

Good afternoon Geographers,

Now that the hour has gone forward we are on the last leg to finishing the academic year (Interesting fact: it may be the last time that happens - <https://www.rte.ie/news/europe/2019/0326/1038689-eu-daylight-savings/>).

Best of luck with your studies for the next couple of months.

RESEARCH matters

The National Rural Network (NRN) (of which our Rural Studies researchers are a core part) have produced a new LEADER Programme infographic featuring **24 social inclusion project** examples located throughout the country funded in the areas of Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities & 'Rural Youth'. See: <https://bit.ly/2T09D8h>

You might also be interested in a call the NRN have out at the moment, maybe **alert your community** to this: interested in becoming a participant Village/Rural Town in a new 'Smart Rural Project' supported by the EU Commission (DG AGRI)? See more info here: <https://nationalruralnetwork.ie/leader-news/smart-rural-project/>. **SMART rural communities** are those that put measures in place to help retain and attract people to live and work in their locality.

John Morrissey shared this article on his twitter feed, reminding us that as Geographers we are first and foremost interested in '*questioning*'. '*Lessons From Wuhan: If we don't debate a democratic response to pandemics now, we risk ceding leadership to tyrants*'. <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/lessons-wuhan-coronavirus-recovery/>

Here is a line from it "In recognizing China's achievements, however, we should avoid learning the wrong lesson: *State capacity for decisive action in an emergency does not necessitate the suppression of democracy.*"

In case you missed it at the time, see Frances Fahy's policy brief on End-of-life considerations for onshore wind in Ireland. Did you know "**Most Irish wind farms have been granted a time-limited, 20 year, planning consent with a requirement to subsequently decommission**". http://whitakerinstitute.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Policy-Brief_No.-46_Rebecca-Windemer-Frances-Fahy.pdf.

We have a vibrant post-graduate community, with 30+ PhD students and this September, 3 Taught Masters programmes. This year we welcomed 5 new PhDs to Geography: Aljahdali Awatif, whose research is exploring Community Stewardship through Place-based Learning in Saudi Arabia; John Byrne is exploring the potential for alternative investment platforms in Ireland's creative industry; V'cenza Cirefice is investigating local environmental resistance to extractivism; Adrienne Foreman is assessing the role of seasonality in the last glacial termination and ramifications for future climate; Thomas Gorman is developing quantitative assessment of habitat condition and restorative capacity; Maeve McGandy is exploring the Human Geographies of Climate Adaptations. <http://www.nuigalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/geography-archaeology-irish-studies/disciplines/geography/postgraduatestudents/>