<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Review of previous projects at European level</td>
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<td>T3.2</td>
<td>Development of conceptual guidelines</td>
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<td>Formulation of assessment framework</td>
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<td>Formulation of detailed research and innovation guidelines for WP4</td>
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<td>T3.5</td>
<td>Formulation of detailed research and innovation guidelines for WP5</td>
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<td>T3.6</td>
<td>Formulation of detailed research and innovation guidelines for WP6</td>
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<td>T3.7</td>
<td>Formulation of detailed research and innovation guidelines for WP7</td>
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<tr>
<td>T3.8</td>
<td>Selection of case studies and areas for comparison and policy design</td>
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For RURALIZATION and Each WP – Draw on previous research:

- Generational Renewal
- Access to land
- Newcomers in Rural Areas
In Conclusion: Rural Research

Research

Rural Narrative
- Continuously feeding into current rural studies narratives

Academic
- Continuous academic outputs via papers, reports etc.

Community Engagement
- Significant production of material for general public

Feeding into policy environment

Creating new narratives for Rural Studies.
Thanks!

Questions