

Dear Geographers,

A recurrent theme across much of our Discipline's research is that of marginalised, silenced voices. There are many ways in which to redress these issues of power, ignorance etc., and we are seeing one such way playing out on the issue of climate change – *Direct Action*. Ireland's school children have taken to the streets in protest at what they say is government inaction on climate change ([Irish Times](#), [RTE](#) and [Galway Advertiser](#) reports).

RESEARCH highlights

Liam Carr is in Rathmullen, Donegal working with the local community to understand how *local ingenuity* can raise Rathmullen's profile as a destination along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Patricia Breen recently represented us at the *International Council for the Exploration of the Sea* (ICES) meeting in Copenhagen. Joining Patricia were fellow scientists from across Europe and Canada. They agreed to set up a working group to develop a standardised framework to assess multiple marine activities and pressures.

Our Department was successful with two strategic proposals from a University-wide funding call, congratulations to all involved:

- **Geospatial Analysis** Facility: A consolidation and expansion feasibility study
- Future proofing: Exploring the potential for developing the **University-City interface**

TEACHING highlights

This week first years will be undertaking a range of fieldwork activities:

- Evaluating the viability of Terryland Forest Park as an ecological corridor and a **conservation** area
- Assessing **weathering processes** on Galway's urban landscape
- Investigating **key functions** of society, culture, economy and politics within Galway City
- Evaluating how **nature is socially constructed** in Galway's Atlantaquarium.

The MA ESD class (@EnvDevNUIG) are heading to [Cloughjordan Ecovillage](#) on Friday (25th). The village is internationally recognised for sustainable living. It has over 100 residents living in high-performance green homes, over 20,000 newly planted trees and Ireland's largest **renewable energy district heating system**.

Of note around Geography this week

TY student Sarah Murphy (of Coláiste an Eachreidh, Athenry) took on the role of a lab assistant last week. Helping Michelle Curran and Marta Cabello with their work, measuring sediments that will help them in their analysis of ocean sediment cores (~400,000 years old) taken from the Eastern North Atlantic. Sarah was a great help and hopes to pursue a degree here in NUI Galway.

Pat Collins and Mary Cawley are in *preproduction* [a paper](#) analysing the **2012 Volvo Ocean Race** (VOR) finale in Galway City, highlighting the limited longer term impact the event has had on repositioning the city towards the maritime.

Kathy Reilly ([@krgeography](#)) and Frances Fahy have just finished reviewing content for [#EUGEO2019](#) (NUI Galway, May 15th - 18th). 425 geographers attending from 37 countries addressing our world's most pressing challenges.

Talk this week:

IRISH QUATERNARY CYCLE – ITS LANDSCAPE LEGACY

Dr. Sam Roberson

Northern Ireland Geological Survey

Thursday 21st March, 20:00
Room A206, The Quad, NUI Galway